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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 9, 2019

Listening to God in our consciences

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"The most common way He does so is through our conscience."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

AT THE BLUE MASS



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley greets representatives of local, state, federal and Canadian law enforcement agencies after the Blue Mass. The Mass, held Sept. 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral, is an opportunity to pray with and for law enforcement. For the full story, see Page 4.

STUDYING ABROAD, GOING ON MISSION



Diocese of Ogdensburg natives Abigail Robinson and Nick LaPointe are currently studying in Gaming, Austria as part of Franciscan University of Steubenville's study abroad offering. Robinson is preparing to go on a mission trip to Nitra, Slovakia, while LaPointe is preparing to go on mission in Lourdes, France.

FULL STORY, PAGE 9

Pope: No evangelization without Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A person who claims to preach the Gospel by convincing people of their beliefs in Jesus is not evangelizing, but proselytizing, Pope Francis said.

"If there is no Holy Spirit, there is no evangelization," the pope said Oct. 2 during his weekly general audience. "This can be proselytizing, advertising. But evangelization means letting the Holy Spirit guide you, that he is the one that pushes you to announce, to proclaim with your wit-

ness, with martyrdom as well as with the word."

Continuing his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope said that, following the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the violent persecution of Christians in Jerusalem seemingly brought the word of God "to a standstill."

However, while persecution "appears as the permanent state of life of the disciples," it does not extinguish "the fire of evangelization." Instead, it

"feeds it even more."

The pope recalled the encounter of Philip, one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles, with an Ethiopian official who was reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah. After asking the man whether he understood what he was reading, the Ethiopian replied, "And how could I understand if no one guides me."

"That powerful man," the pope said, "recognizes that he needs to be guided to understand the word of

God. He was the great banker, he was the minister of economy, he had all the power of money, but he knew that, without the explanation, he could not understand; he was humble."

Upon understanding the words of Isaiah, the Ethiopian official seeks baptism.

This encounter, he added, is a call for Christians to reflect on the fact that "it isn't enough to read Scripture, we need to understand its meaning."

"To enter into the word of God means to be willing to go beyond one's own limitations to encounter God and to conform oneself to Christ who is the living word of the father," the pope said.

Nevertheless, the pope said, what pushed Philip to meet with the man was the Holy Spirit who is ultimately "the protagonist of the evangelization."

Pope Francis said the true sign that a Christian is an evangelizer is "joy, even in martyrdom."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The hardest part about being Catholic

Sometimes, the hardest part about being Catholic is other Catholics.

I know that sounds harsh, but I'm pretty confident nearly all of us have felt that sentiment when we've been on the receiving end of behavior that's anything but Christ-like, whether it be from a priest, deacon, consecrated religious, ministry leader or the person who sits two pews ahead of us on Sunday.

When I was younger, I adopted a somewhat condescending attitude toward people who left the Church because they disagreed with a decision or how they were

treated. I thought such people were weak in their faith.

I now see how wrong I was.

I've experienced those moments. I've had those times when, in anger or frustration, I think, "if this is how other Catholics behave, maybe I don't want to be Catholic."

I've been thinking and praying about such moments lately. I've come to a few conclusions:

- Even if they wear black clothes and a Roman collar, even if they're a leader in ministry, even if they're a consecrated religious, these "other Catholics" are human. They're not perfect. They have their strug-

gles. As Father Bill Muench wrote in his column this week, the Catholic Church is a family. Like a family, we may not always like one another, but we're still called to love one another.

- There are times when I'm that "other Catholic." I am absolutely certain I've said things, done things and made decisions that hurt or angered others. In some of those times, I was well intentioned and thought I was doing "the right thing." In other times, I was just plain being a jerk. Maybe I was tired. Maybe I was frustrated. Maybe I had no good reason, but I was still a jerk. We all have those moments, too.

- I have a habit of getting bogged down in moments. I

get frustrated and/or angry, and I lose sight of the bigger picture. I lose sight of the fact that we all make bad decisions, behave badly or have bad attitudes at times. In fact, that's why we're Catholic – because we all need a savior, and we all need the graces we can obtain from our Lord and His sacraments. We're Catholic because we're not Christ-like, but we want to be. We're works in progress.

So, yes, sometimes the hardest part of being Catholic is other Catholics, but sometimes we need those other Catholics to learn about ourselves and how we can be better.

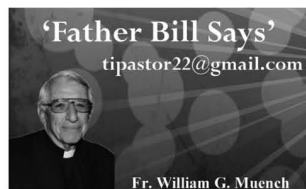
And please forgive me if I was ever that "other Catholic" to you.

Darcy L.
Fargo

The Catholic Church is a family

Last Sunday, as I was celebrating Mass, I looked up at the congregation and thought of our being one Church. As a priest, this is my family – certainly for this moment, during this Mass. As a Church, we are a family. I am reminded by the prayers of the Eucharist to pray for all those there as Church, along with all my other intentions. I often remember to encourage the people at Mass the importance of their praying for each other. I realize that each of us has many other intentions, but it is important that we remember in prayer those with whom we are celebrating the Mass. I believe that this is one of the important reasons that we join together for Sunday Mass. It is because we need people to pray with, we need people to pray for us, and we need people that we can join with in prayer. This is what it means to be Church.

I have always been a mem-

'Father Bill Says'
tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

ber of the Catholic Church; the Catholic Church is my Church. I can tell you that I have never thought of joining a different faith. The Catholic Church has brought support and meaning to my life. I have been blessed with many friends of other faiths, and I have studied a great deal about these other religions, other churches. But I still find my peace and much support as a Catholic.

I believe our Church was planned and formed by God, who called together into one those who accepted the Gospels. The catechism tells us that Jesus fulfilled the divine plan for the Church through his saving death and Resurrection. The Holy Spirit manifested the Church as a

mystery of salvation. Joined in the Church, we work together for our salvation.

St. Paul wrote to the early Church to think of being Church as the Body of Christ – Christians are united together with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – just as each part of a human body is joined as an essential part of the whole body for the health and life of the whole body. So, each person's dedication and commitment to God and the Church is essential for the life of the Church as the Body of Christ – and the loving spirit that the Church brings to all.

Recently, I have been reading a book written by David Brooks, "The Second Mountain." Near the end of the book, Brooks puts together his ideas about what makes a good society. He is talking here about a good human society not specifically a religious one. However, his idea struck home to me of its importance to our Church. He

writes this about values within a good society: "You see not just individuals but a people, a community, a flourishing society where people help one another, magnify another's talents, enjoy one another's creativity and rest in another's hospitality." I like to think that the Catholic Church is alive in each parish demonstrating these qualities, enlivened by the Spirit of Our Savior.

These days, I visit various parishes to celebrate the Holy Mass. I must admit that I really don't know a great deal about the life of each parish. Getting to know a few of the people, I like to think that there is a lively parish life in each place. I know well how dedicated their pastors and priests are. I recognize in the people of each congregation a readiness to demonstrate a love of God, a readiness to pray for each other and a commitment to a family spirit within the parish.

FOLLOW ME

Listening to God in our consciences

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 6. He delivered the homily at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh.

The Apostles did the right thing this time. They had been traveling with Jesus for more than a year. They had been his disciples long enough to start realizing that they still didn't understand many things that Jesus said. They still couldn't help people as much as Jesus did. It would have been tempting for them to get discouraged. But, instead, they go up to Jesus and they ask for help. They ask Him to increase their faith.

Jesus looks at them and smiles. He must have been glad that they had asked for help instead of abandoning the mission. Then He tells them they don't need more faith. They just need to use the faith they already have. He explains that a tiny bit of faith, the size of mustard seed, is enough to do marvelous things.

Like the Apostles, we know in our hearts that we are capable of doing much more. We were made for greater things. But we don't realize that God has already given us everything we need to

achieve them. He has already planted in our souls the seed of faith, of divine life – He did so at baptism. Now, it's up to us to exercise it, to use the graces bestowed on us at our baptism. If we do, our faith will grow. The more it grows the more room God will have to do truly wonderful things in and through us.

Sometimes, our faith never gets beyond the mustard-seed stage because we have the wrong idea of what it really is. Faith involves believing in Christ and His goodness. But it's a kind of belief that also requires action. Faith is the same word at the root of the Latin motto used by the U.S. Marines you sometimes see on car bumper stickers: "Semper Fidelis" – always faithful. Faith always implies being faithful – it implies a commitment to another person, a trusting commitment. And that means sticking by that person's side. For us, that Person is Christ. Faith in Christ means following Christ.

Some time ago, I read of a helpful image. Picture a man on a sinking ship. He may have faith in a life-preserver. He may re-

member examples of people being saved because they were wearing a life-preserver when their ship went down. He may be a physicist and understand the laws of hydrodynamics that make the life-preserver work. He may understand perfectly how the Velcro straps function and where to attach them. But if this man doesn't actually put on the life-

preserver – his faith in a life-preserver is absolutely useless.

Today's Responsorial Psalm gives us one sure-fire way to activate the power of faith. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart." If we believe in God's wisdom, love, and power, we will obey Him. We will follow where He leads. And He is always leading us somewhere – always making His voice heard.

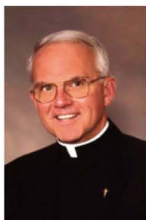
The most common way He does so is through our conscience. Our conscience is like an inner radio station that is always tuned to God's

voice. But it's not the only station out there, and, unfortunately, it's not always the loudest. Sometimes, we turn up the volume on the station of peer pressure, or the station dedicated to self-indulgence, irresponsible pleasure, cynicism, and other sometimes soothing but always deadening sounds.

That's why the Psalmist tells us: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." We should decide ahead of time that whenever our conscience starts to ring, we will pay attention. And we should decide ahead of time that if we aren't sure what exactly our conscience is saying, but we know it's saying something, we will get some good advice from someone who knows Christ and His teaching before we act. That's the only way God will be able to strengthen us to move mountains – the mountains of sin and the darkness of discouragement that clutter the world today. That's the only way God will be able to guide us home from exile and give us the inner peace that we beg for.

On this Respect Life Sunday, when we especially focus on the dignity of all human life from the moment of conception to that of natural death, it is good to reacquaint ourselves with the voice of God in our conscience. Hardened hearts today are formed from deaf ears tuned in to other blaring death-dealing stations that ridicule and drown out God's law. In so many ways today, God's law, even God's very existence is denied.

Two personal resolutions seem opportune in light of today's readings: we double our efforts to have our young baptized, and then be determined to tend the seed of faith given at baptism, by forming a right conscience, learning more about our faith thereby promoting a real culture of life. This Respect Life Month we are urged to do our part in addressing our second Diocesan Priority of Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life. God's Word is always life-giving, never death-dealing. May God be praised. Forever may God be praised!



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

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(Above) representatives of law enforcement from local, state, federal and Canadian agencies served as Color Guard for the Blue Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley Sept. 29 in St. Mary's Cathedral. (Right) The Ward family, North Country Catholic Editorial Assistant Christine Ward, New York State Police Trooper Gabriel Ward, and Henry and Melanie Ward, presented the offertory gifts at the Blue Mass.

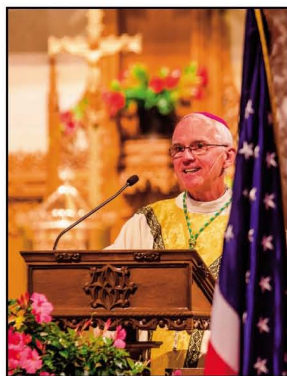
Blue Mass celebrates area law enforcement

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

OGDENSBURG – The sound of bagpipes and various law enforcement uniforms filled St. Mary's Cathedral Sept. 29 in celebration of the Blue Mass.

Local police officers, sheriff's departments, state troopers, emergency personnel, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Border Patrol, Department of Environmental Conservation officers, corrections officers, and their families packed the pews for the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Members of the Canadian Royal mounted police were also in attendance.

A multijurisdictional honor guard posted and retired the colors before and after the Mass. A memorial wreath was presented in remembrance of all who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivers his homily at the Blue Mass.

The Mass is held not only to thank those officials who are committed to keeping communities safe, but also to thank God for their service.

"Women and men in blue, you know that each of our vocations is to serve others, as did the Lord Himself," said Bishop LaValley. "Your service calls for courage, patience, humility, and self-sacri-

fice. You have the eyes to see and the heart to embrace the dignity of every human person whom you encounter: friend and stranger."

The bishop reminded the law enforcement officials that Jesus cares for each of us and asks us to do the same for each other.

"Our law enforcement officers, corrections officers, first responders and firefighters offer selfless service for our protection, care for those injured, instilling hope to those among us who feel abandoned, unwanted," Bishop LaValley said.

Many of the Mass' participants are also connected to the public safety community, including Father Christopher C. Carrara, who is currently the chaplain for St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties Sheriff's Office and the FBI in Albany.

Chief Adam Love of the

Massena Police Department and Captain Harold Barber of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation served as readers.

Deacon Ronny Gingerich, chaplain for the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, proclaimed the Gospel, while New York State Trooper Gabriel Ward and his family served as gift bearers.

The assembly was a mix of members of the public safety community, many in uniform, and civilian men, women and children, who attended in order to share their own gratitude.

Officer Mike Sherry with the St. Lawrence County Environmental Conservation Department said the Blue Mass gives him hope.

"It helps my faith that the community is behind us, that our church is behind us and God is behind us," he said.

Officer Larry Blakemore, Customs and Border pro-

tection out of Ogdensburg, said the celebration brings everyone together.

"We are here in unison as part of the community," he said. "The mass brings us all together to voice our stance in serving our communities."

The Blue Mass refers to the blue uniforms typically worn by law enforcement and other first responders. The first of its kind was celebrated in September 1934 at St. Patrick's Church in Washington, D.C. This was the fourth Blue Mass held within the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The mass has also been held in Plattsburgh, Watertown and Malone.

Bishop LaValley concluded his homily telling our North Country heroes, "You have our trust, our continuing gratitude, and our promise of prayers. Thank you. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!"

Reflections on *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's reflections delivered at the Rosary Rally at St. Mary's Cathedral on Oct. 6.

We are acquainted with the practice of praying the Holy Rosary. Certainly, this isn't the case with many of our children and grandchildren today. "Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness," St. John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. Today we face so many challenges. Why should we not once more have recourse to the Rosary, with the same faith as those who have gone before us?

The Rosary helps believers meditate on the spiritual mysteries of the birth, life, death, and glory of Christ: the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. Each "mystery" calls to mind one aspect of the Lord's work of redemption: His coming in the flesh; His public ministry; His death on the cross for our sins; and His resurrection and ascension into heaven. As we pray the Rosary, focused on the events of a particular mystery, we enter into a divine journey with Jesus, accompanied by Mary, His Blessed Mother.

Mentally dwelling on the individual mystery, as we finger the beads in our Rosary prayer, we enter a journey of holiness. The rosary can draw us nearer and nearer to Jesus, whose life and glory it honors, and to His mother, who teaches us to gaze on the face of her Son.

Dwelling on the mysteries of the Rosary is a powerful way for the Spirit to penetrate beyond the surface of my life and lift me up to the heavenly realm.

Although the repeated Hail Mary is addressed directly to Mary, it is to Jesus that the act of love is ultimately directed, with her and through her. As we finger the next bead, our yearning for holiness intensifies as we seek to be conformed ever more completely to Christ.

Announcing each mystery, we let the words direct our imagination and our mind towards a particular episode or moment in the life of Christ...after the announcement of the mystery, it is good to pause and focus our attention for a period of time on the mystery concerned, before moving into vocal prayer. (29, 31)

"The center of gravity in the Hail Mary, the hinge which joins its two parts, is the Name of Jesus. 'Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus...' From Mary's unique privileged relationship with Christ, which makes her the Mother of God, derives the forcefulness of the appeal we make to her in the second half of the prayer, as we entrust to her maternal intercession our lives and the hour of our death..." (34)

"To the extent that meditation on the mystery is attentive and profound, and to the extent that it is enlivened—from one Hail Mary to another—by love for Christ and for Mary, the glorification of the Trinity at the end of each decade with the Glory Be

raises our minds to the heights of heaven and enabling us to relive, in a way, the experience of the Mountain of Transfiguration." (34)

"At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation." (39)

Certainly, the Church today, under siege in so many ways, is in

need of such deliverance. With JP II, 19 years ago, I entrust to the power of this prayer, the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family. Only an intervention from on high, capable of guiding the hearts of those living in situations of conflict and those governing the destinies of nations, can give reason to hope for a brighter future.

The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of the Prince of Peace. How could we reflect on Christ carrying the Cross and Christ crucified (4th and 5th Sorrowful Mysteries) without feeling the need to act as a Simon of Cyrene for our sisters and brothers weighed down by grief or crushed by despair. And so, for instance, we, the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg seek to be Simon of Cyrene for the faithful of the Diocese of Latakia, indeed for all who live in fear. We pray for peace.

The Rosary is a prayer of and for the family. The family that prays together stays together. Family

Rosary with both mom and dad participating is a powerful tool for conversion, ours and our neighbors'. It seems that too many families today seldom manage to spend time praying together.

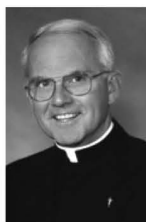
To return to praying the Rosary as a family means filling daily life with very different images than what we find on TV or Facebook. The family that recites the Rosary, meditating on the mysteries is inspired to reproduce something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth. Its members place Jesus at the center.

Embarking on the journey of holiness is our response to the call to be holy. We bring to our Rosary Prayer all the problems, anxieties, labors and endeavors which go to make up our lives "Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you" (Ps.55:23), the Psalmist assures us. To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His Mother... The Rosary marks the rhythm of human life, bringing it into harmony with the rhythm of God's own life." (25)

Anyone who contemplates Christ through the various stages of His life cannot fail to see in Him the truth about the human person. Contemplating Christ's birth, we learn of the sanctity of life; seeing the household of Nazareth, we learn the

original truth of the family according to God's plan; listening to the Master in the mysteries of His public ministry, we find the light which leads us to enter the Kingdom of God; and following Him on the way to Calvary, we learn the meaning of salvific suffering. Contemplating Christ and His Blessed Mother in glory, we see the goal towards which each of us is called, if we allow ourselves to be healed and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

"We turn to you this day, Virgin and Mother of God, binding our souls to your hope as to the most solid and sure anchor. To you we consecrate our minds, souls, bodies, our whole selves, honoring you with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as we are able, since we will never be able to perform such a task as it truly deserves. But you, Mother of the Lord, help us and steer our destinies wherever you wish; quell the violence of our base passions and guide us, once the storm has been calmed, into the tranquil harbor of the divine will, considering us worthy of the beatitude to come, of that kindly light that radiates from the vision of the Word of God who took flesh from you. To Him, together with the Father and the most holy and life-giving Spirit, be glory, honor, power, majesty, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen."



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**



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Programs help youth grow closer to Jesus

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – “A lot of kids are not believing in God,” said Courtney Khristiansen, director of Plattsburgh’s Edge, a youth ministry program that targets middle school aged youth. “It used to be 11 [when they stopped believing], now 8 years old! I was shocked by that. They come [to Church] because their parents make them, but they don’t believe . . . Middle school is where we should start because that’s where we are going to start losing our kids.”

In 2015, Plattsburgh area youth joined 100,000 other young people worldwide in joining the Life Teen and Edge Eucharistic-centered movements. Life Teen and Edge curriculums are tailored to address the needs of Generation Z and answer the big questions so that teens can develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

On Sept. 22, almost 20 youth gathered at Newman Center from city parishes to kick off the program’s meetings for the 2019-20 school year.

“[It’s] a way to connect with other young Catholics that have similar experiences to yourself,” said Lily, age 12.

At the kick-off, Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey and youth leaders offered a prayer for youth, extending their hands in intercession. Then, Msgr. Duprey addressed the youth, saying, “When you go back to school . . . invite other people to attend. You have more power than all of us [adults] put together.”

Youth played various games, in outdoor stations, including charades



MARY BETH BRACY/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Participants in Plattsburgh’s Life Teen and Edge, youth ministry programs, play charades at a recent gathering held at the Newman Center.

and hockey. Then, teens and tweens went inside for snacks, with contemporary Christian music playing in the background.

Several young people, including Jessica, 14, expressed how much they enjoyed the food. Ava, 11, said that her favorite part is “the food and games.”

“It feels like a club – not like school – you can talk,” commented Joel, 12.

“[It’s] good to know your Catholic friends,” Diane, 10, reflected.

The majority of the students attend public schools, such as Plattsburgh, Beekmantown and Peru. They said faith doesn’t really come up there.

“[Attending Edge] is a way to know other Catholics,” concluded Kerrigan, 11.

Youth Ministry Conference in Mesa, Arizona. That’s where Life Teen originated. Some youth at a parish in Mesa came up with this idea.”

For the past three years, Edge took participants through the Catechism, said Khristiansen.

“Building on that, this year I’m really excited because our curriculum that just came out is starting the kids with ‘Who is God?,’ ‘Why We Should Believe in God?’” she said.

One of the benefits of this program is that the activities, lessons and prayers are all mapped out for each session. The lessons also include activities for Hispanic classes that can be incorporated.

“It’s really adaptable to your parish and your situation,” Skillan said. “It can be just as effective with a small group of teens as with a big group of teens.”

Every few months, Skillan said, “Life Teen comes up with a Life Support Kit.”

There are life night topics, focusing on Christ, such as, miracles. They also offer a small group guide for a lectionary discipleship group and a retreat guide.

Khristiansen echoed this, adding, there is always room to address the needs of youth and answer questions that contemporary young people face. Handouts are sent home for parents, so they can see what their children learned during the session and reinforce the lessons.

Additionally, in the past, Edge has made stockings for homeless kids at Christmas time. The group also made Easter baskets for those in need.

All youth, Catholic and non-Catholic are invited to

attend Edge and Life Teen.

If other parishes are interested in starting Life Teen, Khristiansen suggested that they research the program, find helpers, and do the core training, which trainers bring to the participating parishes.

Both Khristiansen and Skillan said they were also happy to provide more information about the program. Khristiansen can be reached

at kcorkey5@gmail.com. Skillan can be contacted at mary@broadstreet-catholics.org. Interested parishes/youth ministers can also attend one of the Plattsburgh leadership meetings.

Edge meets in Plattsburgh every Sunday from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. at the Emmaus Room at St. Peter’s.

Life Teen’s next gathering is Oct. 27 at the Newman Center. That group meets twice a month during the fall.

Skillan noted that Life Teen “will be focusing on life, since October is Respect Life month, and they have a series on the dignity of life.” She added that “once they are confirmed [youth] believe that they have graduated from religion . . . Relational ministry is very big in Edge and Life Teen – going and being where the kids are, making an effort to show that you care.”

Life Teen provides the ongoing faith formation and support teens need to grow in their faith.

Visit the Plattsburgh Life Teen Facebook page for updates, events, and inspiration! Lifeteen.com has free resources for youth and youth ministers.

There is also a website with resources for parents at Ltparentlife.com.

Pro-life events scheduled throughout October

While prolife activities occur year-round, October is the month dedicated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as Respect Life month. This year's theme is "Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life."

Pastors received a packet from the USCCB during the summer to help in the planning of Respect Life month. This year, USCCB also has a website with useful materials that can be easily shared: respectlife.org. The information can be used throughout the year to help Catholics understand, value and become engaged with building a culture of life. Each resource is designed to be adapted to a parish's specific needs. The action guides are structured around five main occasions: Respect Life Month, The Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children & Roe v Wade (January), The An-

nunciation & Evangelium Vitae (March) and Divine Mercy Sunday & Mother's Day (May).

Registration for the Youth Buses for Life traditionally begins on Oct. 1. But this year, registration is delayed due to the possibility of a scholarship to attend the Pro-Life Summit, sponsored by Students for Life, the day after the March.

If the Youth Buses win, the pilgrimage will be extended by one day. Winners will be announced mid-October. Online Youth Buses for Life registration will begin shortly after. Please check the Youth Buses for Life Facebook page and the Respect Life website rcdony.org/prolife for updates.

College students will also have a trip to DC organized by Deacon Rich Burns, Coordinator of Campus Ministry. rburns@rcdony.org.

On Oct. 6, LifeChain was

held in Massena, Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Schroon Lake and Saranac Lake. This is the 32nd year for this international event, which is held in Canada, too.

The 40 Days for Life fall campaign began Sept. 25 and will continue until Nov. 3. Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion. Prayer warriors are asked to register for their prayer time at 40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh. The public witness is at 66 Brinkerhoff St., Plattsburgh.

The fall Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered Oct. 18-20 at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake. Father Mark Reilly will serve as the retreat chaplain. Confidential online registration; www.rcdony.org/prolife or for more retreat locations: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Don't suffer alone. Help is available.

Parish nurse course planned

Lake Placid—Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing for Parish Nursing on Nov. 1 (1-5 p.m.), Nov. 2, 9, and 16, (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.), Nov. 22, (1-5 p.m.), and Nov. 23, (8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.).

All sessions are required.

The course is offered to registered nurses of all faiths. Mercy Care provides the training at no cost to participants but pre-registration is required.

If you are a registered nurse with a desire to help people live a healthy, faith-filled life, you may wish to serve your own faith community or others in the community as a volunteer parish nurse.

The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications and diagnostic tests, provides blood pressure screening, health education programs and much more.

To register for the course or for more information, please contact Sis-

ter Catherine Cummings at 518-523-5582 or ccummings@adkmercycare.org.

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

- Join the conversation!

Bishop's Public Schedule

Oct. 9 – 11 a.m. – Priest Council Meeting at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake followed by lunch

Oct. 10 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

Oct. 11 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg Saturday, Oct. 12 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral in Brzana Hall

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Oct. 14-15 – Pontifical College of Josephinum Board of Trustees Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 9 – Rev. William Joseph Normandeau, 1892; Rev. Francis Xavier Chagnon, 1911; Most Rev. Leo R. Smith, 1963

Oct. 10 – Rev. Robert Duford,

1949; Rev. J. A. Sirois, O.M.I., 1950

Oct. 11 – Rev. William Burns, 1837

Oct. 12 – Rev. Francis Xavier Pelletier, 1881; Rev. P. Joseph Mullins,

O.S.A., 1960

Oct. 13 – Rev. Francis X. Campbell,

O.S.A., 1984; Rev. Msgr. Joseph

Gefell, 2001

Oct. 14 – Rev. James Alexander

Hagarty, 1903

Oct. 15 – Rev. James Haffey, 1918;

Rev. Mark Collins Liebler, 1975; Rev.

Robert Fleig, S.J., 1986; Most Rev.

Thomas Andrew Donnellan, 1987

To Report Abuse

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

Environmental Stewardship

Let's celebrate!

Dewitt Jones, a former National Geographic photographer, suggests, "Celebrate what is right in the world. Then, we will have the energy and passion to fix what is wrong with it." His words seem to echo those of Pope Francis in the Introduction to his encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Caring for Our Common Home*. He, too, invites us to celebrate what is beauty and good in the world. The title is taken from St. Francis Assisi's "Canticle of Creature." Faithful to Scripture, St. Francis invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. (#12) It calls for an attitude of awe and wonder.

In the first chapter, Pope Francis urges us to look at "What is Happening to our Common Home?" Then, in light of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures, he calls us to use our minds and heart to find ways to "fix it." He calls all of us to an "ecological conversion," one that recognizes that the "cries of our sisters and brothers" all connected with the "cries of the earth." (49) We have the solutions; we just need the will to act on them from a faith perspective.

This week, as we look around our homes and our diocese, we can find much to celebrate. A positive response to Pope Francis' call is becoming more and more evident around us.

Renewal is on-going; it begins with that first step. A couple of examples at our diocesan level include: some parishes have changed to LED lighting, several parishes are exploring opportunities for green energy, while others are opting to replace styro-foam with reusable items.

In our homes the efforts to recycle, reduce and repurpose are on-going. There seems to be an increase of interest in home gardens, Farmers' Markets, buying locally, etc. All of these steps are concrete ways of caring for our common home.

This week let's celebrate our first and on-going steps to "care for our common home!"



The Society for
the Propagation
of the Faith

La Sociedad
para la Propagación
de la Fe

**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**

**DOMINGO
MUNDIAL
DE LAS
MISIONES**

missio.org



**BAPTIZED AND SENT
BAUTIZADOS Y ENVIADOS**

Pray and give generously October 20, 2019



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...a Pontifical Mission Society

Dear Director: I'd like to share my blessings with the poor for the sake of the Gospel, so I'm enclosing a sacrifice for the missions. Please pray for my intentions:

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Diocese of Ogdensburg

622 Washington St • PO Box 369 • Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Tel: (315)-393-2920 • Fax 1-866-314-7296

website: www.rcdony.org/mission-office

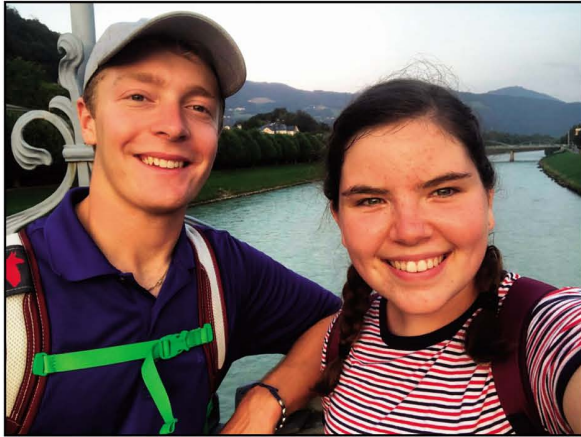
Email: mryan@rcdony.org

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

Molly M. Ryan, Secretary, Bookkeeper

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.

Local students prepare for Mission trips



Nick Lapointe, a Watertown native, and Abigail Robinson, who hails from Malone, are studying abroad in Gaming, Austria with Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. Both students are preparing for mission trips in locations in Europe as part of that experience.

By Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing writer

Lourdes, France may be best known for the miraculous healings that have taken place since the Virgin Mary appeared to a young girl in the town more than 150 years ago, but for Nick Lapointe, a Watertown native and Franciscan University of Steubenville sophomore preparing for a mission trip to Lourdes, the town represents an opportunity to serve people and love them.

"Really, it just kind of comes down to helping people in their time of need," he said, adding that being humble is something he feels called to work on in his life right now. "It's just something beautiful that I have the opportunity to be a part of."

Abigail Robinson, a Malone native and fellow Franciscan University sophomore, recently learned she will travel to Nitra, Slovakia for a 10-day mission trip through Eastern European Mission.

"What's really beautiful about this mission is

these people might not even understand English, so it's learning myself how to show God's love and graces through me to other people without even being able to communicate with them verbally," she said.

Both students currently attend Franciscan University in Austria, a study abroad center of the Ohio university. The center is located in Gaming, Austria, in the foothills of the Alps. While they are in Europe, each will be a part of a mission trip with other students and volunteers.

Lapointe will co-lead with a female student a mission of 31 other students to Lourdes to work with North American Lourdes Volunteers, an organization that brings people who are sick and disabled from across North America to the town.

"(They are) coming to experience the graces that Our Lady provides at Lourdes," he said, noting the people stay in hospital-like settings, and the students help them throughout the day.

Students and volunteers

Growing in faith, knowledge during semester abroad

By Jonathan Monfiletto
Contributing writer

GAMING, AUSTRIA—Growing in their faith as they learn academically.

That is how two North Country students, both sophomores at Franciscan University of Steubenville, describe their semester of studying abroad in the Ohio university's campus in Gaming, Austria.

"It's very easy to grow in your faith here," said Abigail Robinson, of Malone. "It seems that even though there are so many things going on at once, life kind of slows down. It really gives you a lot of time to reflect on your spiritual life and have more time for that personal prayer and attend all of the things you want."

Those things include Mass every day at noon, perpetual adoration of the Eucharist from Monday through Thursday, praise and worship once a week, and separate small groups for men and women.

Nick Lapointe, of Watertown, added that a Byzantine priest who is a member of the Austrian faculty delivers the Divine Liturgy.

"For me, it's been a challenge, honestly, trying to maintain balance and everything, just because for me it feels like it's so busy here," Lapointe said. "It really makes you have to have priorities and just to focus on what's important in life."

Despite both hailing from the North Country and both attending Camp Guggenheim, Robinson and Lapointe said they didn't meet and get to know each other until they arrived on campus in Ohio as freshmen last year. Now, they are living the experience of studying abroad in Europe together.

do such tasks as helping the people get ready in the morning, serving them at mealtimes, pushing around those in wheelchairs, and "getting to know them and loving them," Lapointe said.

Robinson doesn't know many details of her trip yet, but she knows she

will be working at an all-girls school and orphanage, where many of the girls do not know English, have never met an American and have never been introduced to the faith.

"Just showing them how much they are loved, even though they might feel lonely or desperate in

The students attend Franciscan University in Austria, a university completely run by the same order – the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance – and administration that runs the university in Ohio. The Austrian campus is located on the Kartause, a Carthusian monastery built by a Hapsburg duke in the 1300s.

It operated as a monastery until 1782 and then fell into disrepair over the next 200 years due to neglect and damage, included from its occupation by Russian troops during World War II. It now serves as a study abroad campus for Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Robinson and Lapointe have been in Austria for about a month, and they attend classes Monday through Thursday. Their courses are largely based around a liberal arts education.

"Most of us do our core class requirements, like philosophy and theology and history and English," Lapointe said.

With four days of classes and three-day weekends, the students are encouraged to travel. Robinson said she went on two school-planned trips to Salzburg and Vienna, two of the larger cities in Austria. Lapointe said he visited Croatia on the Adriatic Sea and also traveled to Florence, Italy and Cinque Terre, an Italian national park.

On another weekend, Robinson said she stayed in Gaming, exploring a nearby lake and a neighboring town. There are also hiking trails near the campus and a creek outside.

"There are definitely plenty of ways to grow in your faith here," Robinson said. "If you have the opportunity to study abroad, take it. You won't get this opportunity to do it again."

their situations," she said, noting evangelization – teaching the faith and exposing people to it – is a major focus of the mission.

Robinson will also be teaching Theology of the Body to a group of teenagers, "allowing them

Musician retires after 53 years at organ bench

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

COLTON – For Cindy Hennessy, playing the organ for St. Patrick's Church in Colton, has been a labor of love and a way for her to contribute to her parish.

Hennessy first took a seat at the organ bench in 1966.

"I was a music teacher, and they needed an organist in Colton," said Hennessy, 79. "It was all volunteer. Musicians didn't get paid in those days. I just wanted to do it. I loved the idea of accompanying people who sing in church. And I was just starting out. I didn't have much money. This was how I could give."

She continued to volunteer in the role for more than four decades before accepting payment for her work. Hennessy retired from the position earlier this year.

"I stopped because I have (rheumatoid arthritis)," she said. "I wanted to retire before people started hearing me make mistakes. I still go in the



Cynthia "Cyndy" Hennessy

church and practice, though. I want to make sure I can still play."

In her time behind the organ, Hennessy has served under 12 pastors, including one who served the parish two different times.

"It wasn't really a challenge," she said, of changing pastors. "It was kind of fun. Each had their own ways, yet there's a steadiness in the Mass and how

it has to go. They were all great about letting me choose the hymns, and the people seemed to like my choice of hymns."

Hearing any choir singers and the parish as they grasped new hymns brought Hennessy some of her favorite moments.

"I really enjoyed when I would teach them a new song, and it would work," she said. "People really started singing in our

church. I could feel the energy. And people would tell me they liked it. I liked the feedback."

Hennessy said she tends to gravitate toward older, traditional hymns.

"When I was a kid, I was brought up as a Presbyterian," she said. "I knew all those old hymns. A lot of those hymns are also used in the Catholic Church. People always seemed to enjoy those."

Hennessy was born in Johnstown and attended college at Potsdam's Crane School of Music, where she met her husband, Tim.

"We got married in 1960, and he got his first job in Colton," she said, noting the couple arrived in the community in 1961. "I didn't turn Catholic until after I was married. I wanted the family to be united in one faith. My first priest, Father (John W.) Canning made a big impression on me. He baptized me into the Church."

Hennessy has five children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A retired music

teacher at Colton-Pierrepont Central School, Hennessy remains committed to serving her community.

She is chair of the Colton Zoning Board of Appeals, and she volunteers with the town historical society and Colton-Pierrepont Senior Racketeers. She has also been involved with the town Planning Board, the Colton Tourism and Beautification Committee, the Potsdam College Council and Colton Country Days.

"I like to be active, and I like to help people," she said. "I still say volunteering is the most rewarding thing anyone can do."

Though she thoroughly enjoyed her time as organist for her church community, Hennessy said she won't miss the job.

"I'm not going to miss anything," she said. "I'm old enough to know I did what I wanted to do, and I loved it. You know when you're ready to retire. I knew when I was ready to retire from the school system, and I knew when I was ready to retire as organist. But I haven't retired from life."

Students prepare for mission trips

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to understand how much they are worth, how sacred they are and their bodies are," she said.

Lapointe and Robinson are each raising \$500 for their respective mission trips through GoFundMe pages. Though they are getting close to obtaining the full amount, both students said they are asking for prayers as well as financial donations.

"I'd just really appreciate it if people would pray for everyone that's going on these missions,"

Robinson said.

Even if young people do not go on mission trips, the college sophomores said it is important for young people to be involved in their faith so they have a foundation for themselves and the people around them and can listen to God instead of of the world.

"It's important for young people, especially in this day and age, just because there are so many lies that society's trying to sell them, about who they are and how they should just

fit into the workings of the world," Lapointe said. "It's really important to figure out in their youth what matters and why it matters. ... It's so important to know the dignity and beauty that each and every person is as the human person that they are, that God has specially crafted them."

Robinson remembers being young and not wanting to go to Mass, yet she sees now how one's faith can easily slip away if he or she doesn't understand it at a young age.

"I'm so glad that I stuck with the faith. It really carries you through some of the harder times in life. If you're really grounded in your faith, there's nothing you can't do," she said. "You can easily be pulled away from the faith through the media and society in general. It seems to pull you closer to sin. If you are rooted in your faith very young, you can start making those choices to attend Mass and to enter fully into the faith."

Being young them-

selves, Lapointe and Robinson realize they have a chance – both in their respective mission trips and among their peers – to shine God's light and point people toward Jesus.

"Being young ourselves, we have a unique opportunity to kind of reach out and show younger people the beauty and the joy that can be found through our faith," Lapointe said. "Life is an adventure with Christ."

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 Please contact The Respect Life Office with questions 518-524-0774. Other retreat dates and locations available at www.rachelsvineyard.org

CLINTON

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – Calling all Christians across the Diocese to participate in this life saving event.

Date: Sept. 25 – Nov. 3

Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Planned Parenthood

Features: You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood. Prayer Volunteers needed.

Contact: If you would like more information please contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024.

www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

HARVEST DINNER

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Church will hold their 46th Annual all you can eat Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 13

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$12

Features: Turkey Dinner will be served. There will also be a country store, a benefit drawing and more.

Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521.

HARVEST DINNER

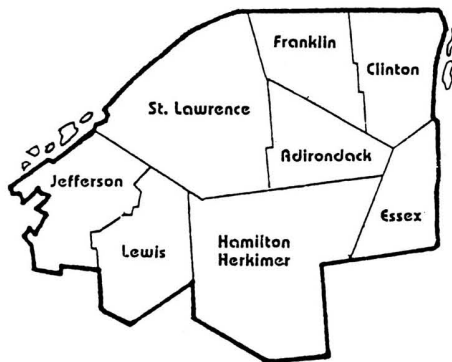
Dannemora – St. Joseph's Church will have their annual Roast Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 20

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

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

Features: Come and enjoy live



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

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.

Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or sacredheart@westelcom.com

FRANKLIN

HARVEST DINNER

St. Regis Falls – St. Ann's Society will be holding a Turkey Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 13

Time: 12 p.m. to 3

Place: St. Ann's Parish Hall

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

Contact: Take-outs will be available by calling 518-522-4633

Features: There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

JEFFERSON

SPEAKER

Watertown – National Author and Speaker, Chris Padgett to speak.

Date: Oct. 10

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Features: Chris has spoken at Steubenville and been seen on EWTN.

His topic will be "I'm not o.k., you're not o.k., but it's o.k.". He is dynamic, entertaining and very relevant. This is a great opportunity for the whole family.

ROAST PORK DINNER

Evans Mills – Roast Pork dinner to be held to benefit St. Mary's Church.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors and children to age 12, \$8; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678.

ROSARY RALLY

Watertown – Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: Noon

Place: Fatima Shrine on the lawn of St. Patrick's

Features: Come join in prayer to make amends for the sins of abortion and euthanasia, and the devastating scourge of drug addiction.

BLOOD DRIVE

Watertown – The St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's Parish Nurse Ministry to have a Blood Drive.

Date: Oct. 14

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Anthony's Old School Gym

Contact: 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Visit redcrossblood.org or download the Blood Donor App to schedule your appointment.

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 or contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 ext. 1413

LEWIS

ROSARY RALLY

Turin – Rosary Rally to be held.

Date: Oct. 12

Time: Noon

Place: Spirit Walk's Fatima Garden, West Main Street

Features: Praying the Rosary for peace and personal intentions, song, private time for walking/meditation, outdoor Stations of the Cross, new meditation chapel will be open for viewing/use. Light refreshments provided.

Contact: 315-272-6168

POLISH FESTIVAL

Houseville – Save the date for St. Hedwig's Polish Festival

Date: Oct. 13

Time: Noon/after the 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The festivities include: The serving of a tasty Polish platter, bake

sale Items, Polish hot dogs, ice cream sundaes, theme basket raffles, and a 50/50 raffle. Take outs are available. Program to benefit church programs, repairs and restorations.

Contact: 315-348-8735, or 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

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

FAMILY FUN DAY

Massena – St. Peter's Parish to have their Fall Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Food will include lunch, turkey dinner and cabbage rolls. There will be a \$2,500 raffle, quilt raffle, country store, turkey raffle, Cake Walk, games, Skilo, 50/50 raffle, poker and pull tabs.

CRAFT/ARTISAN SHOW

Brasher Falls - The St. Patrick's/St. Lawrence Altar Rosary Society is hosting a two day Artisan/Craft Show.

Date: Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and

Nov. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Features: Vendors are still needed. No direct sales vendors please. To reserve a table please call 315-389-4182

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is open for Family Guggenheim 2019.

Date: Session 3: Oct. 11-13

Features: Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

Contact: For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Guggenheim Directors deader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 visit <https://www.rcdony.org/family->

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

When the 'outsider' shows faith in Jesus

Despite the fact that God had chosen the Jewish people as his very own, He was disappointed at their lack of faith and trust in Him, and their lack of gratitude for His favors. There are two great stories this Sunday in which God clearly points out that "outsiders" were more trusting in God's healing power and more grateful for His favors than were His chosen people.

The first reading is really a shortened version of the very exciting story of God's healing an "outsider" named Naaman, a foreign military commander, who has contracted leprosy. His wife's Jewish slave had suggested that he seek help from the prophet Elisha. He goes to the King of Israel loaded with gifts and letters of introduction from his own king. Fearful

of a plot, the King sends him to the prophet Elisha who tells him to wash seven times in the Jordan river. At first, he storms away in anger.

"Aren't our rivers better than yours?" But on the advice of his own servants, he swallows his pride and obeys the prophet. As soon as he enters the waters of the Jordan, his leprosy is cured! Immensely grateful, he is converted and worships the God of Israel. In the story, this Syrian has more faith in God's power than the Jews have!

A similar theme is found in today's famous Gospel about the ten lepers. Because their disease, incurable at the time, was contagious, lepers were shunned by all and looked down upon as great sinners. The disciples must have been appalled when Jesus shows

October 13

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

2 Kings 5:14-17

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

these outcasts such compassion. When He sends them to the priests for official reinstatement into society, He also heals them during their journey. One of them, a Samaritan, returns immediately, and falls down in thankful adoration at Jesus' feet. Luke emphasizes how disappointed the Master is that only one of them comes back. "Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Both of today's readings deal with God's disappointment with His special children, the ones He calls His chosen people. As disciples of Jesus, we have ample proof that we are His special ones, His chosen ones. Yet, over

and over again, we have been disobedient complainers. Often, we have even turned to false gods of money or possessions and neglected to love Him and to serve Him. God must be so disappointed when we don't show our gratitude for His favors. On the contrary, we are often resentful that God hasn't done more for us. Like spoiled children, we just take God for granted!

And He has forgiven us. But what hurts Him most is our ingratitude in the face of His gifts and our indifference in response to His love. In this story, it is a foreigner who seeks a cure from his leprosy and receives it. It is this foreigner who expresses deep gratitude as He returns to His country a believer.

We need to ask ourselves today: Am I really grateful for God's constant love and for his forgiveness? Or do I just take Him for granted? We pass by the confessional in our churches countless times.

Instead of going in from time to time to ask God's forgiveness, we just take it for granted. "Oh, sure I believe that God is forgiving. He forgives me all the time!" And God says "Not so fast! Show me you mean it."

And how about our attitude to foreigners? A lawyer once asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" And He answered with a story. And in the story, it was a Samaritan, a foreigner! Foreigners are my neighbors.

People in hospitals and nursing homes, deformed people, people that aren't "normal" somehow, we treat them like foreigners! We keep our distance. Or people with terminal cancer. We don't know what to do or what to say, so we do nothing, we say nothing, and we keep our distance.

Let's think about these things today, and if necessary, make some changes in our habits. Jesus will shower us with even greater blessings.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
life/family-guggenheim.html

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

MISSION DISCUSSION

MASSENA — A panel discussion, "Called to Mission: Two Sisters Share Their Sto-

ries" to 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 or 315-393-2920, ext. 1361

YOUTH MINISTER ANNUAL 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, Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

CURSILLO EVENTS

Ogdensburg - North Country Cursillo event to be held.

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

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: Cursillo is a means to help

Catholic Christians realize the depth of God's love for each of us and the beauty of our Catholic faith. It provides a simple method to help one develop and grow in faith and better live the Christian life. A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with Christ, others and self. Cursillo consists of talks given by priests and lay persons with participation in small group discussions. Weekend participants also share the Eucharist, sing, pray and fellowship.

Contact: For more information please contact the person in your area: Watertown/Ogdensburg Area: Anne Seegebarth Email: ams2962@gmail.com, Phone: 315-783-4596; Canton/Massena Area: Michael Neaton Email: neaton-michael@yahoo.com, Phone: 315-335-

6302 or 315-261-4150; Port Henry/Ticonderoga Area: Dan Stewart Email: dshope4444@gmail.com, Phone: 518-898-6851; Plattsburgh Area or other not listed above: Ken Racette Email: kracette1a@gmail.com, Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Justice Dept. backs Archdiocese in fired teacher's suit

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) – The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a "statement of interest" in a lawsuit brought against the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by a teacher fired from his job at a Catholic high school because he is in a same-sex marriage. Joshua Payne-Elliott alleges the archdiocese illegally interfered with his contractual and employment relationship at Cathedral High School. The case is being heard in a civil division of the Marion County Superior Court in Indianapolis. This past summer, the school announced that it had rescinded his contract based on the contract's morality clause. The Justice Department Sept. 30 urged the Indiana court to stay out "of deciding what it means to be Catholic." "The First Amendment demands that this lawsuit be dismissed," it said. According to Becket, a nonprofit religious liberty law firm, which is representing the Indianapolis Archdiocese, it is "relatively rare" for the Justice Department to file a statement of interest in state court. "The department tends to file statements of interest only when a violation of federal law is particularly clear or significant," it said in a news release.

Judge temporarily stops 'heartbeat' law from taking effect

ATLANTA (CNS) – A U.S. District Court judge Oct. 1 temporarily blocked a Georgia law that would ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which is around six weeks. Known as the "heartbeat bill," it was signed into law May 7 by Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp and was to have taken effect Jan. 1. The ruling by Judge Steve C. Jones will put it on hold while a lawsuit against it is argued in court. The suit was filed by Planned Parenthood Southeast, Sistersong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Feminist Women's Health Center, and several patients and doctors. In reaction to Jones' ruling, a spokeswoman for Kemp was quoted by USA Today as saying, "Despite today's outcome, we remain confident in our position. We will continue to fight for the unborn and work to ensure that all Georgians have the opportunity to live, grow and prosper." The measure makes exceptions to save the life of the mother and in the case of rape and incest if a police report is filed. It also makes exceptions to allow abortions when a fetus has serious medical issues. When it was passed, Republican Rep. Ed Setzler, the bill's author, said the legislation was passed to "balance the difficult circumstances women find themselves in with the basic right to life of a child."

Officials seek cooperation with Vatican on religious freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Promoting religious freedom, providing humanitarian assistance and fighting human trafficking are three major issues the Vatican and the U.S. administration agree on and on which they will continue to coordinate efforts, panelists said at a joint symposium. The Oct. 2 symposium, "Pathways to Achieving Human Dignity: Partnering With Faith-Based Organizations," was co-sponsored by the Vatican's Secretariat of State and the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, which was celebrating the 35th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in his opening remarks how important it was to cooperate. "Countries of the world can rally together to promote religious freedom and human dignity," he said, just like St. John Paul II and U.S. President Ronald Reagan did decades ago with their shared concerns about Soviet communism. "Their words and deeds helped save – helped leave the Soviet leviathan on that ash heap of history," he said.

Masses, trips, watch parties mark Newman canonization

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Blessed John Henry Newman dedicated much of his life to the combination of faith and intellect at universities.

So it is only fitting that college Catholic student centers, many named after the upcoming saint, and a Catholic university named after him, plan to celebrate his Oct. 13 canonization with everything from lectures to watch parties and even pilgrimages to Rome for the event.

Cardinal Newman, the British scholar, philosopher, writer and Anglican priest before he was received into the Catholic Church, emphasized that Catholic students who attend public universities must be given a place to gather to support and encourage one another in their faith. That's why his name is part of many Catholic student centers where Catholic college students meet for liturgies, prayer, service work, discussion groups, social events and often food.

The University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which formed the first campus Newman Club in 1893, is coincidentally celebrating the center's 125th anniversary the week before Cardinal Newman's canonization with an Oct. 4-5 conference.

The weekend will feature a keynote address on "Why Newman Still Matters" by Jonathan Reyes, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. There will be other talks and panels, roundtable discussions and a gala dinner with an address by

John Garvey, president of The Catholic University of America. The weekend wraps up with a special Mass Oct. 6 and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Newman Center's new location on campus.

For the canonization itself, some students are planning to attend a watch party in Philadelphia.

And although not every campus ministry program is going as all out as Penn Catholic Newman Community, they still plan to celebrate the saint who held universities so close to his heart.

Cardinal Newman spent much of his life at Oxford University as both a student and a fellow. As an Anglican priest, he was the vicar at a university church. After he became Catholic, he founded the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Birmingham, England and a Catholic university in Dublin. Many of his ideas on higher education are in his book "The Idea of a University" based on lectures he gave in the 1850s.

St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, often described as one of the largest Newman centers in the U.S., and one of the few also to include student housing, is planning a Mass and vigil followed by eucharistic adoration, a talk about Cardinal Newman's importance, a service project still in the works and a special dinner in the dormitory with napkin holders displaying quotes from Newman.

A Google search about Cardinal Newman quotes shows there are plenty to choose from including:

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often" and "We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe."

Although not many Catholic college students can swing a pilgrimage to Rome in the middle of the fall semester, one student who is going will also have a part to play in the weekend's ceremonies by reading a petition at a prayer vigil for Cardinal Newman in Rome the night before his canonization sponsored by the London Oratories, which includes the Oratory in Birmingham founded by Cardinal Newman.

Hailey Rose Thayer, a junior biology education major at the University of Evansville, Indiana, lecturers at campus Masses organized by the diocese's Newman Center. She is attending the canonization with a group of local college students from the area, as a private trip, not a diocesan-sponsored event, and said it was an "exciting opportunity" to be a part of.

A handful of students from at least two universities and their chaplains also are planning to attend the canonization as part of a pilgrimage trip visiting other sites including students from St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois and students from the Catholic Student Center at Washington University in St. Louis.

Representatives from Newman University in Wichita, Kansas, the only U.S. university named after Cardinal Newman, also will be at the canonization.

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AT THE MOVIES

PRO-LIFE FILM FESTIVAL

WATERTOWN – Liferight of Watertown is sponsoring a film festival Oct. 21 at Jefferson Community College. The event starts at 5:30 p.m.

The event will include showings of both “Hush” and “Unplanned.”

HUSH

When Director Punam Kumar Gill (pro-abortion) and producers Drew & Jose Martin (pro-life) learned health information given to women prior to an abortion was subject to the politics of the people involved, they determined to put aside individual ideology and take an honest, scientific look at the highly disputed and politicized information around abortion’s long-term effects on women’s health.

What Punam learns in the process is not just vital to the subject of reproductive health, but also critical to her own life

and integral to the ongoing progress of women everywhere.

This film also deals with a large increase in premature births, as well as the connection between abortion and breast cancer, which has seen an increase from one in 12 women to one in eight since the Roe v Wade decision. It also addresses the rise of premature births with the advent of legal abortion.

If you know someone who had an abortion at a very early age, encourage them to have a Mammogram – most women don’t have one until they are in their 40s.

UNPLANNED

This film deals with a real life experience.

Abby Johnson quit her job in October 2009. That simple act became a national news story because Abby was director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Texas who, not long after assisting in an actual abortion procedure for the first time, crossed the line to join the Coalition for Life.

What happened in that clinic to cause this Planned Parenthood leader and the employee

of the year to take such a drastic action? And how did Planned Parenthood react to her abrupt departure?

Join Johnson as she reveals her full story for the first time in “Unplanned,” a heart-stopping personal drama of life-and-death encounters, a court room battle and spiritual transformation.

Johnson’s unique vantage point from both sides of the abortion clinic property line shines light and compassion on the political controversy that surround this issue.

If you missed this film when it was show by Liferight at the Salmon Run Mall, you now have an opportunity to see it.

For those who care about the life-versus-rights debate and those who face crisis pregnancies, “Unplanned” will be informative.

Because of the content that resulted in the film’s R rating, it is suggested that those under the age of 17 be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The first film will start at 5:30 p.m.

Viewing Time for these two films is as follows:

- “Hush” – short version – 20 minutes.
- “Unplanned” – 90 minutes
- “Hush” – 50-minute version

There will be a brief intermission after each film.

Anyone with questions can contact Beti Ann Honan at (315)782-3616 or Bette Hartzell at (315)782-1087.



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A reflection on my time in Mollendo

In October, we celebrate Extraordinary Mission Month. The theme is "Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the World." The Mission Office will feature columns written by religious and clergy reflecting on their work in the Mission Lands as they too, were baptized and sent.

By Father Stephen Rocker



St. Martin De Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru circa 2014

I am the last and the least of the 19 Ogdensburg priests to have served in our apostolate in Peru (three-fourths of a year in 2002-03). I was there when we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of St. Martin de Porras's parish in Mollendo and as we concluded our time there, giving over the staffing of the parish to the priests of the Archdiocese of Arequipa. The buildings and parish community there today are among the tangible fruits of the four decades of work and contributions the people and priests of the Ogdensburg diocese made.

The story began in 1961, when Bishop James Navagh sent a letter to the priests of our diocese who had been ordained five years or more asking for volunteers to do missionary work in Peru because of the shortage of priests in many parts of South America. In the decades

that followed, Ogdensburg priests would serve in various areas of the Archdiocese of Arequipa – in the Andean city of Arequipa, the coastal city of Mollendo, the villages of the nearby Tambo Valley, and the high mountain province of Caylloma. The first two priests of our diocese left in 1962 to begin language studies.

The work our priests did was the same as the work priests do in our diocese – performing funerals and sacraments, coordinating religious education for children and adults, preparing people for sacraments, constructing and maintaining structures, and caring for people's spiritual and material needs. What was distinctive was working in a foreign language – with the limits and mishaps doing so entailed, dealing with larger numbers of Catholics, participating in processions and other

forms of Spanish-American devotional practice, dealing with social practices different from our own, and responding to the greater degree of poverty and hardship present in the people. It was in general a challenge mixed with frustration, joy and adventure, and all who served were enriched by the experience.

To this day, the bond between the Ogdensburg diocese and St. Martin de Porras's parish continues through financial help and personal interchange. In general, to be missionary is to go out of ourselves and our milieu in the interest of living, spreading, and deepening the faith. How that is to be done varies with time, place, and resources.

The Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate was a missionary effort of its time for which we continue to give thanks to God.

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Mary A. (Rubado) Pecore, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Burke – Sherry L. Malark, 41; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2019 at St. George's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery.

Croghan – Cecelia J. (Markunas) Fuller, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Breman.

Lake Placid – Michelle Clarke, 50; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 26, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – Earl G. Morse, 94; Funeral Services Oct. 2, 2019 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Mary M. (Durgan) Stone, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Janet T. (Marshall) Pulsifer, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Elizabeth Mary (Matthews) Robarge, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2019 at St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Margo (Moomey) Burnell, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

Peru – Chauncey Hiram O'Connell, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 3, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Michael J. "Mikey"

Gonyea, Sr., 66; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 4, 2019 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Ransom "Eddie" Spinner, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

Redford – Roger C. Perry, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2019 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Joyce M. Porter, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 1, 2019 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Evelyn Winona Casselman Wood, 106; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2019 at Church of the Assumption.

Redwood – Louis R. Panunzio, Jr., 89; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 28, 2019+ at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Catherine Ellen Arthur Morette, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Crown Point.

Watertown – Scott D. Johnson, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 1, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Ellisburg Cemetery.

West Chazy – Joseph H. Reeves, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Sept. 30, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

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Father Chapin: Sharing Christ in the missions

Editor's note: Pope Francis has declared October Extraordinary Missionary Month. The theme of the celebration is "Baptized and Sent." As part of the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the North Country Catholic will be featuring stories of missionary efforts originating in our diocese throughout the month. The following is part of that series.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

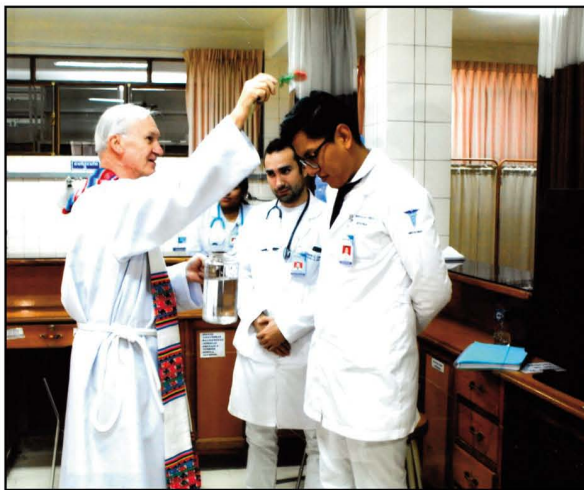
NORTH BANGOR – Sitting inside St. Augustine's Church in North Bangor, Father Daniel L. Chapin, a diocesan priest currently serving as a missionary with Maryknoll Fathers, said it was here that he found his foundation in faith and missionary work.

"This is where I was spiritually born," he said, gesturing around the small church. "I celebrated all my sacraments of initiation right here in this very building. I celebrated my first Mass here after I was ordained. We've had many family celebrations here – weddings, funerals, baptisms and more. In every celebration, we're told to 'go and spread the good news.' There's always that sending forth."

Father Chapin said his parents were a "mixed marriage" – his mother was Catholic, while his father was raised Methodist, though he didn't regularly practice his faith.

"My mother raised us – four kids – as devout Catholics," he said. "I always give credit to her for her devout faith and for raising us in the faith."

In addition, Father Chapin said he was inspired to service in his



Father Daniel L. Chapin blesses medical staff at a university hospital in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where Father Chapin serves as a priest associate with Maryknoll Fathers.

youth by a teacher at St. Joseph's School in Malone, Sister Veronica.

"I started my education at the old, one-room schoolhouse on Route 11," he said. "The teacher was all alone teaching the whole school, and she was a farmer. She had to get up early and do farm chores, then she had to get in her purple car and drive to the school, open the school and get the heat going. She was often very tired during the day, especially at the end of the day. She couldn't teach us everything. When I went to St. Joe's, I could print well, but I couldn't do cursive."

It was Sister Veronica who helped him catch up to his classmates.

"God bless her, between classes or in classes, she would come to my desk and teach me cursive writing," Father Chapin said. "She spent a lot of time with me in fifth grade. She was this frail, little woman with a beautiful smile and beautiful attitude. She was filled with joy. I thought to myself, 'this is the kind of

person I want to be.' She dedicated so much extra time with me. That was the first time I had a concept that I want to do in life what she was doing: I wanted to help people like she helped me."

It was shortly after that experience that he began to consider the priesthood. Shortly before he graduated from high school, the diocese started its mission in Mollendo, Peru.

"I was probably 16, and I remember reading in the North Country Catholic the early stories from the first two missionaries and seeing the photos they sent back," Father Chapin said. "At that point, every night before I went to bed, I would stand by a window looking up at the night sky and read the Gospels. I remember reading the Gospel of Matthew, 'go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' I remember that was the moment I decided I wanted to be a missionary."



After his ordination in 1972, Father Chapin served at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg for four years before leaving for the diocesan mission in Mollendo.

"We were expected to serve five years," he said. "I loved it so much, I stayed 10."

In 1986, he returned to the diocese, spending the next several decades serving in parishes around the North Country.

"I was only 29 when I left for Mollendo and Peru," he said. "I celebrated my 30th birthday in the jungles of Santa Cruz. I came back at 40. I served as a pastor until I was 70. I always knew I wanted to go back to the mission field."

At 70, Father Chapin requested permission from Bishop Terry R. LaValley to retire from parish work with the intent of returning to mission work.

"The usual age is 75," he said. "There was no guarantee he would accept my retirement. But I think everyone knew my heart for the missions. I wanted to go work with Maryknoll. They have a priest associate program for diocesan priests who want to serve the missions. I knew Maryknollers from my time in Peru. I knew they wanted priests with experience and language knowledge."

Bishop LaValley granted Father Chapin permission to retire to serve in the missions.

After a month of orientation and education sessions with Maryknoll,

Father Chapin was assigned to Cochabamba, Bolivia. There, he serves as an assistant in a large parish. He performs "pastoral work, spiritual work, sacramental ministry."

"There's a university hospital on the parish grounds," he said. "We visit the hospital, we visit homes. We do parish work."

He said he's seen the view of missionary work change as he's served in various missionary capacities.

"Previously, missionaries were sharing more about their own cultures and nations than the good news," he said. "There was a nationalistic, colonial approach. Now, it's about sharing Christ and the good news of the Gospels, not our cultures."

After several weeks back in the North Country this summer, Father Chapin returned to Bolivia in September.

"I just completed the third year of my five-year contract," he said. "The years go fast. I'm beginning the process of discerning what's next for me. I'm listening, and I'm observing."

Regardless of what the future holds, Father Chapin said he feels blessed to have been able to spread the love of Christ as a missionary.

"Mission work exemplifies that we are Catholic and universal," he said. "I'm a North American present in South America. Here in our diocese, we have religious personnel from other countries coming to minister here. There are always challenges, things like language barriers and cultural differences, but that's the expression of our Catholicity. We're all part of the same Church."