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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 25

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 20, 2019

## Bishops examine challenges

**BALTIMORE (CNS)**— During their Nov. 11-13 meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops elected new officers and discussed challenges in the church and the nation. They spoke of their renewed efforts to help immigrants, youth and young adults, pregnant women and the poor as well their steps to combat gun violence and racism.

Unlike recent previous meetings, their response to the clergy abuse crisis was mentioned but was not the primary focus.

On the second day, Nov. 12, the bishops elected Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles to a three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

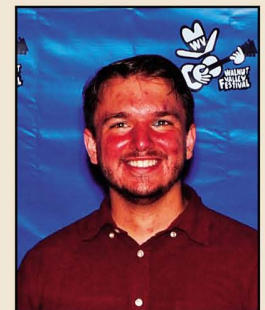
## AD LIMINA VISIT



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia and other U.S. bishops from the state of New York arrive to celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome Nov. 11, 2019. The bishops were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials. For the full story, see Page 3.**

## NATIONAL CHAMPION



**PLATTSBURGH**— Nate Pultorak, choir director and organist at the Plattsburgh churches, recently won the National Hammered Dulcimer Competition.

"It was incredible to be able to win this competition," Pultorak said. "The festival is an amazing time with over 10,000 people showing up to watch concerts and contests or just to reunite with friends that enjoy similar types of music."

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Pope to students: Don't be afraid of truth

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)**—Pope Francis told students never to be afraid of their desire for truth and never settle for mediocrity.

He encouraged them to live with open hearts and minds, and not just stick with the predominant mindset in a world that believes diversity is conflict.

"May you feel a healthy ambition to add something original that also may be concrete and use-

ful," he said Nov. 14, speaking to students and faculty of Rome's LUMSA University.

Reflecting on the role of a university, Pope Francis referred to a talk Pope Benedict XVI had been scheduled to deliver in person at Rome's La Sapienza University in 2008 until student protests forced its cancellation: "The true origin of the university lies in the thirst for knowledge that

is proper to man. The human being wants to know what everything around him is. He wants truth."

Pope Francis said, "We must not be afraid to use this word, in a spirit of sincere dialogue. Truth, liberty, the good," which are pursued through "the integral formation of the person."

He asked the students to take part in collaborative projects and exchanges

with other universities to come up with innovative research guided by "that intellectual charity that does not discount the truth and that does not settle for mediocrity."

Earlier in the day, the pope met with professors from the Sophia University Institute, founded by the Focolare Movement.

He reminded them that true wisdom is God's light shining upon all people, from all religions and all

cultures. "That is why we are called – as you already do – to walk together with everyone, not against everyone."

"However, there are those who have this habit of always seeking someone against whom they can walk," he said. "Our message is different: With whom do I walk in order to build a true and harmonious culture of encounter, which is greatly lacking?"

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## When a struggle becomes a blessing

"I have to come up with a column. So far, I don't have any ideas," I said Sunday morning, with my final deadline getting closer by the minute. "Write about the weather," my husband said.

My response: "How do I connect that to my faith?"

"I don't know. You managed to connect the cat eating plastic to your faith. Why not weather?"

I've made it no secret that I struggle to write this column. I keep telling the people closest to me that, "I've used all my

best ideas." Yet the Holy Spirit keeps giving me new topics or stories to share. Every week, I seem to think about a time I've seen God working in my life or some other faith-based concept or story I feel is worthy of sharing. Sometimes, those ideas develop barely on time for me to make deadline.

While it still is a source of stress for me, the column has also become a blessing. It's made me much more alert, on guard for signs that God is working in my life. It's made me

aware of the places in my life I need to be more open to His graces. It's made me reflective about the ways my experiences as I try to live out my faith – even sometimes how I struggle to do so – may be relatable to others.

It's caused me to adopt an almost Ignatian spirituality, trying to "find God in all things." It's been a prayerful experience.

As I struggled to come up with my column this week and thought about how often it's been a struggle, it occurred to me that this difficult part of my job has helped me in my faith journey and helped me further develop my relationship

with the Lord. I've become more aware of how He's working in my life. The struggle has been a blessing.

There are times it's almost impossible to see graces in our struggles, our losses, our pains and/or our times of suffering, and we are called to trust that God has a purpose for them. But there are also those times when we see the graces in our difficulties, and those times are such immense blessings.

And, in my case, I also need to look for those blessings and those graces.

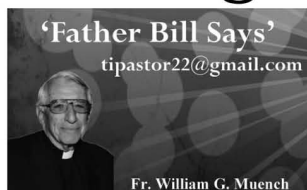
Even if they come in the form of a cat eating plastic or the weather.

Darcy L.  
Fargo

## How do we evangelize youth of today?

Last week, I spent a bit of time watching the Meeting of the United States Catholic Bishops Meeting in Baltimore on television. I found it rather good to see and listen to some of the Bishops from other dioceses. Actually, I did want to catch a glimpse of our bishops. However, they weren't there in person. Our bishops, the bishops of the New York State District, were in Rome on their ad limina visit to the Holy Father. All the Bishops of the world are required to visit the Pope and the various papal congregations every five years. However, our bishops were able to participate in the bishops' meeting by way of a long-range connection from Rome.

I want to tell you about one session I found most interesting and helpful. On one afternoon, there was a presentation on the evangelization of the young that was led by Bishop Robert Barron. This was obviously a question of great importance to the bishops, as it is to every



Fr. William G. Muench

Catholic. There is much concern for our Catholic Church concerning the number of young people who have left their participation in the Catholic Church and no longer want to be considered Catholic. This number continues to grow.

I found it even more shocking that they have information that now many young people are leaving the Church at 13 years of age. They no longer want to be considered as Catholic. I was surprised but probably should not have been. I know only too well how few teenagers attend Mass or participate in parish activities, even with their own families. They find no reason to be Catholic.

In this session on evangelization, Bishop Barron and

his committee spoke of a series of initiatives that are being investigated to develop a means of evangelizing our young people, ways to reach out and lead them back. I am certain every pastor is keen to learn and develop ways to reach these high schoolers.

Bishop Barron laid down several basic tenets for study. I would like to share just a couple of these with you. It is also an opportunity for me to consider them myself.

They spoke of young people as deeply concerned with justice. There is a hope that our young people will recognize the numerous efforts of the Catholic Church to bring justice to a divided society. Parishes everywhere in our country want to do something to speak out and work for justice, especially to those peoples who suffer discrimination and suffer other forms of injustice. We know there are many young people who are courageous and ready to speak out. They

should find within our Church the readiness to work against anything that is definitely unjust.

While there are many other such tenets, let me mention one more: Our Church must help our young people to understand and be committed to the message of Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Church. I believe we hear too often a young person leaving their involvement in the Catholic Church because they say they do not understand what it means to be Catholic.

This has to be a concern for our Church and our parish programs. The power of a relationship with Jesus changes all Catholics, young and old. Our task is to be carefully and prayerfully led to discover the power and joy of being close to the Lord. Their lives will be transformed. They will become more alive as a person. In this way they will find peace and love, and a meaningful life as a Christian and as a disciple of Jesus.

# N.Y. bishops meet pope during 'ad limina' visits

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—When Pope Francis met with bishops from New York state, he expressed his gratitude, recognizing the difficulties many of them were facing, said Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany.

At the meeting Nov. 15, Pope Francis told the bishops from the eight dioceses to speak frankly and from the heart; "it was intense, in terms of the painful situations we shared," the bishop told Catholic News Service.

But at the same time, the Albany bishop said, "it was joyful, there is a sense of hope," because of the sincere listening, understanding and desire to support dioceses they experienced during the papal audience and the series of meetings with officials of the Roman Curia during their Nov. 11-15 "ad limina" visit.

"It was very, very edifying. I don't want to paint a rosy picture because the topics were not easy," he said in an interview a few hours after the papal audience.

Each bishop, he said, talked about issues that were "close to their own hearts, like myself, I spoke about the work we're trying to do in assistance to victims and survivors" of clerical sexual abuse. Other issues brought up by the other bishops, he said, included education and the plight of immigrants.

"What was heartwarming was how you could tell that Pope Francis was listening with his heart, and he expressed his gratitude realizing that we are in difficult situations where there is lots of pain and expressed great admiration for the work that's been done."

Bishop Scharfenberger said the pope's pastoral ap-



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley of Ogdensburg, returns to his seat after receiving Communion as U.S. bishops from the state of New York concelebrate Mass in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 14, 2019. The bishops were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses to the pope and Vatican officials.**

proach, "his fathering, his brothering," and the way he shows compassion were "just so evident" that even though the discussion touched on painful situations, the pope was able to convey a sense of hope.

The discussion, he said, "was very frank; he expressed that there were things that he didn't understand, that we all make mistakes, we all have to learn, so don't be afraid of making a mistake."

During the week, while the bishops were praying at the tombs of the apostles and meeting with Vatican officials, media reports emerged concerning two of the bishops on the trip. The reports said Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn was accused of sexually abusing a minor in the 1970s — a claim he strongly denied — and that Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo would step down after an apostolic visitation of his diocese amid claims of his mishandling of abuse allegations.

Still, Bishop Scharfenberger said, "as the week went on, it wasn't that that

wasn't there, but the focus was really on gratitude to God" and certainty that God will show them the way forward.

During the ad limina visit, he said, "We talked about, for example, how sometimes we get misrepresented in the media," and the bishops admitted they need to communicate better. "We have not always risen to the challenge to communicate effectively, transparently. So, there was plenty of admission of failures and of the need to grow and of things to be learned that we didn't know."

But all those conversations, he said, took place in "an atmosphere of 'How can we help one another? How can we do better what we're called to do?'"

Ad limina visits are meant to underline and strengthen the unity and fraternity, and in fact, the bishop said, "there's really a feeling that we've got one another's back."

Asked about finding the right balance when studies on clerical sexual abuse found that transparency

and accountability were often neglected or ignored out of a desire to support one's priests or brother bishop, Bishop Scharfenberger said their relationships must be "based upon truth and honesty and openness; it's not an old boy network."

"We have to be open to the fact that we are sinners, that we fail at times," he said. "The confidence comes not from having each other's back, the confidence comes from trusting in the Lord who is the one leading us."

The bishops also spoke to the pope about how in the United States some Christian principles are treated as political or partisan issues and, therefore create division. The pope was aware of the situation, he said.

"He thanked us very much for our stance in defense of human life and specifically mentioned our resisting the culture which treats unborn lives as dispensable," he said.

The pope invited the bishops to ask him questions, he said, and one

bishop asked what the most pressing issue was for him, to which he said, the family, the many pressures they deal with and the need to help them stay together.

In reference to some media reporting signs of resistance in the U.S. church to the pope, one bishop told the pope they wanted to assure him that they felt "very bonded" to him. Bishop Scharfenberger said the pope replied, "I never doubted that."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley of Ogdensburg, New York, told CNS that during visits to the Curia, "there was an energy, an excitement, a real passion when they start speaking about evangelism, possibilities."

When asked what he would tell the pope if he had the whole papal audience set aside just for him, he said he would tell him to "continue with his outreach and love to the marginalized, continue to challenge your priests to stretch themselves and in the process he shows us how," said Bishop LaValley. "He's a walking Gospel," the bishop said Nov. 12. "Watch him" and the way he reaches out and interacts with people.

"That's what church is, that's what a disciple and mission is about, that kind of encounter and I'm very intrigued and very encouraged by that message," Bishop LaValley said.

The pope's way of pastoring, he said, is "a good personal challenge for me as a baptized Catholic and as a leader, to be the kind of person that can shepherd by living it, rather than just getting up front and saying, 'You should do this and you should do that.'"

"I find that more attractive than just pointing fingers," he said.



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Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs. We help form and train catechists who will form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and get bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around His altar.



### Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds help African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholics spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.



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Ethan Smith

## Smith receives Eagle Scout Award

Ethan Smith, the grandson of Michael and Catherine Farkas of Tupper Lake, and the son of Michelle Farkas Lawrence and Stephen Lawrence of Henderson Harbor, and James Smith of Jamesville, received his Eagle Scout Award on Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Henderson, with Father Robert L. Decker officiating for the Benediction and the Scout Prayer.

Ethan is in grade 10 at Belleville Henderson Central School, where he participates in Whiz Quiz, band, marching band, and Sources of Strength, while also taking advanced math and science classes. Ethan is also a varsity swimmer with South Jefferson Central School.

In the summer, Ethan sails and races with the Henderson Harbor Water Sports Program; this year he came in first with the Junior Hospice Charity Regatta in the 420 division.

Ethan is with Boy Scout Troop #586. With the Troop, he has traveled to Maryland, Vermont, Virginia and New Hampshire. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and has participated in the National Youth Leadership Training.

In the spring of 2019, Ethan started work on his Eagle Scout Project, renovating the gardens in front of the Henderson Free Library and Fire Department. Ethan noticed the garden needed a lot of attention. The project was finished by the end of May, improving the design and appearance. Ethan had help from several friends over the course of the three weeks with a total of 150 hours put into the project.

When Ethan leaves school, he would like to go to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and eventually be a Naval Architect.

He is joined at home with his sister, Meredith, who is in the seventh grade.

# Area choir director wins dulcimer competition

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing writer

PLATTSBURGH – Nate Pultorak, choir director and organist at the Plattsburgh churches, recently won the National Hammered Dulcimer Competition.

“It was incredible to be able to win this competition,” Pultorak said. “The festival is an amazing time with over 10,000 people showing up to watch concerts and contests or just to reunite with friends that enjoy similar types of music.”

To win, Pultorak had to make it through two rounds of competition.

“I went onstage, and played my first two pieces, ‘Two Silver Hearts’ – a piece I wrote and dedicated to my parent’s 25th wedding anniversary – and ‘Stars and Stripes Forever’ by John Philip Sousa. The emcee came to the stage and announced the numbers of those who were to move on, and my number was called! . . . When I went up the second time, I played ‘Empty Chairs at Empty Tables’ from the musical *Les Misérables* and ‘The Battle Hymn of the Republic’ . . . When they revealed I won, my face lit right up. Pictures were taken posing with our prize instruments, and we prepared for our encores. I played ‘Calling Out Your Name’ by Rich Mullins.”

The hammered dulcimer is played by striking the strings with a pair of special mallets called hammers.

“It is a wonderful feeling to play the dulcimer,” Pultorak explained, “An instrument like this has such a range that can be expressed while playing it with various techniques. For the fast, energetic



Nate Pultorak

pieces, it is thrilling to throw in fast flurries of notes to accent various moments of the song. For the slow pieces, it is an emotional yet soothing experience to precisely time just when and how I will play the next note.”

Christian music artist Rich Mullins helped inspired Pultorak’s love of the dulcimer.

“I grew up listening to Rich Mullins around the house and on long car trips from my native Joliet, Illinois to visit my grandmother near Watertown,” Pultorak recalled. “‘Sing Your Praise to the Lord,’ ‘Creed,’ and ‘Calling Out Your Name’ were some of my favorites, which incidentally have Rich playing the dulcimer. The friend of the family who introduced me to the dulcimer became my teacher, but I also went to many festivals dedicated to the dulcimer, where

many musicians who had made the dulcimer one of their main things taught workshops.”

Pultorak said music and faith played important roles in his upbringing.

“I had a love for music from a very early age, as my family led music at one of the Masses at the church I grew up in,” he said. “I was behind a musical instrument in a Catholic context from the time I was still in utero.”

When he attended college, Pultorak’s passion for playing music grew.

“When I was at Franciscan University, the Residence Director of my dorm invited me to join a small men’s choir he directed that sang at Masses done in the Ordinary Form in Latin” he said. “I was drawn into the beauty of singing Gregorian Chant and various pieces of Polyphony. Through that I learned that one of

the common misconceptions was that Vatican II did away with that music, whereas the only mention of it was to encourage its use. As I continued through my academic career, I studied abroad at Franciscan’s campus in Austria, where I had the opportunity to direct a choir of my own that sang for masses in various places that we had group excursions. Places included Assisi and even at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter’s Basilica. Those experiences made me want to pursue doing Catholic music more seriously.”

Pultorak also plays the drums, piano, trumpet, penny whistle, hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer and organ.

“For me, my favorite instrument depends on the environment,” he said. “When playing out at places like Church Street Marketplace in Burlington or jamming with friends, I love to play the Hammered Dulcimer, but in a church, the power and beauty of an organ and choir wins down.”

In addition to playing at church, Pultorak also plays at other venues.

“When the weather is warm, it is not uncommon for me to drive over to Burlington, Vermont where the Church Street Marketplace offers opportunities for street performing that are unparalleled in this area. I also play in some bands with [local] musicians. On the first Fridays of the month in Malone, NY, I lead music with Abigail St. Louis for the Hearts on Fire Holy Hour at Notre Dame Church. With the opportunities that can arise from being a national champion, I am looking forward to being able to play in many other

locations in the area soon. While my studies have led me to believe that the dulcimer in most instances is not suited for the Mass, I enjoy playing the dulcimer while doing praise and worship during Eucharistic Adoration.”

As for future musical aspirations, Pultorak reflected “I am currently looking for ways to incorporate my music into evangelization, and I would love to some day in the future make the Dulcimer be a more full-time musical endeavor.”

For those who would like to pursue music, Pultorak advises “If you do it, make sure you love it. While I was beginning on the dulcimer, I had so much fun, I would just walk up to the dulcimer throughout the day and start playing a tune because I really wanted to. The important thing with music is to have fun no matter what your skill level is.” Although he has previously recorded albums, Pultorak is “currently preparing to create a professionally produced album that will be coming out next year.”

Pultorak is available to perform at various events. Contact him at natepul29@gmail.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/natedulcimer, or Instagram at @natedulcimer



## Environmental Stewardship

## Our role in climate change

It is easy for people to be critical of the hierarchy of the global Church for its reluctance, decades ago, to do anything in regard to the sinful exploits of some priests. However, exploiting our natural, earthly resources can be seen in a similar light today. When we commit sins that harm others, we often fail to take responsibility for our own destructive actions, or inactions. Over the course of our lives as individuals, and as a society, we have inflicted harm on the health and wellbeing of our planet and have been reluctant to acknowledge our role in this environmental devastation.

Climate scientists, since well before the turn of the last century, have been loudly announcing that our lifestyle and societal values were creating conditions toxic to many organisms on Earth. Yet few individuals have done anything significant to stop the progressing disaster. As Church, we now have the responsibility to assist those whose lives have been devastated by the destructive weather events enhanced by our over use of fossil fuels.

It is our responsibility to contribute as much as possible to charitable organizations, i.e. Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, to assist victims of global warming catastrophes. In recent years, all charitable groups that help in disaster relief have become overwhelmed by the scope of their work.

It is also essential to pray for all of the victims of injustice. Also, as Christians, we must pray for those that perpetrate the abuse, including ourselves, as we must realize that we are responsible to God for our part in this destruction of His creations.

We can not continue to act like so many church leaders did in places around the world so many decades ago by looking the other way. We must try to stop this culture of carbon pollution by reducing our carbon footprint as much as possible, by giving to charitable organizations, and asking God for His mercy and forgiveness.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

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

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

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

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

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

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Nov. 20** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

**Nov. 23** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 24** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 26** – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

## 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:

**Nov. 21** – 5 p.m., St. André Besette Parish, Malone

## 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

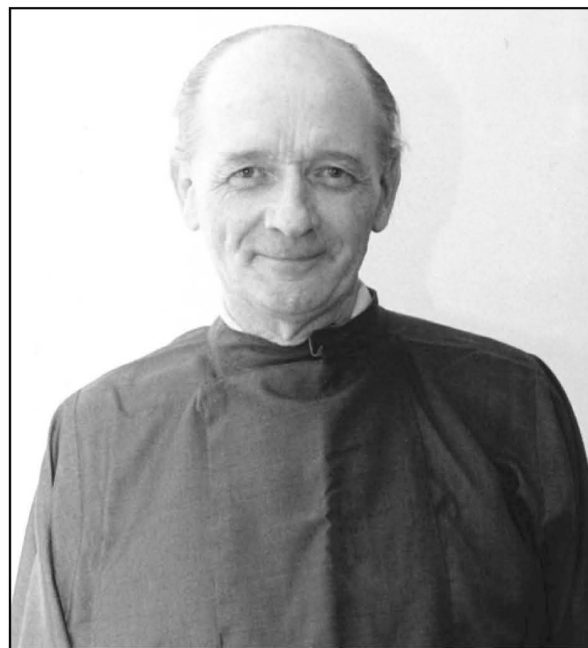
## Funeral Mass celebrated for Brother Paschal Steen

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Brother Paschal Steen (nee John A. Steen), TSA, a Franciscan Tertiary Friar of the Atonement, on Nov. 12 in St. Anthony's Chapel, St. Paul Friary, Garrison.

Brother Paschal passed from this life on Nov. 2, 2019, at Elderwood of Uihlein at Lake Placid.

Brother Paschal was born on Sept. 13, 1923, in New York City. He attended St. Francis de Sales Elementary School in NYC and high school at Murray Hill Trade School, NYC, majoring in architecture, drafting and carpentry. He entered the United States Navy during World War II in June 1943 and worked as a carpenter repairing landing crafts until his discharge in July 1946. He attained the rank of seaman first class. His places of service were Newport, Rhode Island; Great Lake Seaman's School; Norfolk, Virginia; USS Mount Vernon, Le Havre, France; and Washington, D.C.

After the Navy, he thought about the religious life and came to Graymoor in 1952. In 1953 he received his habit



Brother Paschal Steen

and was professed at St. Joseph's Friary, Saranac Lake. Brother Paschal remained at St. Joseph's, where he was responsible for the overall maintenance of the grounds and buildings, the furnaces and the electrical system. During his time there he oversaw four major construction developments at St. Joseph's. In 1987 Brother Paschal received a surprise honor at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center. The newly constructed visitors building at St. Joseph's was named

after him, the "Paschal Family Building."

Brother Paschal retired and in 2014 took up residence at Uihlein Nursing Center, Lake Placid. On Sept. 13 he celebrated his 96th birthday. He was the last surviving Tertiary member of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

Brother Paschal was the son of the late Arthur and Florence Steen, both of New York City. He was predeceased by his sister, Marie Bradshaw.

Interment was in the Friars' cemetery.

## 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!

## In Brief

## Guggenheim merchandise on sale

Guggenheim merchandise, including shirts, pants and water bottles, are now on sale for 50 percent off. Shipping is free.

Each order will include the "CG" decal, as well.

These items make great gifts for past, present and future campers.

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# Bishops eye challenges faced by church, society

BALTIMORE (CNS) – During their Nov. 11-13 meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops elected new officers and discussed challenges in the church and the nation. They spoke of their renewed efforts to help immigrants, youth and young adults, pregnant women and the poor as well their steps to combat gun violence and racism.

Unlike recent previous meetings, their response to the clergy abuse crisis was not the primary focus.

On the second day of the meeting, Nov. 12, the bishops elected Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles to a three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit as conference vice president.

Archbishop Gomez, the first Latino to be elected to this role, was chosen with 176 votes from a slate of 10 nominees. He has been USCCB vice president for the past three years and his new role begins at the end of the Baltimore gathering.

At the start of the meeting, the bishops voted overwhelmingly on a revised set of strategic priorities to take them into the next decade. The next day, they approved adding new materials to complement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," their long-standing guide to help Catholics form their consciences in public life, including voting. The addition included the statement that called abortion the preeminent social issue of our time.

The second day of bishops' meeting coincided with oral arguments at the Supreme Court over the fate of the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA and bishops at the Baltimore meeting spoke up in defense of DACA recipients on the floor and in interviews with Catholic News Service.

Bishops also heard a wide-ranging report on immigration Nov. 12, which included updates of policy, how programs to resettle refugees, including those run by the Catholic Church, have closed or reduced activity because the administration has moved to close the country's doors to those seeking refuge, and efforts on the border to help asylum cases.

After the report, Major Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia said that no community, more than Catholics in the U.S., know what it's like to be an immigrant in this country.

The bishops' second day of meetings also included a presentation of the pope's document "Christus Vivit," which was issued following the 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who had been a delegate at the synod, urged bishops to do more to support Catholic teens and young adults and to use the pope's apostolic exhortation as their guide.

The previous day, Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles told the bishops the church is losing young people in greater numbers and must face the challenges of how to get the religiously unaffiliated, or "nones," particularly young people, back.

He presented a three-

minute video on the issue and spoke of his concerns and ideas for bringing young people back to church which involved: not dumbing down the faith and involving young people in the social justice aspects of the church. Discussion about this from the floor lasted for more than an hour with bishops from across the country agreeing that the issue is of great concern and sharing other ideas to bring young people back which primarily involved catechism but also an increased devotion to Mary.

Bishop Barron, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, who is known for his website, "Word on Fire," and for hosting the documentary series "Catholicism," initially brought up this topic during the bishops' spring meeting. He said at the time, and reiterated Nov. 11, that this topic needs to be a priority for the church today.

The bishops also heard that a new "pastoral framework for marriage and family life" should be ready for a vote by the U.S. bishops by next November at the latest, according to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. He stressed that it is not a "plan," since it is intended to be applied within parishes and dioceses.

At the start of their meeting Nov. 11, the bishops raised pressing issues that included the priesthood shortage, gun violence and the need to provide support services for pregnant women.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States, mentioned some of these challenges

in his opening remarks, along with the need to welcome migrants and fight racism. He also urged the bishops not just to focus on the challenges before them but to consider how they could further develop collegiality and collaboration with one another.

In his final address as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston told his fellow bishops that it has been "an honor to serve you, even in the difficult times."

The 70-year-old prelate thanked the bishops, whom he called brothers, for the past three years and was thanked by them in return when the group gave him a standing ovation at the end of his nine-minute presentation.

"Let's begin anew," he said, at the close of his address, veering away from prepared remarks, and quoting St. Augustine.

The cardinal, who suffered a mild stroke earlier this year, did not elaborate on specifics of the abuse crisis in the church, particularly highlighted this past year, but spoke of the bishops' continued work of transparency related to dealing with the crisis. He said the abuse measures adopted by U.S. bishops at their meeting last June are "only a beginning. More needs to be done."

At the start of the meeting, Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan, asked for an update on the Vatican's report on the McCarrick situation, which many of the bishops, by voice vote, also said they wanted to hear.

In a brief presentation, Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley told the bishops

the Vatican has not yet published a report about its investigation of now-defrocked former U.S. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, but a report could be ready by Christmas, or in the new year.

He said he and other bishops at the Vatican for their recent "ad limina" visit said they were "anxious to receive the Holy See's explanation of this tragic situation, how he could become an archbishop and cardinal, who knew what and when." He also stressed that the "long wait has resulted in great frustration on the part of bishops and our people and indeed a very harsh and even cynical interpretation of the seeming silence."

In a presentation on gun violence, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, said Catholic clergy and lay leaders can play a role in bringing together people along the rural-urban divide to build understanding of the need for sensible policies that can end the scourge of gun violence.

The bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, outlined the USCCB's long-held stance of the need for "common sense" legislation that governs the availability of guns. But he also said it was time for people to come together so that there is greater understanding of how gun violence affects urban communities in particular.

He told Catholic News Service that the USCCB's work on the legislative front was important, but that a pastoral response to gun violence was needed.

"It's time for a different approach," he said.

## AT THE MOVIES

# MIDWAY

**NEW YORK (CNS)**—It's all hands on deck in the vivid fact-based naval epic "Midway" (Lionsgate). In fact, the cast of this historical drama is so crowded that viewers might feel the occasional roll call was in order.

The film recounts the period from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941, to the Navy's decisive victory in the battle of the title in June 1942. Indeed, so overwhelming was the triumph at Midway that it turned the tide in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

As the movie demonstrates, military personnel at all levels contributed to this success. Among the top brass, Adms. Chester W. Nimitz (Woody Harrelson) and William "Bull" Halsey (Dennis Quaid) collaborated to outfox their most gifted counterpart, Isoroku Yamamoto (Etsushi Toyokawa), the architect of the Pearl Harbor operation.

They were aided by the work of Lt. Cmdr. Edwin Layton (Patrick Wilson), a brilliant intelligence officer who correctly surmised that the Japanese were in-

tent on mounting an assault on Midway Island and thus enabled American forces to get the drop on them. Layton's most significant subordinate was eccentric codebreaker Joseph Rochefort (Brennan Brown).

Another figure who helped to lay the groundwork for the outcome was Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle (Aaron Eckhart). His famous air raid on Tokyo in April 1942 was a major propaganda coup for the Allies. It also contributed to a shift in Japanese strat-

egy.

Convinced that the U.S. aircraft carrier fleet, which had escaped damage at Pearl Harbor, must now be dealt with to prevent another raid like Doolittle's, the Japanese commanders decided to lure it into a trap at Midway. Instead, thanks to Layton, the carriers were waiting for the Japanese and succeeded in snaring them.

As for those who actually fought the battle, they're represented here primarily by two daring pilots, squadron commanders

Dick Best (Ed Skrein) and Wade McClusky (Luke Evans). While on shore, Dick benefits from the support of his loving wife, Ann (Mandy Moore), who argues against the self-doubts that trouble him.

As this partial list of characters suggests, director Roland Emmerich has a lot of personal storylines to keep bound together — with the result that the details of his film are sometimes confusing. But there's a good balance in Wes Tooke's script between action scenes and human interest. The patriotism, courage and tenacity on display, moreover, go a long way to maintain attention.

Predictably, a lot of realistic sailors' talk is worked into the dialogue.

Still, given the excellent history lesson on offer in "Midway," at least some parents may consider it acceptable for older teens. All the more so since the mayhem of war — though its dangers are effectively brought home to viewers — is nonetheless portrayed in a restrained way.

The film contains frequent stylized violence with little gore, brief gruesome images of a burned corpse, about 10 uses of profanity, an equal number of milder oaths, at least one rough term and considerable crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.



50  
ANNIVERSARY

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[www.twitter.com/endpovertyusa](http://www.twitter.com/endpovertyusa)

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**Special Collection to be held with Black and Indian Mission Nov. 23-24, 2019**  
**Combined Collection**





## ADIRONDACK

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Saranac Lake – Interfaith youth perspective on climate change presentation to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 20

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

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

**Features:** There will be a climate reality presentation. A summary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si Encyclical. Interfaith panel discussion "Climate action as a moral imperative". Speakers will include the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit Students, Dr. Curt Stager, Tom Kalinowski, Katherine Preston and Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald. All ages and faiths are welcome, and the admission is free. Light snacks will be provided.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes school to have their Christmas Bazaar.

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** A great way to start your holiday shopping. There are trees, wreaths, plants, toys, crafts, gifts, baked goods, raffles, silent auction items and so much more. Lunch will be served and Santa will make a visit.

**Contact:** Vendor space is available. Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 or email info@stagneslp.org.

## CLINTON

## TURKEY RAFFLE

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club of St. Joseph's Parish, West Chazy, will host their annual Turkey Raffle.

**Date:** Nov. 22

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** Lots of Prizes. Everyone welcome. Free buffet supper.

**Contact:** For more information, call the Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

## CHRISTMAS TEA

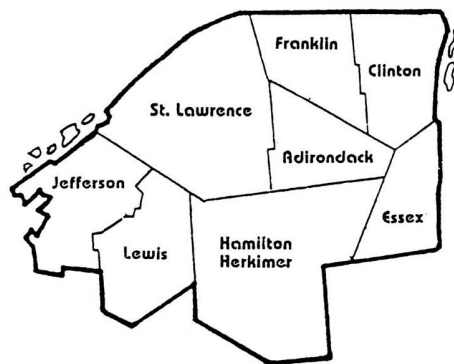
Peru – St. Augustine's Parish will hold their annual Christmas Tea.

**Date:** Dec. 1

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

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Features:** There will be a luncheon with homemade soups, sandwiches, and beverages. In addition, there will be crafts, baked goods, The Cake Walk, a Chinese Auction and 50-50 raffle. Cookies, coffee, tea and punch are available for everyone. Santa will make a surprise visit around noon to see the children in the afternoon. Please come and



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.

enjoy the festivities!

## WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Peru – CDA #2598 to have Fall into Winter Craft Sale.

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

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

**Features:** Vendors from all around the area with craft items, household items and more. Café lunches, soup, sandwiches and chips. Bake Sale with lots of goodies.

**Contact:** For more information contact Judy Akey at 518-643-8716

## CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church will be having their 8th Annual North Country Christmas Craft Show.

**Date:** Dec. 14

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

**Features:** The works of local vendors, a fabulous bake shop with all your favorite Christmas treats, basket raffle and more... and don't forget to stop by and have lunch at Padre's Café.

## JEFFERSON

## CATHOLICISM

Watertown – Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" DVD presentation and discussion to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 21 (Part 3)

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

**Features:** Explore the faith through stories, biographies & images; like a world tour of persons, places, & cathedrals. All are welcome. Refreshments.

**Contact:** Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

**Date:** Nov. 21

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

**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.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TABLE

Clayton – Community Christmas Table and Living Nativity to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 7

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$8, over 50 delicious dishes to sample

**Features:** Stop in for the Community Christmas table. Again this year, students will present a living nativity.

## LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 315-348-6260 for more information.

## DAY OF REFLECTION

Lowville – All are invited to a Day of Reflection on "True Hospitality of the Heart" with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

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

**Features:** Lunch will be served.

**Contact:** Please call Deb Mullin at the Parish Office 315-376-6662 or 315-523-0336 to RSVP.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## WOMEN'S ADVENT GATHERING

Norwood – Women's Advent Gathering group meeting to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 15

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

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church Hall (Enter through side door)

**Features:** All women are welcome to join us for faith, friendship, and food!

**Contact:** For more information, or to find out about our service project, call/text/email Sara at 315-212-7565 or email narrow56@gmail.com

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## 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 Catholics realize the depth of God's love for each of us. It provides a simple method to help one develop and grow in Faith and better live the daily struggle of the Christian life. 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. Weekend participants also share the Eucharist, sing, pray and fellowship together.

**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

## YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

Washington, DC – Registration is now open for the Youth Buses for life.

**Date:** Jan. 26, 2020

**Cost:** \$200

**Features:** Buses depart the North Country and the cost will include transportation, three hotel stays, three breakfasts, two dinners, two lunches, t-shirt, slingbag and an awesome experience! Western bus departs from IHC in Watertown. Northern bus departs from Massena with stops in Canton and Gouverneur. March for Life in our nation's capital and participate in the Life is Very Good Rally and Mass and the National ProLife Summit!

**Contact:** Registration and more information at www.rcdony.org/prolife

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Celebrating Christ, King of the Universe

Today is a very significant day in the liturgy of the Catholic Church. It celebrates the Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe. Next week, we begin the holy season of Advent.

How fitting that this Thursday we will give thanks to God for all the blessings of the past year!

Today is a good day for us to make some adjust-



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

ments to how we give allegiance in deeds to the one King of the Universe. He is the only one that deserves our total obedience and love.

The first reading today is from Samuel, the last judge of Israel, who ushered in the reign of Kings, first Saul and David, then their successors for another 200 years. As the Israelites found out,

**December 23**

**Feast of Christ,  
King of the Universe**

READINGS

2nd Samuel 5:1-3  
Colossians 1:12-20  
Luke 23:35-43

kings are expensive to maintain.

It wasn't until the Father sent His Son to live as a humble and poor man, that we had a truly just and compassionate king, worthy of our total worship.

The second reading today shows Paul's efforts to unite the first generation Christians, using a familiar hymn that is rich in describing Jesus as "the image of the invisible God...He is before all else that is...all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together".

In today's world, there is not a king or ruler that matches the model we celebrate today – a King whose love is so great that

He gives His life in the most humiliating death possible that all people may win salvation in His kingdom.

Yes, even the sign above his head proclaims that He is the King of the Jews. Two thieves hang with Him. In adoring Jesus, St. Dismas is the first canonized saint.

As we give thanks this week for our shepherd King, may we resolve to give Him every day our complete and total allegiance.

Hail, Christ our King!

## Should Biden have been given Communion?

### Maybe that is the wrong question

Catholic News Services

*The following editorial appeared online Nov. 6 on the website of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newsweekly. It was written by the editorial board.*

Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden was denied holy Communion by a pastor of a South Carolina church Oct. 27, and people can't stop talking about it. The media, church leaders, politicians -- everyone has an opinion, and not all those opinions, even within the church, were the same.

So what happened?

While on the campaign trail in late October, Biden stopped to attend Mass at St. Anthony Church in Florence, South Carolina, where the pastor, Father Robert E. Morey, refused Biden the Eucharist.

In a statement later given to news organizations, Father Morey confirmed that he had denied Biden the sacrament, which was in keeping with a 2004 de-

claration signed jointly by the bishops of Atlanta, Charleston and Charlotte.

"Sadly, this past Sunday, I had to refuse holy Communion to former Vice President Joe Biden," Father Morey wrote. "Holy Communion signifies we are one with God, each other and the church. Our actions should reflect that. Any public figure who advocates for abortion places himself or herself outside of church teaching. As a priest, it is my responsibility to minister to those souls entrusted to my care, and I must do so even in the most difficult situations."

Biden not only is running on a pro-abortion platform, but also this summer announced that he no longer supports a ban on government-funded abortion.

It is frequently debated within the church whether or not politicians who go against church teaching should be admitted to the Eucharist. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop

of New York, in an interview with Fox News on Oct. 31, called the situation "difficult" and empathized with Father Morey's position. But he added that he would not have denied Biden the Eucharist.

"I'm not there as a tribunal, as a judge in distributing holy Communion," the cardinal said. "If only saints could receive holy Communion, we wouldn't have anybody at Mass, including myself."

Cardinal Dolan's response was echoed by other church notables. But it's important to note that there is disagreement on interpretation of Canon 915 of the Code of Canon Law, which says that those "obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy Communion."

In 2018, Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, referenced Canon 915 when he reiterated that U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin should not receive holy Communion because of his continued pro-abortion stance.

"Because his voting

record in support of abortion over many years constitutes 'obstinate persistence in manifest grave sin,' the determination continues that Sen. Durbin is not to be admitted to holy Communion until he repents of this sin," Bishop Paprocki wrote. "This provision is intended not to punish, but to bring about a change of heart."

This is a key point. We do not know whether or not Biden was in a state of grace on the morning he went to receive holy Communion in South Carolina. But we do know the platform on which he is campaigning for the highest and most powerful office in the land -- and we know that platform approves of continuing to allow hundreds of thousands of unborn children to be killed each year. Shouldn't we be doing all we can to encourage him to have a public change of heart?

The debate, then, has been wrongly framed. Rather than immediately jumping to whether or not an individual persisting in

manifest grave sin be admitted to holy Communion, better questions would be: Have our pastors done all they can to minister to those persisting in manifest grave sin, so that they may have a change of heart and be brought to repentance and conversion? Have lay Catholics adequately helped to form others in the truth of church teaching? And have those persisting in manifest grave sin at least attempted to reflect upon or reconsider their actions?

Biden recently told MSNBC that while he practices his faith, he has never sought to impose his religious views on others. As a politician, his words make perfect sense. As a Catholic, they leave much to be desired.

As we face a dwindling church with members who aren't sure what the church teaches, is it too much to ask that those who publicly profess to be Catholic at the very least publicly follow church teaching? And if not, could they please just sit down?



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# Donor bequests: A time of thanks

Thanks to all of you throughout the North Country who have so generously given to our brothers and sisters in the developing countries. I give thanks to Almighty God when I reflect upon your generosity in prayer and sacrifice for the missions.

Traditionally November has been dedicated as a time of special prayer for our deceased and to remember the joy they brought into our lives.

It is indeed an opportune time to give thanks for our benefactors who were witnesses to the Gospel by their sacrificial offerings to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The Pontifical Mission Societies acknowledges with gratitude the following bequests whose legal process has been completed this year.

At the time of this printing, there were several others yet to be settled for the year. These will be acknowledged at a future time.

God bless their souls, and may they rest in peace as their legacies live on and continue to do great deeds.

## 2019 Calendar Year Bequest Gifts

DONOR	LOCATION	Date	GIFT AMOUNT
Estate of Wilbur J. Lamica	Tupper Lake, NY	03/22/2019	\$500.00
Estate of Reverend Norman Poupore	Pierrepont Manor, NY	05/21/2019	\$26,906.56
<b>2019 Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$27,406.56</b>

\* Figures represent totals as of Nov. 12, 2019

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



## Attention Snowbirds going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

## OBITUARIES

**Bloomington** – Kathleen A (Bell) Kennedy, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2019 at Nov. 16, 2019; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

**Cape Vincent** – Sandra L. (O'Brien) Payne, 75; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2019 at the Cleveland Funeral Home.

**Copenhagen** – Leonard E. Vogt, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Dr. Richard Frank Higby, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Stephens's Church.

**Dexter** – Ralph Lyle Timerman Jr., 86; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2019 at Johnson Funeral Home; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Blanche L. (Martin) Yelle, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2019 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Houseville** – Mary J. (Ziankoski) Szalach, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2019 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Gordon E. Peebles, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2019 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

**Malone** – Gary R. Benware, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Alfred B. Downer, Jr., 55; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2019 at the Brusio-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

**Malone** – Jon E. Guerin, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Christopher J. Meacham, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**North Lawrence** – C. Charmaine (Meacham) McLaughlin, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2019 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Edward S. Breen, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2019

at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Mary "Margaret" (Sargent) Breen, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2019 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** – David J. Kiah, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Port Henry** – Stanley M. Wojewodzic, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Potsdam** – Cynthia Ann (Eddy) LaPointe, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

**Tupper Lake** – Rita (Perth) Peets, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2019 at Frary-Stuart Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Margaret Mary (Stumpf) Cartin, 104; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willsboro** – Michael D. MacDougal, 70; Memorial Services Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Phillip of Jesus Church.

## DISCUSSING DISCIPLESHIP



Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan director of Vocations, and Catherine Russell, Vocations coordinator, meet with Immaculate Heart Central Principal Dan Charlebois at the Watertown school. The trio discussed ways the vocations office can assist IHC in helping to form their students in discipleship. Both Father Carrara and Mr. Charlebois are new to their leadership positions.

# Cardinal to N.Y. bishops: Find solace in St. Peter

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—With rumors swirling around about two of their members, the bishops of New York state reached the centerpiece of their "ad limina" pilgrimage to Rome: the tomb of St. Peter.

The bishops' early morning Mass in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 14 came the morning after media reports that Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn has been accused of sexually abusing a minor in the 1970s — a claim he strongly denied — and rumors that Bishop Richard J.

Malone of Buffalo would step down after an apostolic visitation of his diocese amid claims of his mishandling of abuse allegations.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass for the group's visit "ad limina apostolorum," meaning "to the threshold of the apostles."

The New York bishops' Vatican visit began Nov. 11 and was to conclude Nov. 15 with a group meeting with Pope Francis and the

celebration of Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

"To be here at the tomb of the first pope and tomorrow to be in the presence of his living successor in many ways is the goal or trophy" of the "ad limina" visit, Cardinal Dolan said in his homily.

Especially in a time of "difficulty," the cardinal said, St. Peter's life offers encouragement to the bishops because of his unwavering love for Jesus despite not always understanding exactly what Jesus meant and what he

was calling his disciples to.

"He was always a bit confused by Jesus; he never completely 'got it,' never completely comprehended the teaching of Jesus," Cardinal Dolan said.

The descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost helped St. Peter, like it helped the other apostles, but as St. Peter's disputes with St. Paul show, "he was a tad stubborn" and not always a quick study, the cardinal said. "And aren't we all that way? We're all that way."

Cardinal Dolan said he often has wondered "if the

moment when it all made sense for St. Peter, the moment it all came together is when his life was literally turned upside down, when he was crucified upside down."

"I wonder if then he said, 'Ah, now I get it.'"

Crucified on Vatican hill, St. Peter would have seen symbols of the Roman Empire and its "power and clout and prestige and authority and worldly success," Cardinal Dolan said, and he would have known that "none of it amounted to a hill of cold polenta."

## Who is King of your heart?

By Mary Beth Bracy  
Contributing writer

As the Newsboys sing in their song, "It is You," "It is You we adore. It is You, praises are for, Only You, the heavens declare, it is You, it is You."

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we are reminded that Our Lord Jesus reigns supreme. We have no strange gods or idols before Him.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Cre-

ator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the 'King of Glory,' respectful silence in the presence of the 'ever greater' God. Adoration of the thrice-holy and sovereign God of love blends with humility and gives assurance to our supplications."

At times, it seems easy to compromise what we believe. In the interest of diplomacy, gain, or convenience, the truths of our faith are sometimes forgotten.

In a recent homily available on YouTube by Father Jonathan P. Meyer, pastor of All Saints Church, Dearborn, Indiana, he spoke of his parish crowning Christ as King.

"We need to proclaim that we have no other gods, we have no idols, we have no other king than our Lord Jesus Christ," he said. "We need to see ourselves as his subjects, as his servants, but also as his heirs, his sons and daughters. A king wants to always further and spread his kingdom — we call this evangelization. A king wants to protect and defend his kingdom — we call this the spiritual life and the battle. And a king also wants to share his kingdom and his inheritance with his sons and daughters. And the reality is that it is our belief that one day we will share in the kingdom of Christ the King."

Each time we go to Mass and receive Jesus in Holy Communion we proclaim Jesus King of our hearts, families, and communities.

Although He hides under the appearance of bread, Jesus comes to us from His throne in Heaven, as St.

Faustina exclaims: "O King of glory, though you hide your beauty, yet the eye of my soul rends the veil. I see the angelic choirs giving you honor without cease."

As the great apostle of the Holy Eucharist, St. Peter Julian Eymard declared, "Fine monuments mean much less to our Lord than do our hearts. And since the nations have driven Him out, let us raise Him a throne on the altar of our hearts... Let us proclaim Jesus Eucharistic our King by lifting Him up on our hearts and by serving Him with fidelity and devotedness."

In his encyclical "On the Feast of Christ the King," the feast which he instituted in 1925, Pope Pius XI taught: "Men must look for the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ." "The whole world" should "come together to venerate and adore Christ the King hidden under the Sacramental species. Thus by sermons preached, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them

for their King.

"When once men recognize, both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace and harmony." "It is by a divine inspiration that the people of Christ bring forth Jesus from his silent hiding-place in the church, and carry him in triumph through the streets of the city, so that he whom men refused to receive when he came unto his own, may now receive in full his kingly rights."

At the end of the Church year, we are reminded of the second coming of Christ.

The Book of Revelations tells us, "The Lord all-powerful God is King; let us rejoice, sing praise, and give him glory. The wedding feast of the Lamb has begun and his bride is prepared to welcome him."

When Jesus comes again, will He find that he is King of our hearts? Will we run out to meet our Bridegroom? Or, will our lamps be unlit, because we became drowsy, and were not waiting, as indicated in Matthew's Gospel?

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