

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FDA allows abortion pills to be sold in pharmacies | PAGE 7

Funeral Mass celebrated for Margaret Connelly | PAGE 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 34

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 11, 2023

No NCC next week

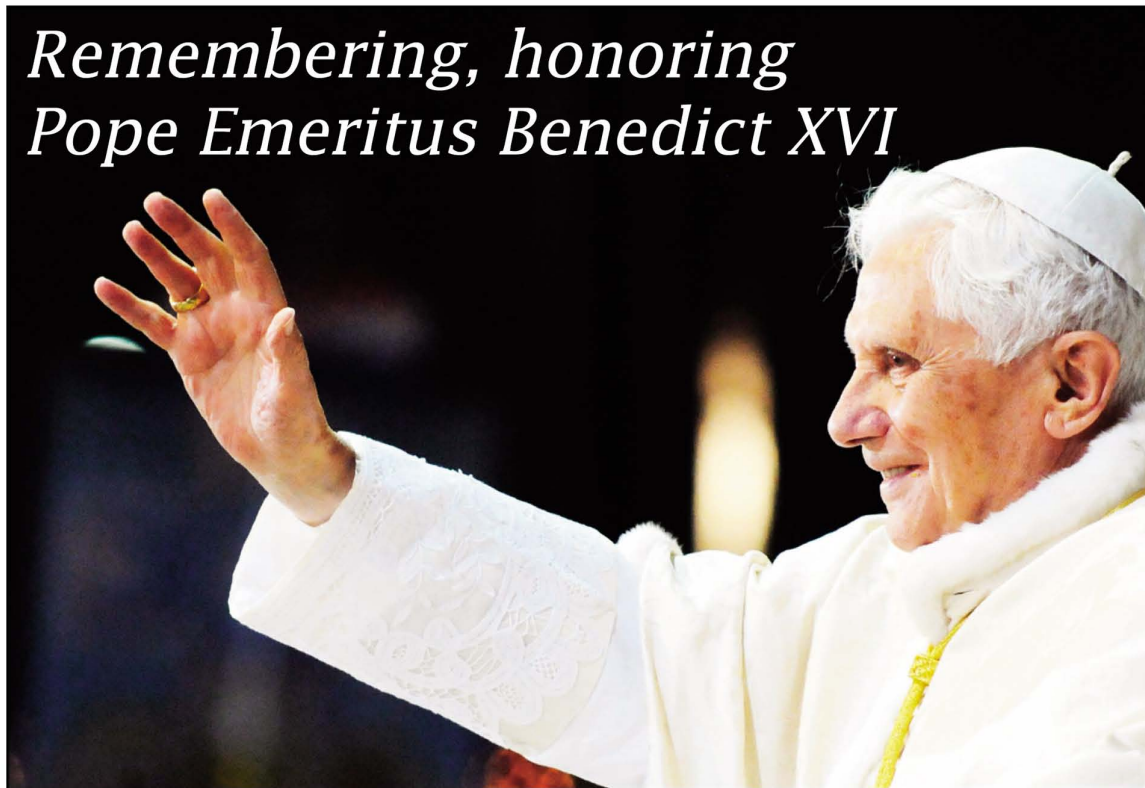
There will be no North Country Catholic next week (Jan. 18). We will resume our normal print schedule on Jan. 25.

RESPECT LIFE COLLECTION

The Respect Life second collection will be held the weekend of Jan. 21 & 22. Proceeds from this collection are used to award Respect Life Grants to organizations that promote the sanctity of life around the diocese through service and education. Learn more about the Respect Life collection and the organizations it assists.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Remembering, honoring Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



M. MAZUR/WWW.THEPAPALVIS

Pope Benedict XVI at the Catholic shrine of Fatima in central Portugal, May 12, 2010. See stories about the pope emeritus on Pages 3, 4 & 9

Pope: Three kings found God in poverty

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY (CNA) – In his Angelus address for the Solemnity of the Epiphany, Pope Francis said that the Three Kings teach us to discover God in poverty, humility, and silence.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Magi — also known as the Three Wise Men or Three Kings — who came with gifts to

worship the Child Jesus shortly after his birth.

In his reflection on the feast, the pope commented that the Magi perhaps “were expecting a powerful and prodigious Messiah,” but instead they found a baby and “met God in poverty.”

He said that the Wise Men “welcome God’s surprise and experience their encounter with him with amazement, adoring him — in his littleness, they recognize God’s face.”

“Humanly, we are all inclined

to seek greatness, but it is a gift to know how to truly find it — to know how to find greatness in the littleness that God loves,” Pope Francis said.

“For the Lord is encountered like this: in humility, in silence, in adoration, in the smallest, and in the poor.”

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on Jan. 6, but Catholic dioceses in the United States mark the feast on the Sunday that falls between Jan. 2-8. U.S.

Catholics will celebrate the Epiphany this year on Jan. 8.

Epiphany is a national holiday in Italy. According to the Vatican gendarmerie, about 60,000 people were present in St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus.

Italian pilgrims gathered at the Vatican for the pope’s Angelus message celebrated the solemnity with costumes, music, decorative banners, and a small parade in the street leading up to St. Peter’s Square.

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY
President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

What's in a nickname?

While I've been a football fan for years, I wasn't familiar with this term/nickname until this year. Once I became familiar with it, I immediately disliked it.

The term/nickname is "Mr. Irrelevant."

In professional football, "Mr. Irrelevant" is the last college player chosen to become a professional in the annual "draft" process. While the player has an entire "Irrelevant Week" dedicated to them, as the name suggests, no one expects much of the person who is picked last.

"It's all in fun," my son explained one day. "They cel-

brate the guy."

"But they call him irrelevant," I responded. "I guess I don't find it fun or funny. No human being should ever be considered irrelevant."



Darcy L.

Fargo

They shouldn't be, but they are.

There are humans who are considered irrelevant and unwanted before they're even born. There are others who are made to

feel that way when they're seriously ill or elderly. Others yet are deemed irrelevant when they are convicted of a crime. It seems our society, our culture considers lots of people irrelevant.

Interestingly enough, I only discovered the term "Mr. Irrelevant," because the current holder of the title, a young man named Brock Purdy who plays with the San Francisco 49ers, is now an NFL starting quarterback, and he's stacking wins fast and taking his team into the playoffs. Mr. Irrelevant became very relevant.

This week, we're highlighting the Respect Life second collection.

This is an opportunity to help promote the dignity and relevance of all life from conception to natural death.

This collection supports charities in our own diocese that help mothers and babies, promote life and educate others about the sanctity of life. It's an opportunity for each of us to pray for and support life and show that we believe that no human being is irrelevant.

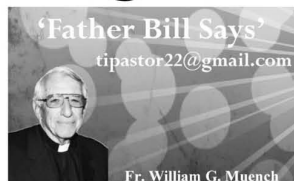
Even if they have a bad nickname.

Remembering Benedict XVI, feast days

I begin today with my expression of sadness at the recent death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict has been living at the Vatican in retirement for the last ten years. While the acting pope, Pope Benedict brought his gifts and skills as a theologian and his loving spirituality to our Catholic Church. As pope, he wrote several excellent encyclicals and books. Before being elected Pope, he attended the Second Vatican Council as an advisor to some bishops.

Pope John Paul II brought him from his native Poland to Rome to become his advisor and act as a theologian. He became a cardinal of the Church - he was elected Pope upon the death of Pope John Paul II in 2005. Pope Benedict was to surprise us, Catholics, by his decision to retire as the acting pope after eight years as our Holy Father. He believed he could not continue to fulfill well his responsibilities. Over the years, I have come to realize how demanding it is to be the pope.

I was able to attend two papal audiences myself in St. Peter's Square at the Vat-



Fr. William G. Muench

ican while Pope Benedict was our pope. This was when I traveled with two groups from my parish, St. Mary's, Ticonderoga. They were unique experiences and were truly a call for a new and stronger dedication to faith and my dedication to my priesthood.

I believe with many that we, Catholics, should be grateful to our God that Pope Emeritus Benedict was our pope for a time. We are also grateful that he was humble enough to decide to retire when he did.

Last week, I mentioned to you a few of the saints that are celebrated during the Christmas time. This year, as we celebrate the life and papacy of Pope Emeritus Benedict, we can add him to all those other holy Catholics who we honor at this Christmas time.

Today I would like to add some others to our list of saints who are celebrated

during this Christmas time. We also celebrate the feast days of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Bishop John Neumann, and St. Brother André Bessette.

On January 4, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. She lived during the early 1800s. She was a wife and a mother of five children. She is remembered as a saint for her founding of a congregation of religious women, the Sisters of Charity, who continue to be devoted to the education of the poor and to teaching in parochial schools. She began her work as a teacher in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Many parish schools in our country are named "Seton" remembering her memory.

On January 5, our Church celebrate a feast day in honor of St. Bishop John Neumann. He was a missionary here from Germany in the early 1800s. He became the Bishop of Philadelphia. Bishop Neumann was known for his holiness and learning. He was remembered as a promoter of parochial schools. Bishop Neumann is the first American bishop to be canonized.

On January 6, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Brother André Bessette, a Holy Cross Brother. Brother Andre served his community as a humble brother and porter in Montreal, Canada. We know that Brother Andre visited the Diocese of Ogdensburg often.

His dedication to St. Joseph led him to work toward the erection of a Shrine with a magnificent basilica in the Mont Royal areal of Montreal. Many groups from our diocese visit this shrine dedicated to St. Joseph. I want to mention to you that the present superior at St. Joseph from the Congregation of the Holy Cross is my cousin, Father Michael Delaney.

Brother André is well remembered for his healing miracles. He was visited by many sick and troubled though only a humble brother. He always attributed his miracles to his dedication to St. Joseph. During his lifetime, Brother Andre was well known throughout Montreal. He died in 1937. Nearly a million people attended his funeral Mass on the site of the shrine that was under construction.

Remembering Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

By Courtney Mares
& Hannah Brochkaus
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY (CNA) – Tens of thousands of people were present in St. Peter's Square for the funeral Thursday of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, a leading theologian of the 20th century and the first pope to resign from office in nearly 600 years.

Royalty, cardinals, patriarchs, government officials, and many Catholic families and religious attended the funeral on a cold and foggy morning at the Vatican. More than 3,700 priests concelebrated the Mass.

Cardinals Joseph Zen, Daniel DiNardo, Timothy Dolan, Gianfranco Ravasi, and Giuseppe Betori, all cardinals created by Benedict, were seated in the front row. The Vatican said 125 cardinals concelebrated.

The ceremony began with the transport of the pope emeritus' wooden coffin from the basilica to St. Peter's Square.

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, Benedict's personal secretary, approached the coffin, knelt before it, and kissed it. The crowd then prayed the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in Latin for the repose of the soul of the late pope.

The funeral Mass was simple and solemn, in accord with Benedict XVI's wishes. The Sistine Chapel Choir sang the "Salve Regina," "In Paradisum," and other hymns.

An image of the resurrection of Christ was hung from St. Peter's Basilica behind the altar.

Pope Francis presided over the funeral for his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

In his homily, he reflected on Jesus' final words on the cross: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."



Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome during the bishop's first Ad Limina Apostolarum visit in 2011. He was accompanied by Msgr. John R. Murphy, who was diocesan moderator of the curia at that time.

"God's faithful people, gathered here, now accompany and entrust to him the life of the one who was their pastor," he said.

"Like the women at the tomb," he said, "we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years."

Nearly 200,000 people came to see Benedict XVI lying in state inside St. Peter's Basilica in the days ahead of the funeral.

"Together, we want to say: 'Father, into your hands we commend his spirit,'" Francis said in his homily. "Benedict, faithful

friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear his voice, now and forever."

In the Prayers of the Faithful, the second prayer was said in German: "For Pope Emeritus Benedict, who has fallen asleep in the Lord: May the eternal Shepherd receive him into his kingdom of light and peace."

The readings for the Mass were Isaiah 29:16-19 in Spanish; Psalm 23 sung in Latin; 1 Peter 1: 3-9 in English, and the Gospel of Luke 23:39-46 read in Italian.

At the end of the funeral Mass, Pope Francis presided over the Final Commendation and Valediction, which were followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Pope emeritus remembered locally for focus on relationship

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"The faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg mourn the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's death was announced Dec. 31.

Bishop LaValley noted he met Benedict XVI and admired his life and ministry.

"He possessed a brilliant intellect, strong faith, a humble heart, and deep love for the Church," Bishop LaValley said. "I was greatly honored to meet him during his pontificate on the occasions of my participation at New Bishops' school and at an ad limina visit in Rome."

After that ad limina visit, Bishop LaValley reflected on his encounter with then Pope Benedict XVI. Bishop LaValley said he told the pontiff of the strong faith of the people of the North Country, as well as the challenges facing the diocese, including the culture of death, clergy sexual abuse, secularization, a decrease in participation in the sacraments and a decrease in vocations.

"I felt that the Holy Father heard, felt and understood the struggles I shared," Bishop LaValley wrote. "He inquired about our diocesan efforts to promote the family. He said that so much of the challenges before us stem from the breakdown of the family. He concluded our meeting by reminding us that Jesus Christ is the answer to life's struggles. He reiterated the point several times: we must have a relationship with Jesus Christ. It begins in our families."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's emphasis on having a relationship with Christ stood out to Marika Donders, diocesan director of the New Evangelization, as well. Donders said it was that emphasis and other factors that drew her to his writing.

"I think at first, I was drawn to his writing because it seemed so much easier to read than John Paul II's writing," she said. "You could read and see the points he was making as if you had his outline in front of you – very systematic and you could follow his line of thought. I think one of the first books of his that I read was *God is Near Us*, which is a collection of homilies and talks on the Eucharist as being the heart of the Church. What I find in his writing is the centrality of the love of God for us and how He wants to draw near to us. His writing is all about the relationship with Jesus as a person, His presence to us

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'The humble worker': Benedict XVI's legacy

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has died at the age of 95, bringing to a close the momentous life of a Churchman who proclaimed the "eternal joy" of Jesus Christ and called himself a "humble worker" in the vineyard of the Lord.

His death was announced in Rome on Dec. 31.

Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger was elected pope on April 19, 2005, and took the name Benedict XVI. Eight years later, on Feb. 11, 2013, the 85-year-old shocked the world with the announcement — made in Latin — that he was resigning from the papacy. It was the first resignation of a pope in nearly 600 years. He cited his advanced age and lack of strength as unsuitable for the exercise of his office.

However, the enormous legacy of his theologically profound contributions to the Church and the world will continue to be the source of reflection and study.

Even before his election as pope, Ratzinger exerted a lasting influence on the modern Church,

first as a young theologian at the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) and later as prefect of the Vatican's Congregation (now Dicastery) for the Doctrine of the Faith.

An articulate defender of Catholic teaching, he coined the term "dictatorship of relativism" to describe secularism's increasing intolerance of religious belief in the 21st century.

Benedict's pontificate was shaped by his deep understanding of this challenge to the Church and Catholicism in the face of rising ideological aggression, not least from an increasingly secular Western mindset, both within and outside the Church.

Benedict was also a key architect of the fight against sexual abuse in the Church in the early 2000s. He oversaw extensive changes to canon law and dismissed hundreds of offenders from the clerical state. He also launched a canonical investigation of the Legionaries of Christ, following growing allegations about grave sexual abuses from the order's

founder, the Mexican priest Marcial Maciel Degollado. The canonical investigation led to a long reform process under the authority of Cardinal Velasio de Paolis.

Millions have read Benedict's books, including the groundbreaking 1968 "Introduction to Christianity" and the three-volume "Jesus of Nazareth," published from 2007 to 2012, during his time as pope.

He was the first pope to resign from office in almost 600 years. He traveled from Vatican City to Castel Gandolfo by helicopter on Feb. 28, 2013, and took up life in retirement the following May in the Mater Ecclesiae monastery in the Gardens of the Vatican City State.

"I'm simply a pilgrim who is starting the last stage of his pilgrimage on Earth," he said in his final words as pontiff. "Let's go ahead together with the Lord for the good of the Church and of the world."

He was known for his love of music — he played Mozart and Beethoven on the piano — as well as cats, Christmas cookies, and occasional draughts of German beer. The late

pope was also renowned for his gentleness, courtesy, and for being a true child of Bavaria.

A HIGHER CALL AT A TIME OF WAR

Joseph Ratzinger was born on April 16, 1927, Holy Saturday, in the Bavarian town of Marktl am Inn. His parents, Joseph and Maria, raised him in the Catholic faith. His father — a member of a traditional Bavarian family of farmers — served as a police officer. Joseph senior was, however, such a fierce opponent of the Nazis that the family had to relocate to Traunstein, a small town on the Austrian border.

Joseph and his older siblings, Georg and Maria, thus grew up during the rise of the Nazis in Germany, which he would later call "a sinister regime" that "banished God and thus became impervious to anything true and good." He was conscripted into the military's auxiliary anti-aircraft service in the final months of World War II, deserted, and spent a brief time in an American prisoner-of-war camp.

After the war, he re-

sumed studies for the priesthood and was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951, together with his brother, Monsignor Georg Ratzinger. The two remained close throughout their lives. A week before Georg died in 2020, Benedict traveled to Bavaria to say a final farewell to his older brother.

While Georg became a noted choirmaster, Joseph undertook doctoral studies in theology and ultimately became a university teacher and a dean and vice-rector at the prestigious University of Regensburg in Bavaria.

He served as an expert (peritus) at the Second Vatican Council for Cardinal Joseph Frings, the archbishop of Cologne. In 1972, he joined prominent theologians such as Hans Urs von Balthasar and Henri de Lubac in founding the theological journal *Communio* to reflect faithfully on theology in the tumultuous period after the council and to refute the various false interpretations of the conciliar documents that were being advanced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Remembered locally

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

drawing us into communion with Him and with each other. I think this comes out in all of his writing: Christ is at the center. In Him we find everything we are looking for: Truth, Love, Hope."

Donders had the opportunity to see and hear the then pope at World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, in 2011. She noted that Benedict XVI was willing to weather a literal storm to be with the crowd and celebrate Mass.

"When the storm came

up the people around the Pope wanted him to take shelter, but he decided to stay, since the million and half young people couldn't go anywhere," Donders said. "I was in the first section and could clearly see him. Despite all the people around him trying to shield him from the wind and rain with big white umbrellas, he got soaked like the rest of us and even lost his zucchetto to the wind. The rain was actually welcome by the pilgrims because it cooled down the tempera-

tures, but it seemed like the entire Quatro Vientos airport was surrounded by lightning which lit up the night. It was kind of scary. At one point, Pope Benedict told everyone to quiet down and pray. Everyone knelt down, and a million and a half pilgrims were quiet. All you could hear was the storm. Within minutes, it stopped, and everything was quiet for a second. And then a white dove flew up from somewhere in front of the crowd and everyone cheered: The

Holy Spirit is in the House! The Holy Father started his talk with something along the lines of thanking us for the joy and that we were stronger than the rain."

Donders encouraged others to read the works of the pope emeritus.

"I think that people should read his writings to get a first-hand glimpse of this pope, rather than the image you would get from listening to mainstream media," she said. "I think they would be surprised at his gentleness,

his humor and how unlike the caricatures that we see in the secular — and some Catholic — media."

Both Donders and Bishop LaValley encouraged prayers for the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

"With profound gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of his life and ministry, we pray that this selfless servant of the Lord be soon numbered among the saints in heaven," Bishop LaValley said. "May he rest in peace."

Mercy Care of the seeks new Friendship Volunteers

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Tupper Lake on January 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no cost for the training, but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided.

To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education & Volunteer Training manager, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate.

Melissa Eisinger, Mercy Care's Board President remarked, "The pandemic has only amplified the need some elders in our community have for the joy and companionship of a kind and compassionate Friendship Volunteer to help ease their isolation and loneliness."

Mercy Care is experiencing many new requests from elders in our community who need friends and assistance to help them age in place more successfully.

Mercy Care serves any

older adult in need within our capacity.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mercy Care receives requests for a Friendship Volunteer from elders themselves, their families, or friends, to help them with informal supports and ease their isolation and loneliness.

Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on healthy aging, spirituality and aging, community resources for elders, and COVID-19 precautions and protocols.

New Volunteers will hear from experienced Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers who find purposeful service to their elder friends to be meaningful in their own lives.

Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers provide informal supports such as assistance with grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments or social outings, or visiting

with an elder in their home.

Mercy Care invites anyone in the Tri-Lakes region, Ausable Forks, Keene or other surrounding communities who is interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer to take the training in Tupper Lake or virtually. Mercy Care is seeking to extend its Friendship Volunteer assistance program in the Ausable Forks, Keene Valley, Keene, Wilmington, and Jay communities.

The mission of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, is to extend mercy to elders living in the community in order to enhance the fullness of their lives and help them age in place more successfully.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Jan. 11-13 – New York State Bishops' Retreat at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach, Florida

Jan. 14 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 15 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 16 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 20 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 21 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 22 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 23 – 9 a.m. – New York State Catholic Conference Board of Bishops Meeting in Douglasston, New York

Jan. 25 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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.

Upcoming sessions:

Jan. 19 – 6 p.m., St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake

Rest in Peace

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

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

Jan. 12 – Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978; Rev. J. Roger McGuinness, 2022

Jan. 13 – Rev. Eugene Derome, 1951

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

Jan. 15 – Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

Jan. 16 – Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M.Conv., 1996

Jan. 17 – Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

Jan. 18 – Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

Jan. 19 – Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974

Jan. 20 – Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Vaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Pontur, 1940

Jan. 21 – Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001

Jan. 22 – Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

Jan. 23 – Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

Jan. 24 – Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

Environmental Stewardship

Creating healthy politics

In his encyclical letter on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes: "It is remarkable how weak international political responses have been [to addressing our ecological crises]. . . . There are too many special interests, and economic interests that easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected" (LS #54).

Both the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis are accelerating rapidly, with scientists warning us that there's not much time left to act before the worst consequences are unavoidable. In the face of seemingly indifferent or callous political leadership, it's tempting for us to give up hope that meaningful solutions to our ecological crisis can be implemented. How can we move past inaction? How can we create a "healthy politics" capable of prioritizing the common good?

The solution is for each one of us to get more involved in politics. It's important to remember that politics is not about politicians and political parties. What it is about is every member of a community building the kind of communities they want to live in.

Quoting the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Pope Francis reminds us that "in order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity." . . .

When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us" (LS #231).

It's our responsibility, as much as it's our right, to use our moral voices to advocate alongside the earth and its more marginalized children for a more just, sustainable world. To solve the ecological crisis, we need every person to be a part of the solution, starting with their local community and moving all the way up to the highest levels of society and government.

Taken from St. Columban Mission for Justice, Peace and Ecology, 2022

Respect Life collection funds services, education

North Country Catholic

As we prepare for the Respect Life second collection, scheduled for the weekend of January 21 and 22, we look at the organizations who have promoted the sanctity of life using funds collected during that collection awarded as Respect Life Grants.

In 2022 collections totaled \$53,554.

In May, the grant board met to discuss the suggested grant amounts for Bishop Terry R. LaValley's consideration. The committee members are Father Martin Cline, Stephen Tartaglia, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and John and Colleen Miner.

Bishop LaValley awarded the grants in June.

Fourteen grants were awarded in 2022.

Five Gabriel Projects – Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburg – received grants.

Other direct service ministries who received grants were Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center (six-months rent), Plattsburgh Birthright and Watertown Walking with Moms in Need (outreach services), Malone Catholic Charities (Childbirth/Parenting program).

Education efforts receiving grants included Lewis County Right to Life (pro-life summer

fair booth), Liferight of Watertown (tv ads, oratorical contest, newsletter), Life of Truth Radio (Human Sexuality & Life Issues series, Loving Authentically seminar) and Natural Family Planning (Awareness week materials).

Thanks to all those who work to promote the sanctity of human life.

Please continue to pray for all those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, suffering after the loss of their child and those struggling to care for the elderly, sick or dying. Please also pray for guidance for those who make the laws that protect the vulnerable.

HONORING BENEDICT XVI



Black bunting was placed around the door at St. Mary's in Canton ahead of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's funeral Mass. Placing black bunting around church doors is a traditional way of marking the death of a pope.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 21-22**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life

CATHOLIC WORLD

AT A GLANCE

President Biden says he 'admired' Pope Benedict

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA) – President Joe Biden on Wednesday professed his admiration for the late Pope Benedict XVI, who died on Dec. 31, recalling their meeting in which they discussed Catholic theology. "I had an opportunity to spend some time with Pope Benedict, a couple of hours and he was a great. . . . And reminded me of going back to theology class," the president told EWTN. "We spoke about Aquinas and about [the] Summa Theologica," he said, referring to the medieval theologian St. Thomas Aquinas and his influential capstone work. The president reflected on Pope Benedict: "I found him to be relaxing, very rational, and he had a more conservative view within the Catholic realm than I have. I'm closer to the present pope in terms of his philosophy, his view. But I admired him, I thought he was a fine man." As U.S. vice president, Biden met with Pope Benedict XVI in an unannounced visit to the Vatican on June 3, 2011.

Outpouring of prayers for Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin

BUFFALO (CNA) – Buffalo Bills' safety Damar Hamlin, hospitalized and recovering after suffering cardiac arrest during an NFL football game last week, is receiving an outpouring of prayers and support from his Catholic high school in Pittsburgh, his former college, and from players around the league. "The Central Catholic High School community is praying for the well-being and swift recovery of Damar Hamlin, '16 (Buffalo Bills). May the Lord be with him and his family during this most difficult time," Central Catholic High School said in a Jan. 2 Facebook post. A tweet Monday from the University of Pittsburgh Football team, where the 24-year-old Hamlin played in college, said: "Damar Hamlin is the best of us. We love you, 3. Praying for you." Bills quarterback Josh Allen tweeted Monday: "Please pray for our brother." Late in the first quarter of an away game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Hamlin tackled an opposing receiver, Tee Higgins. Higgins led with his shoulder into Hamlin's chest before being brought to the ground. In videos Hamlin can be seen standing up after the tackle and then collapsing. In a statement Tuesday, the Bills said Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest after the hit. His heartbeat was restored on the field and he was brought to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in an ambulance.

USCCB President visits Ukraine, promises solidarity

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and head of the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, visited Ukraine Dec. 27–29 to express the American Catholic Church's continued support. Meeting with Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and key leaders of the Ukrainian military chaplaincy in the cities of Kyiv and Lviv, Broglio offered messages of encouragement and solidarity. "You may not see this in Ukraine, but today Ukrainians bring great hope to the world! Your nation has united and stood up to this unjust Russian invasion. In your resistance, we see hope for the future," Broglio told Ukrainian officials, as reported by Ukrainian Catholic University. In an interview with CNA after his return, Broglio talked about what he had witnessed. "I was very grateful for the opportunity to visit; obviously it was very moving to see some of the destruction, particularly to stand in front of a hospital that had been destroyed, those kinds of things are incomprehensible," he said.

FDA allows abortion pills to be sold at pharmacies

By Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

Abortion pills that can end a pregnancy through 10 weeks' gestation will have far wider availability as CVS and Walgreens have announced they intend to fill prescriptions for the drug mifepristone, following federal rule changes on Tuesday.

The move drew criticism from pro-life activists. Lila Rose of LiveAction said on Twitter Jan. 4 it is "disgusting that pharmacists will now be dispensing lethal poison alongside antibiotics and allergy medication."

Mifepristone is the first of the two pills used in a chemical abortion. The drug works by cutting off nutrients necessary for a fetus to continue developing. The second drug, misoprostol, is taken 24 to 48 hours later and induces contractions that expel the dead unborn child.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Jan. 3 announced that it will allow any patient with a prescription to obtain mifepristone from her local retail pharmacy if it is appropriately certified to dispense the drug.

Previous FDA policy only allowed certified doctors, clinics, and some mail-order pharmacies to dispense mifepristone.

Steven H. Aden, general counsel at Americans United for Life, was among the other critics of the decision.

The Tuesday announcement, he said, is "yet another in a long train of actions the Biden administration has taken that put women at grave risk, in its headlong rush to push abortion drugs on the American public."

"Despite the FDA's longtime approval of chemical abortion as a restricted drug, with solemn warnings about its use and restrictions on its distribution because of the role it plays in causing dangerous hemorrhaging, infection, and missed ectopic pregnancies, this administration seems to stop at nothing to tear down the rules that had helped protect women from this drug."

As of 2020, abortion pills now account for more than half of abortions in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. Though the FDA authorizes the use of the drug only up to 10 weeks into pregnancy, many clinics and providers offer the drug up to 12 or 13 weeks, according to the New York Times.

Both CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens each have 9,000 retail locations across

the U.S.

"We plan to seek certification to dispense mifepristone where legally permissible," Amy Thibault, lead director for external communications at CVS Pharmacy, told CNA Jan. 5.

There is a question of whether pharmacy employees with religious or moral objections to abortion will be able to avoid taking part in prescribing the abortion drug.

"We have policies in place to ensure no patient is ever denied access to medication prescribed by a physician based on a pharmacist's individual religious or moral beliefs," Thibault said.

"Under federal and state law we must reasonably accommodate a religious conviction, and for some states we must accommodate moral, ethical, or conscientious objections that may prevent a pharmacist from filling specific medications. In such instances, the pharmacist is required to notify us in advance about such a religious conviction, so that we can ensure there are other arrangements in place to ensure the patient's medication needs are promptly satisfied."

A Walgreens spokesperson said the company intends to have its pharmacies certified to dispense the drug but did not specifically address the question of employees with objections to abortion.

"We are working through the registration, necessary training of our pharmacists, as well as evaluating our pharmacy network in terms of where we normally dispense products that have extra FDA requirements and will dispense these consistent with federal and state laws," the Walgreens spokesperson said.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of SBA Pro-Life America, an anti-abortion group, called for political action to counter the regulatory changes.

"State lawmakers and Congress must stand as a bulwark against the Biden administration's pro-abortion extremism," Dannenfelser told the Wall Street Journal. "We hope to see the FDA do its job to protect the lives of women and put an end to chemical abortions."

A December 2021 change permanently lifted the requirement for patients to obtain mifepristone during in-person appointments with a physician. This change allowed abortion pills to be prescribed via telemedicine and prescriptions to be filled by mail.

The Catholic Medical Association criticized the rule changes in a Jan. 3 statement.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWNBAG CHATS BEGIN

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat during lunchtime via zoom.

Date: Wednesdays Starting Jan. 11

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Features: We will use videos from The Generational Divide: Who's in the Pews with Katie Prejean McGrady available on revivieparishes.com In each session, we will watch one or two short videos together via zoom and then have an informal discussion. Become an expert on Millennials and Generation Z through a deep-dive into stats and practical ministry applications - perfect for parishes looking to reach (and keep) younger generations.

Contact: Sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org.

ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Tupper Lake - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Features: There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complementary lunch will be provided. New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives easier and happier.

Contact: To register for the training, please visit Mercy Care's website at www.adkmercy.org or contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care's Education & Volunteer Training Manager, at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

CLINTON

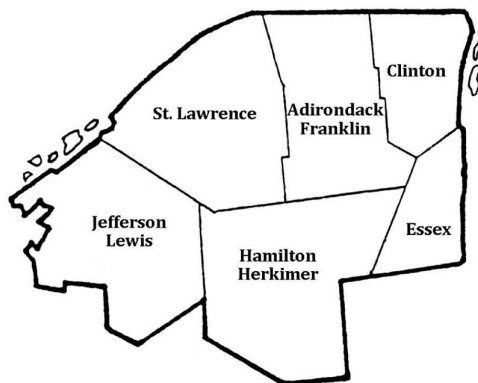
ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

Place: St. John's in the Holy Family Basement



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.

Contact: For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, contact 518-563-3773.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a take-out-only spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 21

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: \$10 per person; Children 14 and under, \$5

Features: All proceeds will benefit local organizations or charities.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

DANCE

Glenfield - St. John's and St. Martin's Catholic Church, Lyons Falls and Port Leyden will be sponsoring a dance.

Date: Jan. 6th

Time: 7 p.m. to 10

Place: 3-G Fire Hall on Blue Street

Features: The dance was postponed from November due to inclement weather. Music provided by the Patti Stanford Band. There will be food available as well as a basket auction and raffles.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus 7471 will be

having a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$6 per quart

Menu: Includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville - A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Feb. 5

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage - A pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291 of the Knights of Columbus

Date: Feb. 12

Time: 8AM to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

ST. LAWRENCE

MEAL DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for

the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morris-town, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

Features: Drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. Volunteer one day a week or several.

Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

HOLY HOUR

Canton - Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk - Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: Jan. 15 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonther 315-212-5166.

PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral to host a Lenten study featuring Bishop Robert Barron's DVD-based Study Program: Priest, Prophet, King.

Date: Thursdays starting Feb. 2nd to March 16th.

Time: 2 sessions to choose from, 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Place: Bishop Brzana Hall.

Features: Join us as we deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Explore the biblical archetypes of priest, prophet, and king and see how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of each one. Throughout this experience, you will better understand who Jesus really is and also realize your own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mis-

sion. No charge for anyone for the workbooks, but donations will be accepted.

Contact: Email Deacon Bill O'Brien at bill0315@gmail.com (preferred) or call him between 5 & 9 p.m. at 315-528-0461 to register. Please Register by Jan. 25.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: 3 different times and locations to attend. Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga.

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except the Plattsburgh session, which will run 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D.

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org

SEEKING SUMMER YOUTH CAMP DIRECTOR

Saranac Lake - The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an energetic and dedicated individual for the position of Summer Youth Camp Director at the Guggenheim Center.

Features: Summer Camp Guggenheim has been a "home away from home" for young people ages 12 to 18 years old since 1972. Hike, Swim, Praise, and a whole lot more! Summer camp Guggenheim is a high energy camp filled with exciting activities and opportunities for campers to experience their faith and joyfully celebrate it.

Contact: To apply please visit: www.rcdony.org/information/employment Questions or inquiries Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 www.rcdony.org/youth

Benedict XVI shares his final thoughts

VATICAN CITY (CNA) – *The Vatican on Saturday evening published the Spiritual Testament of Benedict XVI, written on Aug. 29, 2006, one year and four months into his pontificate. Each pope writes a spiritual testament to be made public only after his death. Below is CNA's translation of the full testament from Italian:*

MY SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT

If in this late hour of my life I look back at the decades I have been through, first I see how many reasons I have to give thanks. First and foremost I thank God himself, the giver of every good gift, who gave me life and guided me through various confusing times; always picking me up whenever I began to slip and always giving me again the light of his face. In retrospect I see and understand

that even the dark and tiring stretches of this journey were for my salvation and that it was in them that He guided me well.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in a difficult time and who, at the cost of great sacrifice, with their love prepared for me a magnificent abode that, like clear light, illuminates all my days to this day. My father's lucid faith taught us children to believe, and as a signpost it has always been steadfast in the midst of all my scientific acquisitions; the profound devotion and great goodness of my mother represent a legacy for which I can never give thanks enough. My sister has assisted me for decades selflessly and with affectionate care; my brother, with the lucidity of his judgments, his vigorous resolve and serenity of

heart, has always paved the way for me; without this constant preceding and accompanying me I could not have found the right path.

From my heart I thank God for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the collaborators in all the stages of my journey; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I want to thank the Lord for my beautiful homeland in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, in which I have always seen the splendor of the Creator Himself shining through. I thank the people of my homeland because in them I have been able again and again to experience the beauty of faith. I pray that our land remains a land of faith, and I beg

you, dear countrymen: Do not let yourselves be turned away from the faith. And finally I thank God for all the beauty I have been able to experience at all the phases of my journey, especially, however, in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second homeland.

To all those whom I have wronged in any way, I heartily ask for forgiveness.

What I said before to my countrymen, I now say to all those in the Church who have been entrusted to my service: Stand firm in the faith! Do not let yourselves be confused! It often seems that science – the natural sciences on the one hand and historical research (especially exegesis of Sacred Scripture) on the other – are able to offer irrefutable results at odds with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CALLED TO SERVE

And then there was the time...

It seems like everyone has a favorite ladder story. We can call them "stories" now because we survived the fall or the ride to talk about them. Perhaps we have permanent scars or limps or pains to help us remember but the bottom line is we have a new respect for ladders.

A couple of my deacon brothers in the diocese have recent ladder stories. They are suffering through the consequences. Our prayers are for their rapid recovery.

I watch firemen or construction workers or painters throw an extension ladder up on the side of a building, tie the ladder off and then scamper up the steps like there is nothing to it – looks simple.

My ladder story is many decades old.

The roof flashing on a second story dormer on our house had come loose. Summoning up my machismo, I threw our extension ladder up to tap the flashing down and secure it.

Nothing to it, right?

Wrong!

The angle of the ladder placement had to compensate for the enclosed porch that sat under the dormer. The pitch of the porch roof was not severe. I probably could have used a smaller ladder set on it and made my life easier.

That's hindsight logic. Logic had nothing to do with the task that day.

Did I mention I was doing this alone?

Up went the ladder, and up I went to complete this simple job.

As I reached to tap the flashing on the dormer a good 16' above the ground, the ladder extension started to drop.

It was rather graceful. Rather than fall through the steps rapidly, the extension took its sweet time collapsing with me holding on for dear life.

With a large tree to my right and another to my left, the prospect of my

surviving this ride was slim. I remember thinking about which way I would jump, and probably break a leg or something, when the ladder fell to the ground.

Suddenly the ladder

stopped its decent.

I was still gripping the sides, shaking a bit. My feet were showing just below the roof line of the porch as I called to Kathy, who was on the phone near the porch, "Help!"

She held the ladder while I gingerly came down the final steps.

Thankfully, I only had a few bruises to show for the experience. Since then, I either beg or pay someone to use the ex-

ension ladder and have limited my ladder bravery to step ladders.

I can look back now and realize God had saved me, again.

Must be he still had work for me to do in this life.

God is good, in every way, God is good!

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

"Family owned dealership serving the
North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website
at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Behold, the lamb of God'

The lights of Christmas and Epiphany have all faded. We've come from last Sunday's feast of the Baptism of the Lord into eight Sundays in "Ordinary" time. Watch out! Ordinary time in the liturgy never means going back to "business as usual." True, Jesus has long since grown out of his swaddling clothes, grown through puberty to life as an adult "man with a mission." Certain words in the readings stand out – words like "servant" and "mission" and "follow me."

The first reading from Isaiah was selected to show God's plan for His Son. From Mary's womb, he was destined to be His Father's servant, that He might bring the chosen people back to faithful

observance of the Law. But in the same reading, God says "It is too little for you to be my servant... I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Here we have a clear statement of what Jesus' mission is all about.

In the Gospel, John gives eloquent testimony of what he heard God say from the heavens about His beloved Son. The very next day, John sees Jesus coming toward him. He turns to his own followers and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." Why does John call Jesus a lamb? Because the world "lamb" connects Jesus with both the "suffering servant" of Isaiah and the paschal

January 15

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6;
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

lamb of sacrifice. Then he explains to them what had happened when he poured water over Jesus' head, exclaiming that he saw the Spirit descend on him and remain with him. Only the prophetic power of the Baptist could make a statement like that!

Jesus acknowledges the truth of what John has said by beginning to gather his own followers. It's a major turning point in the story of our salvation as Andrew and his brother Simon became the first disciples of the Lord. How casual it all seemed. They ask Jesus where he lives, and Jesus simply says, "Come and

you will see."

How attractive Jesus must have been to those seeking more from life. Older priests like myself find it puzzling that today's young men do not seek Him out as Andrew did. Is it Jesus who fails to attract them? Or is it the life of the priest that doesn't appeal? Young people should "come and see" and ask their pastor for information and advice. Of course, the underlying attraction is love. Unless a young man falls in love with Jesus as Andrew and Simon did, he will never pursue a vocation. Only love can quiet the voices of protest from the world around them and give them the courage to sacrifice the normal seeking out of a lovely woman with whom to have a family and build a career.

Why should young men seriously consider priesthood as a lifetime com-

mitment? Because priesthood leads not only to personal holiness and salvation, but because it brings this about through the priest guiding countless others to salvation through the sacraments of the church. There is no other calling in life to equal it. It is a life of imitation of Jesus' life and mission in his great love for people, his willingness to search out the lost, to counsel and encourage, bless and forgive sins by God's power, to be a part of every family, yet belonging to none.

What does it take to become a priest? Priesthood takes sacrifice, generosity, common sense, adequate intelligence, piety and a sense of humor. Know anyone that has those qualities? Then give them a nudge, pray for them, and encourage them. The Holy Spirit will carry on from there!

Final thoughts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the Catholic faith. I have experienced the transformations of the

natural sciences since long ago and have been able to see how, on the contrary, apparent cer-

tainties against the faith have vanished, proving to be not science, but philosophical interpreta-

tions only apparently pertaining to science; just as, on the other hand, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith, too, has learned to understand better the limit of the scope of its claims, and thus its specificity. It is now sixty years that I have been accompanying the journey of Theology, particularly of the Biblical Sciences, and with the succession of different generations I have seen these that seemed unshakable collapse, proving to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Har-

nack, Jülicher etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann etc.), the Marxist generation. I saw and see how out of the tangle of assumptions the reasonableness of faith emerged and emerges again. Jesus Christ is truly the way, the truth and the life – and the Church, with all its insufficiencies, is truly His body.

Finally, I humbly ask: Pray for me, so that the Lord, despite all my sins and insufficiencies, welcomes me into the eternal dwellings. To all those entrusted to me, day by day, my heartfelt



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org
to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

New Subscription Renewal

Please send my
subscription to my
e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____



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

Benedict XVI and missionary childhood

From September 7 to 9, 2007, then Pope Benedict XVI made an Apostolic Journey to Austria, on the occasion of the 850th anniversary of the foundation of the Mari-azel Shrine. The national direction of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Austria, "Missio," greeted the arrival of Benedict XVI in Austria with a poster created for the occasion. The text read: "A moment with Missio... look at Christ, open your heart and give love" and was inspired by the motto of the Pope's visit ("Look at Christ").

More than 500 Austrian children had responded to Missio's appeal to send letters and drawings to the Pope, illustrating the motto of the visit "Look at Christ." The letters and drawings collected in a book were delivered to Benedict XVI on Sunday, September 9, immediately after the Angelus on the "Stephansplatz" in Vienna, by the then National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Father Maasburg, together with five children chosen by lot.

After the Angelus, the Holy Father addressed the children who participated in the initiative, and he gave them a letter in response. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the letters and drawings that you wanted to give me as signs of your affection and closeness to my mission," the Pope wrote. "They express those sentiments of faith and love for which Jesus loved the little ones so much and welcomed them with open arms, pointing them out as an example for his disciples."

Then Benedict XVI continued: "I would like to tell you that I greatly appreciate your commitment to Missionary Childhood. I see in you little collaborators at the service that the Pope provides to the Church and to the world: you support me with your prayers and also with your commitment to spreading the Gospel." Benedict XVI then recalled that many children still do not know Jesus, and unfortunately many others do not have what is necessary to live: food, healthcare, education; many lack peace and serenity. "The Church pays special attention to them, above all through the missionaries; and you too feel called to offer your contribution, both personally and as a group," the Pope's letter continued, "friendship with Jesus is such a beautiful gift that one cannot keep to oneself! Whoever receives this gift feels the need to pass it on to others; and thus the gift, shared, does not diminish but multiplies. Keep going! You are growing up and soon you will become adolescents and young people: do not lose your missionary spirit! Always maintain a clear and authentic faith, like that of Saint Peter."

– Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Betty Ida (Gardner) McLaughlin, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Brownville – Francis J. Mitchell, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Brushton – Joseph Frederick Rousell, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Carthage – Scott A. Croft, 55; Memorial Mass Jan. 7, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Phoenixville, PA.

Copenhagen – Larry A. Gillespie, 78; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Saint Peter and Paul's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Marion "Marita" Francis, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 6, 2023 at St. Regis Church.

Hogansburg – Lewis L. Garrow, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2023 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville – Joan Patricia (Boswell) Bailey, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, Peru.

Keeseville – Michal "Mike" "Mihow" Zmijewski, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2023 at St. John's Church.

Lowville – Nicholas F. Bush, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 9, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Lowville – Mary "Ann" (Burkhard) Hornig, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2022 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Malone – Loretta (Leroux) Gerow, 103; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 7, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Philip Neri Catholic Cemetery, Westport.

Massena – Beverly A. (Jacob) Michaud, 92; Graveside Services in the

spring at Massena Center Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Patricia A. (Stanton) LaPierre, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 10, 2023 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

Norwood – Daniel J. Fyckes, 27; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2023 at Buck Funeral Home.

Peru – Beverly R. "Bev" (Rock) Carte, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Jacqueline Marie (Glaude) Chauvin, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 14, 2023 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru – Ethel Ida (Savage) Martin, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2022 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Matthew's Cemetery, Black Brook.

Plattsburgh – Rita Paula (Benoit) LaRocque, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Marjorie Rita LaRose; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Star Lake – Robert T. "Red" Northrup, 87; Memorial Mass June 9, 2023 at St. Hubert's Church.

Theresa – Lambert A. Coffin, 95; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2023 at Frederick Bros. Funeral Home; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Antwerp.

Theresa – Virginia Mae (VanTassel) Monica, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2023 at Frederick Bros. Funeral home; burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Timothy R. Smith, 72; Graveside Services in the spring at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – John H. "Jack" Charlebois, 86; Graveside services Jan. 6, 2023 at Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Irma E. (Horvath) Geng, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 2, 2023 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Thomas C. Jewett, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier, Redwood.

Watertown – Joan M. (Anzalone) Randall, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2023 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

Please switch my current NCC subscription to E-mail

Name _____ PO Box 326
Ogdensburg,
NY 13669
OR Call
Christine at
315-608-7556
to make the
change

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Funeral Mass celebrated for Margaret Connelly

NORFOLK -- A Mass of Christian Burial for Margaret E. Margittay Connelly, 85, of Colton and formerly of Norfolk, was celebrated Jan. 2 at Church of the Visitation, Norfolk. Burial will be held in the Visitation Cemetery in the spring.

She passed away peacefully at home on December 28, 2022, with her husband of 63 years, Deacon Lawrence Connelly, and her daughters by her side.

Born on Oct. 4, 1937 in New York City, Margaret was the oldest of two children of John Margittay (Turtrebes, Hungary) and Margaret Orosz (New York City, NY) Margittay. Living in NYC until the age of 8, she learned to speak Hungarian before she spoke English. She moved to Norfolk as a young girl when her family bought a dairy farm on the Knapp Station road. Margaret graduated from NNCS in 1955 and went on to receive a degree in Home Economics from Plattsburgh State University in 1959. She met her future husband, Lawrence A. Connelly, one evening at the popular Sabad's restaurant in Norfolk, when he asked her to dance. A few years later, they were married on June 27, 1959 at the Church of the Visitation, Norfolk, and they began a 63 year

marriage.

Her teaching career began at Madrid-Waddington in 1959 as a Home Economics teacher. She then taught sixth grade at Norfolk Elementary until retiring in 1992. Margaret was very active in her church. She was a lector, Bible study teacher, member and past President of the Altar & Rosary Society, and a member of the Serra Club, where she and her husband assisted in planning and organizing several U.S. and European trips for the organization. They also taught RCIA classes for several years at the Church of the Visitation. After retirement, she became active as the wife of a deacon, when Lawrence became a deacon of the Catholic Church in 2003, by supporting and assisting in the responsibilities for that role. Some of her favorite activities included care of her many flowers, reading, quilting, needlepoint, spending summers with family at their camp in South Colton, decorating the church for Christmas and Easter, saying her Rosary, Bible reading (Magnificat), and traveling.

In addition to her husband, Lawrence, she is survived by her children Susan (Michael) Griffin of Franklin, Tennessee, Anne (Anthony)

DiBernardo of Fairport, New York, and Mary (Scott) Lalumiere of Colton, New York; 10 grandchildren, Jon (Allison) Eggleston, Megan Griffin, Sarah (James) Kennedy, Lauren Griffin, Julia (Ray) Beck, Anthony DiBernardo, Teresa DiBernardo, Rachel (Christopher) Torcedo, Cristin (Michael) Buck, and Holden Lalumiere; and two great-grandchildren, Lexi Eggleston and Emery Kennedy.

She is predeceased by her parents, John and Margaret Margittay; her brother, John Margittay; and her daughter, Marcia Eggleston.

Donations may be made in Margaret's memory to the American Cancer Society, Hospice & Palliative Care of the St. Lawrence Valley, Center for Cancer Care at Canton-Potsdam Hospital or Church of the Visitation, Norfolk. The family of Margaret would also like to thank Father Andrew Amyot for his care and visits to her during her hours of need, and to Bishop Terry LaValley of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for his call to her which meant so much to her at the time.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at buckfuneralhome.com. The Buck Funeral Home is serving the family of Margaret E. Connelly.

'Humble worker'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Pope Paul VI appointed him archbishop of Munich and Freising in early 1977 and named him a cardinal in June of that year.

In 1981, Pope John Paul II named Ratzinger prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, president of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and president of the International Theological Commission.

He played a decisive role in preparing the Catechism of the Catholic Church (published in 1992) and clarifying and defending Catholic doctrine. He was vilified for his labors by the secular media and progressive Catholic groups, especially when he fulfilled the task of investigating works by some theologians who proposed erroneous and even heretical teachings. In 1997, at the age of 70, the then-cardinal asked John Paul II to allow him to resign his curial position so that he could work in the Vatican Library. John Paul II asked him to stay on, and he remained one of the key figures in the pontificate until the pontiff's death in April 2005.

After the death of John Paul II, Ratzinger was elected to the papacy in one of the shortest conclaves in modern history.

A CALL FOR RENEWAL

Cardinal Ratzinger chose the name Benedict XVI because, as he explained at a general audience only days after his election, Benedict XV (pope from 1914-1922) had also steered the Church through a period of turmoil, in the First World War (1914-1918).

"Treading in his footsteps, I would like to place my ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony between persons and peoples, since I am profoundly convinced that the great good of peace is first and foremost a gift of God," he said on April 27, 2005.

"The name 'Benedict' also calls to mind the extraordinary figure of the great 'Patriarch of Western Monasticism,'" he added.

Benedict's papacy was marked by efforts at ecclesiastical, intellectual, and spiritual renewal, including confronting relativism and secularism, combatting the scourge of clergy sexual abuse, pushing for liturgical reform, and promoting further an authentic interpretation of the Second Vatican Council.

In his homily ahead of the 2005 conclave that elected him to the papacy, the soon-to-be pope warned of a "dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires."

He stressed that Jesus Christ is "the measure of true humanism," and mature faith and friendship with God serve as a criterion to distinguish "the true from the false, and deceit from truth."

In his speech in Westminster Hall to the leaders of British Society during his visit to the United Kingdom in 2010, he spoke about the immense dangers to contemporary society when religion is driven from the public square.

"There are those who would advocate that the voice of religion be silenced," he said, "or at least relegated to the purely private sphere. There are those who argue that the public celebration of festivals such as Christmas should be discouraged, in the questionable belief that it might somehow offend those of other religions or none."

Interfaith prayer vigil

Liferight of Watertown will host and participate in an Interfaith Candlelight Prayer vigil at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 in front of the Municipal Building on Washington Street in Watertown.

All are welcome!