

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meeting John-the Baptist-kind of people | PAGE 2

Papal messages on annulments, humility | PAGE 11

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 29, 2014

Pope: divisions are 'a scandal'

Pope Francis marks Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The divisions that exist among Christians are a source of pain and scandal, and damage the credibility and work of spreading the Gospel, Pope

Francis said. "

Christ's name creates communion and unity, not division. He came to create communion among us, not to divide us!" the pope said during his general audience address Jan. 22 in St. Peter's Square. The pope's audience

took place during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25.

A group of Christians from different communities in Canada chose the theme for the 2014 observance -- "Has Christ been divided?"

The pope dedicated his

catechesis to the week of prayer's theme, taken from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

As St. Paul reproached the Corinthians for their divisions and rivalries, he asked them, "Is Christ divided?" the pope said.

MARCHING FOR LIFE

In brutal D.C. weather



Ogdensburg natives Mary Burns, a student at Franciscan University at Steubenville, and Jamie Burns, a teacher at St. Mary's School in Canton were among the thousands to take part in the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22. The marchers - including Bishop LaValley and several busloads from the Diocese of Ogdensburg - braved frigid temperatures and snow to participate in the march on the 41st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

FULL STORY, PAGE 10

SSJs address horror of trafficking

"Today, the growing awareness of human trafficking turns the eyes and hearts of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to look for ways to address and respond to this present-day slavery," writes St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, chair of the Peace and Social Justice Committee of the Watertown religious order.

The sisters are hosting a Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking Feb. 2 followed by a presentation on "Human Trafficking in the North Country" Feb. 2 at the motherhouse.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

2014 diocesan directory

Copies of the directory, with info about parishes, schools, organizations and personnel are now available
COUPON, PAGE 13

IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



SCHOOL PHOTO

Several fifth grade girls from Seton Academy in Plattsburgh have been making and selling bracelets so that they can send money to help people in the Philippines. They have learned many "business lessons" concerning advertising, anticipating the number of sales, production quotas, and satisfying the customers. Their goal—to raise \$100. Did they reach it? Of course! Student initiated projects are wonderful ways to show concern for our suffering brothers and sisters. Shown in the picture are Alexis Trombley, Grace Patterson, Hailey Murnane, Yamuna Turco, and Gillian Boulé. The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week began Sunday and continues until Feb. 1. See page 3 and 4 for reflections from the bishop and superintendent.

ONE PRIEST'S IMPACT: Teen sings the praises of her pastor... p. 16

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Schools of faith... knowledge... service

As "communities of faith, knowledge and service," our Catholic schools must live up to serious obligations throughout the school year.

Luckily for the students, sometimes the lessons are wrapped up with fun.

The celebrations marking Catholic Schools Week – happening right now – don't stray far from the schools' primary goals but they are certainly filled with fun.

At Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, for example "faith" will be practiced at the special Masses at each of the churches and "service" will be shown during the week long

food drive and Service Day on Saturday but it's hard to imagine that Crazy Sock Day and a night of skating won't be entertaining.

At St. Agnes in Lake Placid, principal Catherine Bemis explains how the youngsters in her school will live up to the ideals for Catholic schools:

Service: There will be a school wide field trip to Hannaford to shop for the food pantry with a longtime supporter. We will follow up the field trip with a

visit to the food pantry. The preschoolers will be doing a canned food drive as well.

Knowledge: We are introducing an Olympic themed school

wide reading program. For books read you earn Olympic medals.... we will be having reading buddies within the school and inviting parents to come in for career and hobby demonstrations for the kids.

Community: We will be tying T-shirts with the Catholic Schools Week logo on them, each grade will explore how they are all "tied" together.

And, of course, Catholic celebrations are never complete without food!

Across the diocese we will see pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners and lunches to show appreciation for the teachers in our schools.

It's a great time to be part of a Catholic school family!

But, the purpose of Catholic Schools Week isn't just to pro-

vide a winter-pick-me up for the students.

It also the time to consider the essential nature and critical value of our schools. Bishop LaValley and Sister Ellen Rose, the superintendent of schools, provide this insight in columns on pages 3 and 4.

They give parents much to consider when making decisions about their own school age children.

As the bishop writes, "Our children need what we have to offer them in our Catholic schools: a sacred environment where faith is learned, lived and celebrated."

Parents would be wise to check the information on page 9 and make a visit to the closest Catholic school. There's a lot to love about them all!

Mary Lou
Kilian

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

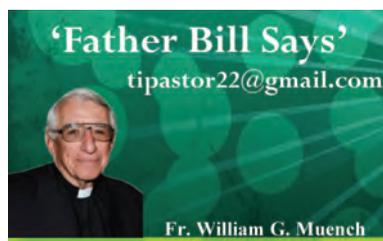
Saluting John-the-Baptist-kind-of-people

Today, let us take a moment to remember St. John the Baptist. For several weeks the Sunday Gospels are filled with stories about John the Baptist. John lives his youth in the desert and establishes a good relationship with God. Somehow he recognizes a call to make the world a better place – and also realizes that the Messiah will soon come. So he becomes an evangelistic preacher along the River Jordan using a baptism of repentance.

John recognizes Jesus as the promised Messiah so he points out Jesus to his disciples and to others. His dedication was this, "He must increase, I must decrease."

John's message was to call the people to repent – "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

I have known many excellent priests who truly are in the image of John the Baptist. Some think of John as a shouting kind of preacher, full of brimstone. I don't think so. I think of him as an amazingly attractive evangelist who changed many lives and then led them to Jesus. So when I



think of a priest and preacher in the spirit of John the Baptist, I think of someone who leads others to Jesus in a special way.

My John the Baptist kind of priests and preachers are gentle, yet, challenging. They who reach out to encourage people to use well their talents as they discover life in Jesus.

My list is long. I hope that you also know and have experienced such priests in your spiritual life.

I am hoping that you recognize our good priests by seeing how well they lead you closer to Jesus, by their preaching and teaching, by the way in which they celebrate Eucharist, by the way in which they pastor their parishes.

We have so many wonderful priests in this mode here in the North Country. This is the

spirit of John the Baptist.

I also know many – many laymen and women who live and work in the image of John the Baptist. By the way they live each day, they touch others and lead them closer to Jesus. What is important for them is how they live their lives. We don't need more preachers. We need people who know how to live in the Spirit of Our Savior. These are the kind of people that draw others closer to Jesus. These are people in the image of John the Baptist.

Personally, I continue to find a great deal of hope and confidence in my own life as I watch the wonderful families in my parish. There are so many that truly demonstrate a Christian loving spirit.

Christ is a member and a guide for their families; they give others a model for being a Christian family. These families give me the confidence that good things are happening – that the message of Christ is touching many.

I find a great deal of hope and confidence for the future in the many wonderful priests who are my friends and men-

tors. Their readiness to live well challenges me to be a better priest. I pray that I may be a priest in the spirit of John the Baptist – doing all I can to bring others closer to Jesus.

Did you know that Pope Francis is on Twitter – check it out. Yesterday his message was this, "If we live the faith in our daily life – then our work too becomes a chance to spread the joy of being a Christian."

I always notice that Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of spreading joy – the joy of being a Christian – the joy of having Christ as part of our lives.

Sometimes when we hear the challenge of a John the Baptist to bring others closer to Jesus, we get the idea that this is a stern and serious matter and this is often reflected in that serious look on the face of some Christians.

Pope Francis tells us that the best way to bring people to find Jesus and allow the Lord to be part of our lives is to bring into their lives the joy of Christ, the joy of being a saved person, the joy of being alive in the Spirit of Our God.

FOLLOW ME

It's Catholic Schools Week!

By Bishop Terry LaValley

Particularly during this past Year of Faith, we have been given a rich variety of opportunities to deepen our knowledge of the Catholic faith; to express it in creative fashion; to share it generously with others; and to celebrate it in profound, joy-filled worship to God. Through the graces we received in our participation in the events that were offered, we now enter this new calendar year recommitted and energized to grow in faith and love, sharing our love for Jesus with our sisters and brothers.

For generations, Catholic schools in our Diocese have been integral to this mission. The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week: *"Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service"*—encompasses several of the essential ingredients for faith to grow and flourish. The mission of our Catholic schools is intimately tied to the work of the New Evangelization: fostering a personal, dynamic encounter with Jesus and giving expression to it in our relations with others.

Our schools need our renewed commitment and vital support so that they may recapture their pre-eminent role in the evangelization of our culture. Our children need what we have to offer them in our Catholic schools: a sacred environment where faith is learned, lived and celebrated. Our Catholic schools are places where our youngsters' minds and hearts are formed and stretched so that they might attain the potential God has placed



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Among the ways that Bishop Terry R. LaValley shows his support for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is through annual visits to each of the schools. Here, he is pictured with children in the kindergarten class at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga during his Oct. 3 visit to the Essex County school. In his message for this year's observance of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 26-Feb. 1, the bishop writes, "I congratulate and thank all who sacrifice and support our Catholic schools. More than ever, we need strong Catholic schools here in the North Country. They are sources of joy for us today and beacons of hope for tomorrow."

within each precious child.

It's no secret, for a variety of reasons our Catholic Schools today have been experiencing decreases in enrollment. In the listening sessions that were held throughout our Diocese last year, you told me of your great love for our schools and of your concern for their future. Clearly, the financial struggle of our Catholic schools and the burden it places on all the families committed to enrolling their children in these schools and on our parishioners is heavy.

The Church teaches that parents

have the sacred right and awesome responsibility to be the primary educators of their children. Our Catholic schools encourage and expect parental support and participation in the life of the Catholic school community. We thank parents who sacrifice and partner with Catholic schools in the education of their children.

We are grateful to the principals, teachers and staff who provide the environment, witness and support that enable our schools to provide the excellence in academics and faith formation that no other educa-

tional institution can provide today.

It is important that parents are able to choose the best school for their children. We believe that every child has the universal right to an education in faith and the state has the obligation to enable such a right to be exercised.

Through parental choice programs, families are given financial resources enabling them to attend the school of their choice, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, both secular and religious private schools and home-schooling. There are currently more than thirty parental choice programs operating in seventeen states. Unfortunately, New York State is *not* one of them. I urge you strongly to contact your legislator and support the education investment tax credit bill presently in both houses of the New York State legislature. Its passage would be a significant step in helping parents choose a Catholic School education for their children.

From the first moment a parent and student step inside a Catholic School, they have the impression of entering a new, distinctly different environment, one illumined by the light of faith. Educating our students in the faith brightens the soul of our nation. Formed in mind, heart and soul, Catholic school graduates can renew and inspire the Church from within by becoming zealous, Christ-led disciples. This Catholic Schools Week I congratulate and thank all who sacrifice and support our Catholic schools. More than ever, we need strong Catholic schools here in the North Country. They are sources of joy for us today and beacons of hope for tomorrow.

Proclaiming Gospel at 'heart' of Catholic education

WASHINGTON (CNS) - National Catholic Schools Week will be observed in U.S. dioceses Jan. 26-Feb. 1 with the theme: "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

"Our schools have educated millions of young people over the years by providing them a superior academic background, always pointing the way to eternal life," said Archbishop

George J. Lucas of Omaha, Neb., who serves as chairman of education committee of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The success of Catholic schools in handing on the faith, generation after generation, is a bright light in the history of the church in the United States," the archbishop added.

About 2.1 million students are currently educated in

more than 6,600 Catholic schools across the country. Of these students, an estimated 99 percent graduate from high school and 85 percent attend college.

"The heart of the apostolate of Catholic education is the mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Catholic schools provide a rich environment of faith and learning where students experience how much God

loves them in Christ," Archbishop Lucas said.

"They are free to express their own love for God in prayer and the celebration of the sacraments and to express love of neighbor in a community where each is respected as a gift from God," he added.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week, sponsored by USCCB and the National

Catholic Educational Association.

Schools and parishes around the country planned to mark the week with special Masses, school activities, open houses and potluck gatherings.

The NCEA urged schools to specifically celebrate the 40th anniversary of the observance by pledging 40 hours of service to their local communities.

Catholic Schools:

Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

Rigor is a common topic today in education circles. Parents, teachers and school administrators want children and young people to be offered the very best in education theory and practice. They want strong standards, expressing age appropriate expectations or goals for students to achieve as they prepare for life.

Rigor, including higher level thinking skills, more problem solving, more reading, writing, speaking and listening; deeper understanding of mathematical concepts to support problem solving for real life application, is a concept used to describe recent education standards and expectations.

Without denying the importance of a rigorous academic program, the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, prompts me to address the *vigor* of our Catholic school programs.

An excellent Catholic school provides a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates faith and knowledge. The vigor – energy, vitality, enthusiasm, strength, spirit, dynamism – of our Catholic faith is the distinctive mark of our Catholic schools. Academic rigor without the vigor of our Catholic faith does not describe a Catholic school.

When Benedict XVI spoke to Catholic school administrators during his apostolic visit to the United States he told us that Catholic schools are places where students encounter the living God in Jesus Christ.

I think Benedict's description of a Catholic school is beautiful and awe-inspiring. At the same time, however, it is challenging. A Catholic school is true to its mission when it is a place where students meet Christ.

Being a Christian is not a lofty idea, specula-



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZS

St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, is pictured in this 2012 photo during a gathering of the state's bishops and catechetical leaders at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, N.Y. To mark the 2014 Catholic Schools Week, Sister Ellen Rose writes that "An excellent Catholic school provides a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates faith and knowledge. The vigor – energy, vitality, enthusiasm, strength, spirit, dynamism – of our Catholic faith is the distinctive mark of our Catholic schools."

tion, abstract knowledge or a theory. Pope Francis reminds us that a Christian is one who has encountered love in the person of Jesus Christ. When this encounter blossoms into an enriching friendship with Christ the person is liberated from narrowness and self-absorption and becomes more fully human. (Cf. *The Joy of the*

Gospel, 3 & 8).

Question: How does a school become a place where students meet Christ?

Answer: When it maintains and strengthens its Catholic identity.

Catholic identity includes: a supernatural vision of the human person that recognizes that each and every person, made in the image and likeness of God, has an eternal destiny; a commitment to the education of the whole person wherein Christ is formed in the students and His teachings assimilated; a school community animated by the presence of Christ and sustained by Christ-like teamwork among teachers and administrators, teachers with students and students among themselves that reaches out beyond itself in service to others; an education program and environment inspired and guided by the Gospels, the rich heritage of our Catholic faith and the teachings of the Church.

When I think about our Catholic schools my mind goes immediately to the people who support and serve in them, the principals, teachers, parish priests and staff. They, in many respects, embody the Catholic school. They pass on the vigor – the energy and vitality, the spirit and strength – of our Catholic faith. They are the credible witnesses who teach not only by what they say but especially by who they are and how they live. God bless them and our Catholic schools.

If you would like to personally experience the unique character of a Catholic school, please call the school principal in your area and arrange a visit.

Please pray for our schools. These are challenging times in which to sustain Catholic schools. But as Blessed John Paul II reminded us they are an invaluable gift to the Church and to the nation. They are well worth our efforts and sacrifices.

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AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS... IN PARISH PROGRAMS

FACES OF YOUNG FAITH



Garrett Weir and Avery Mattice play an exciting game of Candy Land during Pajama Day, Trinity Catholic School students' favorite Catholic Schools' Week event. Pajama Day is on the docket again for this year's Catholic Schools Week at the Massena school, to be held Feb. 8-14. The schedule also includes an opening Mass, pancake breakfast, mismatch day, spirit and pride day, teacher appreciation day, game day, a spaghetti dinner, spelling bee and student appreciation day.



Students at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh - Paige Spittler and Melissa Whyman, left, and Sam Lefrance and Evan Page, right - work in the school's acceleration lab. The students are using yardsticks and Ipod apps to calculate changes in velocity.



The children who participated in the Christmas pageant at St. James Church in Lake Pleasant - including Anthony Lauria as Baby Jesus - prepare to enter the stage.



The Kindergarten class at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg conducted a real life investigation as part of their science class. First they made a prediction: will a frog be warmer in ice water or buried in mud under the ice water? Most of the class thought the frog would be warmer in the mud. Pictured above are Carsen LeGault and Ella Ramsdell showing their recorded observations.

TOP SHOOTERS IN K OF C CONTEST



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

Four AuSable Forks and two Morrisonville youths were the top shooters in the Knights of Columbus District 95 Free Throw Contest held Jan. 18 at Holy Name School in AuSable Forks. AuSable Forks Council 2301, Morrisonville Council 6067 and Peru Council 7273 sponsored the contest. All the winners have been invited to compete in the Regional K of C Free Throw Competition scheduled for March 8th in Massena. Pictured, from left are Elise LePage, Alex LaFountain, Justin Bedard, AuSable Forks Grand Knight Mark Holt, Stephen Hudson, District Deputy Allen Dixon, Johann Hudson, Free Throw Chairman D. Peter Light and Hannah Greenley.

OUR READERS WRITE

Open letter to Gov. Cuomo

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing you today after I was made aware of your recent comments on a radio interview from this past week. Below is the comment made by you;

"Their problem is not me and the Democrats; their problem is themselves," he said. "Who are they? Are they these extreme conservatives who are right-to-life, pro-assault-weapon, anti-gay? Is that who they are? Because if that's who they are and they're the extreme conservatives, they have no place in the state of New York, because that's not who New Yorkers are."

Your comment above is discriminatory, insulting and very hurtful. This comment was directed against Roman Catholics who listen and believe the teachings of this religion, plus people of different faiths that believe in the sanctity of life. It is directed against people who believe in the Second Amendment of the United State Constitution.

What you said is if you are Catholic and/or believe in the US Constitution you are a radical and you have no place in the State of New York.

The fact you claim to be a Roman Catholic makes your statements even

more disconcerting. You know full well the stance of the Church on the subject of abortion and to say if I listen and believe in the Church's teaching of the faith "we" are extreme conservatives and have no place in the State of New York means you are a hypocrite.

As I believe in the Constitution and the Rights endowed by our creator in all people you have the right to your opinion and you have the right to believe what you want. You are the elected Governor of New York, you represent all New Yorkers not just ones you agree with. Your problem is by saying anyone who disagrees with you is a radical and there no place for "us" in the State is offensive, un-American, and ignorant.

I never considered myself to be a radical conservative because I have the beliefs I do. I would ask that you turn the mirror around on yourself. Do you think maybe it is you that could be the radical and that due to your beliefs you don't belong in New York State?

At the very least you should think before you make discriminatory comments that you made. I leave you with your beliefs which are in contradiction with the Roman Catholic Church up to your soul and God. This is something not for me to judge someone else on, maybe you

should do the same next time presented with the opportunity to slander and malign the millions of New Yorkers you represent.

GOD BLESS,
JASON FLEURY
CLAY, NY

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

To Advertise in the NCC

Call Christine
315-608-7556

Environmental Stewardship

Scripture gives voice to all of creation to praise the Lord, even the sun and the moon appear brighter these winter days. While trying to stay warm, take time to be amazed at the beauty and majesty of the Creator in the midst of winter and be hope-filled that under all this ice and snow, He will bring forth new life.

What St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh is doing to protect and care for the gift of Creation and its resources meant to be enjoyed and shared by all.

St. Peter's Environmental Stewardship Committee was formed in 2009 Initiatives in 2013 include:

- Hosted Catholic Coalition Climate Ambassador Dr. Dr. Gerry Gacioc - April 2013 (100 Attendees)
- On going Battery collection at church - we dispose with a NYS certified recycler
- Awareness and Education exhibit at the Parish Festival - The need for Pollinators
- focused on protecting The habitant of the Monarch Butterflies by planting Butterfly friendly gardens
- Participated by donating a Thanksgiving Basket as a group to the Parish initiative
- Climate informational blurbs in the Bulletin

• Sent a letter to Gov. Cuomo with concerns about Hydro-fracking

• 2014 - Lenten Program :

March 9 - Movie "I Am" and Discussion - Consumption - Transformation- Love

March 23 - NYS recycle Speaker
April 6 - Sacred Water and Hydro-Fracking

Meet the 2nd Sunday of each month 12:00 noon - Emmaus Room New Members welcome!

Recognizing our responsibility as Catholics to care for our God-given natural resources, the St. Peter's Church Environmental Committee's mission is to : Inspire parish and parishioner engagement with spiritual and practical aspects of social justice, environmental stewardship and sustainability for all.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 29 - Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965

Jan. 30 - Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884;

Rev. E. Schlingmann, O.F.M., 1937

Jan. 31 - Rev. James S. McGowan,

1961; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003

Feb. 1 - Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949;

Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev.

Edward M. Delaney, 1977

Feb. 2 - Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I.,

1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A.,

1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961

Feb. 4 - Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892;

Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr.

Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Alexan-

der Klauder, 1935; Rev. Henry McAr-

dle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus

Kearns, 1990

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: ayc-snn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.

Upcoming programs:

Jan. 30- 8 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall/SUNY Potsdam, Room C-224.

Feb. 6 - 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone

READY TO MARCH FOR LIFE



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Three busloads of young people from the Diocese of Ogdensburg traveled to Washington D.C., for the Jan. 22 March for Life marking the 41st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion across the country. Above are Lake Placid students Andrea Holzer, Laura Stanton, Jillian Goulette, Erin Scufca and Briana Roy with western bus chaperone Erin Miner and eastern bus chaperone Melissa Fisher at the beginning of a snowstorm that crippled much of the city but did not deter the marchers. More coverage of local participation in the national march will be featured in next week's NCC.





Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking and Presentation on "Human Trafficking in the North Country"

Presenter: William Hall, Federal police officer at Fort Drum and instructor on human trafficking in Police Academy (SUNY Canton)

Sunday, February 2, 2014 from 2:00pm -4:00pm
Hearthside Hospitality Center
at the
Motherhouse of Sisters of St. Joseph
1425 Washington Street, Watertown

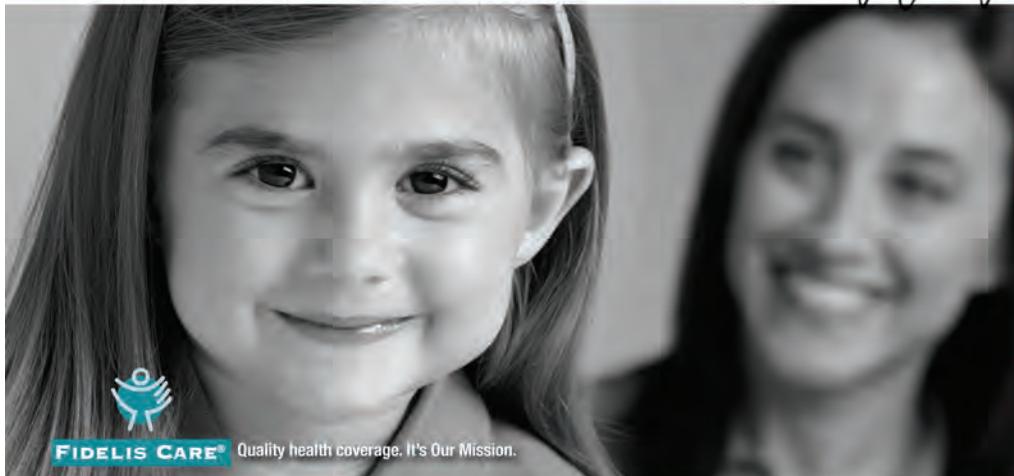
Event is free and open to the public. Come and learn more about this "modern slavery" and what you might do about it.

For more info., call 315-212-6592





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*Human trafficking... human tragedy***Why are the Sisters of St. Joseph concerned?**

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ
Chair, Peace and Social Justice Committee
of the Sisters of St. Joseph

WATERTOWN-From their foundation in 17th century France, the Sisters of Saint Joseph have dedicated themselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, particularly those which most benefit the dear neighbor.

As early as 1836, filled with zeal for mission, six Sisters of Saint Joseph traveled from France to St. Louis, Missouri, with the hope of responding to needs there. Soon the sisters opened a school for the daughters of freed slaves and a school for deaf children.

In the winter of 1880, the first three Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Watertown and soon after, Mother Margaret Lacy was giving shape to this new foundation in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Within a month, a school was established; the sisters who had come there to teach school lost no time in getting the first Catholic school in Watertown started. Their ability to attract a significant number of pupils in the middle of the school year on such short notice testifies to the need felt by Catholic families for the appropriate education of their children.

Throughout the years as other needs have emerged, the sisters have consistently and prayerfully tried to discern how they could meet the needs of their day in creative and courageous ways.

Impelled by their mission



Members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph are shown during a recent meeting. Seated, from left are Sister M. Kateri Rose, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Patricia Fanning and Sister Mary Ellen Brett; standing, Sister Mary Louise Fiedler, Mary Palamar and Sister Jennifer Votraw; missing is Kathryn Robinson. In recent years, the committee has been very active in work to prevent human trafficking.

of unity and reconciliation, the sisters minister in all levels of education, in various human services, and in diverse forms of spiritual and pastoral ministry.

Today, the growing awareness of human trafficking turns the eyes and hearts of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to look for ways to address and respond to this present-day slavery.

Today over 6000 Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States along with many other religious communities of women and men around the world are engaged in raising consciousness through education of this modern day slavery.

They are collaborating with

other Church groups as well as agencies, including, law enforcement, border patrol, social services, medical professionals in an effort to find ways to eradicate this form of inhumanity to humanity.

During this past year a regional North Country Task Force on Human Trafficking has been formed to find ways to work together on this issue. Two SSJ Lay Associates participate as individuals on the Force.

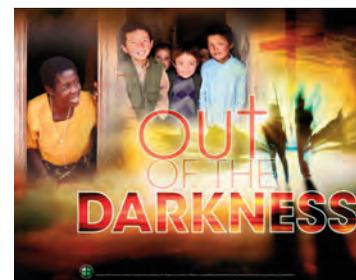
For several years the Peace and Social Justice Committee of the Watertown Sisters of St. Joseph has been working on this issue. During the past year and half the members have teamed up with the Watertown Flower Memorial Li-

brary to provide educational programs on this issue.

Recently the Committee published a brochure and a two page information sheet on human trafficking that include some actions one can take to help to recognize the signs of someone caught in the web of slavery.

These materials along with a list of media resources available in the Watertown Library are part of an educational display in the foyer of the City Library as well as in other participating libraries, namely, Potsdam, Canton, Waddington, Gouverneur, Carthage, Alexandra Bay, Port Leyden, Clayton and Colton.

Two showings of the film "Not My Life" were held in the

**Human trafficking program**

The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting a Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking Feb. 2 followed by a presentation on "Human Trafficking in the North Country" given by William Hall. Hall is a federal police officer at Fort Drum and instructor on human trafficking in the Police Academy (SUNY Canton). The program will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St., from 2-4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Library this month. The film is now available for loan through North Country Library System.

On Sunday, Feb. 2, the Sisters are hosting a Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking followed by a presentation on "Human Trafficking in the North Country" given by William Hall. He is a federal police officer at Fort Drum and instructor on human trafficking in the Police Academy (SUNY Canton). The Program will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, from 2 p.m. to 4, is free and open to all.

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'No sacrifice too great' for pro-life cause, says March for Life head

At the March for Life

By Carol Zimmermann and Katherine Talalas
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The polar vortex couldn't chill the ardor of thousands of participants who demonstrated their determination to continue speaking out against abortion at the annual March for Life and rally Jan. 22 in Washington.

Temperatures went briefly into double digits but hovered around 8 degrees.

At the rally, speakers highlighted the tenacious determination of the crowd - dressed in coats, scarves, hats and gloves - huddled together on the snow-covered National Mall. They likened the crowd's bravery to the firm resolve they have shown in their efforts to change abortion laws and promote a culture of life in the U.S.

The rally began at noon, prior to the crowd's march to the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, and it had a different feel this year, not simply because of the cold but in the variety of speakers.

Only three members of Congress addressed the crowd, instead of several, although a handful stood on the mall's stage. No Catholic leaders addressed the crowd either, but Catholic bishops joined Orthodox leaders for the rally's opening prayer given by Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios.

Among the Catholic prelates spotted on the stage were Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee; Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl and Auxiliary Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Washington; and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore;

Under a blue and sunny sky, Christian singer and songwriter Matt Maher at-



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE KOSSOFF

March for Life participants from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., carry the banner past the front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22. Thousands took part in the annual event, which this year marked the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion across the nation.

tempted to warm up the crowd while playing a guitar with fingerless gloves. "We're all really cold," he acknowledged, adding that the reason they had gathered was to "demonstrate to the world how much we need God."

Patrick Kelly, chairman of the March for Life, told the crowd filled with young people that they were "freezing for the best cause in the world." Jeanne Monahan, March for Life president, thanked the crowd for "braving the extreme elements today."

"No sacrifice is too great for this cause," she added.

Kelly and Monahan stressed a new aspect of this year's march: tweeting about it with the hashtag #marchforlife or #whywemarch. Marchers cheered as Monahan read a tweet from Pope Francis: "I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable." She urged the crowd to retweet his message.

A March for Life spokes-

woman said Jan. 24 that the organization's official statement about the size of this year's crowd was "hundreds of thousands."

The theme of this year's march was "Adoption: A Noble Decision."

"When a woman makes a choice to be a birth mother, she embraces motherhood in its most heroic sense," said Monahan, who also offered support for women who have not chosen life in the past. "For any woman who has had an abortion, you have to know there is hope and healing."

In his remarks, Kelly noted that the March for Life has a new staff, logo and website and also aims to have a vital social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The goal, he said, is not just for participants to be here once a year but to be in touch with one another "365 days a year to build culture of life in America."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia said the marchers' endurance not only gives "voice to the cause



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER
Ronald Chauca of Chicago is bundled up as he makes his way across the National Mall before the March for Life.

of protecting life" but also shows that they are the "strongest weapon" of the pro-life movement. He said he was confident pro-lifers would win the culture war, because the right to life "is a moral truth written at the hands of our Creator."

Last year, the House passed the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and Cantor cited it as an example of changing public opinion on abortion. He exhorted the rally-goers to continue the battle. "We cannot allow the opponents of life to weaken the moral fabric of this country."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., criticized President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act "for its insurance plans that include abortion," but he also stressed that "the pro-life movement is alive and well and making serious, significant and sustained progress."

"In the last three years alone, a record 200 pro-life laws have been enacted in the states," he noted. "By the grace of God -- and because of you, your prayers and hard work -- we are winning."

He also echoed a theme of the day, telling youths in the crowd: "Never quit or grow

discouraged, your generation will end abortion."

Rep. Vicki Hartzler, R-Mo., encouraged leaders to support alternatives to abortion. "Or society must stop upholding abortion and start encouraging adoption."

That message resonated with Nicole Peck, regional coordinator of Silent No More.

Speaking about her abortion, Peck said, "They took my money, my baby, and my self-respect." She even lost her opportunity to experience childbirth: "I would never conceive another child."

Nicole and her husband later adopted two children. "Their mothers are our heroes."

The lyrics of one of the two songs Maher performed to open the rally, "Hold Us Together," encapsulated the day's pro-woman, pro-child message: "And I'll be my brother's keeper/So the whole world would know we're not alone."

Many of the freezing marchers had traveled for days to get to Washington.

Jennifer Camilleri, a freshman at Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio, came with hundreds of students from her university. She said that she believed that the Holy Spirit was working through people to encourage them to support life.

Monica Stephens, a 17-year-old student from Grinnell, Kan., in the Salina Diocese, came with her parish ministry group. When asked why she came, Stephens told Catholic News Service: "You have to stand up to help the babies. Apparently, it won't happen by itself."

Katie Friess, a recent college graduate from Hoxie, Kan., in the same diocese, said that it is "really important to be here because this is our chance to show the world we are pro-life."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Injunction protecting Little Sisters from HHS mandate continues

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Supreme Court Jan. 24 issued a three-sentence order affirming -- for the time being -- an injunction blocking enforcement against the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Christian Brothers of a mandate to provide contraceptive coverage in employee health insurance. The order released late in the afternoon affirmed Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Dec. 31 order in the case. It temporarily blocks the federal government from requiring the Denver-based sisters and their co-plaintiffs at the Christian Brothers from having to meet that requirement of the Affordable Care Act. "If the employer applicants inform the secretary of Health and Human Services in writing that they are nonprofit organizations that hold themselves out as religious and have religious objections to providing coverage for contraceptive services, the respondents are enjoined from enforcing against the applicants the challenged provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and related regulations pending final disposition of the appeal by the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit," the court said. The requirement to provide coverage for contraceptives in employee health insurance does have an accommodation, or waiver, the government says would keep certain religious organizations from having to comply with the mandate. The Little Sisters and the Christian Brothers had objected to being required to justify to the government that they should be entitled to an exemption from the mandate and that filling out the paperwork for a waiver that would instruct a third party to provide the contraceptive coverage amounts to them being part of the mechanism for providing abortion and other morally objectionable types of coverage.

Gov. Cuomo says New York has no room for 'extreme conservatives'

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Pro-life supporters and members of two Republican organizations Jan. 21 urged New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to issue a formal apology for saying that "extreme conservatives," including those who oppose abortion and same-sex marriage, have "no place in the state of New York." Cuomo, a Democrat, "is insisting that political and religious conservatives should leave New York state," said Phil Orenstein, 71, president of Queens Village Republican Club, the nation's oldest Republican group, founded in 1875. "So if you're pro-life, support the right to bear arms and (support) traditional marriage, your opinions and beliefs are too extreme" for the governor, he said. Orenstein made the comments at a news conference held outside Queens Borough Hall on the steps, despite the bitterly cold weather. He began by quoting Cuomo from a Jan. 17 interview on the public radio show "Capitol Pressroom." In it the governor criticized some Republican candidates running for office on their opposition to the SAFE Act, a measure that among other things requires universal background checks on gun purchases and bans assault weapons. Cuomo said "moderate Republicans" voted for it but the Republicans who oppose it have a "problem."

Pope: Humble pie better than hardened hearts

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A heart hardened by anger and resentment is worse than eating humble pie and reaching out to enemies to seek peace, Pope Francis said.

"Worse than trying to build a bridge (of understanding) with an adversary is to let the heart swell with rancor toward him," he said Jan. 24 during his early morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

Holding onto one's hatred and anger, instead of taking the first step toward peace, only renders people "isolated in this bitter broth of our resentment," he said, according to Vatican Radio.

When someone is wronged or faces an enemy, one option might be retaliation or revenge, Pope Francis said. But the Christian response is to choose the path of dialogue, he said, which requires humility, meekness

and becoming all things to all people.

One thing the Bible doesn't mention is that "to do all this, you need to swallow a lot of 'toads,'" that is, the bitter pill of humiliation, he said.

"But we have to do it because that's how peace is made -- with humility, humiliation, always trying to see the face of God in the other," he said.

Taking the first step toward dialogue and stooping low to begin building a bridge of understanding is not easy, he said.

"Jesus did it; he was humiliated up until the end and he showed us the way."

It's normal to have conflict and arguments, "sometimes the plates will fly," the pope said. But "after the storm has passed," it's important to work things out as soon as possible, "with a word, a gesture."

The longer an argument or misunderstanding is left brewing, the harder it is to resolve "because over time

the wall grows higher like weeds that choke off the grain," he said.

It is better to build bridges than walls, the pope said, "because even our heart can become like the Berlin Wall" shutting off others.

The pope's homily Jan. 24 was a continuation of his Jan. 23 homily -- both were based on the days' readings from the First Book of Samuel, which describe the conflict between King Saul and David.

What should have been a time of joy over David's victory against Goliath, King Saul instead was steeped in envy and hatched a plan of murder because of the amount of praise David received, Pope Francis said.

Jealous people become bitter and can even spread that bitterness throughout a community, the pope said. They "don't know how to sing, to praise, they don't know what joy is and they always look for what that person has that I don't."

Judgments on annulments must be 'impartial, pastoral'

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Addressing the Vatican court primarily responsible for hearing requests for marriage annulments, Pope Francis said judges on church tribunals should show "imperturbable and impartial balance" as well as the "delicacy and humanity proper to a pastor of souls."

The pope made his remarks Jan. 24 to officials of the Roman Rota, at a meeting to inaugurate the tribunal's judicial year.

"You are essentially pastors," he told the officials. "As you carry out your judicial

work, do not forget that you are pastors. Behind every file, every position, every case, there are persons who wait for justice."

Pope Francis has said that church law on marriage is a topic that exemplifies a general need for mercy in the church today, and that it will be among the subjects of discussion at this October's extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization."

In his speech to the Rota, the pope said a judge on a church tribunal must sympathize with the "mentality and legitimate aspirations" of the community he serves, and thus render "justice that is

not legalistic and abstract, but appropriate to the needs of concrete reality."

Such a judge "will not be content with superficial knowledge of the reality of the persons who await his judgment, but will recognize the need to understand deeply the situations of the parties," the pope said.

"The legal dimension and the pastoral dimension of ecclesial ministry are not in conflict," Pope Francis said. "The church's legal activity, which takes the form of service to the truth in justice, has in fact a profoundly pastoral meaning, because it is aimed at the good of the faithful and of the edification of the Christian community."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A welcome feast for dark, cold time of year

This Sunday we celebrate a major feast of Our Lord - the Presentation.

This is also known as Candlemas Day, since traditionally candles used in the Liturgy were solemnly blessed on that day, with a solemn procession in which all carried lighted candles before the Mass.

Forty days following the birth of a child, a Jewish mother, having been "purified" of the birth-blood, came into the



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Temple, with an offering to the Lord. Since every child belonged to God, the parents would "buy back" their child. Poor people, like Joseph and Mary, were obliged to bring only two inexpensive birds, like turtledoves or pigeons.

When Jesus was presented in the Temple, he was recognized immediately as the Messiah by a pious old man, Simeon, and a devout widow by the name of Anna.

Simeon recognized in this child the fulfillment of the

prophecy of Micah we hear as today's first reading: "Thus says the Lord God: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me: and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek..."

This messenger is likened to a refiner of silver who cleanses the sons of Levi (who are priests) of any impurities in a very hot fire.

God had promised Simeon that he would see this Child before he died. He says to Mary "and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed".

The widow, Anna, also rec-

FEB. 2

The Feast of the Presentation

READINGS

Malachai 3:1-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

ognizes this child as special, although we don't know what words she said.

Although but a mere child, Jesus enters the Temple as a divine, yet human High Priest. By coming in human flesh and blood, He comes already bringing God's forgiveness. He brings under-

standing of our weakness, for which He will show His mercy, as we read in today's second reading from Hebrews.

On this feast, all of us who will follow Christ our Saviour, must, become candles to be purified of sin.

In being consumed, we ourselves become light to illuminate the world around us with Jesus' truth and love.

What a beautiful feast for us in this darkest and coldest time of winter; to be transformed into Jesus! May we be encouraged to let His light shine into the darkness that surrounds us.

FOR THE JOURNEY

Invisible problem of modern slavery among us

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service

If you connect the term "human trafficking" with exotic locales and wild action films like "Taken," in which the actor Liam Neeson tracks down his daughter's captors in Europe and kills a slew of scary-looking Eastern Europeans in the process, you're like a lot of people, including me a few years ago.

I now realize that trafficking is a problem on the

streets of my city, and trafficking recruiters may be no further than the middle school or high school my kids attended.

What is human trafficking?

Trafficking is no less than a modern-day form of slavery. It can involve sending people to faraway places, but it may enslave someone in their own community. It often ensnares victims for the sex trade, but it can exploit people to work in factories, restaurants or farms. A hallmark of trafficking is that it focuses on the vulnerable. And the vulnerable are all around us, even when they seem invisible.

The United Nations estimates more than 20 million people are trafficked, or enslaved, worldwide. Others put that number at 30 million, but the real figure is

hard to pin down when a "hidden" population is involved.

I recently spoke to a social worker at Covenant House, an organization that provides shelter and services to runaway and homeless youth. She works with vulnerable kids in a medium-size American city and said young males and females are typical prey for a trafficker.

"A girl who hits the streets can be approached within 45 minutes," she said.

The ideal target is a 15- to 20-year-old girl who is alone in the world. She may be escaping abuse at home or has been kicked out by her family. She's needy, perhaps naive, and a trafficker befriends her and begins to groom her. He flatters her, spends money on her and leads her to believe she's in

a romantic relationship.

To a troubled teen, he's prince charming.

Soon, he begins to exert control. He takes her identification and money.

Trafficking is a problem on the streets of my city, and trafficking recruiters may be no further than the middle school my kids attended

He may ask her to share sexual favors with others, or sometimes her initiation comes in the form of gang rape. Eventually, she is psychologically and physically dependent, and is used for the trafficker's money-making purposes.

This is different from prostitution, in which an adult woman chooses to trade sex for some kind of payment. The trafficked youth finds herself in a place of coercion.

My Covenant House contact said that in the U.S. city where she works, her staff had encountered 25 young people in the past three months who fit the criteria for being trafficked and

none fit a particular demographic. They can be the kids next door.

Pope Francis, aware of the issue when he served in South America, cares deeply about the problem. In November, he held a workshop at the Vatican in which experts discussed "Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery."

The U.S. Catholic bishops work with a group of more than 20 Catholic agencies, including Covenant House and Catholic Charities USA, to combat trafficking. States are beginning to pass laws dealing specifically with trafficking. Local as well as federal agencies such as the FBI have become involved in this battle and are becoming more attuned to signs of trafficking.

The bishops have designated Feb. 8 as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking. It falls on the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan.

Our job is to become aware and educated, and to pray and fast on Feb. 8.

Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful wine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands(3X).

MD

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AT THE MOVIES

GIMME SHELTER

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Perhaps the best moment in the fact-based drama "Gimme Shelter" (Roadside) comes when its beleaguered, deeply sympathetic protagonist, played by Vanessa Hudgens, wonderingly recites a passage from the Book of Psalms that tells of God's promises to those who trust in him.

It's a moving scene precisely because such faith-based optimism seems so far removed from all that Hudgens' character, teenager Agnes "Apple" Bailey, has previously endured.

Long neglected by her drug-addicted, emotionally unstable mother, June (Rosario Dawson), Apple is also a veteran of numerous foster homes --in one of which, we eventually learn, she was sexually abused by the father of the family to which she had been entrusted.

As the film begins, Apple has understandably had enough of June's manipulative ways. So she flees the inner city, and seeks out her

estranged, wealthy father, Tom Fitzpatrick (Brendan Fraser), the owner of a luxurious mansion in an upscale New Jersey suburb.

Though taken aback by Apple's arrival - he comes home to find the scruffy runaway being carted off by the police, who've mistaken her for a thief - Tom is at least tentatively willing to do his part for the girl.

Apple gets a colder reception from Tom's wife, Joanna (Stephanie Szostak), who's intent on pursuing her ultra-respectable lifestyle undisturbed. (Tom and Joanna's two young kids look as though they've just stepped out of a Brooks Brothers catalog.)

Joanna's attitude grows even chillier when a bout of morning sickness tips all concerned off to the fact that Apple is pregnant. Both Joanna and Tom pressure Apple to have an abortion. But she insists on keeping her child, even if it means losing the security of her newfound refuge.

Back on the streets, Apple has an altercation with a predatory passerby that ends with her stealing - and

crashing - the lowlife's car. This turns out to be a positive development because it brings her into contact with kindly hospital chaplain Father Frank McCarthy (James Earl Jones).

Father Frank is, of course, wholeheartedly supportive of Apple's determination to preserve the life of her baby. He offers her the opportunity to take up residence with his redoubtable friend, Kathy (Ann Dowd), the founder of a home for expectant adolescents.

Modeled on Kathy DiFiore, who established just such a ministry - called Several Sources Shelters - in 1981, Dowd's character is gentle but firm, both with her charges and with any outsider who might threaten their welfare. Down-to-earth practicality, tough love and a belief in the need for structure characterize her approach.

Chaffing under such discipline, Apple finds herself tempted to escape it. But she simultaneously discovers a winning new aspect of life through her burgeoning friendship with the other



CNS PHOTO/ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS
James Earl Jones and Vanessa Hudgens star in a scene from the movie "Gimme Shelter."

moms-to-be.

A strong pro-life message obviously undergirds writer-director Ron Krauss' intermittently touching movie, which is also genuinely feminist, as witness the camaraderie cited above. And Hudgens' passionate performance provides the project with another important asset.

The film contains mature themes, including molesta-

tion, out-of-wedlock pregnancy and substance abuse, a scene of disturbing, though not gory, violence, at least one rough term and a handful of crass expressions. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



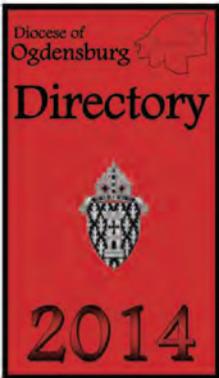
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ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Lake Placid - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Feb. 4 & 11, Lake Placid; Feb. 18 & 25, Tupper Lake

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Features: New volunteers will join Mercy Care's 90+ Friendship Volunteers from Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid who are helping elders stay connected to their communities.

Contact: Sheila Schneck at 518-523-5583

CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's will hold a Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Feb. 2

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$3; under 5, Free

QUILTING CLASSES

Ellenburg Center - The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop is holding classes

Charm Quilt Class: Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30; Debbie Baldwin, Instructor; Cost: \$15 - does not include material; Call 518-594-3253 or email to register

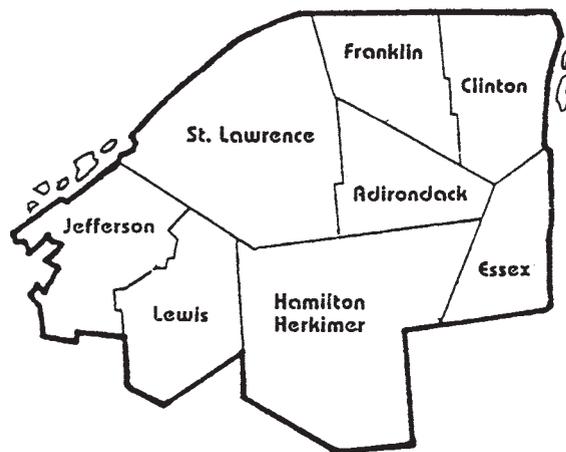
Through the Year Wall Hanging: March 15, 22, and 29; Rita Breen, Instructor; Cost: \$40 for all 3 classes. Call or email to reserve a spot by March 1. Class size is limited to 7.

Sew Together: any Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3. This is a quilting group designed to share ideas, help fellow quilters, teach beginners. Bring a bag lunch if you come for the day.

Contact: The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 7270 Star Road, Ellenburg Center, 518-594-3253, olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

HEALING MINISTRY

Morrisonville - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's



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.

announces the addition of Living Waters Healing Ministry to the Parish.

Date: First Thursday each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Healing Mass, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

JEFFERSON

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

Watertown - Sister of St. Joseph will have a Social Justice program on the topic of human trafficking.

Date: Feb. 2

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: Hearthside Center, SSSJ Mother

house

Features: "Human Trafficking in the North Country" presented by Mr. William Hall. This is a world-wide epidemic happening in our own backyard. Be informed; take action to stop this form of modern-day slavery. Public is invited.

Contact: Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ; 315-212-6592

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Jan. 30

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Watertown - Holy Family Church is holding holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Schedule: Monday through Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.),

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown meets third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: The office has materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Lowville - St. Peter's Church will be having a Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Feb. 6

Time: Take-Outs Available 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-10, \$4; under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions to be held.

Date: Feb. 2

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction followed by a coffee hour

Contact: 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena - St. Mary's Church is holding a special rosary to mark First Saturday.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: The Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to Her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace will be prayed, followed by a 15 minute private meditation on the Luminous Mysteries. Confessions are available starting at 2:45 p.m. and the Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs available

5K WALK/RUN

Massena - The 2nd Annual Glory in our Hearts 5K Walk/Run to Remember will bring together walkers and runners, for a heart healthy fundraiser to support the 2014 outreach activities of the Glory in our Hearts Foundation.

Date: May 3

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Robert Moses State Park Picnic Area at Barnhart Island

Features: Stroller and child friendly out and back 5K event. Visit the Glory in our Hearts 5K website at <http://www.gloryinourhearts.org/5k.html> for additional race information.

DINNER AND SHOW

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Altar & Rosary is sponsoring a bus trip to the Syracuse Oncenter.

Date: June 4

Cost: \$120 per person (includes show ticket, bus fare, and dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant.)

Features: Performance of Million Dollar Quartet. at 7:30 p.m.. Inspired by the electrifying true story of the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

Contact: Call Cherie @393-5050 or 393-7158 or Joyce @528-1819.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Massena - Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Convent

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

Contact: 315-769-3137

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

Date: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 1:30 p.m.

LATIN MASS

Potsdam - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

Ogdensburg - The Knights of Columbus Council 258 is starting its community free lunch program again.

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: Noon

Features: Free hot lunch

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday morning.

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

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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

Honoring Catholic Schools Week 2014

Each year, when Catholic Schools Week happens I cannot help but think back to the warm and wonderful memories I myself have as graduate of a local Catholic school.

Catholic Schools' week was something we prepared for each year for weeks in advance. The week was always a spirited week that included a lot of fun and games, festivities and concluded with a Mass in our gymnasium that Bishop Brzana would say for us. We would work for weeks crafting our artwork to display on the altar, fashioning invites to our families and local friends. One would hope and pray to be one of the select few to do a reading, prayers of the faithful or even present the offertory gifts. Our music and art teachers went in to overdrive decorating the school and teaching us hymns and songs for the special Mass. There was always a special dinner or lunch during the week where our parents, grandparents and other family members could come and see how hard we had been working. Report cards would be distributed and everyone was always happy and smiling. A new dress might be purchased if you were a girl or a new neck tie for the boys. These are great childhood memories that I know I would not have if I had attended only public schools.

My younger brother and I were blessed that our parents afforded us the privilege of attending Catholic School. Both my brother and I made friends while there that we are still friends with today. My favorite teachers ever were my teachers from my Catholic school experience. To this day I am still in touch with some of them. I would be remiss if I did not mention how honored I am today to be working for the Diocese in the Mission Office helping to promote the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) program throughout our Catholic school system.

So here's to all of the Catholic Schools; their students, faculties, staffs and principals. I pray that your Catholic Schools week brings you closer to God, gives you a deeper sense of Faith and allows you to enjoy your years as a student and look back with joy filled hearts. I am certain that you will.

Lastly, here's to the parents and guardians who make a Catholic education possible for your children. There is much sacrifice involved to make this a reality. Parent/family participation in a child's Catholic education is an integral part of the success of it. Your unending support will pay off in big dividends. So, enjoy the week! Make memories that will last a lifetime and go forward with a renewed sense of passion and eagerness to learn.

-Molly M. Ryan

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Mary Lou (Southmayd) Douglas, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at Holy Name Church.

Canton – Irene June (Baxter) Smith, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain – Henry W. Baker, 58; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Gary C. Reimann, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Jerome "Jerry" "Marty" Taylor, 59; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church.

Ft. Covington – Kenneth A. "Peanut" McElwain Jr., 58; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in the Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Harrisville – Herbert J. Kampnich, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in Harrisville Community Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Wallace A. Jacobs, Sr., 71; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2014 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Janette A. Chaperon, 73; Funeral Services May 2, 2014 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Lowville – Stephen Nelson Patrick Andre, 56; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville – Elwin D. Stanton, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Mary W. (Woods) Coultry, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Anthony Lanktree, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Malone – Irene S. (Proulx) LeBlanc, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2014 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Constable.

North Bangor – John A. Racine, 82; Fu-

neral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Augustine's Church.

Ogdensburg – Frederick H. Bremer, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2014 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Joan E. (Ross) McNally, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Gerald M. "Mike" Bordeau, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – John E. Hatch, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Doris M. (Boadway) Mooney, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Eileen (McArdle) Taylor, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery, Altona.

Saranac Lake – Russell Abrams, 57; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2014 at the For-

tune-Keough Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake – Christopher E. Lampart, 43; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2014 at St. Bernard's Church.

Sciota – Holden R. Provost, 16; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2014 at St. Louis of France Church.

Watertown – Michael J. Jesmer, 57; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Rosemary A. (Grant) McKinney, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – William F. Wise, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2014 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Maude H. (Burl) Daniels, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

West Chazy – Stella F. (Favreau) Thompson, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Point au Roche Cemetery.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.

February

The Passion of our Lord

Replace him with yourself.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

One priest's impact

By Samantha Bashaw

10th grader, Seton Catholic School, Plattsburgh

Homilies.

Okay, can we please all admit that homilies are well, pretty boring? At least to us teenagers; we find ourselves daydreaming, playing with our clothes, or even possibly falling asleep during them.

Father Lee Poissant - some of you may know him, some of you may not, but trust me, you wish you did

Sorry, but it's true. They seem to drone on and on forever, and even if you try to comprehend what the priest is saying, you still tend to get lost with his over-complicated ideas of theology. I used to think that the homily was the most boring part of Mass and prayed for it to end, but that all changed a couple of years ago.

When my family first started going to church in Keeseville, I didn't really like the whole idea of starting over with my faith base. I knew that I wouldn't be completely starting over, but who likes change in the first place?

I was an altar server at my old church so I would have to learn how this priest liked things set up and the atmosphere was completely different. I didn't know most of the families here and I was nervous, but then I started to warm up to my new church as the Sundays flew by.

Now let's go back to the homily part I mentioned earlier. Why did I suddenly start to like homilies and pay attention? Well, it was all because of one priest - Monsignor Lee Poissant. Some of you may know him, some of you may not, but trust me, you wish you did.



PHOTO BY BRENDA SMITH

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant, pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville, is pictured at a Dec. 18 Mass during which he was honored for his 50th anniversary as a priest. Here, Seton Catholic student Samantha Bashaw writes about the influence that Father Poissant has had on the growth of her faith, particularly because of his homilies.

Father Lee is the most influential priest I know, besides our wonderful pope and Bishop LaValley of course. Over the five years that I have known him he has solidified my belief as a follower of Christ.

My faith grew exponentially under him as pastor of St. John the Baptiste and Immaculate Conception in Keeseville and it all started at the homily. My idea of the homily completely transformed under him. Let me give you the basis on how Father Poissant delivers his homilies and then maybe you'll see what altered my faith journey.

After the Gospel was read, Father would put his hands together over his nose and close his eyes for a couple of seconds. I always imagined that he was praying before starting his homily or maybe collecting his thoughts. I honestly don't know, but then, he would slowly start to walk towards the front of the altar. He would take his hands away from his face, adjust his robe, and then suddenly

clasp his hands together and delve right into the homily, like a sprinter when the gun goes off.

His voice echoing throughout the church as he begins to tell a story, or say a quote from a famous person, or even tell a joke that somehow always relates to the message of the Gospel.

His stories are elaborate, but easy to understand. The message is clear, and he seems to never miss a single detail as the congregation tentatively listens to every word he says with a slight smile on their faces.

Once a story is finished the ending usually results in a low chuckle from those listening and you can be sure that Father Lee is right there with you, a twinkle in his eye as he laughs at his own words.

His voice changes as the stories and messages change further putting emphasis on what we need to hear for our own lives. His tone is never monotonous and it's hard not to pay attention when Father is speaking. You are captivated

by everything he says and you suddenly find yourself reflecting on your own life and then it seems as if he is talking specifically to you.

This happened to me a couple of weeks ago when I was attending Father Poissant's 50th celebration as a priest, when in the middle of his homily I began to cry. Yes I cried at Mass. To me, if you need a good cry, the Lord's house is the perfect place to do it. No one is going to judge you there, trust me.

Anyway, that week had been tough for me and a lot was going on personally. I looked up from my lap at Father and he said something that drove home everything that I had been going through recently.

He quoted Pope John XXIII saying "Don't be pushed by your problems, be led by your dreams". My heart was shocked by the truth of his words and then he looked at me as if he knew what was going on in my head and I couldn't hold back the tears. They silently rolled down my cheeks and I was shak-

ing from the power of his words. As they sunk in, I'm positive that I am not the first to have experienced this instant of "wow".

It was a time that I am going to remember for a long time. And I have had other moments like this while listening to Father speak that strikes certain chords in my heart, whether they are emotional, spiritual, humorous, or sad.

Father Poissant's homilies make you think about the life you are living and the life you leave behind and how people will remember you as you lived that life. I've had second thoughts on more than one occasion and you start to ask yourself am I doing what Jesus would want me to? Would he be proud of me, or disappointed? What about when the Judgment time comes, will I be accepted?

Questions such as these are ones that we should be asking each and every day, but I never really understood that until I was challenged by Father Lee Poissant's homilies.

At the end of each homily he always has a clever way to wrap things up, like wrapping up a big present full of knowledge and wonder, tying a bow around it, and then leaving you wondering whether or not you are going to open it up and let its contents truly enter your heart and soul.

Unfortunately, Father Poissant is retiring this coming spring and it saddens me just thinking about how different everything is going to be. I'm sure whoever will preside next will be wonderful, but it's hard to replace something that is already irreplaceable. Thank you Father for everything, there will never be enough words to properly show you my gratitude. You have touched so many people's lives and I am honored to be called a parishioner by Father Lee Poissant.