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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 26

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 19, 2014

## 'Everyday holiness' builds Kingdom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While weak humans may want spectacular signs of God at work, Pope Francis said, most often God's kingdom is growing in quiet, hidden ways, for example in a family that struggles financially, but is rich in love and cares for one another.

"The kingdom of God is silent," growing like a seed

underground, the pope said Nov. 13.

"The Holy Spirit makes it grow, (but) with our openness, on the ground that we must prepare," he said, according to Vatican Radio.

"Think of the perseverance of many Christians who struggle to raise their family, men and women who look after their children, care for

the grandparents and arrive at the end of the month with only 50 cents. But they pray," the pope said. "The kingdom of God is there, hidden in that holiness of everyday life."

Jesus repeatedly tells the disciples that the kingdom of God is not far off, he said. Rather "it's near. This is one of its characteristics. It's near

our daily lives."

In the day's Gospel reading, Lk 17:20-25, the Pharisees ask Jesus when the kingdom of God will come, and Jesus replies, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

## The census: Find Your Home in Christ



Parishes are taking first steps in conducting a diocesan-wide census, a goal cited as part of the pastoral vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## A culture of vocations

Two vocations - marriage and the diaconate - are explored by two married men

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## A SALUTE TO SCOUTS



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Father Bryan Stitt, chaplain of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting, are shown with four of the 21 scouts who received religious emblems at the 20th annual Diocesan Scout Mass Oct. 19 at Notre Dame Church in Malone. Bishop LaValley blessed the religious emblems and awarded them with Father Stitt as Cory L. Haynes, Diocesan Chairman of the Catholic Committee on Scouting, announced the names those honored. Pictured here, from left are Tristan Hellijs, who earned the Parvuli Dei emblem, St. Andre's Parish of Malone; Giovanni Di Nola, Parvuli Dei, St. James' Church of Carthage; Troy Bulris, Ad Altare Dei, St. Joseph's Church of West Chazy, and Alexandra Mesick, Spirit Alive, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church of Chazy. The complete list of scouts and their awards is published on page 8.

## BISHOPS' MEETING

### Bishop LaValley shares reaction



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, gives his address Nov. 10, the first day of the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. He reminded his fellow bishops that their role is to accompany the family of the church through their fears and concerns. Bishop LaValley offers his thoughts about the gathering in his Follow Me column. This week's *NCC* also features a report about actions taken at the meeting.

FULL STORIES, PAGE 3, 11

**OPEN OUR HEARTS:** Bishop's Fund supports priests' continuing ed., p. 6

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400  
**BISHOP TERRY  
R. LAVALLEY**  
President  
**REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN**  
Vice President  
**SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
**MARY LOU KILIAN**  
Editor/  
General Manager



Publish 15 issues per year:  
Weekly except every other week beginning the end of May through August and skipping one week in December 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; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

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

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you, God, for *our* Living Stones

This week, we continue our November focus on vocations, stressing again that we are all called to holiness.

In this issue, we're pleased to present our new family life director, Steve Tartaglia, as he writes about his vocation to marriage as well as Deacon Larry Ambeau who has completed his first year of living two vocations, as a married man and a permanent deacon.

These two men certainly contribute to the "culture of vocations" towards which our diocese is striving as

part of our newly adopted pastoral vision.

As an added vocational bonus, we offer one more profile of a consecrated religious woman and a few more 'thank you's' to priests of the diocese.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

And speaking of priests, we have a take a minute to ask for prayers for an important member of the NCC family.

Father William Muench underwent open heart surgery last week and, we're happy to hear, is recovering just as he should.

He'll face tremendous challenges in the coming weeks, so we'll be praying that he is blessed with the strength – and patience (!) – that he needs to keep things moving in the right direction.

His editor offered Father Muench as much "sick leave" as he needs but I have a feeling it won't be too long before we see his words of wisdom on this page again.

The people of this particular paper – Steve, Deacon Ambeau, Sister Annunciata, Father Muench, Msgr. Whitmore, census volunteers, scouts and the rest – are among the Living Stones in our diocese to which

Bishop LaValley refers in his column on page 3.

They live "faith-filled lives," which "point out the way to Christ and keep hope alive for others."

In upcoming issues, we will profile more of the amazing Christ-like Catholics in our midst, people who "breathe care and hope into the lives of other children of God."

How blessed we all are that these Living Stones are *ours*.

Next week, as we thank God for all the good gifts of our lives, we can add a special prayer of gratitude for the extraordinary people in our North Country family of faith.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Looking towards a special Thanksgiving

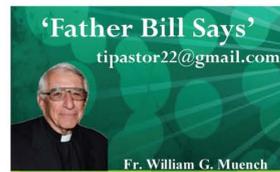
Again, a little more about November. Besides the wonderful feasts of All Saints and All Souls, we have the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Each November we pause to celebrate a very basic Christian quality – being thankful.

Every time Holy Mass is celebrated, there is an act of gratitude – gratitude to Our Lord Jesus – who died for us on the cross and rose again to new life. Jesus continues to give himself to us in the Blessed Eucharist in an act of gratitude for all peoples.

You may remember that the very word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. Eucharist is a Greek word still heard of on the streets of Athens as someone offers thanks to another: "thank you" – "Eucharistia."

This year Thanksgiving will be a very different experience for me. I am writing about this as an opportunity for me to express my gratitude and love to so many. I am putting my very being in the hands of doctors and nurses as I am about to undergo bi-pass surgery.

Like many Americans, I think I can take care of myself – completely. I love to be of help to others, to parishioners and friends when they are in need



Fr. William G. Muench

or going through health crises. I have personally escaped anything serious.

And now along comes this situation and I must depend on others. I must place my trust completely in my doctors.

I must admit that all of this is a real surprise; the last thing I would think of would be heart problems. I have walked with many through this heart surgeries and often said to myself "this will not happen to me." Well – surprise – surprise.

Now, so many of my family, friends and parishioners have begun turning to me and promising prayers and support. I have promised and offered prayers and celebrated Masses for so many in need in the past. Now, all of a sudden, I am the one who is being prayed for.

I know in faith that these prayers truly make a difference. I suspect I have mentioned to you about reading an

article in some sort of psychology magazine in which an author, a psychologist, considered how valuable it was in any sort of health need to have many praying and remembering the person in need. That is so interesting. We people of faith are certain that it is good and important but this was a secular psychologist

I must admit that even now as I am getting ready for surgery, I feel so much support in the concern and prayers of so many. It is a rather loving spirit. It certainly removes so much of the stress and anxiety.

So, I am so intensely grateful to so many who have been so caring, taking a moment to remember me. It is a rather curious feeling. I am not alone as I sit here in this hospital room. In so many places, so many wonderful friends and families who are part of my life as a priest are taking a moment to pray for me, to support me, to say to me that they are willing to take some of my fear on themselves. I will not walk into that OR alone tomorrow. I will have the Lord and a whole band of loved ones.

So I am filled with gratitude today. Oh, I am a little worried – I was just reading a descrip-

tion of all that will happen and all that I must do during the recovery and it sounds rather complicated but I have such great support.

I am writing this a week or so before you will receive this however, I am remembering so many in gratitude for their prayers and concern and love. I must admit that I am also taking some time praying for my doctor and his helpers, the other doctors and nurses. Their dedication and care is very special; it is truly TLC. I am developing a deep respect for all physicians and health care people.

With God's grace, when you read this you will also know that all went well for me. I will keep you informed.

This will be a special Thanksgiving Day this year.

## Editor's note

According to a Saturday morning report from his brother, Father Muench's surgery was a complete success and his doctor is pleased with his progress. Cards and letters may be sent to Fr. William Muench, c/o Thomas Muench, 6485 Randall Road, Dewitt, NY, 13214.

## FOLLOW ME

# Building parishes with living stones

As you know, one of our Diocesan Priorities is *Building Parishes with Living Stones*. Relying on God's Spirit, we seek to make our parishes outward-looking families of faith.

Parishes are more than obligatory sacramental fueling stations. What happens inside the sacred walls must inform what we do outside of them.

Through our own faith-filled lives, we seek to point out the way to Christ and keep hope alive for others.

Last week, I joined Bishops from all across the country for the annual plenary assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, MD. As we addressed one agenda item after another, it became clear to me that our diocesan priority, *Building Parishes with Living Stones*, is a priority well beyond our diocesan borders.

At the sessions, we received reports about our Catholic Church's outreach of humanitarian care and peace-making efforts to peoples around the world.

For instance, we learned of the love and support of-

fered by Catholic Relief Services in Syria, Ukraine, and East Africa.

We heard about the tremendous assistance that the Church is giving to those suffering from the Ebola disease and were told of the great help we offered to those who suffered through last year's devastating typhoon in the Philippines.

Our contributions to such national and special appeals make such a difference in the lives of so many.

Although more sensational "news" seems to grab the headlines along with some of the media's spin and comment, I was reminded last week of our Church's ongoing global efforts to practice what we preach.

We know that, although the scale is much reduced, such generous pastoral outreach is common within our own diocese, as well.

Respecting the Gospel values of respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life, and charity and justice for every person, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been responding to the

needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities for the last ninety-seven years. In addition to its counseling services, Catholic Charities' outreach services include: adoption, community & Parish services, financial assistance, long-term Ombudsman Program, Parenting Classes, Maternity Services, Offender Accountability Groups, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Seaway House, among so many others.

Check out their website for more information at: [www.cathcharities.org](http://www.cathcharities.org).

Some of our parishes manage soup kitchens, outreach centers and clothing stores. Local St. Vincent de Paul stores, parish and local community food pantries and organizations such as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights of Columbus and Women's Auxiliaries, to name just a few, help to build up local parishes with Living Stones.

In his Motu Proprio, "*On the Service of Charity*," Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The service of charity is a constitutive element of the Church's mission and an indispensable expression of her very being...all the faithful have the right and duty to devote themselves personally to living the new

commandment that Christ left us" (Benedict XVI, *On the Service of Charity*, Intro.)

## Parishes are more than obligatory sacramental fueling stations. What happens inside the sacred walls must inform what we do outside of them

As we gear up for another season of consumer frenzy, we might consider how we might respond to our personal duty of charity.

How can I make my faith come alive? For every ten dollars I spend giving gifts to loved ones, I might consider giving one dollar to someone in need or to an institution that serves the needy.

Many of those who receive material gifts from us have problems finding enough places to put them all. For every hour I spend at the movies or watching a football game, I might consider spending some time visiting a neighbor or family member who is in the nursing home, is homebound or hospitalized.

Such outward-looking charity transforms us. The movement from self-absorption to other-centeredness is

the mark of spiritual growth.

Many of us will join our parish or other organizations in preparing Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets to give to others. We are grateful for such assistance.

Real spiritual growth is evidenced when such a good charitable gesture becomes not only a seasonal activity but a life-long attitude of looking for ways to extend ourselves to others in need.

Such charity gives substance to our personal relationship with Jesus.

Pope Francis wrote, "The planet belongs to all mankind and is meant for all mankind; the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are living with less dignity." (Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 190)

As our worship in Church motivates even greater attentiveness to the respect due every person, we are becoming living stones that breathe care and hope into the lives of other children of God.

Thank you for making this a priority in your life and for setting your own personal goal in helping to build your parish with *Living Stones*.



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## Combined collection to be taken up Nov. 22-23

By Sister Donna Franklin  
Diocesan director, Catholic Charities

The parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg will take up the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions combined collection on the weekend of Nov. 23.

Each year 25% of the funds from the CCHD collection remain in the diocese for local projects with two grants awarded to local agencies.

Over the years some of the local organizations that have received grants are: St. Peter's (Plattsburgh) Soup Kitchen and Charity Fund, St. Alexander's, (Morrisonville) startup funds for their parish Soup Kitchen, Watertown Urban Mission Bridges Program and the Ticonderoga Backpack Program.

This year's theme for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Working on the Margins, highlights Pope Francis' concept of Church.

He invites us to be a church that opens its arms in welcome to all of our brothers and sisters living on the margins.

### For the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions

Working to end poverty presents a challenge and a goal for every Catholic who believes in mercy and jus-

tice. You can help to raise individuals and groups out of poverty through your financial gift to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The collection for the Black and Indian Missions provides essential resources for our brothers and sisters from these communities.

An annual grant funds religious education and evangelization programs throughout the United States.

Pope Francis provides us

with an example of a life lived for others. His teachings focus us on our call to community. Your support of the Combined Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions builds community, expresses the compassion of our loving God and opens the door to a life lived with dignity for all those who need a "hand up".

Further information is available from Catholic Charities at (315) 393-2255.

## BUILDING PARISHES WITH LIVING STONES

# Find Your Home in Christ



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Bev Newton, Sandy Lyons, Mary Truskowski and Nancy Williams were among the parish volunteers from the Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie who took part in the recent training session to



conduct their parish census. At right, St. Joseph Sister Shirley Ann Brown, diocesan point person for the goal of completing a diocesan-wide census, is shown leading the training workshop for pastors and parish leaders in the Clinton Deanery.

## Parishes take first steps in conducting diocesan-wide census

By Father Jay Seymour  
Pastor, Catholic Community of  
Morristown, Hammond and Rossie

One of our diocesan goals related to Building Parishes with Living Stones is to complete a diocesan-wide Find Your Home in Christ Census of all households between Oct. 1, 2014 and Aug. 1, 2015.

When we were first presented with this idea of a diocesan-wide census many were probably scratching their heads. Did the Bishop and the Envisioning Team bite off more than they can chew with this one? This is pretty ambitious! I mean, we are being asked to visit not just Catholics but EVERY HOME IN THE DIOCESE!

Indeed it is an ambitious undertaking but there is good reason for the census and it is not being asked of

us without the diocese providing us with a great deal of support.

Under the direction of St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown and her working committee the groundwork now has been set to help us to achieve this rather ambitious goal.

Among the accomplishments of this committee has been the development of Parish, Leader and Volunteer Guides that provide the framework for conducting the parish census. They have also selected and are making available a choice of handouts that can be used during the home visits that parishes can either purchase or produce locally.

A second phase of the work of the committee involves the training of pastors and parish leaders on the census protocol. Trainings in Lewis, Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton-Herkimer and St. Lawrence Deaneries have already taken place. Upcoming trainings have been scheduled for Jefferson Deanery Jan. 13 and Essex and Adirondack Deaneries in April 2015.



Most parishes will be undertaking the census in the Spring or Summer of 2015 but the Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie has already begun. Having Sister Shirley Anne as our resident pastoral associate was certainly an advantage in helping us to get started. The recommendation of our Parish Council was to conduct it in phases, two weeks in October of this year and two weeks in July 2015 when we could connect with our summer parishioners.

As might be expected, on first hearing of the census there was some anxiety on the part of parishioners. It seemed to be asking us to move out of our comfort zone going door to door to

visit people we didn't know or perhaps people we did know who were not even Catholic. This is something other religious sects may do, not Catholics. At least, this is what some may have argued in our minds as an excuse in order to escape volunteering.

The volunteer training helped to alleviate much of the anxiety. It was made clear that we were not pushing anything but were simply reaching out to our Catholic brothers and sisters, listening to their concerns and inviting them back to church if they happen to have drifted away.

If it happened to be a non-Catholic household being visited, we were just offering a friendly greeting reminding them that we were neighbors and that our church wanted to work together with them to help better our local community.

The census also had the practical purpose of updating our church records giving us a more accurate picture of the Catholic population within our parish bounds.

Although there may have

been some initial apprehension, volunteers in our parish are reporting mostly positive experiences. A once reluctant but now enthusiastic volunteer, after some meaningful sharing in one visit with some inactive Catholics, commented that maybe the Bishop intended this census to be more for ourselves and our own spiritual development than for those being visited. Actually, it is not either or. We both benefit.

The Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie is already seeing some of the fruits of the census visits with new faces showing up at church. The on-going challenge is to have them keep coming by making them feel welcome and thanking them for enhancing our celebration with their presence.

We have something very special in the Catholic Church and we need to witness to that fact not only with our liturgies but with our lives so that people will be attracted to the faith we profess understanding that our true home is indeed in Christ.

### Editor's note

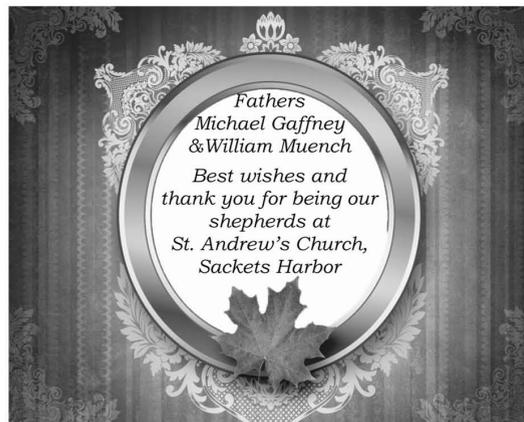
Father Seymour, pastor and episcopal vicar for clergy also serves as the point person for the implementation of the *Building Parishes with Living Stones* diocesan priority

## A BLESSING FOR PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Parishioners of Notre Dame Parish in Ogdensburg extended their arms forward to join in a special blessing Deacon Mark Lalonde gave Father F. James Shurtleff as part of Notre Dame's Priesthood Sunday celebration Oct. 25. This year also marks Father Shurtleff's 15th anniversary as pastor of Notre Dame parish.

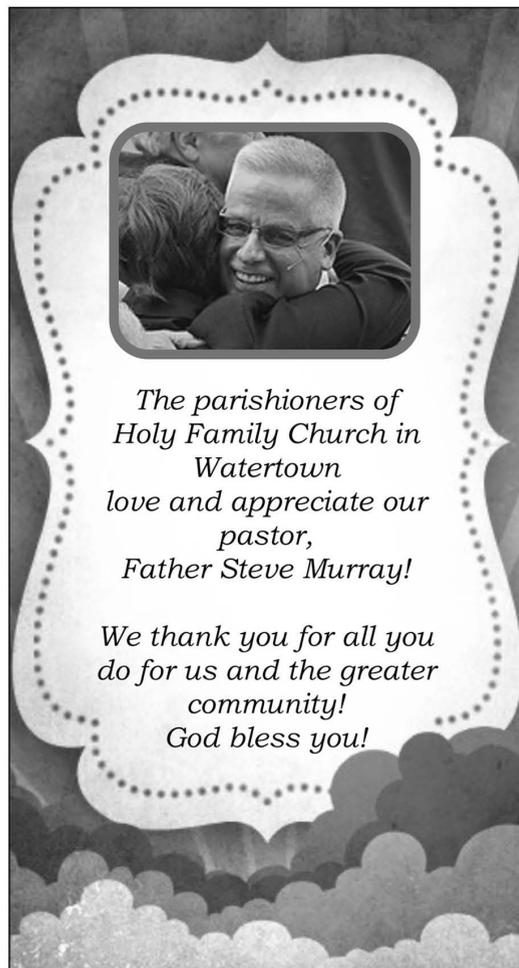


*Fathers  
Michael Gaffney  
& William Muench  
Best wishes and  
thank you for being our  
shepherds at  
St. Andrew's Church,  
Sackets Harbor*

## WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



**Fr. Kevin McEwan**  
Thank you for your support!  
Sister Sharon & St. Mary's School,  
Ticonderoga Staff and Students  
**WE ARE ST. MARY'S STRONG!**



*The parishioners of  
Holy Family Church in  
Watertown  
love and appreciate our  
pastor,  
Father Steve Murray!*

*We thank you for all you  
do for us and the greater  
community!  
God bless you!*

## OPEN OUR HEARTS

# Bishop's Fund supports continuing ed. of priests

By Father Kris Lauzon  
Chair, Committee for  
Continuing Education of Clergy

Anyone who has traveled across this beautiful Diocese of Ogdensburg can easily see that we have been greatly blessed by our God. The natural settings of the Adirondack Mountains, the Champlain and St. Lawrence Valleys and even the Tug Hill Plateau inspire us to be in awe of the God who created and sustains us.

However the truly attentive person also knows that God's greatest creation is not, mountains, rivers, plants or animals but the human person. Created in the image and likeness of God we are called not only to be in awe of His creation but to freely offer God our praise and worship.

Bishop LaValley, in presenting the Diocesan Vision for the future reminds us to build a "culture of holiness" with "living stones".

Unique among the precious "living stones" of the



North Country are our priests. Men who have answered God's call to holiness not only to praise and worship Him but, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders they are called to devote their lives to serving God in the north country enabling others to know, love and serve the Lord.

Our priests serve the Church in many roles as leaders of Divine Worship, intercessors, instruments of healing, teachers, confessors and yes, even business managers. They deliver food to the hungry in body and spirit, set priorities in using parish resources, encourage the despairing and bring hope through the proclamation of the Gospel.

All of these are important responsibilities and the priest seeks to undertake them with the compassion of Christ, keeping focused on the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls, helping us to be "Christ-led,

Christ-fed and Hope-filled."

The Committee for the Continuing Education of Priests is charged with helping our priests to keep focused on God's will by providing opportunities for ongoing faith formation, such as November's Day of Prayer, and fraternal and educational updates, including the annual Presbyteral Assembly held in May.

Personal and professional formation is supported through the Program for the Newly Ordained inviting those priests in their first five years of ministry to gather for presentations by senior priests on topics not covered in seminary training. The Committee also supports priests seeking opportunities for short and long term sabbaticals as they further their educational and spiritual background so as to provide better service to the People of God.

On behalf of the priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg I want to thank you for your generous support of the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal and the work of the Continuing Education Committee for Priests.

The Committee's work helps us to be better priests enabling us to better serve you, the people of God entrusted to our care. God has called us to be of service and continued spiritual and educational growth will help us answer His calling.

## Bishop's Schedule

- Nov.20** – 11:00 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay.  
**Nov.21** – 10:00 a.m., School Mass at St. Bernard's Church and Visit to St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake.  
**Nov.22** – 10:30 a.m., Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Mary's Cathedral 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral  
**Nov.23** – 9:00 a.m., Family Catechesis Presentation: Call to Holiness & Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.  
**Nov.25** – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral  
 5:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner for the Special Religious Education Program at IHC Intermediate School in Watertown

## Rest in Peace

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

- Nov.20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939  
**Nov.21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968  
**Nov.22** – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010  
**Nov.23** – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963  
**Nov.24** – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950  
**Nov.25** – Rev. M.C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912

## 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: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

## Environmental Stewardship

### Do You Know How To Eat an Elephant?

The answer to that question is... one bite at a time!

When I am overwhelmed at times with the pollution and environmental havoc that our ways of living are having on the quality of air and water, I need to remember this answer.

Rather than feeling helpless and depressed, I need to find one thing that I CAN do... the "one bite at a time."

For example, I do not make the major decisions regarding the sources of energy that fuel our increasing demands; however, there may be some small choices that I can make.

For instance:

\*When paying my electric bill, I can choose renewal sources of energy, i.e. solar or wind that have less negative impact on the environment.

\*Since plastic requires petroleum to manufacture it, I can invest in reusable containers for food that reduces the need for plastic bags and wrap.

\*I can make it a habit to take reusable bags, when I go shopping. Lord, help me to see "little bites" that I can take, and give me the will to do them for the sake of my sisters and brothers with whom I share in the gifts of Creation..

## 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](http://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 sessions:  
**Nov.20** - 6 p.m., Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown  
**Jan.22** - 8 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

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## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



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## CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

# The call to marriage

By Steve Tartaglia  
Diocesan director, Family Life ministry

When I was in college I believed God was preparing me for something special, but I didn't know what. I wanted to get married, but didn't feel ready for the responsibility and wasn't convinced I would find the right person for me.

I used to play a game in which I would see a young woman and pretend to have a conversation with God in my mind. I would say "Is that the one?" and He would reply in my voice "If I told you that was the one would you believe me?" I would say "Yes" and He would reply "That's not the one."

This went on and on until I met Christina.

The moment I saw her the first time I instantly heard a voice that wasn't my voice coming from inside me somewhere, as if I heard it from the inside out, in my mind and heart at the same time, but not with my ears. And the voice said..."That's the one."

I was surprised because she was a virtual stranger to me. I didn't know anything about her. I had never before or after heard that message about anyone else and it came with such clarity. I went home and wrote about the experience in my journal. Years later, when I was describing the story to a friend, he said it reminded him of the story of Samuel identifying David from among all of his brothers, and this was significant for me because I had chosen Samuel as my Confirmation name.

We began to spend time together as friends, getting to know each other. Clearly neither of us were developmentally ready for marriage. Ironically, we both believed we might have a calling to a religious vocation. Discerning a vocation to the priesthood meant going off to the



Steve and Christina Tartaglia are shown on their April 6, 2002 wedding day. Father Albert Hauser presided at the ceremony at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

seminary, so I did, and it was the best decision of my life.

While in seminary formation I had a regular routine that included exercise, prayer, study, spiritual direction, and mentoring. I was surrounded by other men that were all pursuing the same goal, the discernment of God's call in their lives.

I continued to journal and kept a pretty decent record of those six years. When I reread my journal I didn't know what to make of the experience with Christina and, conflicted, I would often just think I was mistaken.

I continued on in the seminary until God made it clear that priesthood was not what He was calling me to. I left seminary and reconnected with Christina. A few years later we married each other.

I share this story for two reasons. First, I want you to know that all vocations need to be discerned carefully. Discernment is a

process of looking, thinking, praying, talking to others, getting guidance from trustworthy mentors and making the best decision you can. A religious vocation takes at least six years of discernment. Ironically, the discernment process for getting married tends to be much hastier.

Second, I want you to know that God does talk to us all the time. God calls each of us in a way that is very personal. Sometimes it might be difficult to describe to another person just exactly how God talks to us because what is so personally convincing to us might not really have the same effect on someone else.

In order to hear God, we need to be paying attention, and I think a big part of paying attention involves turning away from things that lead us away from God.

Another essential part is the necessity of faith. Faith means that you believe in something that you can't see at the time.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Permanent deacon lives out two vocations

By Deacon Larry Ambeau  
Parish of St. Cecilia and Queen of Heaven Churches in Adams and Henderson

Just who is a permanent deacon and what does he do? A permanent deacon becomes a member of the clergy when ordained by a bishop. Through the imposition of hands and the prayer of consecration, the permanent deacon is constituted a sacred minister and a member of the hierarchy: bishop-priest-deacon.

His ordination calls him to share in the mission of Christ.

Pope John Paul II cites in *Lumen Gentium*, 29: "For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity to the people of God."

I was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Bishop LaValley Oct. 5, 2013. That day was one of the most important days of my life because it was the day I began a second vocation. It is the vocation in the diaconate.

You see I am very fortunate to have two vocations: marriage and diaconate. Thirty-nine years ago I married a wonderful young woman, Vickie, and we started our family together. Our family has grown to three children, who are all married, and six grandchildren: three boys and three girls.

God called me to serve my own family and to serve the rest of His family. The other family I serve in addition is the people of the Parish of St. Cecilia and Queen of Heaven Churches in Adams and Henderson where I have been assigned as their deacon. I serve with the newly named pastor, Father Martin Cline.

As I reflect back on my ordination weekend last year two things stand out.

One is a gift I received from one of my classmates in deacon formation. He gave me a towel to remind me of my responsibility to service to my family, my fellow deacons and the rest of Christ's flock just as Jesus did when he washed the feet of his apostles at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday night. I have that towel near my computer where I can see it daily to remind me of my commitment.

The second thing that made a great impression on me was that on the day after ordination I had the privilege of baptizing one of my grandsons at my first Mass as a deacon.

I cannot describe the feeling I had of not only celebrating my first Eucharist as deacon with two of my favorite priests - Fathers Patrick Ratigan and Leo Wiley - but also of being allowed to welcome my grandson, Logan Kotary into Christ's fold through baptism.

Wow what an experience! Recently I received the faculty to preach homilies. Through the guidance of Deacon Kevin Mastellon and Msgr. Paul Whitmore I wrote and delivered several homilies at the Monastery of the Precious Blood and St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor in preparation for receiving the faculty.

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PHOTO SUPPLIED

On the day after his Oct. 5, 2013, ordination as a permanent deacon, Deacon Larry Ambeau of Adams baptized his grandson, Logan Kotary. The deacon is shown during the ceremony with his daughter Melissa and her husband Andy Kotary, Logan and their other son Lucas. The godparents are Thomas Ambeau and Shellie Ambeau Tucker

## Deacon

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Deacon Kevin was my homiletics professor during deacon formation so I thought he would be an excellent choice as mentor to offer constructive guidance in helping me write my homilies. I thought correctly. Deacon Kevin tweaked my homilies and gave me pointers on delivery, which gave me the confidence I needed.

I attend Mass at the Monastery regularly on Saturday mornings and have developed a great admiration for Msgr. Whitmore. After Mass a number of us guys along with Monsignor go to breakfast and have various discussions on all topics of our faith. I asked Monsignor if he would help me with obtaining the faculty to preach. Again I hit a homerun in selecting Monsignor. His years of experience in delivering thought stimulating homilies were very helpful in my campaign.

I have to apologize to Monsignor for one of my homilies though. I delivered a homily on the gospel in Matthew where Jesus addresses worrying. It is Matthew 6:25-34 and I started out the homily singing the first verse to Bobby McFerrin's song: "Don't Worry Be Happy." Well the Monsignor says that the song is permanently stuck in his mind and I am to blame. All I can say to that Monsignor is: "Don't worry be happy" in God's love.

This past year has gone by fast. I love being a father and grandfather to my family and a deacon to my parish family. I particularly love serving at the celebration of the Eucharist by proclaiming the Gospel and occasionally delivering a homily, writing and saying the Prayers of the Faithful and assisting at the distribution of Holy Communion. I also love celebrating Holy Hours with Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction of which we have three each month: two at St. Cecilia's and one at Queen of Heaven.

We pray for religious vocations, which we all desperately need. I assist at Sunday morning religious education classes; and instruct the altar servers, lectors and extraordinary ministers in their ministry. I cannot wait until I retire from my employment so that I can spend more time serving all my families.

## Bishop presents religious emblems to Catholic scouts

**MALONE** - Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Father Bryan Stitt, chaplain of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting, celebrated at the 20th Annual Diocesan Bishop's Scout Mass at Notre Dame Church Oct. 19.

At Holy Family School, Bishop LaValley blessed the religious emblems and awarded them with Father Stitt as Cory L. Haynes, Diocesan Chairman of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting announced the recipients:

### Spirit Alive

Alexandra Mesick, Sacred Heart of Jesus of Chazy

### Light of Christ

Aiden Gold, St. James Church of Carthage

Logan Gold, St. James Church of Carthage

Nathaniel Higgins, St. Paul's Church of Black River

Hector Lopez, St. James Church of Carthage

Hayden Tolbert, St. Michael's Church

Patrick Tucker, St. Michael's Church

### Parvuli Dei

Tristan Hellijas, Notre Dame Church of the St. Andre Parish of Malone

Giovanni Di Nola, St. James Church of Carthage

Danny Carlin, St. Michael's



Bishop LaValley presents the Bronze Pelican Adult Religious Emblem to Cory Haynes of St. Regis Falls as Father Bryan Stitt, chaplain of the Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting looks on. Haynes is chair of the committee.

### Church

Aiden Gold, St. James Church of Carthage

Terrance Higgins, St. Paul's Church of Black River

Timothy Hill, St. Michael's Church

Matthew Leeds, St. James Church of Carthage

Hayden Tolbert, St. Michael's Church

Patrick Tucker, St. Michael's

### Church

#### Ad Altare Dei

Troy Bulris, St. Joseph's Church of West Chazy

Andrew Rivera, St. Joseph's Church of Dannemora

#### Pope Pius XII

Rafael Rivera IV, St. Joseph's Church of Dannemora

#### Bronze Pelican Adult Religious Emblem

Cory Haynes, St. Ann's Church of St. Regis Falls

#### St. George Adult Religious Emblem

Randy Besio, St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Church of Massena

### At the retreat

During the scout retreat which preceded the Mass, scouts participated in a game of curling with an Olympic Coach, explored options to consider for their own vocation, earned a commemorative patch for learning about St. Isaac Jogues, created a personal first aid kit for an outing, and helped with service projects at Holy Family School.

Information about the Catholic Scouting emblem programs, the summertime Mountain Top Mass, the Annual Retreat, and the Bishop's Scout Mass is available at [www.rcdony.org/scouting.html](http://www.rcdony.org/scouting.html).

## Marriage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Pope Francis has asked us to memorize the beatitudes. My favorite is "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." There is nothing I want more than to see the God who I have heard and felt in my mind and heart, face to face. I believe that the vocation that God calls each of us to is designed to have the effect of purifying our hearts so that we will be able to see Him face to face.

I remember, toward the end of my time in seminary, meditating on Psalm 37:4, "Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." I asked my friend who had just been ordained if he was happy. He said that the day of his ordination was the happiest day of his life. He meant it and it was apparent.

I didn't experience that for myself until the day I married my best friend. Then

came the days that each of my five children were born. Then there were first teeth, first steps, first words, first days of school and "I love you Daddy."

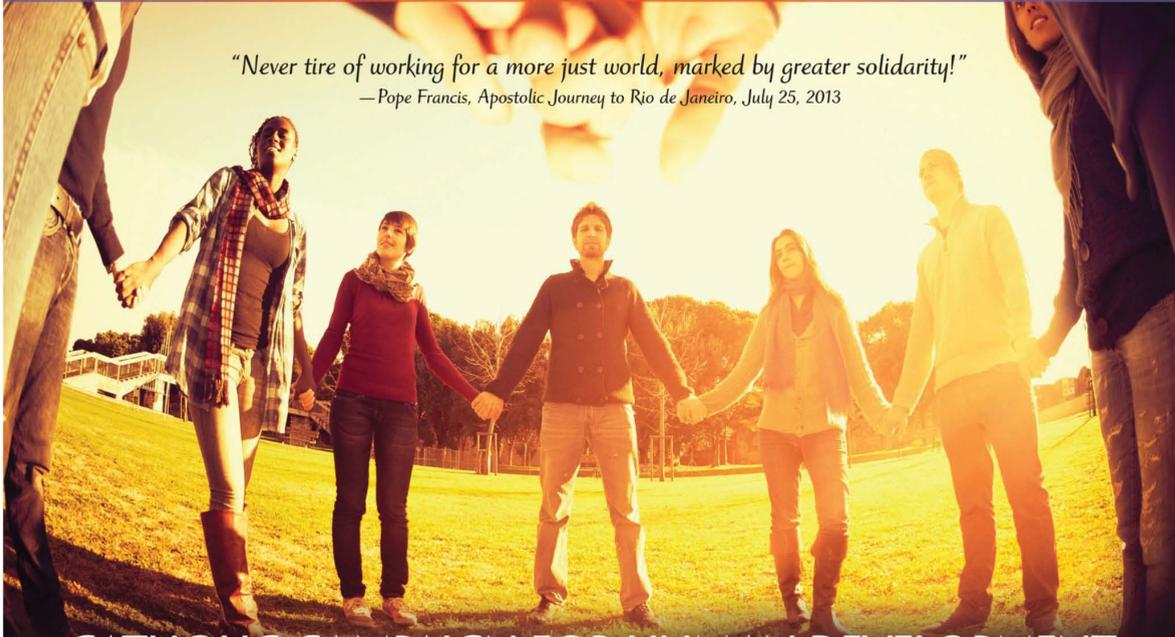
Each of these happy milestones confirmed my vocation and made me want to be a better, holier man.

God called me to marriage and family life and for this I cannot thank Him enough. How does God talk to you and what is He asking you to do and to become?



SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

*"Never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity!"*  
—Pope Francis, Apostolic Journey to Rio de Janeiro, July 25, 2013



# CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

[www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

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# Feeding the hungry

*Challenges identified in feeding the 1 billion chronically hungry people in the world*

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, MINN. (CNS) -- With projections putting the planet's population at 9 billion by 2050, the question of how to feed them is taking on ever-greater importance.

**It's a problem of poverty,  
it's a problem of entitlement,  
it's a problem of inequality.  
It's also a problem of waste**

Fred Kirschenmann, a distinguished fellow at the Leopold Center of Iowa State University

But at the "Faith, Food & the Environment" symposium Nov. 5-7 in St. Paul, held at the University of St. Thomas and sponsored by more than a dozen Catholic and agricultural organizations, some speakers suggested the question may need to be asked differently.

"It's the wrong question," said Fred Kirschenmann, a distinguished fellow at the Leopold Center of Iowa State University, giving people "a moral justification to continue doing more of what they've been doing."

Kirschenmann said enough food is being grown today to feed 10 billion people, yet 1 billion people remain chronically hungry.

"It's a problem of poverty, it's a problem of entitlement, it's a problem of inequality," he said. "It's also a problem of waste."

Estimates put the amount of waste at 40 percent of all food grown. "If you're throwing away 40 percent of what is produced, is it optimal to produce 20 percent more?" asked Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, chief of staff to Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson, head of the Pontifical Institute for Peace and Justice, one of the symposi-



CNS PHOTO/YAHYA ARHAB, EPA

Yemenis receive food at a distribution center in Sana'a, Yemen, Feb. 13. Speakers at a "faith and farm" symposium in St. Paul, Minnesota, discussed the ever-growing importance of how to feed the planet's people, especially in light of projections that the world's population will reach 9 billion by 2050.

sium's sponsors.

The waste rate doesn't come from people sliding uneaten food from their plates into a wastebasket or garbage disposal. The major of that wasted food, he said, is left rotting in farmers' fields because they know the buyers of their crops do not want any blemished merchandise.

Kirschenmann said a French supermarket chain addressed the problem by stocking blemished produce and selling it at 30 percent off the prices asked for their unblemished counterparts. The tactic was so successful, he added, "you know what the problem is now? Supply."

Calvin DeWitt, a professor at the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, took a different perspective. He said the problem is not how much food is grown, but who grows the food.

Most people living in developing countries, he argued, are subsistence

farmers. They often grow enough to feed their family and to sell some at a nearby market.

Their way of life, he said, and existence, is threatened by such variables as bad weather and war, turning a handscramble life into one that could result in uprooting themselves from their land and seek refuge in big cities, if not other countries.

Hauling freighters full of wheat and other staples across oceans is not going to solve the problem DeWitt said, it will require a concerted effort to reach those farmers and their plots in advances made in farming.

Those advances may include genetically modified organisms. Some nations have refused to allow them, and some consumers in developed countries reject them. But some GMO crops may benefit the farmer with more, and more healthful crops. How to apply faith principles for GMO use? "It's an interesting question --

which is my way of saying I don't know," said Christopher Thompson, academic dean of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas. "You have to be careful about wild experiments."

But the planet's ability to feed itself may be at stake, according to Kirschenmann. Early humans, he said, were not food producers but "food collectors," hunting, killing and eating prey for their subsistence.

In the past 10,000 or so years, humans have engaged in a process of what Kirschenmann called "slash and burn" farming. This process accelerated in the last century or so through using water, petrochemicals and minerals to make the land more productive.

While it has resulted in increased yields, the planet runs the risk of exhausting its resources. The Ogallala aquifer under Nebraska, said the Rev. Clifford Canku, a Presbyterian minister, mem-

ber of the Dakota Indians, and a retired professor of Dakota studies at North Dakota State University. The aquifer's water reserves were built up over millions of years. But at the pace the water is now being used up, it will run dry in about 50 years, he predicted.

Thinning topsoil runs the same risk. However, National Farmers Union president Roger Johnson, said the planting of "cover crops" after the harvest of a cash crop can restore the soil's health, cutting pesticide use by 70 percent, and increasing rainfall retention. The soil under cash crops has been degraded to the point where it can absorb about only a half-inch of rainfall, he said. But after a few cycles of planting cover crops, the same soil can retain eight inches of rain.

That doesn't take into account the old agrarian practice of letting land lay fallow through crop rotation practices to keep it strong. Kirschenmann said that, even when farmers ignore these practices, "nature abhors the density of any species. ... If one method fails, she will try another."

Another, and less comfortable way of looking at the question is by asking how many people the planet can sustain. Kirschenmann said, "We have to look at what the carrying capacity of the human species is," he said. "I haven't heard anyone say, 'Oh, 9 billion or 10 billion people is all right,'" adding he knows that ethicists and theologians have not wanted to deal with this issue.

Kirschenmann himself said he did not know what a sustainable number might be, tossing about the numbers 5 billion and 3 billion. But neither he nor anyone else at the symposium suggested how the planet might get down to a lower number.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Vatican public restrooms to include showers for the homeless

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The archbishop who distributes charity on behalf of Pope Francis has announced that the public restrooms in St. Peter's Square will include showers where the homeless can wash. The service will require volunteers and donations of soap, towels and clean underwear, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, told Catholic News Service Nov. 13. "We have to be evangelical, but intelligent, too." Several people living on the streets of Rome or in tents say it is not difficult to find a parish or charity that will give them something to eat, but finding a place to wash is much more difficult. The news site Vatican Insider first reported the news that Archbishop Krajewski had asked the office governing Vatican City State to include showers in an already-approved project to remodel the public restrooms in St. Peter's Square.

## Family meeting agenda stays positive, doesn't shy away from issues

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- A glance at the topics to be presented at next year's World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, including premarital sex, homosexuality, infertility and celibacy, might give the impression that it's all about sexuality and the Catholic Church's teaching on it. But Mary Beth Yount, a theology professor at Neumann University and director of content and programming for the World Meeting of Families, believes it is much more than that. "It's not all about sex," she said. "We're pulling in the larger context, not just human sexuality and not just family relationships. This is for all people in all walks of life: married, dating, single by choice, celibate." Organizers of the Sept. 22-25, 2015, meeting that is expected to draw some 12,000 individuals and families from around the world have posted the preliminary congress agenda on the website [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org), displaying the daily schedule of official congress events held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The congress will examine "how best to be in human relationship with God and each other," Yount said. "What are the ways we can live fruitful lives?"

## New Pew survey shows Latin Americans leaving Catholicism

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- Increasing numbers of Catholics in Latin America are abandoning the church in favor of evangelical congregations or nonreligious life, according to a new survey, making Pope Francis' calls for renewed evangelization efforts in the region ever more urgent. The Pew Research Center survey of 30,000 residents of 18 countries and Puerto Rico showed 69 percent of respondents confirming they were Catholic, even though 84 percent of people said they had been raised in the church. The Catholic population has slipped sharply over the past century, when their numbers topped 90 percent. Evangelicals have pulled people away from parishes and into their church pews often by promoting what those converting would consider more attractive ways of worshipping the Lord, an emphasis on morality and solutions for their earthly afflictions -- mostly poverty related, said Andrew Chesnut, religious studies professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. Some Central American countries and Uruguay now have almost as many Protestants or religiously unaffiliated people as Catholics in their populations. If the trend continues, "even Brazil, home to the largest Catholic population on earth, will no longer have a Catholic majority by 2030," said Chesnut, author of a book on evangelicals in Brazil. The survey underscores the urgency of the pope's pleas for action in Latin America, where Catholicism has been intimately associated with culture, governance and history for more than 500 years.

# Bishops OK liturgy items, endorse sainthood cause, hold elections at assembly

BALTIMORE (CNS) - Though there were no actions on the U.S. bishops' agenda in Baltimore dealing with immigration, poverty and other public policy issues, the president of their conference said Nov. 11 that he hopes to meet with President Barack Obama and House and Senate leaders soon on several topics.

In a brief comment during the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said he had heard from many of his brother bishops about those issues and hopes conferring with the politicians will supplement the work that committees and USCCB staff are doing.

He told Catholic News Service that he intends to pursue a meeting with the president and congressional leaders as soon as December.

In other action on the second public day of the Nov. 10-13 meeting, the bishops:

- Approved several liturgical items, including a revised translation of the ritual book used whenever a new church is built or when a new altar is made; the first official English translation of the ritual book "Exorcisms and Related Supplications"; and a supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours that is an English translation of the prayers used for feast days of saints who have been added to the general calendar since 1984.

- Voted to proceed with a revision of a section of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services dealing with partnerships.

- Endorsed the sainthood cause of Father Paul Watson, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement in 1899, and in his day a leading advocate of Christian unity.

- Approved a 2015 budget of just under \$189.5 million.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, gave a presentation on the newly revised "Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States."

As the number of priests and pastoral ministers from other countries increases in the United States, he said the resource provides information for dioceses, eparchies and religious communities to prepare international ministers for their service and help the communities that receive them.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle, USCCB secretary and chairman of the Committee on Priorities and Plans, told the bishops that activities revolving around four key goals of the USCCB is an indication that "the conference planning process is working quite well."

The current four goals, or priorities, are faith formation and sacramental practice; strengthening marriage and family life; the life and dignity of the human person; and religious liberty.

The bishops also heard a report on the work of various committees - pro-life, domestic justice, international justice, evangelization and religious liberty - which together are trying to pinpoint what Catholics in the pew are thinking.

One of the major findings from the study - that Catholics want to find out more about their faith - has prompted plans for a 2017 convocation in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 4.

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, invited the bishops to a 2015 Lay Ecclesial Ministry Summit. The June 7, 2015, event will mark the 10th anniversary of the bishops' statement "Co-Workers in the

Vineyard of the Lord." It will be held just prior to the USCCB spring general assembly in St. Louis.

In elections, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans won the secretary-elect spot. The committee chairmen-elect are: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, pro-life activities; Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, communications; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, cultural diversity; Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, doctrine; Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, national collections. Each will assume their offices next November for a three-year term.

The meeting included reports on the recently concluded extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family; Catholic education and an outreach to Hispanic students in underserved communities; the progress of planning for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia; the status of the 2013-16 USCCB strategic plan, "The New Evangelization: Faith, Worship, Witness"; the 2015 Fortnight of Freedom; and the defense of marriage.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the committee - extended for another three years - planned to focus more on teaching and expanding networks with Catholic lay groups and interfaith and ecumenical partners. He said threats to religious liberty remain a great concern.

"The challenges to religious liberty with regard to the redefinition of marriage grow daily," said Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, in his report.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Christ the King marks end of Church year

Today is the last Sunday of the Church year, the Feast of Christ our King.

The readings sum up what we need to remember the most about living as a Catholic Christian, and how God (who is also our judge), will measure our success of failure in living with God for all eternally.

First, how does God like to think of Himself?

Of all His titles, He wants to be known as a "shepherd" who guides and lead us all

to His kingdom. The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, reveals God's displeasure with the ancient leaders of Israel. "I myself will look after and tend my sheep."

Tenderly He will watch out for our every need - "twenty-four seven!"

"I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy or dark," He says.

Further, this perfect shepherd will seek out the lost, the injured, and the sick.

(No wonder our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, is so upset with clergy and laypeople, who think of their own comfort first and neglect to care for beggars and the crippled and the needy. He's upset when we don't think of them as equals, and as our brothers and sisters).

What a King we have! How lovable and just!

The second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians shows us how we are promised resurrection and a share in the treasures of heaven through the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. We could have no

NOV. 23

## Feast of Christ the King READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28  
Matthew 25:31-46

richer inheritance.

In the Gospel, we have all the guidelines spelled out for our "final exam".

Jesus will say to us, "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you ... for I was hungry and you have me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you

welcomed me..."

It all seems so simple. Anyone can share what they have, or take time out to visit a sick and lonely relative or acquaintance. If we welcome a stranger, then they can easily become our friend. All we have to do is to recognize Christ in everyone we meet.

What really great readings these are. How worthy they are to ponder over, to memorize and practice each day.

If we do, we are promised Heaven in the company of the King Himself!

Like the end of the Church year, it's the end of one journey and the beginning of the next!



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

# Physician-assisted suicide: confronting fears

The prospect of a very attractive, recently-married young woman with a terminal illness facing excruciating pain and suffering as she dies is enough to move anyone.

The life and death of 29 year old Brittany Maynard

recently captured enormous media attention when she declared she was moving to Oregon to commit suicide after having been informed by her doctors that she had an aggressive form of brain cancer and likely had only six months to live.

She brought her life to a close on Nov. 1st, a date she had selected ahead of time, by taking a lethal dose of barbiturates prescribed by her doctor.

In the public discussions that have ensued, some have ventured to argue that suicide under such desperate circumstances would, in fact, be justifiable.

A recent on-line article from Time magazine observed that few fault those who were trapped on the top floors of the Twin Towers on 9/11 when they jumped to their deaths below as the flames surged

around them.

Similarly, the article suggests that those who face the prospect of a difficult, pain-racked death from a terminal disease should be able to take their own life through physician-assisted suicide without fault or blame.

For those jumping out of the Twin Towers, however, we recognize a horrific situation of desperation, and even the possibility of a kind of mental breakdown in those final panic-stricken moments.

Their agonizing choice to hurl themselves out of the building to their deaths below would be, objectively speaking, a suicidal act, and would not represent a morally good choice, but their moral culpability would almost certainly be diminished, if not eliminated, by the harrowing circumstances in which they found themselves, driven by raw terror more than by anything else.

Clearly, grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of suffering can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide.

Yet in the face of a terminal medical diagnosis, it is not reasonable to let our fears dictate our choices; instead it behooves us to confront and resolve those fears without yielding to panic and without allowing un-pleasant future scenarios to loom large in our imagination.

Brittany Maynard not only greatly feared a difficult death for herself, but also argued that protecting her family from pain and suffering was an important consideration in her decision to carry out physician-assisted suicide: "I probably would have suffered in hospice care for weeks or even months. And my family would have had to watch that. I did not want this nightmare scenario for my family."

Yet even with very noble intentions and a loving concern for our family, we can unwittingly become overzealous in our desire to "protect" them from suffering.

Brittany's desire to protect her family and friends from pain by committing suicide also led her to cross over critical moral boundaries such that she deprived her family and friends of the chance to love her through her sickness.

Suicide in any form runs contrary to our duty to love - to love ourselves and to love our neighbor - because it unjustly breaks important ties of solidarity we have with family, friends and others to whom we continue to have obligations.

It is always violent to eliminate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. We effectively give up on the Creator and all he has created. We refuse the help of our neighbor, the love of a family member, or even the beauty of another sun-drenched day to lighten our affliction.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

## AT THE MOVIES

## INTERSTELLAR

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

As befits a sprawling space epic, "Interstellar" (Paramount) aims high.

While its ambitions are admirable, and its visuals dazzling, the film's roughly three-hour running time tries patience.

Director and co-writer (with his brother Jonathan) Christopher Nolan charts the exploits of a crew of astronauts who use a wormhole to speed their travel to distant planets. Their critical goal is to find a habitable refuge for the entire human race, which is facing worldwide starvation back on a dystopian, dustbowl-plagued version of Earth.

Leading the mission is former test pilot and engineer-turned-unwilling-farmer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey). With society's

need to cultivate crops having displaced interest in advancing technology, Cooper, a widower, has been forced to pursue an agricultural lifestyle on the farmstead he shares with his cranky father-in-law Donald (John Lithgow), his placid teen son, Tom (Timothee Chalamet), and his precocious, adoring daughter, Murph (Mackenzie Foy).

So when an unusual turn of events results in the opportunity for Cooper to command a space expedition, he essentially jumps at the chance, despite the fact that the prospect of his prolonged absence is nothing short of crushing to Murph.

Cooper is joined on the journey by astrophysicist Romilly (David Gyasi) and science officer Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway). The latter's father (Michael Caine) - a renowned professor who was once Cooper's mentor -

conceived the rescue program and is its overall supervisor.

"Interstellar" has most of its values in good order as it weighs familial ties against the sacrifices necessary to advance the common welfare and ponders the place of love within a worldview shaped by quantum mechanics and Darwinian evolution. But both the film's implicit message about the dire consequences of overpopulation and a subplot involving frozen embryos call for moral discernment.

Cinematically, unnatural situations resulting from the relativity of time and other environmental factors create a distance from ordinary reality that blunts the impact of the movie's human element. In this respect, "Interstellar" stands in contrast to Nolan's masterful 2010 mind-bender "Inception."



CNS PHOTO/MELINDA SUE GORDON, COURTESY PARAMOUNT

From left, Timothee Chalamet, Matthew McConaughey and Mackenzie Foy star in a scene from the movie "Interstellar."

In that earlier picture, different strands of events simultaneously unfolding within varied chronologies made for suspense and excitement. Here the playful feel of "Inception" is absent, as too is the driving sense of urgency.

The film contains ethical

issues, some bloodless violence, occasional crude and crass language. 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.

## EVEN A BISHOP CAN BE TEMPTED!



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Bishop Terry R. LaValley was a guest at the Sept. 28 harvest dinner at Sacred Heart in Chazy. He's shown above with sixth grade workers in the "Sinners' Den" goodie pantry, Celine Juneau, Macy Hosler and Sydney Hampton.

## Physician

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Even as our lives wind down, we have a calling to be good stewards of the gift of life. Hospice and palliative care, along with careful pain management, can lighten our burdens during the dying process. The mutual support of family and friends enables us, and them, to grow in unexpected ways.

By respecting and working through the dying process, we can encounter deep and unanticipated graces. We may recognize the need to ask for and receive forgiveness from others and from God. We may become aware of God's presence and receive a strengthened faith.

We gain peace in our dying days and hours by accepting our mortality and our situation, journeying down the road that still opens ahead of us, even as

it becomes shorter, living it with the same tenacity and generosity we did when the road was yet longer.

---  
*Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncb-center.org](http://www.ncb-center.org)*



## ADIRONDACK

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR/CRAFT FAIR

**Lake Placid** – The Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft fair to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 6

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

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Vendor space is available \$45-\$55 per space. There are toys, gifts, crafts, wreaths, trees, holiday plants, baked goods, raffle and silent auction

**Contact:** Kathleen at 518-523-3771 or at info@stagneselementary.com

## CLINTON

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

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

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Plattsburgh** – Annual Seton Catholic Christmas turkey dinner is set

**Date:** Dec. 7

**Time:** Noon to 6 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors (55+), \$7; Children 5-12, \$6; under 5, free; Take-outs, \$9

**Features:** Adults bringing toy or food item will receive \$1 off meal. Event will include: Basket Raffle; 50/50 drawings; Bake Sale and Holiday Wreath Sale;

## BUS FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** - Time to sign up for the 2015 Lake Champlain Bus for Life.

**Schedule:** Meet at St. Peter's Church in on Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for the Jan. 22 March For Life. Arrive in Washington, D.C. early Jan. 22; Free Time in the morning. Rally and March at noon on National Mall; Meet at St. Peter's Church in D.C. at 4:45pm for the trip home.

**Cost:** \$25

**Contact:** Karen Smith at 518-566-6229 or Betty Buffett at (518) 536-6640. To sign up for the bus or make a donation, mail your check to St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Note on the memo line: "Bus for Life."

## QUILTING CLASSES

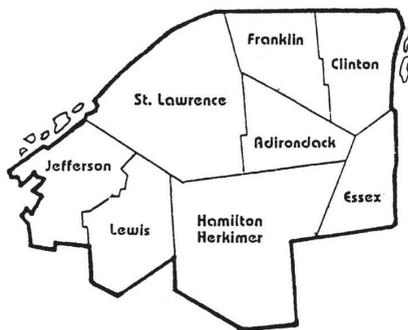
**Ellenburg Center** – Quilting classes to be held.

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks

**Cost:** \$25 per class

**Classes:** Disappearing Pinwheel class: Nov. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donna Hastings, guest instructor.

**Contact:** Email thelostsheepquilt-shop@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253. Overnight accommodations available.



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.

## 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

## BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

**Keeseville** - There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

## HEALING MINISTRY

**Morrisonville** - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's holds Living Waters Healing Ministry

**Date:** First Thursday each month

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

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

**Features:** Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

## FRANKLIN

## CHRISTMAS TEA

**North Bangor** – St. Augustine's Parish will hold their annual Christmas Tea.

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

**Features:** Luncheon with homemade soups, sandwiches, and beverages; crafts, baked goods, Cake Walk, Chinese Auction, raffles and visit from Santa

## ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

**Bombay** – Local Christian churches to hold an Ecumenical Prayer Service.

**Date:** Nov. 23

**Time:** 4 p.m.

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

**Features:** Bring a non-perishable food item for local food pantries.

## DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

**St. Regis Falls** – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held.

**Date:** First Saturday of each month.

**Time:** immediately following the 4:30 anticipated Mass.

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

**Contact:** 518-856-9656

## LATINS MASS

**Constable** - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant. Mass will also be celebrated every first Saturday at 9 a.m.

**Place:** St. Francis of Assisi Church.

## JEFFERSON

## ADVENT RETREAT

**Adams** - The Ladies of St. Cecilia are sponsoring an Advent Women's Day of Reflection.

**Date:** Dec. 13

**Time:** 9 a.m. to noon

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

**Features:** Fr. Martin Cline will speak on the theme: 'God so Loved the World.' Lunch of bread and soup will be served. **Contact:** Please RSVP by Dec. 7 Call Judy Johnson @ 777-1801.

## HOLY HOURS

**Adams/Henderson** – Holy Hours to be held.

**Schedule:** First Wed. at St. Cecilia 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 3; Jan. 7; Feb. 4; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by pot luck) Dec. 15; Jan. 19; Feb. 16; March 16; Thursday at Queen of Heaven 5:30 p.m.; Nov. 20; Dec. 18; Jan. 22

**Features:** adoration following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Wed.

## NOVEMBER ULTREYA

**Watertown** - Cursillo Community celebrating November Ultreya

**Date:** Nov. 20

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

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

**Features:** Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

**Contact:** Anne, ams2962@gmail.com or Pat, panning5010@twcny.rr.com

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – The Altar Rosary Society of St. Anthony's Parish will be having a spaghetti supper.

**Date:** Nov. 20

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

**Features:** Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

## MEN OF FAITH

**Carthage** – An Advent mini retreat for men who wish to further their love and understanding of the Catholic faith will be held, sponsored by K of C #291

**Date:** Dec. 6

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

**Place:** St. James Church.

**Features:** Guest speaker Father Mark Reilly. Mass at 9:30 will be followed by fellowship and refreshments.

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

**Watertown** - Liferight of Watertown, a pro-life educational organization, meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

**Watertown** – Holy Hour for vocations to be held.

**Date:** Mon.-Fri.

**Time:** 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Holy Family Church

**Features:** Eucharistic Adoration & personal prayer

**Contact:** 315-782-2468

## LEWIS

## ADVENT REFLECTION

**Lowville** – Annual Advent Morning of Reflection to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 22

**Time:** 9 a.m. to Noon

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

**Features:** We will gather for prayer, discussion, fellowship and refreshments.

**Contact:** Please sign up by Nov. 20 by calling the parish office at 376-6662

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

**Houseville** - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of December to be held

**Date:** Dec. 7

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

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

**Contact:** 348-6260

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Lowville** – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 20

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6

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

**Features:** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, The Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and The Benediction.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ADVENT RETREAT

**Morristown** – Advent Retreat to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 6

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** Cedarhaven

**Cost:** \$25

**Features:** Sister Bethany Fitzgerald will present on the theme: "Nurturing a 'Mary' Heart in a 'Martha' World" Retreat will explore ways of developing a contemplative heart amid everyday activities. Option for extended retreat time until Sunday, 10 a.m. (includes lodging, dinner, breakfast with option for individual direction) for additional \$40.

**Contact:** 315-6592 or srbethsj@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

**Ogdensburg** - The Ogdensburg Knights of Columbus Council 258 is starting up its Community Free Lunch

**Date:** Wednesdays

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** K of C Club

**Contact:** Club Rooms 393-7990 after 4 p.m. any day or on Wednesday's after 10:30 a.m.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@rcdony.org

# A sign of thanks this Thanksgiving

From the desk of Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSI,  
 Diocesan Mission Director

I am very grateful for your generous World Mission Sunday offering for the support of the Church's missionary work. Your assistance is a blessing to those who serve in mission dioceses.

With your help you are "building His Church," when a priest in Africa reaches out with the healing heart of our Lord to victims of famine and war.

With your help you are "building His Church," when a catechist in Asia is able to uplift the poor with the "Good News" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With your help you are "building His Church," when religious Sisters throughout the Missions teach children, care for the orphan, and offer the suffering the love and compassion of our Lord. Your help, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is "building our Church" in the Missions year after year. Please know that I am most grateful for your generosity and prayerful support.

While World Mission Sunday is celebrated only once a year, I hope that in the months ahead you will continue to remember the missionary work of the Church, especially in your prayers. I hope also that you will also continue to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, as you are able.

Thanking you again for your enthusiasm and generous participation in this year's celebration of World Mission Sunday.

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



## OBITUARIES

### Sr. Margaret Mullin, S.A.

GRAYMOOR, N.Y. - A Mass of Christian Burial for Atonement Sister Margaret Mullin, 81, was held Oct. 18 in the mother-house chapel at St. Francis Convent.

She died Oct. 14 at Lurana Health Care Residence at St Francis Convent. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

Born in Ireland, she entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 1948 and professed final vows in 1956.

She served the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor as formation director in the early 1980s, and was a member of its leadership team, 1986-1991.

Among her assignments, Sister Margaret served parishes in Dannemora, Cadyville, Brushton and Malone.

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**Altona** - Hilda (Deyo) Fennessy, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2014 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Au Sable Forks** - Lorn J. Snow Jr., 89; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2014 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** - Maurice E. Charlebois, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Alexandria, Ontario.

**Chateaugay** - Laura B. Willette, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Constableville** - Veronica E. Sullivan, 52;

Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** - Carleen R. (Mainville) Burditt, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Glenfield** - Robert M. Skinner, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

**Heuvelton** - Sue (Stewart) Mehaffy, 55; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2014 at St. Raphael's Church.

**Keeseville** - Veronica M. (Blaise) LaDieu, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2014 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Louisville** - Anita (Beaulieu) Beattie, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** - Audrey L. (Sorell) Monette, 72; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** - Willard P. Snyder, Jr., 66; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2014 at the Brusno-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** - Robert T. Ward, Sr., 64; Funeral

Services Nov. 10, 2014 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

**Ogdensburg** - Edward O. Sovie, 77; Funeral Services Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** - Stephen F. Flanagan, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2014 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** - John L. Thume, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh

**Waddington** - Cory T. Dalton, 38; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2014 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Rena L. (Guiliani) Hopseker, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2014 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Sonja M. (Smith) Monroe, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2014 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**West Chazy** - Priscilla M. (Yelle) Dragoon, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's cemetery.



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*Fifth in a series of biographies of the 2014 jubilarians*

## Sister Annunciata Collins: SSJ for 50 years

Sister Annunciata Collins, principal of Augustinian Academy, Carthage, has been a Sister of St. Joseph for 50 years.

A native of Watertown, she is the daughter of the late John and Rosemary Collins and a sister to David Collins who died in 1958 and to F. Hugh and Mary Ellen Collins of Gaithersburg, MD. She has two nieces, Megan and Bernadette.

Sister is a graduate of Holy Family School and Immaculate Heart Academy, Watertown. Having been taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, she knew that they were the community with whom she wished to pursue consecrated life.

"They seemed so joyful and pleased to be doing what they were doing... teaching my classmates and me," Sister Annunciata said. "They challenged us to do our best and they were will-

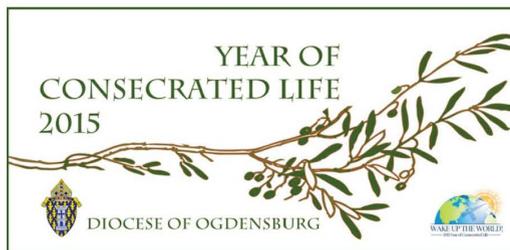


Sr. Annunciata Collins, SSJ

ing to help us when we needed extra help.

"Our teachers worked hard but they had time for fun, too," she said. "They had fun with us and with each other."

Sister Annunciata began religious life on September



7, 1963, received the habit on June 24, 1964 and made final vows on August 28, 1969.

She received her BA in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from SUNY Potsdam and an MA in Biblical Studies from Providence College in Providence, RI. She completed studies at Fordham University and SUNY Plattsburgh for NYS certification in school administration and supervision.

Sister Annunciata has served in St. John's School

in Morristown, St. Joseph's School in Massena, Holy Name School in Tupper Lake, Holy Family School in Watertown (where she later returned as Principal), Holy Name School, AuSable Forks (where she also served as principal), Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

Sister Annunciata also served as pastoral associate in St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams, on the Leadership Council and as the Major Su-

perior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown.

At present she serves as principal of Augustinian Academy in Carthage. She is also a member of the Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life and of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Sister says it is a joy to be a sister. She can't believe how fast the years have gone by and how many students and families she has known. Sister is grateful to all who have helped and encouraged her.

Sister Annunciata recommends that persons considering religious life not be afraid to ask God to guide them and help them to choose the path which will lead them to become their best selves.

"Don't hesitate to talk to a trusted adult, visit the motherhouse and a local convent," she said. "Consider where you can best serve God and his people."

## Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### ST. LAWRENCE

#### 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

#### 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

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Celebrant: Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

#### 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

Contact: 315-769-3137



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin and Father John Downs concelebrated Mass at St. Patrick Church in Colton Nov. 8 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church.

### NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

#### ADVENT EVENING OF RENEWAL

Syracuse - Advent Evening of Renewal: Our Radiant Life in Christ.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Speaker: Jim Krisher

Features: Advent is the season when we

ponder the mystery of Christ's coming into human history. Attendees will leave with a renewed awareness of God's love and the astonishingly good news of God's designs for humanity. The evening will include guided meditation and refreshments.

Contact: [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com)  
Phone: 315-472-6546 Email: [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com)

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