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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 27

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 26 2014

# Pope is coming to U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis said he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September, making it the first confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America.

The pope made the announcement Nov. 17 in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage.

"I would like to confirm that, God willing, in September 2015 I will go to Philadelphia for the eighth World Meeting of Families," the pope said. The announcement had been widely expected, since Pope Benedict XVI had said before his retirement that he hoped to attend the Philadelphia event. Popes typically fulfill their predecessors' publicly known travel plans, as Pope Francis did in July 2013 when he attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was in Rome for the families meeting, told Catholic News Service the announcement was "a surprise in the sense that it was announced so early; usually they don't make these announcements - four months out is the typical and here we are 10 months away, and the Holy Father said he is coming to Philadelphia.

## ADVENT BEGINS

### Preparing for the Lord

CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

A lit candle in the Advent wreath marks the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30 this year. Advent is a joyful period during which Christians prepare for the commemoration of Christ's birth. This week's *North Country Catholic* features the first in a series of articles showing Advent as a season of prayer, as a day of prayer for men is planned in Carthage. Also, Msgr. Whitmore offers reflections on the scripture readings for the first Sunday of Advent and evangelization director Marika Donders provides a number of resources to observe the season in a way to become closer to Christ.

SPECIAL FEATURES, PAGE 4, 8, 12

## Men of Faith to gather for prayer

An Advent Men of Faith gathering will be held at St. James Church in Carthage Dec. 6. The program will feature prayer, discussion and fellowship for all interested men.

The event will start with Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by a talk by guest speaker Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches in Massena.

Afterward the men will be invited into the St. James Community room until about noon.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## A culture of vocations

The *NCC* completes its November focus on vocations with a reflection from a consecrated woman

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## MUGS SHOT OF THE BEST KIND!

PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Nick Olley from St. James Parish in Carthage and Grace Leader of St. James in Gouverneur were among the young people who took part in a Coffeehouse sponsored by St. James Youth Rock and the diocesan Pre-Cana office Nov. 8 at the Oswegatchie Coffee Company in Gouverneur for all youth groups in area. The faith formation topic was Chastity in Catholic Dating; entertainment was provided by musician Ryan Grant of Adams.

**OPEN OUR HEARTS:** Bishop's Fund supports Good Samaritan Fund... p. 8

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EDITOR'S NOTE

# Thank you Lord, for giving us.....

There's nothing to be said during this particular week except… thank you

Thank you, God, for Father Muench's excellent recovery to the point at which he felt strong enough to write for us just days after his surgery.

Thank you, God, for religious women like Sister Mary Helen Hermann who are grateful themselves to have been called to lives of service.

And, thank you, God, for the generous folks among us who prepare special programs for young and not so young people to gather together to grow in their faith.

In this issue of the *North Country Catholic*, we are overlapping themes as we conclude the November focus of creating a culture of vocations and begin an Advent emphasis on prayer. Of course, the transition is oh-so-subtle since vocations and prayer can't survive very well without each other.

I don't know if you could say it any better than Bob Renaud who's one of the chief organizers of an Advent Day of Prayer for Men in Carthage (read all about it on page 4!)

In his own vocation as a father and husband, Mr. Renaud understands that his "number one job is to get (his loved ones) into heaven." And, he knows that he can't do it without plenty of spiritual nourishment for himself!

In upcoming Advent issues, we will feature a special place in our diocese completely devoted to prayer as well as the pilgrimage prayer of a couple of our priests.

In the meantime, we can get back to just saying thank you. God has blessed our diocese with extraordinary spiritual leaders who give us all the support we need to get ourselves into heaven! **MLK**

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

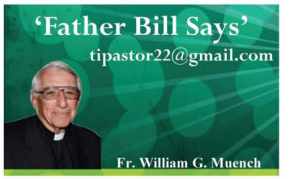
# Life changes in a couple of short weeks

My question this week has often been "Why me, Lord?"

I know my confessor would immediately respond to me – this is not a good question – there are more important concerns. Why do you think you are so special that God is spending time going after you? A much more important question to occupy my attention "Why not me, Lord?" The answer to that question is actually not so complicated. I have so much to learn – so much that I have yet learned in my life. It is about time for me to get busy.

So, as I reflect and look over my life, I know only too well that I have been blessed by the Lord – constantly blessed. I've had no big crises, no challenging health problems in my life. This moment in my life – this major surgery - has suddenly given me a new and important phase in my life. I have written often about suffering yet, have suffered little. All of a sudden I have experienced suffering. Now in just a couple of short weeks things have changed. I have gone to a new place in life and have entered a new experience in my life's journey. I have suffered – and that is a rather new experience for me.

The story that comes to me today is the story of St. Father Damien. I am certain that you have heard about Father Damien who volunteered to minister to the leper colony in




Molaki. Leprosy is a highly contagious disease especially in those days and yet Father Damien's faith and dedication was so strong that he was valiantly willing to be chaplain to these lepers.

As time went by he did contract leprosy. However, his ministry to these folks took on a whole new strength and vigor; he actually considered his leprosy a gift from the Lord. Now he could stand before his people and honestly know exactly what they were going through. He could speak of them as his brothers and sisters. He was one of them.

It is called Incarnation. Advent and Christmas celebrate our belief in Incarnation as Jesus, the Son of God, became one of us to teach us, to live among us, to experience all that we as humans. He came to die for us and lead us to new life in the resurrection.

In this way, there is not one of us who can say to the Lord "You don't know what I am going through, Jesus." Instead our prayer should always be "You know us, Jesus. You know what our life is about. Please help me. You know what I am now going through."

I will now see suffering in a new and different way. I think I can preach about suffering in a much better way. I have been there, Lord.

I would like to share with you a meditation from the writings of Thomas Merton: "Lord, I have not lived like a contemplative. The first essential is missing. I only say I trust You. My actions prove that the one I trust is myself – and that I am still afraid of You. Take my life into Your hands, at last, and do whatever You want with it. I give myself to Your love and mean to keep on giving myself to Your love – rejecting neither the hard things nor the pleasant things You have arranged for me. It is enough for me that You have glory. Everything You have planned is good. It is all love.

The way You have laid open before me is an easy way, compared with the hard way of my will which leads back to Egypt, and to bricks without straw. If You allow people to praise me, I shall worry even less, but be glad. If you send me work I shall embrace it with joy and it will be rest to me, because it is Your will. And if You send me rest, I will rest in You."

"My intention is to give myself entirely and without compromise to whatever work God wants to perform in me and through me."

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CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

# Sr. Mary Helen Hermann: SSJ for 50 years

Sixth in a series of autobiographies from the 2014 religious jubilarians

John Paul St. Marie and Jaidin Hicks, students at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh, are shown with their principal, St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Hermann who is celebrating her 50th anniversary of religious life this year. Here, Sister Helen looks back on her life as a Sister of St. Joseph noting that her jubilee year "is a time to reflect on how good God has been to me."

I can't believe that 50 years have passed since I received the habit of the Sister of St. Joseph. Jubilee is a time to reflect on how good God has been to me.

Throughout my life, I have been touched by angels.

The first angels - my Mom and Dad, Anna and Adolf Hermann! They were the best in the whole world.

God gave me nine more family angels - my five marvelous brothers, and three delightful sisters. One of my sisters is also a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Cecilia Marie Hermann. I have one more sister, Mary Jean who went to her heavenly reward as an infant. Family has always been very important to me and always will be. I have lots and lots of nieces and nephews and they have added so much joy to my life.

My parents gifted me with 13 years of Catholic education at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Heart Academy in Watertown. Besides family it is one of the greatest gifts that they gave me.

I truly believe that the gift of a Catholic education is one that lasts forever. I am grateful to my Mom and Dad and to the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the missionaries of the Sacred Heart. They were a major influence in my early years. I am grateful, as well, to the diocesan priests with whom I have privileged to work.

It has been a blessing for me to live with the Sisters of St. Joseph for 50 years. They have provided me with valuable friendships and so many opportunities that I would never have had, if I had not been called to religious life.

As the Christmas movie says, "It's a wonderful life!".

My ministry has been Catholic school education. I am happy to pass on to our young people what was given to me. In my opinion there is no finer way to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and to serve the dear neighbor.

As a teacher I have been brought into contact with so many gifted people and learned from them.

On the occasion of my jubilee, I thank God for His many graces and blessings and pray for all the angels who have touched my life

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE 2015
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

**In 2013, Pope Francis declared that a Year of Consecrated Life be celebrated throughout the world. The international celebration will begin this Week on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014. It will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 2, 2016.**

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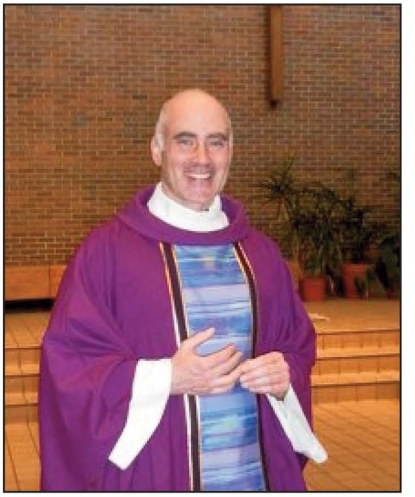
ADVENT...A SEASON FOR PRAYER

# Men of Faith to gather for prayer

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer



Robert Renaud, left, a parishioner of St. James in Carthage, is one of the organizers of an Advent day of prayer, discussion and fellowship for men to be held Dec. 6 at St. James. Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches in Massena, right, will serve as guest speaker for the program. Mr. Renaud is pictured in his art studio and Father Reilly in St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake where he served as pastor from 2000 to 2014.

CARTHAGE - Although Mass feeds the soul, there is a continued need for spiritual nourishment, according to Men of Faith organizer Robert Renaud and he isn't speaking of the coffee and donuts provided during monthly men's gatherings.

Prayer, discussion and fellowship providing such nourishment for the faith will be offered to all men Dec. 6 during an Advent Men of Faith gathering at St. James Catholic Church.

The event will start with Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by a talk by guest speaker Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Catholic Churches in Massena. Afterward the men will be invited into the St. James Community room until about noon.

## Monthly meetings

Since March, Mr. Renaud, David Heywood, a fellow St. James parishioner; and Grand Knight Michael Sligar of the local Knights of Columbus council, have organized and held monthly prayer meetings for men.

Citing a need for men to have a place where they can pray together, talk about their faith and rejuvenate one another, Mr. Renaud said the meetings help the men bring their faith back into the forefront of their lives.

"In the work world and in the secular world, it's become taboo to mention your faith," he said. "Men have, for a long time, been absent from the head of the household, especially when it comes to faith.

"It's important that men take a leadership role, and be a good example to their families, friends, and most importantly their children, who are growing up in a world with questions," he said. "They need solid ground, so they know where they are coming from."

## Initial idea

Mr. Renaud said he was first exposed to the idea of a men's group while Father Reilly was assigned as pastor of St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Theresa Catholic Churches, from 2006 to 2010, where he held monthly men's group meetings in Evans Mills.

Previous to the meetings, Father Reilly invited a group of men to the first annual Ignite Men's Conference, organized and held by the Syracuse Diocese. While there, the men were encouraged to continue their faith formation to meet regularly and discuss their faith.

Later, the pastor invited all men in the area to join him on the first Saturday of each month for Mass, the Rosary and fellowship.

According to Mr. Renaud, a core group of men consistently attended, but eventually, the meetings stopped when Father Reilly was reassigned to another parish in 2010.

## Starting again

Four years later in the spring of 2014, Mr. Renaud, Mr. Heywood, and Mr. Sligar organized the first men's group at St. James, open to all men of faith.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in Carthage, the event was kicked off by guest speaker John Miner of Saranac Lake, a Master of the 4th Degree of the 5th NY District of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Miner and his wife, Colleen, are the directors of the Respect Life Office for the diocese.

After its initial meeting, the group continued, following the format begun by Father Reilly.

## Need for adult formation

Father Reilly said when he began as pastor in Evans Mills, he recognized a real need for adult faith formation, for scripture and Bible study groups, including a need for women and men's groups.

"So many people finish their formal religious education around the eighth grade," he said. "If people stayed in their relationship with God at that point, that would be awfully stunted.

"We would never expect for people in any other aspect of their life to stay at relating to one another in the same way they were in eighth grade," the priest said.

## Masculine spirituality

Father Reilly said that not only is it important to provide for continued adult faith formation, but also for men to meet with men, engaging their masculine spirituality, as well as for women to meet with women.

"Men and women are wired differently, they think differently, respond and interact differently with one another," he said. "When there are problems, concerns and issues, they might be easier and more readily spoken about among one another, guys with guys and vice-versa with women."

Father Reilly said there are a lot of men disengaged in their faith who need encouragement.

"There is a lot of confusion of what really is a solid, healthy and well-integrated man of faith," he said. "Take a look around and see how many active, engaged members there are. Look at the breakdown, typically there are more women than men."

Mr. Renaud said the monthly meetings fill that need, and help the men grow in their faith.

"I've often told my kids, my number one job is to get you into heaven," he said. "It's not that I'm pious or righteous, I just think it's everyone's job to help each other go to heaven, and bring as many as you can with you.

For example, he said. "I really feel the Rosary is such a powerful tool against evil in this world. I'm hoping we're getting some people into heaven."

## Hope for the future

Mr. Renaud hopes that eventually the men's group will lead to other "offspring" such a couples group. According to Mr. Renaud, there are so many beautiful traditions and history of the Catholic Church and faith, and groups that pray and discuss their faith keep people reaffirming that.

"Each of us, after all, is expected to be on a constant conversion of faith," he said. "It is through the Mass we are fed but it is through gatherings like this where the nourishment continues.

"It is the source which will help us to have the courage to plant seeds out in the world and to spread the gospel," he said. "If we are given a place to share our faith and encourage each other to live faith filled lives, we will be more apt to be the light of evangelization in an often dark world."

Both men said Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James, is very supportive, choosing to be a member of the group, rather than the leader. This gives the men in the group a chance to share their leadership and other gifts.

NOVEMBER IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

# FACES OF FAITH

Nine new facilitators joined the diocesan staff of Virtus facilitators who provide training for teachers, catechists, coaches, camp counselors, parents, volunteers and employees who work with minors in the diocese. Pictured front, from left, are Anita Soltero, Christine Dumas, Linda Leavens, Lorraine Turgeon and Mary Skillan; back, Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, diocesan coordinator of safe environment; Pam Ballantine, western regional coordinator of faith formation, Janice Morse, Thomas Hamilton and Noreen Barcomb. "What a gift all our facilitators are to our diocese." Sister Ellen said. "They help form a safety net of protection for our children."

The Town of Waverly Food Pantry Director, Nadine Sochia, left, accepts $50 from the St. Francis Regis Council 7321 Knights of Columbus Advocate Cory Haynes. The council of St. Ann's Church in St. Regis Falls donated $50 to the Town of Waverly Food Pantry and $50 to the Town of Dickinson Food Pantry to help each pantry director to purchase items from the Knights of Columbus Food for Families Program. In 2013-2014 for every 500 pounds of food donated, $100 was given to the Council to give to their local food pantries.

The VFW presented a program to the students at St. Mary's School, Canton. Students from Grades 5 and 6 read poems and essays to the Veterans. A mock military funeral was held for the father of principal Pamelia Neal, a veteran of WW II. Pictured are veterans John Saucier, Jack Regan, David Pearson, David Dox, Neil Sherdan, and Ron Gilson and Debra Ames, senior vice president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Malone Council of the Knights of Columbus #308 Grand Knight John Gokey and Columbus Club President Gene Bashaw presented District Deputy Gerry Soulia with a $1,000 check for St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga recently ravaged by fire. Grand Knight Gokey stated that "Catholic Education is very important to the Knights and we do all we can to promote it". He encourages all other councils in his district and diocese to do what they can to help.

Members of Saranac Lake Knights of Columbus Council 599 were recently presented the Star Council Award by NY State Secretary Dr. Charlie Robinson, accompanied by Supreme Membership and Program Consultant Jose Jimenez, Oklahoma Past State Deputy. Chaplain Father Pat Ratigan celebrated the Saturday evening Mass in memory of the deceased members of the council. The Star Council Award is the highest award given by the Knights to a council. It recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and service program activities. Less than 10% of the K of C councils in New York State received this prestigious award for their 2013-14 Fraternal Year Activities.

# Knights plan 24th free Thanksgiving dinner

**OGDENSBURG** - Plans are nearly complete for the 24th free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Msgr. A. D. Charbonneau Council 258 Knights of Columbus and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The dinner, to be held at the Knights Club Rooms, begins Nov. 27 at noon and continues until all are served.

Knights and other community volunteers are still needed to provide transportation to the event and deliveries. If you can offer your services as a volunteer driver or server, call the Club Rooms at 393-7990.

There is still time to make reservations for the sit down meals and deliveries with Tuesday, Nov. 25 the deadline. No names need to be given. To make reservations and to arrange for transportation, if needed, call the Knights Hall at 393-7990 after 4 p.m. any day.

Volunteers are also appreciated on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25 at 6 p.m..to help with setting and decorating the Hall and on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 a.m.. The Knights usually need about 30 helpers. If you can help call the club and leave your name.

Donations of desserts are also welcome and should be dropped off at the Club Rooms the night before or the morning of Thanksgiving. The meal is always free to anyone, so monetary donations and donations of food stuffs such as canned cranberries and stuffing are also appreciated.

Donations may be mailed to the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner at 721 Hasbrouck Street, Ogdensburg, NY. 13669 Attn: Grand Knight Bill Taylor; food stuffs may be dropped off between 4 p.m. and 8.

Last year the Knights and the Community volunteers prepared and served over 600 dinners.

# Mercy Care of Adirondacks receives grant to aid elders

**LAKE PLACID**— Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has been awarded a grant by the Frances L. Carpenter Foundation.

The grant will help Mercy Care provide direct service to elders through its Friendship Volunteer and Volunteer Parish Nurse Programs and support its Community Empowerment Program to help elders age in place more successfully.

Jerry Hayes, President of Mercy Care's Board of Directors remarked, "Mercy Care deeply appreciates the Carpenter Foundation's continued support and generosity.

Mercy Care relies solely on charitable contributions from individual and foundation donors. It receives no government support or reimbursement for its services. Mercy Care's services are offered free of charge to those it assists."

Since July 1, in addition to the Carpenter Foundation grant, Mercy Care has received grants from the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community Ministry Fund, the Kingsley Foundation, Adirondack Foundation Generous Acts Fund, and Adirondack Foundation - The Frances Douglass Silleck Uihlein Mercy Center Fund.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is located at 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946. For more information, please visit Mercy Care's web site at http://www.adkmercy.org

## Job Opening

The Advancement Director works to enhance the financial resources that serve the current and long-term needs of Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central School. The Director plays an integral role in articulating the mission of Seton by developing relationships with benefactors while assisting with student enrollment and coordinating marketing efforts. A Bachelor's degree and experience in fundraising is preferred. Commitment to the mission of Catholic education is required. Excellent written, oral and computer communication skills are essential. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Seton Catholic Central School,

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Applications are currently being reviewed.

A copy of the job description is available at
www.setoncatholic.net and www.setonacademy.net

## Bishop's Schedule

**Nov. 30 - Dec. 11** - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

## 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. 25** – Rev. M. C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912
**Nov. 27** – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999
**Nov. 28** – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice, 1929
**Nov. 29** – Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957; Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984
**Dec. 1** – Rev. Charles Goulet, 1913; Rev. George J. Bouchard, 1967
**Dec. 2** – Rev. Charles Desrosiers, 1944; Rev. Joseph A. R. Cote, 1969; Rev. Joseph Fortier, M.S.C., 1970

## 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 pre-register 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:
**Dec. 6** - 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone
**Jan. 22**- 8 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

## Environmental Stewardship

### Happy Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving Day we call to mind the courage and faith of our forefathers and mothers. It is also a time to remember the welcoming presence of the Native Americans who not only shared their food, but showed the pilgrims how to survive winter in this new land. Another gift the native people shared was their profound sense of gratitude for every part of creation. Even today they begin important meetings with a lengthy prayer offering gratitude for each aspect off earth that sustains life . It is out of this profound sense of the sacredness and connectedness with all life that their decisions are made with a consideration of impact of this decision on the seventh generation.

This sense of appreciation for the gifts of Creation is reflected, too, in the Scriptures. See Daniel 3:57-88; there we see that even the "ice and snow" are called upon to "bless the Lord!"

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving, let us include in our thanksgiving prayer, our gratitude to God for the earth, for the farmers, and for all the hands that got it to our table, along with all the other awesome gifts the Lord has bestowed upon us.

## 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

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

**Pope calls abortion, euthanasia, IVF sins 'against God the creator'**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis denounced a "false compassion" that would justify abortion, euthanasia, artificial reproduction technologies and medical research violating human dignity. And he urged medical doctors to "go against the current" and assert "conscientious objection" to such practices, which he called sins "against God the creator." The pope made his remarks Nov. 15 in a meeting with members of the Association of Italian Catholic Medical Doctors. "The dominant thinking sometimes suggests a false compassion, that which believes it is helpful to women to promote abortion; an act of dignity to provide euthanasia; a scientific breakthrough to produce a child and consider it to be a right, rather than a gift to welcome; or to use human lives as guinea pigs, presumably to save others," Pope Francis said. "We are living in a time of experimentation with life. But a bad experiment. Making children rather than accepting them as a gift, as I said. Playing with life. Be careful, because this is a sin against the Creator: against God the creator, who created things this way," the pope said.

**Immigration plan largely welcomed; critics challenge its legality**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- President Barack Obama's package of actions affecting millions of people without legal immigration status received support from Catholic organizations, labor unions and immigration advocates even as critics contended that the steps he announced violated the Constitution. Advocates for the immigrant community, including national and international church agencies, continued their call for Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform that would include much of Obama's executive action announced Nov. 20. Among the supporters of Obama's action was Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. He was joined by more than 200 people attending the archdiocese's annual Catholic Legal Services banquet celebrating the accomplishments of immigrant Americans in greater Miami in watching the president's televised speech. The response of the immigration lawyers in attendance was generally positive, he said. "What President Obama did will provide relief for a significant number of people," the archbishop told Catholic News Service Nov. 21. "But it's just that. It's sort of like putting a Band-Aid on a wound. We still need Congress to act to provide comprehensive immigration reform. That's the real solution." Archbishop Wenski urged critics in Congress to "take a deep breath and get control of themselves and enact comprehensive immigration reform. They should be able to do that in a bipartisan way. What Obama did was provide relief for a significant number of people. But it's not sufficient. He couldn't do anything more than what he did. He did everything possible within his legal authority."

# Pastoral care of the dying a 'ministry of presence' as the end draws near

By Angela Cave
Catholic News Service

**ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS)** - The sacrament of the anointing of the sick is just one way priests and chaplains can minister to the dying and their families.

They - along with others in pastoral care ministry - can also pray, sing, read Scriptures, counsel, help with arrangements and mediate conflicts.

They even grant final requests. One patient at Our Lady of Mercy Life Center nursing home in Guilderland, for example, expressed a lifelong desire to see a certain play. Marie Venaglia, the Catholic chaplain, rented a DVD from the library and played it for her.

After residents die, the center holds a service for family, staff and visitors. It also has periodic memorial services.

"It's another form of closure, another way to talk about how (the bereaved are) doing," Venaglia told The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese. "Death is a natural process. We can speak freely about it. It's not all medical. The pastoral ministry here is all incorporated into the whole care."

She and other Catholics who encounter death on a regular basis recently reflected on pastoral care of the dying, God's presence at a deathbed and their common experiences in patients' final hours.

The anointing of the sick -- which Venaglia described as "a blessing showing that the whole church is united in praying for this person at this time in their life, not just a death" - is offered every six weeks and as needed.

Medically, nursing home staff members aim to keep residents as comfortable as possible. The chaplain's role is more complex.

"I just try to be a presence to people, try to encourage (families) to take care of themselves, (because) when the death happens, there will be a lot of demands," Venaglia said. "I reassure them of our support and help them take the next step as they go through the preparations. I'm there for regular prayer with them and encourage them to go to the chapel."

She sits with residents to hold their hands, pray and answer questions.

"I'm there to reassure them that it's going to be OK, that we'll take care of their family," she said. "It's real scary, and it's part of my job to acknowledge, 'You might be scared. Let's try to put it in God's hands.' Sometimes it's just repeating one prayer over and over, having people gather to say the rosary in the room."

She described death as "a very natural process for most people. They just stop breathing and it's a sense of calm that happens then. You stay with the resident after they've passed and pray and bless them on their new journey. Out of respect for that person, I try to keep a continued presence with them."

Father John Kelly, director of spiritual care services at Albany Memorial Hospital, said half of the patients listed as Catholic don't practice their faith. He has seen interest in anointing of the sick drop dramatically since he started 28 years ago when even nonpracticing Catholics sought the sacrament.

"I don't argue or try to persuade," he said. "Sometimes, my role is just a matter of a religious aura. My goal is whatever the patient wants. A priest looks at the patient through the eyes of religion and his ultimate goal is to help them get to heaven."

One patient Father Kelly encountered secretly had two families, who discovered one another at his deathbed. All of them then abandoned him.

"He was totally alone facing death," the chaplain recalled. "He processed it and we worked together and he died a beautiful death. He fully accepted responsibility for his life and fully accepted the forgiveness of God and really enjoyed the presence of God in his final hours."

He added, "It's more just taking each person as they are and being there for them. I've experienced God's presence helping me to help the person. Sometimes the right thing to say just comes out of the blue."

Shafi Thomas has been a Catholic chaplain at St. Mary's and Samaritan hospitals in Troy and St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam, where he is currently spiritual care director. He believes visions are "a sign that the patient is kind of willing to die, has no fear, knows that his life is not going to end, that it's a transition."

Before they get to that point, Thomas' patients "react in different ways: Some people can accept it easily (and) some people question it and wonder if doctors did everything.

"The most effective (thing) for me is just listening because there is no right or wrong answer. I just say, 'I hear you; I understand; I know you're going through a difficult time," he said. "I don't defend God in this situation. God is right there and my presence being a chaplain is also, in a very strong way, representative of God."

He often leads this prayer with families: "We forgive you. We ask your forgiveness. We love you. God loves you. We thank you and we say goodbye."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Resolutions as the new Church year begins

Most people make resolutions on New Year's Day. And today is New Year's Day for the Church Year.

It's a time to breathe a sigh of relief that we can wipe out all the mistakes of the past year, and start all over again!

And what will be our resolve?

I have a few ideas:

• Spend a few minutes every week discussing the Sunday readings with your spouse, other family member, or a friend.

• Pray that God will give you inspiration to act on something that hits you as "right on target".

• Remind all your friends that this is the season of Advent, not Christmas.

Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

So what do the readings tell us this week?

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah asks "Why do you let us wander, O Lord?" Then later in the reading, the prophet takes hope in the mercy of God by saying, "We are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." God is reminding us that He is totally in charge of His world, and that we need to give our full surrender to His plans for us, and His directions.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians that Christ will come soon, and we'd better make sure that we don't get careless about the right disposition for a Christians during every moment of his life.

Of course, we can't be like a little child always running to the window to spot Uncle Christ's car in the driveway, making Mom a nervous wreck. But how the word "vigilant" fits Advent.

**NOV. 30**

**The First Sunday of Advent**
READINGS
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Jesus Himself in today's Gospel says to us, "Be watchful! Be alert!...You do not know when the lord of the house is coming…May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

Advent is a time for us to go about our business of obeying God's directions for living, being found frequently in prayer and good works.

St. Francis de Sales was asked one time by a nervous parishioner: "What will I do, what will I do?"

St Francis replied, "Do the next loving thing."

Isn't that great advice for preparing for the coming of the Lord, whether for the joy of Christmas, or the Lord's final coming for us at the judgement?

Happy New Year!

OPEN OUR HEARTS....BISHOP'S FUND 2014

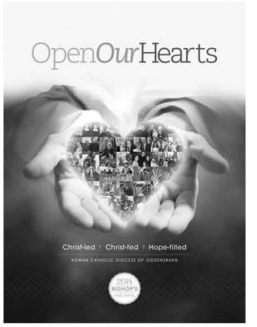
# Good Samaritan Fund: reaching out to those in need

In the Gospel of St. Matthew (Chapter 25), we find a discourse of Jesus that speaks of the Day of Judgment. In the discourse the blessed and the unrighteous are divided into two groups. The blessed are welcomed into the Kingdom of God. The division of the blessed and the cursed is based upon acts of kindness and mercy performed by the blessed for their disadvantaged brothers and sisters. The discourse makes it clear that what matters on the Day of Judgment is whether we have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and comforted the sorrow – in short, whether we have practiced the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The Good Samaritan Fund enables us, as a Diocese under Bishop LaValley's leadership to care for our unfortunate, disadvantaged, suffering, and hungry neighbors.

Through the Good Samaritan Fund, Bishop LaValley has given financial assistance and pastoral care to people in all corners of our diocese who are experiencing misfortune, hardship and challenge.

Over the course of last year, pastors have requested assistance for those in their communities who need shelter, food, clothing, financial assistance with medical bills, prescription drugs, medical equipment, rent and utilities, and other necessities.




In the past year, Bishop LaValley has received and responded to more than 150 requests for assistance through the Good Samaritan Fund.

The assistance given to the Good Samaritan Fund is usually given at a time when the recipient is facing difficult circumstances, including loss of employment, sickness, damage to property, or loss of a loved one.

Bishop LaValley offers not only financial assistance to help the recipient deal with the needs that they are facing; in his response Bishop LaValley also offers prayers, support, and hope.

Several of the thank you notes received by Bishop LaValley over the past year express gratitude for the fact that the Bishop heard people in their time of need and responded with compassion.

One woman wrote, "Receiving your letter and the enclosed check lifted me up at one of the lowest points of my life. I was filled with hope knowing that you were thinking of me and were concerned about my need."

The Good Samaritan Fund is assisted every year by the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Your generosity this year will help Bishop LaValley and the Church in the North Country respond with generosity and love to North Country neighbors at times of critical need.

The Good Samaritan Fund makes it possible for Bishop LaValley to reach out to those in need on our behalf and to offer them the assistance, comfort, and hope that they need.

Your prayerful support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal will enable Bishop LaValley to reach out to those in need. Your gifts to the 2014 Bishop's Fund Appeal provide the much needed support to Bishop LaValley's outreach to our brothers and sisters who truly are in need.

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AT THE MOVIES

# THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Positive values, including altruism, are highlighted in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1" (Lionsgate).

Together with the absence from the film of most problematic content -- a good deal of stylized combat aside -- those upright ethics make this sequel a worry-free choice for the parents of targeted teens.

The third installment of a four-part series based on best-selling novels by Suzanne Collins, the movie also offers satisfying - and occasionally stirring - action played out against the backdrop of the same disordered futuristic society in which its predecessors were set.

For those who are new to Panem, the dystopian North American nation that serves as that setting, here's the (raw) deal: A cosseted urban elite, led by President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland), rules oppressively over a group of outlying districts populated by downtrodden workers. Each year, some of the children of the underclass are compelled to participate in the brutal survival tournament of the title - from which normally only one victor emerges alive.

Having been subjected to the games twice -- first in a normal round, later as part of an all-star version -- franchise heroine Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) has become a huge celebrity, not least because she managed to subvert the rules of the contest on both occasions.

The opening of this chapter finds Katniss holed up in a huge bunker that serves as the headquarters of the uprising. It leaders -- President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) and former tourney supervisor-turned-rebel Plutarch Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman) are intent on using Katniss as the inspiring symbol of their movement.

Though Katniss is initially reluctant to take on that role, exposure to the ruthless devastation Snow's forces have inflicted on the area where she used to live convinces her to play her part. But things become complicated when her sweetheart, Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), whom Snow is holding captive, becomes a tool in the president's propaganda campaign aimed at stamping out the revolution.

CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

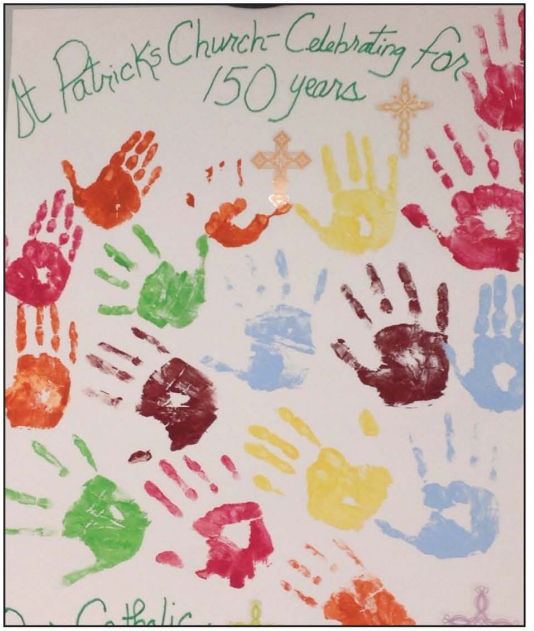
Patina Miller, Liam Hemsworth, Mahershala Ali, Jennifer Lawrence and Elden Henson star in a scene from the movie "'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

For those willing to buy into the mythos behind it all, the progress of the revolt in which Katniss finds herself caught up makes for an invigorating ride.

As for unimpressed holdouts, they can pass the time monitoring the dialogue -- in vain -- for any hint of profanity or other verbal trespasses.

The film contains some bloodless but potentially disturbing violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

## FAITH ALIVE AMONG NORTH COUNTRY KIDS




Children in the faith formation classes at St. Patrick's Church in Colton created posters to celebrate the 150th anniversary at the church.

These young people gathered for a regional youth night Oct. 25 at Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown. The evening started with a youth Mass at 4:30 with music by Transform. After Mass, the youth gathered in the parish center, Dostie Hall, for dinner, pumpkin bowling, painting pumpkins, Bible bingo, and musical chairs. The youth were all given a Rosary, which they prayed together, as well as a goodie bag full of candy. The evening ended with a concert by Transform in Sacred Heart Church.

MOVIE REVIEW www.uscch.org/movies

Attention Snowbirds
going south for the winter!

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

## 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

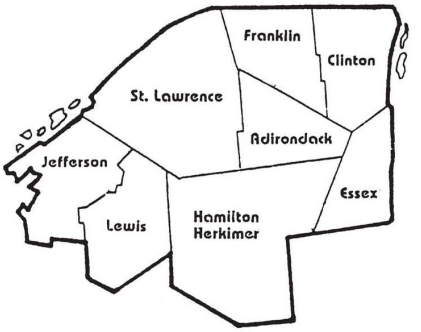
**Plattsburgh** – Annual Seton Catholic Christmas turkey dinner is set
**Date:** Dec. 7
**Time:** Noon to 6 p.m.
**Cost:** Adults, $9; Seniors (55+), $7; Children 5-12, $6; under 5, free; Take-outs, $9
**Features:** Adults bringing toy or food item will receive $1 off meal. Event will include: Basket 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."

### EUCHARISTIC 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




The **North County 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.

## 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

### 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.

## HAMILTON-HERKIMER

### ST. ANN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Wells** – St. Ann's annual Christmas party to be held.
**Date:** Dec. 5
**Time:** 5 p.m.
**Place:** Parish Center
**Cost:** Covered dish and $10
Features: share the Christmas Joy, Peace and Love with your church family. Grab Bag gift (optional).

### ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Lake Pleasant** – St. James' annual Christmas party to be held.
**Date:** Dec. 12
**Time:** 5 p.m.
**Place:** Lake Pleasant Fire Hall
**Cost:** Covered dish and $10
**Features:** share the Christmas Joy, Peace and Love with your church family. Grab Bag gift (optional).

## 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; March16; 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.

### 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.

### SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

**Evans Mills** - A spaghetti dinner to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus has been set
**Date:** Dec. 6
**Time:** serving starts at 4 p.m.
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

### 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

### 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

## 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 srbethssj@gmail.com

### CRAFT FAIR

**Gouverneur** – A craft fair is going to be held.
**Date:** Dec. 6
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
**Place:** St. James School
**Features:** Santa will visit at 1:30 p.m. Items will include: jewelry, woodcrafts, ceramics, stuffed animals, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas ornaments and decorations, baskets, etc. Over 50 vendors will be there. Lunch will be available. Admission is a donation.

### FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

**Massena** – First Saturday rosary devotion to be held.
**Date:** Dec. 6
**Time:** 3:15 p.m.
**Place:** St. Mary's Church
**Features:** The Rosary will be prayed to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace. Confessions begin at 2:45 p.m. and the Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4 p.m.

### K OF C BRUNCH

**Norfolk** – Knights of Columbus Council 11544 will be sponsoring a brunch.
**Date:** Dec. 14
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
**Place:** Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center
**Cost:** Adults, $7; Children under 12, $4; Under 5, Free; Family, $18; Take-outs
**Menu:** Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, home fries, toast, sweet breads, orange juice, coffee and tea. Made to order omelets are available for a small additional charge.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### ADVENT MYSTERY PLAYERS

The Advent schedule for the IHC Mystery Players has been announced.
**Nov. 30** – 6:30 p.m. at Summit Village in Watertown
**Dec. 7** – 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk
**Dec. 14** – 7:30 at St. James Church in Carthage
**Dec. 21** – 7:15 at Holy Family Church in Watertown.

## 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:** Attendees will leave with a renewed awareness of God's love and the astonishingly good news of God's designs for humanity. Evening will include guided meditation, refreshments.
**Contact:** spiritualrenewalcenter.com
Phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com

**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

# Bequests: time of thanks

Thanks to all of you throughout our North Country who have so generously given to our brothers and sisters in the developing countries. I give thanks to Almighty God when I reflect upon your generosity in prayer and sacrifice for the missions. Reaching out to offer material and prayerful support evokes a feeling of unity and solidarity within our entire human family.

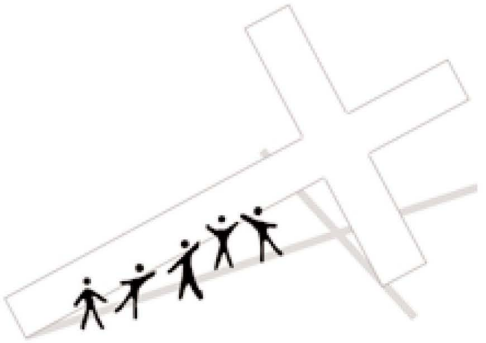
Traditionally in the Catholic Church, November has been dedicated as a time of special prayer for our deceased and remembering fondly the joy they brought into our lives. It is indeed an opportune time the Mission Office to give thanks for our benefactors who were witnesses to the Gospel by their prayers and sacrificial offerings to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

We remember in prayer especially the faithful departed who remembered the Missions in their will. This remembrance of the mission church is a lasting testament of their good will so others may hear the good news about Jesus Christ's love for them.

The Diocesan Mission Office wishes to acknowledge in thanksgiving the following bequests made to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, whose legal process has been completed this year.

**2014 Calendar Year Bequest Gifts**

- Estate of Fr. Stephen Gratto (deceased) ,$459.12 (This bequest represents Announced Mass Intentions that will be honored by retired/mission priests) Evans Mills, NY, received Aug. 12, 2014
- Estate of Fr. Everett Denesha (deceased) $5,000, Massena, NY, received Sept. 8, 2014



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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Lorraine (LaPointe) Chamberlin, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Burke** – David Dupuis; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at St. George's Church.

**Cadyville** - Mary E. (LeBlanc) Defayette, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2014 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Chaumont** – Mary Louise (Mosher) Stone, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at All Saints Church; burial in Sunny Side Cemetery, Great Bend.

**Clayton** – Captain Charles W. Emmerling, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 29, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

**Copenhagen** – Gertrude Marie Ryan Horning, 92; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

**Ellenburg** - Florence Rosalie Monette, 96; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2014 at St. Edmund's Church.

**Fort Covington** – Cory J. Cooke, 50; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at Cappiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Fort Covington** – Janet S. (Bashaw) Roberts, 78; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2014 at Cappiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home; burial in Elmwood Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Beatrice M. (Gardner) Sovay, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2014 at the Cappiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home; burial in the old St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** - Peggy Bero Cole, 75; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2014 at St. Regis Church; burial in Carville Cemetery, Helena.

**Lowville** – Claude E. Denny, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2014 at the Carpenter-Stoodley Funeral Home; burial in Adams Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** - Gloria J. (Mathews) Moore, 72; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Beatrice M. (Wood) Ocampo, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 24, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Malone** - Allen W. Bashaw, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery, Chasm Falls.

**Ogdensburg** – Oliver James Gladle, 5 months; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2014 at Frary Funeral Home.

**Olmstedville** – Margaret (Lynn) Douglass, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 24, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery, Lake Placid.

**Plattsburgh** - David F. Robinson, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2014 at St. John's Church.

**Port Henry** - Irene "Rena" (Courtney) Wojewodzic, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 201 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

**Ticonderoga** - Michael A. Andersen, 65; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in South Cemetery, Putnam Station.

**Ticonderoga** - Michael James Arthur, 61; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** - June (Quakenbush) Richie, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willsboro** - Patrick Edward "Pat" Carver, 86; Funeral Nov. 18, 2014 at St. Philip of Jesus; burial in parish cemetery.

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## 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.

Replace him with yourself. 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.

December

Divine Infancy

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY — DECEMBER 2014

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 Bishop Terry R. LaValley | 2 Rev. Alan J. Lamica | 3 Rev. Robert O. Lamitie | 4 Rev. Victor E. Lamore | 5 Rev. Kris C. Luzon | 6 Rev. Paul F. Ledermann |
| 7 Rev. Clyde A. Lewis | 8 Our Pastor | 9 Rev. Christopher J. Lobby | 10 Rev. John J. Looby V.F. | 11 Rev. Douglas J. Lucia | 12 Rev. Shane M. Lynch | 13 Rev. Donald J. Manfred V.F. |
| 14 Rev. George F. Maroun | 15 Pope Francis | 16 Benedict XVI Pope Emeritus | 17 Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo | 18 Msgr. C. John McAvoy | 19 Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy | 20 Rev. Kevin D. McEwan |
| 21 Rev. J. Roger McGuinness | 22 Retired Priests | 23 Rev. Bernard D. Menard | 24 Rev. Gilbert B. Menard | 25 Rev. Raymond J. Moreau | 26 Rev. Joseph A. Morgan VG | 27 Rev. William G. Muench |
| 28 Rev. Patrick W. Mundy | 29 Deceased Priests | 30 Msgr. John R. Murphy | 31 Rev. Steven M. Murray | | For more copies write to: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 | |

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# Resources for Advent

By Marika Donders
Diocesan director of evangelization

Advent starts November 30 this year. It begins the new liturgical year. It is a time of waiting, anticipation and renewal. What is it that we are waiting for? Or rather, Who is it that we await?

**How can we bring the focus back to preparing to receive Christ at Christmas so that we are not too exhausted to actually celebrate and enjoy the season?**

For many of us, Advent can be a hectic time of year. The catalogs that clog our mailboxes and the TV commercials blare at us that there are only 25, 24, 23 shopping days left and we must get that one right gadget, toy or gift or Christmas will simply be ruined!

And so we rush around, hunt for a space in a crowded mall parking lot and brave the mob scenes and the cash register lines. Afterwards, we go outside, breathe a sigh of relief and pray that we can remember where we parked.

When you go to those crowded malls and shopping centers, remember the line from How the Grinch Stole Christmas, "What if Christmas...doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more..."

So what can we do to live this Advent a little more intentionally and not let this beautiful time of preparation get lost in the noise of commercialism and the busy-ness of shopping, baking, office parties, planning trips, packing and traveling?

How can we bring the focus back to preparing to receive Christ at Christmas so that we are not too exhausted to actually celebrate and enjoy the season?

CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

**Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 30 this year. The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the period.**

Perhaps one of the simplest things is to go back to some old traditions: Advent Calendars, Jesse Trees, Advent Wreaths, and sharing the story of Christmas through a simple nativity scene, or a booklet of reflections on the scriptures.

There are a wide variety of advent calendars.

As a kid, my favorite kind had a piece of chocolate behind each door. As I got older, roommates and I had a tall thin candle that we marked with a permanent marker into 25 equally-spaced numbered lines.

Every night in December, just before we would head to bed, we would turn out all the lights, we would share a prayer of something we hoped for, sing *O Come O Come Emanuel,* and then we would light the candle until it burned to the next line.

It was a great way to end each day in anticipation of the Light of Christ that is to come.

Another way to mark the time is to set up a manger scene and rather than adding all the characters all at once in the beginning, add one piece at a time until the manger scene is complete at Christmas, with the three wise man finally being added on the feast of Epiphany.

If you have little kids (and non-breakable manger scene pieces), you could even start the pieces all over the house and every day let the children move the pieces closer and closer to the manger. Or use as traditional Advent wreath with another candle being lit each week of Advent.

Many of these traditional elements with the accompanying prayers can be found on the USCCB website at http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm

There are also wonderful books and booklets available to spend a few moments every day in prayer and reflection.

In our hectic lives, unless we actually plan and schedule prayer, it won't happen. Many parishes will have some resources available, but if not, here are some suggestions:

- *The Magnificat Advent Companion* (magnificat.com) is a booklet that offers a page-a-day reflection on the readings of the day throughout Advent.
- Ave Maria Press (Avemariapress.com) produces quite a few advent resources such as *O Radiant Dawn* which is a small booklet written by Lisa Hendey with short 5-minute prayers for around the Advent Wreath.

Other books they produce to help you enter into Advent through the scriptures are *The Living Gospel: Daily Devotions for Advent 2014* and *Sacred Space for Advent and the Christmas Season*, both of which offer meditations on the daily readings from Mass.

- Pauline Books and Media (pauline.org) offers a wide range of books and e-books for children and adults such as Advent Grace: *Daily Gospel Reflections; Living Advent at Home: Daily Prayers and Activities for Families; The First Christmas Coloring Book;* or *The Advent-Christmas Book* which is a wonderful resource for teachers and parents to celebrate the season in the classroom and at home.
- There are also Advent music and movies: check out the *Advent at Ephesus* CD by the Benedictines of Mary (music.benedictinesofmary.org) or *A Season of Hope* CD by the Brotherhood of Hope (brotherhoodofhope.org) or the *Mary of Nazareth* DVD available from Ignatius Press (maryfilm.com)
- If you want to enter more deeply into the season, perhaps read a book either on your own or start a discussion group. Some suggestion would be Pope Benedict XVI's *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* (Ignatius.com) or Scott Hahn's *Joy to the World* published by Image Books (Imagecatholicbooks.com).

There are of course many more resources available to help you pray and spend some quiet time reflecting on the gift of faith this season. There are also many free online resources. For some of those, see the Office of Evangelization's blog at www.rcdony.org/evangelization/blog