

**Remarks – Mass of Christian Burial – Rev. Mr. Adam Crowe
February 2, 2009**

Our hearts are heavy and our tears are many as we gather this morning to commend our son, our brother, our friend, Adam to the tender care of a loving God. In the pages of Sacred Scripture there are two occasions when Jesus cried. One was over the city of Jerusalem and one was at the death of His good friend, Lazarus.

The momentary loss of Lazarus from this life hurt Jesus. All of us feel keenly a similar loss this morning. We take comfort in knowing that Jesus too cried at the death of His friend.

Our gathering this morning is a celebration not of man's desire, but a celebration according to God's plan. We gather in this Cathedral Church grateful to Almighty God for the gift of Adam. We thank his parents, Teresa and Larry whose love gave Adam life and who have nurtured and sustained him throughout his 26 years of life on earth. We know and are consoled that when God gives life it is forever. As the funeral liturgy reminds us "for your faithful life is changed not ended." But at this moment our hearts are broken. We extend our prayerful sympathy to Teresa and Larry, to Adam's brothers, Kevin and Darin, and to his twin sister, Erin.

Teresa and Larry gave us a joyful and happy young man whose memory will live in our hearts for years to come. Adam responded completely to the Lord's call. He enjoyed immensely his seminary studies and the friendships which he formed.

Our gratitude to St. Charles Seminary and in a most special way to Monsignor Prior and Father Diamond and other faculty members who honor Adam and his family by being here today and bringing with them so many young men who walked with Adam on his vocational journey. Thank you for joining us as together we mourn Adam's death. We thank you for sharing your lives with Adam. To his friends and brothers from St. Charles, we assure you that he loved St. Charles -- its people, its traditions, its goals.

Whenever he returned home Adam took great delight in telling us about seminary activities and the accomplishments and exploits of his various friends. He respected and admired the administration, faculty, staff and student body which supported him each day. We in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, priests and people together with their Bishop thank you for all that you did for this outstanding son of the North Country and for all that you meant to him.

We thank also Diocesan priests and parish communities who supported Adam on the path of his vocation.

Adam enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. One summer Adam and I spent a great deal of time traveling through the diocese. He took delight in explaining to me the difference between wheat and hay or the average life of a cow! Those were enjoyable days for me as I came to know not only the hills and valleys, the back roads and the city streets, but a young man in love with the Lord and eager to bring others closer to him.

The psalmist reminds us that it is important in the simplicity of our hearts to offer all to God joyfully. Adam certainly did that and while we do not fully understand the reason for his untimely death we thank him for all that he meant to us. He responded completely to God's call and in so doing fulfilled his vocation, not as we had anticipated but nevertheless completely and fully according to God's plan.

Adam's death is a tragic loss for his parents, family and friends. It is a tragic loss as well for his Diocesan family. So close to ordination, so

close to the beginning of a life of service as a priest, we mourn his leaving us. But our faith urges us to hope that Adam can indeed intercede for us before the eternal High Priest. In a manner totally unexpected by any of us Adam can fulfill his desire to be a priest. Selfishly we wish that Adam could have been with us for a much longer period of time. Reluctantly, from a human perspective, we now give him back to God. We will hold Adam in our hearts and in our memories.

The sturdy faith and strong family life of the people of the North Country and its fertile soil are challenged these days. In the midst of our sorrow and in the depths of our heart, we pray that Adam's death like the seed that falls into good ground will produce a rich harvest and bring forth new vocations to priesthood and consecrated life here in our diocese and throughout the Church.

On this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we present Adam to the Lord. All of us have done our best in preparing him for this meeting. I pray that God in His Divine Mercy will welcome Adam into the joy of eternity where he will praise God forever. There God will no longer call him servant, but friend.