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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 12, 2011

Pope: Savior found among poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christ, the king of the world, is not found on the thrones of power or in the hallways of learning, he is found defenseless among the poor and humble, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"At times, power - including that of knowledge -- blocks the path to encountering that child," the Son of God, the savior of the world, he said. "God does not manifest himself in the

power of this world, but in the humility of his love, that love that asks us, in our freedom, to welcome it so that we may be transformed," he said. The pope made his remarks at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

In his homily, the pope highlighted the journey of the Wise Men or Magi who were in search of something more - for "the true light that would be able to indicate the

path to follow in life." Following the star, the Magi met King Herod in Jerusalem. Herod, a man of power, considered Jesus, the promised king of the Jews, to be a rival and wanted to kill him.

Even today, God can seem like "a particularly dangerous rival who would want to deprive people of their personal space, of their autonomy and their power," the pope said.

"We have to ask ourselves,

is there a little bit of Herod in us as well? Perhaps we, too, see God as a kind of rival" who needs to be removed so we could have unlimited power to do whatever we want, the pope said.

However, letting God into one's life "does not take anything away and does not threaten anything; rather he is the only one capable of offering us the possibility of living to the full and feeling real joy," he said.

Funeral held for Father Charles Chase

Father Charles Chase, 75, a retired priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg died at his home in Sugar Hill, NH, Jan. 4. His funeral was held Jan. 10 in Littleton, NH.

Father Chase, a native of Stoneham, Mass., was ordained to the priesthood in 1979 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

He served in parishes in Ticonderoga, Champlain, Newcomb, Lake Placid and Copenhagen.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

In honor of St. Marguerite

North Country pilgrims witness moving of saint's remains from

Montreal to St. Anne's Basilica
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

BACK TO SCHOOL, AGAIN



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

With the Christmas holidays behind them, children in Catholic schools across the diocese are back at work. Above, Maureen Cloonan, second grade teacher at St. James School in Gouverneur, gives some one on one guidance to Hope Simmons.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Rachel Daly reflects on college life... p.12

IN LOVING MEMORY

Fr. Howard McCasland

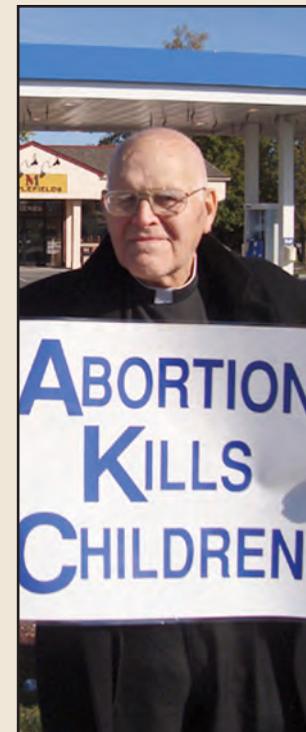


PHOTO SHAN MOORE

Father Howard McCasland participated in October's Life Chain in Plattsburgh - more than three months after his 92nd birthday. Father McCasland remained active in ministry until his death in December, celebrating his final Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Churubusco, where he served as administrator, Dec. 18. He is remembered in this week's NCC.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

NORTH
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our family of faith

We will all be hearing a lot about our North Country church as a "family of faith" in the coming year.

Bishop LaValley has chosen this theme for evangelization efforts in 2011 to continue the important work of *Why Catholic?*

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, diocesan director of evangelization, has already begun sharing weekly reflections on the subject for the *NCC*. (More often than not, her words will appear right on this page.)

She also shared information about a February workshop titled "Being Part of a Church: A Family of Faith." (See page 6)

I guess this means that the *North Country Catholic* will function as the family newsletter – which is certainly not a foreign concept.

This year – as always – we'll be the place to keep up on all the family business that's fit to print!

This week's *NCC* will focus on several very special family members.

On page four, for example, our Plattsburgh area writer, Shan Moore, offers a tribute to Father Howard McCasland in the words of people who knew him best, people who remembered his faith, his kindness – and his practical jokes.

Father McCasland, active in priestly ministry for 66 years,

was a diocesan institution.

Father Douglas Lucia, homilist at Father McCasland's New Year's Eve funeral Mass, said "I always wanted to be like Father Howard.

He lived priesthood to its fullest and he gave it his all."

"Father McCasland just helped people know God's love," Father Lucia said.

Another young priest, Father Bryan Stitt, shared a thought with friends on the day before the funeral Mass: "If you'd like to say that you've been to a saint's funeral, come to Churubusco at 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Amen!

And, as we say goodbye to dear Father Howard, we are grateful to say "welcome back" to our young college friend, Rachel Daly.

Our popular columnist had hoped to continue her contributions to the *NCC* from her college dorm in Texas but quickly discovered that serious students don't have many hours – or brain cells – to share with outside activities.

We're pleased that her trip back home for Christmas allowed her the freedom she needed to write for us.

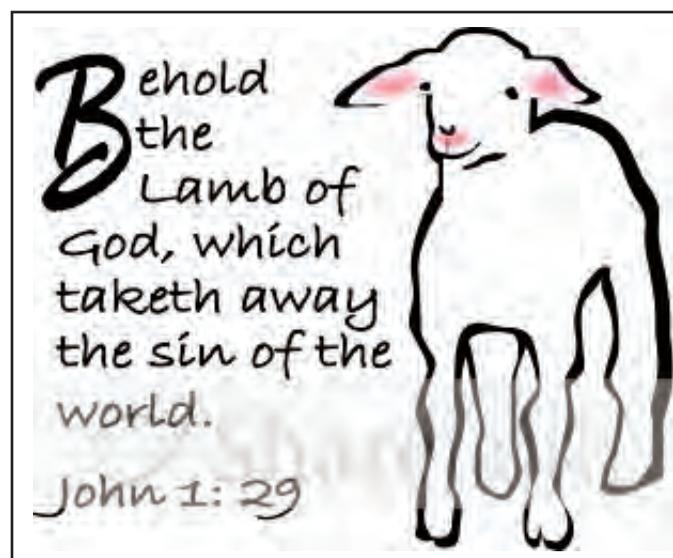
See page 12 to catch up with "our" college girl.

And see the *NCC* throughout this brand new year to keep up with the "family" as we all strive to grow in faith, in wisdom and in grace in 2011.



Mary Lou
Kilian

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH



The Lamb of God

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

It is interesting to note that John the Baptist indicates who he is not. He says: "I am not the Christ." "I am not Elijah." "I am not the Prophet."

As John the Baptist is pressed to say who he is, he quotes Isaiah, "I am the voice crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord."

John is the voice. Jesus is the Word. He is the "I Am." The voice is there to serve the Word. John prepares the way. Jesus is the way.

As John's ministry begins to decline and Jesus' ministry begins, John moves behind the scenes to allow Jesus to be light and life for His people. John was enthusiastic about his ministry but he made no hesitation to stand back from the limelight to allow Jesus to be "the Lamb of God."

Who is this Lamb of God?

Just before we receive Holy Communion, we pray, "Lamb of God, who takes away our sins, have mercy on us." The image of Jesus being "the lamb of God" must have had an impact on the early Christian community.

Lambs are often weak and vulnerable animals. And yet, it was the lamb that Abraham used in place of sacrificing his son Isaac.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will go out for the lost sheep who wanders from the flock. Jesus becomes the Lamb of God who wins victory over sin by His own death on the Cross.

The early Christian community carved the image of the lamb in the catacombs to remember Jesus' triumph over sin and death.

This Lamb of God is truly unique. What seemed as foolishness and weakness in the eyes of those who did not believe in the idea that Jesus is the Lamb of God who came among us to forgive our sins, to heal all divisions, and to gather all of His flock with His all embracing love was not foolishness and weakness to those with the eyes of faith.

Jesus is the Light of the World. He paved the way for us to be light for those who are in darkness or may have strayed from the flock.

How willing are you to allow others to receive recognition when you have paved the way for their success? In what way can you be a light for someone who is vulnerable and needs you to be their light and strength?

As a parish family, how are you leading the way for other parish members to become part of the parish?

Take some time this week to welcome a new family in your parish.

Come In From
The Cold

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

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Funeral held for Fr. Charles Chase

LITTLETON, NH - A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Charles Edward Chase, 75, was held Jan. 10 at St. Rose of Lima Church.

A priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Father Chase died suddenly at his home in Sugar Hill, NH, Jan. 4.

Burial will be at St. Rose of Lima Cemetery in Littleton.

Father Chase was born in Stoneham, Mass., July 17, 1936 to the late James and Mary Devanna Chase.

He attended Cambridge High School in 1950, entering the Air Force for five years after graduation.

After his tour of duty, he then attended Boston College until 1969. He entered Holy Apostles Seminary College in Cromwell, Connecticut in 1973.

In September, 1974 he began his theological studies at Sacred Heart School of

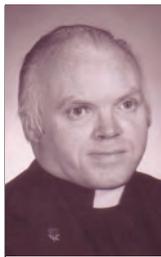
Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana ordained Father Chase to the diaconate Sept. 3, 1977 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, and to the priesthood Dec. 8, 1979 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.

Following his ordination, Father Chase served as associate pastor at St. Mary's, Ticonderoga, and in 1981 associate pastor in St. Mary's, Champlain. In 1982, he was named temporary administrator in St. Therese's, Newcomb.

In September, 1982 he was associate pastor in St. Agnes's, Lake Placid. He was appointed administrator of St. Mary's in Copenhagen in 1993. Father Chase retired from Copenhagen in August of 1999 and moved to Duxbury, Mass.

He is survived by his brother, Arthur Chase.



Fr. Charles E. Chase

St. Marguerite D'Youville returns to her birthplace

VARENNES, QUE. - Five pilgrims from Malone and Ogdensburg, travelled to Quebec Dec. 7-9 to celebrate the return of the body of St. Marguerite d'Youville to her home town and the church of her baptism.

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Sisters Rita Frances Brady, Malone; Anne Boyer, Ogdensburg; and Mary Elizabeth Looby and Barbara Schiavoni, Malone: were joined by Father Joseph W. Giroux, pastor of the Malone Catholic Parishes, for the trip.

St. Marguerite, the foundress of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, was canonized Dec. 9, 1990 by Pope John Paul II.

The Grey Nuns have served in sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg for generations.

In a three day event beginning Dec. 7, St. Marguerite's casket was moved from the chapel of the Grey Nuns' motherhouse in downtown Montreal to her final resting place at the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre in Varennes on Montreal's South Shore.

St. Marguerite was born in Varennes in 1701. The transfer was necessary as the Grey Nuns' motherhouse on Guy Street has been sold to Concordia University. One hundred and thirty five Grey Nuns live in the motherhouse today and will eventually be relocated to another site in Montreal.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, Archbishop of Mon-

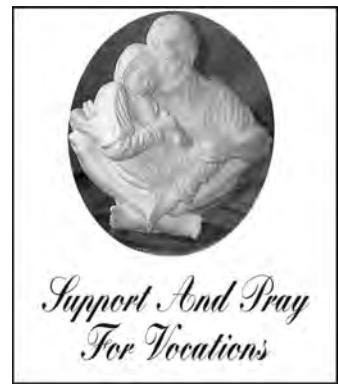


Grey Nun Sisters Anne Boyer and Mary Elizabeth Looby, Father Joseph Giroux and Grey Nun Sisters Barbara Schiavoni and Rita Frances Brady traveled to Quebec in December to witness the move of the body of St. Marguerite D'Youville, foundress of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. The remains of St. Marguerite were moved from the Grey Nuns motherhouse in downtown Montreal to the church of her baptism, St. Anne's Basilica in Varennes. The North Country travelers are pictured in St. Anne's which is soon to be re-named St. Marguerite d'Youville Basilica.

tréal, presided at the Eucharistic Celebration at Notre Dame Basilica of the transfer of the mortal remains of St. Marguerite d'Youville Dec. 8.

"Marguerite was a flesh and blood woman who knew life as we know it, all the joys and sorrows of it," said Sister Mary Elizabeth. "She was able to empathize with others because of her own experiences. She was a wife, a mother, an administrator of the General Hospital in Montreal, a widow and eventually a foundress of a religious congregation of

sisters that grew into six autonomous orders of Grey Nuns who continue her mission throughout the world."



Bishop to speak at March for Life

PLATTSBURGH - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will serve as the guest speaker for the annual Plattsburgh March for Life sponsored by the Champlain Valley Right to Life.

The event will be held Jan. 16 with participants gathering at the Newman Center at 1:30 p.m. The

group will process to St. John's Church for the program.

The march is held each year to mark the anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States

A reception will follow in the lower church.

SEE THE POPE ON YOUTUBE

THE VATICAN VISIT

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Fr. Howard - in loving memory

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

CHURUBUSCO – Bernice Bushey would sometimes chide Father Howard McCasland for working too hard.

“I’d see him say Mass four times a day,” said the priest’s housekeeper of many years. “He’d say, ‘If I die, I’ll die happy.’”

At 92, Father McCasland was oldest serving priest in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg when he celebrated the final Mass of his life at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Churubusco on Dec. 18.

At the Sign of Peace, said parish secretary Karen Trombley, Father McCasland “looked at the congregation, gave a beautiful smile and waved to everybody.”

She felt the priest’s gaze upon her.

“His eyes were twinkling,” she said, her voice full of emotion. “I leaned over to my husband and said, ‘He’s saying good-bye.’”

A lost sheep

Father McCasland died Dec. 28, with Mrs. Bushey on one side of his bed and Mrs. Trombley on the other.

“We took very good care of him,” Mrs. Bushey said. “Very good care of him. Because he was one of us.”

The rectory is a sad place these days as Mrs. Trombley deals with end-of-year payroll paperwork and takes care of donations to Catholic schools given in Father McCasland’s memory.

“I’m kind of a lost sheep right now,” she said.

“We miss him so much,” her mother said.

In Father McCasland’s obituary, it says he attributed his longevity to deep devotion to Mary and the Lord’s presence in the Mass. It also credited his housekeepers, first his aunt Nellie Laware and then Mrs. Bushey.

That lady, now 85, remembers how Father McCasland enfolded her and her four children in loving care many years ago, after her husband



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Father Howard McCasland, who died Dec. 27 at the age of 92, is shown in Immaculate Conception Church in Churubusco where he served as administrator until his death. He celebrated his final Mass in the church Dec. 18.

died.

He was pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Altona; she brought Karen, just a baby then, to work with her at the rectory every day.

“Bless his heart,” Mrs. Bushey said. “He took us in.”

Growing up in the rectory, Karen saw Father McCasland as a kind of hero.

“He made sure I got to do all the things I wouldn’t have been able to do (otherwise),” she said.

That included a trip to Nova Scotia.

“He had seen it, and he thought I should see it, too, because it was beautiful.”

The priest wanted local youth to keep busy in a healthy way, Mrs. Trombley said, so he had the fire department flood an ice rink near Holy Angel’s Hall, put up lights for night skating.

“He even skated with the kids,” she recalled.

And he played kick ball with them in the driveway.

“He had his long cassock on,” Mrs. Trombley said, laughing. “They used to call him the Flying Priest.”

God’s will

To the Busheys, Father McCasland demonstrated the deep spirituality and faithfulness to God that marked his priesthood. He was not above practical jokes, however.

Mrs. Bushey kept her purse

on a table by the rectory door beside a class bowl filled with artificial fruit.

Paying a bill in Plattsburgh one day, she opened her purse and found some fake grapes and a banana.

“I can remember that clerk looking at us,” Mrs. Trombley said. “There were people in line behind us ...”

Home again, Mrs. Bushey took her boss to task.

“But you couldn’t get mad at him,” her daughter said. “He had this little dimple (when he laughed).”

“You couldn’t help but laugh, too.”

The pastor’s next parish was St. Bernard’s in Lyon Mountain, and he took the Busheys with him.

“He was a priest who didn’t want to live alone,” said Mrs. Bushey, who retired after 37 years as housekeeper.

She was still with him in 1993 when, then pastor in Mooers, he suffered a heart attack in the midst of Mass. He fell, taking the podium down on top of him.

“The doctor said that’s what restarted his heart,” Mrs. Trombley said.

A miracle? A lucky break? “He always said, ‘What we call chance is just God’s will unfolding in a beautiful way,’” Mrs. Trombley said.

That was the message Father McCasland gave his flock in Immaculate Heart’s 2010 Christmas bulletin.

“I asked him, if you could

tell me one thing ... what would you want people to know,” she said. “He could hardly talk,” but that was what he said.

Beautiful gift

Three years ago, around the time Father McCasland first battled cancer, Mrs. Trombley, then a nurse’s aide, and her husband, Douglas, moved in to care for him.

The priest asked Mrs. Bushey to join them as well.

“We became a family again,” Mrs. Trombley said.

He was 75 years old then, the retirement age for priests. But he took charge of Immaculate Heart as administrator, and, with a shortage of priests dictating twinning and consolidation and even closure of parishes, his parishioners knew his presence was what kept the Churubusco church alive.

“A beautiful gift,” Mrs. Trombley said.

Father McCasland’s love of the Mass inspired parishioners, including Parish Council member Allen Barcombe, who joined the pastor and others saying the rosary before Mass on Saturdays.

“The rosary meant very much to him,” Mr. Barcombe said.

And Father’s personality gave services a certain flare, as well.

Clinton County Legislator Sam Trombley was a friend of the priest for many years; together, they’d carry signs and pray during pro-life events. Father McCasland never missed an opportunity at Mass, the Ellenburg Center man said, to promote the cause of life, and, in fact, ask Sam to help him do it.

In the midst of his homily, the legislator said, Father McCasland “would say, ‘Now, Sam, tell them all about it.’”

The priest praised the legislator for standing up for his convictions though many told him his views of abortion as murder would end his political career.

“He always stressed on me

to be faithful, not to be swayed.”

To know God’s love

Despite his failing health, the priest took part in the Plattsburgh Life Chain in the fall, standing side-by-side with Sam. He continued ministering to his flock. And not a word of complaint about his illness passed his lips, those who knew him say.

In the hospital, nurses would ask Father McCasland what his pain level was on a scale of one to 10.

“He’d say, ‘Three, in honor of the Holy Trinity,’” Mrs. Trombley said.

She felt sure it exceeded that level and encouraged him to speak up. But he’d never would.

“He would always say, ‘You give your pain up to the Lord,’” Mrs. Trombley said.

Just a few days before he passed away, Father McCasland celebrated a quiet Christmas with his rectory family and the Trombley’s children and grandchildren.

“He died the way he wanted,” said Father Doug Lucia, diocesan episcopal vicar for worship and priestly formation. “He died right in the rectory.”

Father Lucia knew Father McCasland all his life. “He baptized me, he gave me First Communion, then when I was ordained a priest, he vested me.

“I always said I wanted to be like Father Howard.

He lived the priesthood to the fullest and he gave it his all. He just helped people know God’s love.”

“He was magnificent,” said Mr. Barcombe. “You always left (the church) wanting to be a better person than when you walked in.”

“We love him so much,” Mrs. Bushey said. “I know he’s watching over us, helping us to be strong.”

Even so, she and her family mourn his passing.

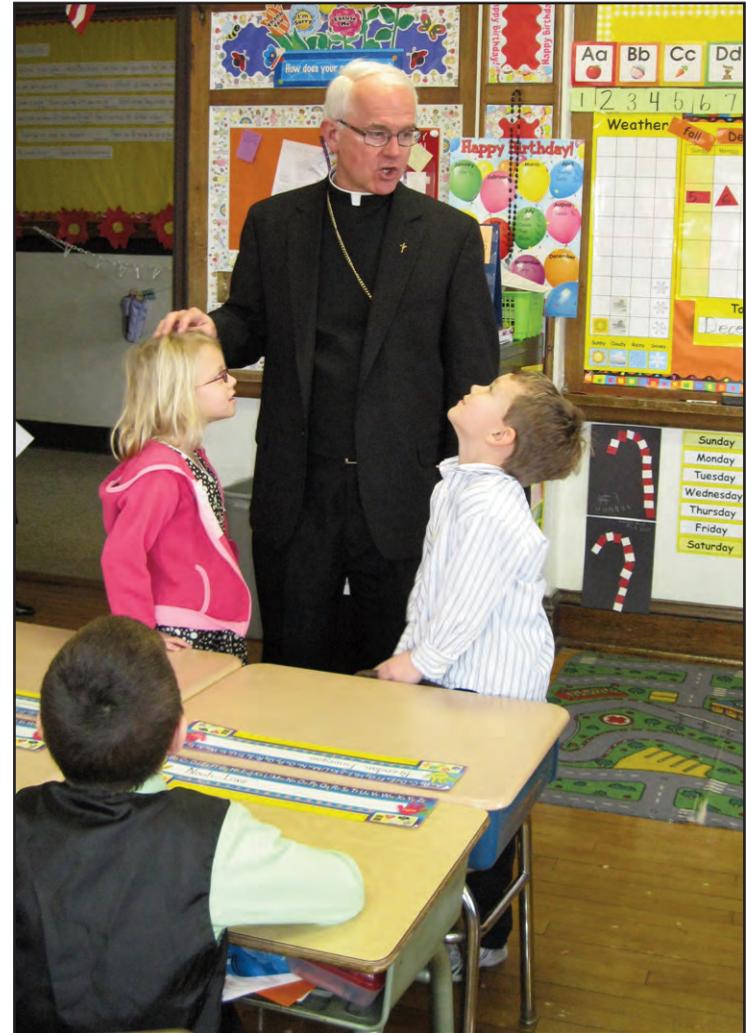
“At night, he used to bless us all (before bed),” Mrs. Trombley said. “Even our puppy. I think that’s what we miss the most.”

THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

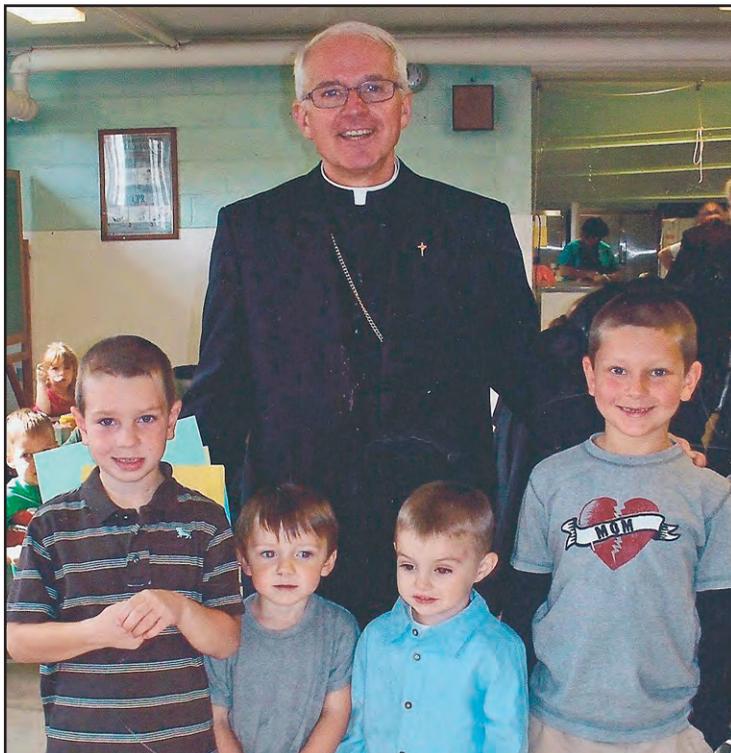
OUR FAMILY OF FAITH



At the invitation of Father Gerald Cerank, pastor, some Sisters of St. Joseph recently visited St. Ann's Parish, Mooers Forks and St. Joseph's Parish in Mooers. The sisters provided music for the liturgies in both parishes and Sister Mary Gregory, Vocation Director, spoke about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the importance of praying to know one's vocation. Pictured, front, from left are Patrick Peets, Sister Marie Cordata, Sister Christine Helen, Sister Norma Bryant, Sister Yvonne Cusson and Sister Mary Gregory; back, Sister Mary Louise, Sister Ellen Rose, Father Gerald Cerank, Sister Mary Paul, Sister Sharon Ann and Sister Ronald Marie.



During a recent visit to Trinity Catholic School in Massena, Bishop LaValley answered questions from first graders about what he has to do as a Bishop. The students are Hannah Dougherty and Brendan Finnegan.



Bishop LaValley posed with four cousins during a visit to St. Mary's Academy in Champlain – Luke Moser, Tate Stevens, Noah Seller, and Zane Stevens.



PHOTO BY KATE CURRY

Tom Jermano, choir director, leads the choir in carols before Christmas Eve Mass and accompanied on piano/organ by Michelle Larkin at St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake. The choir sang throughout the Mass on Christmas Eve which began at 8p.m.

Celebrates 15th anniversary as consecrated virgin

By Colleen Miner
Staff writer

SARANAC LAKE – Parishioners of the Catholic Churches of the Mountains and Lakes gathered Dec. 19 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Rita Mawn's profession as a consecrated virgin of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Over 35 prayed in St. Bernard's Church during a Holy Hour and Benediction service – the same location where Rita Mawn professed her vows 15 years ago, before Bishop Paul Loverde, then Bishop of Ogdensburg.

Rita Mawn has been serving the Saranac Lake community for many years. She had been, for over 30 years, a nun of the Discalced Carmelites of Saranac Lake.

While a Carmelite, she served as a missionary in Africa.

Upon returning to the United States, she asked to be released from the religious life and was granted such, with all the appropriate permissions according to Church law. She spent time discerning what God wanted next in her life.

After years of prayer and preparation, Rita Mawn professed her vows as a Consecrated Virgin in 1995.

A Consecrated Virgin is set apart so as to belong only to Jesus Christ. Pope Benedict's words to a gathering of Consecrated Virgins in Rome two years ago explained the principal calling of a Consecrated Virgin: "Take care always to radiate the dignity of being a bride of the Church, expressing the newness of Christian



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Mark Reilly, pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, joined Rita Mawn as she celebrated her 15th anniversary as a consecrated virgin during a Holy Hour at St. Bernard's Dec. 19.

existence and the serene expectation of future life. Thus with your own upright life, you will be stars to guide the world on its journey."

A reception was held after the Holy Hour in St. Bernard's School cafeteria to thank Rita

Mawn for her witness and generous service.

The gathering included a slide show of Rita Mawn's journey through religious life and a violin recital by St. Bernard's School student Sarah Samperi.

Workshops to explore 'being part of a church'

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

The New Year has begun. As we journey together as a family of faith, the Church looks to the Gospel of Matthew for guidance in becoming the community of disciples that Jesus began with His own disciples. His promise to be with His people until the end of time is a promise that continues in the life of the Church today.

The Church in the 21st century continues to face many of the same challenges that Matthew's community faced in the early life of the Church. Matthew saw his community polarized because of different understandings of Jesus message and different crises they faced. Matthew's pastoral leadership and courage set his community in a new direction that eliminated what was unnecessary and shed

light on the essentials of faith. This meant severing ties with the past. In other instances, he offers a glimpse of the fullness in the promised kingdom.

Matthew tells his readers that Jesus' baptism begins His ministry of justice and righteousness as the beloved Son of God. Our baptism bathes us in the light of Christ to go forth to be a family of faith sharing the Good News and building up the Body of Christ.

How does the "voice" of God speak to you? What does it mean for us today "to be part of a parish community, a family of faith"? What does it mean to be part of a parish family? How can the parish family be strengthened to be a stronger community of believers? What is being planned by the Diocese to help support parish families to be a family of faith?

Every parish member is in-

vited to a workshop the week of February 20-26, 2011 in all deaneries called "Being A Part of a Church: A Family of Faith" with an emphasis on Matthew's Gospel—a Gospel of the Church.

This workshop will focus on the Gospel of Matthew-Church as a Community of Faith, faith sharing in small Christian Communities as a way of being Church and an overview of Lenten Longings.

In the section on the Gospel of Matthew, the focus will be:

- Roots: genealogy and relationships
- Community: Gathering and Inclusivity
- Law: Commandments and Beatitudes
- Prayer: Dependence of God
- Mission: Reign of God

As parishes continue to merge and to link together and as we grow to be a worshipping community through the changes in the

Roman Missal, it becomes paramount to understand more fully the meaning of Church and the meaning of "being parish".

As Matthew was the wise leader and guide for his community, we look to Bishop LaValley for his leadership and his shepherding of the flock. He also looks to the people of the Diocese to be courageous leaders and followers who will listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd to be "Church, A Family of Faith" and all that it means for us in the 21st century

CORRECTION

A photo published in the Jan. 5 issue of the *North Country Catholic* identified children taking part in a Christmas pageant as students of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga which was incorrect. The children are parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Crown Point.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Jan. 13 – 9:45 a.m., Mass and Visit at Augustinian Academy School in Carthage.

Jan. 16 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh; 2 p.m., Champlain Valley March for Life in Plattsburgh.

Jan. 17 – 7:00 p.m., Liferight of Wassertown Respect Life Prayer Vigil at the Municipal Building in Wassertown.

Jan. 18 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Spratt Building in Ogdensburg.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 12 – Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978

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

Jan. 15 – Msgr. James Lacey, 1942

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

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

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

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, phone, 315-393-2920. ext. 403

Jan. 27 - St. Mary's School, Canton, 7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Report says Pope John Paul miracle nears final recognition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A presumed miracle needed for the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II reportedly has reached the final stages of approval. The miracle - involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson's disease - has been approved by a Vatican medical board and a group of theologians and is now awaiting judgment from the members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, according to Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. If the congregation accepts the healing as a miracle attributable to the late pope's intercession, then Pope Benedict XVI still would have to sign a decree formally recognizing it before a beatification ceremony can be scheduled. Tornielli, who covers the Vatican for the newspaper *Il Giornale*, wrote Jan. 4 that the process is so far advanced that Pope John Paul could be beatified sometime in 2011. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Jan. 4 that the final step before beatification requires the pope's approval and that the pope is free to make his own decision on the matter.

Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians. At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace and a blessing the next day, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle East. In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a "despicable gesture of death." A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured. The pope said the attack was part of a "strategy of violence that targets Christians," and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. He offered prayers for the victims and their families. The pope also denounced the recent practice of "planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave." At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted in bombings Dec. 30, leaving at least 13 people wounded. The pope said the latest attacks in Egypt and Iraq "offend God and all humanity."

Milwaukee is eighth US diocese to file for Chapter 11 reorganization

ST. FRANCIS, Wis. (CNS) -- On Jan. 4, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee became the second U.S. archdiocese and the eighth diocese overall to file for Chapter 11 reorganization. With more than 650,000 Catholics, according to the 2010 Official Catholic Directory, it follows the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., and the dioceses of Tucson, Ariz.; Spokane, Wash.; Davenport, Iowa; San Diego; Fairbanks, Ala.; and Wilmington, Del. In telephone interviews Jan. 4 with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper, officials of some dioceses that have been through the journey upon which the Milwaukee Archdiocese is embarking shared their experiences. The Archdiocese of Portland was the first to file for Chapter 11 reorganization in July 2004. According to Bud Bunce, communications director for the archdiocese, many people were surprised at the time and had questions, because it was unknown territory. "I don't know that most of the people understood just how dire our financial situation was, even though the archbishop (John G. Vlazny) had tried to make that very clear to them. I think people were very concerned about the possibility of losing their parish, their churches, their schools." But "life went on," he said, explaining that people continued to attend Mass, support the ministries within the parishes and schools and contribute to the annual appeal.

Archbishop Dolan pledges to help pregnant woman in need

By Beth Griffin
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- In response to recent statistics revealing that 41 percent of pregnancies in New York City in 2009 ended in abortion, New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan reiterated the pledge of his predecessors to help any pregnant woman in need.

"Through Catholic Charities, adoption services, lobbying on behalf of pregnant women, mothers and infants, support of life-giving alternatives, health care and education of youth for healthy, responsible, virtuous sexual behavior, we've done our best to keep that promise and these haunting statistics only prod us to keep at it," he said during a Jan. 6 interfaith news conference in New York.

The statistics were released in late December by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in its annual summary of vital statistics.

According to the figures, the 87,000 abortions performed in New York City in 2009 continues a pattern of decline from previous years, but the overall rate of abortions is much higher than the

national average of 23 percent.

Speakers at the news conference called the percentage of abortions tragic and urged renewed efforts to promote chastity and support mothers and their children, born and unborn.

"Not only are we not addressing this human tragedy, we are not even talking about it," said Sean Fieler, president and chairman of the Chiaroscuro Foundation, a private organization based in New York which supports pro-life activities.

Fieler said New Yorkers are still framing the abortion discussion in terms of the procedure's legality instead of focusing on reducing the number of abortions.

"From an action perspective, this is something almost everyone can agree on. No one but the most radical extremist will defend this ratio," he added.

Archbishop Dolan said the archdiocese plans to launch an intensive chastity education program in Catholic high schools next year.

"We're going to have a SWAT team of experts go into our Catholic high schools and give the seniors a high-powered two-week formation in healthy chastity," he told CNS. "The curriculum

will address biological, emotional and moral aspects and include preparation for marriage.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn said the diversity of the world's most multicultural city is being dampened by the abortion rate, which is highest in the black and Hispanic communities. He said sex education programs in public schools are devoid of moral content and may even increase the incidence of abortion.

"We need to pledge ourselves to help people understand the consequences of abortion and do whatever we can to give women reasons not to abort and to help the children in this great city of ours," he said.

Sister Lucy Marie, a Sister of Life and Respect Life coordinator for the Archdiocese of New York, said the city's abortion statistics were sadly familiar.

"I wish it was startling to me, but it's not. Many of the women who come to us have had repeat abortions," she said.

She said the tragedy is that many pregnant women are in fear and don't know where to go for help. "We have failed to reach out and let them know the resources that are available," she added.

Archbishop: Haitians feel abandoned by the world

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Frustration and aggravation are simmering across Haiti a year after a terrifying earthquake ripped apart the country's most densely populated region and as a persistent cholera epidemic endangers the health of virtually everyone in the impoverished nation.

Life in a tattered tent in a crowded makeshift camp with no alternative on the horizon, threats to personal safety and the need to

scramble for food and clean water are fueling the growing anger, said Archbishop Louis Kebreau of Cap-Haitien, president of the Haitian bishops' conference.

"The people of Haiti are tired of misery," Archbishop Kebreau said in a Jan. 4 interview with Catholic News Service. "They are tired of living in their tents. The people are saying they are not happy. They're frustrated and angry. That provokes vi-

olence."

More than 1 million people continue to live in hundreds of settlements that sprouted after the 35-second magnitude 7 earthquake.

At least 230,000 people were killed.

He expressed concern that the surge of hopefulness felt by Haitians at the world's compassionate response immediately after the Jan. 12 quake has given way to a feeling of abandonment.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Priesthood: there is no other calling its equal!

The lights of Christmas and Epiphany have all faded. We've come from last Sunday's feast of the Baptism of the Lord into eight Sundays in "Ordinary" time.

Watch out! Ordinary time in the liturgy never means going back to "business as usual".

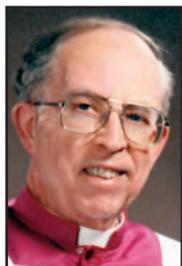
True, Jesus has long since grown out of his swaddling clothes, grown through puberty to life as an adult "man with a mission".

Certain words in the readings stand out - words like "servant" and "mission" and "follow me".

The first reading from Isaiah was selected to show God's plan for His Son.

From Mary's womb, he was destined to be His Fa-

ther's servant, that He might bring the chosen people back to faithful observance of the Law.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

But in the same reading, God says "It is too little for you to be my servant...I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Here we have a clear statement of what Jesus' mission is all about.

In the Gospel, John gives eloquent testimony of what he heard God say from the heavens about His beloved Son.

The very next day, John sees Jesus coming toward him. He turns to his own followers and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world".

Why does John call Jesus

a lamb? Because the world "lamb" connects Jesus with both the 'suffering servant' of Isaiah and the paschal lamb of sacrifice.

Then he explains to them what had happened when he poured water over Jesus' head, exclaiming that he saw the Spirit descend on him and remain with him.

Only the prophetic power of the Baptist could make a statement like that!

Jesus acknowledges the truth of what John has said by beginning to gather his own followers.

It's a major turning point in the story of our salvation as Andrew and his brother Simon became the first disciples of the Lord.

How casual it all seemed. They ask Jesus where he lives, and Jesus simply says, "Come and you will see".

How attractive Jesus must have been to those seeking more from life.

Older priests like myself find it puzzling that today's young men do not seek Him out as Andrew did.

JAN. 16

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

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

Is it Jesus who fails to attract them?

Or is it the life of the priest that doesn't appeal?

Young people should "come and see", and ask their pastor for information and advice.

Of course, the underlying attraction is love.

Unless a young man falls in love with Jesus as Andrew and Simon did, he will never pursue a vocation.

Only love can quiet the voices of protest from the world around them, and give them the courage to sacrifice the normal seeking out of a lovely woman with whom to have a family, and build a career.

Why should young men

seriously consider priesthood as a lifetime commitment? Because priesthood leads not only to personal holiness and salvation, but because it brings this about through the priest guiding countless others to salvation through the sacraments of the church.

There is no other calling in life to equal it.

It is a life of imitation of Jesus' life and mission in his great love for people, his willingness to search out the lost, to counsel and encourage, bless and forgive sins by God's power, to be a part of every family, yet belonging to none.

What does it take to become a priest?

Priesthood takes sacrifice, generosity, common sense, adequate intelligence, piety, and a sense of humor.

Know anyone that has those qualities?

Then give them a nudge, pray for them, and encourage them.

The Holy Spirit will carry on from there!

TOM DUDA
The Polka Beat
For Your Dancing Feet
(315) 344-7238



FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Serving the following counties
Franklin, Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence and Jefferson

The Foster Grandparent Program is a volunteer program where senior citizens age 55 and older volunteer at schools with children who are in need of extra help and attention.

The Foster Grandparent Program is an opportunity to "SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW" With the children of your community.

Foster Grandparents earn a small stipend, mileage reimbursement, lunch, and insurance while volunteering. The stipend earned does not reduce any current funding service that you may already be receiving, or affect any subsidized rentals based on income.

For more information on how to be involved in the Foster Grandparent Program, please call:
Vivian Smith or Melissa Hutchins
518-359-7688

OUR READERS WRITE

Condolences Appreciated

The family of the late Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert, II, wishes to extend their sincerest appreciation to everyone who offered their condolences upon his passing on December 15th, 2010, while residing in Florida.

A very special appreciation and honor is extended to the Bishop of Ogdensburg, Terry LaValley, for officiating over Joseph's funeral mass along with Rev. Kris Lauzon, Rev. Donald Kramberg as well Rev. Phillip Allen.

We felt honored and humbled to have several area Deacons attend and

participate in the celebration of Joseph's life at the Holy Name Church in Au Sable Forks.

We further wish to offer a heartfelt thank you to members of the American Legion Post 504 who accepted our invitation to be pallbearers as well as provide a ceremony in honor of Joseph's military service; and to the volunteers who prepared and hosted the reception following the burial service.

We greatly appreciated John Thwait's' (Owner/Operator Zaumetzer-

Sprague Funeral Home) professionalism and courtesy throughout the funeral preparations.

Everyone's prayers and condolences have been a wonderful source of comfort and consolation as we mourn the loss of Joseph, especially during the holiday season.

SINCEREST REGARDS,
BARBARA (PAUL) GILBERT
BRUCE GILBERT
GENE GILBERT
AUSABLE FORKS

Letters to the Editor

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

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



AT THE MOVIES

BLACK SWAN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"The road of excess," claimed the poet William Blake, "leads to the palace of wisdom." For the main character in "Black Swan" (Fox Searchlight) - director Darren Aronofsky's nightmarish, morally muddled drama set in the highly demanding world of classical ballet - that well-worn path leads to a very different destination.

Consumed by dedication to her art, dancer Nina (Natalie Portman) longs to play the dual leading roles of the White and Black Swans in her company's forthcoming production of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake."

Though artistic director

Thomas (Vincent Cassel) considers the shy and inhibited but gifted performer perfect for the pure White Swan, he doubts her ability to carry off the part of the villainous Black Swan, an onstage embodiment of guile and sensuality.

So Thomas urges Nina to get in touch - in the first instance, quite literally - with her sexuality.

To do so, however, Nina must rebel against her strict, overprotective mother Erica (Barbara Hershey), with whom she still lives.

A former ballerina whose career went nowhere, Erica is obsessed - or so at least it seems to Nina - with fulfilling her dreams of success vicariously through her

daughter.

Nina gains a role model in hedonistic living - and a rival for center stage - when passionate newcomer Lily (Mila Kunis) joins the troupe.

Their much-talked-about bedroom encounter --the culmination of a night of drunken and drug-fueled carousing - marks the nadir of the film's voyeuristic excesses.

Though Portman turns in a striking performance, teeter-tottering on the edge of sanity, Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz and John McLaughlin's script plays on the extremes of sexual repression and debauched license, ignoring the healthy middle ground of erotic love expressed within a

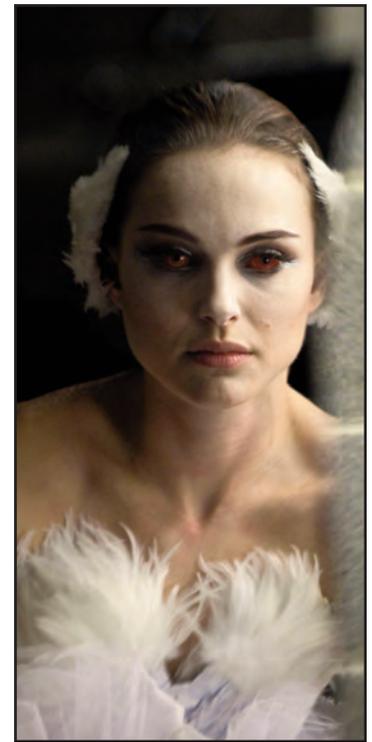
committed marital relationship.

Whether read as insisting on the necessity of indiscriminate experience or as a cautionary tale weighted in the opposite direction - Nina's fate sadly parallels that of the tragic White Swan - this dark fable presents its heroine's experimentation far too graphically.

The film contains strong sexual content, including graphic lesbian and nonmarital heterosexual activity, as well as masturbation, drug use, much rough and some crude language and numerous sexual references.

The Catholic News Service classification is O --morally offensive.

The Motion Picture Associ-



CNS PHOTO/FOX SEARCHLIGHT
Natalie Portman stars in a scene from the movie "Black Swan."

ALSO PLAYING....



CNS PHOTO/ROGUE PICTURES

Claire Foy stars in a scene from the movie "Season of the Witch," a boring medieval adventure in which two warriors (Nicolas Cage and Ron Perlman), disenchanted with the church-sponsored slaughter of the Crusades, go AWOL but find the plague (ravaging the territories through which they pass on their way home. Identified as deserters, they face incarceration unless they agree to escort a young prisoner (Claire Foy) to a distant abbey so she can stand trial as a witch whose black magic has given rise to the fatal pest. Conflating history and dredging up hoary cliches about the period, director Dominic Sena presents a relentlessly negative picture of its Catholicism as a superstitious, oppressive force against which his main characters nobly rebel. Pervasive anti-Catholic bias, occult themes, brief partial nudity, much -- mostly bloodless -- violence, some gruesome images, at least one use of the S-word and a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO/THE WIENSTEIN COMPANY

Colin Firth stars in a scene from the movie "The King's Speech," a "stirring historical drama, set between the world wars, about the unlikely but fruitful relationship between the Duke of York (Colin Firth) -- second in line to the British crown -- and the eccentric speech therapist (Geoffrey Rush) under whose care he reluctantly places himself at the instigation of his loyal wife (Helena Bonham Carter) to overcome the stammer that hobbles his public speaking. Weaving together the story of one of the modern era's most successful royal marriages and the lesser-known tale of the friendship by which an unflappable commoner helped to heal the emotionally crippling childhood wounds, director Tom Hooper creates a luminous tapestry reinforced by finely spun performances and marred only by the loose threads of some offensive language. Two brief but intense outbursts of vulgarity, a couple of uses of profanity, a few crass terms and a mildly irreverent joke. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

ADIRONDACK

SPAGHETTI FOR SPAIN

Saranac Lake – Fundraiser to be held for students headed to Madrid, Spain for World Youth Day.

Date: Jan. 15

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

Place: St. Bernard's School Cafeteria; Take-out is available.

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$5; under 5, free

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saranac Lake – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Jan. 12 and Jan. 19 (both afternoons required for training)

Features: Anyone in the Tri-Lakes area who is interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer is invited.

Mercy Care's Friendship Volunteer Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. Volunteers of all faiths are invited. New Volunteers will join Mercy Care's 50+ Volunteers from Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid who are helping elders stay connected to their communities.

Contact: To request registration information, please contact Sheila Schneck at Mercy Care by calling 523-5583. Mercy Care can be reached at 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946, by calling Donna Beal, Executive Director, at 523-5581, or by e-mail at dbeal@adkmercy.org. For more information, visit Mercy Care's web site at <http://www.adkmercy.org>

CLINTON

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an "If you can eat" spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 15

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center; Take-outs available.

Cost: Adults, \$7.5; Children 6-12, \$3.5; under 5, Free

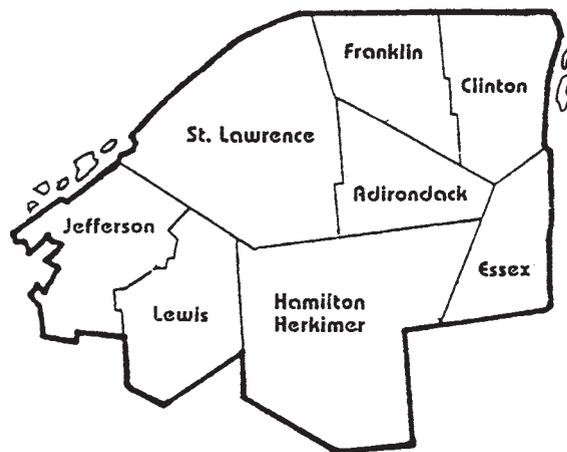
MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – The annual Plattsburgh March for Life, sponsored by the Champlain Valley Right to Life, will be held

Date: Jan. 16

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Program: Group will gather at the Newman Center, and process to St. John's Church where Bishop Terry LaValley will speak; reception follows



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, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

PRAYER VIGIL

Plattsburgh – A prayer vigil will be held the first Sunday of the winter months.

Place: St. Peter's Chapel

Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Features: Helper's of Gods Precious Infants prayer vigil will be held. We may not be able to save their lives, but can we not plead on their behalf?

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ellenburg Center - Day of Reflection to be held at OLA House of Prayer.

Date: Jan. 22

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Deacon John Levison will speak on Holiness. We are invited to the wedding banquet. We need something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue. Please join us for talks, lunch, prayer and sharing.

Contact: RSVP by Jan. 21 to oadirond@twcny.rr.com or call 518-594-3253. Donations appreciated.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE IN 2011

Plattsburgh – Please mark your calendars for Spring 2011 40 days for life! Ash Wednesday, March 9 to Palm Sunday, April 17.

YOUTH FREE THROW

Peru – Local Knights of Columbus Council 7273 to sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship.

Date: Jan. 16

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center

Features: All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local

level of competition for the 2011 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. All boys and girls 10 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

Contact: For entry forms or additional information contact: Brian Mulcahy at (518) 643-6805.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,

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

Theme: Jesus, Divine Master, we adore You as the only-begotten Son of God, who came on earth to give abundant life to humanity. We thank You because by Your death on the cross, You give us life through Baptism and You nourish us in the Eucharist" (Bl. James Alberione). Pray for vocations!

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

FRANKLIN

"B.I.N.G.O SPELLS MURDER"

Brushton – St. Mary's Catholic Church presents an interactive dinner theater presented by North Franklin Theater Group.

Date: Jan. 21 and 28

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$25 per person; Pre-paid reservations only. Call 529-7713 (limited seating, call early). No refunds 72 hours prior to show

JEFFERSON

PRAYER VIGIL

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold their annual candle light "Respect Life" prayer vigil.

Date: Jan. 17

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Municipal Building on Washington Street.

Features: The interfaith event will last about one half hour. Refreshments will be offered at the Presbyterian Church following the vigil. Join us as we pray for renewed respect for all human life, particularly the most vulnerable.

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An ecumenical bereavement meeting to be held.

Date: Jan. 24

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Speaker: Ms. Sylvia Buduson, a 24 year volunteer and Board Member of Hospice of Jefferson County. Sylvia has lost an only son through death. Her topic will be: "Coping through Faith"

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

TO SHRINES OF FRANCE

Watertown - Father Donald Robinson, is leading a pilgrimage to shrines in France

Date: March 21-31, 2011

Cost: \$2349 includes airfare, accommodations, and most meals

Features: Visit Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont St. Michel, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux, and Paris.

Contact: Call 782-1190.

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. JAMES GALA

Gouverneur – St. James Parish is planning its annual Gala.

Date: Feb. 12

Features: Tickets are available at the school, 287-0130. More information to follow.

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues through the night, concluding with Benediction at 7 a.m. Friday.

FRIDAY FISH FRY

Ogdensburg - Fish Fry Buffet will be held every Friday sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 258.

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall; Eat in or take out, deliveries are available only to the Towers.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-10, \$6; under 5, Free

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FAMILY OF FAITH WORKSHOP

The diocesan Department of Evangelization is sponsoring a workshop "Being A Part of a Church: A Family of Faith" with an emphasis on Matthew's Gospel—a Gospel of the Church.

Dates: Feb. 20-26 in various parts of the diocese; full schedule to be announced.

Program: This workshop will focus on the Gospel of Matthew—Church as a Community of Faith, faith sharing in small Christian Communities as a way of being Church and an overview of Lenten Longings. In the section on the Gospel of Matthew, the focus will be: 1. Roots: genealogy and relationships; 2. Community: Gathering and Inclusivity; 3. Law: Commandments and Beatitudes; 4. Prayer: Dependence of God; 5. Mission: Reign of God

Contact: St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, diocesan director of evangelization, 315-393-2920



The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Renew the face of the earth

From the Director's Desk,
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

As people of faith, we see the whole of creation as the handiwork of God. Most of us experience the wonder of God as we walk through a forest, gaze out from a high place, or sit by the waterside. In our depths, we are aware that the greater community of creation sustains not only our bodies, but also in some way our spirits.

Jesus, too, seems to have experienced God in the midst of creation. He went out into the wilderness "with the wild beasts" for 40 days before beginning his active ministry, and every time the Gospels describe Jesus in prayer, he is once again outdoors. Jesus' parables and teachings are full of metaphors drawn from nature: the birds, the lilies of the field, the mustard seed, the fish in the sea, and the cultivation of the soil.

Just as "God so loves the world," we are called to love and care for the Earth and all its creatures. Yet, we are now living in a time of unprecedented ecological crisis. The entire balance of the intricate web of life that God created is being undermined, and this is happening as a result of human activity.

As people of faith, how should we respond to this unfolding crisis? All of creation can be seen as a revelation of God. The great Christian mystic, Meister Eckhart, wrote nearly 800 years ago that we should, "apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God."

In this sense, the Earth and all its creatures deserve our love and deep respect. Each time we lose a species or a forest, each time we defile the Earth, it is as though we were tearing out a page of sacred scripture and destroying it forever. Of course, we all depend on other creatures for our survival — we must eat food, clothe ourselves, and build shelter. However, in doing so, we must respect the overall integrity of species, ecosystems, and the Earth itself.

It is time that Christians, together with all people of good will, begin to re-orient our actions and practices to reflect the need to right our relationship with the Earth and to establish more just and living human communities.

As we begin a new year, let this be one resolution for the New Year!

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

OBITUARIES

Adams — Ernest A. Panetta Jr., 74; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Elmwood Cemetery.

Altona — Eva M. (LaFountain) Gilman, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2011 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Cadyville — Joseph James Clauss Sr., 82; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton — Dorothy A. "Dort" (Finnegan) Nash, 91; Funeral Jan. 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial, Calvary Cemetery.

Carthage — John F. Towne, 84; Funeral Services at St. James Church.

Champlain — Bertha E. (Meseck) Gooley, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — John F. O'Neill, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2010 at St. Mary's Church.

Dannemora — Marie M. (Smart) Macey, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Esther (Ryan) Noel, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Robert V. Smith, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hogansburg — Thomas John Bero "Ra-hontsiahowe", 6; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2011 at St. Regis Catholic Church; burial in Solomon Road Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Ralph L. Leaf, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2011 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

Hogansburg — Anna "Kawennison" Thompson, 108; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Regis Catholic Church; burial St. Lawrence Cemetery.

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, forever and ever, Amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say prayer 9 times a day for 9 days.
KM

Lowville — Theresa F. (Bush) Birchenough, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at St. Peter's Catholic Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Madrid — Marie T. (Robillard) Dowdle, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. John's the Baptist Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena — Leonard F. Hoffman, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena — William F. Snider, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Helen C. (McRae) Viskovich, 97; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers — Clifton H. Higgins, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb — Daniel Francis Tefoe, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2011 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — William E. Dominie, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Clarence F. "Butch" La-Comb, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial.

Peru — Gail M. (Myott) Baggs, 67; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Augustine's



Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Mary Lou (Slattery) Zaferakis, 64; Memorial Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Peter's Church

Plattsburgh — Thomas L. Witt, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2011 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry — Joycelyn A. (Vanderhoof) Bigelow, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Maurice Bromley Otis, 87; Funeral services Jan. 7, 2011 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Harrietstown Cemetery.

Watertown — Kevin W. Deeny, 51; Memorial Services Jan. 4, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — James G. Howard, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — John F. Kavanaugh, 96; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — Dennis W. Sequin, 88; Funeral Jan. 6, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy — Gerald Truman Dumas, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

The beauty that comes from pain

Well after three and a half crazy months at school in Texas, I am finally home and writing for the *North Country Catholic* again.

Though it is only for a short time, I will hopefully have time to share some of the things I've seen, done, and learned. Let me assure you, there have been lots!

The whole process of getting acclimated with a new school, and in a new state, was quite an upheaval. For one thing, I never realized how quiet and peaceful the North Country is until I lived next to two airports, a train track, and a constantly roaring highway.

I also never appreciated grass, green forests, hills, and four seasons.

But strangely, one of the

weirdest parts was going somewhere where I had no obligations to anyone. For the first time since I could remember, I was not a member of a single club, organization, or team.



Rachel
Daly

Aside from going to class and doing homework (which admittedly took up more of my time than I had bargained for), I still could do pretty much anything I wanted.

Campus events did not need me to help plan them, and if I decided not to show up, they would get along fine without me. The greatest shock occurred when I walked into our winter dance and my jaw simply dropped at what a beautiful job my fellow students had done decorating.

I realized right then that I

had never gone to a school dance of my very own that I had not helped plan, set up, or clean up.

Now, if I wanted, I could just take advantage of everything my school offered without ever giving back. I had enjoyed being a part of all the organizing and fundraising for things in high school, but in the back of my mind it was still a bit of a chore.

When I did not contribute, the burden fell on just a few others, so I felt guilty saying no. After having little choice in the matter for years on end, I was not in a hurry to commit myself when I got to college.

But within the first few weeks, I noticed something missing. It had always been a pain mopping the cafeteria before a high school dance, but nothing made me feel more like a true veteran of the school than

knowing my way around the janitor's closet.

Our sports teams raised money by working the concession stand at Airborne Speedway, and though we left there hot, sweaty, and smelling like fried food, we made some great memories assembling hamburgers and fetching people's orders.

As the saying goes, pain is beauty, and the pains of maintaining our high school clubs, organizations, and sports teams had yielded me some really beautiful moments.

Only after a bit of separation was I able to appreciate them. I think the same goes for a lot of good things. In our spiritual lives, we might try ninety-nine different methods of prayer, and they will be worth it when we find that hundredth method that really works for us.

We can do ninety-nine works of service that go un-

noticed, but they will be worth it for that hundredth act when someone says thank you.

We can take baby steps that hardly seem to get us anywhere, but they will be worth it when we see how far we come.

That is why we cannot give up or get frustrated when the results of our endeavors are not obvious or immediate. It takes time for our efforts to ripen and mature. In the end, I found a really cool community service club that throws sleepovers for terminally ill girls in local hospitals, which I joined on a whim and ended up really enjoying.

I just could not stay away from involvement for long. But more importantly, I learned to embrace the pains of my commitments, because the beauty they yield is worth far more than I ever knew.

COMING OF AGE

Turning personal tragedies into triumphs

By Erick Rommel
Catholic News Service

Unless you live in the northeast corner of Indiana, you've probably never heard of Greg Chupp. He died four years ago in a car accident. The car he was riding in ran off the road and hit a tree. The driver was going too fast; Greg died instantly. One person who will never forget Greg is his cousin, Luke Pamer.

Luke looked up to Greg like he was a brother. When Greg died, Luke took it hard.

Now that he's 16, the same age Greg was when he died, Luke wants to prevent others from experiencing the pain he felt, and he hopes to prevent others from needlessly dying as well.

Luke has made it his mission to educate classmates about safe driving, emphasizing how doing something as simple as driving to a friend's house could have devastating consequences if a mistake is made.

Finding inspiration in tragic events is one way that we often pull ourselves out of darkness. Artists dedicate performances to those they've loved and lost. But you don't have to be famous to honor those who have inspired you. You just have to have desire.

A few months ago, teenager Rachel McFall organized a 5K walk near Myrtle Beach, S.C., to raise money for the American Heart Association. She named it the "Race to Save Hearts."

It was in memory of her mother, who died of a heart attack. The event took place on what would have been her mother's 50th birthday.

In Broward County, Fla., Jaime Sloane inspired her classmates at Cooper City High School by getting them involved with Operation Smile, which helps the many children in underdeveloped countries who are born with facial deformities and whose parents can't afford reconstructive surgery.

Jaime and her classmates organized a two-mile fun walk and collected close to \$12,000.

Bailey Monarch, a 17-year-old from Tarpon Springs, Fla., is also organizing a walk. It will take place later this year in Tampa.

She wants to raise money and awareness for the fight against eating disorders.

Bailey's efforts aren't in response to a tragedy she saw; they're the result of a tragedy she lived. Two years ago, she wanted to lose weight. Soon after, she couldn't stop.

By the time doctors diagnosed her with anorexia nervosa, Bailey was 30 pounds underweight, losing her hair and paralyzed in her right

foot. In addition to her organizational efforts, Bailey is also a state and national advocate for eating disorder awareness.

She hopes others will also recognize the signs that her family was fortunate to see before it was too late. No matter the motivation, the effort to make a difference turns something bad into something potentially good. That's what continues to drive Luke four years after Greg's death.

When continuing is difficult, he finds strength in the support of his friends, who recognize how difficult it is for him to speak publicly and persuasively about a personal tragedy.

Not everyone who listens truly hears Luke's message, or Rachel's or Jaime's or Bailey's. But reaching out isn't about getting everyone to accept what you have to say; it's about the impact you can have on each person who actually does listen.

For Luke, those who stop and look a second time before pulling out of a parking lot or drive slower on a dangerous road may never know if their action saved a life, but they will also never experience the pain he felt when he lost Greg.

It can be a life-changing moment that can only be appreciated by its absence.

And for some, that might be motivation enough.