

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Prospects good for pro-life legislation | PAGE 8

How can we work to make abortions rare? | PAGE 12

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 19, 2011

## Building a culture of life

Bishop Terry R. LaValley observes the 38th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision allowing abortion with a call for Catholics in the North Country to build a culture of life.

In the first of a two-part series, Bishop LaValley

writes:

"Ours is an urgent moral challenge. We have been changed by our culture too much, and we have changed it not enough.

"The progress of society should not be confused with the growth of the Kingdom of God.

"As Catholic Christians we must be leaven in our world. We must be about the business of informing and forming our culture based on the Gospel and Church teaching, not the other way around.

"It's not a question of when will the Church 'get

with it' and change. It's a question of when will we, our culture, 'get with it' and change, particularly when it comes to issues that continue to feed our culture of death."

"So what can we do?" the bishop asks. "What must we do?"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Being Part of a Church Community

A workshop "Being" A Part of a Church Community will be held in sites across the diocese Feb. 20-26.

Anne Scanlan from RENEW International will facilitate the workshop, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

While all pastors, parish council leaders, parish ministry leaders, coordinators and facilitators of small community groups are especially encouraged to attend, all parishioners are invited, said St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, diocesan director of evangelization.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Third Order Franciscans

Members of St. Joseph Fraternity share their time and artistic talent

with the Franciscan missions

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE BEATIFIED



CNS PHOTO/ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II waves to young pilgrims during World Youth Day in Toronto July 25, 2002. Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on Divine Mercy Sunday. Full story, page 7.

## TO MARCH IN WASHINGTON

Jan. 22 is 38th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE E. KOSSOFF-NORDBY  
Tens of thousands of pro-lifers from all over the United States - including four busloads from the Diocese of Ogdensburg - are expected to travel to the nation's capital for events marking the Jan. 22 anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. This year's March for Life in Washington will be Jan. 24. The theme is: "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent born and pre-born human in existence at fertilization — no exception, no compromise." Shown above is a scene from the 2010 march.

**CHURCH - A FAMILY OF FAITH:** Sharing in Christ's Mission of Service... p. 2

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSI

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager


 Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in April and every other week in July and August by the
Diocese of Ogdensburg,  
622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

## E-mail:

news@northcountry  
catholic.orgEntered at the  
Post Office:Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$25

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$28

Canadian Rate: US Funds \$45

Matters for publication should be addressed to Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

## POSTMASTER:

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

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Pro-life persistence

In a couple of days, four busloads of pro-life pilgrims from the Diocese of Ogdensburg will add their voices to the clamor expected next Monday in the nation's capital.

Thirty-eight years after the Jan. 22, 1973, Roe vs Wade decision, tens of thousands of people from all across the country are expected to join the annual March for Life and make their persistent plea: "Stop abortion now."

And, once again, the crowd will include scores of teenagers from parishes across northern New York.

John and Colleen Miner, the diocesan directors of respect life ministry, have organized a trip that's intended to be a *pilgrimage* for the 94 teenagers who have signed up.

It will be a spiritual journey as they pray together and "stand up for the babies," said Mrs. Miner.

And it will certainly be source of great encouragement.

As the young people take part in a pro-life youth rally - with 15,000 or so more teenagers - and then march down Constitution Avenue in matching t-shirts, they will see that they are not alone in their beliefs.

The Miners have been organizing the March for Life youth buses for 15 years and find that they become more popular every year. This year, as usual, there's a waiting list.

For me, the fact that the voices for life have become younger and more resilient is quite remarkable.

When that infamous decision came down in 1973, I was a senior in high school. The consensus among my friends was that pro-life protests would fade in a year or two. I hate to admit, first of all, that it's been so many years since I was a teenager and, secondly, that nobody my age was at all concerned about the fateful change in our

country's laws that day.

But, nearly four decades later, pro-life work continues unabated. Bishop LaValley is leading the way in the diocese with an important lesson about why we need to build up the culture of life and how we should do it. Part one of his reflection appears on page three and part two will be featured in next week's *NCC*.

*NCC* columnist Kathy Gallagher, the Director of Pro-life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, addresses similar issues on page 12.

Not surprisingly, both Bishop LaValley and Mrs. Gallagher make a similar point: not all of us can make the journey to Washington to make our voices heard but everybody can do *something*.

This week, and next, we're happy to provide space to offer some practical ideas about what that something could be!

Mary Lou  
Kilian

## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

## Sharing in Christ's Mission of Service

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI

Director of Evangelization

"He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."

Jesus had begun His mission to preach and to say, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John the Baptist had prepared the way by telling the people who had sat in darkness that the "light has arisen." Jesus needed men who would walk with Him in His mission.

Walking along the Sea of Galilee, He called Peter and Andrew, James and John to "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." They all left their nets to follow Jesus immediately. Now, Jesus had four companions who would share His ministry.

The invitation to share the mission of Jesus continues for each one of us. By our Baptism, we are called to be disciples of Jesus, to be disciples in mission.

There are people still sitting in darkness waiting for the "light to arise" in them. They face such challenges as atheism, secularism, materialism, violence, unemployment, health care issues, etc.

The only true light is the Light of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of the Church to make the message of Jesus Christ known throughout the world. We are the Church, the disciples in mission, entrusted with the mandate of Jesus to make the whole world know the beauty of His message.

His death and resurrection brought us salvation and fulfilled the promises made of old.

This is the work of the Church, to evangelize the world. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, we follow His way. We "walk the walk." To be a disciple of Jesus Christ will entail sacrifice and possibly the cost of our lives.

It takes courage to witness the truths of our Catholic faith in our society today where the culture of death shows signs of readiness to act out hideous violent actions upon innocent people and upon those who practice their faith.

To be an evangelizer also means the daily call to repent, that is, to be willing to change the ways of our lives. Are we willing to change?

There are some symbols in the Gospel passage that might open the door to understand a little more what we have to change. The nets suggest what we control. They hold things in, capture, contain, and limit. What is it that we hold on to so tightly? The boat represents our ability to come and go as we please. They allow us to move about, float freely and independently, and will take us where we want to go.

Are we willing to let go and go where we would not want to go in order for the mission to be fulfilled? The father was left behind. That may be the more difficult "letting go." It is the father in our lives that gives us our identity and the sense of who we are.

There is nothing wrong with the nets, the boats, and the fathers, but Jesus is the one who makes the call and desires that we be the ones to follow after Him.

Are we willing to give up the control, the opportunities, and the rootedness in order to be grasped by Christ Jesus? Jesus promised a hundred-fold. Have we not been repaid in some way or another?

We are Church: A Family of Faith. We are still able to go out fishing, this time, to be fishers of men and women who need the Light of Christ.

What say you?

## 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.

Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____		State _____	Zip _____
Parish _____			

Charge my  Visa  MASTERCARD  
Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

New Subscription  Renewal

Check for \$25 enclosed  Outside Diocese \$28

I want to be a Patron  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$250

FOLLOW ME

# Building a culture of life

*For it was you who created my being,  
Knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I thank you for the wonder of my being,  
For the wonders of all your creation.*

*Already you knew my soul,  
My body held no secret from you  
When I was being fashioned in secret  
And molded in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw all my actions,  
They were all of them written in your book,  
every one of my days was decreed  
before one of them came into being.*  
(Psalm 139: 13-16)

I find the words of this psalm to be so very consoling. No matter what, God is by my side. He knows what's in my heart.

These above-cited verses of the psalm are particularly inspiring when we reflect on the gift of life. I couldn't help but think that one verse seems to have been forgotten by many of us today: *I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.*

We have, in so many ways, forgotten how to say 'thank you' because, perhaps, we no longer consider human life as a *wonder-full* gift. If I don't embrace human life as a gift, then I need not treat it with any particular respect. The body becomes merely an object that I can do with as I please. Enter: pornography, contraception, euthanasia, abortion. My life is my life-- period. I am not beholden to anyone for it. It's my right to do with it as I see fit, as I *choose*.

Just a few verses further on, we hear the psalmist say: *O search me, God, and know my heart. O test me and know my thoughts. See that I follow not the wrong path and lead me in the path of life eternal.*

The psalmist knows that he doesn't have all the answers, but seeks the Lord's constant guidance so that the wrong way is never taken. Sometimes we think we know better, we have all the answers and the guidance and direction offered by God's laws are ridiculed, at the least, ignored. Enter: the Culture of Death.

My sisters and brothers, we must read the signs of the times. The Catholic Church is often criticized for her supposed neglect of such a read. Yet, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, do not the signs scream out to us that these, too often, conscience numbing, self-serving times are becoming more and more self-destructive?

Back in 1994, in his **Letter to Families (12)**, Pope John Paul II wrote: *the signs of the times which we see today are providing new reasons for forcefully reaffirming the Church teaching on the sanctity of human life. St. Paul, so attentive to the pastoral demands of his day, clearly and firmly indicated the need to be "urgent in season and out of season and not to be daunted by the fact that sound teaching is no longer endured"* (2 Tim 4:2-3).

This year our Church in the North Country is

making a concerted effort to focus on the importance of our families. Tragically, in too many ways, we find ourselves deeply imbedded in a culture of death where the very fabric of our family is coming unwoven. Issues of life mean everything to the family.

So what do we do? Throw in the towel? Leave it all up to God?

Ours is an urgent moral challenge. We have been changed by our culture too much, and we have changed it not enough. The progress of society should not be confused with the growth of the Kingdom of God. As Catholic Christians we must be leaven in our world. We must be about the business of informing and forming our culture based on the Gospel and Church teaching, not the other way around.

It's not a question of when will the Church "get with it" and change. It's a question of when will we, our culture, "get with it" and change, particularly when it comes to issues that continue to feed our culture of death.

In his homily at the Vigil for all nascent life on the First Sunday of Advent, the Holy Father said: *Cultural trends exist that seek to anaesthetize consciences with spurious arguments. Science clearly indicates that the unborn child is not an accumulation of biological material but rather a new living being, dynamic and marvelously ordered, a new individual of the human species.*

In his encyclical of 2005, **Deus Caritas Est**, Pope Benedict reminded us that *it isn't the Church's responsibility to make its teaching prevail in political life. Rather, the Church wishes to help form consciences...The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the state. Yet, at the same time, she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice (28). In all humility, he writes, we will do what we can, and in all humility we will entrust the rest to the Lord. It is God who governs the world, not we (35).*

So what can we do? What must we do?

I know that it might sound like a cliché to some or a cop out to others. But, first and foremost, what every person can and must do is: PRAY. Please, please persevere in prayer. At Mass, at Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, in personal prayer at home, while praying the Holy Rosary, consciously pray for life.

I often find it helpful to focus my prayer on a given occasion because there are so very many facets of our pro-life efforts that need divine intervention. For instance, at one time my prayer may focus just on the woman contemplating an abortion, or the father.

At another time we may wish to focus our prayer on parents who have chosen to have an abortion, or on the abortion providers. We can focus our prayer on children who must struggle

with end of life decisions for their elderly parents. We must pray for those who promote a culture of death, such as Planned Parenthood and those lawmakers, particularly those Catholic politicians, who are more concerned about the winds of political correctness than protecting the gift of human life.

And, most importantly, we must pray for ourselves...for our own ongoing personal conversion. When our language and behavior become mean-spirited and self-righteous in our own Pro-Life efforts, we become a walking contradiction to what we say we believe about the dignity of all human life.

So, you see, there is a whole lot of room for prayers - prayers for all of us. Our prayers will not go unanswered. Be strong. Be persistent. Be patient. It is the Lord's work. There is but one Messiah. Invite others, family members and friends, to pray with you.

Another concrete action that we can take as individuals is to regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to do acts of penance for the many times that we attack the dignity of the persons with whom we come in contact. Perhaps, most especially we need to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with the ones with whom we live and take for granted the most—our family members.

Several weeks ago, I wrote to all of our pastors asking them to submit to me names of parishioner contact persons who can serve as life liaisons with our diocesan Pro-Life Office. I believe this is a way that the Diocese can better focus our efforts to promote life issues.

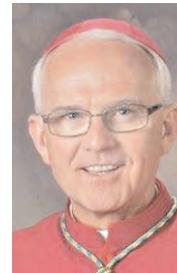
There has been much written out there. And, as you know, some of that correspondence is way out there. It's one thing to be passionate, another to be un-Christian.

I cannot and we must not support the use of vitriolic, self-righteous and condemnatory language to make the faithful see things our way... whether it's from the far left or the far right of the ideological spectrum. Such communication is self-defeating, falling on deaf ears, even many times 'turning off' pro-life ears.

While everyone has the right to communicate his or her thoughts, I have the responsibility to ensure that the local Church speaks with one united voice. A major responsibility of the bishop is to promote the unity of the faithful.

I'm hoping that we enable our parishes to become even stronger advocates of the Church teaching on life issues through the ministry of these contact persons. If you don't know who it is, ask your pastor for the name of the life contact person for your parish. Communication of the Church's teaching and pro-life efforts will be channeled to the pastor and local parish through this contact person.

Next week: *What else can we do to promote a culture of life?*



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## A VISIT TO ALMA MATER



Junior High school students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga listen to Diocesan Director of Vocations, Father Bryan Stitt and ponder what he has to say as he speaks to them about vocations. Father Stitt, an alumnus of St. Mary's School, visited classes Kindergarten through Grade 8 after celebrating Mass with the entire school Jan. 7.

# Workshop set to focus on being part of a parish

A workshop "Being" A Part of a Church Community will be held in sites across the diocese Feb. 20-26.

Anne Scanlan from RENEW International will facilitate the workshop, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Evangelization.

St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon, diocesan director of evangelization, explained the purpose of the workshop:

"For the next few weeks, the Sunday Liturgies are of Ordinary Time. The Gospel readings from Matthew focus on his early ministry in Galilee. We hear the stories of the call of the disciples, their formation to be disciples, and how they are to live and to proclaim the Gospel from the Sermon on the Mount," she said.

"All of these stories are told for the early Christian Community of Matthew's time and for us as a Family of Faith in the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

"Building a parish community, being a family of faith in the life of the Church is not easy today," Sister Mary Eamon said. "In this Diocese we are faced with the diminishing numbers of priests in

our parishes and parishes are merging and closing. The question asked is, 'Why my church?', 'I don't want to go to Mass at that church.'"

"This may sound like 'gloom and doom,' but we are a community of believers who bring hope and joy to a world that appears to be dark and depressed," she said. "We are called to be 'salt of the earth' and 'a light to all nations.' We are called to be a people of faith and love. If we are not a people of faith and charity, the kingdom of heaven cannot be fulfilled.

"We are called to be a people that bring wisdom, joy, energy and zest to others," she said. "We must come together to be 'church no matter where the church building is located. We have to pull together. We are the People of God, the community of believers who proclaim the Gospel.

"We hear the Word of God and celebrate Eucharist together to bring about His kingdom of justice and peace because we are strengthened and nourished together to go back out to be disciples in mission." Sister Eamon said. "Evangelization is the call

and work of all us, the Church."

While all pastors, parish council leaders, parish ministry leaders, coordinators and facilitators of small community groups are especially encouraged to attend, all parishioners are invited, Sister Eamon said.

The schedule for the workshop follows

#### Lewis Deanery

Feb. 20, St. Peter's Church Hall, Lowville, 1 p.m. to 3

#### Jefferson Deanery

Feb. 20, SSJ Motherhouse, Watertown, 6 p.m. to 8

#### St. Lawrence Deanery

Feb. 21, Trinity Catholic School, Massena, 7 p.m. to 9

#### Franklin Deanery

Feb. 22, Holy Family School, Malone, 7 p.m. to 9

#### Clinton Deanery

Feb. 23, St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh; 1 p.m. to 3 AND 7 p.m. to 9.

#### Adirondack Deanery

Feb. 4, Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake, 6 p.m. to 8

#### Essex Deanery

Feb. 26, Patrick's Parish Center, Port Henry; 10 a.m. to noon.

## 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

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS



Julie Guarino's fifth and sixth grades at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg, celebrated the Birth of Jesus with a birthday party given in His honor. In the front are Maggie Crowley, Alex Steele, Bridget Paige, Haley Whitmarsh, Lorraine Hollis, Taylor Johnston, Joey Measheaw, Austin Cadrette and Christian Hadley. In the back row are Lexie LaFlair, Jacob Awan, Abby Marshall, Frankie Jo Besio, and Maggie Peo.

# Third Order Franciscans share artistic talents to help missions

By Kate Curry  
Staff writer

**TUPPER LAKE** – Karin Nenning of Tupper Lake has been knitting leper bandages for years.

As a Third Order Franciscan, she observes the Franciscan philosophy which involves prayer, acts of mercy and projects that help others. In the Diocese of Ogdensburg - from Long Lake to Ellenburg and towns in between - the Third Order Franciscans are part of the St. Joseph Fraternity.

One of the many projects of the fraternity is knitting leper bandages which are sent to Franciscan Missions and used around the world when completed.

"I knit as many as I can and then give them to Virginia

Struss of Saranac Lake, Ms. Nenning said. "She sends them to the Franciscan Missions. The number I complete varies due to what else I am doing."

Ms. Nenning is also a local artist and creates a variety of artwork and crafts. She has volunteered her time and has donated other art work and crafts for projects for her church and community.

Despite losing a leg from a blood clotting disorder and now an amputee, she is a typical Franciscan who thinks of others before herself.

Ms. Struss, who collects the leper bandages from members, describes the process of creating the leper bandages: "We use two knitting needles and make 33 stitches. We knit each row that measures 36 inches long

to fit a body. Some other ladies knit 20-24 inches, so it varies."

Members knit on beige or white 100 mercerized crochet cotton thread. This is a durable knit which can last a long time.

"It takes awhile to knit just one," Ms. Struss said. "When I have collected a number of them, I send them to the Franciscan Missions in Waterford, Wisconsin."

"After they are used, they are washed because the Missions can't always afford gauze bandages. I believe these bandages are sent to leper missions, mostly," she said.

The Franciscan Missions relies on projects such as these that involve Franciscan fraternities working together to serve others throughout the world.



Karin Nenning, a member of the St. Joseph's Fraternity of the Third Order Franciscans, holds up a leper bandage she is working on at her home in Tupper Lake. Ms. Nenning has been knitting these bandages for years which is one project of her Fraternity. When completed, these bandages are collected from members and sent to the Franciscan missions around the world.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg**

in our parishes the weekend of **January 22-23**

**Proceeds will be distributed through grants**  
to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs  
for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

**Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.**

**Please continue to pray that all will recognize,  
honor and protect the precious gift of life.**

[www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life)

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# The importance of 'unity' and 'light'

Our readings this week-end provide us with a timely warning. They speak loudly of the importance of "unity" and "light". How important for us who live in a world and in nation overshadowed by darkness and division!

Our Holy Father is most concerned about an apparent "jihad" or holy war on the part of Al Qaeda against Christians in the middle east. There is a concerted effort to drive out natives in those lands who have worshipped in their churches for thousands of years. Burnings of churches, murder of parishioners have caused an exodus of thousands of those who were among the first to follow the light of Christ.

And there is so much darkness in America.

Bitterness and lack of civility in the halls of Congress have paralyzed true progress for the common good.

Carl Anderson, supreme Knight of Columbus, has

written a most convincing book about the need for unity. Responsibly conducted polls show that there is growing consensus among the majority of our citizens that our nation is headed in the wrong direction on issues such as abortion, marriage, and moral values.



**Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore**

Politicians, Wall Street, and the media, however, are deaf to those who try to move our nation away from the darkness of moral confusion. Their voices have little influence. Into this house divided

comes the clear warning from this week's readings: Christ is the true light for the darkness. His message of love for all peoples is the true source of unity. The marvelous prophecy of Isaiah concerns the land of Zebulun and Naphtali which is in northern Galilee where Jesus lived and worked. Here will be a restoration of light with the coming of Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew clearly refers to

**JAN. 23**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

READINGS

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

I Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-23

Isaiah's prophecy that "a people who lived in darkness have seen a great light".

Just as the people in Capharnaum sat in darkness until Jesus came, so too do those in our time and in our culture, await a new evangelization.

Our Holy Father, strongly affirmed only recently in St. Peter's Square, that we bear the responsibility of being light-bearers to a world in crisis. To be light-bearers, we must also be unifiers. Each year in January, both Catholics and Protestants seek to mend fences. Much good is done through these celebrations. But we must also strive harder for unity within our own Catholic communities.

Both clergy and people committed to their care need to be united in our

present crisis. Working for unity is ongoing. It means struggling to let go of suspicions and false assumptions. It means prayer and discussion. When we are unified, we stand a much better chance of influencing the society in which we live.

This is Pro-Life Sunday, marking the anniversary of a badly-rushed court decision called Roe vs. Wade.

In peaceful protest, well over one hundred thousand persons will gather in Washington on Monday, Jan. 24th, to take part in the great March for Life on the Capitol. This is one of the great unifiers, when people of every political and religious persuasion join together to celebrate Life, the life given us by God from the moment of conception.

Every year, there are hearts converted, and charity prevails over insult and clamor. Many others will join them through prayer and local marches.

Respect for the unborn brings a climate of respect for life at every stage. Please pray that more media people and legislators will listen this year.

## Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**Jan. 20** — 9 a.m., Mass and Visit at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg.

**Jan. 21** — 12 p.m., Meeting with local Pastors and Ministers at Dostie Hall in Watertown.

**Jan. 22** — 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Church in Potsdam.

**Jan. 23** — 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the First Methodist Church in Ogdensburg.

**Jan. 24 — 27** — Catholic Leadership Institute Workshop in Orlando, FL.

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: aycsn@westelcom.com

## Rest in Peace

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

**Jan. 19** — Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, V.F., 1974

**Jan. 20** — Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Ponture, 1940

**Jan. 21** — Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M.

**Jan. 22** — Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950

**Jan. 23** — Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

**Jan. 24** — Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

**Jan. 25** — Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Remembering Fr. Howard

God has called Father Howard McCasland to himself. Bless your little peapickin' heart! His Calvary is ended, and I pray that he enter the joy of heaven.

It was sad to not be there to witness his burial in person. I trust that God has allowed this in order to unite us in the communion of saints.

Father Howard, of course, had a great love for Our Lord and devotion to Our Lady, especially with the Novena every

Monday night.

He had a great passion for the doctrines and teachings of our faith—the doctrines of the Church bring us in contact with the person of Christ.

Father taught the importance and the infinite value of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass which gives God "infinite praise" as Jesus offers himself to the Father. When the priest says words of consecration, God changes the substance of the bread and wine into our Lord's living body and blood. Jesus Christ is present on the altar! And when we receive him, "my body is just like a little church."

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

Father liked to share the teaching of some of the saints that in heaven we will all be 33, because that is the perfect age at which Christ died. So he's just there years ahead of me now.

Finally, he taught wonderful prayers. At the elevations—"My Lord and My God" and "My Jesus Mercy". First thing in the morning—"The thought of my mind, the work of my hands, the love of my heart, I give to you O Lord". And after communion—"My Lord and my God, you didn't have to make me, but simply to show me how good you are, and to give me heaven one day as my home, you have made me".

Thank you God for making Father Howard and all of us calling us into his love.

Put it right there, you rascal.

FATHER BERNIE MENARD.

## 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](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs;

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

**Feb. 10** - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, 6:30 p.m.

**Feb. 16** - St. Bernard's School, 6 p.m.

### 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

# Beatification set for Divine Mercy Sunday

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday.

## May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II after miracle approved

Pope Benedict's action Jan. 14 followed more than five years of investigation into the life and writings of the Polish pontiff, who died in April 2005 after more than 26 years as pope.

The Vatican said it took special care with verification of the miracle, the spontaneous cure of a French nun from Parkinson's disease - the same illness that afflicted Pope John Paul in his final years. Three separate Vatican panels approved the miracle, including medical and theological experts, before Pope Benedict signed the official decree.

"There were no concessions given here in procedural severity and thoroughness," said Cardinal Angelo Amato, head of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. On the contrary, he said, Pope John Paul's cause was subject to "particularly careful scrutiny, to remove any doubt."

The Vatican said it would begin looking at logistical arrangements for the massive crowds expected for the beatification liturgy, which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict at the Vatican. Divine Mercy Sunday had special significance for Pope John Paul, who made it a church-wide feast day to be celebrated a week after Easter. The pope died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005.

With beatification, Pope John Paul will be declared "blessed" and thus worthy of restricted liturgical honor. Another miracle is needed

for canonization, by which the church declares a person to be a saint and worthy of universal veneration.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, summed up the sentiment in Rome when he said Pope John Paul would be beatified primarily for the spiritual gifts of faith, hope and charity that were the source of his papal activity.

The world witnessed that spirituality when the pope prayed, when he spent time with the sick and suffering, in his visits to the impoverished countries of the world and in his own illness "lived out in faith, before God and all of us," he said.

Father Lombardi said the Vatican was preparing to move Pope John Paul's body from the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica to the Chapel of St. Sebastian in the basilica's upper level at the time of beatification. The chapel, on the right hand side of the church just after Michelangelo's Pieta, is easily accessible and spacious, an important factor given the steady stream of pilgrims who come to see the pope's tomb.

Father Lombardi said Pope John Paul's casket would not be opened at the time of the relocation, and that it would remain closed after it is placed beneath the altar of the chapel. To make room, the Vatican will have to move the tomb of a previously beatified pontiff, Pope Innocent XI, to another area of the basilica, he said.

In 2005, Pope Benedict set Pope John Paul on the fast track to beatification by waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the introduction of his sainthood cause. That seemed to respond to the "Santo subito!" ("Sainthood now!") banners that were held aloft at Pope John Paul's funeral.

Even so, church experts needed years to review the massive amount of evidence regarding the late pope, including thousands of pages of writings and speeches. The process began with the

Diocese of Rome, which interviewed more than 120 people who knew Pope John Paul and asked them about his actions and character. Studies were conducted on his ministry, the way he handled suffering and how he faced his death.

In 2007, on the second anniversary of the pope's death, the Rome Diocese concluded the initial inquiry phase. The documents from the investigation were placed in four chests, which were latched, tied with a red ribbon, sealed with red wax and delivered to the Congregation for Saints' Causes for further study.

In November 2008, a team of theological consultants to the saints congregation began studying the 2,000-page "positio," the document that made the case for Pope John Paul's beatification. After their favorable judgment, the cardinal and bishop members of the sainthood congregation met in late 2009 and voted to advance the cause.

On Dec. 21, 2009, Pope Benedict declared that Pope John Paul had lived a life of "heroic virtues." That meant he could be beatified once a miracle had been approved.

The reported cure of the French nun was carefully investigated by the Vatican's medical experts over the last year after questions were raised about the original diagnosis. Vatican sources said that, in the end, the experts were satisfied that it was Parkinson's, and that there was no scientific explanation for the cure.

In 2007, the nun, Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, spoke to reporters about her experience. A member of the Little Sisters of the Catholic Motherhood, she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001 at the age of 40. In watching Pope John Paul deteriorate from the effects of Parkinson's disease, she said, "I saw myself in the years to come."

When the pope died in 2005, and as Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre's condition began to worsen, all the



CNS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II embraces a girl during his visit to New York in 1995. Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday.

members of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began praying to Pope John Paul to intervene with God to heal her.

By June 2, two months after the pope died, she was struggling to write, to walk and to function normally. But she said she went to bed that night and woke up very early the next morning feeling completely different.

"I was sure I was healed," she said. Not long afterward, she had recovered enough to return to work in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order.

Several times during the last two years, rumors have surfaced about delays in Pope John Paul's beatification cause. Various reasons were reported, most having to do with incomplete documentation.

In 2010, with new revelations of priestly sex abuse in many European countries, some Vatican sources said it

was the wrong moment to push the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul, who was pope when some of the abuse occurred. But the Vatican's sainthood congregation continued to methodically process the cause.

A year ago, a book revealed some of the spiritual and penitential practices of Pope John Paul, including self-flagellation and spending entire nights on a bare floor with his arms outstretched.

The book was written by Msgr. Slawomir Oder, postulator of the late pope's sainthood cause, and it prompted some displeasure among church officials because it was based on supposedly confidential material gathered in the investigation process.

Pope John Paul's death and funeral brought millions of people to Rome, and Vatican officials said they would begin working with the City of Rome in logistical planning for the beatification.

## WASHINGTON LETTER

# Prospects good for pro-life legislative success

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - With apologies to Charles Dickens, it is the best of times or the worst of times, the spring of hope or the winter of despair.

## But challenges remain

That depends on whether you think the increased pro-life numbers in the U.S. Congress and the leadership of House Speaker John Boehner portend a greater appreciation for and protection of human life or the rise of "the most powerful anti-choice politician in the country" and a move to "shrink the government to be small enough to fit inside our bedrooms," as NARAL Pro-Choice America puts it.

The 112th Congress that was sworn in Jan. 5 contains up to four dozen more pro-life House members and four to six more pro-life senators than the Congress that preceded it, according to estimates from organizations on both sides of the abortion question. And the Republican "Pledge to America" outlining the party's legislative priorities vows to

"establish a government-wide prohibition on taxpayer funding of abortion and subsidies for insurance coverage that includes abortion."

"This prohibition would ... enact into law what is known as the Hyde amendment as well as ban other instances of federal subsidies for abortion services," the pledge says. "We will also enact into law conscience protections for health care providers, including doctors, nurses and hospitals."

But with a president who supports keeping abortion legal in the White House for two more years, what are the chances that the Republicans can deliver on their pledge?

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, thinks progress will be made.

When the leadership of the House makes a pro-life promise, "it makes a lot of difference practically in getting a vote" on key pieces of legislation, Doerflinger said.

Also, he said, "the president is less likely to veto a bill if he has to veto an entire package of funding legislation" on another matter. Ready to be introduced in the new Congress or recently introduced are four pieces of legislation supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- The Protect Life Act, which would apply long-standing federal policies on funding and conscience rights related to abortion to

the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

- No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which would make those policies part of permanent federal law rather than requiring them to be inserted into funding legislation each year.

- Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban discrimination against obstetrics/gynecology residency programs that do not provide abortion training and allow health care providers to sue a discriminating entity.

- Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, which would protect the rights of insurance issuers, providers and purchasers to negotiate a health plan under the new reform law that would exclude items that are against their moral and/or religious convictions, even in the face of new federal "mandated benefits" provisions.

Most of those bills received wide bipartisan support in the last Congress, Doerflinger said, and "they should receive support again even from people who say they are pro-choice" because they guarantee a true choice for those who do not support abortion.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus with Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., and a chief sponsor of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, said at least 77 of the 93 freshman members of the 112th Congress "are committed to defending the unborn."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## For many, beatification confirms long-held sentiment

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The news of Pope John Paul II's upcoming beatification was welcomed by many as a confirmation of something they already felt from the moment the shouts of "Santo subito!" ("Sainthood now!") reverberated through St. Peter's Square at the pontiff's funeral. Many in the crowd were young people who had a special affinity to Pope John Paul, whose pontificate started and ended with a special greeting to young people. During his installation ceremony in 1978, the newly named pope told youths: "You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the church, you are my hope." And his last words, reportedly delivered hours before his death, were also to youths, in response to the thousands of young people praying and singing in St. Peter's Square. "I sought you and now you have come to me. ... I thank you," said the pontiff, who died April 2, 2005 at age 84. Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, founder and CEO of Canada's Salt and Light Television, said it was no coincidence that he heard the news of the pontiff's beatification while attending a meeting in Spain for the upcoming World Youth Day. "A thunderous, sustained, standing ovation followed the announcement," he said in a Jan. 14 statement.

## Faith leaders try to help heal pain, sorrow after Tucson shootings

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As Tucsonans continued to reel from the Jan. 8 shooting spree at a shopping center that left six dead and another 14 wounded, religious leaders around the country looked to help heal the emotional pain through prayer and memorial services. Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas presided at a packed public commemoration and healing service Jan. 11 and participated in the funerals later in the week for his friend, Judge John Roll, 63, and 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, both Catholics. He also was part of an interfaith memorial service at Catalina United Methodist Church, also Jan. 11, which was organized by United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcano of Phoenix. She attended a public Mass of commemoration at St. Odilia Catholic Church that evening. The shootings left another person Bishop Kicanas knows well, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords D-Ariz., in critical condition at University Medical Center. She was the apparent target of the alleged shooter, Jared Lee Loughner. The violence caused trauma for the whole community, Bishop Kicanas told Catholic News Service in a Jan. 11 phone interview. "First we have to grieve, we need to cry and be together, especially for those who were harmed and their families."

## Buffalo priest moves step closer to sainthood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A Buffalo diocesan priest, Msgr. Nelson H. Baker, has cleared the first major hurdle on the way to being declared a saint. Pope Benedict XVI signed a formal decree Jan. 14 recognizing that Msgr. Baker, who died in 1936 at the age of 94, heroically lived the Christian virtues and is worthy of veneration. Msgr. Baker, a Civil War-era soldier and grain dealer who became a Buffalo diocesan priest in 1876, served as pastor of Our Lady of Victory in Lackawanna, N.Y., for more than 50 years. At Our Lady of Victory, which is now a basilica, Msgr. Baker operated soup kitchens and a hospital, as well as homes for unwed mothers, homeless and troubled boys and abandoned infants. The pope must still recognize a miracle attributed to Msgr. Baker's intercession before he can be beatified. Another miracle is needed for canonization.

### 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

Visit Our Website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)



## AT THE MOVIES

# COUNTRY STRONG

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

"Country Strong" (Screen Gems) wears its mawkish clichés proudly on its flannel sleeves.

That's often not a bad thing - or at least excusable - if all you're looking for is a guilty-pleasure, two-hour escape of nonstop and quite effective country music. Were it only that simple.

Instead, writer-director Shana Feste sends four one-dimensional characters - all of them shown to be moral and caring when their ambitions or pathologies haven't taken over - spinning like pinballs in a shopworn tale of substance abuse, adultery and the grim lifestyle played out on a tour bus.

Gwyneth Paltrow is Kelly

Canter, an emotionally fragile country queen who fell into a spiral of alcohol and drugs that resulted in a miscarriage five months into a pregnancy.

Just getting out of rehab as the story begins, Kelly is also coping with a loveless marriage to her ambitious and manipulative promoter James (Tim McGraw).

Right away, James puts Kelly on a comeback tour that is supposed to end in a triumphal return to Dallas, the scene of her miscarriage and public meltdown. Beau is a very appealing country singer himself, and James pairs him with neurotic beauty queen-turned-singer Chiles Stanton (Leighton Meester) - on whom he has designs as well - to serve as Kelly's warm-up act.

Kelly - whose mascara is

running in nearly every scene (sometimes she's holding a bottle of booze, too, just to underline the point) - is, of course, in no shape to perform.

She can't finish a song in Houston, is too drunk to perform on "Austin City Limits" and is jealous of Chiles' youth and beauty. She also occasionally engages in promiscuous sex.

Beau always cares, which is why - in a thoroughly immoral and messy state of, well, affairs - both women share him. James, by contrast, is only interested in getting his wife on stage before the cheering throngs.

In one tasteless sequence involving an image-burnishing visit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Kelly warmly improvises a song for a cancer-stricken boy in



CNS PHOTO/SONY

Tim McGraw and Gwyneth Paltrow star in a scene from the movie "Country Strong."

his classroom. Watching, James briefly realizes why he loved Kelly in the first place and -- as her band plays -- they pair up and dance, ignoring the sick lad.

At that point we're forced to wonder: "Who cares what happens to these two self-absorbed clods?"

The film contains scenes

of implied adulterous and premarital sex, pervasive crude language and fleeting profanity. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



## Thank you!

The overwhelming generosity of Catholics in the United States has helped Catholic Relief Services move earthquake survivors from destruction and despair to transitional shelter and new hope for a better life.

Follow the progress of our work in Haiti at [crs.org/emergency/haiti/index.cfm](http://crs.org/emergency/haiti/index.cfm)



Marie Claude Calixte and the transitional shelter that CRS built for her. Photo by Benjamin Depp for CRS

**CLINTON**

**ALPHA COURSE**

**Ellenburg Center** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having a 10-week practical introduction to the Christian faith beginning with Who is Jesus?

**Date:** Mondays, Beginning Feb. 7 and ending April 4

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

**Features:** Started as an outreach from Holy Trinity Church in Brompton, England, it has spread worldwide as a tool to reach all people for Christ by presenting the basic beliefs of Christianity in a non-threatening fellowship setting. A week-end retreat is included in these dates. A video presentation and small group sharing follow dinner.

**Contact:** RSVP to 518-594-3253 by January 22 so that books can be ordered. Cost is \$10 for book. Bring your Bible.

**BUS FOR LIFE**

**Plattsburgh** - The "Lake Champlain 2011 Bus for Life" still has seats available for participants to attend the National March For Life in Washington D.C.

**Date:** Jan. 23-24

**Features:** A chartered bus will leave the parking lot of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh on Sunday evening, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. for the Monday, January 24 National March For Life. The bus will return to Plattsburgh in the early morning of January 25. The cost of the bus is \$25 per seat. Scholarships are available for those who would like to attend but do not have the reservation fee.

**Contact:** To reserve a seat or to obtain more information, please contact Betty Buffett (518) 536-6640 or Karen Smith (518) 566-6229.

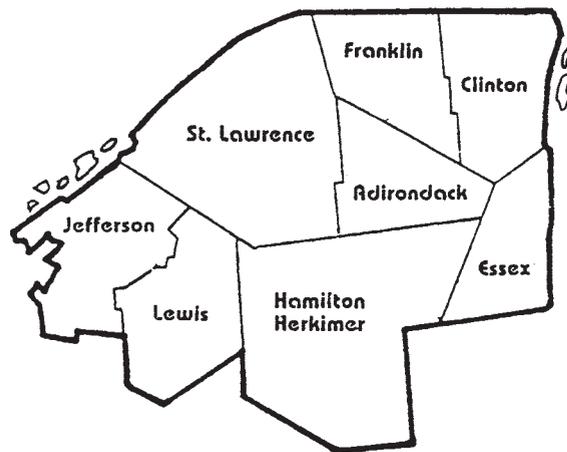
**PRAYER VIGIL**

**Plattsburgh** – A prayer vigil will 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



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@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

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](mailto: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.

**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:** "If people spent one hour per week in Eucharistic Adoration, abortion would be ended" (Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta). Pray for vocations!

**Contact:** 518-561-5083 or email us at [Sjohnsadoration@aol.com](mailto: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**

**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](http://www.liferight.org)

**LEWIS**

**DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE**

**Turin/Houseville** – St. Hedwig's Church plans to host a Divine Mercy Conference.

**Date:** Feb. 6

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Features:** Vespers, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Silent Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet (to song), Benediction, talk on Divine Mercy by the Marian Fathers. Featured Speaker is Br. Chris Alar, MIC. Coffee Hour will follow in the Church Hall.

**Contact:** For more information contact Mary Ann Lepkowski at 315-348-6260 or see [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org).

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**BI-WEEKLY DINNERS**

**Ogdensburg** - The Ogdensburg Knights of Columbus will continue their bi-weekly dinners.

**Date:** Jan. 18

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

**Place:** K of C Hall; Meals are open to the public and take-outs are available.

**Cost:** \$7 per plate, desserts for \$1

**Dinner:** Pulled Pork sandwiches, tater tots, and coleslaw.

**K OF C BRUNCH**

**Norfolk** – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

**Date:** Feb. 13

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon; Take-outs available

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

**COLTON WINTERFEST**

**Colton** – A Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by St. Patrick's & St. Paul's Altar Rosary Society, will be held during Colton's annual Winterfest

**Date:** Jan. 30

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Colton Pierrepont Central School

**Cost:** Adults, \$5; children under 12, \$3; under 5, Free

**K OF C BREAKFAST**

**Ogdensburg** – The Ogdensburg Knights of Columbus will be having a breakfast buffet; Eat in or take-outs available.

**Date:** Jan. 30

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 5-10, \$3; under 5, Free

**ST. JAMES GALA**

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

**Date:** Feb. 12

**Features:** Tickets 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 Cathedral 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

**OUR HOUSE CONSTRUCTION**  
Fully Insured  
Shawn Ryan, Saranac NY

**"No Job Too Small"**

- Custom Woodwork
- Repairs, Remodeling & Demolition
- Windows, Doors & Trim
- Painting
- Light Fixtures & Electrical Work
- Roofing
- Plumbing
- Insulation & Winterizing
- Flooring
- Carpet Cleaning
- Shelves & Storage Upgrades
- Brush Removal & Yard Care

Clean, Prompt and Courteous  
518-534-4094  
[OurHouseConstruction@hotmail.com](mailto:OurHouseConstruction@hotmail.com)  
Currently Serving Clinton County and the High Peaks Region

**MOP MALONE OFFICE PRODUCTS**

Dean Lamica  
Sales Representative

333 West Main St., Malone  
**1-800-894-6626**  
**518-483-6600**

**PEPSI**

OGDENSBURG PEPSI-COLA BOTTLERS



## 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

# About the Pontifical Mission Societies

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies are: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, The Society of St. Peter Apostle, Holy Childhood Association and Missionary Union of Priest and Religious

I would like to present some frequently asked questions about the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Both the questions and responses in this column are part of a number of Frequently Asked Questions that are found the Pontifical Mission Society webpage: [www.onefamilyinmission.org/faqs.html](http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/faqs.html).

*Where are the Pontifical Mission Societies located?*

National offices exist in more than 120 countries around the world including the United States. Central administrative offices are located in Rome, Italy, under the direction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The national office of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States is located in New York City. The national director is Monsignor John E. Kozar.

In addition, every diocese in the United States has a diocesan director who is appointed by the local ordinary (bishop) of that diocese.

*What makes the Pontifical Mission Societies unique from other mission organizations?*

According to the teaching of Vatican Council II, the Pontifical Mission Societies are institutions of the Universal Church and of each local church. Therefore, unlike any other mission organization, the Pontifical Mission Societies are both pontifical and Episcopal in nature. And, as such, the Pontifical Mission Societies are recognized as the principal instrument for educating the faithful to an awareness of the Church's universal mission and for encouraging their support, in prayer and sacrifice, for the evangelizing mission of the Church among two-thirds of the human family.

Please remember "The Society for the  
Propagation of the Faith"  
when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

SEE THE  
POPE ON  
YOUTUBE  
VISIT  
[WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.ORG)

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** — William F. Dundon, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

**Carthage** — Marion H. (Russell) House, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 10 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home.

**Cumberland Head** — Carolyn L. (Claremont) Mathews, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2011 at St. Mary's of the Lake Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Plattsburgh.

**Fort Covington** — Roger J. Lauzon, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Louisville** — George C. Williams, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2011 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Malone** — Richard O. Bourcier, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Helen's Cemetery, Chasm Falls.

**Massena** — Elaine F. (Fregoe) Carroll, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

**Morrisonville** — Virginia "Marie Sears" Gordon; Memorial Services Jan. 15, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Ogdensburg** — Maurice Halpin "Hal" Barry, 66; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** — Lincoln J. Ledwith, 22; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Peru** — James J. Barcomb, Jr., 45; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2011 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

**Plattsburgh** — Mary Watson Conroy, 99;

Memorial Services Jan. 15, 2011 at the Newman Center.

**Plattsburgh** — Mary F. Oliver, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2011 at Robert W. Walker Memorial Chapel; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

**Potsdam** — John D. Dwyer, 69; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** — Dorothy J. "Dot" (Platt) Sweeny, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, St. Albans, VT.

**Star Lake** — Olive M. Golden, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2011 at St. Hubert's Church.

**Watertown** — Dr. Santina Marie Sparacino Adragna, D.D.S., 91; Funeral Services

Jan. 11, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown

**Watertown** — Patricia J. (DeVito) Bova, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Leonard S. Clement, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2011 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown

**Watertown** — Joseph DeCarlo, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown

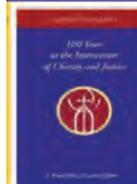
**Watertown** — Gertrude M. (LaLonde) Eamer, 95; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**MONASTERY CARD SHOP**  
Cards for All Occasions

*Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.*

**Precious Blood Monastery**  
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM  
SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM  
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN  
315-788-1669

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



For more information at Catholic Charities USA  
order a copy of: **Catholic Charities USA: 100  
Years at the Intersection of Charity and Justice**

This masterful work explores the development of Catholic Charities in the United States over the last one hundred years. Featuring contributions by renowned Catholic scholars and respected leaders in the Catholic Charities movement, this work delves into the social and demographic realities that gave rise to the National Conference of Catholic Charities in 1910, the role of parishes in the development of diocesan agencies, the professionalization of social work and its impact on Catholic Charities, and the effect of church-state partnerships on the identity of Catholic charitable organizations.

You can order your copy for \$19.95 + tax by going to  
[www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org) and entering ISBN number 9780814633397 in the  
search box

**For a New or  
Used Car  
MORT  
BACKUS  
& SONS**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
Phone  
**315-393-5899**

RESPECT LIFE

# Making Abortion Rare

By Kathleen M. Gallagher  
Director of Pro-Life Activities  
New York State Catholic Conference

As we pause to commemorate the January 22 anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in this country, new statistics have been released, and they are disturbing.

**Each one of us is a vital part of the Body of Christ. Nobody has to do everything, but everybody can do something. Let's work together to truly make abortion rare**

The data shows that the U.S. abortion rate has risen slightly, to just under 20 percent, with 1.21 million abortions being performed across the country in a single year. That's more than 100,000 unborn children snuffed out every month.

For New York State, the numbers get worse, with a rate of 37 percent. Abortions in the Empire State represent about 13 percent of all abortions performed in the nation.

In New York City, the statistics are downright alarming: 41 percent of pregnancies end in abortion there, more than twice the national rate. And while the rate in the North Country is not nearly as high, women and children in the northern reaches of our state also suffer from abortion; nearly 1,000 procedures were recorded there in the most recent year data was collected.

The numbers belie the familiar campaign promise to "make abortion safe, legal and rare." Rare it is not.

The figures should serve as a wakeup call to elected officials, who seem intent on doing all they can to intensify the crisis. The New York City Council is pushing legislation (Intro 371) to harass and attack pro-life pregnancy centers, whose sole mission is to offer women a choice when they find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy.

The data shows that women in New York clearly know they have access to abortion. You might say they know all too well. What they may not know about are the alternatives. Rather than



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

This CNS file photo shows Angelina Esteban of Royal Oak, Mich., holding a sign during the 2009 March for Life rally in Washington. This year's march will be held Jan. 24.

penalizing the centers that offer women pregnancy assistance, Mayor Bloomberg and the city should be proving their "pro-choice" credentials by publicizing pregnancy options.

At the state level, some lawmakers are trying to push an extreme measure to expand abortion. The bill, known as the "Reproductive Health Act," would permit late-term abortion for any reason, empower non-physicians to perform abortions, and compel all hospitals, even religious ones, to allow abortion. Governor Cuomo expressed support for this legislation in his State of the State address earlier this month.

I am hopeful that a serious review of the latest statistics will convince the Governor and the newly seated Legislature to drop this radical and

gratuitous agenda of the pro-abortion lobby. They need to be moving New York in the opposite direction.

We all do. What more can we do to help reduce the abortion rate in our state?

The commitment of those who passionately believe in the right to life is demonstrated by how well they "walk the walk": volunteering inside the life centers, praying outside the clinics, counseling young girls in crisis, marching down in Washington, lobbying in Albany.

But if persuasion is the key to pro-life success - whether we are seeking to persuade our next-door neighbor, a colleague, a frightened pregnant woman, an undecided voter or our state Senator - then "talking the talk" becomes equally important. Here are a few tips for brushing up our pro-life communication skills.

- Whenever possible, we should say what you're for, not what we're against. We are for life, for the ethical integrity of medicine, for the rights of the sick and the disabled, for maximum legal protection for mothers and their unborn children.

- Jesus used parables to teach. Likewise, we should use stories to persuade. People will remember personal stories long after the statistics are forgotten.

- A picture paints a thousand words. With the advent of three and four-dimensional ultrasound, we have a literal window to the womb. We should focus on the wonder and the beauty of human development.

- In order to be credible, we must be accurate. Don't believe or repeat everything you read on the Internet. Do your homework; know the facts.

- We must be courteous, civil, Christ-like. We cannot persuade others to respect life if we do not model respect for the lives of those around us.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul tells us that there are a variety of gifts, but the same spirit, a variety of services, but the same Lord. To each of you is given a different gift, perhaps, but all are needed to bring about the Culture of Life. Each one of us is a vital part of the Body of Christ. Nobody has to do everything, but everybody can do something. Let's work together to truly make abortion rare.

**BARSTOW**

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)

**MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800**

**GOD'S HEALING LOVE!!!**

NEW Our Lady of Lourdes & St. André Resources  
NEW Bibles, Medals, Rosaries, Statues, Music, & DVDs  
NEW Lourdes Water, St. Joseph's Oil, & Devotional Items  
NEW Healing Books, Prayers, & Much More!

Winter Hrs: M-F 9:30 a.m.-5:00p.m., Sat. 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.  
**Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts 518-561-5083**  
164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste. 206, Plattsburgh  
*Shipping Available!*  
**Mrs. Linda Bracy & Ms. Mary Beth Bracy**

TO ADVERTISE IN THE NCC

**Call Christine:  
315-608-7556**