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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN 5, 2011

Hold on tight to God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In times of trouble, doubt or deep spiritual crisis, never let go of believing in God, because he will help lead people out of darkness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Let us always be led by God, carry out his will every day even if often it doesn't correspond to our plans, and trust in his providence that

he never leaves us on our own," he said during his weekly general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall Dec. 29.

In his catechesis, the pope described the life of St. Catherine of Bologna, an abbess of the Poor Clares and "a woman of great wisdom and culture" who lived in the 15th century.

Despite the many centuries that separate her time and today, St. Catherine still speaks to modern men and women, said the pope.

"Like us, she suffered from many temptations -- the temptations of disbelief and sensuality, she suffered from a difficult spiritual battle, she felt abandoned by God and she found herself in the

darkness" of doubting her faith, he said.

However, throughout all of her struggles, St. Catherine "always held onto the Lord's hand," he said. Because she never let go of trusting in God's will and let herself always be guided by him, "she went along the right path and found the road leading to the light," he said.

LOOKING BACK

Bishop: events of 2010 give hope for 2011

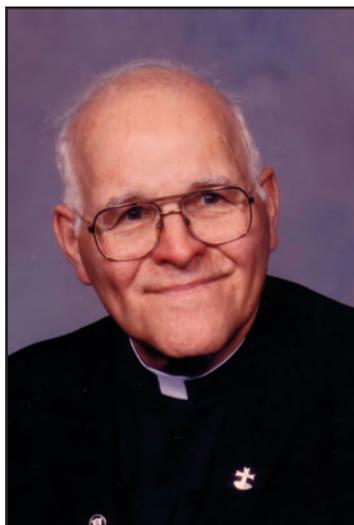


PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Archbishop Timothy Dolan places the miter on Bishop Terry LaValley's head during Bishop LaValley's ordination/installation April 30. In this week's "Follow Me" column, the bishop shares reflections for the new year: "In my remarks at my ordination/installation as Bishop of Ogdensburg, I said that *the mission has been set - the joy of a journey, the struggle of a lifetime... and it's a family affair.* As we close out the year 2010 and welcome the New Year, it has become abundantly clear to me that God's pilgrim people throughout our North Country are experiencing the joys and the struggles of living as faithful Catholic Christians, as beautiful families of faith.... The people of God that I have been privileged to meet are, indeed, ready for Jesus...

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Funeral held Dec. 31 for Fr. McCasland, 92



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Retires from the military

Father Douglas Decker is honored as he completes service as Air Force

and Air Guard chaplain

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

SPAGHETTI FOR SPAIN



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the young adults from the Diocese of Ogdensburg planning to travel to Spain in August, 2011 for World Youth Day are four young women from Saranac Lake. Pictured with the Spanish flag are Samantha Fazioli, Molly Burgess, Melissa Fisher and Erin Miner. They are planning a spaghetti dinner fundraiser Jan. 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 at St. Bernard's School cafeteria.

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: Reflections on the last days of the season.. p. 8

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Au revoir, 2010

Well, it was quite a year, wasn't it?!

Pope Benedict XVI finally sent us a new bishop and he was one of our own.

Springtime definitely brought new life to the North Country Church. From the moment of his April 30 ordination and installation, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has hardly taken a breath!

He traveled from deanery to deanery, meeting parishioners, confirming teenagers and connecting with the clergy in a brand new way.

In this week's *North Country Catholic*, we mark the end of one year and beginning of the next. I decided that the easiest way to re-live the highlights of 2010 was to look back on Bishop LaValley's hectic schedule.

Parishes in Raymondville, Wells, Keeseville and Champlain celebrated special anniversaries and Bishop LaValley was there.

Hundreds of kids headed to Guggenheim and Bishop LaValley was there.

People of the diocese gathered to end the Year for Priests, learn about the new missal and celebrate jubilarians.

Bishop LaValley was there.

He made time to present spe-

cial awards to Cathy Nason of Saranac Lake, the Catholic school teacher of the year; and Sister Gabriel Marie Meyer of Watertown, the Catholic Charities Caritas Award recipient.

He celebrated special Masses in September to welcome new principals at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh and Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown.

And Bishop LaValley was with us as we mourned beloved clergymen: Father Thomas Moody, Msgr. Anthony Milia, Father George Tobin, Father James Lamitie, Deacon Joseph Gilbert and, just last

week, Father Howard McCasland.

Bishop LaValley's presence among the members of our "family of faith" has been no different, of course, from that which we experienced under Bishops Cunningham, Barbarito, Loverde, Brzana and all the rest.

But this year - Bishop LaValley's first year - it's good to let him know that we noticed and are grateful.

And so - in a nod to our bishop's French heritage - *au revoir* 2010 and *bonjour* to a peaceful and prayerful 2011.

Happy New Year!



Mary Lou
Kilian

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

The Beloved Son of God

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI

Diocesan Director of Evangelization

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

To be "loved" and to become the "beloved" of a spouse and a family member is the greatest gift one can receive from another.

To be loved by our parents and brothers and sisters is to be part of family - a family of love. To be a family of love means giving of oneself for the sake of the other.

Love is just not saying: "I love you" without showing love. To love is to be kind, understanding, forgiving, thinking of others.

Love means to be pleasing to others. Love means to listen to the voice of the one we love.

When Jesus heard the voice from the heavens, He knew that His election as the Son of God was for the community of believers to understand.

The voice confirmed Jesus' mission. It was this community of believers that were seeking to understand how they were to live as a Church. Jesus' ministry had begun. The Kingdom of God was at hand.

Jesus would preach, teach and heal as He traveled throughout Galilee and into Jerusalem. This was the beginning of the Church, a community of believers, chosen to go forth to be disciples in mission.

By our own Baptism, we become the beloved children of God.

The Baptism of Jesus bathed Him in light to begin his ministry of bringing justice and righteousness that would lead the people on "the straight path," the path which would lead to the reign of God.

Our Baptism leads us, as well, to renew the world and humanity on "the straight path" where justice and peace can reign throughout the world and the kingdom of God will be complete.

Just as Matthew's community needed guidance on how to be disciples of Jesus Christ and how to be an effective, communal sign to the world of the power and grace of God's kingdom, we, too, need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide the Church, the family of faith for the 21st century.

We are baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. . . ." It is the Trinity, the Community of Love, which bestows upon each of us the gift of faith, hope, and love, the "God" virtues to live the Christian life as a family of faith.

To be a family of faith, we are to be a sign to each other and to the whole world of the gracious mercy of God, His forgiveness, His healing, and His powerful act of love.

We are a family of faith, a community of believers, with a mission, which is to proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

As the beloved children of God, we need to listen to the voice of God speak to us through His Word and through the actions of the sacraments, and through the teachings of the Church.

How does God "speak" to you?

What can you do to live out your baptismal commitment more openly and fully?

Can you offer in some way to be a sponsor at Baptism or Confirmation? Would you consider becoming a member of the RCIA team?

You are the beloved child of God, in whom God is well pleased.

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FOLLOW ME

Ready to follow Jesus in the new year

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

I was out jogging on a rather crisp December morning here in Ogdensburg. As I was lumbering past one home, I noticed a man outside stringing Christmas lights on his neatly trimmed shrubs.

Now, normally I don't say too much when I'm jogging. (It takes all my energy just to breathe and put one foot in front of the other.) But, in this case, as I went by, I asked the gentleman if he was ready for Santa.

The people of God that I have been privileged to meet are, indeed, ready for Jesus. Let me share with you why I am so inspired and hope-filled as we greet the Year 2011

His response: "I don't know about him, but I hope I'm ready for Jesus."

I thought to myself, wait a minute, I should have said that, after all I am the bishop. But, I didn't.

Then I recalled the words that I spoke last April 30. In my remarks at my ordination/installation as Bishop of Ogdensburg I said that *the mission has been set - the joy of a journey, the struggle of a lifetime...and it's a family affair.*

As we close out the year 2010 and welcome the New Year, it has become abundantly clear to me that God's pilgrim people throughout our North Country are experiencing the joys and the struggles of living as faithful Catholic Christians, as beautiful families of faith, generously supporting one another in our common journey to the Father.

The people of God that I have been privileged to meet are, indeed, ready for Jesus.

Let me share with you why I am so inspired and hope-filled as we greet the Year 2011.

We are ready for Jesus, ready to follow Him, because we have faithful men of God pastoring our local parishes.

There could have been no better event for me to participate in as my episcopacy began than to spend time with my brother priests at our annual convocation in Lake Placid last May.

I am inspired and humbled by their continual support and their love for their parishioners. What a privilege it has been for me to install several of them as new pastors and witness the parishioners' love and support for their shepherds.

I have, also, participated in many special parish anniversaries this summer and have celebrated with parish families their proud histories.

Yes, clearly, our parishes continue their faith-filled heritage of following Jesus as Eucharistic communities.

Whether it was conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation, visiting our Catholic schools, cele-



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

As the year 2011 begins, Bishop LaValley looks back on the eight months since his ordination and installation as Bishop of Ogdensburg. Above, Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York places the mitre on Bishop LaValley's head during the April 30 ceremony.

brating Eucharist at Camp Guggenheim, "blessing brains" at our college campuses or attending Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, I have seen young women and men, supported by proud moms and dads, grow in love of God and service of neighbor.

Our youth are ready to follow Jesus.

Pilgrimages led by the Knights of Columbus and Serra Club, Marriage Jubilee, Religious Jubilee, and Harvest Masses, Dinners for Two, Family Guggenheim and Family Forums are but a few examples of how we gather and support one another on our common journey as a family of faith.

Our families want to follow Jesus.

These are but a few of the reasons why I find great joy in the journey of faith happening here in our beloved North Country.

We all want to follow Jesus and we are helping each other, with the nourishment of Word and Sacrament, to do just that.

But it would be naïve of me to ignore the real struggles that we encounter as a Church. They are no surprise to you, I am sure.

Our diocese is suffering from a critical need for priests. Each of us must actively promote vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life. When was the last time you asked someone if they considered a Church vocation? Do you attend your parish's Holy Hour for Vocations? Do you pray for our fine seminarians or send them cards while they are away studying? The impact on diocesan planning is clear. I

find it extremely difficult, even after extensive consultation and dialogue, to close a parish. That decision is never taken lightly. However, demographics and the scarcity of priests, which will become even more acute, dictate that some parishes, with long histories of strong and vibrant faith must close. It is tragic, but necessary.

Other struggles that our Diocese face include the need to increase our evangelization efforts and welcome Catholics back home to the Sacraments, back to Sunday Mass, particularly our young adults.

We must better educate and form the faithful about what we believe as Catholic Christians, particularly life issues.

We need to re-double our efforts to encourage more parents to consider sending their children to our Catholic Schools.

These struggles may seem pretty overwhelming. They certainly make for much work for all of us.

That brings me back to that December morning jog. About three blocks after my conversation with the neighbor stringing Christmas lights, I came upon another acquaintance who has been haunted for the past several months by the specter of cancer. He was outside by his car, placing Christmas gifts in the trunk. I greeted him with a "How are you doing?" With a beaming smile, he told me that he was "doing just great, things are looking up."

I know him to be a faithful Christian. His personal struggle with cancer would not extinguish the joy, hope and anticipation for tomorrow that he exuded so easily.

What an inspiration! What the human spirit can accomplish with the gift of the Holy Spirit!

No matter what struggles come our way, no matter the trial or challenge, things are looking up because as a family of faith we journey together, following Jesus as fellow companions on the way to the Father's house.

If you recall, at the end of my ordination/installation I asked if you were ready to begin a new phase in the faith life of our beloved north country, were you ready to follow Jesus.

You spontaneously responded: "Yes." I said "I am" and then I sat down.

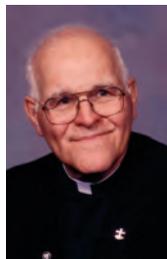
Well, my "sitting down" days are over, but I eagerly welcome the New Year because what I've experienced these past several months energizes me to provide the sure and compassionate guidance to the Kingdom that I promised you on the day I became your bishop.

As we welcome the New Year, let me conclude with the words that ended my remarks not so many months ago at St. Mary's Cathedral when I repeated some of Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 Easter message of hope: "let us continue our pilgrimage, bearing in our hearts the song that is ancient and yet ever new, 'let us sing to the Lord: glorious his triumph.'"

It is His triumph! Blessed New Year to you and your loved ones!

Funeral held Friday for Fr. Howard McCasland

CHURUBUSCO – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father Howard P. McCasland, 92, Dec. 31 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church where Father McCasland had served as administrator.



Fr. Howard McCasland

Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg celebrated at the funeral Mass; Father Douglas Lucia served as homilist.

Father McCasland died Dec. 27 at his rectory in Churubusco. Spring burial will be in Church of the Assumption cemetery in Redford.

Father McCasland was born in Chazy Lake, June 27,

1918, son of the late Henry McCasland and Dora Sawyer McCasland. He attended Chazy Lake Public Schools and Sallaz Academy in Redford, NY and Loyola High School in Montreal.

He entered Wadhams Hall in 1936 and his theological studies were at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, NY.

Father McCasland was ordained a priest on June 6, 1944 by Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart.

Father McCasland first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's in Rouses Point, NY, followed by St. Francis Solanus, Har-

risville, St. Patrick's, Rossie and St. Peter's, Hammond, St. Mary's, Champlain and St. Paul's, Black River and St. Rita's, Deferiet.

He was named pastor of St. John the Evangelist in LaFargeville in 1954, Church of the Holy Angels, Altona in 1962, St. Bernard's, Lyon Mountain and St. Michael's, Standish in 1972, St. Ann's, Mooers Forks in 1984

In 1993, as a retired priest, he began service as administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Churubusco, a posi-

tion he held until his death.

He is survived by his sister-in-law Sally as well as nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and three brothers: Victor, Patrick and Elric and two sisters: Ruth and an infant sister who died at birth.

Father McCasland ascribed his active ministry and robust good health to three things: excellent housekeepers: (his aunt, Nellie Laware for 16 years and his present housekeeper, Bernice Bushey for 32 years) and his deep

devotion to Mary and the Lord's presence in the Mass.

Father McCasland had a smile and a good word for others; he stated once that he learned from St. Francis that, when in doubt, do the kindest thing.

In lieu of flowers, Masses may be offered or donations may be made to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in support of Catholic Education.

A reflection on Father McCasland's life and ministry will appear in next week's *North Country Catholic*.

KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



The Knights of Columbus Malone Council 308 sponsored a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest at Holy Family School in Malone. Shown in front are the winners, Chloe Manus, Devin Normandeau and Katy Sherman; back, John Gokey, Grand Knight; Father Paul Kelly, Anne Marie Wiseman, principal; and Dean Peterson, Deputy Grand Knight. Missing was winner Kalub Mulverhill.

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GATHERING FOR DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

OUR FAMILY OF FAITH



Zack Leader, son of Henry and Dayna Leader of St. James Parish in Gouverneur, was honored at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor held Dec. 18 at St. James School. From left are Father Bryan D. Stitt, an Eagle Scout and diocesan scout chaplain who served as master of ceremonies for the program; Bishop Terry R. LaValley; Leader, Father Stephen R. Rocker, pastor of St. James; Deacon Gary Frank of Clayton who served as Leader's Eagle mentor, and Father Douglas J. Lucia, pastor in Canton and Eagle Scout.



Alice Renadette, a parishioner of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, celebrated her 107th Birthday Dec. 21, 2010. The government lists Mrs. Renadette as the oldest person in Northern New York. She is pictured with Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Ester and Frederick Arce.



St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg presented their Christmas Concert, "A Classic Christmas" featuring the sixth grade students performing the Nativity Story. Pictured above are shepherds, Christian Hadley, Taylor Johnston, and Austin Cadrette. Joseph is Joey Measheaw, and Mary, Alex Steele. The Three Kings are Jacob Awan, Abby Marshall, and Maggie Crowley. Standing are narrator, Haley Whitmarsh, angels, Lorraine Hollis, Frankie Jo Besio, Lexie LaFlair and narrator, Maggie Peo.



The children of St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga presented The Christmas Story. The "welcome" was delivered by Jacob Norton; Mary was portrayed by Alyssa Norton; Joseph, Tristan Carey; Main Angel, Kayle Armstrong; Angels, Celia Peters and Christina Simpson; Shepherds, Jacob Norton and Evan Carey; Star, Lilli Peters; Kings: Stephen Johns, Joseph Johns and John Rock Sears; Innkeeper/Cow, Walton Spaulding; and Ballerina, Ashley Beach.

Fr. Decker retires from military service

Served as chaplain for Air Force and Air Guard since 1986

By Colleen Miner,
Staff writer

TUPPER LAKE – Father Douglas Decker never had childhood dreams to serve in the military but his interest was piqued during his service as parochial vicar for St. John's Parish in Plattsburgh.

The parish priests from the area were hired by the Air Force to serve as chaplains for Plattsburgh Air Force.

"I thought if we can do contract work then we can do Air Force duty," he said.

Chaplain Decker began his military career in Plattsburgh, and was stationed there from 1986 to 1991.

He later completed Squadron Officers School in residence in 1995 at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Other tours of duty included: Luke AFB, Arizona, from 1991 to 1993; Kunsan South Korea from 1993 to 1994; Malmstrom, Montana, from 1994 to 1996; Keesler, Miss. from 1996 to 2000 and



PHOTO COURTESY THOUSAND ISLANDS SUN

Father Douglas Decker, back left, is shown with his twin brother, Father Robert Decker of Star Lake and their parents Robert and Aline Decker of Hammond, during the Air Force and Air Guard retirement ceremony Oct. 1 in Syracuse.

Hancock Field, Syracuse, from 2000 until retirement this past October.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Douglas Decker of the 174th Fighter Wing was honored at a retirement ceremony held at Hancock Field ANGB in Syracuse,

on Oct. 1.

Now pastor of Saint Alphonsus and Holy Name Catholic Churches in Tupper Lake, Father Decker was born Oct. 16, 1950. He grew up on a small dairy farm in Hammond with his parents, Robert and Aline and his twin brother, Robert who

also serves as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Decker earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego in 1972 before beginning studies for the priesthood.

He graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary College in 1974 and Christ the King Seminary in 1977.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana ordained Father Decker to the priesthood May 6, 1978.

Through the years he has served in parishes in Morrisonville, Ogdensburg, Lowville, Plattsburgh, Watertown and Potsdam.

Prior to his appointment as pastor in Tupper Lake this past June, he served as pastor in Adams from 1997.

In reflecting on his life as a military chaplain, Father Decker said, "military chaplains are a reminder of the Holy in a structured military setting.

"The chaplain is the only military member who has confidentiality for the troops," he said. "The chapel is the one place where troops can be themselves without evaluation."

The job is not without its challenges.

"Military chaplains represent their own denomination and at the same time must be pluralistic," Father Decker said. "This is all done with a ranked structure where you need a perfect overall performance record and evaluation each year."

"It was a privilege to serve the different Air Force troops and their families over the years," Father Decker said. "I still hear from many especially during the season of Christmas... Pray for our military people who are in harm's way every day for us."

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Jan. 6 – 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service at Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in Watertown; 12:30 p.m., Mass at Immaculate Heart Central Intermediate School in Watertown.

Jan. 9 – 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Jan. 11 – 5:00 p.m., Mass at St. Lawrence Church in Louisville.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 5 – Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997

Jan. 6 – Rev. James Dennis Phalon, 1974; Deacon George W. Carroll, 1994; Rev. Benoit Dostie, M.S.C., 2007

Jan. 7 – Rev. L. Geoffrion, 1954

Jan. 8 – Rev. Frederic C. Hatch, 1961; Msgr. Robert Arquette, 1969; Rev. Leo McCarthy, O.S.A., 1975; Rev. Roland Gaulin, O.M.I., 1984; Rev. Anthony F. Pease, 1997; Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer, 2004

Jan. 9 – Rev. Joseph Edward Doyle, 1958; Rev. Jeremiah A. O'Brien, 1974

Jan. 10 – Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, V.F., 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

Jan. 11 – Msgr. John Andrew Cotter, V.F., 1964; Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau, 1976; Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, D.D., 1986

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 Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920. **Jan. 27** - St. Mary's School, Canton, 7:30 p.m.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

At Christmas, pope's thoughts turn to the suffering, persecuted

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Celebrating Christmas at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI appealed for peace in global trouble spots and protection of persecuted Christian minorities in places like China. At his Midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and in his Christmas Day blessing to the world, the pope called the birth of Christ the "culmination of creation" and an event that overcame the "infinite distance between God and man." The basilica was packed for the Mass, and an overflow crowd braved intermittent rain and wind to watch the liturgy on giant screens in St. Peter's Square. Thousands stood under umbrellas for the traditional papal blessing the next day. Security was tight for both events, in the wake of two package bombings at two Rome embassies. In 2008 and 2009, a mentally disturbed woman sprang at the pope inside the basilica and last year pulled him to the ground briefly, but this year there were no incidents. The pope stood on the central balcony of the basilica to deliver his blessing "urbi et orbi," to the city of Rome and to the world. He said Christmas had revealed a truth about the relationship between God and human history. But it is a truth that must be understood by faith, he said. "If the truth were a mere mathematical formula, in some sense it would impose itself by its own power. But if truth is love, it calls for faith, for the 'yes' of our hearts," he said.

Sex abuse survivor says love of Eucharist helped restore her faith

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) -- Teresa Pitt Green sat in her car in the church parking lot. She watched parishioners walk up the steps to Mass. It was so easy for them, she thought. Unable to follow in their footsteps, she sat in the car and longed for the Eucharist. Men who consecrate the bread had betrayed her. Authorities in the church, who had entrusted the sacrament to the men, had failed her. From age 7 to 19, Green was sexually abused by multiple priests in her Northeast diocese. Her abusers worked at her school and visited her family in the evenings. In an interview with The Arlington Catholic Herald, diocesan newspaper, Green recently recounted how, though she "left the Catholic Church forever many times," her love of the Eucharist endured, and, with the support of Arlington diocesan priests, Office of Victim Assistance programs and Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde, she was able, eventually, to enter a church without fear and receive the body of Christ. Earlier this year, Green published "Restoring Sanctuary" (Dog Ear Publishing), a book part memoir, part spiritual reflection and part impetus for healing. The book immerses the reader in the church's painful wound through the eyes of a victim, but Green does not give explicit details of abuse. But she is explicit when she defines the nature of the crime: "Sexual abuse of children is violence by sexual means by predators who seek to dominate another person by destroying their spirit." For "predator priests," there is "a meticulous grooming of the mind to prepare it to be broken," she said. "They make themselves a false idol, the dominant power. As a sapling, it cuts to your core."

VATICAN LETTER

Pope faced tough challenges inside and outside the church

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI will look back on 2010 as a challenging year for the priesthood and a time of trial for Christian minorities.

Looking back on 2010

Those two issues stood out among the many papal concerns and activities over the past 12 months, which saw the 83-year-old pontiff make five foreign trips, issue documents on the Bible and speak out on a wide range of topics in a book-length interview.

The revelations of clerical sex abuse, particularly in Ireland, Belgium and Germany, weighed on the pope throughout the year. In a letter to the Irish faithful in March, he apologized to victims of such abuse and announced new steps to heal the wounds of the scandal, including a Vatican investigation and a year of penitential reparation.

Later in the year, the pope met with victims of abuse in Malta and Great Britain, and spoke repeatedly about the need to treat the problem with more transparency. He codified stronger Vatican measures to deal with abusive priests, some of which he had instigated years earlier as a cardinal.

Closing the Year for Priests in June, the pope said the abuse revelations were a "summons to purification" of the priesthood. Yet he insisted on the church's continued need for ordained priests, saying their ministry was irreplaceable, and strongly defended priestly celibacy as the norm in the Western church.

Throughout the year, Pope Benedict devoted attention to the fate of Christian minorities in the Middle East and Asia. He convened a

two-week Synod of Bishops for the Middle East in October, and made a trip to Cyprus in June to underline his concern for church communities in the region.

Attacks on church targets in Iraq brought papal appeals to the international community and to the Iraqi government, in particular after a bomb attack on a Baghdad church at the end of October left more than 50 people dead.

The pope and his aides also spoke frequently on the need to defend Christian minorities from discrimination and physical attacks in places such as India, Pakistan and Indonesia. He elaborated on the theme of religious freedom in his 2011 World Peace Day message, released Dec. 15, saying that in today's world, Christians suffer more from persecution than any other religious group.

In addition to Cyprus, the pope's travels in 2010 took him to Portugal, Spain, Malta and Great Britain. In Britain, where the pope beatified Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th-century theologian and convert from Anglicanism, his visit generated interest and some protests.

A common theme in all the papal visits was that the church needs to help people rediscover God's presence in their own lives and the life of society. He warned that people in the West continued to drift away from Christianity and from belief in general. To help counter that trend, he established in June the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, with the task of re-evangelizing in traditionally Christian countries. He announced that "new evangelization" would be the next theme of the world Synod of Bishops in 2012.

In November, the pope issued his follow-up document to the 2008 Synod on

the Bible. Titled "Verbum Domini" ("The Word of the Lord"), it encouraged better use of the Bible at every level of the church.

Pope Benedict also used Scripture as a bridge in dialogue with the Jews, quoting from the Psalms and other Old Testament books during a visit in January to Rome's main synagogue.

The pope presided over more than 50 major liturgies in 2010, including a Mass in October to proclaim six new saints, including Brother Andre' Bessette.

The pope also named 24 new cardinals and handed them red hats during a consistory at the Vatican in November. Among them were two Americans: Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Vatican's supreme court.

In November, the Vatican published a book-length interview with Pope Benedict titled, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times." It was an instant best-seller, in part because the pope fielded every question thrown at him by German journalist Peter Seewald, and spoke in unusually direct language.

The pope's comments on condoms made headlines around the world. While continuing to insist that condoms were not the answer to the AIDS pandemic, he allowed that in particular circumstances, for example, a prostitute seeking to reduce the risk of infection, using a condom might represent a step toward moral awareness. In the book, the pope said the church's main mission in a broken world was to awaken consciences and bring people to an encounter with Christ, so humanity can respond to global problems that could otherwise lead to economic, environmental, biological and moral catastrophe.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Christmas Season ends with Baptism of Jesus

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. For those for whom Santa Claus and presents are the real center of the celebration, it's already over. But for those who connect the birth of Jesus Christ with the purpose for His coming, this feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of His mission, and a renewal of our own.

When Jesus was twelve, his parents brought him to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.

We saw the tension that struck the hearts of his parents at the end of that feast. Mary and Joseph saw with

sadness Jesus exerting his independence as a teenager.

It was a nightmare experience that all parents dread – missing their Son on the journey home.

Where is he? I thought he was with you! Stop the caravan. We have to go back. Jesus is lost!

And when they find him, he merely says, "Didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?"

After some years as a carpenter, he says 'good-bye' to Mary. Probably he's already closed the eyes in death of his beloved teacher, friend, and foster-father, Joseph. And He's on his own, humanly excited

and a little fearful at beginning his great mission.

His steps have taken him to the banks of the Jordan where a crowd surrounds a man in strange attire.

He beholds his own cousin with whom he had played as a child.

They meet in solemn moment as all see John stare, then greet Jesus warmly.

And Jesus asks John for baptism! What? That's for sinners! John protests, and Jesus, seeking full solidarity with sinful humanity, urges John, "Give in for now". And John does!

From the sky comes the same words as Isaiah had proclaimed hundreds of years before: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!"

And Jesus, rising up from the waters, begins to gather other men and women who

Jan. 9

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Matthew 3:13-17

can share His mission.

And, in turn, he urges on them His own baptism, in water and the Holy Spirit.

So, reluctantly this Sunday, we let go the gentle child Jesus, and take up the burdens of the Man with a Mission-- to free all captives to sin, to bring joy and hope to the downhearted, to bring salvation to ourselves by helping others toward theirs.

It's a time for each one of us to renew our own Baptism, with the solemn com-

mitment we made to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour.

We need to reflect on what the priest or deacon told us, that we were freed from sin, given a new birth by water and the Spirit, welcomed into God's holy people, and anointed as Priest, Prophet, and King.

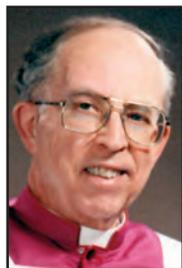
What a dignity!

Like Jesus, we are not called to break the bruised reed, nor to discourage our neighbor, already discouraged enough.

What is needed is the energy of loving and the courage of doing.

It's a call to the basic works of the Church each January—vocation awareness, the rights of the unborn, and Church unity.

Jesus is saying to us, loud and clear, "Follow me!"



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

FOR THE JOURNEY

What Christmas fundamentally celebrates:

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service

Anchorage, Alaska, has been enamored of coffee, locally roasted, since long before most of the United States realized you didn't have to buy java pre-ground in a tin can.

There's a "drive-up" gourmet coffee hut on every block. Twenty years ago, a visitor gaped at latte joints appearing on two-lane roads leading to the best fishing holes.

So during our parish's

ministry fair, I bought a punch card from a local roaster, Kaladi Brothers Coffee, to offer as a door prize. Unfortunately, when I went to award the prize, I couldn't find it. So back I went to my neighborhood coffee shop, grumbling about having to replace the card.

"Don't worry," said the young man behind the counter. "You'll find it. A woman who comes in here told me she lost her wallet four years ago. And just the other day, someone found it in a drop box."

"What good was that?" I

asked skeptically. "She'd replaced her driver's license and credit cards long ago."

The lost and found

"Yes!" he replied emphatically, explaining the story as if to a child who just isn't getting it. "But she found three Kaladi cards in the wallet!"

Eureka. Treasure means different things to different people, as Jesus showed us.

Jesus told us all kinds of lost-and-found tales. There's the man who found the treasure in the field (Mt 13:44). He sold everything he had to buy the field.

Then there's the woman with 10 drachmas, who would sweep out the whole house to find one that was lost. There's the lost sheep, for which the shepherd would leave 99 others in the desert as he searched. And there's the lost son himself, upon whose return the father butchered the fatted

calf (Lk 15:1-32).

Jesus' stories are full of earthy vitality and everyday events, because he lived such a genuinely human life. The man who ate with sinners and tax collectors was a man used to the grime of everyday Galilee. He was a man who embraced lepers and let the woman who was considered unclean touch the hem of his garments. He challenged himself to cross difficult borders. He was a man unafraid to turn conventional pious thinking on its ear. He was, in the words of the song Jackson Browne celebrated on a 1991 Chieftains' album, "the rebel Jesus."

He didn't have to die a criminal's death, but he certainly could have talked his way out of it. But he was a man of supreme integrity. From his own life, he understood value, whether of a drachma, a sheep or a lost son. And he knew what he had come to do and whom he had come to find.

During the Christmas season, we have a tendency to sentimentalize Jesus. Yes, the whole baby business is sweet, with angels, shepherds and wandering kings.

But what the season fundamentally celebrates is the awesome reality that God became incarnated into our human condition and he came amid the poor.

So profoundly are we loved that our creator chose to "find" us and to point us toward the least of these where God dwells.

St. Paul tells us that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15). If he is God's image, then God is telling us a great deal about our need to stand as one with the poor.

Maybe more than all the carols combined, that line from St. Paul tells me what I need to know about Christmas, when Jesus came as "the image of the invisible God" to find us, and to tell us stories about how to find each other.

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AT THE MOVIES

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

"Gulliver's Travels" (Fox) answers the question whether a movie rated PG can be considered morally offensive.

Yes, it sure can.

It's not because the project is a mediocre effort attempting to cash in on the elusive comic abilities of Jack Black, who plays a modern riff on the traveler Lemuel Gulliver, hero of Jonathan Swift's classic novel, first published in 1726. It's because this film was made and is being marketed as family entertainment, and so has to be held to that standard. Presumably, this is an entertainment for children to consume.

By that measure, it's the cinematic equivalent of toxic lunch meat.

Director Rob Letterman and screenwriters Joe Stillman and Nicholas Stoller have produced a sour, slapped-together botch with a noxiously cynical mes-

sage: You can plagiarize and lie without penalty and still end up with the girl - and the job - of your dreams.

Black's Gulliver, a mail-room clerk at a New York newspaper, is a lazy schlub who dreams of becoming a writer to impress travel editor Darcy Silverman (Amanda Peet).

He works up enough courage to ask her for an assignment, but when she requests writing samples, he produces a couple of articles by cutting and pasting from travel websites.

In the real world, that's no joke - such an underhanded act means lost jobs and derailed careers. In this story, it earns Gulliver an assignment that has him piloting a small watercraft in the Bermuda Triangle, where a huge storm and waterspout transport him to the Kingdom of Lilliput, a vaguely British island populated by a race of people only 4 inches tall.

Gulliver, famously first tied down and imprisoned by the Lilliputians and called The Beast, eventually

becomes a defender of the land ruled by King Theodore (Billy Connolly) and his princess daughter Mary (Emily Blunt).

Gulliver's first heroic act is to extinguish a palace fire by urinating. But the on-screen incident goes way beyond the somewhat indecorous potty humor of Swift's account, degenerating into queasy imagery as many Lilliputians, including the king, are knocked down and drenched by the fire hose-intense stream.

Gulliver also aids a romantic subplot between Princess Mary and commoner Horatio (Jason Segal), but this isn't sustained well enough to generate interest.

Gulliver spins whoppers to convince the Lilliputians that he's an American president ("President Awesome") and is rewarded for his heroism with Gulliver-sized accommodations, including an entertainment center in which Lilliputians costumed as the band Kiss provide a live-action version of the video game Guitar Hero.

Although Darcy catches



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Jack Black stars in a scene from the movie "Gulliver's Travels." The Catholic News Service classification is O - morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

up with Gulliver's plagiarism, the deeply flawed moral takeaway remains intact: Theft and falsehood can be a path to achieving your dreams. That's a harmful lesson for children and an unwelcome message for adults.

The film contains skewed

moral values, graphic scatological humor and some intense action scenes. The Catholic News Service classification is O - morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested. Material may not be suitable for children.

ALSO PLAYING...



(CNS PHONTE/UNIVERSAL)

Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller star in a scene from the movie "Little Fockers," described as a dull, tasteless comedy - the second spawn of 2000's amusing "Meet the Parents" - dominated by relatively raunchy and poorly staged gags. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



(CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT)

Jeff Bridges and Matt Damon star in a scene from the movie "True Grit," which Catholic News Service calls an exceptionally fine second screen version of Charles Portis' 1968 novel of the Old West. In the film, a remarkably determined 14-year-old girl (Hailee Steinfeld) enlists the aid of a broken-down but resourceful U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and a cocksure Texas Ranger (Matt Damon) in her relentless quest to bring her recently murdered father's killer (Josh Brolin) to account. Writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen's captivating drama uses its heroine's sensitive perspective - as well as a fair number of biblical and religious references - to reflect seriously on the violent undertow of frontier life while the rival lawmen strive to overcome their personal shortcomings and petty antipathy in the service of a larger cause. Considerable, occasionally bloody violence, brief gruesome imagery, a half-dozen uses of profanity, a few crass terms. 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.

ADIRONDACK

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

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 not be able to save their lives, but can we not plead on their behalf?

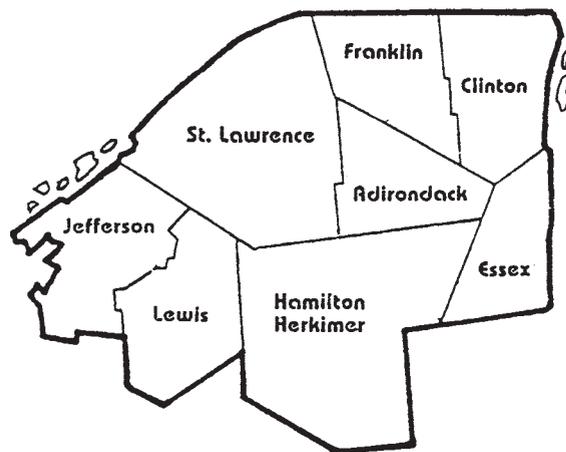
DAY OF REFLECTION

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



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.

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

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: "O Holy angels, make me see God on the altar as you see Him in heaven" (St. Andre Bessette). Pray for vocations! Everyone is invited to spend some quiet time with Jesus anytime during these hours.

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

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus to sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Jan. 8

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults \$7.00, Senior citizens \$6.00, children under 12 are \$5.00 and children under 5 eat free.

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Jan. 8

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

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 12 and under, \$5; Under 5, Free

Chefs: Joe and Carolyn Pistolesi

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.

BI-WEEKLY DINNERS

Ogdensburg - The Ogdensburg Knights of Columbus will continue bi-weekly dinners open to the public

Date: Jan. 4

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$7 per plate, desserts are available for \$1

Dinner: Chicken cordon bleu, red roasted potato, vegetable, salad, and a dinner roll.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Jan. 9

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

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

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

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Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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 (315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
 mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Gratitude at Christmas

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

I am most grateful for your Christmas sacrifices and donations, which are such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions.

Through these donations, you help to support the work and witness of Religious Sisters throughout the Missions, especially as they offer loving service to children in need.

By your prayers, and your gifts to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you accompany those who bring this Good News to the poor and suffering. As I ask your continuing prayers for our mission family, know that you and those you love remain in my prayers.

Thank you for trusting in the love you show by your support and sacrifices to our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Let us reach out as missionaries and confidently announce the Good News of Christ with words and deeds. The best Christian testimony is love for others.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith"

When writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

Pope deplors deadly attacks on Christian churches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI deplored a series of deadly attacks against Christian churches and other targets around the world at Christmas time.

The pope appealed for peace Dec. 26 after bombs went off in churches in the Philippines and Nigeria, killing or wounding several worshippers. In Pakistan, a suicide bombing against a World Food Program depot left at least 40 dead.

"At this time of holy Christmas, the desire and the pleas for peace have become still more intense. But our world continues to be marked by violence, especially against the disciples of Christ," the pope said at his noon blessing at the Vatican. The pope said he had learned with "great sadness" of the bombing during Christmas Mass at a Catholic chapel on the Filipino island of Jolo, where Muslim extremist groups have been active.

"The earth has also been stained with blood in other parts of the world, like Pakistan," the pope said. "I wish to express my heartfelt condolences for the victims of this absurd violence. Once again I make an appeal to abandon the path of hatred in order to find peaceful solutions to conflicts and bring security and tranquility to these dear populations."

OBITUARIES

Bombay — Marion M. (Foy) McElwain, 95; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brasher Falls — Margaret E. Partlow, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2010 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Cadyville — Dolores J. (Tamer) Reyell, 51; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2010 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton — Patricia A. (Baudette) Cornell, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Canton — David Dewan, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Purmort Cemetery.

Carthage — Marion Tooker Forney, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. James Catholic Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Chaumont — Marie J. Filardo Montgomery, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2010 at All Saints Church; burial in New Cedar Cemetery.

Clayton — Margaret E. (Tabolt) Reff, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan — William B. Lyndaker, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Elizabethtown — Anna J. (Malnati) Bottioli, 97; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2010 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Canaan, Conn.

Gouverneur — Virginia R. "Ginny" (Raymo) Prashaw, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 18, 2010 at Green Funeral Home; burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Richville.

Harrisville — Joan Madeline (Quinlin) Dashnaw, 76; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at St. Francis Solanus Catholic Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Haze Cecelia Herne, 55; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. Regis Catholic Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville — Richard E. Busha, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 1, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Clear — George H. Carley Jr., 89; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2010 at St. John in the Wilderness Church; burial in Harriestown Cemetery.

Madrid — John "Bullet" E. Murphy, 43; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2010 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Massena — Rebecca L. "Becky" (Gokey) LaFayette, 88; Funeral Services at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Massena — Francis L. (Kirkey) McDonald, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2010 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Bernard F. O'Neill, 76; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Massena — Elizabeth (Bickerstaffe) Sauve, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — James F. White, 69; Funeral Services at Phillips Memorial Home Dec. 29, 2010 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk — Mary Jane (Paige) Campbell, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Sally McLellan McCadam, 86; Memorial Services July 2, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Peru — Susan "Susie" Helen (Bouyea) Branham, 54; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2010 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial took place in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Peru — Christopher Ryan Jandreau, 31; Memorial Services Dec. 28, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church.

Port Henry — Timothy James Coburn; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2010 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam — Raymond J. McGee, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. Mary's Church.

Potsdam — Helena M. (Dean) Tolman, 99; Funeral Services at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Redwood — Cecile M. (Lavictoire) Charlebois, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2010 at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in Redwood Catholic Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Joyce (Bomyea) LaVair, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake — Rita Corinne (Woodruff) Moody, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2010 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Donald A. Richter, M.D., 99; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Schroon Lake — Eleanor L. "Bunny" (Gonyea) Hozley, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2010 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Star Lake — William "Bill" F. Gebo, 60; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2010 at French Funeral Home.

Ticonderoga — Alfred Carl Bevilacqua, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — George E. Boyle, VMD, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Kevin Steven Holman, 47; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Genevieve M. (Salamy) Kmack, 83; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2010 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown — Dorothy L. (Donahue) Clark, 92; Funeral Services at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — Esther I. (Webb) Smith, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2010 at Cleveland Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown — Walter J. Zapf, Jr., 78; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2010 at St. Anthony's Church.

West Chazy — Leona E. Ball, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING IN THE CARING

The Religious of the Diocese Wish To Thank All of the Generous People Who Contributed to the 2010 Retirement Fund Collection. You Will Be Remembered In Our Prayers.

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