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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 23, 2011

## The final victory of love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Believing in Christ's resurrection means that no matter how difficult life gets, one believes that love and goodness are far more powerful than hatred and evil, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Yes, in the world there is much evil, there is a permanent battle between good and evil and it seems that

evil is stronger. But, no, the Lord is stronger," the pope said Nov. 16 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"Despite all the things that make us doubt the positive outcome of history, Christ wins and goodness wins. Love, and not hatred, wins," he said. Just a few days be-

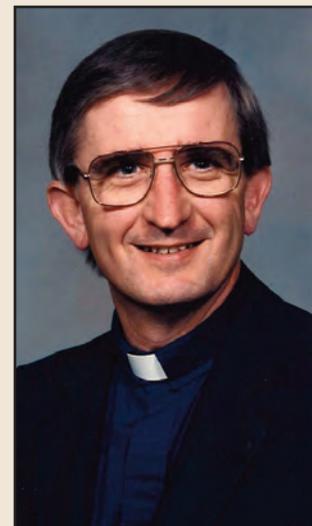
fore the feast of Christ the King, Pope Benedict spoke at his audience about Psalm 110, a psalm about a king, which the New Testament repeatedly holds up as a reference to Christ.

Pope Benedict said his reflection would be the last in the series of seven talks he has given about praying with

the Psalms. The series began in early September. The pope said he wanted to give Catholics a taste of praying with the biblical psalms, which "reflect various life situations and emotional states" in people's attitudes toward God -- from thanksgiving to desperate pleas for God's help.

## REST IN PEACE, FATHER GONYÓ

### Funeral held in West Chazy



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Roland G. Gonyo, 64, held Nov. 19 at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy. Father Gonyo died Nov. 16 at the Claxton-Hepburn Medical in Ogdensburg. Most recently he was a resident of St. Joseph's Nursing Home where he continued his ministry as a priest, celebrating liturgies and visiting with the other residents. Father Gonyo had served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a pastor and director of the diocesan department of youth ministry. His obituary appears on page four; a reflection on his life and ministry appears on page two.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## A Catholic school in mourning

Dat T. Ong, 17, of Vietnam, and Chu Xiong, 18, of China, both international students at Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh, were killed when they were struck by a car Nov. 15 near their host family's home on Peasleeville Road in Peru.

Brandon Rennert, 17, of Peru was driving the car that struck and killed the Seton students. The car then hit an earthen embankment several hundred feet away and exploded in flames. Rennert and his girlfriend, Samantha Donah, 17, of Plattsburgh, who was a passenger in the car, also died.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Financial highlights

Diocesan Finance Council meets to review the diocese's financial statements, budget, investments

FULL STORY, PAGE 8-9

## AT THE HARVEST MASS OF THANKSGIVING



PHOTO BY SISTER MARY LOU STUBBS, DC

It was an appropriate site at the Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church in Lowville Nov. 13: Caden Larabee, left, arrived with his vintage tractor which was used by his great uncle. He stands next to Father Christopher Carrara, pastor of St. Peter's, Jeff Chetsour and Sierra Sourwine as Andrew Beyer takes the wheel. Bishop LaValley's message to farmers and their families appears on page 3.

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**BISHOP TERRY  
R. LAVALLEY**  
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Vice President  
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Editor/  
General Manager

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**Editorial Office:**  
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**Telephone:**  
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**E-mail:**  
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Rest in peace,  
Father Rolo

As we thank God for all the blessings of our lives this week, our diocesan family can certainly give thanks for the gift of Father Rolo.

At the age of 64, Father Roland Gonyo seemed far too young to die but many years of sickness had taken their toll.

We pray today that he is truly resting in the arms of the Lord.

Father Gonyo's "career" as a priest was quite unlike most of his brother clergyman since he was disabled during the years that people would consider his prime.

But – in his early years as a priest and his last ones - Father Gonyo was a beloved and effective minister.

Five years after his 1973 ordination, Bishop Brzana named Father Gonyo as diocesan director of youth ministry. Then, as today, the position gave him responsibility for the diocese's summer camp at Guggenheim.

With a touch of loving irreverence, Father Rolo became known as "Frolo."

This week, staff members from the early 1980's shared their reactions at the news of his death on Facebook.

• *Rest in peace, "Frolo." Scads*

*of Guggenheimers from a certain era are better people because of you.*

• *Frolo hired me for my first year at Guggy 1982. Changed my life forever. He is home now...*

• *Fond memories of our trip to KC for the National Catholic Youth Convention..delayed flights, etc. He was one of us, just trying to be the best he could be. He will be missed.*

• *Another legend has passed. Thank you Frolo for sharing your life and love of Christ with us.*

In the last year of his life, Father Gonyo found a second home at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg.

Not just a patient, Father Gonyo was a true priest for his fellow residents.

He was their friend and, according to a regular visitor, he "said a beautiful Mass."

His body was weak but Father Gonyo's mind and voice were strong.

Father Gonyo, Father Rolo, Frolo will indeed be missed by friends who knew him in their 20's and friends who loved him in their 90's.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon him.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

First Sunday of Advent  
Hope and Vigilance - Nov. 26-27

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Director of Evangelization

This First Sunday of Advent has some new beginnings.

It is the beginning of the new liturgical year using the readings from Cycle B with the focus on Mark's Gospel.

Mark's Gospel was written for the Christians of his time who followed Jesus and believed that He was the Christ and Son of God. These Christians had much to learn and so he set out to declare who Jesus was and to spell out the nature of His Messiahship. Mark stated with conviction that Jesus was the Messiah (anointed one), but One who was to be the suffering Son of Man. This was difficult for Mark's Christian community to understand. Mark's Gospel is a gospel of discipleship. The way of the Christian, as a disciple (follower) of Jesus is the way of Christ through His suffering and death. For Mark, Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God who will come again to gather His elect.

In this season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas and His coming at the end of time. The readings for this Sunday are an Advent call to "Be Watchful! Be Alert!" (Mark 13:33).

This watchfulness and alertness calls for an active participation that challenges us to put our lives in order. For the next two weeks, Isaiah will point us to a Messiah who will bring us into harmony with God's will, with God's goodness. We live in a society that sends a message of being self-sufficient. We like to do things ourselves. Many think our lives are like a chess game. If we make the right moves, we are a winner! Wrong! It is God who created us. It is we, who are dependent upon Him. Our life, our faith, our talents are all God's gifts. This is God's doing. We forget that we are the creatures and God is the Creator. God is the Potter and we are the clay held and shaped by Him.

St. Paul tells his community and us as well "that in Him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Cor. 4-5). The message is the same as Isaiah's.

What we have are all gifts from God that come to us without any merit or deserving on our part. St. Paul tells us that the Lord wants to keep us firm until the end. How firm are we in the faith? God is faithful, says St. Paul. How faithful are we?

Isaiah points to the coming of the Messiah. Both St. Paul and Mark affirm that the Messiah is Jesus Christ, who is the center of our lives, our primary goal in whom we hope and trust in all of our endeavors, ambitions, and involvements.

How aware and alert are you to God's presence in your life right now? During this Advent season, how are you preparing to keep watch for the Lord, not only for today but for tomorrow? Jesus said to His disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come" (Mk. 13:33).

This First Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the new changes in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal.

As we prepare for the beautiful season of Christmas, we are invited to be actively attentive in our participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy. Listen carefully to the beautiful prayers of the Mass today, especially the Collect (formally called the Opening Prayer) and the Preface (just before the Holy, Holy).

What did you hear? Share this at home with your family or in your faith sharing group. As Church, A Family of Faith, Advent is a time of quiet, waiting, treasuring the person at the center of all the activity—the Prince of Peace whose coming in glory we await with eagerness and expectation.

How will you make this Advent different from Advents' past?

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FOLLOW ME

# We thank God for our farmers

*Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily for the 2011 Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving held Nov. 13 at St. Peter's Church in Lowville:*

---  
God's creation is in the process of development, of unfolding. Certainly, farmers know all about development as the seasons change and you work the land from year to year. The movement is continuous. We can learn from the past, but we cannot live in the past. Change is constant. Inevitably, the world we leave will be a different world than the one we came into.

A married couple had just returned home from their 50th wedding anniversary party. The wife was feeling very nostalgic. "You used to kiss me very tenderly," she said to her husband. So he leaned over and tenderly kissed her.

"You used to hold my hand," she said. So he reached over and took her hand in his. "You used to gently bite my ear lobe," she said. The husband then immediately began to walk out of the room. "Where are you going?" she asked impatiently. "To get my teeth," he replied.

We can cherish past events but we cannot re-live them. We cannot freeze them. We cannot wrap up life in a neat package and say, "This is the way it always was; this is the way it is; this is the way it always will be."

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks a parable about a rich man who entrusts three men to take care of some of his money. The parable ends as the rich man praises the two who invested his money and doubled it, and strongly condemns the third man who played it safe.

We would be wrong to imagine that in the parable, Jesus is teaching us how to double our money. It has nothing to do with our 401K's or our stock portfo-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE CHAUFY

**Bishop LaValley is shown with the two deacons who assisted at the Nov. 13 Harvest Mass at St. Peter's in Lowville, Deacon Ronald Pominville, left of St. Peter's and Deacon James Chaufy of St. Martin's in Port Leyden.**

lios, or even our piggy banks. The lesson to be drawn is all about life. The father has given each of us a life to be invested in the growth and development of His coming kingdom.

The Lord is calling us to something new. We love our traditions. We recognize the value of the past. But there are many times when we are called to relinquish the pleasure, comfort and the security of the old, and to risk the emergence of something new.

Certainly farmers know about traditions: the way we used to do things. Farmers know much about the emergence of things new. Farmers have not been strangers to the new things that technology has brought to our livelihood. For instance, first we milked by hand, then milking machine, then dumping station, then pipeline, then milking parlor.

Farmers could not stay

comfortable with doing things the way we always did, however, nostalgic and comfortable that might be. Horses have given way to extremely expensive, powerful and complicated tractors, balers to haybines, to name just a couple of changes.

If farmers are to survive, they must risk something new. It's called growth. We either grow or we die. We simply die.

However, one thing must never change with our farmers: your work ethic and your trust in God reflected in your practice of the faith. Farming is a noble occupation. The farm home is a most suitable place for a Christian family. Farmers work closely with God in producing the essential elements of life.

We pray that as things change on the farm, that you, our farmers hold fast to the spiritual value of the farming vocation and resist

the materialism that blinds us to those values.

Sadly, the family farm is becoming a rare phenomenon today. The family farm was the place where values and respect were the norm. God had His rightful place and meals were shared together.

Inasmuch as the structure of the family farm may have disappeared for many, we must devise new creative ways to keep God in His rightful place in our homes. Our homes must continue to be the place where families come together to share a common meal.

We are called by Jesus to have a faith in the living God that is so deep and so sincere and so vibrant that we are willing to invest our lives in it.

We are being called to rid ourselves of the excess baggage, rid ourselves of excess lust for money and things, rid ourselves of our dog-eat-dog, win-at-any-cost atti-

tude and approach to life. The people of Jesus' time found Him too much for them. May that not be said of us.

**We pray that as things change on the farm, that you, our farmers hold fast to the spiritual value of the farming vocation and resist the materialism that blinds us to those values**

Is Jesus' new life worth the risk? Are we willing to invest our entire lives in it? A young man put his arm around his girl friend and said, "I love you, I adore you, I need you, I can't live without you."

The young woman pushed him aside and said, "Bob, I don't want to get serious." Bob replied, "I'm not talking about us getting serious."

In our personal relationships and in the area of our religion, we often use language carelessly. But, in and through Jesus Christ, God is saying to us in the clearest possible language, "I love you and I want you for my own. I'm serious about this and I want you to be serious about this. I want you to respond to it." May we hear the voice of Jesus saying to us all: "Be not afraid to change, to grow. I am with you. Come, follow Me."

Here in our beloved North Country, we pray that through God's grace we may have wisdom and strength to grow constantly in the virtues necessary for holy rural living.

We thank God for you who work by the sweat of your brow. May your toil continue to provide sustenance for the bellies of many.

May your toil bring you and your family closer to the God who sustains us as we all seek to grow in His love and grace.

# Funeral held Nov. 19 for Fr. Roland Gonyo, 64

WEST CHAZY – A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Roland George Gonyo, 64, was held Saturday at St. Joseph's Church with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding and the priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Msgr. John Murphy, pastor of the Church of the Visitation, Norfolk, was the homilist.

Father Gonyo died Nov. 16

at Claxton-Hepburn Hospital, Ogdensburg, NY. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Father Gonyo was born in Plattsburgh April 7, 1947, son of George and Marie Gagnier Gonyo. He attended Our Lady of Victory Academy in Plattsburgh and, after graduation, entered Wadhams Hall Seminary-College in 1965. His theological studies were at St. Bernard's Seminary,

Rochester, NY. He was ordained a priest on May 5, 1973 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Gonyo's first assignment as associate pastor was in Keeseville/Port Kent, followed by assignments in St. Joseph's, Massena; Holy Family, Watertown; St. Agnes, Lake Placid; and St. Peter's, Lowville. During this time he also served on the Diocesan

Pastoral Council, Associate Director of the Diocesan Youth Department and then Director of the Youth Department.

He was also associate pastor at Notre Dame, Malone and St. Mary's, Massena. He was later appointed pastor of St. Mary's in Massena and then at St. John Bosco in Malone. His last assignment was in Notre Dame, Ogdensburg.

He Gonyo and his brother Craig Gonyo



Father Gonyo

in Ogdensburg most recently, and as his health deteriorated, he moved to St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

Father Gonyo continued his ministry during his stay in St. Joseph's, celebrating Mass and visiting and ministering to the residents.

Father Gonyo is survived by his parents, a sister, Karen Gonyo Traynor and his

## THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



Members of the Carthage VFW were presented with prayer cards and thank you notes by the students of Augustinian Academy Nov. 10. Pictured are veterans Bruce Rounds, Elaine Clarke, Ken Oakes and Jane Reape who is a graduate of Augustinian and currently President of the NYS Auxiliary of the VFW. Also pictured are Augustinian second graders Katie LaGrange, Bodie Clarke and Katie Richards.



## Holiday 50/50 Challenge

Support your local economy by spending 50% of your holiday food and gift money within a 50 mile radius of where you live.

### Here are some shopping ideas:

- \* Buy gifts from your local crafts
- \* Buy gift certificates to locally owned restaurants
- \* Support locally owned businesses
- \* Support businesses that sell local products
- \* Don't forget your local farmer for cheese, maple syrup, apples, cider and other local food items for holiday meals & gifts

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# A school in mourning

*Tragic accident claims the lives of two Seton Catholic international students*

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

PLATTSBURGH- Tuesday, Nov. 15, was a day of shock and grief for the Seton Catholic Central community as students and staff learned that two of their students had been killed.

Dat T. Ong, 17, of Vietnam, and Chu Xiong, 18, of China, both international students at Seton, were killed when they were struck by a car near their host family's home in Peru.

State Police are still investigating the cause of the accident that also killed two other teenagers.

Authorities believe Brandon Rennert, 17, of Peru was driving the car that struck and killed the Seton students who were walking along Peasleeve Road just before 5 p.m.

The car then hit an earthen embankment several hundred feet away and exploded in flames. Rennert and his girlfriend, Samantha Donah, 17, of Plattsburgh, who was a passenger in the car, also died.

One week later, on Nov. 22, the Seton community came together for a memorial service with the boys' family members from China and Vietnam in attendance.

The service incorporated aspects of Buddhist traditions in honor of Dat's heritage.

The service featured a scripture reading, Buddhist reading, and various speakers, including St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools.

Students also presented plans for a memorial on the school grounds.

## Week of prayer, support

The formal service followed a week of prayer and support for the Seton com-



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Dat T. Ong, 17, of Vietnam, left, and Chu Xiong, 18, of China, international students at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh, were killed Nov. 15 when they were struck by a car near their host family's home on in Peru. They were remembered at a Nov. 22 memorial service at Seton.

munity.

Principal Catherine Russell said, "this is a small area and this tragedy touches everyone. We have received offers to help from just about every school district in the area and as far away as Potsdam and Salmon River.

"We are truly blessed to have such a large extended community," she said.

On the morning after the accident, school opened with an assembly and prayer service, led by Ms Russell and Father Timothy Canaan, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church.

Andrew Lauria, librarian and marketing director at the school, said, "It was a very heavy day at Seton and we had many counselors from Catholic Charities, several

priests, and other volunteers to help handle the needs of the students and staff.

"We, the staff, were just in shock," he said.

"We posted a couple of big sheets of poster paper on the windows in the lobby and the students have been creating a large, sort of mural of words and sentiments," Lauria said. "It has been a 'wall of remembrance' that continued to grow through the week.

"The outreach from other schools, families, previous staff and students, and com-

munity members has been wonderful," he said. "People sent us food, flowers, and even boxes of tissues.

"We have a wonderful community at Seton and it has really shown in this tragedy," he said.

"I have been especially impressed by my co-workers," Lauria continued. "Their patience, understanding, and willingness to offer themselves to any of the students in this time of need is incredible. I haven't seen anything like this in my life, nor have I ever seen a group of people

act with such compassion. "I am honored to be working with this staff," he said

## About Dat and Chu (Allen)

After just three months at the school, the young men had made a deep impression at the Plattsburgh Catholic school.

"Dat Thanh Ong, loved meeting new friends and the feeling of the wind blowing against him while he rode his motorcycle," Ms. Russell said. "He loved sports, especially basketball, volleyball and baseball," she said. "He also loved to cook."

Chu Xiong, who was known as Allen in his American school, "loved to run and participate in the martial arts," Ms. Russell said. "He drew wonderful comics and excelled at the trombone. He had a great sense of humor and loved the outdoors."

"Both boys had been here since September," she said. "they had adjusted well and Seton was blessed to have them as members of our community."

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## OUR FAITH OUR FAMILY... BISHOP'S FUND 2011

## Bp's Fund supports deacon formation

By Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin  
Director, Permanent Deacon Formation

Vocation is one of those words that mean different things to different people. For thirteen men in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, it means a discernment process for them to discover if God is calling them to the vocation of Permanent Deacon. After years of active ministry in their own parishes and after participating in a formal program such as the Formation for Ministry Program, some men feel called to become even more engaged in ministry in the Catholic Church.

So, with the permission and sponsorship of their pastor, they become aspirants in the Deacon Formation Program.

Besides their own spiritual discernment with their spiritual director, they participate

in online courses over a four-year period from the Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP) at Notre Dame University in Indiana.

These courses cover a wide variety of topics in dogmatic theology, moral theology, scripture and pastoral practice such as youth ministry and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

In addition, during three of those four years, the students will also take five courses per year at Wadhams Hall on one weekend per month.

The teachers for these courses are from within the diocese. St. Joseph Sister Eamon Lyng provides courses in scripture; Deacon Kevin Mastellon in public speaking and eventually homiletics; Father Douglas Lucia in liturgy; Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin leads instruction in human development, social justice,

and pastoral practice; St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw in spirituality, and Bishop Terry LaValley in Canon Law.

These latter courses at Wadhams Hall are typically not available online, but are very necessary for the formation of a future Permanent Deacon.

Pastoral practice is also very important in the life of a Permanent Deacon. So, those in formation for the Permanent Diaconate are expected to remain engaged in the pastoral activities of their parish.

These men already actively minister in their parishes working in catechetics, liturgical preparation, councils, social outreach, and, basically, whatever the pastor needs to have done.

In this whole process, their wives are not left behind. The men's wives are invited to come monthly to participate in a parallel program for

the wives that will assist them in understanding better the new role that their husbands will assume in Church ministry and how they can support their husbands and themselves as they also may become more involved in Church ministry and service.

The basic call of a Permanent Deacon is to be of service to the Church, the People of God. As such, a deacon's ministry may be quite varied from parish to parish.

The program is designed to help the men prepare to face the challenges of ministry in the Church of today, no matter what the particular environment may be.

With the assistance of the Bishop's Fund, the Permanent Deacon Formation Program is alive and well in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Your support of the Fund helps provide for the future ministry in the Diocese.

## Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Nov. 22 – Dec. 2 - *Ad Limina* Visit in Rome

## Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 23 – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

Nov. 24 – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950

Nov. 25 – Rev. M. C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912

Nov. 27 – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999

Nov. 28 – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice, 1929

Nov. 29 – Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957; Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984

## 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

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*Members discuss financial statements, budgets, investments*

# Highlights of diocesan Finance Council meeting

The Diocesan Finance Council met on October 27, 2011, at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding.

During the course of the meeting the following agenda items were reviewed and discussed:

## Audited Financial Statements - June 30, 2011

Mr. Edward Mucenski, CPA, partner in Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, Van House & Co., Certified Public Accountants, P.C., presented the audited financial statements as of June 30, 2011 for the Central Administrative Offices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg. Mr. Mucenski noted the following during the course of his presentation:

- The auditors issued an unqualified opinion, which means the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the diocesan central offices as of June 30, 2011.

- Net assets of the diocese increased by \$3.8 million, primarily due to strong investment performance during the 2010-11 fiscal year. Net realized and unrealized gains on investments amounted to \$3,765,653.

- Loans receivable in the Deposit & Loan Fund from parishes and affiliates, net of reserves for uncollectible accounts, decreased from \$3,617,692 to \$3,186,609. Deposits in the Fund (except those owned by the diocese) totaled \$14,359,173, a decrease of \$393,506 as compared to the prior year.

- Assets restricted for support of the Lay Employees' Retirement Plan increased by almost \$4 million.

- There were no significant weaknesses in internal control noted by the auditors in their Required Communications to the diocese.

Mr. Mucenski stated his appreciation to the Diocesan Finance Office for its efforts in preparation of the audit work papers, and members of the

council stated their appreciation to Michael Tooley, Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his staff for the clean opinion expressed by the auditors.

## Budget-to-Actual Reports for the year ended June 30, 2011

In addition to the information shared in discussion of the audited financial statements Mr. Tooley shared the following with the Diocesan Finance Council:

- Total expense for Special Care of Priests in 2010-11 was \$283,749; \$54,000 was budgeted. Nine members of the clergy received support services during the year.

- Expenses for salaries and fringe benefits for central office administration of Catholic Schools was \$52,000 lower than anticipated, as an open administrative position remained vacant. The Department of Education has reconfigured its administration structure within Catholic Schools, Christian Formation and Formation for Ministry to provide better efficiencies and a cost savings to the diocese.

- \$44,332 was transferred from the Protected Self-Insurance Program for support of the Safe Environment program.

- *North Country Catholic's* expenses exceeded revenue by \$23,060, with net assets designated for its support in the amount of \$18,149 applied toward the loss. Advertising revenue was \$15,700 below budget. The diocesan newspaper believes it will close this deficit in 2011-12 in part due to net revenue expected from the pilgrimage to Italy to be led by Bishop LaValley in spring 2012, and in part due to an increase in readership of the newspaper in electronic format.

- The 2010 Bishop's Fund Appeal received \$1,207,934, exceeding the goal of \$1.2 million. Agency grants of \$1,137,804 were issued during the year.

- The Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund issued \$78,852 in

grants in 2010-11, of which almost \$20,000 were special grants for food assistance.

- The Office of Vocations saw its expenses increase from \$26,875 in 2009-10 to \$73,855 in 2010-11 as the diocese made a significant investment by hiring a full-time director (Rev. Bryan Stitt). There are currently five men in their first year of seminary as a result of Fr. Stitt's efforts.

- \$177,507 was issued in education grants to Catholic schools in the diocese in 2010-11.

- \$115,000 in new annuities was issued in the diocese's Charitable Gift Annuity program in 2010-11. The diocese is now registered to issue annuities to residents in Florida.

- Net assets supporting Education of Seminarians increased by \$156,760 to \$886,786, due to unrealized net gains on investments.

## 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal

Information from the October 21 report issued by Valerie Mathews, Director of the Bishop's Fund Appeal, on the 2011 appeal noted the following:

- To date \$941,810 has been contributed or pledged; the goal is \$1.25 million.

- The 2011 appeal is approximately \$23,269 higher than the amount contributed and pledged through the same time period in the 2010 appeal.

- There are 7,850 donors to date, compared to 7,999 donors one year ago at this time.

## Investments

Investment performance for the 2010-11 fiscal year was reviewed. As of June 30, 2011 the market value of investments was \$90,978,800, an increase of \$11.7 million as compared to June 30, 2010.

Mr. Tooley noted that the performance of the primary investment manager of diocesan portfolios, Manning

& Napier Advisors, Inc., exceeded benchmarks during the year, earning a rate of return of 20.9%.

## Other highlights:

- The investment in Commonfund Realty Investors is valued at \$17,983 as of the latest valuation date, June 30, 2010. The program, which focused on direct purchase of real estate in selected areas of the country, suffered significant losses when the market value of real estate in certain areas of the country plummeted beginning in 2008. It is now winding down its affairs. To date the diocese has received distributions of \$656,479 from CRI. The diocese's original investment was \$4.15 million.

- The diocese's investment in Dimensional Fund Advisors emerging markets had a rate of return of 22.7% in 2010-11, bringing its market value to \$2,412,930. The diocese invested \$2.5 million in the program in 2007.

- The diocese's investment in The Investment Fund for Foundations Multi-Asset Fund had a rate of return of 20% in 2010-11. Its market value as of June 30, 2011 is \$12,281,083; the diocese's original investment was \$10,220,618.

- The diocese's Investment Advisory Committee committed \$2 million to a real estate investment, The Investment Fund for Foundations Real Opportunities Fund. The committee believes this modest investment will help diversify the investment portfolios.

Investment performance for the first quarter of the 2011-12 fiscal year was shared with council members. In that quarter portfolios lost approximately 9% of their total market value, as market volatility rules in the world of financial investments.

## Deposit & Loan Fund

Net assets of the diocese's Deposit & Loan Fund in-

creased by \$1.3 million in 2010-11, bringing the Fund's net assets to \$3,642,044 as of June 30, 2011.

This is the highest net asset value in the fund's history. The diocese reduced the interest rate on loans during 2010-11 from 5% to 4%.

## Diocesan Trust Fund

Mr. Tooley stated to the Diocesan Finance Council he expected some investments in the Diocesan Trust Fund to have their respective market values below cost when the Fund is valued at September 30.

Such being the case, it is likely the diocese will continue to limit distributions to investors to investment income only in 2011-12, an anticipated rate of return of 2%.

This past June, upon recommendation of the Diocesan Finance Council, bishop LaValley approved an increase in the quarterly dividend from \$100,000 to \$125,000 a quarter for the first three quarters of the fiscal year in 2011-12.

The fourth quarter dividend will be dependent upon investment income received during the year.

## Endowed Care Cemeteries Fund

Investments in the Endowed Care Cemeteries Fund will continue to see a return of approximately 5% of their respective market values in 2010-11. No change is planned in regards to the timing or the amounts of distributions from the Fund.

## Lay Employees' Retirement Plan

Mr. Tooley informed the council the diocese had recently received the July 1, 2011 actuarial valuation for the Lay Employees' Retirement Plan. This valuation, and other financial information pertinent to the Plan, was reviewed by the Lay Employees' Retirement Committee at its annual meeting on October 28.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## AT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Fifth graders at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga enjoy time with their first grade Reading Buddies each week, and especially when they can use their new Kindles. Pictured above is James Burke showing his "reading buddies" Samantha O'Connor and Aurelia Leerkes the new technology used for reading.



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake was a special guest at an Oct. 14 Mass at St. Marguerite D'Youville School in Ogdensburg celebrating the Feast of St. Marguerite D'Youville, the foundress of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. She is pictured with area pastors Father F. James Shurtleff, Notre Dame in Ogdensburg; Father Joseph Morgan, St. Mary's Cathedral; and Father James Seymour, pastor in Lisbon and Heuvelton.

## Highlights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The actuarial valuation shows the Plan to be underfunded by almost \$3.6 million as of July 1, and while this is significant it is an improvement when compared to the previous year. As of June 30, 2011, the Plan is 87% funded, versus 77% funded one year earlier.

The percentage calculated is the market value of investments divided by the present value of future obligations of the Plan to active employees and current retirees.

The actuaries note that payments to current retirees are not threatened; the current market value of investments is 175% of the future estimated payments to current retirees.

### Retirement Plan for Priests

The July 1, 2011 actuarial valuation of the Retirement Plan for Priests shows the Plan to be fully funded. Strong investment performance in 2010-11, plus dona-

tions and bequests received in addition to normal contributions to the Plan, will keep the required contribution in 2011-12 close to that of 2010-11 (\$386,941 is required to maintain full funding in 2011-12).

The new funding formula for the Plan in 2011-12 is expected to generate \$470,000, more than enough to cover the year's required contribution. However, the Plan's actuarial projection over the next three years projects future required contributions will range between \$400,000 and \$600,000, depending upon future investment performance and possible ad hoc pension increases to retirees in the future.

### Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program

The Protected Self-Insurance Program continues to be financially sound.

The program has designated net assets in the amount of \$2,583,667, as

well as reserves for future claims in the amount of \$904,820, as of June 30, 2011.

Mr. Tooley informed the council that when New York State adopted its 2011-12 budget it passed legislation to discontinue group self-insured programs for Workers' Compensation insurance beginning January 1, 2012.

Several dioceses in NYS, including the Diocese of Ogdensburg, currently operate as a group self-insured program.

After consideration of alternatives, the diocese elected to apply to NYS to continue self-insurance for Workers' Compensation in a different, permissible format which basically would allow the diocese's program to continue as it has for many years.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg awaits the decision of the Workers' Compensation Board in regards to its application.

### Health Insurance

Since the Diocesan Finance Council's meeting the diocese has been informed that health insurance premiums will increase 12.7% effective January 1, 2012.

Mr. Tooley also informed council members the federal Department of Health and Human Services released guidelines under the Affordable Care Act which will require additional preventative services for women. Among the required services is "all FDA approved contraceptives" and "sterilization procedures and counseling".

Effective August 1, 2012, these services are to be included in all individual and group health insurance plans, including self-insured plans, without patient cost sharing.

An initial ruling provides an exemption for religious employers, but the narrow definition of a religious employer could see St. Joseph's Home and Catholic Charities

become subject to these required services. Catholic organizations have imitated lobbying efforts to contest this administrative decision of the federal government.

### The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

Mr. Tooley informed the Diocesan Finance Council that the diocese's Foundation saw its net assets increase from \$3,134,830 to \$4,373,582 in 2010-11. New contributions of \$549,840 were received during the year. The Foundation now has 39 endowments.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors held its annual meeting, at which time it approved dividends of \$60,000 in 2011-12. The Foundation distributed \$36,000 to investors in 2010-11.

The annual report of the Foundation appeared in the Nov. 16 issue of the *North Country Catholic*.

# First US 'ad limina' visits highlight religious freedom, evangelization, vocations

By John Thavis and Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Religious freedom, "new evangelization" and the push for vocations emerged as key issues during the first round of U.S. bishops' "ad limina" visits to the Vatican.

## Bishop LaValley and other bishops from New York State will be in Rome Nov. 22-Dec. 2 for their 'ad limina' visit

Eighteen bishops from New England met with Pope Benedict XVI and top officials of 12 major Roman Curia agencies Nov. 3-9.

It was the first of 15 U.S. groups making "ad limina" visits over the next several months, and the bishops said some particular questions and challenges surfaced quickly in the talks.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston told Catholic News Service Nov. 8 that the bishops had discussed religious freedom in meetings with several Vatican agencies, including pontifical councils that deal with family and laity issues. He said the bishops are "very, very concerned" because "the church's freedom is constantly being eroded" in the United States.

The cardinal said there was a tendency in the United States to interpret religious freedom solely as an individual right, which does not leave the church the space it needs to "live its life and implement its teachings."

That is becoming especially apparent on questions regarding marriage, family and human life, the cardinal said.

"Obviously, the issues around same-sex marriage are putting the church on a

collision course with the civil authority in many different ways," Cardinal O'Malley said.

He also cited the recent decision not to renew a grant by the Department of Health and Human Services to the bishops' Migration and Refugee Services for its human trafficking program.

A new requirement by the HHS would oblige MRS to agree to provide the "full range" of reproductive services, including abortion and contraception, to human trafficking victims and unaccompanied refugee minors.

"That was a terrible blow," Cardinal O'Malley said. He said Catholic Relief Services is facing similar pressures in its international relief efforts, as government agencies raise objections to partnering with the church.

The bishops discussed with Vatican officials the recent decision to establish a new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty to shape public policy and coordinate the church's response on the issue.

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., the new committee chairman, was part of the first "ad limina" group.

Cardinal O'Malley said that in their meeting with Vatican liturgy officials, the bishops had an "animated discussion" about the upcoming debut of the new translation of the Roman Missal.

"We shared with them that initially we had great reservations as to how this was going to go," the cardinal said. But as time has passed and Catholics have become better prepared through conferences and seminars, the bishops have become more optimistic, he said.

"I think we've seen a great change from apprehension and inertia to a certain enthusiasm. I'm certainly trying

to stress with our priests that this is an opportunity to catechize our people, to once again stress the primacy of the Sunday liturgy in our life as a community of faith," he said.

In their small-group meetings with Pope Benedict, the pontiff focused largely on new evangelization, a topic that has been chosen as a framework for the entire series of "ad limina" visits.

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Providence, R.I., said, in his diocese, "We've been focusing on evangelization for several years, so the discussions have dovetailed very neatly with discussions about the Holy Father's proclamation of a Year of Faith (2012-2013) and the new evangelization."

At the same time, he said, "there hasn't been any one issue" that dominated all the discussions. "That makes it interesting and challenging. The topics are across the board, which reflects the reality of the church" and the variety of issues a bishop deals with, Bishop Tobin said.

A popular topic was vocations, especially to the priesthood. Archbishop Henry J. Mansell of Hartford, Conn., said it was nice to be able to share good news with the pope.

"Many of us here can say we're very much thrilled by the large increase in vocations to the priesthood. In my own archdiocese, eight years ago we had six seminarians, now we have 47 and more on the waiting list," the archbishop said. "Stories like that are true and real and offer great hope now and for the future."

The archbishop said that in the meetings: "The Holy Father is very encouraging. He sees the large picture and he's very conscious of the work that goes on."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Diocese of Orange buys Crystal Cathedral, 31 acres for \$57.5 million

ORANGE, Calif. (CNS) -- A bankruptcy court judge has ordered the sale of the Crystal Cathedral and its nearly 31-acre campus in Garden Grove to the Catholic Diocese of Orange for \$57.5 million. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert N. Kwan's Nov. 17 ruling confirmed a decision by the Crystal Cathedral Ministries board of directors to accept the diocese's offer over a competing bid from Chapman University, which recently raised its offer to \$59 million. The Crystal Cathedral, founded by the Rev. Robert H. Schuller and the site of his nationally broadcast "Hour of Power" TV program, will lease back the church and other buildings for up to three years. Designed by architect Philip Johnson and dedicated in 1980, the church will eventually become the cathedral for the Diocese of Orange, which is the nation's 10th largest diocese in terms of Catholic population. "We sincerely regret the difficult circumstances Dr. Schuller and his ministry have encountered," said Orange Bishop Tod D. Brown in a news release following the bankruptcy court ruling. "Those challenges have now enabled the Diocese of Orange to protect this wonderful structure as a place of worship and will soon provide our Catholic community with a new cathedral, pastoral center, parish school and more. Despite these wonderful results, we are nonetheless saddened by the events that led us to today's award and offer our respect to Dr. Schuller and his ministry," he added. The church, affiliated with the Reformed Church of America, filed for bankruptcy in October 2010, claiming more than \$50 million in debts.

## Archbishop: Penn State scandal shows scope of sex abuse scourge

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The scandal rocking Penn State University shows both the scope of the sex abuse problem and the value of safe environment training, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said at a Nov. 14 news conference. Responding to a question following the first session of the USCCB fall general assembly in Baltimore, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York said the news that has led to the indictment of several Penn State officials and the firing of the university's president and its longtime football coach, Joe Paterno, "has reopened a wound in the church as well. It shows that the scourge (of sex abuse) is not limited to any one faith and certainly not limited to priests," he said. "It's in organizations, in universities, all over the place, in families and, yes, in priests." Archbishop Dolan said the church's own sex abuse scandal "makes us a little timid about wanting to give advice -- glass houses and all that." But he said the church's experience with providing safe environment training to help children and their parents, as well as clergy and church volunteers, become more aware of the warning signs of child sex abuse has been "phenomenally advantageous" over the past decade. "We've got a long way to go, but we have made major strides," he said.

# Highlights of 2011 USCCB fall general assembly

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** - At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 14-16, the bishops:

- Heard a report by Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., on threats to religious liberty, including efforts to legalize same-sex marriage.

- Established a Subcommittee on Health Care Issues under the Committee on Doctrine.

- Voted to add new optional memorials for Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Marianne Cope to the U.S. liturgical calendar.

- Were told about current moves to strengthen marriage, including well-received public service announcements with the theme of "a good marriage goes a long way."

- Heard from two bishops who recently visited Iraq about the need to protect Iraqis and provide assistance after U.S. troops leave there.

- Learned that a new U.S. ordinariate to bring former Anglicans into the Catholic Church will be established Jan. 1.

- Chose Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle as secretary-elect.

- Voted to extend for five years a resolution that calls them to sound financial practices in their dioceses.

- Looked back on the process of reorganizing the USCCB and creating a priority plan for 2008-11 and looked ahead to the next planning cycle through 2016.

- Approved a budget of \$217.4 million for 2012 and a 3 percent increase in diocesan assessments for 2013.

- Heard Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, in his first presidential address, encourage efforts to restore the luster, credibility and beauty of the church in the eyes of its members and others.

- Welcomed Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano as the new apostolic nuncio to the United States.

- OK'd new guidelines for administering USCCB national collections in their dioceses.

- Heard from three cardinals about efforts to expand and strengthen the church's post-abortion healing and reconciliation ministry, Project Rachel.

- Got an update on the Roman Missal translation that is to go into use in U.S. parishes this Advent.

- Deferred consideration of a new English translation of the Rite for Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick, and for Consecrating the Chrism to allow for further study.

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Advent message: be ready for the Lord

Every Advent calls us to "be alert, be ready, the Lord is coming soon."

This year we have added reason to be awake. Because is the day decreed for changes in Roman Missal, we need to be alert for every response to the Mass prayers, beginning today.

No longer can we rely on memory.

Most of us have prepared for these revisions for the past several months - why the changes, what they are, and how they should help us to

pray better. This year, both priest-celebrant and the whole assembly will have to keep their wits about them at Mass.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

All this fits right in with the message of this Sunday's readings.

In the first reading, Isaiah claims that the people of Israel have grown lax because God has hidden his face for too long.

"O that you could tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains would quake at your presence!" he says.

Many people would say that the heavens opened too much recently with torrential rains, and earthquakes and tsunamis and struck so much terror on earth. Are these some of the signs of the times that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel?

While people have complained, few have made many efforts to reform their lives. Of course we cannot do all this on our own. The Lord Himself will help us!

Isaiah reminds us in today's liturgy that God is the potter, and we are the clay. Will we let Him form us anew this Advent?

We must not be timid or

NOV. 27

## The First Sunday of Advent

### READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

indecisive in repentance and renewal this Advent, for St. Paul in the second reading tells us that, thanks to God's grace, we are not lacking in any spiritual gift, so why are we fearful? "He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Three times in today's

Gospel from Mark, Jesus tells us to "stay awake."

This Gospel contains a frightening description of the end of the world, but since we do not know the exact time or the hour, that is all the more reason for us to be ready at every moment of our lives for the final judgment. "And what I say to you (his apostles), I say to all: keep awake".

While the four weeks of Advent are supposed to prepare us for the celebration of Christmas, they have an even more important preparation in mind--the readiness of each one of us for the final judgment.

## RESPECT LIFE

## Finding the hidden blessings of unemployment

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities  
New York State Catholic Conference

A job loss, especially for the primary breadwinner of a family, wreaks tremendous damage on family relationships: loss of income, benefits, pride, self-esteem. When my father lost his job suddenly back in the 1970's, it sent our family into a tailspin. He fell into a deep depression, our family fell behind on the bills, and my mother was forced back into the workforce. The house was filled with anxiety and uncertainty, and it affected

every one of us.

Today many families are struggling with unemployment; the State Labor Department reports the state's jobless rate continues to hover around 7.7%. Some counties in the North Country have a much higher rate of unemployment, between 8 and 10%, and more layoffs are forthcoming, both in the public and private sectors.

Unemployment robs a person of more than a paycheck; it robs them of their sense of dignity. As the U.S. Bishops remind us: "Work is more than just a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation." Without work, many feel socially isolated, unfulfilled, like they have lost their place in society.

Twice during our marriage my husband Joe lost his job. The first time it happened we had a newborn in the house. I will never forget the expression on Joe's face each morning as I walked out the door to work - pain,

sorrow, desperation. ...like he was somehow letting me down. More than once did tears fall down my cheeks as I drove away from our apartment.

The second time unemployment struck, our boys were little, about 3 and 6 years old. Thank God I had a steady income with the added bonus of health care coverage. That 2+ year period began with strife, apprehension and fear, but turned out to be one of the greatest blessings God has ever given our family.

First, I had no worries about finding a responsible child care provider or what to do with the kids after school. Coupled with the money we were saving on day care, that was a tremendous stress reliever. My children were in the best possible hands.

Second, Joe was able to be home with the boys during

their very impressionable formative years. Most Dads don't get that opportunity - to watch cowboy movies together every Wednesday afternoon, toy guns in their holsters; to play whiffle ball in the backyard until darkness sets in; to study numbers and letters, read books (Mercer Mayer's "Just Me and My Dad" was a big hit) and do homework together.

It sounds corny to say, but they truly "bonded." I remember realizing this one day when both Joe and I were at home and Joey fell off his bike. He came running into the house, crying hysterically, screaming for Daddy to bandage his scrapes. Bypassing Mommy stung a little bit, I admit, but it felt liberating to know that Joe and I were truly equal partners in parenting.

And to this day, the bond that they formed in those years remains. They'll still call their Dad's cell phone



Kathleen  
Gallagher

over mine for girlfriend advice, computer questions and just to shoot the breeze about the MLB or the NFL. What a gift that is for Joe!

Most importantly, unemployment helped our family to focus on, well, family. The latest fashions, new toys, restaurant dinners, and material things just didn't seem to matter, as long as we had each other.

As politicians argue over which jobs bill will help the millions of unemployed Americans, those folks may find that if they can let go of their anxieties and focus on what's important, there will be room to let God and His blessings inside. That's easier said than done, I know. So I pray, with fervor and confidence, that all those who are without jobs are able to discover God's gifts during this challenging period in their lives.

And let us all pray for the creation of new jobs and a revitalized economy that will lift up the jobless, offer hope and encouragement, and restore self-respect.

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AT THE MOVIES

# HAPPY FEET TWO

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Penguins are once again tap dancing at the bottom of the world in "Happy Feet Two" (Warner Bros.), the 3-D sequel to the 2006 movie which won the Academy Award for best animated film.

Director and co-writer George Miller returns for this mostly family-friendly musical adventure, which reinforces the themes of his first movie, including believing in yourself, embracing differences and finding your own path through life.

We're back in Antarctica among those emperor penguins with the itchy fins, who break into group dance at a moment's notice.

Mumble (voice of Elijah Wood), the hero of the first installment, has married his true love, Gloria (voice of Alecia Moore, also known as Pink), and they have a cute-as-a-button son, Erik (voice of Ava Acres).

Erik is "choreophobic," as his dad once was, embarrassed by his two left fins



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Penguins named Mumble, voiced by Elijah Wood, and Erik, voiced by Ava Acres, are seen in the animated movie "Happy Feet Two."

and a distinct lack of rhythm.

Feeling misunderstood and unloved, Erik runs away, joined by his two oddly named chums, Atticus and Boadicea (voices of Benjamin "Lil P-Nut" Flores Jr. and Meibh Campbell). They follow a maverick adult penguin named Ramon (voice of Robin Williams) to his homeland.

Ramon is feeling rejected, too, not over his dancing prowess, but his lackluster love life among the lady penguins.

The quartet arrives in

Ramon's native Adelie Land, a rival penguin colony ruled by Sven (voice of Hank Azaria) who by some freak of nature - presuming, indeed, he really is a penguin - can fly.

Adelie Land is diverse and free-spirited, offering Erik lessons in tolerance and perseverance.

"It's part of life to find out who you are and what you are good at," Sven says, adding, "If you want something you have to will it. If you will it, it will be yours."

This is also the message of the resident preacher, the

unfortunately named Lovelace (also voiced by Williams), who leads the colony in bumps and grinds. Here Ramon finds his soul mate, the sultry Carmen (voice of Sofia Vergara).

"You. Me. Beautiful Egg. Now," he tells Carmen.

Before things get too hot and heavy, Mumble finds the runaways, and they start for home. In their absence, disaster has struck the emperor colony, threatening its very existence. Father and son must join forces to save the day, with the help of

their new friends and some giant elephant seals.

A side story follows the adventures of two tiny krill shrimp, Will (voice of Brad Pitt) and Bill (voice of Matt Damon). Their roles are pure comic diversion, similar to the prehistoric squirrel Scrat in the "Ice Age" movies.

Environmental issues such as global warming and offshore oil drilling take a back seat to the central story about familial cooperation. What the script -- collaborated on by Miller, Gary Eck, Warren Coleman and Paul Livingston -- lacks in originality is more than made up for by some stunning vistas, a few catchy tunes and an effective use of 3-D technology.

The film contains a few intense action scenes, some mild innuendo and minimal potty humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE



Enter for your chance to win a **2011 Chevy Cruze or \$12,000 CASH!!!**

Drawing will be held December 10, 2011.

All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.

Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

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NCC



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and to reserve your seat!

## ADIRONDACK

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Lake Placid** – St. Agnes School will be having a Christmas Bazaar.

**Date:** Dec. 3

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

**Features:** Baked goods, donuts, new gifts, crafts, toys, wreaths, trees, holiday plants & lots of raffle items. Vendor space is available, please call 518-523-3771 for information.

## CLINTON

## NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** – The Newman Center will participate in the 22nd National Night of Prayer for Life.

**Date:** Dec. 8

**Time:** 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

**Features:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the 4 hours, closing with Benediction. The purpose is to unite our prayers with Catholics throughout America in an effort to help lead the world to Christ and to bring about an end to abortion. The hours are chosen to coincide with Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to Juan Diego. Please come and join us for an hour of prayer.

## SETON DINNER &amp; AUCTION

**Plattsburgh** – Seton will be having its 7th Annual Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction featuring turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

**Date:** Dec. 4

**Time:** Noon to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Seton High School

**Cost:** Adults-\$9, Seniors (55+) \$7, Children 12-5 years \$5 and under 5 FREE and take outs \$9. Those adults who bring an unwrapped toy or a food item for our drive for the needy will receive \$1 off

**Features:** Silent auction, cash raffle, cash and carry items and holiday wreaths. Benefits Seton Academy and Seton Catholic.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

**Ellenburg Center** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be hosting their third Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 24

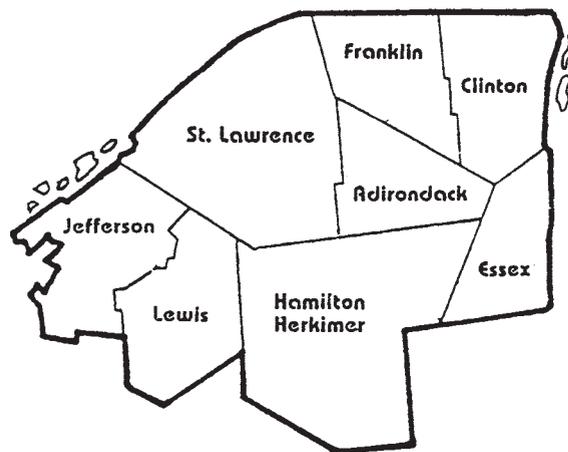
**Time:** Noon

**RSVP:** olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

**Price:** Donations appreciated but not necessary

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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



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.

**Place:** St. John's Adoration Chapel,

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

Theme: "Come to the foot of the altar.

Here graces will be showered on all, great and little, who ask for them.

Graces will especially be showered upon those who ask for them." (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Laboure)

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

## BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

**Keeseville** – The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society to sponsor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

## ESSEX

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Crown Point** – A Christmas Bazaar will be held at Sacred Heart Church.

**Date:** Dec. 3

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Features:** A Cookie Walk, A Basket Raffle, Homemade items, Religious items, Arts & Crafts, White Elephant Table & baked goods, luncheon

## JEFFERSON

## K OF C ESSAY CONTEST

**Watertown** – The Knights of Columbus Watertown Council No. 259 is sponsoring a youth essay contest

**Features:** All Catholic students at the Immaculate Heart Central Junior Senior High School grades 8,9,10,11,12 are

invited to participate in the 2011 Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. Students are encouraged to write a 500 to 750 word essay on the theme: "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen In a Free Society." Participants are required to furnish written parental consent.

**Contact:** For entry forms and additional information contact: IHCS at 788-4670.

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

**Evans Mills** – A Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner will be held to benefit the Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** Dec. 10

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

**Date:** Dec. 1

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

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free;

sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

## GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS

**Watertown** – An ecumenical bereavement meeting will be held

**Date:** Nov. 28

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse

**Features:** The Rev. Douglas Ort will speak on the topic "Bereavement Around the Holidays".

## 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.

## MYSTERY PLAYERS

**Watertown** – The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players will be performing this Advent Season.

Schedule is as follows:

**Nov. 27:** St. Cecilia's in Adams at 7 p.m.

**Nov. 30:** IHC in Watertown at 1 p.m.

**Dec. 4:** at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown at 7 p.m.

**Dec. 11:** St. Cyril's in Alex Bay at 7 p.m.

**Dec. 18:** Holy Family Church, 7:15 p.m.

**More information:** www.ihcschools.org/webpages/mysteryplay

## ST. LAWRENCE

## CRAFT FAIR

**Gouverneur** – St. James School will have a Craft Fair.

**Date:** Dec. 3

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** jewelry, woodcrafts, ceramics, stuffed animals, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas ornaments and decorations, baskets, etc. Paula Towne, local artist will be doing portraits. Over 50 vendors will be there. Lunch will be available. Santa will visit at 1:30 p.m. Admission is a donation.

## 7TH GRADE INFORMATION NIGHT

**Massena** – Learn about Trinity Catholic School's new 7th Grade program.

**Date:** Nov. 29

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

**Place:** Trinity Catholic cafeteria

**Questions:** Please call TCS at 315-769-5911 or visit www.trinitycatholic-school.net

**Features:** Join Joan Rufa, principal of Trinity Catholic School, as she discusses plans for a new Catholic Middle School program opening Fall 2012.

## TRINITY'S TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

**Massena** – An elegant Christmas luncheon to benefit Trinity Catholic School.

**Date:** Dec. 11

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Place:** Violi's Italian Restaurant

**Cost:** \$35.00 per person.

**Features:** Enjoy good company and beautiful music while dining on culinary masterpieces designed by local celebrity chefs.

**Contact:** Visit www.trinitycatholic-school.net to see your menu choices and call Trinity at 315-769-5911 to make reservations.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE STUDY

**Potsdam** – Is there life after death? Do you believe in God? Jesus? Is there a Heaven and Hell? Which Church should I attend? These questions and more will be answered at a weekly Catholic Scripture Study on the Gospel of Matthew.

**Date:** Beginning Dec. 5

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Mayfield Apartments Community Room (call for directions)

**Contact:** Chris LaRose Apt 221 315-403-8123 or clarose@twcny.rr.com  
 Bring a Bible

## K OF C THANKSGIVING

**Ogdensburg** – The Msgr. A. D. Charbonneau Council 258 Knights of Columbus and Its Ladies Auxiliary is holding its 20th annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 24

**Time:** from noon until all are served

**Place:** The Knights' Club Rooms at

**Features:** Deliveries are made to shut ins but the focus of the day is around the community spirit and friends getting together at the Club Rooms and people are encouraged to come to the hall. Volunteers are appreciated Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. to help with food preparations and decorating the Hall and on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 A.M. If you can help call the club and leave your name.

**Donations:** Donations of desserts are appreciated. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Checks to the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner may be sent to at 721 Hasbrouck Street, Ogdensburg, NY. 13669. Attn: PGK Harry Lucchetti.

**Contact:** Reservations for the sit down meals and deliveries should be made by Nov. 22. Call the Knights Hall at 393-7990 after 3:30 P.M. any day.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's has Adoration every Friday.

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church.

**Features:** First Friday of each month is preceded by Benediction.



## 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

# A prayer at Thanksgiving

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

The rush of the holidays are upon us. As we sit down to Thanksgiving with family and friends this Thursday, let us take a moment to remember those who live in developing lands and those who dedicate their lives to spreading the word of the Lord to those less fortunate than us.

Let us pray for the Missions and show thanks to all those who do so much for so many so far away.

- For all who suffer: the diseased, the poor, those denied dignity, and those who live without hope, grant them the peace of knowing that Christ the King will never abandon them nor tire of tending to their needs;

- For this great country, where our voices do make a difference, where we have the freedom to live our lives in accordance with our beliefs, where our potential is not limited by our parentage, and where we have the opportunity to raise our families in comfort and abundance, we thank you Lord;

- For the children of the world, may they be protected from hunger, abuse, illiteracy, disease, neglect, and violence, and allowed to enjoy lighthearted and carefree childhoods, gently molded by God's laws and loving discipline,

- For those tormented by disease, depression, addiction, abuse, and hopelessness, and for those who love and suffer with them, may they be comforted by God's love and God's promise of deliverance,

- For all Christians, may we be humble stewards of the gifts given to us by God, and may we set an example of mercy and generosity by becoming involved in efforts to distribute the world's wealth among all of those in need.



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## OBITUARIES

### Sister Christine Helen, SSJ

**WATERTOWN** -- A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Christine Helen was held Nov. 19 in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

She died Nov. 17 at the motherhouse.

Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sisters of St. Joseph Retirement Fund are appreciated. They can be sent to Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St., Watertown NY.

**Altona** -- Brenda L. (Bushey) Rabideau, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2011 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg.

**Carthage** -- Judith E. (Homan) Shirley, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2011 at St. James Catholic Church.

**Cape Vincent** -- Peter C. De Long, 44; Memorial Services Nov. 19, 2011 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

**Cape Vincent** -- Michael M. Gilmore, 69; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2011 at St. Vin-

cent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

**Evans Mills** -- Arlene J. (Butts) Files, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

**Louisville** -- Helen B. (Berkerle) Mackey, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2011 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lowville** -- Nancy B. Lyng, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2011 at St. Peter's Church.

**Morrisonville** -- Bernard Boissey, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Morristown** -- Thomas W. Ryan, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2011 at St. John's Church.

**Ogdensburg** -- Memory S. (Sholette) Morley, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2011 at Notre Dame Church.

**Peru** -- Karen A. (Coon) Crooker, 52; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Plattsburgh** -- Gerald A. Reyell, 64; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** -- Joseph G. Veneto, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

**Tupper Lake** -- Juliet Maroun, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2011 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** -- Gerald F. Casey, 74; Memorial Services Nov. 19, 2011 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** -- Patricia A. (Houser) Reimann, 72; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church



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*Diocesan Family Life Ministry is supported by the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal*

# Family Become What You Are!



Among the many efforts undertaken by the diocesan Family Life Office this year was participation in a Family Forum Oct. 1 in West Chazy. With the theme "Family Become What You Are!" the day was described as "a time to look at family life, and see how we can all work together to support and build up the families in our parishes." In front are Tom and Claudia Sanders, West Chazy Family Forum program coordinators; back, Deacon Ed and Louise Mazuchowski of Dannemora, Bishop LaValley and Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, diocesan directors of family life. The Family Life Office is supported by contributions from the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.



Bishop LaValley and Father J. Roger McGuinness, right, pastor in West Chazy, gave family-themed presentations during the Oct. 1 Family Forum.



One of the most popular family programs in the diocese is Family Guggenheim, held three weekends each year. This year's theme was "Family Become What You Are... Mission Possible!" Above, the Giacovelli Family from Tupper Lake, Paul and Cyd and their children, Angeleigha, age 11, Danté, 10; Denali, 6; and Aubriana, 2 share a family blessing on the beach at Camp Guggenheim. At right, Father Chris Looby, pastor in Brushton and chaplain for one of the Family Guggenheim weekends, celebrates Mass at the Saranac Lake diocesan camp.

