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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 16, 2011

## TODAY, TOMORROW & ALWAYS



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Father Bryan D. Stitt presided at the marriage of Dorianne and Paul Hughes Oct. 9, 2010, at St. James Church in Gouverneur. The Hughes are among the hundreds of couples married in Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Ogdensburg during the past year. This week's *NCC* focuses on preparation for Catholic marriage. Among the topics addressed are "Marriage - a unique call to holiness" and "What is natural family planning." See pages 7-11

## Gifts of a generous benefactor

Lake Clear native George Carley who died Dec. 14 will long be remembered for his extraordinary generosity.

Mr. Carley, postmaster in Lake Clear for 24 years, established charitable annuities through the Diocesan Charitable Gift Annuity Program and left gifts totaling over \$283,000 to St. Bernard's School (Saranac Lake) Endowment Fund and St. John in Wilderness Church in Lake Clear.



FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## PLANNING CONTINUES



FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Trinity School in Massena plans growth

Massena pastors Father Don ald J. Manfred and Father J. Michael Gaffney announced Sunday that Bishop LaValley had given Trinity Catholic School approval to add grades seven and eight.

Joan Rufa, principal, told the *North Country Catholic*, that the impetus for adding grades came from repeated requests from parents, especially from parents of children in the younger grades.

In recent months, the pastors, principal, faculty, staff and members of the education council, have laid the groundwork for the additional grades.

Trinity School currently offers grades pre-K to six.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Mass Intentions

In this week's Follow Me column, Bishop LaValley writes about Mass offerings in parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

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## Around the Diocese

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NORTH  
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CATHOLIC

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Here comes the bride!

Here we go again – hooray! For the third time in three years, a child of ours will be wed. Last year and the year before, we were parents of the groom; this year our baby girl will be the bride.

Sigh...

All the weddings have been/will be uniquely beautiful but each has brought the same kind of joy to their father and me.

We actually can't imagine three other people more perfectly suited to stand next to our children for better and for worse, through all the days of their lives.

We have been blessed, as well, as we watch their excitement through the months before their weddings and in the first years of their marriages.

It's crystal clear that they love and are loved by their spouses in a way that warms the hearts of all who see them.

Young love is just the best, isn't it?

Of course, old love isn't so bad either!

In our family, we can be inspired by both the joy of newlyweds and the faithful love of those married more than five decades.

All the marriage advice the young ones will hear is just a way of life for their grandparents.

Year after year – after year –

Grandma and Pop have stood by each other in sickness and in health, in great times and in awful ones.

Their faith in each other and in God has carried them through hardships they couldn't have dreamed about on that long ago wedding day.

Now, it's their granddaughter's turn.

Over the next several months, we'll all be sharing in the fun – and craziness – of preparing for a September wedding: new clothes, new shoes and great anticipation.

The mother of the bride will be ready to share a little in her beautiful

daughter's reflected glory,

Her dad? Not so ready to give his little girl away!

Thank goodness, we don't have to.

Molly and TJ will exchange their vows and take their first steps as a brand new family but they will always be part of our family too.

They will be blessed to walk on a firm foundation of loved ones who will never stop praying for them, loving them and showing them, by example, what the vows they have taken *really* mean.

God bless Molly and TJ and every couple preparing for marriage this year. Your loving commitment to each other is a blessing for us too!



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## Come In From The Cold

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

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## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

### Love Your Enemies

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

Jesus' message to "love our enemies and to pray for our persecutors" is one of the many counsels of perfection found in Matthew 5:38-48.

These counsels of perfection go beyond the fundamental requirements of the moral law.

The moral law, basically the Ten Commandments, provides the basic framework to develop a right relationship with God and with our neighbor.

**As a family of faith, we will not always be perfect in our way of love. God takes the initiative and gives us His grace and puts the desire within each of our hearts to try to please Him and to build up the Body of Christ.**

Matthew's Gospel points out to his community that the living relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the Spirit is more than observing the law.

It is the spirit of the law that empowers the Christian to reach out to others with the Spirit of Christ's Love.

It is the Holy Spirit who guides our actions and enables the community to grow in love.

Matthew's community was struggling with this counsel of "love your enemy," "pray for your persecutors."

Who was the enemy in Matthew's Church?

Was it the Samaritans, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, or the Gentiles coming into the Church?

Do we not struggle with some of the same issues of loving our enemies as did the early Christians?

Religious wars, violence, prejudice, ethnic cleansing continue throughout the world.

Who is the enemy?

The surprise is that God loves our enemies, whoever they may be, just as He loves each of us. On this journey of faith, there are many people and circumstances in our lives that challenge us to share "the tunic," "to turn the other cheek," or "to pray for your persecutors."

Even the Catholic Church continues to be the target of violence around the world.

We are called to pray for the conversion of our enemies, but do we pray for the persecutors of this world? Jesus goes on to say, "... that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good. . . ."

There will be evil situations and those who act out evil deeds upon another or upon groups of people

It is not for us to judge how God will deal with all of these people and challenges. We leave the outcome in God's hands.

What we are called to do is to continue to love, to be ready to offer understanding, compassion, and forgiveness.

Jesus offers a new way of treating our neighbor and our enemies. These counsels of perfection are meant to expand our hearts in these difficult circumstances and to transform our lives that bring us closer to eternal life.

As a family of faith, we will not always be perfect in our way of love. God takes the initiative and gives us His grace and puts the desire within each of our hearts to try to please Him and to build up the Body of Christ.

As the Body of Christ, we act, pray, live, celebrate together God's way of love for us. We are not alone on this journey to perfect love.

Christ's promise to be with us until the end of time is a promise that we affirm to by doing His will. This is what it means to "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

## FOLLOW ME

# Mass intentions

On occasion, someone will arrive at the rectory and ask, "How much does it cost to buy a Mass?" Particularly at the time a loved dies, individuals will approach the Church to "have a Mass said" for the deceased. Sometimes at Mass, the priest will announce *who the Mass is for*.

There's been a strong tradition in the Roman Catholic Church, as Pope Paul VI stated in his *motu proprio, Firma in Traditione (1974)*, that "the faithful, led on by a religious and ecclesial awareness, desire to participate more intimately in a kind of sacrifice of themselves, as it were, with the Eucharistic sacrifice in order that they might more actively participate in it." In this way, the faithful provide for the support of the Church and in a special way for the support of her ministers. This is done in keeping with the Lord's words, "The laborer deserves his wages." (Luke 10:7) St. Paul, likewise, reminds us of this point in his First Letter to Timothy (1 Tm. 5:18) and his First Letter to the people of Corinth (1 Cor. 9:7-14).

Historically, the Mass offering or Mass stipend, had its origin within the offertory of the Mass, during which the faithful who participated in the Eucharistic celebration offered primarily the bread and wine for the sacrifice, as well as other natural gifts, for the needs of the poor and for the sustenance of the Church's ministers. In this way, the offering was uniquely united with the Eucharistic celebration itself. From the Middle Ages through today, the Mass offering has become almost exclusively monetary.

By their nature, Mass offerings bind the faithful more closely to the sacrifice of Christ, to the work of the Church's minister in carry-

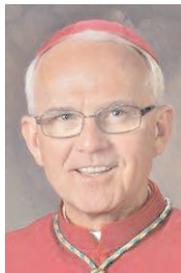
ing out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, in solidarity with one's brothers and sisters in the family of all. So that this kind of awareness may always be preserved, canonical norms have been established through the centuries.

Any priest, in accordance with the approved custom of the Church, may accept an offering to apply a certain Mass for a specific intention. The priest is not to accept more inten-

tions than what can be satisfied in one year. The offering for a Mass intention in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is normally \$10.00. In the event of someone not having adequate funds, a priest can celebrate an intention for an agreed upon offering. In the event a priest celebrates more than one Mass on a particular day, he may retain only one offering, with any other offering being given to the purpose the Diocesan Bishop determines.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a priest receives a monthly salary. Any offerings he receives for Masses that he celebrates during the month is deducted from his monthly salary so that his monthly compensation remains the same, regardless of the number of Masses he celebrates in any given month. There are situations where an abundance of Mass intentions exist and cannot be satisfied by a particular priest in one year. In such a case, to ensure that Mass requests are fulfilled in an appropriate time, Mass intentions are to be distributed to those priests who have an insufficient number of offerings for Masses that he will celebrate. In our diocese, this distribution is accomplished through the Propagation of the Faith office.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley



Janice Shoen, diocesan director of development and Valerie Mathews, assistant director, traveled to Saranac Lake Feb. 8 to present a check for \$234,416.19 left to St. Bernard's School by George Carley who died Dec. 14 at 89. Carley, the postmaster in Lake Clear for 24 years, was a 1935 graduate of St. Bernard's and sent all seven of his children there. From 1994, Mr. Carley made gifts through the Diocesan Charitable Gift Annuity Program of the diocese, choosing St. Bernard's School Endowment Fund and St. John in the Wilderness Church to be the final beneficiaries. The students of St. Bernard's are shown above as their principal, Ray Dora, and pastor, Father Mark Reilly, accept the check from Mrs. Shoen and Mrs. Mathews.

## A North Country man sows philanthropic seeds

By Janice Shoen, Executive Director  
Development Office

In the small town of Lake Clear, George Carley had a great devotion to his Church, St. John in the Wilderness, and to his alma mater, St. Bernard's Catholic School in Saranac Lake.

**From a quiet, humble and generous man, his gifts totaled over \$283,000 to St. Bernard's School Endowment Fund and St. John in Wilderness Church**

On December 14, 2010, Mr. Carley was called to God. Because of careful planning, he will be remembered for years to come for his generosity, not only by residents, Catholic School children and parishioners of Saranac Lake and Lake Clear but also by the entire Diocese of Ogdensburg.

In February 1994, George Carley attended an Estate Planning Seminar sponsored by St. Bernard's

School in which I did a presentation on Charitable Gift Annuities.

After the seminar was over, he approached me and asked if I would send him some additional information about how this program worked.

From that day forward Mr. Carley made gifts through the Diocesan Charitable Gift Annuity Program of which he chose St. Bernard's School Endowment Fund and St. John in the Wilderness Church to be the final beneficiaries.

Over 16 years, he established 13 Charitable Gift Annuities. These annuities provided him with an ongoing annual income throughout his life along with him knowing that his gifts would benefit two Catholic institutions that he held close to his heart.

From a quiet, humble and generous man, his gifts totaled over \$283,000.00 to St. Bernard's School Endowment Fund and St. John in Wilderness Church!

Mr. Carley was born in Lake Clear, attended St. Bernard's School and was the father of seven chil-

dren, who also all attended St. Bernard's. He was the Postmaster of the Lake Clear for 24 years and well-known to all those in the area.

Besides his seven children and their spouses, Mr. Carley left behind 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. On my numerous visits he was always so proud to tell me about any new additions to the family or had new photos to show. He enjoyed travelling to see as many of them as he could each year.

Mr. Carley was also a member of the School Board for St. Pius X, was president of the Church Council and Holy Name Society of St. John in the Wilderness. He was a Sexton for Harrietstown Cemetery and then St. John's Cemetery from 1947 until 1997.

George Carley will never see the flowering of the seeds that he planted, but countless children of St. Bernard's School and parishioners of St. John in the Wilderness will enjoy the fruits of his generosity for years to come.

## Planning meetings continue across the diocese

# Jefferson Deanery prepares for future

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Staff writer

**WATERTOWN-** If current projections become reality the number of active priests in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in ten years will be 40.

The trend is not a local phenomenon according to St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw, the diocesan chancellor and director of the Office of Planning.

A report released this week from the Center for Applied Research of the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, suggests the Catholic Church across the U.S. is continuing to experience a decline in the number of active priests due principally to aging and death.

"You can see where the statistics are taking us," Sister Jennifer told a gathering of about 75 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Feb. 7. "We will have 26 retirees in the next eight years. We have six priests today who are over 75 years of age and remain active in their parishes."

The trend has spurred a new round of diocesan planning by the Deans of the Dio-

cese and the Diocesan Planning office.

"Planning is like death and taxes," Sister Jennifer said, "it is always with us."

The comments came at a conference called by the Jefferson Deanery. Invitations were extended to each parish in the Deanery, to all priests and deacons of Jefferson County and each pastor was encouraged to bring lay representatives to the meeting too.

The discussion of the future for the Deanery in ten years prompted two general questions posed by the Diocese's planner: 1. What do you think of the plan and what suggestions might you make to alter it and 2. How do we effectively get the word out about the potential impact of the planning decisions.

The current thinking is to reduce the number of resident pastors in Jefferson Deanery from 11 to eight. Two would serve parishes in the City of Watertown. There are four parishes currently served by three pastors.

Alexandria Bay and Redwood would lose their resident pastor. Black River and

Deferiet would realize the same fate.

The Missionary Priests of the Sacred Heart currently provide pastors for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere. While there is no reason to suspect the MSC presence in the Diocese will change, Sister Jennifer did acknowledge part of the Diocesan plan is to include two pastorates in the Jefferson Deanery supplied by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

It was the alignment of parishes in the post-reconfiguration of pastors that seemed to draw the most interest of those in attendance.

Various suggestions for parish alignments; large parish with a smaller one; city parishes each linked with a parish outside the city; taking apart a couple of the linkages currently in place and making new ones were all ideas generated by the participants for consideration by the planners.

The second question posed by the moderator, "how do we get the word out?" drew a number of sug-

gestions including a mass mailing to every registered Catholic in the Diocese; a four page insert in the North Country Catholic to be distributed beyond the normal weekly press run; parish meetings well publicized in advance; use of the media including modern social networking.

The recommendations will be merged with comments from similar gatherings in the other seven deaneries in the Diocese. A master plan for realignment and reconfiguration is likely to result from all the discussion but Sister Jennifer is reluctant to suggest any piece of the plan might occur on this date or that.

"There are too many unknowns, too many things that can happen, as we have already seen, that change the urgency of a move," she said.

She left the group on a hopeful note.

"We need to pray for our priests but we have to pray for each other as well and we have to be good to one another. God will not leave us orphans," she said, "we have to always remember and believe that God is with us."

### Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**Feb. 17** – 11. a.m., Mass and Visit at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown.

**Feb. 18** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

**Feb. 19** – 4. p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

### Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 16** – Rev. André Marie Garin, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Joseph Alexander Fournier, O.M.I., 1904

**Feb. 17** – Rev. Joseph Alfred Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

**Feb. 18** – Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

**Feb. 19** – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

**Feb. 20** – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

**Feb. 21** – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

**Feb. 22** – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930

# Mass intentions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Separate Masses must be applied for the intention for each of which an offering, even if small, and has been made and accepted. However, by way of exception, a priest may celebrate several intentions at one time. *This exception requires the prior approval of the Diocesan Bishop and can only occur if the donor has freely consented to combining intentions and has been informed of the date and the time of the celebration.*

Rather than using the term *stipend*, one should keep in mind that he/she is making a free will offering to the priest for a special intention, not purchasing a

Mass.

It should also be remembered that when a priest celebrates the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass the spiritual benefits are extended to the whole community and not merely to the donor. Thus, a more appropriate phraseology in the general intercessions is, "for he/she who is being remembered in a special way at this Mass".

However, the mentioning of the intention as an intercession is not necessary in order for the intention to be considered satisfied. Keeping in mind one is not purchasing a Mass, the term to be used to denote a stipend is *Mass offering*.

The Holy Sacrifice of the

Mass is the most important prayer of the Church. It is the principle source of God's graces and blessings showered upon all of humanity. There is no greater gift than to offer the Mass for a departed loved one, for someone's particular need, or for a special intention.

I hope that this information helps to answer questions you might have about Mass intentions. The Eucharist is at the very heart of the Church and the center of her life.

As we begin this New Year, may our faithful participation at Mass inspire and strengthen us to live fully the vocation to holiness to

which we have all been called. We call on the communion of saints to intercede on our behalf as we seek to respond to Christ's call: "Follow Me."

### 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**, Terrienne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; aycsn@westelcom.com

### Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information: Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920. ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

**Feb. 14** - St. Mary's School, Canton, 6 p.m.

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

# Trinity Catholic plans to add 7th, 8th grades

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

**MASSENA** – Parents attending the Catholic Schools Week Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday heard an answer to a prayer.

Massena pastors, Father Donald J. Manfred of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Louisville; and Father J. Michael Gaffney of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, announced that Bishop LaValley has approved their continuing efforts to open a seventh and eighth grade at Trinity Catholic School.

Joan Rufa, principal, told the *North Country Catholic*, that the impetus for adding grades came from repeated requests from parents, espe-

cially from parents of children in the younger grades.

In recent months, the pastors, principal, faculty, staff and members of the education council, have laid the groundwork for the additional grades.

Mrs. Rufa said that, if 15 students enroll, a seventh grade will be added in September.

These students would move into a newly established eighth grade in 2012.

The proposed program for Trinity sixth, seventh and eighth grades follows:

- Fifty minutes of instruction every day in all Core Subjects: Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies.

- Schedule will allow flexibility and enable teachers to team teach and students to

work up to 100 minutes on hands on and highly motivating projects.

- Instruction in core areas and encore areas will include outreach to the community through regular field trips, mentors, guest speakers, and guest instructors. (i.e. Labs in science will be conducted outside, collecting soil samples, river samples, etc. evaluating and analyzing

observations, planning, organizing and implementing suppers to help feed those in need in our community, assisting animal shelters, St. Vincent de Paul, Neighborhood Center, planning, organizing, and assisting Massena Library with Early Childhood Literacy programs.)

- Forty minutes of instruction every day or every other

day in Encore Subjects: Religion, Foreign Language, Technology, Art, Music, Family and Consumer Science,

- Electives such as Math 9, Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Dance, Theater, Journalism.

- Extra-curricular activities: Forensics, Chess Club, Bridge Club, Robotics, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Golf, Tennis, Cooking, Yearbook

## Diocesan youth conference set

**MASSENA** -- A diocesan youth conference will be held April 2 at Trinity Catholic School and Sacred Heart Church.

The keynoter will be led by Carrie Ann Ford of Buffalo.

The program will also include workshops, for young people in grades six through 12, and a Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley presiding.

Ms. Ford, a singer, song-

writer, presenter and teacher, who has been sharing her message of God's unfailing love with audiences across the globe for nearly 20 years.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. The \$10 cost includes lunch and snacks.

Further information is available from the youth ministry office at 315-393-2920.

## Come to the 2011 Public Policy Day!

### March 8, 2011

Join more than 1,000 Catholics in Albany.



Come put your faith into action!

- Demonstrate the strength and unity of the Catholic voice to state lawmakers
- Learn more about critical social issues of the day
- Worship together at Mass with Cardinal Egan and the Bishops of the state.
- Meet with legislators, attend Senate and Assembly committee meets, watch you lawmakers in action!



Register today at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) or call 518-434-6195

Sponsored by the New York Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic church in the Empire Church





**SEE THE POPE ON YOUTUBE**

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## RESPECT LIFE

# 'Special interest' is not a dirty word

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

In laying out his 2011-2012 state budget plan, Governor Andrew Cuomo lashed out against the "special interests" he says control Albany and state spending.

In speech after speech, he continues this attack, going so far as to call special interests "the enemy."

I take offense at that. The Catholic tradition calls us – very specifically – to be a special interest.

One of the foundational principles of our Catholic social teaching is the "preferential option for the poor and the vulnerable." We are called to show particular concern -- "special interest" -- for the weakest, most needy, and most oppressed. It's all over the Scriptures; in the Old Testament: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of

the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9) And in the New Testament: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Kathleen Gallagher

The encyclicals of the Popes abound with the same theme: "Love for others, and especially for the poor, is made concrete by promoting justice." (Centesimus Annus (The Hundredth Year), Pope John Paul II, 1991) And our Bishops repeatedly teach us that the moral measure of any economy is how the weakest are faring. "As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response." (Economic Justice for All, A Pastoral Letter of the US Catholic Bishops, 1986.)

Those who answer this call by defending the defenseless and speaking for the voiceless should not be assailed as "the enemy."

We do have a special inter-

est: it is the orphan, the widow, the unborn, the neglected, the disabled, the hungry, the jobless, the prisoner, the elderly, the abused and the stranger. We have a moral obligation to advocate for them.

The Governor's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year recommends postponing a planned increase in the basic welfare grant, a minimal increase that was secured only after twenty years of inequity and decades of advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged. The delay will not help those who are struggling to make the transition from welfare to work.

The budget also calls for the complete elimination of the Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation, the only state-funded abortion alternatives program that assists low-income, mostly single moms, empowering them to keep their babies and raise their families.

It plans to reduce state payments to adoptive parents of hard-to-place kids and it nixes the planned cost-of-living adjustment for a range of workers in foster care, mental health and other human service

programs, those who are generally underpaid in the first place.

**The Catholic tradition calls us – very specifically – to be a special interest. One of the foundational principles of our Catholic social teaching is the "preferential option for the poor and the vulnerable."**

In education, the budget proposes cutting aid to Catholic schools by 8 percent, and does not reimburse these schools the hundreds of millions of dollars the government already owes them for state-mandated services.

This means families who are paying their fair share of taxes, and struggling to pay tuition on top of that, will be hit yet again.

And in health care, the Governor wants to reduce state spending by \$2.85 billion in Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor.

Yes, there is a need to reduce waste, inefficiency and duplication in state spending and to curb unsustain-

able expenditures for the future. Yes, there are special interests who are in this only for their own benefit.

But all special interests are not alike. Our special interest is the benefit of others. Poor and needy New Yorkers didn't make the fiscal mess we're in today, and the fix shouldn't be put on their backs. They are already suffering the effects of the downturn. Ripping their safety net will do neither them nor the economy any good.

If Governor Cuomo's budget was truly "transformational," as he calls it, it would change not just numbers and formulas, alignments and processes; it would transform human lives – for the better. Cutting supports to those truly in need is both morally and fiscally misguided. All those who take seriously the call of the Gospel should speak up. Log on to [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) and send a message to your elected officials by clicking on the "Take Action Now" button.

The State has until April 1 to craft a responsible and just state budget. Take a special interest. Act now.

## 'Catholics at the Capitol' set for March 8 in Albany

Bishop Terry R. LaValley illead a delegation from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Albany March 8 for the 2011 public policy day.

The group will join Archbishop Timothy Dolan, the

other state's Catholic bishops will join about 1,000 New York State Catholics for "Catholics at the Capitol," at the state Capitol complex.

Participants will gather for Mass at the newly renovated

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception near the Capitol, then meet with their legislators and attend workshops, including one on continuing advocacy at the diocesan and parish levels.

This full list of issues for the day is as follows:

- Oppose the radical "Reproductive Health Act" abortion bill and support for alternatives to abortion
- Support comprehensive

conscience protection for individuals and institutions

- Preserve Catholic schools
- Protect the poor and those severely impacted by the economic downturn
- Maintain the health care infrastructure and health care coverage for low and moderate income individuals
- Support juvenile justice reform that results in a system that better serves youth and community
- Oppose the redefinition of marriage

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Convention Center.

Mass at the cathedral will be at 10 a.m. Archbishop Dolan will be the principal

celebrant and homilist.

Lunch will be provided after Mass and workshops begin at 11:45.

Jack Balinsky, executive director of Catholic Charities of Rochester, will receive the J. Alan Davitt Award for Exemplary Service from the New York State Bishops. The late Alan Davitt was a former executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference.

Registration should be made online at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) or through the diocesan coordinator, Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin, (315) 393-2255, [ccdirect@wad-hams.edu](mailto:ccdirect@wad-hams.edu)

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# For couples who wish to marry in Catholic Church:

The Catholic Church has a long history of helping couples to prepare for marriage. It has learned a great deal that can benefit any couple, regardless of religion.

Because the Catholic Church wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to:

- Contact and meet with your parish priest as soon as you are engaged.
- Take at least six months to intensively prepare for your marriage. This goes beyond choosing a date and church, reserving a place for the reception, and picking out dresses. It means using this time to delve more deeply into your relationship and approach this momentous day with prayer and reflection.
- Attend an approved marriage preparation program. There are many different formats for marriage preparation programs ranging from intensive weekends, to a weekly series, to "in home" mentor couple programs.
- Check out the most common national programs.
- To find what programs are available near you contact your diocesan family life office.

• Catholic marriage preparation programs are usually presented by a team of lay married couples and a priest or deacon. They are not restricted to Catholics, but they are always in keeping with Church teaching.

• Most dioceses ask couples to take a marriage preparation inventory (such as FOCCUS, PMI, or PREPARE). These are not "tests" to determine whether you can get married in the Church, but rather discussion starters to assess what issues you already agree on and what you might need to discuss further.

• Many parishes offer Mentor Couple Programs in which a trained married couple meets with you in their home to discuss common marriage issues. Sometimes the Mentor Couple will also administer the marriage preparation inventory and follow up on it with you.

Most importantly at the time of your engagement, the Church welcomes you to this sacrament of Marriage in the spirit of Jesus who said:

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:12-13)*

## Pope: For Catholic wedding, couple must know teachings of the church

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Men and women have a natural right to marry, but that does not mean they have a right to a Catholic wedding, Pope Benedict XVI said.

For the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament that is witnessed by a priest or deacon, but performed by the couple who pledge their union will be forever and that they will be open to having and educating children, the pope said.

"The right to contract marriage presupposes that one is able to and intends to truly celebrate it, that is, in the truth of its essence as taught by the church," Pope Benedict said Jan. 22 when he met with members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

Because the church has a

very specific religious understanding of what marriage is, "no one can claim the right to a marriage ceremony" in the church, the pope said.

In his annual meeting with the tribunal officials, Pope Benedict said he wanted to focus on the legal or juridical aspect of Catholic marriage preparation programs, because too often engaged couples - and even those preparing them for marriage - consider the courses simply a bureaucratic hurdle to overcome before the wedding.

"In fact, often it is assumed that the priest must act with largesse, since the natural right of persons to marry is at stake," the pope said, but for the Catholic Church, there exists only one kind of marriage -- sacramental -- and the right of Catholic couples to celebrate the sacrament can be exercised only if they fully understand what they are doing.

Pope Benedict said anyone

involved in marriage preparation programs, but especially the priest or other pastoral worker conducting the obligatory pre-marriage interviews with the potential bride and potential groom, has an obligation to ensure there is nothing standing in the way of a valid and licit celebration of the sacrament. For the marriage to be valid, the couple must understand the commitment being undertaken, he said.

Pastoral workers and marriage tribunal officials together "must work to interrupt to the extent possible the vicious cycle frequently noted of too easily allowing couples to marry without adequate preparation" and "the sometimes equally easy judicial declaration" that a marriage is invalid, the pope said. Both approaches give people a sense that the Catholic Church no longer sees marriage as truly being binding forever, he said.

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# Marriage - a unique call to holiness

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

**CHATEAUGAY** - "All of us have a unique vocation to holiness," Deacon Brian Dwyer believes. Ordained in 2009, Deacon Dwyer and Monique, his wife of seven years, spoke with the *NCC* recently about marriage, family, diaconate - and the graces that make it all possible.

**Our marriage makes us more faithful to God. Our ultimate goal is to help each other to heaven. Marriage is a daily commitment. It isn't always easy, but it's nice to share the walk with your soul mate.**

Deacon Brian Dwyer

Deacon Brian is full-time Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, and part-time high school religious education coordinator for the Catholic Communities of Burke and Chateaugay; he also helps out on the family farm when he is able.

Monique is at-home mom to the couple's three young children; she also works part-time as a nurse in a local nursing home.

Amid a schedule that fairly screams "Stress!" the couple hold fast to one another and to God. They are sustained by their understanding of marriage, and by its sacramental graces.

"Our intention to get married was definitely seen in light of our vocation to holiness," Deacon Brian relates.

"Our marriage makes us more faithful to God. Our ultimate goal is to help each other to heaven. Marriage is a daily commitment. It isn't always easy, but it's nice to share the walk with your soul mate."

Their love and their faith led naturally to a desire for children.

According to Monique, "Right from the start we knew that we wanted to have

children soon if it should be God's will. To be honest, you are never ready for children. However, children are the supreme gift of marriage and we were ready to embrace that gift despite personal, social, and economic challenges.

"Our children - Stephen, 6; Angela, 4; and Paul, 2 - strengthen our love," she said. "A lot of couples wait for this, that, and the other before having children. Our insight is that if children are the supreme gift of marriage, why wait for that treasure?"

The Dwyers know they are fortunate to be raising their family in their own hometown of Chateaugay, and their home parish of St. Patrick's.

"Our backgrounds are very similar," Deacon Brian notes. "Both our families went to Church every Sunday, same church, same time. Both were farming families who played together, prayed together, and worked together."

"We have always seen eye to eye on many issues in our marriage because our morals and values are so similar," he said.

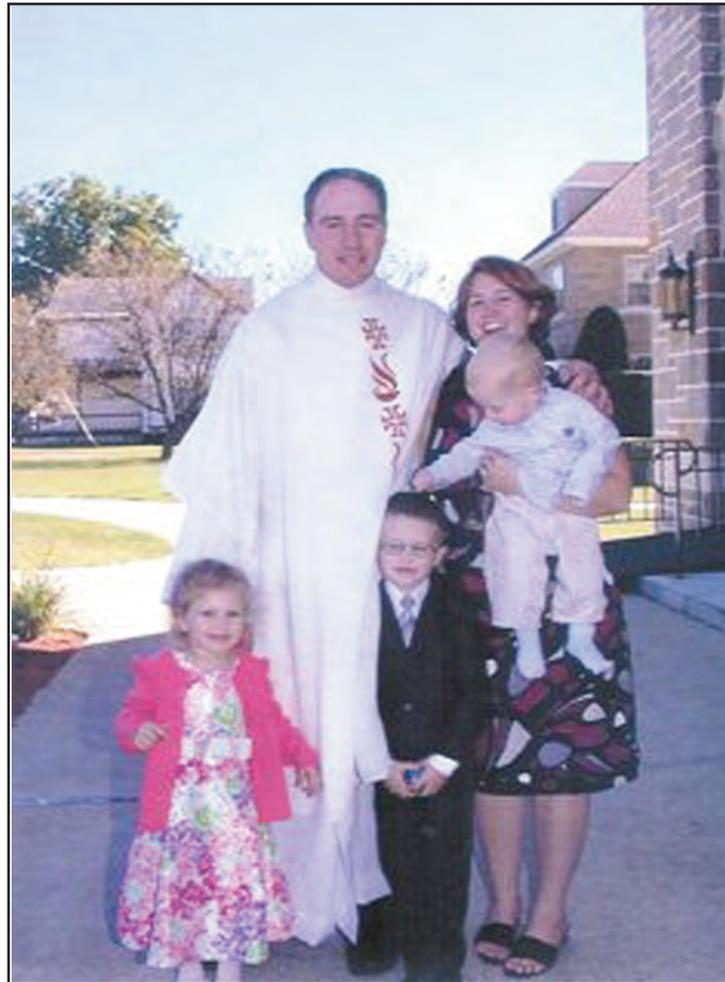
With a young family of their own, the proximity of their parents and siblings is a great help to the couple.

For example, Monique points out, "We try to schedule time each month to do something for ourselves--maybe a dinner, movie, or a time to focus ourselves on this incredible journey. We are blessed to have support from family and friends who sustain us by their presence, prayers, and support."

This support was especially vital during the years of deacon formation.

As Deacon Brian recalls, "The road to permanent diaconate presented a lot of challenges, but once again, through our love and the grace of matrimony, we were able to let God guide our path.

"The formation process at times was tough," he said. "But not only was my wife



Deacon Brian Dwyer of Chateaugay is shown with his family on the day he was ordained a permanent deacon in September, 2009. Deacon Dwyer and his wife, Monique, call their three children - Stephen, 6; Angela, 4; and Paul, 2 - "the supreme gift of marriage."

supportive, our families also made many sacrifices to help us answer this vocation."

What motivated the young husband and father to become a deacon?

"I was always one that loved to serve the Church," he remembers. "I knew that as a young permanent deacon, our marriage and family, as well as ordained ministry, would be a really powerful witness to marriage and family life."

"I see the People of God in a new way through my vocation as a deacon," he said. "A deacon is called to charity and service. It is truly an honor to serve God's people in ministry supported so much by a loving family."

How does this young couple maintain harmony among their many responsibilities?

during prayer," he said. "God is first in our lives, and when that happens, we are better spouses, better parents, better friends, better Catholics."

"Our advice to young couples is to take the time to pray together," he said. "It will be the best part of your day!"

Staying close to God and to one another through prayer is essential to lasting love and faithful marriage.

As Deacon Brian points out, "Satan's greatest attack is on marriage and family life. To live a marriage that is permanent, faithful, and fruitful is a challenge because so much of our society has settled for passing pleasures and unfaithful relationships."

"Many have fallen for the counterfeit image of what marriage really is, and our children have suffered," he said. "Marriage, united with Christ, speaks the truth of faithful, permanent, fruitful relationships."

"We have to be people who speak this truth in and out of season, convenient or inconvenient," he said. "Fewer people are choosing the ordained or religious life, as well as life-long marriage, because they are being fed constant messages of lies, infidelity, and the importance of always putting ME first."

Deacon Brian and Monique Dwyer know from experience that God has a better plan. Asked to share what they have learned with others, they do not hesitate: "Love God, love the Church, love one another. Eucharist, daily prayer, and openness to God are the recipe for happy, faith-filled marriages."



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# What is Natural Family Planning?

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancies.

These methods are based on observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle.

NFP is not "Rhythm." The Rhythm (or Calendar) method was developed in the 1930s. It was based on the scientific theory that ovulation could be predicted by calculating previous menstrual cycles.

This method was often inaccurate because it did not take account of the unique nature of a woman's men-

strual cycle.

Today's methods of NFP do take account of such variations. Based on observable signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of the menstrual cycle, NFP methods track the changes associated with ovulation and not only treat each woman as unique, but each cycle as well.

The accuracy of women's observations has been validated by scientific research.

NFP is a holistic approach to family planning. Both husband and wife understand their fertility, emotions, and family planning intention (whether to have a baby or not). Its successful use to avoid pregnancy relies upon

a couple's following what they know about the method and one another.

**Because NFP respects the twofold nature of sexual intercourse, it can enrich the bond between husband and wife**

Successful use of NFP requires a couple to communicate. In the daily charting of their fertility signs, couples quickly appreciate their shared responsibility for family planning.

Husbands are encouraged to "tune into" their wives' cycles, and both spouses are encouraged to speak openly

to each other about their sexual desires and their ideas on family size.

Couples using NFP to avoid pregnancy abstain from intercourse and genital contact when the woman is fertile and can conceive. The total days of abstinence will vary from woman to woman and even from cycle to cycle. Whatever the length of the fertile phase, no barriers or chemicals are used at any time to avoid pregnancy.

To achieve pregnancy couples have intercourse during the fertile time of the cycle. NFP is not a contraceptive. It does nothing to suppress or block conception. Instead, couples adjust their behavior according to their family planning intention using the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of a woman's cycle. NFP promotes openness to the transmission of human life and recognizes the value of children.

Sexual relations are understood as love-giving as well as life-giving. It is true family planning.

Because NFP respects the twofold nature of sexual intercourse, it can enrich the bond between husband and wife. Indeed, it can be said that NFP promotes the un-

derstanding of "self donation" between spouses.

For these reasons it is an acceptable form of family planning for people of various religious and philosophical beliefs.

## In the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Effective use of NFP depends upon accurate understanding and application of the method.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, certified instructors provide education in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning. Employing a 3-class series, this approach offers ample opportunity for couples to learn to observe, chart, and interpret the three major indicators of fertility.

Through follow-up and consultation, couples are supported as they move towards autonomy in the use of NFP. Classes are available at various locations in the diocese; several national provider organizations also offer online NFP instruction.

To learn more, please contact the Natural Family Planning office at (518)483-0459; email [apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org); or visit our website at [www.dioogdensburg.org/nfp](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/nfp).

## 2011 PRE-CANA SCHEDULE

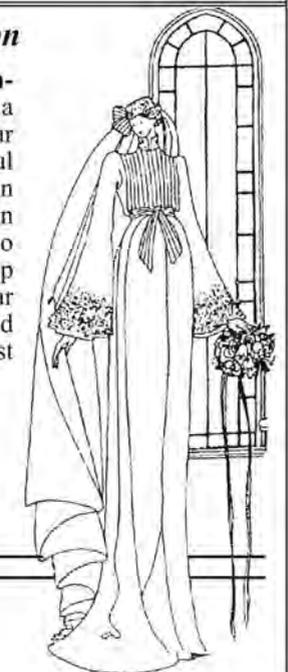
DEANERY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	AREA COORDINATORS
Adirondack	March 19*	10:00 am to 5:00 pm (limited to 15 couples)	St. Bernard's Grade School 63 River Street Saranac Lake	St. Bernard's Church 27 St. Bernard Street Saranac Lake, NY 12983 (518) 891-4616
Clinton	April 16* or October 22* -tentative-	9:00 am to 5:00 pm	TBA	Tom and Claudia Sanders 97 Rooney Road West Chazy, NY 12992 (518) 561-3283
Franklin	March 5* or April 30*	9:00 am to 5:00 p.m.	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 N. Bangor	Notre Dame Parish PO Box 547 Malone, NY 12953 (518) 483-1300
Lewis	April 17*  May 10 and 17**	10:00 am to 6:00 pm  6:00 pm to 9:30 pm	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville	Tom and Linda Yousey 7718 North Shore Road Glenfield, NY 13343 (315) 376-7633
Jefferson	March 16 and 23**  June 1 and 8**  September 14 and September 21**	7:00 pm to 9:30 pm  7:00 pm to 9:30 pm  7:00 pm to 9:30 pm	Holy Family Church 129 Winthrop Street Watertown  St. Anthony's Church 850 Arsenal Street Watertown  St. Mary's Church 521 James Street Clayton	David and Diana Sherman c/o Family Life Office PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920
St. Lawrence	March 15 and 22**  October 19 and 26**	7:00 pm to 9:30 pm  7:00 pm to 9:30 pm	Wadhams Hall Ogdensburg  Newman Center Canton	Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920
Essex, Hamilton, and Herkimer	Please contact the Deanery Coordinator nearest your parish			
<b>Please note:</b>	* Attendance for the entire session is required. Lunch is provided ** Attendance for both sessions is required.			

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## FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

Religion can bring spouses together or push them apart.

When couples are on the verge of a major life transition such as marriage, they begin to think about life, love, values...and the future.

To a great extent this is what spirituality is about – our human search for happiness and the meaning of life. Is life just about the here and now? Do morals make any difference? Is death really the end? Is there a reason to live beyond my own comfort? Is that all there is?

Perhaps you're putting off some of these heavy questions for a rainy day when your job is more settled, or wedding pressures subside... or you reach retirement. Whether you address them or not, however, the big life issues will not disappear. They may go underground until a crisis appears – an accident, a child with a serious illness, or a looming divorce. All of a sudden, you start wondering what is the rock on which you ground your life?

That's the way some people discover their spiritual sides, but you don't have to wait for a crisis. It's so much easier to let faith keep your relationship strong, rather than rescue you in an emergency.

What difference does faith make to a marriage? This time before marriage is an opportunity to take stock of your basic beliefs. Share them with your beloved and chart how you will live out your beliefs and values together. Does this mean you have to share the same faith? That's nice, but it's more important to talk about what God means to you, what spiritual practices you find meaningful, and how you can support each other once you are married.

If only one spouse believes that faith is important, how does he or she

stay motivated to attend services if the other is sleeping or recreating? It's not impossible, but it's more supportive to go to services together.

Although research finds that greater religious practice is related to lower rates of divorce there is not necessarily a causal relationship. It may be that people who are more actively religious are more likely to oppose divorce, or maybe they work harder at their marital relationship.

Let's say you are both religious, but from different religions. Perhaps you share spirituality but not a church home. Certainly some spouses, strongly committed to their faith, will continue to worship regularly and be active church members, but it's harder to go alone, split financial support, and devote time to two separate congregations.

The solutions to these dilemmas are as unique as the couples who marry. Here are some steps that any couple can take, regardless of faith affiliation.

Talk with each other about important stuff.

Start with the basics:

- Who is God for you?
- What code of ethics guides your life?
- Do you value weekly worship?
- What kind of prayer is comfortable and satisfying to you?

•How important is it that your spouse shares your religious beliefs?

•Are you lukewarm in your religious commitment and likely to fade away if you have to do it alone?

If you've never practiced a religion, consider giving it a try. Although becoming more spiritual is a value for anyone, styles of worship vary as much as the unique people who are seeking the meaning of life. Try out more than one place of worship. If the first one doesn't fit you, try again. It's worth

the effort.

Visit each other's church/synagogue/mosque.

If each of you belongs to a different faith tradition, learn more about the beliefs of that religion. You're not trying to convert the other but to understand what shapes your partner's values.

If you are getting married in a religious ceremony, use this opportunity.

If you are getting married in a religious setting it means that faith is important to at least one of you. Use this opportunity to discuss questions of faith with your spiritual leader. These are the kind of conversations that you may have intended to explore some day, but you've put it off. Now your life is about to change. Use your contact with the priest, minister, rabbi, or imam to go deeper.

Become a grown-up person of faith.

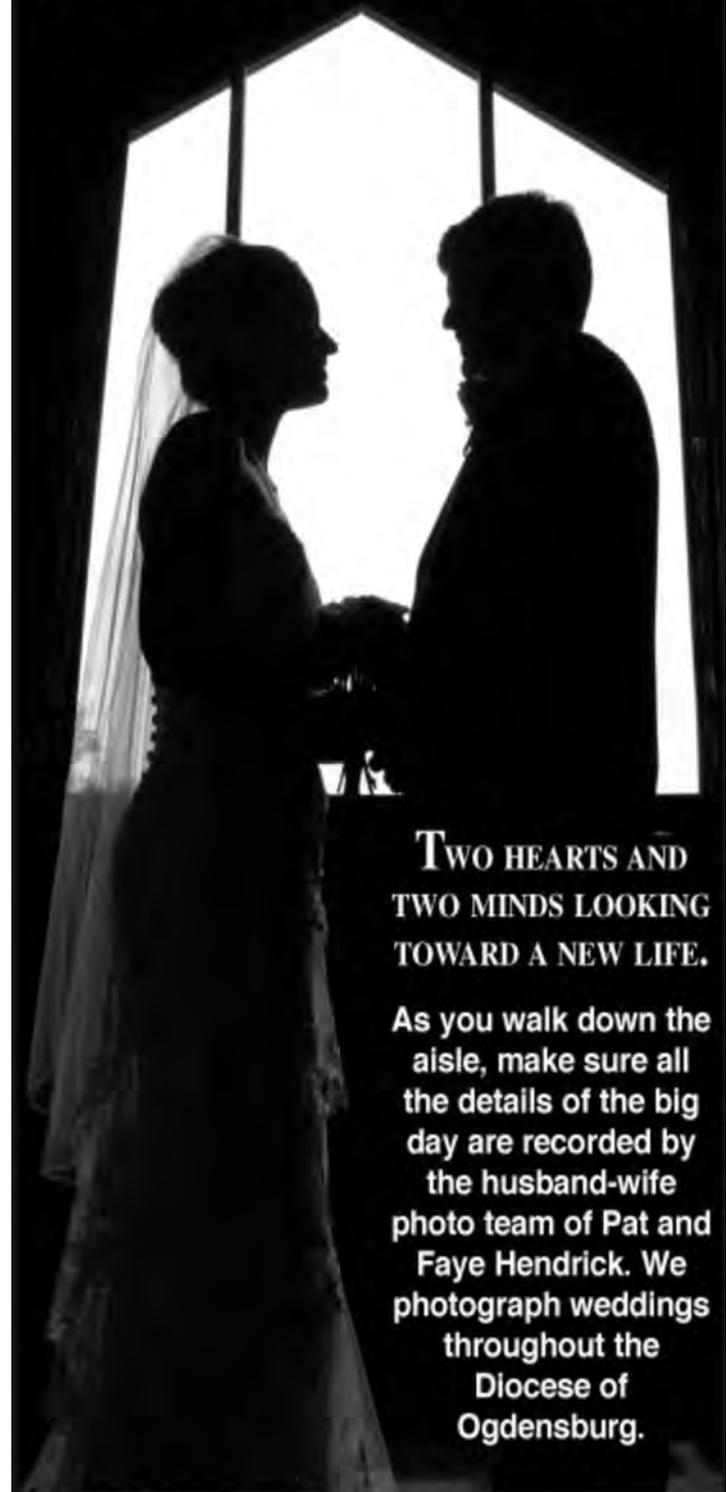
Often people are raised in a religious home. They attend religious education classes, and maybe even Catholic or other religious schools for 8, 12, or 16 years. But their faith formation got stuck in childhood. If you have grown distant from the faith of your childhood, check it out again on an adult level. If you were a lawyer or doctor you wouldn't think of practicing your profession based on high school information. Update your knowledge of your faith. You don't have to have a degree in theology but you should not rely on childhood explanations in an adult world. Make your home a place of unity.

### Resources:

This article is taken from [foryourmarriage.com](http://foryourmarriage.com) Which offers many resources for Catholic marriages.

CatholicBrides.com offers helpful information and resources for engaged couples, with a particular emphasis on planning a Catholic wedding.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Go for God's gold - and land right in heaven!

Young people need challenges in order to grow. "Go for the gold" is not just for Olympic contenders. It's for all of us.

All three of today's Sunday readings shout out to us that challenge.

God, speaking through Moses, says to the whole house of Israel, "Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy".

It's a call to love one's neighbor as oneself, and not to hold any kind of grudge, or ever to seek revenge.

In the Gospel, Jesus

makes it clear that He has not come to destroy the Law that His Father laid down centuries before, but that He came on earth to fulfill that law.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

His new law and covenant will go even further.

As we resume hearing the Sermon on the Mount this week Jesus goes into detail. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"

kept the Jews to exact justice in righting a wrong. If a neighbor knocked out one of your teeth, you could only knock out one of his teeth in retri-

bution! If a Roman soldier commanded you to carry his baggage for a mile, which was allowed by law, then Jesus' followers were to go with the soldier for two miles.

We have all admired people who "go the extra mile" for someone.

Jesus' listeners must have scoffed at Jesus when He told them not only to love your neighbor, but to love your enemies as well!

While that may have seemed absurd foolishness, we all know that keeping our distance, and viewing our enemy as somehow sub-human, doesn't get us anywhere.

However, treating him

FEB. 20

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

with compassion can often bring about a reconciliation, and even turn our enemy into a friend.

How can we ever possibly get the grace and strength to follow all this advice?

Today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us how.

First, he tells us that we are stronger and holier than

we think. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Incredible! Talk about bolstering our confidence in ourselves to become perfect! Then St. Paul tells us not be worried if society thinks us fools for acting on Jesus' advice. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God..."

When we act according to God's wisdom, then we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God!"

If we go for God's gold, then we can't lose. Not only will we grow instead of stagnate in complacency, but we'll land ourselves right into the joy of God's heaven!

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2011

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Diocese of Ogdensburg

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Permanent end to taxpayer abortion funding called long overdue

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The effort to make permanent a ban on federal funding of abortion is both long overdue and widely supported by Americans, an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told a House subcommittee Feb. 8. Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, was one of three witnesses testifying on the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, H.R. 3, before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution. "H.R. 3 is a well-crafted and reasonable measure to maintain long-standing and widely supported policies against active government promotion of abortion," he said. "It consistently applies to all branches of the federal government the principle that government can encourage childbirth over abortion through its funding power, and that it should not coerce anyone's involvement in abortion." In his testimony, Doerflinger cited past surveys showing that the Hyde amendment -- attached to annual Department of Health and Human Services appropriations bills since 1976 -- has "consistently had the support of the American people," with many wrongly assuming that "it is already fully implemented at all levels of our federal government." He also said: "The fact is that Congress' policy has been remarkably consistent for decades, but the implementation of that policy in practice has been piecemeal, confusing and sometimes sadly inadequate."

## Defend doctrine, but don't attack others, pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Even in the midst of the upheaval of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, St. Peter Canisius knew how to defend Catholic doctrine without launching personal attacks on those who disagreed, Pope Benedict XVI said. St. Peter, a 15th-century Jesuit sent on mission to Germany, knew how to "harmoniously combine fidelity to dogmatic principles with the respect due to each person," the pope said Feb. 9 at his weekly general audience. The pope was beginning a series of audience talks about "doctors of the church," who are theologians and saints who made important contributions to Catholic understanding of theology. In St. Peter Canisius' own time, more than 200 editions of his catechisms were published, the pope said, and they were so popular in Germany for so long that up until "my father's generation, people called a catechism simply a 'Canisius.'"

## Grand jury indicts five after Philadelphia sex abuse investigation

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- In a reprise of 2005's sensational grand jury report of sexual assaults by clergy in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams released a new report Feb. 10 by a grand jury investigating similar abuse. While the 2005 report detailed dozens of cases of sexual abuse of children by clergy over many decades, the new report brings criminal indictments for the first time. Among those charged was Msgr. William J. Lynn, 60, archdiocesan secretary for clergy from 1992 to 2004. In that role, he was responsible for recommending the assignment of priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He is believed to be the first high-ranking diocesan official indicted under a criminal statute in the United States for charges related to the sexual abuse scandal that came to light in 2002. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia released a statement Feb. 10 saying that while he and archdiocesan officials had not yet reviewed the report entirely, they would "consider carefully and take very seriously any observations and recommendations of this grand jury."

## According to Egypt expert from Notre Dame: Many possible political and economic paths seen for Egypt

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - After the 18-day "revolution" of public protests that toppled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Feb. 11, the path ahead for the nation is a blank slate, with a wide range of political and economic paths possible, according to an expert on Egypt at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

As news was still getting out about Mubarak's resignation, Patrick Mason, research associate professor at the institute and its "Contending Modernities" program, told Catholic News Service he thinks that Egypt's way forward will be a form of civic nationalism that transcends ethnic, religious or other cultural identities.

The tone set during the weeks of protests in Tahrir Square in Cairo and in other locales was one of cross-differences collaboration, where the unifying point among the tens of thousands of activists was that of being Egyptian, not whether one was Muslim, Christian, Arab or some other type of identification, Mason observed.

That is a hopeful sign for the country's beleaguered Coptic Christian minority, said Mason. Scenes from the protests of Christians forming a human shield between praying Muslims in the square and outsiders who might have tried to interfere, and of Muslims creating a protective ring around churches where Christians were praying inspired confidence that treatment of religious minorities can improve under a new government, he said.

At 10 percent of the population, Christians in Egypt have long faced discrimination and harassment.

A bomb attack on a Coptic



CNS PHOTO/DYLAN MARTINEZ, REUTERS

Anti-government protesters celebrate inside Tahrir Square in Cairo after the announcement of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's resignation Feb. 11.

Orthodox church in Alexandria Jan. 31 left 23 dead and 97 injured. Mason noted that Muslim leaders were quick to decry the incident and made a conspicuous effort of protecting the church and its people at Christmas celebrations Jan. 7.

Religious leaders did not play a significant role in the protest campaign, according to Mason, and he said he wouldn't expect them to be deeply involved in shaping a new government. Sheik Ali Gomaa, the grand mufti of Egypt, issued a statement supporting the protesters, but Mason said he otherwise apparently didn't participate in the events.

A Coptic Christian leader urged the protesters to go home, he said.

"They have been tentative and cautious," Mason said, "not at the forefront of the protests."

The young people of Egypt feel allegiance to their religious leaders as part of their faith and society, he said, but that doesn't extend to believ-

ing they should have political power.

Top religious leaders, particularly Muslims, have been closely associated with the institutions of the state, Mason said. Given those affiliations and the grass-roots nature of the protests, he said he'd expect religious leaders to be minor participants in reshaping the government.

Mason, who taught at American University in Cairo from 2007 to 2009, said he was personally very inspired by the news out of Egypt, but that such events were inconceivable when he was there.

In those days, he said, "I was very encouraged by my students," and their aspirations for their country, although they were tremendously dissatisfied with the current situation and felt powerless to do anything about it. They looked forward to an end of repression and opening of society, but the notion of accomplishing that was inconceivable, he said.

The details of how Mubarak was finally persuaded to step down and exactly what role the country's military would have were as yet unclear. Mason noted that Egypt's military has long been a part of the status quo and its complex web of interests -- it controls factories, hotels and other businesses and its leaders are well entrenched in the country's elite.

Within a couple of hours of the announcement by Vice President Omar Suleiman that Mubarak had handed over power to the military, a spokesman for the military said the armed forces would not act as a substitute for legitimate government. The announcement said steps would be announced soon explaining what steps would be taken to make the governing changes the people demanded.

## ADIRONDACK

## FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER'S WANTED

**Tupper Lake** — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

**Dates:** March 1 and March 8 (both afternoons are required)

**Features:** Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers help to relieve isolation and loneliness of their elder neighbors. Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required.

**Contact:** To request registration information, please contact Sheila Schneck at Mercy Care by calling 518-523-5583.

**Information:** For more information, visit <http://www.adkmercy.org>

## CLINTON

## LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

**Ellenburg Center** — Lenten day of reflection to be held at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

**Date:** March 19

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

**Features:** Is the Bible confusing? Do the readings at Mass lack meaning? Have you ever wished to be able to better appreciate the Scriptures? During this retreat, Deacon Dennis Monty will search with us the Lenten readings. We will seek to understand what is happening in each passage. By exploring the historical events and culture that frame the authors' experience, we will know better the message. Next, we will discover how the Church has understood the Scripture. Finally, we will prayerfully share our response to God's invitation to growth in faith and understanding. Bring your New American Bible and your desire to be touched by God.

**Contact:** RSVP to [oadirond@twcny.rr.com](mailto:oadirond@twcny.rr.com) or 518-594-3253 by March 17.

## SETON OPEN HOUSE

**Plattsburgh** - A Seton Catholic Open House (grades 7-12) is to be held.

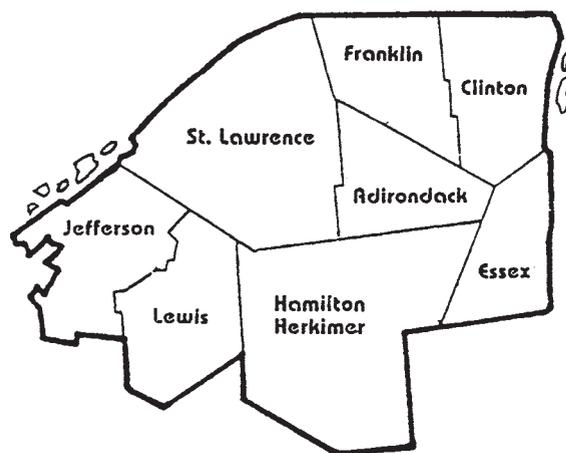
**Date:** March 16

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7

**Place:** 206 New York Rd (former Air Base)

**Features:** Registering current and new students for the 2011-2012 school year. School tours, meet the students, staff, coaches and Seton families. Art, Science and Curriculum Fair. Light refreshments served. Games in the gym.

**Contact:** For more information call Cathy Russell at 518-561-4031



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
**North Country Catholic**, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;  
 e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

## DINNER, STATIONS, FELLOWSHIP

**Plattsburgh** — A special evening of Fellowship with a simple meal and the Stations of the Cross is to be held. The program is sponsored by the Children's Ministry and Hospitality Committees of St. Peter's parish

**Date:** March 11

**Time:** 6 p.m.

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

**Features:** Bread, Soup, Salad and Macaroni and Cheese followed by Stations of the Cross for Families at 7 p.m.

**Contact:** Please call the Parish Office at 563-1692 to RSVP for the dinner!

## LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE SERIES

**Plattsburgh** - St. Peter's Parish is presenting the Little Rock Scripture Series this Lent with "Praying the Scriptures."

**Date:** Beginning March 8, continuing every Tuesday through April 19

**Times:** 1 p.m. and 7:05 p.m.

**Place:** Chapel

**Features:** "This study explores the always relevant ways God has transformed history and invites participation through praise, thanksgiving.

**Cost:** A donation of \$10 is welcomed to help with the cost of the materials.

**Registration:** Call the Parish Office 563-1692 or filling out a registration form in the Atrium, by March 1.

## PRAYER VIGIL

**Plattsburgh** — A Helper's of Gods Precious Infants prayer vigil will be held the first Sunday of the winter months.

**Place:** St. Peter's Chapel

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

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** - Plattsburgh area pro-life advocates will once again join together with people of faith and conscience from many other communities for the area's third 40 Days for Life campaign.

**Schedule:** Kick off is set for Ash Wednesday, March 9 at 10a.m.; a Mid-point Rally - Sunday, March 20, 1p.m.; ankylosing prayer vigil: Palm Sunday, April 17, 1p.m.

**Place:** Plattsburgh Planned Parenthood

**Features:** 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach.

**Information:** [www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh](http://www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh)

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Peru** - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus will host a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 19

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

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center;

Take-outs are available.

**Price:** \$7.50 per person, \$3.50 for children 6 to 12, free for 5 and under.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**Place:** St. John's Adoration Chapel,  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Theme:** "Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love" (Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cenae*, 3). Pray for vocations!

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

## FRANKLIN

## DONATE BLOOD

**Brushton** — The American Red Cross is returning to St. Mary's Parish to conduct a bloodmobile.

**Date:** Feb. 22

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 6

**Contact:** Consider saving a life today by giving blood! Drop-in's are welcome or you can make an appointment by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS

## LENTEN PARISH MISSION

**Brushton/North Bangor** — St. Mary's and St. Augustine are to have a special Lenten parish mission with the theme "Our Lenten Journey: From Darkness to Light." The Schedule is as follows:

**March 12** — 4 p.m. N. Bangor and 5:30 p.m. Brushton;

**March 13** — 9 a.m. N. Bangor and 11 a.m. Brushton AND Special Program for Confirmation Youth, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**March 14** — Eucharistic Spirituality, Mass at 7 p.m., N. Bangor

**March 15** — Cross-Stamped Spirituality, Mass at 9 a.m. N. Bangor; Penance Service at 7 p.m. Brushton

**March 16** — Resurrection Spirituality, Mass at 7 p.m. N. Bangor

## BREAKFAST BUFFET

**Brushton** — St. Mary's Parish is holding a breakfast buffet.

**Date:** Feb. 20

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, free

## JEFFERSON

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** — An ecumenical bereavement meeting has been planned

**Date:** Feb. 28

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse

**Speaker:** Roger Ambrose, Director of Community Services for Hospice of Jefferson County., on "Gaining Acceptance after Loss"

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials

which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480; website: [www.liferight.org](http://www.liferight.org)

## LEWIS

## MARDI GRAS DINNER

**Constableville** — St. Mary's Church is holding its 6th Annual Mardi Gras Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** March 8

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

**Place:** Church Hall

**Cost:** \$7; under 5, Free; Take-outs available for \$7.50

**Features:** Chef: Joe Scheve

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 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 to the Towers.

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

## 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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## MARK FOR CALENDARS

**Massena** - The Diocese of Ogdensburg is planning a diocesan-wide event called Celebrate Christ.

**Dates:** Sept. 16-17. The audience for the workshop Sept. 16, will be for priests, deacons, and religious. It will be held at St. Mary's Church. On Sept. 17, the presentation will be for a general audience of interested participants. It will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Massena

**Program:** The speaker will be Christopher West, the well-known author of *The Theology of the Body*.



## 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

# Missionary Union of Priests, Religious

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

Our final installment of FAQ's on the Pontifical Mission Societies this week focuses on the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. In 1916, Father Paolo Manna, a PIME missionary serving in Myanmar (then called Burma), envisioned an organization that would help him to share the spiritual graces he had received through his work in bringing the "Good News" of Christ to others. He wanted to encourage those already engaged in the work of the Church to support the work of the Missions — and perhaps to become missionaries themselves. And so, he formed the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

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

### I would like to serve as a lay missionary. What should I do?

There are a number of local and national organizations that help "connect" lay Catholics to mission opportunities in the United States and abroad. Contact your diocesan mission office for more information or contact the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS). Catholic Network of Volunteer Service promotes opportunities for men and women of all backgrounds and skills to respond to the Gospel through domestic and international volunteer service to people in need. CNVS connects volunteers and missionaries with more than 200 faith-based programs offering more than 10,000 full-time volunteer placements throughout the U.S. and in over 115 countries.

### What is the purpose of the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious?

The Missionary Union of Priests and Religious is a spiritual apostolate. Unlike the other three Pontifical Mission Societies, this mission society family member does not collect or distribute funds. Its purpose is to educate and inspire priests, Religious men and women, pastoral leaders and those responsible for catechesis and religious education so that they may better animate others to share their faith and to be missionaries themselves, supporting also the missionary work of the Church worldwide.

### Could you give me an example of some of the types of activities conducted on behalf of the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious?

In dioceses throughout the United States, Diocesan Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies, as well as others engaged in the work of the Church, help "animate the animators" so they can tell others about the mission of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** — Richard T. Brown — Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

**Altona** — Byron A. LaGoy, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2011 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Brushton** — Joseph T. Terry, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cadyville** — Minnie (Miller) Rabideau, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at St. James Minor Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Canton** — M. Everett Aldous, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at the Lawrence Funeral Home; burial in Brick Chapel Cemetery.

**Chazy** — Ann M. (Nielsen) Meehan, 58; Memorial Services this summer at Sacred Heart Parish.

**Colton** — Esther A. (Mayo) Dominy, 95; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Gertrude A. (Bush) Adams, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Croghan** — Marion Alice (Bush) Shaw, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church; burial in Indian River Cemetery.

**Cumberland Head** — Margaret T. (St. Louis) Baker, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at St. Mary's of the Lake Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Plattsburgh.

**Dannemora** — Edward Morse Drollette, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Dannemora** — Jack J. McCasland, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Dannemora** — Ronald T. Sweeney, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — David J. Lazore Sr., 75; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2011 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

**Hogansburg** — Rita C. (Lalonde) Richards, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sand Hill Cemetery, Dickinson.

**Lowville** — Suzanne M. (Thisse) Stoffle, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2011 at St. Peter's Catholic Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

**Massena** — Mae E. (Trombley) Cooke, 59; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Elizabeth "Betty" L. (Welsh) Hart, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Nellie A. (Jarvis) Pelky, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** — Hazel M. (Terrier) Fra-goon, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** — Harold J. Frenyea, 65; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Lawrence "Sonny" H. Langley, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Joseph "Paul" Murray, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Rose D. (Demeter) Triv-ilino, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Mary Kathleen "Kay" (Reardon) Kennedy, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Gary William King, 30; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2011 at Blesses John XXIII Newman Center.

**Plattsburgh** — Donald Everett Miller, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery Columbarium.

**Potsdam** — Christina N. (Dove) Mason, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Richard Ralph Guyette, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

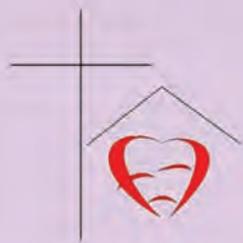
**Watertown** — Katherine M. (Lennox) Thompson, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Robert W. Weston, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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# Family Life Office

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

*Helping to build strong families with programs and activities that strengthen family life.*



**Marriage Jubilee - Sept. 25, 2011**  
St. Mary's Cathedral

**"Dinner for Two" &  
"6 Dates for Married Couples"**  
Parish marriage enrichment program  
For more information contact the Family Life  
Office at 393-2920



**Deacon Tom Kilian baptizes  
Melanie Ward, daughter of  
Christine and Gabriel Ward.**

For more information on baptizing your child please  
contact your local parish.



## Marriage Preparation

For more information or to download  
a registration form at  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife)  
Natural Family Planning information  
call: NFP Services at 518-483-0458

**Special note for anyone who is  
preparing for marriage or is  
married please check out the  
USCCB's web site. The  
materials and helpful articles are  
designed for helping build strong  
marriages. Every marriage  
matters, because marriage comes  
from the hand of God.**

**FOR YOUR  
MARRIAGE**  
[www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)



## Family Guggenheim "Family Retreat" program

Session 1 • August 11-14  
Session 2 • August 18-21  
Session 3 • October 7-9

Registration forms available soon  
Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all  
dimensions to celebrate Christ's present in their lives.



## "Families Become What You Are"

New 4 part program for every parish  
This program will be available soon "It is an outstanding  
DVD with Bishop Terry LaValley."  
This presentation is for every member of the parish family.  
The DVD is based on Bishop's talk at St. James in  
Carthage. Details coming soon.

*"Love the family! Defend and promote it as the basic cell of human society; nurture it as the prime sanctuary of life. Give great care to the preparation of engaged couples and be close to young married couples, so that they will be for their children and the whole community an eloquent testimony of God's love." Pope John Paul II*

**For more information on these events, please contact Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank at the  
Family Life Office 315-393-2920 or visit our website at [www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife)**