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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 2, 2011

## IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Students of St. Mary's School in Canton are among those celebrating Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5. The theme this year is Catholic Schools: A+ for America. Above, St. Mary's teacher Megan Shaw looks over the work of her second grade technology class, from left, Schuyler Kennennnn, Grace Sawyko, Gabe Ballard and Nora O'Gorman. See more photos from a day at St. Mary's on page 5. This week's NCC also features reports on special Catholic school activities in the diocese and messages from Bishop LaValley and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of schools.

## Bishop LaValley: schools are A+ for America

In his "Follow Me" column this week, Bishop LaValley reflects on the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States:

"Generation after generation, Catholic schools continue to make a significant contribution to our nation's well-being. "Catholic Schools, A+ For America," is a most appropriate theme for this year's National

Catholic Schools Week. When students receive an A+ on an assignment, it indicates that the responses given were excellent and that they answered completely the questions posed.

"Our Catholic schools have historically earned an A+ in excelling in their mission to form the complete, the whole child entrusted to their care....

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

### RALLYING FOR LIFE



FULL STORY, PAGE 10

## Consecrated Life Day of Prayer - Feb. 6

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

This feast is also known as Candlemas Day, when candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. Those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

### MISSION OF HOPE

Sr. Debbie Blow writes that January has been a month of challenges for the group working to assist needy Nicaraguans

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### Around the Diocese

PAGE 14

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## The world's wakin' up

Two hopeful signs that we're starting to emerge from our long winter's nap:

- It's not pitch black at 5 p.m. and everybody's noticing!
- The pages of this week's *North Country Catholic* can't contain all the exciting news about Catholics in the North Country!

In this week's *NCC* we're rightly devoting several pages to the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5.

As Bishop LaValley points out, "Generation after generation, Catholic schools continue to make a significant contribution to our nation's well-being," along with the well-being of our local family of faith and, most of all, the children themselves.

We are blessed indeed to have 15 Catholic schools in the diocese where "there's room for mind, body and spirit." (See "Follow Me" on page 3)

The week is also the time to salute the Religious men and women who live and serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The World Day of Consecrated Life will be celebrated Feb. 6 in our parishes to highlight the gifts of consecrated persons for the whole church.

We will be asked to pray for all those who have made commitments to the consecrated life and

thank them for their generous response to God's call. (See page 16)

This week's *NCC* also features updates on our diocese assistance to needy people in the North Country (page 4) and in Nicaragua. (Page 12)

That means we have to wait until next week to give proper attention to the local experience of the busloads of Catholics who took part in annual March for Life in Washington.

From all accounts it was a magnificent adventure.

Next week's *NCC* will be filled with young Catholic faces and voices who were inspired by what Christopher Fisher of

West Chazy called "a very exciting spiritual journey."

Among the young adults led to D.C. by Father Timothy Canaan, diocesan director of campus ministry, Fisher said, "The trip was filled with joyous laughter and prayerful silence. The Mass at the Basilica, the march itself, and all the support of the other youth gave me the strength to stand for life, knowing that I would never be alone."

The high school aged pilgrims who made the trip shared similar powerful reactions.

Savor all the good news in this Week's *North Country Catholic* and then come back for more.

I promise that you won't be disappointed!

Mary Lou  
KilianCome 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

## Salt of the Earth and Light of the World

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

"You are the salt of the earth. . . ." "You are the light of the world." These words of Jesus come right after the Beatitudes.

Now as a family of faith, we are called to flavor our words and lives with the power of the Holy Spirit that brings the Good News to others. This is what Christian discipleship means.

**As a family of faith, we are called to flavor our words and lives with the power of the Holy Spirit that brings the Good News to others. This is what Christian discipleship means**

A Christian shows his/her "good deeds" before the world. If Christians lose their sense of purpose and do not witness to the world, they will become as useless as unrefined Dead Sea salt which could lose its saltiness.

In the end, they could be rejected from entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus is the Light of the World. The Christian is a lamp designed to give light.

We act with the power of God's light to be light of hope, encouragement, and strength for those whose lives are filled with darkness.

This is what it means to be a part of the parish family.

We do not have to go out of our way to act with kindness and love. The authenticity of our lives is the best witness. It is the radiant light that flows from our life in Christ.

This light of Christ dwelling within us transcends the common values, materialism and secularism that are so prevalent in today's world.

This may be a silent witness but it will arouse a spirit of enquiry in those who see your way of life.

Some will ask, "Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? Why are they among us?"

Witness of this kind constitutes in itself a proclamation of the Good News, silent, but strong and effective.

We are called upon to be people of God's kingdom, witnessing to our Lord in our families, workplace, and within our parish families.

Who are the people that have been a light to you in time of need?

When you reflect upon the many blessings of your families and communities, how do you respond to God?

Would the people who know us think of us as salt or light?

How can you provide flavor and light to others?

Let someone who has been a light in your life know how much his or her gifts have meant to you.

FOLLOW ME

# A+ FOR AMERICA

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

We are extremely fortunate to live in a nation where the stars and stripes wave proudly in our skies and the eagle soars to untold heights towards the heavens. We enjoy freedoms bought at the cost of much blood and great sacrifice by our forebears.

**Our Catholic schools have historically earned an A+ in excelling in their mission to form the complete, the whole child entrusted to their care**

Generation after generation, Catholic schools continue to make a significant contribution to our nation's well-being.

Catholic Schools, A+ For America, is a most appropriate theme for this year's National Catholic Schools Week. When students receive an A+ on an assignment, it indicates that the responses given were excellent and that they answered completely the questions posed.

Our Catholic schools have historically earned an A+ in excelling in their mission to form the complete, the whole child entrusted to their care.

This can happen because the child's soul is invited into the Catholic school classroom - there's room for mind, body, and spirit in our schools. When the soul is allowed to be present in education, when the spirit is not stifled, the child's whole self is nurtured to grow.

When we can name God in the classroom, the exploration of the true self can begin in earnest and the meaning and purpose of life can truly be addressed--meaning that goes beyond answering what job can I get that earns me the most money; a meaning that goes



Bishop LaValley visited Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School in Waterton Jan. 6. He joined the students at the Primary building in a prayer service in celebration of the Epiphany. Gail Graham, principal of Immaculate Heart Elementary School, said, "the visit to the school by the Bishop had such deep meaning for the students, teachers, staff and parents of the school. To think that our bishop would take time out of his busy schedule to visit the schools in the Diocese is indicative of his deep commitment to our Catholic schools."

beyond what will gratify and give me pleasure right now; a meaning that affirms and embraces my true dignity and worth as a human person made in God's image and likeness.

When we can learn about prayer, and pray to God with our peers, when we can teach our youngsters Christian values without compromise, we are providing them with a tremendous gift today that will be unwrapped everyday for the rest of their lives into eternity.

Our Catholic schools assist our parents in their responsibility of raising their children in the faith. Indeed, in a Catholic School, the whole child can be educated and formed, without apology and that earns an A+ for what the Catholic school graduate gives our nation!

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week is not a time to condemn public schools.

In fact, we are very fortunate to have many high quality public schools in the North Country.

Nevertheless, Catholic Schools Week is an occasion to acknowledge the tremendous gift of a Catholic school education.

Our kids can learn so much in an environment, day in and day out, where the core spiritual dimension of life is made evident.

In the Catholic school, our children can discover what is sacred in life, what is sa-

cred in their own lives, and what allows them to bring their most sacred gifts to nourish the world.

In our Catholic schools, we can help our students to understand the Catholic perspective on the relationship between science and religion. We can ask the important questions raised by our faith tradition and help our students frame their own questions.

We can help our students to understand how careers in the arts and sciences can

be important responses to God's call to love and serve one another.

Science, as great a gift as it is, will always come up short. Our faith tradition shows us that some real things - such as love and respect - are beyond scientific analysis.

Our faith can offer a moral framework for scientific research. This moral vision asks, "Just because we can do something, should we? Is it morally responsible?"

Indeed, not only does a Catholic school have the top-notch intellectual expertise to teach the science, we have the freedom to inform it with our faith. This makes for A+ leaders for tomorrow.

Our Catholic schools provide the disciplined setting for our children to learn about the world, its meaning, and their God-given role in making America, indeed, the whole world, a better place in which to live.

This Catholic Schools Week we thank God for all the many people - parents, parishioners, teachers, staff, religious, and clergy who continue to sacrifice much in order to provide Catholic schools in our neighborhoods.

Let us redouble our efforts and prayers encouraging our neighbors to consider a Catholic School education for their children.

Happy and Blessed Catholic Schools Week everyone!

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# Diocese gives food assistance grants

By Msgr. John R. Murphy  
Moderator of the Curia

Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently made a total of forty-four grants to assist Church and community programs throughout the North Country that provide food assistance for people in need. A total of \$19,750 was given in food assistance grants.

These funds will be used in turn by local parishes and programs to help restock food pantries, provide cash for the purchase of perishables for distribution, and offset the cost of maintaining programs that provide hot meals for people in need.

The *Loaves and Fishes Ecumenical Food Pantry* in Hamilton County is supported by St. James Major

Church in Lake Pleasant. The program received a grant of \$500 to be used to supplement the stocking of food items and to purchase perishable items for those being assisted.

In Champlain, the *Emergency Food Assistance Program* of St. Mary's Parish was awarded \$500. The funding is to go specifically to provide gift cards of modest amounts

to assist those in need with the purchase of perishable food items.

## Grants assist 44 church and community food programs through the North Country

The *Port Leyden Food Pantry* which is supported by St. Martin's Church gives out food that equals an average of 1,422 meals per month. They were assisted with a grant of \$500 to assist with the bulk purchase of food for distribution.

In the See City of Ogdensburg, four grants were given. A grant of \$500 will assist the *St. Vincent dePaul Society* of the Cathedral Parish as they provide food for people in need. The *St. Vincent dePaul Society* of Notre Dame Church was assisted with a grant of \$450.

A grant of \$400 was made to the Neighborhood Center, a community service program in Ogdensburg, which is responsible for providing food for people in emergency situations.

Mary's Food Pantry, an effort of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ogdensburg received a grant of \$200 to be used toward the purchase of perishable items for people being assisted. This was one of several instances where an ecumenical or community work was supported with a grant.

The entire amount of each grant made is to be used for the purchase or provision of food. No funding is allowed for administration.

In February 2009, Bishop Robert Cunningham made similar grants to assist thirty-eight organizations in the North Country with food assistance aid. Grants then totaled \$18,050. Proceeds from the 2007 Bishop's Fund Appeal were used toward that grant.

Some of the funding of the 2011 grants came from the same source.

In addition, \$5,000 was allocated from the Bourdon Fund maintained by the Diocese of Ogdensburg for use for charitable purposes.

- **Would you enjoy hikes, retreats, and service opportunities with other young Catholics?**
- **Can you imagine helping 18-35 year olds come closer to Christ through the Church in the North Country?**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a dynamic and creative diocesan  
**Director of Young Adult Ministry.**

The director will develop initiatives to motivate young adults (aged 18-35) to participate more actively in the life of the Church and their parish communities. The director will also lend on-going support to pastors and parish staff members with their young adult ministry efforts. The candidate must have proven involvement in young adult ministry at the parish level. This position will require approximately 12 hours per week. Please forward letter of application, resume and three references to the Human Resources Director, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Deadline for applications is Feb 28, 2011.

## Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**Feb. 4** – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**Feb. 6** – 8:45 a.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls; 10:30 a.m., Mass at St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence.

**Feb. 8** – 12:00 p.m., 125th Anniversary Mass for St. Joseph's Home 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. 2** – Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I., 1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A., 1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961

**Feb. 4** – Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892; Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr. Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Alexander Klaunder, 1935; Rev. Henry McArdle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus Kearns, 1990

**Feb. 5** – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

**Feb. 6** – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009  
**Feb. 8** – Msgr. Patrick B. Riley, 1981

## Protecting God's Children

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

Upcoming programs:

**Feb. 9** - St. Patrick's Church, 6 p.m.

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

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

## It's time to Order your 2011 Diocesan Directory!

The Official 2011 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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IT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

# A DAY AT AN A+ SCHOOL

## St. Mary's School in Canton



Brennan Harmer and Abrinel Seeger work hard on a project in their fourth grade classroom.



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK  
St. Mary's School in Canton invited local artist Wilson Bickford to give a workshop in oils. Above, Leillah White, Claire Bartlett and Joshua Mikolay practice their new skills



Cold weather doesn't stop the pre-kindergarteners from outdoor fun. From left are Luke Huber, Chloe Errigo, Faith Christy, Jake Backus, Ethan Reynolds, Tyler Woods, Nico Petroccione, Isabel McCambly, Olivia Merkel, Laurel Whittier, Teagan Saiff and Meridith Jones.



Kindergartener Dorothy Stein enjoys winter fun in the school playground.



John Bailey is a happy fifth grader at St. Mary's School.



Benjamin Haenel and Brody VanBuren concentrate in technology class

# Catholic Schools: A+ for America

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSI  
Superintendent of Schools

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally the last week in January. This year the dates are January 30 through February 5.

## For Catholic Schools Week, superintendent reflects on plus-es of Catholic schools

Schools typically celebrate the week with Masses, open houses and a variety of activities for students, faculty, school staff, the community and families. I think many of the students in our 15 Catholic schools would agree that Catholic Schools Week is their favorite week of the school year – other than the scheduled vacation weeks!

The theme for the week this year, promoted by the National Catholic Education Association, “Catholic Schools: A+ for America” highlights the fact that Catholic schools are an added value (“a plus”) for the nation.

Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society.

Catholic schools are inspired by a supernatural vision. The specific purpose of a Catholic school education is the formation of students who will be good citizens of this world, loving

God and neighbor, enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come.

Is not an emphasis on the inalienable dignity of the human person – above all on his or her spiritual dimension – necessary today when the value of all human life, especially the most vulnerable, is questioned?

Inspired by the supernatural vision of the person, our schools include the defense of human rights and acknowledge each human person as a child of God.

Catholic schools are “communities” where students learn and experience the value of collaboration and teamwork, of using their gifts and talents to contribute to the “good of the whole.”

Here, too, they experience a community of genuine faith, learning from the good example of administrators, teachers and staff.

Living the faith becomes not only “knowing” doctrine, but “knowing” people who have a personal relationship with Christ and model what this personal relationship means.

Is not an emphasis on community, living and working “in communion” with others necessary today in a society which often exalts the place of the individual over the common good?

Catholic schools give a high level of service to local communities and beyond because of the many service projects students undertake.

“Giving back to the community” and “helping oth-



St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy sixth grader, Jacob Awan, poses a theological question to Bishop LaValley, during his recent school visit to the Ogdensburg Catholic school. Shown are Bishop LaValley and sixth graders Maggie Peo, Alex Steele and Jacob.

ers” are values instilled in every Catholic school student.

Students write to and visit shut-ins and residents in nursing homes, help to replenish local food banks, assist local outreach programs, collect winter coats for those in need, work with Habitat for Humanity, serve meals for the Salvation Army and raise funds through bake sales, car washes, sporting events, to assist with international projects that benefit people in need of clean water and the basic necessities of life.

Service is viewed not merely as social service projects or a humanitarian gesture, but a Gospel imperative to reach out to and care for the human family,

both near and far. Is not an emphasis on works of service and charity that reach beyond the narrow confines of self and one's own needs necessary today?

While Catholic Schools Week provides us with an opportunity to note the “plus” that our schools contribute to society, it also provides me with the opportunity to express my gratitude to those who are “a plus” to our school communities, most notably:

- Bishop LaValley who demonstrates in numerous ways his support for our schools, most recently through his school visits;
- Pastors, administrators, faculty and staff who, with their firm belief in the value of our schools, work self-

lessly to maintain them;

- Parents who choose to share the education and formation of their most priceless gift, their children, with our schools;

- Parishioners throughout the diocese who support the Bishops' Fund Appeal, which in turn supports our Tuition Assistance Program.

If you would like to personally experience the unique character of a Catholic school, please call the school principal in your area and arrange a visit. Please pray for our schools. These are challenging times in which to sustain Catholic schools. But, as agents of evangelization and an invaluable “gift to the nation” (John Paul II) they are worth our efforts and sacrifices.

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### The Miraculous Prayer

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



# A+ For America CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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*IHC's Government Class celebrates 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's inauguration*

# Learning lessons of local government

**WATERTOWN** - Immaculate Heart Central School's Government Class traveled downtown to Watertown's City Hall Jan. 12 to learn firsthand about their local city government.

The students were invited to City Hall by Mayor Jeff Graham. The purpose of the field trip was two-fold; the students would gain insight and a better understanding about local government, and secondly, they would help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as our country's first Catholic President.

Mayor Graham, City Manager, Mary Corriveau, and City Clerk, Donna Dutton welcomed 21 IHC seniors into the Council Chambers where city council meets monthly. Mayor Graham initiated the group discussion talking about leadership and public service.



Watertown Mayor Jeff Graham invited students of Immaculate Heart Central School to City Hall Jan. 12. The purpose of the field trip was two-fold; the students would gain insight and a better understanding about local government, and secondly, they would help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as our country's first Catholic President. The students shown in the mayors office are Jeff Marra, Brendan Laverty, Katelynn Chamberlain, Zach Chatterton, Andrew Schneeberger, Carlos Smith, Ron Dvorsky III, Andrew Guyette, Sophia Gullo, Erin Patenaude, Darren Carrington, Robert Spicer, Anthony Magovney, Corey Ward, RJ Ingerson, Joel Fontana, Michael Keefe, Michael Roman, Mackenzie Nolan and Allison Cavallario.

## Importance of public service

He highlighted the importance of being active in government and pointed out that politicians on the local, state and national levels come from all walks of life. He reasoned that this diversity is what gives a democracy its strength.

City manager Corriveau then spent some time describing her role and responsibilities within the city government.

"Essentially, I have five bosses; the four city council members and the mayor," she said.

As the appointed city manager, Mrs. Corriveau is responsible for supervising

the day to day operations of all departments of city government.

She also explained budgeting, planning, grant management, and labor relations fall under her umbrella.

She then introduced Donna Dutton, the appointed city clerk. Mrs. Dutton explained that anything official that happens in city must be recorded and that is where her office comes in.

Mrs. Dutton led students on a tour through the historical archives in the basement of city hall and showed them the vault where vital city

records are retained.

Mrs. Dutton provided statistics to the students to help them better understand the volume of activity her office is responsible for.

## Large number of weddings

As students were standing in the wedding chapel in the basement of city hall, Mrs. Dutton announced in 2010, there were 625 marriages in the city and over 1200 marriage licenses issued.

This is a high number when compared to a city like Syracuse.

She attributed this disproportionate statistic to the Fort Drum population and the desire of soldiers to address personal issues prior to being deployed or upon returning from war.

After shedding light upon the other records, licenses, and permits that her office is responsible for, the students returned to the council chambers.

Mayor Graham enlightened the class about the history of the city of Watertown. He also shared with them a map showing the size of the city and its zoning layout.

Mr. Graham further explained the role of legislating and enforcing policy for the city.

## Women in government

He and Mrs. Corriveau talked about gender and roles within government. Mrs. Corriveau is the first female city manager, and to date there has never been a female mayor in Watertown.

However, Mayor Graham pointed out that women are playing a much larger role in government, mentioning our Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Syracuse City Mayor Stephanie Miner.

Mayor Graham encouraged the students to be proactive and participate in government, recalling that Congresswoman Gifford was affording her constituents that opportunity when she was shot in Tuscan, Arizona.

## Remembering JFK

Mayor Graham and City Manager Corriveau then recalled the tragic November 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Graham had several resources available for students to view pertaining to the late JFK.

Mrs. Corriveau shared a personal connection to President Kennedy as a native of Brookline, Massachusetts. Her father was a volunteer on Kennedy's 1960 campaign. She remembers her father's excitement about the Irish - Catholic candidate running for the Oval office.

Mayor Graham quoted a line from President Kennedy's inaugural address; "So my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

He then underscored that this is the essence of democracy and the foundation for what they have been talking about and learning about in their class.

Before departing from Watertown's City Hall, Mayor Graham invited the IHC students into his office and highlighted some photos and artifacts that hold special meaning for the mayor.

The students returned to Immaculate Heart Jr. / Sr. High School with a stronger working knowledge of local government and a better sense of what they can do as citizens within a democratic society.

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# Catholic schools contribute to wider society

By Ed Langlois  
Catholic News Service

PORTLAND, ORE. (CNS) - Love or hate their politics, new House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican from Ohio, and Democratic Vice President Joe Biden are products of Catholic education. Both men rose from humble circumstances.

Contributing to civic life is seen by some as a hallmark of Catholic schools, but others note another benefit the schools provide to the wider community - what they save states in public education dollars.

Families who send their children to Catholic schools still pay their taxes to support public education, in addition to paying tuition and helping create hundreds of jobs.

Each year the National Catholic Educational Association and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops jointly sponsor Catholic Schools Week to draw attention to their contributions. This year's observance, Jan. 30-Feb. 5, has as its theme "Catholic Schools: A+ for America."

Schools typically celebrate the week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, administrators, faculty, school staff, the community and families.

"Historically, Catholic schools are known for their high level of academic achievement, moral values and high graduation rates," said Karen Ristau, NCEA president.

Marie Powell, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, pointed out that this year nearly 30 percent of the nation's 2.1 million Catholic school students come from minority populations.

Catholic schools spend less per student and usually get better results, if a SAT scores in Oregon's state capital, Salem, are any example. They show that students at

Blanchet Catholic School score 200 points higher on average than their public school counterparts, even though demographics are about the same.

"It could be any number of things -- discipline or family support or the ability to focus resources," said Kevin Mannix, a former state legislator and chairman of the board for Blanchet. "Catholic schools reflect a dynamic

community that supports education. The graduates are imbued with solid moral values and can provide leadership to the community."

Catholic schools contribute to the wider good by giving public schools an example of steadfastness in educational thought, said Tom Green, a former public school administrator and now dean of graduate studies at the University of Port-

land, a Catholic institution.

"Catholic schools provide some good lessons about constancy of purpose; they're less swayed by political rhetoric and the latest fads," said Green, who was assistant superintendent in two Portland-area districts.

The Portland-based Cascade Policy Institute in 2008 found that 44 percent of Oregon families would send their children to private

school if they could.

"Catholic schools particularly give students a lot of one-on-one attention," said Kathryn Hickok, who directs a fund that helps low-income students in Oregon attend private schools. The Children's Scholarship Fund has aided 600 students in Oregon so far, many of them choosing Catholic education, even though the families are not Catholic.

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# March draws tens of thousands of youth to DC

By Richard Szczepanowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - At the first youth rally and Mass for life to be held at the D.C. Armory, nearly 10,000 young people from across the country were urged Jan. 24 to more fully live their Catholic faith and embrace the culture of life promoted "by our soon-to-be-beatified Pope John Paul II."

**With enthusiastic singing and a prayerful presence, 17,000 young people from across the US - including the Diocese of Ogdensburg - gathered at the Verizon Center to show their commitment to pro-life issues at a concert and Mass for life.**

"If we are going to rid our nation of the tragedy of abortion, then we are going to have to rid our society and ourselves of the culture of death," said Father Patrick Riffle, parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish in Olney, Md. "The remedy that is needed to cure this plague is not a law to be enacted, not a (court) ruling that can be overturned, not an executive order, but it is a person -- Jesus Christ."

The armory was chosen as a second venue for Washington pro-life events for youths, after the first venue, the Verizon Center, was sold out weeks earlier. In addition, four parishes held Masses for people who couldn't get tickets to Verizon or the armory.

With enthusiastic singing and a prayerful presence, 17,000 young people from across the United States gathered at the Verizon Center to show their commitment to pro-life issues at a concert and Mass for life.

The popular annual event was started more than 16 years ago and includes a concert, confessions, praying

the rosary, and Mass, before most of the crowd heads to the annual March for Life, which marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Life Issues is the primary event organizer along with the help of several other archdiocesan offices.

As people filed into the Verizon Center or went to confession, event emcee and performer Steve Angrisano, the Ike Ndolo Band, and "American Idol" contestant Maddy Curtis kicked off the rally with a contemporary Christian music concert, getting the youth literally jumping for joy.

The Mass that followed began with a long procession of clergy, there to show their support of both young people and life. Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl was the principal celebrant. Concelebrants included Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, four archbishops, 16 bishops, about 200 priests and 38 deacons.

Cardinal Wuerl asked that each diocesan group cheer as their area's bishop was introduced, and cheer they did. The cardinal also thanked the young people in attendance for standing for life.

"We will be the voice of those who were never allowed to speak, we will cast the vote that they were never able to make, and in about two hours we will march for those who were never allowed to take their first step," said the homilist, Father Mark Ivany, referring to the March for Life event to follow on the National Mall.

The priest, who is parochial vicar at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Md., reminded those gathered that it wasn't enough to just overturn Roe v. Wade, but that "our mission is to change the whole culture of our country."

At the D.C. Armory, Father Riffle was the homilist and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chair-



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the 16 bishops concelebrating the youth rally Mass at the Verizon Center prior to the 38th annual March for Life in Washington D.C. were Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, waving to the group from Syracuse and, to his right, Bishop Paul S. Loverde. The 90 young people in the crowd from the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined in the cheers for their former bishops.

man of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was the principal celebrant.

Cardinal DiNardo, noting that the liturgy "is one of joy, but one of intense focus," called on young people to "ready the way of the Lord who comes as the God of life."

Concelebrants at the D.C. Armory Mass included about 100 priests from across the country and six bishops, including Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans; Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati; Bishop R. Daniel Conlon of Steubenville, Ohio; Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of Harrisburg, Pa.; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.; and Auxiliary Bishop Gerald T. Walsh of New York.

"Some people would say that the church is old news," Father Riffle told pro-lifers in the nearly packed armory. "Look around; I say the church is alive."

Pointing out that almost 28,000 young people were

gathered at the Armory and the Verizon Center events, Father Riffle said there are also "hundreds of thousands of other Catholics" around the country who were praying for an end to abortion to mark the day when "the highest court legalized the destruction of human life."

In a homily frequently interrupted by applause, he called young people to daily prayer, regular Mass attendance, frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and more involvement in parish activities. "If you want, as a Catholic, to be pro-life, you must be pro-Jesus Christ," he said.

"Live out your faith wholeheartedly. Recommit yourself to the Gospel of life. Recommit yourself to Jesus Christ. Know Christ. Know the Gospel. Know your faith," he said. "If you want to be pro-life, you must get in touch with the very source of life itself."

Young people - some wearing sweatshirts that said, "Thanks Mom," "I Survived Roe vs. Wade," "Everyone De-

serves a Birthday" and "Abortion is Mean" -- began arriving at the D.C. Armory in the pre-dawn darkness. Pro-lifers came to the armory from as far away as New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Tennessee and Minnesota.

Spencer Witt and Abby Guenther, eighth-graders at St. Elizabeth School in Pittsburgh, joined hundreds of others from their parish and school to attend the armory rally. The group left Pittsburgh, they said, at 1 a.m. to attend the rally and Mass and to march for life.

"We are pro-life, and we're here to be with others to stand up for life," Guenther said.

For Witt, getting up early and enduring a long bus ride is "how we say every life deserves a chance."

"The Supreme Court must overturn this (Roe v. Wade) decision," he said. "They may not hear my voice saying this, but when it is raised with thousands of others, they will hear us."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Celebrations to mark progress in Father Baker's sainthood cause

LACKAWANNA, N.Y. (CNS) -- As Msgr. Nelson H. Baker continues on the road to canonization, the Diocese of Buffalo has planned two special celebrations to honor the priest who devoted his life to helping those in need in the name of Our Lady of Victory. A March 18 vespers service for parishioners of Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica in Lackawanna has been scheduled, along with a March 19 Mass of thanksgiving for invited guests and employees of the Our Lady of Victory Institutions founded by the priest commonly known as Father Baker. March 19 marks the 135th anniversary of Father Baker's ordination as a priest, as well as the feast day of St. Joseph, patron saint of the Diocese of Buffalo. Father Baker, a Civil War-era soldier and grain dealer who became a Buffalo diocesan priest in 1876, served as pastor of Our Lady of Victory for more than 50 years. He operated soup kitchens and a hospital, as well as homes for unwed mothers, homeless and troubled boys and abandoned infants. "I ask all in the Diocese of Buffalo, and those whose lives were touched by Father Baker in some way, to join me in praying that, if it be God's will, Venerable Nelson Baker be canonized," said Buffalo Bishop Edward U. Kmiec at a Jan. 25 news conference at the basilica. Bishop Kmiec noted that a Vatican decree issued Jan. 14 confirmed Father Baker's heroic virtue and added the title Venerable to his name. The development completes the first step in a three-step process toward canonization.

## Pope says St. Joan of Arc is model for Christian politicians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With her deep prayer life and total devotion to serving God and the good of her fellow citizens, St. Joan of Arc is a wonderful model for Christian politicians, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Hers is a beautiful example of holiness for laypeople involved in politics, especially in difficult situations. Faith is the light that guided all her choices," the pope said Jan. 26 during his weekly general audience. The pope's remarks about St. Joan were part of an ongoing series of audience talks about influential Catholic women of the Middle Ages. Addressing about 3,000 people gathered for the audience, the pope said that St. Joan of Arc, like St. Catherine of Siena, was a young laywoman and mystic who lived her faith commitment "not in a cloister, but in the midst of the most dramatic realities of the church and the world of her time." St. Joan and St. Catherine are perhaps the best examples of "those strong women who at the end of the Middle Ages brought the Gospel to bear on the complex events of history," he said.

## Search for Christian unity is 'moral imperative,' pope says

ROME (CNS) -- Giving in to the temptation of thinking the Christian churches will never be fully united is a sign of weak faith, Pope Benedict XVI said. "One must resist the temptation of resignation and pessimism, which is a lack of trust in the power of the Holy Spirit," the pope said Jan. 25 at an ecumenical evening prayer service marking the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The pope presided over the service at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls with a German Lutheran delegation, an international group of Oriental Orthodox bishops and theologians and Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant leaders from Rome. In his homily, the pope said the search for Christian unity is "a moral imperative, a response to a precise call of the Lord."

## Expert on Arabic issues:

# Officials will not be able to stop North African protests

ROME (CNS) - Police and military officials will not be able to stop demonstrators in Egypt or other countries of North Africa, said the former rector of Rome's Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.

"Ordinary people cannot tolerate anymore the appalling conditions of human degradation in which they live. They say, 'Enough is enough' and believe that they have nothing to lose," the former rector, Father Justo Lacunza Balda, said in an e-mail to Catholic News Service in Rome.

"Therefore, neither the police nor the army will stop people in the Arab countries from demanding freedom and human dignity," he wrote Jan. 28 as massive protests intensified in Egypt.

The demonstrations began Jan. 25 as people took to the streets to protest unemployment, corruption and rising prices.

"Poverty and misery, lack of democracy and human rights are a constant in Egypt, Tunis, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Yemen," said Father Lacunza, who served at the Rome institute from 2000 to 2006. "The youth see no future in front of them: no work possibilities, economic crisis, the divide between the filthy rich and the poor, political instability."

This creates "a fertile ground for religious extremism, anti-government action and widespread violence."

Father Lacunza said he was not surprised by street demonstrations in places such as Egypt and Tunisia - where a January revolution brought about the fall of the government of Zine el Abidine Ben Ali - and added that it was "not normal that a head of state remains in power for 30 years," as was the case with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Rulers want to stick to their seat of command at all



CNS PHOTO/GORAN TOMASEVIC, REUTERS

A protester gestures in front of a burning barricade during a demonstration in Cairo Jan. 28. Police and demonstrators fought running battles on the streets of Cairo in a fourth day of unprecedented protests by tens of thousands of Egyptians demanding an end to President Hosni Mubarak's three-decade rule.

costs, and democracy, they think, is not what they need. Arrests, imprisonment and persecution are normal against those who demand fundamental changes, civil freedoms and human rights," he said.

He also expressed concern for Egypt's Christians, whom he said are discriminated against because they are not Muslim.

Christians in Egypt "suffer intolerance, discrimination and hatred. Their places of worship are attacked and they are the object of sectarian violence," he told CNS. "This is not new, and it might get worse in the future."

"The political atmosphere of today in Egypt bears a certain resemblance to that of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 19th century," Father Lacunza said. "And there came the genocide of the Armenians. ... Few voices are heard today taking the defense of the Christians,

the biggest persecuted group in the world -- in Egypt, in majority Muslim states and in communist-rule countries."

The same day Father Lacunza wrote to CNS, Pope Benedict XVI met at the Vatican with Oriental Orthodox leaders participating in an official dialogue with Catholics.

Coptic Orthodox Metropolitan Bishop of Damiette, Egypt, the co-chairman of the dialogue, thanked Pope Benedict for his prayers for those killed and injured in a bomb blast at a Coptic Orthodox Church in Alexandria, Egypt, less than a month earlier.

The metropolitan also praised Mubarak's commitment to protecting Egyptian Christians, and he told the pope that hundreds of Muslims came out Jan. 7 - when Copts celebrated Christmas - to show their support for their Christian neighbors.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Just what does God think of our sacrifices?

One of the attractive features of our Catholic Church is its rituals – the Mass with its vestments, candles, gestures, incense, music.

We also have special practices like fasting, ashes on the forehead, and all kinds of novenas and Holy Hours.

There are so many external practices that people who are not religious notice, and are often impressed with.

Sometimes we wonder if God is impressed!

What does He think of all of our practices?

In our first reading today

from “late” Isaiah, we find out what God thinks.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

The prophet was giving God’s word to those who had just returned from the Babylonian exile, a people who were eager to observe the rituals which had been denied them for many years.

At the beginning of this 58th chapter, the prophet is scolding them for their lack of concern for

widows, orphans, and aliens, despite their observance of many fasts.

But then the tone abruptly changes.

He tells them that if they

look beyond their selfishness and take care of those in need, “then your light shall break forth like the dawn...and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard”.

If you correct your unjust behaviour, “then you shall cry for help, and he [God] will say ‘Here I am!’

Jesus, in the Gospel, goes even further, saying to those who had just heard His teaching on the Beatitudes, “You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.”

In this passage, Jesus urges them not to “light a lamp, and then put it under a bushel basket.” No, “your light must shine before others, that they may see your

FEB. 6

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Just a couple of weeks ago, many thousands of young people flocked to Washington for the annual March for Life.

There message rang out very clearly to legislators and to all the country on behalf of the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Their tone was positive, reflecting God’s own mercy towards mothers who had procured abortions.

They represented a national ground swell against the murder of thousands of innocent babies every day.

In a sense, all justice issues are life issues.

This Sunday is a call for all of us to speak out to those who can make a difference, to pray, to be informed, to donate, whether it be abortion, immigration reform, health reform, environmental issues, human trafficking, or poverty.

When we let our light shine out, then will our sacrifices, our fasts, and our prayers be acceptable in God’s sight.

## OUR READERS WRITE

## Mission of Hope update: a month of challenges

It has been a month of challenges for the Mission, more than usual. I had three groups in Nica (Nicaragua) during January, medical teams doing clinics, an ECO sustainability group working with locals for training and construction regarding filtration water filters and rocket stoves, both of which will provide for pure drinking water and cleaner cooking facilities, etc.

However, during my recent trips, we were also asked to expand our services to include a safe house for women and children rescued from prostitution and human trafficking.

I personally met and dealt with 20 young girls, ages 8-16, who had been sold to be child prostitutes, etc. The hundreds of women and children seeking assistance and a new way of life, literally break my heart.

They are so grateful for whatever little things we can provide, to the point of crying when we gave them packages of bandaids “as their own”.

The value of the human

person is so precious and we are doing our best to give these women and children a sense of worth and dignity.

I also want you all to know that we have completed the expenditures of the \$2000 donated by someone in the Diocese for a “leper colony”.

Little did anyone know when the Diocese received that donation, that we work directly with a leper colony, dermatological center in Nicaragua.

I have to tell you the situation there also is both hope filled and disturbing as well. One elderly leper, who cannot stand due to the extreme disfigurement from the disease, thanked us profusely when we explained that not only were we going to paint and repair the crumbling walls, repair the electricity and lighting and provide running water, but we were also going to give him and the others wheelchairs, walkers, etc.

Indeed, the ministry of the Mission of Hope is vast, complex and inclusive- serv-

ing the poorest of the poor on many levels, while also trying to inspire changing of our own hearts as well.

As Matthew said: “What you have received as gift, give as gift”...or what you have received freely, freely give!!”

And so, we as a mission, are constantly in a stance of both gratitude and need...a delicate balance to walk while doing God’s work.

Thanks to all who help make our ministry possible.

### More challenges

(A message sent to Mission of Hope friends Jan. 26)

I have three brief things to share with you tonight.

1. Two nights ago, the one and only mission truck we had in Nicaragua was stolen. It has NOT been found or returned and the odds of that happening at this point, are slim to none.

Thank God, Mauricio (our Mission administrator in Nica) was not hurt. However, at a time when we were considering options

and needs for another vehicle, we now find ourselves without any vehicles.

I’ve received several calls and/or emails from many of you because you wondered if this was true, etc. Well, unfortunately, it is true. Thank you for your concern and your support!

2. Roger Patnode has asked me to suggest a small way you could help the mission acquire some much needed pain relievers.

At SAMS’s club right now, you can buy a twin pack (1000) tablets of acetaminophen or 1000 tablets of ibuprofen- for only \$8. If you live near a SAMS and could afford this, it would be a tremendous help as we try to meet the cries for medicines, especially basic pain relievers, in our Nica clinics.

FYI: Travelers who are traveling on Mission in Feb. could simply put these in your carry ons. And so, anyone who can help, it would be appreciated.

If not travelling, you can either bring to my office anyday... or to our storage

location this coming Sat. morning between 9-noon or next Wed...or give to Roger Patnode or Anthony Garami who will deliver them.

3. When our truck was stolen, all of mechanic tools in the back of the truck were also stolen.

If anyone has any car mechanic tools and are no longer in need of them, we would welcome them as a donation as well. Anything could help.

And so, we trust that God has always watched over the Mission of Hope and we trust that God still is watching over all of us.

We must trust that the vehicle situation will be resolved as well.

Blessings to all.

Sr. Debbie Blow, OP

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## AT THE MOVIES

# THE RITE

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Any movie that opens with a quotation from Pope John Paul II and ends with the sight of a dedicated priest hearing his parishioners' confessions is well calculated to win the support and approval of viewers of faith. And so it is with the religiously honorable drama "The Rite" (Warner Bros.).

Considered purely as a piece of cinema, however, this descent into the tortured world of the demonically possessed, and of those who courageously minister to them, proves aesthetically tentative, its ultimate impact weakened by the effort to showcase its main character's spiritual journey -- a conversion tale based on real events -- as an old-fashioned chillfest.

That central character is skeptical seminarian Michael Kovak, played by feature film newcomer Colin O'Donoghue in an impressive first outing.

Having pursued priestly studies mainly to get a free college education and avoid following in the footsteps of his undertaker father, Istvan (Rutger Hauer) - with whom he shares a tangled relationship - Michael sends off a resignation e-mail soon after his ordination as a transitional deacon.

But the recipient of his message - his superior, Father Matthew (Toby Jones) - is convinced that Michael possesses at least the pastoral qualities of a good priest.

So, to forestall his departure, Father Matthew dis-

patches Michael to Rome to complete a Vatican-sponsored course in exorcism.

**The idea that a contemporary doubter should be moved toward belief in the source of absolute good by witnessing the effects of absolute evil run amok is certainly an intriguing one**

There Michael vents his ongoing doubts - not just about devils and such, but about the very existence of God as well - both to fellow student Angeline (Alice Braga), an Italian reporter who has enrolled in the class for research purposes, and to their instructor, Dominican Father Xavier (Ciaran Hinds).

Knowing a hard case when he sees one, Father Xavier arranges for Michael to serve an informal apprenticeship with veteran demon fighter Father Lucas (Anthony Hopkins), a forthright Welshman renowned for his unusual but effective approach to his work.

The inexplicable experiences that follow, as Father Lucas and his initially reluctant protege wrestle with the dark forces at work on pregnant teen Rosaria (Marta Gastini, another newcomer), force Michael to reassess his secular certainties.

The idea that a contemporary doubter should be moved toward belief in the source of absolute good by witnessing the effects of absolute evil run amok is certainly an intriguing one.



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Colin O'Donoghue and Anthony Hopkins star in a scene from the movie "The Rite."

And a few shaky details along the way - as when Michael, though only a deacon, appears to be giving absolution to a dying victim at the scene of a car accident -- can easily be overlooked in light of screenwriter Michael Petroni and director Mikael Hafstrom's resounding affirmation faith and the value of priestly ministry.

But Michael's story -- a fictionalized version of the life of Father Gary Thomas of the Diocese of San Jose,

Calif., as recounted in journalist Matt Baglio's 2009 book, "The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist" -- would have been more effectively presented on its own terms.

Instead, it has been wedged, somewhat uncomfortably, into the mold of a conventional horror movie. The effect is to diffuse -- and slightly diminish -- its valuable underlying message, though enough of that endures to make the picture, despite the objection-

able features listed below, possibly acceptable for mature teens.

The film contains incest and suicide themes, some gruesome imagery, incidental irreverence, a couple of uses of profanity and a few rough and crude terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



## CLINTON

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**Mooers Forks** – St. Ann's Church is holding Sunday Breakfasts.

**Dates:** Feb. 13; March 13; April 10

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

**Place:** St. Ann's Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

## 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 t 7:05 p.m.

**Place:** Chapel

**Features:** "This study explores the always relevant ways God has transformed history and invites participation through praise, thanksgiving, and the many other ways Scripture teaches prayer. You do not have to have completed any previous study; each study stands on its own.

**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.

## ABOUT CHRISTIAN FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

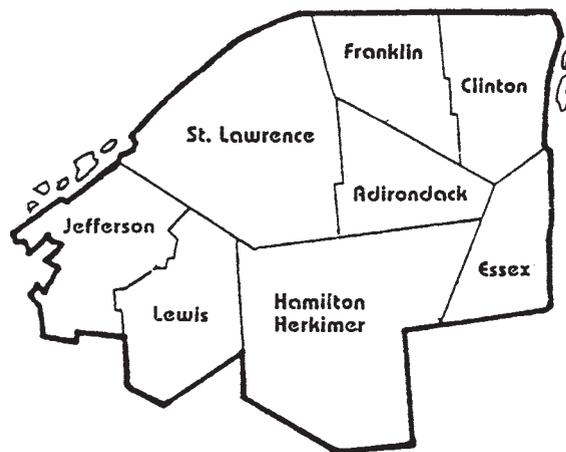
## PRAYER VIGIL

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

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

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

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



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.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE IN 2011

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

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Peru** – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a spaghetti dinner. Monies raised will assist the Knights in their community-service programs.

**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 children 5 and under.

**Menu:** "All you can eat" spaghetti, salad, Italian bread and dessert

## 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:** "I felt a great desire to see Him, to know Him and to pay Him homage" (St. Josephine Bakhita).

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

## HAMILTON-HERKIMER

## HAM DINNER

**Indian Lake** – S.M.I.L.E. (Saint Mary's Indian Lake Energizers) invites all seniors 65 and over to be our guests at the 4th

Annual Ham Dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 13

**Time:** 1 p.m.

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

**Contact:** Call Millie Anzalone at (518) 648-5889 if you would like to join us.

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

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

**Date:** Feb. 12

**Time:** 4 p.m.

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

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

## SILENT AUCTION

**Fort Drum** – The Officer's Spouse Club will be holding a dinner and silent auction.

**Date:** Feb. 11

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** The Commons on Fort Drum

**Cost:** \$20 per person

**Attire:** Semi Formal

**Features:** This event is open to the public. There will be a choice of three different meals. All proceeds will be given to local military groups in the form of Welfare Grants and to military family members for Education Scholarships, both awarded in May.

**Contact:** Please RSVP by Feb. 7th to Amanda Chadwick Email: Steveandamanda63@hotmail.com OR Camey McGurk Phone: 315-405-4511 Email: camey.mcgurk@us.army.mil

## 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

## 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:** This dinner is sponsored by St. Mary's Parish Council. Your Chef for the evening will be Joe Scheve (of Marino's).

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

**Lowville** – St. Peter's Rosary-Altar Society will serve a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 3

**Time:** 5 p.m.; Take-outs will be available at 4:30

**Place:** The Church Hall

**Cost:** \$7; Children 5-10, \$3.5; children under 5, Free

## HOT SANDWICH DINNER

**Lyons Falls** – A hot roast beef or hot turkey sandwich dinner will be held

**Date:** Feb. 15

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** McManus Hotel; deliveries, 348-6738

**Menu:** Sides of French fries or mashed potato, cole slaw, dessert, beverage

**Prices:** \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, free for under five

## DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

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

**Date:** Feb. 6

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Contact:** For more information contact

Mary Ann Lepkowski at 315-348-6260 or see www.thedivinemercy.org.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's Church to have Eucharistic Adoration

**Date:** Feb. 4

**Time:** 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

**Massena** – St. Mary's Church is holding a First Saturday devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

**Date:** Feb. 5

**Features:** The Rosary will begin at 2:30 p.m. followed by a 15 minute private meditation on the Luminous Mysteries. Confessions will be available.

## K OF C BRUNCH

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

**Date:** Feb. 13

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

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

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

## ST. JAMES GALA

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

**Date:** Feb. 12

**Features:** Tickets available at the school, 287-0130 for \$60

## NOVENA FOR MILITARY

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

**Date:** Tuesday evenings

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

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

**Time:** 8 p.m. to 9

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel

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

## FRIDAY FISH FRY

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

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

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

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



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

# FAQ's on HCA

## (Frequently Asked Questions)

From the Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,  
Diocesan Mission Director

Since it's Catholic Schools Week, addressing the topic of HCA or the Holy Childhood Association would be in order. 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)

### How does HCA differ from other organizations helping children in the Developing World?

HCA is unique to other organizations that assist children in the Developing World in that its primary aim is to encourage children to share their faith with children in the Developing World through their prayers, personal sacrifices and financial offerings.

### Does HCA help only Catholic children?

HCA cares for children regardless of religious affiliation.

### Why doesn't HCA participate in sponsoring individual children or families?

Contributions to HCA are allocated to mission dioceses throughout the world according to need. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that aid is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive enough support. HCA funds are distributed to help children in 110 countries throughout the world.

### Who participates in HCA programs in the United States?

Annually, more than one million young people, kindergarten through eighth grade, participate in HCA-sponsored programs in the United States through Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

### Why should my child participate in HCA?

All young Catholics have a baptismal responsibility to make Jesus Christ and His love known to others. HCA helps young people understand the universal nature of the Catholic Church and recognize that they are missionaries today, in prayer and sacrifice, reaching out to children in the missions.

### What else can children do to help the Missions?

Children can offer their prayers in support of missionaries and the work of the Church in the missions.

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

## OBITUARIES

### Ruth O. Chapin

**NORTH BANGOR** - A Mass of Christian Burial for Ruth O. Chapin, 89, mother of Father Daniel Chapin of Croghan, was held Jan. 28 at St. Augustine's Church.

She died Jan. 25 in Malone. Spring burial will be in North Bangor Cemetery/

Born in North Bangor, Sept. 18, 1921, she was a daughter of Patrick and Mary (LaBelle) McCarthy.

Mrs. Chapin graduated from Franklin Academy in 1938. Following graduation, she worked for Dr. Florence McCarthy in North Bangor. Early in World War II she worked as a secretary in Washington D.C. On Oct. 9, 1942, she married Russell Chapin at St. Augustine Church, North Bangor. She and her husband owned the Chapin farms in North Bangor and for some time were part owners of the Malone Dairy. He predeceased her Dec. 12, 1977.

A very active member of St. Augustine Church in North Bangor, she was a 69-year and oldest living member of Court Ave Maria 122 of the Catholic Daughters. She was a member of many other organizations, among them the Altar and Rosary Society, Franklin County Cooperative Extension, the Farm Bureau, Grange, the Alice Hyde Hospital Auxiliary, a 4-H leader and the Franklin County Agricultural Society.

But most of all, she was a devoted wife, mother and gracious host to her many family members and friends.

In addition to Father Chapin, she is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Rosalind (John) Needham of Holland, Ohio; two other sons and two daughters-in-laws, Dale R. (Grenda) Chapin of Blue Top Farm, North Bangor, N.Y., Joel P. (Linda) Chapin of Amsterdam, N.Y.; a brother, Patrick Henry McCarthy of Oswego, N.Y.; three sisters, Norah Costello of Hamilton, N.Y., Alice Queffelec of Paramus, N.J., and Margaret McCarthy of Malone; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Patricia Sullivan and Mary Henderson.

Memorial gifts may be given to St. Augustine Church, North Bangor, the Bishop's Fund of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and 4-H Camp Overlook, Mountain View, N.Y.

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**Adams** - Anna L. (Tiss) Crowley, 97; Memorial Services at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Adams** - Nona L. (Schiltz) Hill, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2011 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Rodman.

**Adams** - Arlene F. (Kellogg) Perdicho, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2011 at the Paddock Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Brownville** - Rosalind A. (Netto) Laundry, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Colton** - Arthur F. Perkins, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** - James E. Miner, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** - Dennis J. Roy, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2011 at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Norfolk** - Neil J. Tyo, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2011 at Church of the Visitation.

**Peru** - Jonathan P. Morse, 35; Memorial Services Feb. 5, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Plattsburgh** - Robert D. "Bob" Bird, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2011 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** - Richard W. Dashnaw, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** - Mildred M. (Crossley) Desotelle, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** - Georgianna (Crooks) Spooner, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** - Leona Florence Patenaude, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Rouses Point** - Beatrice M. (Gebo) St. Pierre, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Star Lake** - Elizabeth "Betsy" A. (Arquette) Sovay, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2011 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** - LeRoy F. Moses, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Katherine A. (Peters) Bourcy, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Dorothy M. Peavey, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2011 at Hart & Bruce Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Lucy W. (Waters) Sprague, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**West Chazy** - Arthur "Art" James Fresn, 67; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

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# On Consecrated Life

By Sister Ellen Donahue  
Episcopal Delegate for Religious

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.

## World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is set for Feb. 6

This feast is also known as Candlemas Day, when candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. Those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

The reading from 1 Corinthians 1:1-5 this week highlights the resolve of Paul to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Pope Benedict XVI in his homily on Consecrated Life in 2010 states that "it is precisely and only on the basis of this faith in Jesus Christ, the only and definitive Mediator, that consecrated life, a life consecrated to God through Christ, has meaning in the Church". The consecrated life, in fact, "powerfully" witnesses and expresses the reciprocal seeking of God and man, the love that attracts them to each other. The very fact of being consecrated makes the consecrated person, as it were, a "bridge" to God for all who encounter him or her a reminder, a reference point.

Within our Diocese we have persons who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be a religious priest, brother, or sister. We have women who are members of the Societies of Apostolic Life and a woman who is a conse-



A colorful array of women religious represent a variety of congregations who live and minister daily in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Shown, front, from left, are Ursuline Sister Mary Hallahan; Mercy Sister Camillus O'Keefe, Daughter of Charity Mary Frances Barnes, St. Joseph Sister Norma Bryant, Mercy Sister Carolyn Madden and Daughter of the Heart of Mary, Mary Curran; back, Servite Sister Rita Mary Morrisette, Grey Nunt Sister Kathryn Healy, St. Joseph Sister Annunciata Collins, St. Joseph Sister Barbara St. Andrews, Daughter of the Heart of Mary Miriam Najimy, Sister of Charity of St. Louise Bernadette Ducharme and Mercy Sister Patricia Allen.

crated virgin. Our diocese is richer for the diversity of these consecrated persons.

We have 18 institutes of religious life. Within these institutes we have 16 congregations which are of pontifical rite: 12 women congregations and four congregations of men religious. One congregation within our diocese is of diocesan rite and one congregation is a Society of Apostolic Life.

An institute of consecrated life is of pontifical right if it has been established by the Apostolic See, or approved by it by means of a formal decree. (Canon 589) A true autonomy of life, especially of governance is recognized for each institute. The constitution of each institute is approved by the competent ecclesiastical authority.

An institute is of diocesan right if it has been established by the diocesan Bishop and has not obtained a decree of approval from the Apostolic See. (Can. 589)

The order of virgins is also to be added to these forms of consecrated life. Through their pledge to follow Christ more closely, virgins are consecrated to God, mystically espoused to Christ and dedicated to the service of the Church, when the diocesan Bishop conse-

crates them according to the approved liturgical rite. (Canon 604)

The approval of new forms of consecrated life is reserved to the Apostolic See. Diocesan Bishops, however, are to endeavor to discern new gifts of consecrated life which the Holy Spirit entrusts to the Church.

Besides institutes of consecrated life, the Church recognizes the life of hermits or anchorites, in which Christ's faithful withdraw further from the world and devote their lives to the praise of God and the salvation of the world through the silence of solitude and through constant prayer and penance. They are recognized by law as dedicated to God in consecrated life if, in the hands of the diocesan Bishop, they publicly profess, by a vow or some other sacred bond, the three evangelical counsels, and then lead their particular form of life under the guidance of the diocesan Bishop. (Canon 603)

A secular institute is an institute of consecrated life in which Christ's faithful, living in the world, strive for the perfection of charity and endeavor to contribute to the sanctification of the world, especially from

strive for the perfection of charity through the observance of the constitutions. (Canon 731)

Some members within these societies, through a bond defined in the constitutions, undertake to live the evangelical counsels and some members make private vows.

Within the Church the light of Christ is radiated in multiple ways and when united with the gifts of the clergy and the people of God throughout the Church the richness of our life in Christ is without boundaries.

If you desire to see the beauty of the lives of these congregations reflected through their history and their ministries, you might want to visit some of the websites of men and women currently ministering in our Diocese. (See box below.)

When one says "yes" to follow in Jesus footsteps he or she is stretched beyond imagination. May the men and women in the consecrated life be faithful witnesses of God's gracious love and may their witness draw others to consider this vocation.

## Online with Religious orders

### Religious Order/Congregation/Society – Men

Brothers of Christian Instruction - [www.ficbrothers.org](http://www.ficbrothers.org)

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement - [www.atonementfriars.org](http://www.atonementfriars.org)

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - [www.misacor-usa.org](http://www.misacor-usa.org)

New York Province of the Society of Jesus - [www.nysj.org](http://www.nysj.org)

### Religious Order/Congregation/Society - Women

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul - [www.dc-northeast.org](http://www.dc-northeast.org)

Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - [www.sacredheartcc.org](http://www.sacredheartcc.org)

Daughters of the Heart of Mary - [www.dhmna.org](http://www.dhmna.org)

Dominican Sisters of Hope - [www.ophope.org](http://www.ophope.org)

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement - [www.graymoor.org](http://www.graymoor.org)

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart - [www.greynun.org](http://www.greynun.org)

Servants of Mary - [www.osms.org](http://www.osms.org)

Sisters of Charity of St. Louis - [www.soeursdelacharitestlouis.qc.ca](http://www.soeursdelacharitestlouis.qc.ca)

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Mid-Atlantic Community - [www.mercymidatlantic.org](http://www.mercymidatlantic.org)

Sisters of St. Joseph - [www.ssjwatertown.org](http://www.ssjwatertown.org)

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet - [www.csjalbany.org](http://www.csjalbany.org)

Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod - [www.sisterscrosschavanod.org](http://www.sisterscrosschavanod.org)

Sisters of the Precious Blood - [www.sisterspreciousblood.org](http://www.sisterspreciousblood.org)

Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province - [www.osueast.org](http://www.osueast.org)