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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUG. 17, 2011

Pope calls for compassion

CASTEL GANDOLFO, ITALY (CNS) -- Christians cannot be indifferent to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people starving in the Horn of Africa, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It is inadmissible to be indifferent in the face of the tragedy of the hungry and thirsty," the pope said,

speaking in Polish after reciting the Angelus July 31 at his summer residence.

When Jesus fed the multitudes by miraculously multiplying loaves and fishes, he gave his disciples an example to follow, the pope said.

"He encourages us to give them something to eat and to

share bread with the needy. Following Christ, we must be sensitive to people's poverty," he said.

Commenting on the day's Gospel passage, the pope said it was natural to read the story of Jesus' miracle and think of "our many brothers and sisters who, in these

days, in the Horn of Africa, suffer from famine aggravated by war and the lack of solid institutions."

He told the 3,000 people gathered in the courtyard that Jesus set an example of meeting material needs while also addressing the deeper hungers of the human heart.

ABOUT THE EUCHARIST

Do you believe in miracles?



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
In anticipation of the changes in the liturgy this year, Bishop LaValley has released a pastoral letter on the Eucharist. "Do you believe in miracles," he asks. "Each time we participate at Holy Eucharist we are parties to a miracle like no other. Ordinary bread and wine, through the power of God's Spirit, are transformed into the very Body and Blood of our Risen Lord. He is really present, as He promised He would be! Here we have a mystery which surpasses our mind's ability to move beyond mere appearances."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

World Youth Day begins this Week



FULL STORY, PAGE 2

Christopher West is coming!

Celebrate Christ - set for Sept. 16-17 in Massena - will feature West reflecting on the Theology of the Body
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

A GATHERING OF YOUNG MEN OF GOD



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
The young priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg offered their support to the seminarians of the diocese, joining them for a July 13 lunch at the Guggenheim Lodge. The luncheon, sponsored by the Serra Club of Ogdensburg, concluded a two-day meeting of the seminarians with Father Douglas Lucia, director of seminarians; and Father Bryan Stitt, vocation director. From left are Michael Jablonski, Father Lucia, Deacon Tom Higman, Paul Poulin, Matt Conger, Christian Doran, Nicholas Newtown, Cory Haynes, Alexander Pacelli, Father Stitt, Scott Belina, Father Martin Cline, Father Bernard Menard, Father Joe Giroux and Father Scott Fobare.

SUNDAY AT ST. JOSEPH'S: Scenes from a typical Sunday in West Chazy... p. 7

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

On the way to a life-changing experience

At the very hour this issue of the NCC was going to press, a couple dozen North Country pilgrims were taking their first steps on their way to World Youth Day 2011 in Spain.

Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director and leader of the local WYD contingent, had asked the travelers to meet at Guggenheim on Saturday night.

The young people prayed together, got to know each other a little and then headed down to JFK Airport for the flight to Madrid.

When they arrived in Spain, our 24 young Catholics were among 1.5 million! For Father Stitt, this pilgrimage to Madrid is his fourth World Youth Day experience.

"My first was as a high school student when Pope John Paul II visited Denver, Colorado," he told the *North Country Catholic*. "In retrospect, I don't remember too much about the conferences or concerts, but I do know that it had a life changing influence on me.

"There is just something about seeing hundreds of thousands of people gathered in a peaceful, unified, and faithful way that *has* to inspire a person," he said.

It certainly wasn't all roses, he said. "I also remember people get-

ting sick due to dehydration. During our overnight in Denver there was also a lack of port-a-potties (due to the coinciding flood of the Mississippi River) and an even more urgent lack of toilet paper. (The latter was resolved by the National Guard, who came to our rescue by helicopter—dropping rolls of toilet paper like manna from heaven.)

"During these challenges ("crosses" as we say in church-talk) we were even more clearly aware of the limitless nature of the Church," Father Stitt said. "As we unite our sufferings to the cross of Christ, space and time are transcended and great things are made possible."

In a statement to the people of the diocese he said, "Please know of my prayers for you during our pilgrimage, and please know of my appreciation of your prayers for me, our pilgrims, and for those discerning their vocations. Those prayers, like our faith and our Church, know no bounds."

(The complete text of Father Stitt's message, as well as regular reflections and photos from all the local pilgrims will appear in a blog that can be found on the NCC's Facebook page and website: www.northcountrycatholic.org)

**Mary Lou
Kilian**

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH Support Your Bishop 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time August 20-21

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

"Who do you say that I am?" This is a question that evangelization tries to answer when the Church continues its mission.

Who is Jesus for you? It is not enough to answer "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." The question is, "Who is this Jesus for you and me today in the life of this Family of God of the 21st century?"

This question was first asked of Peter who became the foundation rock in his role as the first Pope of the Catholic Church. Peter became the first bishop of Rome called to teach, to rule, and to sanctify the People of God. Since the time of Peter, every bishop has been called to show God's people the face of Jesus Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit.

He has to know the people, feel their pulse, understand their feelings, help shape and form them to understand more fully "the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God" (Romans 11:33).

Our bishop has a Spirit-filled task. With him, we answer the question of "Who Jesus is?" by the way we show the glory of God to others and by the witness of our Christian lives. As a Family of Faith, how can you better join our bishop by proclaiming who Jesus is for others?

This invitation for all of us to bring the Gospel message to others goes beyond the use of words and names. Often we identify "the binding and loosing" only with Peter and the Papacy and with the ordained in ministry. We forget, that we are the Church, part of the Rock foundation. We are responsible also for the living out of "the binding and loosing."

The Pope and the Bishops continue to guide the Church even when many people no longer believe and confess that Jesus is Messiah, the Son of the Living God. There are so many uncertainties in life today. Our Catholic faith, its history and traditions, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, are the foundations of our Christian life.

And yet, many Catholics question the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. One question before every Catholic Christian, Christian family, and individual that has to be answered to make a difference is, who is Jesus Christ to us, now, today, this moment, in this age and place?

Do you name Jesus as the Savior in your life, in your family, in your work place?

Exactly what does that mean in the course of your daily events? How is Jesus saving you, your family, the community, the world at large?

To answer these questions is a life-long process. Like Pope Benedict XVI and Bishop Terry LaValley, we, the Church, the Family of Faith, are called to support and to live the "binding and loosing" of the Church's teachings.

These teachings are spiritual and moral guides to living out the will of God. Questions will continue to arise. They will be prayed "over and about," but never "over and out."

They are always in the process of being refined, renewed and continually offered to us to recommit ourselves ever more completely to Christ. Let us, as a Family of Faith, pray for our Church leaders, especially for our Bishop, as he and we together scrutinize the unsearchable ways of the mind of God so that we may grow in the depth and riches and knowledge of God.

Then we can answer the question more assuredly with confidence of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."



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FOLLOW ME

THE EUCHARIST:

'Do You Believe in Miracles?'

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley
August 15, 2011

"Do you believe in miracles?" That was the question of disbelief asked by the play-by-play announcer as the United States Olympic Hockey Team was skating its way to the Gold Medal in Lake Placid back in 1980. That "Miracle on Ice" was truly one for the ages.

Each time we participate at Holy Eucharist we are parties to a miracle like no other. Ordinary bread and wine, through the power of God's Spirit, are transformed into the very Body and Blood of our Risen Lord

Do *you* believe in miracles? I mean, do you *really* believe that miracles happen? We read about them in Holy Scripture and learn about miracles that took place long ago, most often in places far from home. We even journey on pilgrimages to places where these extraordinary events are said to have occurred. We are attracted to phenomena that seem unexplainable or beyond what our senses are able to grasp. Miracles intrigue and fascinate us.

An eminently more profound miracle than the 1980 feat, one that has eternal ramifications takes place in our midst every day: the Mass. If only we could capture a sense of its wonder and enter into the mystery of every Eucharistic Liturgy. Each time we participate at Holy Eucharist we are parties to a miracle like no other. Ordinary bread and wine, through the power of God's Spirit, are transformed into the very Body and Blood of our Risen Lord. He is really present, as He promised He would be! Here we have a mystery which surpasses our mind's ability to move beyond mere appearances.

Ever since that night before He died, when Jesus gathered His apostles for a meal, we have been invited to partake in this grandest of miracles and become transformed in the process. Our Church has been celebrating this Sacrificial Banquet ever since that dramatic night in which the Eucharist was born.

The First Sunday of Advent, November 27, provides an opportunity for you and me to enter even more deeply into this Miracle, this Mystery of the Mass. With the introduction of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal at all our Masses that weekend, the desire of the bishops of Vatican Council II for the full, active and conscious participation of the laity at Mass can be better realized. (SC, #14)



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Since last summer, our clergy, religious, our parish music, catechetical and pastoral leaders have participated in several workshops held throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg that helped prepare us for the successful implementation of this new translation. In October and November, our parishioners will soon have the opportunity to come together to deepen our appreciation of the Liturgy and its upcoming changes. For instance, *Lifting Up our Hearts*, is one resource that some parishes will use where, in six sessions, parishioners will be led through prayerful reflections on the changes to the people's part of the Mass, leading us to a deeper understanding of the Miracle and Mystery of Mass and its transforming power in our lives. Other resources and programs may be developed and used by our local pastors.

You will notice many new words in our prayers, particularly in the prayers of the priest. These words, more closely reflective of the Latin text, will lead us to a deeper meaning of the Mystery that is the focal point, source and summit of our faith. It is the same beautiful Mass that beckons more than just the routine fulfillment of an obligation, but our active participation in this miraculous encounter with our Risen Lord. As we learn and pray these new words, we are given an opportunity for a new and fresh appreciation of the power of this prayer of the Church.

In his Angelus address on the Feast of Corpus Christi earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI said

that "The Eucharist is the beating heart of the Church." (*L'Osservatore Romano*, June 29, 2011) Without the Eucharist, without the continual re-presentation of that Miracle at the Last Supper, our Church would simply die. The pulse of God's Spirit would cease to enliven the Mystical Body.

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the very center of the Church's growth and the focal point of the life of our parishes. The Eucharist helps the Church in its mission of love. Blessed John Paul II reminded us that "From the perpetuation of the sacrifice of the Cross and her communion with the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, the Church draws the spiritual power needed to carry out her mission." (*On the Eucharist*, # 22) Again, as Pope Benedict XVI told the Angelus crowd, "The miracle of every Mass makes a human community into a mystery of communion that can bring God to the world and the world to God." This is what it means to be the Body of Christ, the family of faith. Active participation in the Eucharist is the antidote to the moral malaise and religious lethargy so evident today.

As He commissioned His disciples to carry on His mission of love, Jesus promised: "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Mt. 28:20) The Eucharist is the fulfillment of that promise. This Sacrament continues to give us reason to be pilgrims of hope as we experience Jesus in a real and uniquely intense way at Mass.

The way is prepared for such a miraculous encounter with the Risen Lord and our transformation at Eucharist when we are ever attentive to the words, gestures and song of the liturgy. When we enter Church expecting to be transformed, we are allowing God's Spirit room to maneuver. It is the same Spirit that transforms the Bread and wine that transforms whoever receives it with faith. The Eucharist can empower us to respond to Jesus' words, "Follow Me."

We can never become satisfied with our faith life. We simply cannot stand still, content with the way things have always been. Either we grow or we die. The new words we will pray at Mass are unfamiliar to most of us. That's to be expected because there is nothing familiar about Mass, nothing casual or routine about this Miracle, this awesome Mystery of our faith.

There is, however, one word that hasn't changed: AMEN. With an insight so characteristic of this holy man, Blessed John Paul II tells us that there is "a profound analogy between the *Fiat* which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the AMEN which every believer says when receiving the Body of the Lord. Mary was asked to believe that the One whom she conceived 'through the Holy Spirit' was the Son of God.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Eucharist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In continuity with the Virgin's faith, in the Eucharistic mystery we are asked to believe that the same Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, becomes present in His full humanity and divinity under the signs of bread and wine." (*On The Eucharist, #55*) This Mystery demands total abandonment to the Word of God. We respond: AMEN!

The Holy Eucharist is the Miracle, the Mystery to be believed, celebrated and lived. Let us all seize this opportunity to deepen our understanding of and increase our active participation at Mass. Jesus' closest disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Lk11:1) To this end, I ask you to reflect on the following questions as personal guides to strengthen your Eucharistic spirituality and enhance the vibrancy of your faith:

1. Do I feel the need to grow in knowledge of my Catholic faith? If so, am I willing to participate in those opportunities made available in my parish to help form and deepen my faith?

2. Do I participate at weekly Masses with my family? After Mass, do we discuss the Mystery experienced?

3. Am I appropriately prepared to enter the Mystery? Do I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly? Am I properly attired when I celebrate Eucharist? Is my behavior respectful and reverent whenever I enter the sacred space of Church?

4. How hospitable am I? How often do I invite family members and friends to join me at Mass? Do I greet and welcome new faces that I see at Mass?

5. Do I respond to the prayers at Mass, sing the hymns and take advantage of the periods of silence to adore the Eucharistic Christ?

6. After I receive the Holy Eucharist, do I take quiet time and reflect on the meaning of the profound AMEN I just voiced? Is my

'AMEN' given with the same commitment and trust as the Blessed Lady's *Fiat*?

On this Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the Patronal Feast of our Cathedral Church, we gaze upon Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven. Blessed John Paul II asks us to contemplate upon her and "see opening up before us those 'new heavens' and that 'new earth' which will appear at the Second Coming of Christ. Here, below, the Eucharist represents its pledge, its anticipation. In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into His Body and Blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength, and our food for the journey, and He enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope." (*On the Eucharist, #62*) Don't we need a genuine cause for hope today? In the presence of this Miracle of Miracles, our reason experiences its limits. However, enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we know the response that is demanded of us, who believe.

Bring your family members, friends and neighbors: share with them the Miracle. Let them see its power by how it has transformed your life. As our lives are transformed, we become holier and the fruits of the miracle become leaven for the world. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us in His Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist that "Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord's Eucharistic Presence among His people." (*The Sacrament of Charity, #6*) Now is the time. Let us seize the opportunity.

Yes, Lord, I do believe in miracles! May every Eucharist I celebrate transform me more and more into a loving companion on life's journey, following You, who are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

(The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, #14, March 26, 1970. *L'Osservatore Romano*, June 29, 2011; On the Eucharist, *Ecclesia De Eucharistia*, #22, April 17, 2003; The Sacrament of Charity, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, #6., 2.22.07.

West to present 'Theology of the Body' Sept. 16-17

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Director of Catholic Education

Celebrate Christ 2011 is fast approaching.

The presenter for this two day event will be the world-renowned author and theologian Christopher West.

Christopher West is the featured speaker at Celebrate Christ 2011

The presentation on Sept. 16 is designed for priests, religious, deacons and their spouses. It will be held at Saint Mary's Church in Massena.

The Sept. 17 program, is for the laity and will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.

The event is being sponsored by the Department of Education in collaboration with the Offices of Evangelization and Family Life.

While many have heard the "whats" of Catholic teaching on sexuality, few have heard the "whys." Mr. West will offer reflections based on Blessed Pope John Paul's Theology of the Body.

Through philosophical reflection, humor and references to current culture, the presentations will demonstrate how the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality make sense and correspond with the deep-



Christopher West

est longings of the human heart.

Whether married, single or celibate, the workshops are for anyone, 18 years or older, who is searching for the ultimate meaning of life.

Registration forms for both days are posted on the diocesan website, www.dioogdensburg.org; the Christopher West Theology of the Body link is located on the homepage.

Registration forms and information about the event may also be obtained by contacting the Christian Formation Regional Offices: in Ogdensburg, email, jgriz-zuto@dioogdensburg.org; (315) 393-2920; Watertown, sbachmann@dioogdensburg.org; (315) 782-3629; Plattsburgh, apage@dioogdensburg.org; (518-563-2022).

Pre-registration is required for attendance at the event. Registrations must be received by August 31.

The registration fee includes lunch and the booklet which Mr. West requires each participant to have during his presentation.

Fall Pilgrimage to St. Agnes' Church, Lake Placid

October 4, 2011

Sponsored by the Serra Club and Vocation Office of Ogdensburg

Cost: \$90 per person including bus transportation or \$50 if you provide your own transportation

Includes: Luxury Coach Transportation, Mass with Bishop LaValley at 11a.m., Buffet Luncheon at the Crown Plaza Hotel at 12:30 p.m. and a Holy Hour at St. Agnes Church at 2:30 p.m.

Return Form Below No Later Than September 15, 2011

Make checks payable to Serra Club of Ogdensburg. Send Pilgrimage fee and this form to:
Lois McCasland, 400 State Highway 72, Potsdam, NY 13676

Please select: Private Car \$50 per person Bus Option \$90 per person Plattsburgh Watertown Ogdensburg Potsdam

Bus pick up areas will be sent upon close of registration. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for ___ seats.

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For further information please contact: John & Sondra Castle at 315-265-3578

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Annual vocation pilgrimage to be held Oct. 4

LAKE PLACID- Bishop Terry R. LaValley will lead a Fall pilgrimage to St. Agnes' Church Oct. 4

the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office of Ogdensburg. Bishop LaValley will celebrate the Mass at 11 a.m. A

buffet luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel will follow Mass and a Holy Hour at 2:30 p.m. will end the pilgrimage. Bus pick-ups will be in Wassertown, Ogdensburg, Pots-

dam and Plattsburgh. The cost for the pilgrimage including bus travel is \$90 per person. For pilgrims arranging other transportation, the cost is \$50 per person.

Registration forms are available in all parishes and on page 4 of this paper. Further information is available from John or Sondra Castle at (315) 265-3578.



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
Members of the Serra Club of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at the Guggenheim Center in July for a luncheon for the seminarians and young priests of the diocese. From left are Henry Domingos, John Andrikut, John and Sondra Castle, Jackie Cutler, Connie Randall and Ron and Lois McCasland. The Serrans are currently organizing the diocese's annual vocation pilgrimage to be held this year Oct. 4 in Lake Placid.



CAR RAFFLE

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The drawing will be held after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 19, 2011 and the winner may choose the car or \$15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is \$20 or six (6) tickets for \$100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2011 Chevy Malibu fully equipped from Adirondack Chevrolet in Elizabethtown.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the page & enclose your check made out to **St. Agnes Church**

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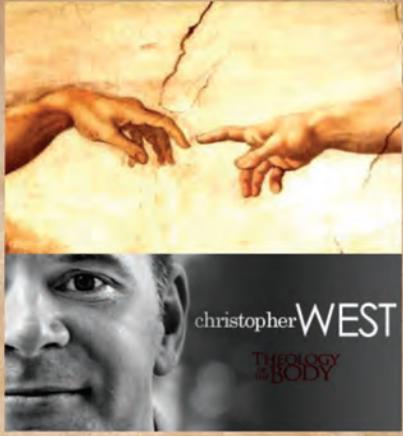
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You do not have to be present to win.

NCC

AN INTRODUCTION TO
POPE JOHN PAUL II'S

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY



Many have heard the "whats" of Catholic teaching on sexuality but few have ever heard the "whys."

This Saturday, September 17th, 2011, join world-renowned author and theologian CHRISTOPHER WEST in a day of reflection through John Paul II's revolutionary THEOLOGY OF THE BODY— a bold, organic and contemporary understanding of human love in the divine plan.

Through philosophical reflection, humor and current cultural references, West will demonstrate that the Church's teachings on sexuality and marriage "makes sense" and correspond with the deepest longings of the human heart. With music by indie-musician MIKE MANGIONE who whose music explores the themes of the THEOLOGY OF THE BODY in a rich, poetic style. Whether you are married, single or celibate, this workshop is for anyone who is searching for their ultimate meaning in life...

There will also be a special WORKSHOP FOR CLERGY, RELIGIOUS & CATECHETICAL LEADERS on Friday, September 16th.

<p>AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 8:45am - 3:45pm Cost: \$30 Includes Lunch and Workbook SACRED HEART CHURCH, MASSENA, NY</p>	<p>WORKSHOP FOR CLERGY, RELIGIOUS & CATECHETICAL LEADERS Friday, Sept. 16th, 2011 10am - 4pm Cost: \$30 Includes Lunch and Workbook ST. MARY'S CHURCH MASSENA, NY</p>
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To register and for more information, please visit:
WWW.DIOGDENSBURG.ORG OR CALL **315-393-2920 ext.411.**

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Thanking those who made a lasting difference to the church they loved

Wills, willingness and will power

By Janice Shoen, Executive Director
Development Office

Have you ever heard anyone say, "I want to die without a Will"? Nor have I. While some people may act like they don't need a Will, I haven't heard anyone actually brag about it. That's because people seem to agree that having a Will is a good idea.

For many years, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, many of its parishes and schools and other institutions within the Diocese have been remembered through bequests from people who thought it was a good idea to have a Will or Estate Plan and make a lasting difference to the Church that they loved.

Through bequests, trusts

Over the years the following individuals are some of those who had bequests through their Wills or trusts and had the Diocese, their parish, Catholic School, Catholic Charities, Society of the Propagation of the Faith and other agencies and institutions of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as one of their final beneficiaries:

Monsignor Robert Giroux of Waddington; Reverend Albert Giroux of Rouses Point; Monsignor Floyd Brown of Massena; Miss Margaret Fortune of Watertown; Reverend Earl Nichols of Brasher Falls; Monsignor Herbert Hannan of Ogdensburg; Reverend David Lyddy of Schroon Lake; Mr. Real Bourdon of Plattsburgh; Monsignor Louis Berube of Ogdensburg; Mrs. Leona Schlafly of Connecticut; Reverend Thomas Driscoll of Alexandria Bay; Miss Dorothy Cullen of Watertown; Mr. Robert and Mrs. Doris Weidner of Hancock;

Miss Faylene Leroux of Elizabethtown; Mr. John Fallon of Utica; Monsignor Morris Dwyer of Plattsburgh and Miss Eileen McGaulley of Plattsburgh.

Charitable gift annuities

Other donors who have been called home to God in the past several years have used Charitable Gift Annuities as well as their Wills to provide for the future of the Diocese.

They include Mrs. Mary Louise LeFavre of Watertown; Reverend James Meehan of Redwood; Mr. John Lawler of Albany; Miss Kathryn Gates of Cape Vincent; Mr. Dennis Lamos of Tupper Lake; Miss Emma Farr of Homer; Mr. Richard and Mrs. Mary Dupont of Ogdensburg; Mr. Roger and Mrs. Catherine Sullivan of Tupper Lake; Mrs. Katherine Wickes of Ticonderoga; Mrs. Dorothy St. Denis of Plattsburgh; Mrs. Joyce Papineau of Plattsburgh; Miss Anne Lewis of Saranac Lake; Mr. Fred and Mrs. Eleanor Klein of Schuyler Falls; Monsignor Anthony Milia of Watertown; Mr. George Carley of Lake Clear and Mr. Lawrence Fregoe of Malone.

Their generosity has provided assistance to various diocesan needs, as well as various parishes and other diocesan institutions and programs. They generously supported the diocese's mission through their gifts of both time and money during their lifetime and by giving a bequest in their Will or trust have made the future financially healthier for the Diocese. The willingness was surely there.

So a personalized Will is of great value. Not only does it provide peace of mind; it prescribes who you want to handle your affairs and who will benefit from your estate.

Knowing the value of a Will and being willing to include your favorite charities is commendable and appreciated. Unfortunately, good intentions alone will not bring

the peace of mind a good Will can produce. Nor do good intentions lock in a bequest to an organization you care about. What is needed is action. And what will help it is Will power.

Will power can help you use the power and freedom you have while you are living to make your own choices regarding the disposition of your estate. With Will power, and a little decisiveness and determination, you can get a Will in place.

You don't have to be rich to have a Will and leaving a percentage or the residue after your loved have been taken care of is a great and lasting gift from you to your Church and favorite charities.

Here are a few frequently asked questions and answers about leaving a gift through a Will.

If I don't have a Will can I leave a gift after my death? Without a Will, you lose control over your property, assets, finances, etc. Your estate is settled according to state laws, whether or not it is in accordance with your wishes or your family's.

Must I have an estate in order to leave a gift? An estate is simply a word used to describe any property, money or personal belongings that you may have at the time of your death. Most people leave an estate when they die, even though they may not have a great deal of wealth.

How do I leave a gift to the Diocese, my parish or other institutions or programs I support now?

You can arrange for a gift several ways, the most common being through a Will. Many people set aside a certain dollar amount. Others leave a percentage of their estate, or assets left over after their family has been provided for.

Some give something specific such as a car or their home. Others leave a paid-up life insurance policy or other financial investments and some use planned gifts,

such as Charitable Gift Annuities.

Who can help me arrange for a gift? If you are working with a lawyer, accountant or insurance agent, talk with them about leaving a gift. If you do not have a relationship with a professional, ask a friend or relative for their recommendation.

Let this information be a boost to your Will power and move you to action. Call your attorney and make an appointment.

Call Janice Shoen at (315)393-2920 or Email development@dioogdensburg.org and let us know your intentions. We are *Willing* and we have the *Will* power to help you obtain your *Will*.

Rest in Peace

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

Aug. 17 – Rev. Joseph Winfrid Vinet, 1907

Aug. 18 – Rev. Leono Proulx, O.M.I., 1979

Aug. 19 – Rev. J. N. Emery, O.M.I., 1933; Rev. Richard A. Maher, O.S.A., 1959

Aug. 20 – Rev. J. McCarthy, O.S.A., 1931; Msgr. Griffith J. Billmeyer, 1988

Aug. 21 – Rev. John J. Waters, 1921; Rev. Albert G. Salmon, 1997

Aug. 22 – Rev. James W. M. Rensing, 1936

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Aug. 17 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 5:00 p.m., Essex Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Patrick's Parish Ctr. in Port Henry.

Aug. 18 – 5 p.m., Franklin Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Lucia's Café in Malone.

Aug. 19 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Aug. 20 – 4:30 p.m., Mass at Family Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

Aug. 21 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Aug. 22 – 5 p.m., Jefferson Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at Sboros Restaurant in Watertown.

Aug. 23 – 10:30 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 5 p.m., St. Lawrence Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

Aug. 24 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 5p.m., St. Lawrence Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at the Bishop's Residence

Protecting God's Children

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

Sept. 1 – 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

Sept. 13 – 6 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

Sept. 15 – 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's. Port Henry

Sept. 24 – 8:30 a.m., IHC Intermediate School, Watertown



SCENES FROM THE PARISH IN WEST CHAZY

SUNDAY AT ST. JOSEPH'S

A typical summer Sunday in Clinton County



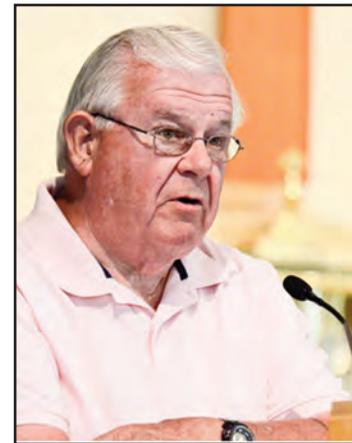
Altar servers Troy Bulris, Jimmy Styles and Katie Bulris lead the opening procession, followed by seminarian Nicholas Newtown and Father McGuinness.



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK
This summer, St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy was blessed with the service of diocesan seminarian Nicholas Newtown, a native of Brasher Falls.



Father J. Roger McGuinness has served as pastor of St. Joseph's since 2006. Above, he accepts the offertory gifts from Andrew and Matthew St. Hilaire during the 10 a.m. Mass on July 3.



Robert Peacock served as lector for the liturgy.



Father McGuinness is shown with Susan Peryer, the retired organist at St. Joseph's.



The St. Joseph's Parish choir members include, from left, Christopher Fisher, Maxine Ghrist, Phyllis Parker, Anna Fisher, Paul Senecal and Bess Senecal.



Maegan Bull and Alexandra (Ali) Corneau pose with their pastor. St. Joseph's Church was incorporated in 1883; the first church was dedicated May 10, 1884, by Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams and the current church was dedicated March 12, 1962, by Bishop James J. Navagh. Today, 680 families belong to the parish.

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Rites held for Archbishop Spence of Kingston, Ont.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO (CNS) - A Mass of Christian for Archbishop Francis J. Spence, 85, who led the Diocese of Kingston for 20 years until his retirement in 2002, was held Aug. 3 at

St. Mary's Cathedral. He died July 27.

A former president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Spence served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a board member for Wadhams Hall Seminary College.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1950, Archbishop Spence attended all sessions of the Second Vatican Council from 1962 to 1965, acting as a theological assistant to Archbishop Joseph A. O'Sullivan of Kingston.

After ordination, he studied in Rome, receiving a doctorate in canon law.

His work with the archdiocese led to his appointment as bishop in 1967 at the age of 40. He served as auxiliary bishop of the Military Vicariate of Canada until 1982. Three years into his appointment, Archbishop Spence was named bishop of the Diocese of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, filling both positions concurrently.

In Charlottetown, officials remembered the archbishop for implementing the vision of the Second Vatican Council in the areas of liturgy,

family life, youth ministry, social action, religious education, ecumenism and canon law. He also presided during the diocese's 150th anniversary in 1979.

Archbishop served on board of Wadhams Hall Seminary-College

In 1982, Archbishop Spence returned to his home diocese after being appointed archbishop by Pope John Paul II. He also returned to the Military Vicariate of Canada, being appointed as its head. His work with the vicariate took him to military bases in Canada and throughout Europe where Canadian troops served.

While serving in Kingston, Archbishop Spence joined various commissions and committees of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Widely known among his colleagues, he subsequently was elected conference president, serving from 1995 to 1997.

In retirement, he visited parishes in the Kingston Archdiocese, celebrating Mass and filling in for vacationing priests.

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SUMMER IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

FACES OF FAITH



Bishop Terry R. LaValley accepts a jacket with his coat of arms embroidered on the front and his motto "Follow Me" on the back. Champlain Knights of Columbus Council 3535 Grand Knight Chris Trombley presented the jacket at the July 16 "Kick-Off Dinner" for the 63rd annual Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont. The Champlain Council has hosted the dinner for the past several years. Bishop LaValley presided at the pilgrimage Mass and attended an afternoon picnic with the knights and their families.



Bishop LaValley recently celebrated a special Founder's Day Mass, held at Lighthouse Point in Ogdensburg during Fort La Presentation's annual Founder's Day Weekend in July. Many re-enactors from throughout North America and parishioners from the Diocese of Ogdensburg attended the Mass.



Father Joseph Giroux, pastor of Malone Catholic Parishes presents Holy Family School's Bishop's Award to Michaela Sprague, daughter of Marc and Josie Sprague. Each year the Department of Education of the Diocese of Ogdensburg honors an outstanding student from each school with this award.



St. Philip Neri Catholic Community of Westport recently completed a project to restore stained glass windows. The project began with a fund-raising campaign. Following its success, the windows were removed and crated (to be taken to Minnesota) for repairs. After several months of artistic work by specialists, the windows were returned and reset. Above, Msgr. Peter R. Riani leads a special service to "re-bless" the windows to conclude the project. He was assisted by Jack Hanby.



Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Rachel's Vineyard Team who took part in the 2011 Training Conference are pictured with Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life and Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard. Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life. Pictured, back, from left, are Father Pavone, Colleen and John Miner, diocesan respect life directors and retreat coordinators; Dale Barr, regional director of Silent No More Ministry for Cornwall, Ont., and Dr. Burke. In front are Sandy Izzo and Sister Rita Mawn, retreat facilitator. The next after-abortion healing retreat will be held Labor Day Weekend Sept 2-4 with Father Bryan Stitt serving as the chaplain. Registration may be made through pastors or the Respect Life Office at 518-891-2309.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Christian groups weigh in on debt crisis

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- After President Barack Obama signed the Budget Control Act Aug. 2 to raise the nation's debt ceiling, a collective sigh of tentative relief was immediately followed by plenty of speculation and analysis of what the country should do next.

The Circle of Protection, a faith-based group which includes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been urging Washington's lawmakers not to cut funding for programs for the poor

Although much of the discussion relied on the opinions of economists and politicians, religious groups bypassed the usual pundits to consider how Jesus would react to the country's financial fiasco.

And apparently he could have differing takes on ways to solve the debt crisis, according to two different Christian groups.

The Circle of Protection, a faith-based group which includes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been urging Washington's lawmakers not to cut funding for programs for the poor and couches its members' concerns with the question: "What would Jesus cut?"

Another faith-based group, Christians for a Sustainable Economy, has argued that federally run programs for the poor do not always provide the best solution and are urging the government to put more focus on financial stewardship and economic responsibility.

In a letter to President Obama, the group said the Circle of Protection doesn't "speak for all Christians." Its members raised their own question about the most Christian way to respond to the debt crisis, asking: "Whom would Jesus indent?" and pointing out the "the good Samaritan did not use a government credit card."

The arguments of both groups have merit, according to Patrick Clark, an assistant professor of theology at Jesuit-run University of Scranton, Pa. Clark posted an Aug. 8 blog entry on the opposing Christian responses to the economic crisis on <http://catholicmoraltheology.com> -- a site which posts comments from North American Catholic moral theologians.

He called the Circle of Protection's approach "more urgent," though, saying public spending on poverty and global health programs is "a sliver of discretionary spending and essentially irrelevant to America's long-term debt."

Clark also noted that an argument in the budget talks about "shared sacrifice" focuses mainly on cuts in discretionary spending and "requires disproportionate sacrifices of the most vulnerable."

"If religious people do not make this case," he said, "it is difficult to determine what distinctive message they offer."



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Volunteers serve food cooked by nuns and other volunteers in late February in the Wednesday Soup Kitchen at St. Blase Parish in Argo Summit, Ill. A faith-based coalition called Circle of Protection, which includes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been urging the federal government to not cut funding of programs for the poor in the national budget.

John Carr, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, has been keen on making the case for those in need and has been disappointed with the government's recent solutions.

In an Aug. 3 statement, the day after the president signed the debt deal, he said the budget debate "demonstrated the partisan, ideological and dysfunctional polarization that dominates Washington."

"It wasn't pretty, and it isn't over. While the crisis of default was averted, for advocates of poor and vulnerable people, this debate was disappointing, ominous, and just a beginning," he said.

The unfinished business of trimming the U.S. budget now falls on the shoulders of a super committee -- a bipartisan congressional group of 12 -- whose number alone has an apostolic ring to it. Members of the committee, whose names were finalized Aug. 11, have until Nov. 23 to recommend \$1.5 trillion in deficit reductions during the next 10 years.

They can recommend further cuts in discretionary spending, changes to entitlement programs, including Medicare and Social Security or increases in tax revenue.

A Washington Post editorial Aug. 1 pointed out

the enormous task ahead for this then-unnamed group and said it called for "the most able legislators from each party to come together and recognize that flexibility and compromise will be essential to crafting a final agreement."

Another faith-based group, Christians for a Sustainable Economy, has argued that federally run programs for the poor do not always provide the best solution and are urging the government to put more focus on financial stewardship and economic responsibility

The ability to compromise and work together will certainly be key, especially since Congress' inability to do so influenced Standard & Poor's downgrade of the U.S. credit rating Aug. 5.

The credit ratings agency faulted the charged debt debate and inability of politicians to compromise as factors in their decision to downgrade. "The political brinkmanship of recent months highlights what we see as America's governance and policymaking becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable," it said in a statement.

Jesuit Father John Kavanaugh, a professor of philosophy at St. Louis University, wrote in the Aug. 1 issue of *America* magazine that the economic situation is "dangerous, but it need not be fatal."

He said compromise could still happen if House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Obama "muster allies within their parties who will seriously address our dangerously inequitable distribution of wealth, our illusions of endless entitlements, the diminishment of the middle class, the increasing misery of the jobless and the poor, the socialism that benefits those too big to fail, and belt-tightening for those too small to care about, and the 1,000-page morass of hidden loopholes and exemptions called a tax code."

The priest said this kind of work will take time, imagination, intellect and heart. "But most of all, it will take courage to stand up to the nasty rhetoric and nutsy intransigence that haunts our political life."

And while the budget details are fine-tuned during the next few months, interested groups will continue to weigh in on the issue.

Sister Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service who is executive director of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, said that in the upcoming weeks and months the interfaith community will be "both vigilant and active" in reminding Congress about the needs of the poor.

"We will not be silent," she said.

Carr likewise said lobbying efforts will continue through letters, visits, and action alerts stressing a "moral responsibility to put the nation's fiscal house in order, to reduce unsustainable deficits and future debt, and to do so in ways that protect human life and dignity, especially among 'the least of these.'"

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican announces indulgences for World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- To help encourage prayers for a spiritually fruitful World Youth Day in Madrid, the Vatican announced Aug. 11 that Pope Benedict XVI had authorized a special indulgence for anyone who, "with a contrite spirit," raises a "prayer to God, the Holy Spirit, so that young people are drawn to charity and given the strength to proclaim the Gospel with their life," a Vatican decree said. The decree included the offer of a plenary, or full, indulgence to all the young people who will gather with the pope in Madrid. World Youth Day runs Aug. 16-21 in the Spanish capital; the pope arrives Aug. 18. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. The conditions necessary for receiving a plenary indulgence include having recently gone to confession, receiving the Eucharist and offering prayers for the intentions of the pope. Pope Benedict decreed that World Youth Day participants can receive a plenary indulgence if they participate with prayerful devotion in any sacred event or "pious exercise" as well as attend the closing Mass, receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist and offer prayers for the pope's intentions. The decree, signed by Cardinal Fortunato Baldelli, head of the Vatican office that deals with indulgences, said a partial indulgence also is available to all Catholics who are contrite for their sins and offer their prayers with the pope for young Catholics.

Former Gov. Hugh Carey remembered as 'superb public servant'

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Former New York Gov. Hugh Carey, who died Aug. 7 at age 92, was "a superb public servant whose commitment to our nation and state was extraordinary," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany. Carey, a Catholic, "demonstrated great vision and courage in confronting the fiscal crisis in New York City in a bipartisan fashion, while at the same time protecting the needs of the most vulnerable in our Empire State: the poor, children, the mentally ill and the elderly," Bishop Hubbard said. A funeral Mass was scheduled to be celebrated for Carey Aug. 11 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. "The governor was a role model of faith, integrity and civility in a society where such is needed today so desperately," added the bishop, who is chairman of the New York State Catholic Conference's Public Policy Committee. He has headed the Albany Diocese since 1977. Carey served two terms as governor, from 1975 to 1982, and before that he served seven terms as a congressman. During his tenure Carey led the effort that brought New York City back from the brink of bankruptcy during its 1975 fiscal crisis. While he was governor, Carey was an opponent of the death penalty but a supporter of legal abortion. He later reversed his opinion on abortion and became pro-life. He told a March for Life crowd in Washington in 1990 that while in office he agreed with state money funding abortions and was unaware of the true nature of the issue.

Knights called to foster Christian unity, carry out new evangelization

By Julie Filby
Catholic News Service

DENVER (CNS) - The archbishop of Quebec told members of the Knights of Columbus gathered in Denver for their convention he hoped they would be transformed, just as the first disciples had been transformed at the Transfiguration.

"The Gospel reminds us that 'Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain ... and he was transfigured before them,'" said Archbishop Gerald Cyprian Lacroix, quoting from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

"This year the Lord has led us up a high mountain to the Mile High City -- Denver, Colorado -- for a very special experience; hopefully a transfiguring experience," he said.

Archbishop Lacroix, who also is the primate of Canada, was one of three speakers at the Knights' States Dinner Aug. 2. The others were Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico, and U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, who is prefect of the Apostolic Signature, the Vatican's supreme tribunal.

The States Dinner drew about 2,500 Knights at the Colorado Convention Center the evening of the 129th Supreme Convention's opening day.

To kick off the event, dozens of cardinals, archbishops, bishops and dignitaries processed in, carrying colorful state and country flags, led by a Mardi Gras-flavored band. Delegates and their wives, in formal attire, waved flags and cheered as they welcomed the processors into the banquet hall.

In his remarks, Cardinal

Sandoval encouraged Knights to familiarize themselves with "Ecclesia in America," Blessed John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America.

Annual K of C Supreme Convention brings 2500 Knights to Denver

"The letter ... is a document that sheds light on the reality of our America," he said. "It proposes solutions based on the Scriptures and sets lofty and noble goals for our apostolic work."

Of the ideas discussed in the document, he said the most prominent is unity.

"Blessed John Paul II possessed a deep intuition about the continent's unity, a unity that serves as both a point of departure and a goal for our pastoral actions," he said. "Between Catholics and members of other Christian faiths, we make up the majority of the inhabitants of the hemisphere."

"Our common problems, which are many and serious, must be confronted based on our identity and faith in Christ," he said.

Cardinal Burke, a "brother Knight" for 36 years, delivered the keynote address, in which he spoke on the life and witness of Blessed John Paul and the significance of the new evangelization the late pontiff promoted.

"Before the daunting challenge of living the Catholic faith in a totally secularized society, he (Pope John Paul) called the whole church to the work of the new evangelization -- to the work of teaching, celebrating and living our Catholic faith with the engagement and energy of the first Christians and of the first missionaries to our nations," he said.

Cardinal Burke explained that teaching the truth of conscience must be one of the church's priorities in today's society.

"In a culture bombarded with the noises and false images of secularization," he said, "the church, out of love of all our brothers and sisters, that is for the sake of the common good, must make the voice of conscience 'audible and intelligible once more for people.'"

He also addressed evangelization through participation in public life.

"In many so-called advanced nations, we witness an increasing tendency to deny to citizens the most fundamental right: the right to observe the dictates of one's conscience, formed through right reason and the teaching of the church," he said. "When reason is not purified by faith in the political realm, the powerful and influential of the time exercise a tyranny which violates the fundamental rights of the very people whom political leaders are called to serve."

The cardinal urged the members of the Knights to remain steadfast in their witness "even in the face of indifference and hostility."

In other action during the Aug. 2-4 convention, delegates passed several resolutions to, among other things, honor Blessed John Paul and support religious liberty, the institution of marriage, the armed forces and Catholic education.

The Knights also reaffirmed their commitment to building a culture of life by fighting abortion and helping pregnant women in need; promoting policies that favor the family; calling for laws that protect the conscience of all medical personnel; and upholding the church's opposition to the death penalty.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The keys for unlocking the gates of heaven

Visiting dignitaries are often given an honorary "Key to the city" by the mayor.

On the practical level, to be given a key by an employer implies their trust that we will use that key responsibly.

In the first reading, God takes the Key of David away from Shebna, the master of the palace of King Hezekiah, and gives it to a worthier man, Eliakim,

Shebna had really "messed up" - he had torn down houses of the poor for material for the city walls, and he had arrogantly built himself a showy tomb for all to admire!

So God took away his sign of power and authority, his Key.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Isn't it interesting that Jesus, in the Gospel, is also concerned about the Keys to the kingdom - and gives them to Peter, the Rock.

At the same time, He makes Peter the head of his "Church" (the only time this word is used in the New Testament), an assembly so strong that Hell itself will not be able to destroy it.

With that Key, Peter and his successors, will have the power to lock and unlock the gates of heaven.

Many bishops and priests through the centuries will use those keys, even though they are weak and fragile themselves. Many have failed in the responsible use

of those keys.

Christ foresaw all of this when he first entrusted the keys to Peter!

But the power and responsibility are shared in a real sense with all the baptized.

To us also have been given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. With those keys we may unlock the doors of forgiveness through choosing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation; with those keys we can unlock the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, given us at Confirmation, and to us have been given the keys to the source and summit of grace, strength, and happiness, the Holy Eucharist.

With those keys we can unlock the doors of hearts that others may be nourished with God's love and truth. What power lies behind those keys!

AUG. 21

21st Sunday of the Year

READINGS

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

What if we abuse the privilege? What then?

Some time ago, a teenager I knew, failed to show up at his parents' home at the appointed time. He, not thinking of the worry he was causing, was still at his buddy's place. To his dismay, he saw his mother appear. Without a word, she took his car keys away from him. (I never did hear how he made it back home).

How embarrassing for that young man, although he was merely thoughtless,

and felt he was doing the right thing by spending time with his friend.

Even though we may be merely thoughtless in our neglect of the Sacraments and of so many opportunities to share the treasure of our faith with others, we are taking a huge risk of losing those keys.

Isn't it possible that God could take those Keys away from us, like He did to Shebna, and give them to others who would use them responsibly?

Life is so short!

Thank you, God, for entrusting to me the keys to eternal life. Let me never through carelessness or sin, risk their being taken from me! Help me to responsibly use the power, share the treasures, and respect the authority of those Keys always.

RESPECT LIFE

Remembering the angels missing from our midst

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

In the final frenzied days of the 2011 New York State Session, a little-noticed bill passed both houses of the Legislature.

The bill would allow our state to issue a "certificate of still birth" to parents who have lost a child through stillbirth. More than 30 states now allow such certificates, official documents telling grieving families that the state acknowledges the birth and death of their loved one.

Governor Cuomo should sign the bill into law. It has taken far too long for the measure to reach the governor's desk.

For more than 8 years this legislation languished in Albany, mired in the twisted protestations and propaganda of abortion advocates. They feared the bill

might (God forbid) confer "personhood" onto the fetus. Previous versions of the legislation spoke of the "stillborn child" and the bill was called the "Missing Angels Act." All of that is gone now, having fallen victim to the verbal gymnastics of "pro-choice" ideologues.

In commenting to the media about a 'politically corrected' version of the bill, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried stated, "I am quite confident that this bill does not in any way even come close to treating a fetus as a person."

That's an ironic thing to say, and likely offensive to parents who have lost a child to stillbirth, because that is precisely what they are seeking: official recognition of their child, their person, their "missing angel."

Mothers who lose a child to stillbirth desire recognition of their child and acknowledgment of themselves as "mothers."

Losing a child - whether unborn, stillborn or live born - is undoubtedly the most painful and traumatic event that a parent can endure. Imagine the anticipation and excitement that expectant parents feel in particular: readying the nursery, picking out names, planning the future. And then the devastation hits: their baby is not alive.

The delivery must still occur, the cord must be cut, the funeral planned and the heartache begun.

A certificate of still birth is not a panacea for the pain, but it certainly can help in the grieving and healing. It acknowledges the existence of an infant, and a mother's love, sacrifice, and anguish.

Two years ago I was contacted by an Army mom at Fort Drum whose youngest daughter, Claudia, was born

still. Because this baby had been born in another state, this mother had received a certificate of still birth, and just seeing Claudia's name typed on the document, she said, meant the world to her.

It's estimated that every year between 25,000 and 30,000 American women experience pregnancy and the pain of childbirth, only to exit the hospital without a live born child.

The MISS Foundation and the National Stillbirth Society were formed to raise awareness about stillbirths and to advocate for these stillbirth certificate laws. The Society's tagline is "... because all our children matter."

Ain't that the truth. "Stillbirth" is defined in New York's bill as "the unintended intrauterine death of

a fetus that occurs after the clinical estimate of the 20th week of gestation."

I find the 20 week demarcation to be quite random. What about babies who die of natural causes at 19 weeks of gestation? Don't those children matter?

What about my baby who died at 13 weeks in utero?

Doesn't he matter?

New York's policies are ridiculously haphazard and grossly inconsistent regarding the status of infants in the womb.

Our health insurance programs, like Child Health Plus, count pregnant women as "two" family members in determining eligibility, and permit funds to be used for prenatal care, vitamins and meeting other life-affirming needs of unborn children. But the funds can also be used for abortions, to terminate the lives of the very same human organisms.

Liquor stores in New York

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Kathleen
Gallagher

AT THE MOVIES

THE HELP

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Though unlikely to be popular with the more senior members of the Junior League of Jackson, Miss., the warm, deftly acted drama "The Help" (Disney) seems destined to win hearts in many other quarters.

That's because writer-director Tate Taylor's adaptation of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel uses vivid characterizations to bring the Civil Rights-era struggle for human dignity alive.

A harsh scatological plot development, however, marks the film as off-limits for younger viewers -- who might otherwise benefit from its generally uplifting story -- and will even be off-putting for many adults.

Fresh from her studies at Ole Miss, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan (Emma Stone) returns home to Jackson in the early 1960s with her head full of rebellious notions. Instead of finding herself a husband, as her good-hearted but traditionally minded mother, Charlotte (Allison Janney), would prefer, Skeeter wants to be a journalist.

As for the wildly racist thinking that prevails among her privileged peers

-- personified most viciously by Junior League leader Hilly (Bryce Dallas Howard) -- Skeeter has no patience for it. Neglected by Charlotte, Skeeter was nurtured instead by her family's black housemaid, Constantine (Cicely Tyson in a brief but wonderful performance), for whom Skeeter retains a deep affection.

Securing a job as the household hints columnist for a local paper, Skeeter turns to another servant, Aibileen (Viola Davis), for advice on the subject. But Aibileen's help with cleaning tips soon becomes a pretext for Skeeter's secret and potentially dangerous scheme to write a book documenting the lives of Jackson's African-American domestics.

Though initially reluctant to cooperate, Aibileen decides to take the risk based on a sermon she hears in church. Eventually Skeeter also manages to win the confidence of Aibileen's sassy best friend Minnie (Octavia Spencer), whose anecdotes include the off-color tale of how she took revenge on Hilly for firing her.

Since Hilly is leading a crusade to establish separate bathrooms for the city's maids, so they won't spread disease to the white popula-



CNS PHOTO/DREAMWORKS

Jessica Chastain and Octavia Spencer star in a scene from the movie "The Help".

tion by using their employees' facilities, Minnie's manner of wreaking vengeance is apt. But, as portrayed in a fairly lengthy scene, and as repeatedly referred back to, the incident is also profoundly distasteful.

The dynamic created by Skeeter's perkiness, Aibileen's mournful warmth and Minnie's irrepressible sauciness keeps the pace unflagging while the proceedings are further en-

riched by supporting performances from Jessica Chastain as a kooky but kindly social outcast and Sissy Spacek as Hilly's Alzheimer's-beset, but still spirited mom.

Dramatizing the stupidity of prejudice and the expansive possibilities open to those who overcome it, "The Help" is a richly humanistic tale mature viewers will welcome.

The film contains a

graphic scatological theme, brief violence and medical gore, veiled sexual references, a half-dozen uses each of profanity and crude language and a few racial slurs.

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.

Remembering

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

face penalties if they fail to post signs warning pregnant women that alcohol can cause serious birth defects in their growing children. But abusers who violently attack pregnant women face absolutely no penalties for the injuries or demise of the preborn child.

Or consider New York's tort law: If a pregnant woman is in a car accident and her unborn child is injured, that child can recover

damages for the prenatal injuries later in life. But if the prenatal injuries are so severe as to cause the death of the child, that family cannot recover damages for the loss of their loved one.

I am hopeful that both common sense and advances in medical technology will eventually challenge and erase such arbitrary distinctions and contradictions in our law.

The bottom line is this: a child is a child is a child is a

child, and "all our children matter." The continuum of human development begins in the womb. That's a fact of life.

It's not a perfect bill, and it's been watered down considerably with the Newspeak of abortion extremists, but the stillbirth certificate is a law whose time has come. The Governor should sign the bill into law; it's the humane, compassionate, and correct thing to do.

Visit our re-designed website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.ORG

CLINTON

REDFORD PICNIC

Redford – The 156 Annual Redford Picnic is to be held.

Date: Aug. 21

Place: Grounds of the Church of the Assumption Parish Center

Schedule: Events start at 11:30 beginning with "Back Porch Band" until 1:30; "Roy Hurd" from 2 p.m. to 4 followed by "Too Big For the Corner Band" from 4:15 p.m. to 6:15. Drawing for the \$5000 cash prize will be at 6:15 p.m.

Features: Ham and Roast Beef dinners Games, Fancy Booth and rides on one of the oldest merry-go-rounds in North America. There will also be a rummage sale starting at noon and numerous other events. Free admission to the grounds and plenty of free parking.

BINGO'S BACK

Champlain – BINGO is returning to St. Mary's Parish.

Date: Beginning Sept. 12 and the first Monday of the month thereafter.

Place: St. Mary's Academy
Time: 6:45 p.m. with 50/50 Early Bird (doors open at 5:15)

Features: No game under \$100 + \$1000 Jackpot. Full concession and pull tabs. Proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Parish.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's Holy Family Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Theme: "Ask the Virgin Mary constantly to come to you with her glorious Son. Be bold. Ask her to give you her Son, Who in the Blessed Sacrament is truly the Food of your soul." (St. Cajetan)

Contact: For more information about spending a special hour with Jesus weekly, or becoming a substitute, please call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

Date: Every Sunday

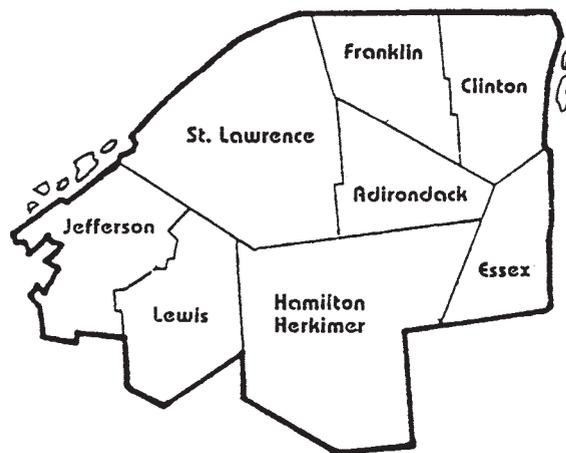
Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church.

ESSEX

LAWN CHAIR CONCERT

Essex – A lawn chair concert will be held at St. Joseph's.



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

Date: Aug. 26

Time: 7 a.m. to 9

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 10, \$3; \$1 beverages and \$2 ice creams

Features: A variety of music by the Wyant Band. Proceeds to benefit the Catholic Faith Community of Willsboro and Essex.

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Crown Point – Sacred Heart Parish will have its annual Chicken Barbeque.

Date: Aug. 28

Time: Noon

Cost: \$8 per dinner

Features: Take-outs are available. There will be a cash raffle drawing at the end of the day.

FRANKLIN

MARYKNOLL ANNIVERSARY

Malone – In honor of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers 100 years of missionary service to the world, a special Mass and reception will be held at Notre Dame Church, home parish of Maryknoll Brother Wayne Fitzpatrick.

Date: Aug. 28

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Contact: RSVP to PBork@Maryknoll.org or to Maryknoll Buffalo Mission House, 73 Adam St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

JEFFERSON

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Watertown – The Knights of Columbus will have their 6th annual Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser.

Date: Aug. 27

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church Parking Lot

Cost: Full Meal, \$8; Half Chicken, \$5

FREE SUMMER CONCERT

Alexandria Bay – St. Cyril's is holding its third annual free summer concert.

Date: Aug. 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Features: Selections include spirituals, contemporary religious and patriotic music

Contact: Becky Rose, 315-788-8419; email becky.a.rose@gmail.com

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Watertown – The Knights of Columbus will have their 6th annual Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser.

Date: Aug. 27

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church Parking Lot

Cost: Full Meal, \$8; Half Chicken, \$5

PARKINSON GROUP

Chaumont – The Parkinson Group meets every Tuesday at 11 a.m. at All Saints for exercise and lunch. All are welcome.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Harrisville – A pancake breakfast will be held at St. Francis Solanus Church.

Date: Sept. 4

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 10:30

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$5; Under 5, Free

ST. LAWRENCE

FIELD DAY AND CHICKEN BAR B-Q

Brasher Falls – K of C Annual Field and Chicken Bar B-Q to be held.

Date: Aug. 21

Schedule: 9 a.m. Old Timers Softball Tournament; 11 a.m. Chicken Bar B-Q begins; Noon Skilo; 1p.m. Lawn Mower Races

Features: Concession Stand, Raffles, Food Sale, Plant Sale and games all day long. Bring the family to a day of fun and relaxation. Chicken dinner take-outs available by calling 315-389-5492
Chicken Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$5; Under 5, Free

CHICKEN BBQ & CORN FESTIVAL

Massena – The Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence will be holding a Chicken BBQ and Corn Festival.

Date: Aug. 21

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Louisville Arena

Cost: Meal Price, \$8; Children 5-1, \$4; Under 5, Free

Features: Entertainment by "Blue Clover"

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

Place: St. Mary's Church.

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

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.

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SERRA CLUB PILGRIMAGE

Lake Placid – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will lead a Fall pilgrimage to St. Agnes' Church. The trip is sponsored by the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office of Ogdensburg.

Date: Oct. 4

Schedule: Bishop LaValley will celebrate the Mass at 11 a.m. A buffet luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel will follow Mass and a Holy Hour at 2:30 p.m. will end the pilgrimage.

Features: Bus pick-ups will be in Watertown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Plattsburgh. The cost for the pilgrimage including bus travel is \$90 per person.

For pilgrims arranging other transportation, the cost is \$50 per person. Registration forms available in all parishes

Contact: For further information, contact John or Sondra Castle at (315) 265-3578.

2012 LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Father Donald Robinson, pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown, will be leading a pilgrimage to scenic Europe, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Date: March 19-29

Cost: \$2189 (includes airfare, accommodations and most meals)

Contact: Cal Father Robinson at 315-782-1190 for brochure

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Amsterdam, NY – Father Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R. to direct a Day of Recollection. Date: Sept. 10

Place: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Amsterdam

Schedule: 8 a.m. Confessions; 9 a.m.

"The Importance of Fatima Today"; 10:15 a.m. Holy Rosary; 11 A.m. Mass; 12:15 p.m. Lunch; 1:15 p.m. "Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and the call to New Evangelization"; 2:30 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy; 3 p.m. "Guidance on the Journey of Prayer from St. Teresa of Avila"; 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

Contact: Cindy Kuzia at 518-725-3532 or e-mail ckuzia@nycap.rr.com for cost and information.



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

Gratitude to religious educators

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

I'm reminded of how educators of religion have joined with parents to sustain the commitment of bringing to the world the uplifting message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Religious educators have been leaders in helping the youth here at home to reach out in prayer and generosity to the suffering in our country and in the third world countries.

The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) offers young Catholics an opportunity to grow in faith through mission education, sacrifice and service for others.

A Pontifical Mission Society, HCA focuses entirely on "children helping children" throughout the world. HCA's young members have participated in our apostolic mission for almost 170 years!

For the 2011-2012 school year, HCA's educational materials will focus on the theme, "We Must Love Each Other" (1 John 4:7).

Children may also visit this site by visiting ww.hcakids.org to learn more about the Holy Childhood Association and read stories about the children they help. Let us pray for each other in our missionary efforts. The missionary work of the church depends on each one of us.

God Bless!



Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Altona — Vernon James Taylor, 89; Funeral Services Aug. 9, 2011 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in Holy Angel's Cemetery.

Canton — Robert J. Foster, 68; Funeral Services July 30, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton — Daniel Livingston "Captain Dan" Garnsey Jr., 68; Funeral Services July 30, 2011 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Croghan — Kenneth E. Everard, 80; Funeral Services Aug. 8, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Ellenburg — Beatrice (LaClair) Dumas, 94; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at St. Edmund's Church; burial parish cemetery.

Gouverneur — Keith A. Neuroth, 66; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2011 at Green Funeral Home.

Harrisville — Daniel James Baker, 60; Funeral Services Aug. 8, 2011 at Adirondack Funeral Home.

Hogansburg — Martha (Herne) Terrance, 78; Funeral Services July 30, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Lowville — Brenda A. Guignard McCue Buholtz, 58; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville — Helen M. (McCarthy) Ferguson, 95; Funeral Services Aug. 3, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville — Robert L. Terry, 77; Funeral Services Aug. 4, 2011 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Malone — Kenneth A. Dumas, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery, Burke.

Malone — Katherine Julia Cooper Johnson, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena — Kenneth A. Bourdon, 94; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers — Marie A. (Trombley) Guay, 50; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville — Lloyd G. Lapham, 86; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk — George J. Harris, 80; Funeral Services July 30, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Mort Backus, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 12, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Campbell Cemetery.

Peru — James LaFountain, 75; Funeral Services Aug. 9, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru — Daniel Ryan, 81; Funeral Services Aug. 13, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Mary Rita (Gadway) Downs, 75; Funeral Services Aug. 1, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Lyon Mountain.

Plattsburgh — Agnes M. (Dashnaw) Macey, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Paul T. "Beaver" Mayette, 57; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — John D. Scully, 84; Funeral Services July 29, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Leyden — Amos J. Lesperance, 81; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2011 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Alfred M. Hebert, 81; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Champlain.

Rouses Point — Graham N. "Red" Wilder Jr., 82; Funeral Services Aug. 8, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Champlain.

Sackets Harbor — Shirley J. Dona Sturtevant, 73; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2011 at St. Andrews Church.

Watertown — Oneita M. (Carpenter) Derigo, 91; Funeral Services Aug. 1, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Ann M. (Dupee) Elliott, 47; Funeral Services July 29, 2011 at Cummings Funeral Services, Inc.

Watertown — Earline F. (Reed) Jeffers, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown — Alfred "Kermit" LaFontaine, 86; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2011 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Thomas Bannon Phillips, 63; Funeral Services July 29, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Massena.

Watertown — Edward M. Shaughnessy, 86; Funeral Aug. 1, 2011 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

Watertown — Loretta M.T. Stevens, 88; Funeral Services Aug. 5, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Watertown — Linda June Hayes-Valentine, 58; Funeral Services Aug. 6, 2011 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Wilmington — Dr. Ernest V. Orsi, 88; Funeral Services Aug. 4, 2011 at St. Margaret's Church; burial in Ascension Cemetery, Airmont.

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Bishop Terry LaValley
Invites You on a

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

March 12-23, 2012 - 12 Days

\$3799 from Montreal

(\$100 off if your reserve
by Oct. 1, 2011)

Dear Friends,

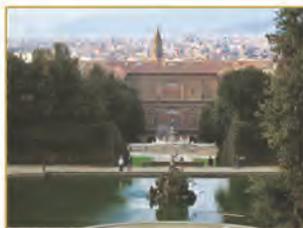
Perhaps no part of the world is closer to every Catholic's heart than Italy, home of Our Holy Father, magnificent basilicas and sacred treasures.



I would like to invite you to join me in a journey of a lifetime: a 12-day pilgrimage that will bring us to Venice, Florence, Sorrento, Siena, Assisi, Capri, Pompeii and Rome.

While at the Vatican, we will take part in an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, visit the Sistine Chapel and see all the sites of the Eternal City. The pilgrimage promises to be a time for prayer and growth in our faith as we explore the treasures of the Catholic Church in Italy.

God bless you,
Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Call 315-608-7556 or visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org for more information

SUMMERTIME SCENES



Bishop LaValley was a special guest at the fifth annual parish picnic held by St. Mary's Parish in Ticonderoga July 31. Earlier in the day, the bishop had presided at the installation of Father Kevin McEwan as pastor in Ticonderoga and Crown Point.



Mary Arrigo, Sherry Farr, Regina Brown and Kayla Secore serve up strawberry shortcake and ice cream at the June 18 strawberry social at St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden. The crowd enjoyed entertainment by the Adirondack Community Chorus and a cake walk in addition to the strawberry treats.



The students from Lisbon Central Marching Band came to St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg Aug. 2 and performed their music and marching routines for the residents.