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New pro-life monument is on display in Tupper Lake | PAGE 4

Prospect for the new year in Vatican news | PAGE 8

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 1, 2014

## A time to feel God's closeness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Celebrating the first Christmas since his election, Pope Francis preached the goodness and tenderness of God and prayed that people around the world would allow God's grace to transform them into peacemakers.

"Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress," the pope said Dec. 25, standing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and addressing an estimated 70,000 people in

the square below. "God is peace," the pope said. "Let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. "Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's good-

ness," Pope Francis said. "My hope is that everyone will feel God's closeness, live in his presence, love him and adore him," Pope Francis said before delivering his Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world). FULL STORY, PAGE 7

### MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

#### Bishop reflects on Solemnity



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING "Our Lady With the Holy Child" is the title of this 15th-century fresco from the Basilica of St. Mary in Trastevere in Rome. The painting is by an anonymous artist. For this week's Follow Me column, Bishop LaValley shares his homily for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Jan. 1. "What do we mean when we call Mary, the Mother of God?" he asked. "First of all, we are saying the mind-boggling truth that God has a mother."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

### Ecumenical service to be held Jan. 12

**Week of Prayer For Christian Unity**

"HAS CHRIST BEEN DIVIDED?"  
1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Ecumenical Service  
St. Bernard's Church  
Saranac Lake  
Sunday, January 12, 2014  
2:00 p.m.

ECUMENISM  
from ancient Greek OIKOUMENIKOS:  
"the people of the whole earth who live in a common house"

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

### Looking back at 2013

The past year was marked by numerous events observing the Year of Faith, special anniversaries, awards  
FULL STORY, PAGE 2

### FIRST CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS Pope Francis waves as he delivers his Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25. Full story, page 7.

**MESSAGE OF THANKS:** For support of Retired Religious collection.... p. 12

NORTH  
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## EDITOR'S NOTES

## Year of faith, of hope, of love

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

For Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, some of the excitement of 2013 could have been predicted. After all, our observance of the Year of Faith was well underway and events and special opportunities were already on the diocesan calendar.

But the biggest news of the year – the resignation of a pope and election of a new one – wasn't on anybody's list of prognostications last December.

All eyes have been on the Vatican since Pope Benedict's

shocking announcement last February.

And Pope Francis? He turned out to be the biggest newsmaker of the year in nearly everybody's eyes.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## Year of Faith

Back in the North Country, we Catholics spent the last 12 months enriching our faith through prayer, fellowship and learning.

Noteworthy events in the Year of Faith included a diocesan celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi, a video contest for youth and

Beauty of Belief, a celebration of faith in music and art.

The highlight of the year had a Vatican connection when the papal nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Vigano, came to Lake Placid Sept. 29 for a Year of Faith Mass. He was joined by 3000 Catholics from every part of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Year of Faith activities in recent months included a celebration of consecrated life, Nov. 4; a weekend workshop on Vatican II, Nov. 22-23 and a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Liberty, Nov. 24, the feast of Christ the King.

## Vision for the future

Concurrent with the Year of

Faith was the launching of an Envisioning Process to assess the needs of the diocese and determine priorities for the next five years.

Bishop LaValley formed an envisioning leadership team to work with him to "discern, define and proclaim a mutually shared vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg."

The 13-month process began Feb. 14 with the first meeting of the team with the Catholic Leadership Institute, a group based in Philadelphia.

Every Catholic in the diocese had the opportunity to participate in the process through listening sessions held in nine sites during May and June.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Looking back on year of many transitions

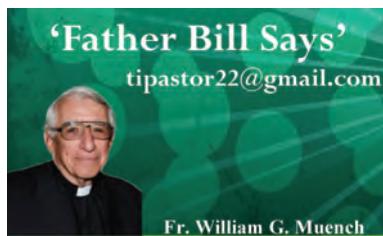
A New Year begins with memories of the past; this past year, my close friend, Father Oscar died.

I have known Father Oscar since seminary days. He was ordained for the Diocese of Harrisburg the same year that I was ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Over the years, we have kept up our friendship with frequent visits and those visits were always great fun. My friend always brought a bit of excitement. As a rule, it was usually about golf. My friend had a passion for golf. Even during his later years, when he had too many health problems, he still wanted to play with us – or just drive the golf cart and watch. This was a very special friend.

This past year brought transition within my own family – three high school graduations. Two great nephews and a great niece began their next adventure in life. It is a special moment – especially for us older folks – to see these young people move along to new opportunities.

Our Catholic Church has also gone through a grand transition this year. A Pope has re-



tired. It was rather shocking, since it doesn't ever happen. Pope Benedict XVI stepped aside and Pope Francis was elected. I can honestly say that the whole world has gotten to know Pope Francis already. This year he has touched many – Catholics, former Catholics – those of other Churches and faiths. All have found something attractive about him. Pope Francis has brought a new spirit to the Catholic Church – it is so good to be a Catholic this year.

This past week, I have noticed that the media has celebrated the past year with various programs – and Pope Francis has been right at the top of the list – as an outstanding person of 2013. I still remember that day he was elected. I know that I was surprised when he chose the name of Francis – pointing us to St. Francis of Assisi, who has

always been a favorite of mine. I couldn't believe that he before he gave his initial blessing as Pope he asked all in St. Peter's Square to pray over him. Do you remember how silent the people in the square became? I do. It certainly said to me something special is about to happen for us.

Then we experienced his simple ways – his informality – his wisdom – made clear in his homilies and writings – he even gave an extensive interview. He has chosen to be a real pastor as Pope – as priest and Bishop, he was always a real pastor. This is so clear in all that he does: the way he meets the crowds at St. Peter's during his audiences, his visits to other places, rather few so far but always filled with a compassionate love and compassionate care.

At the same time, he challenges us all – the Bishops, us, priests, and all people – all Catholics – to be a united and alive Church – reaching out to the world, doing all we can to help those in need, to be signs of God's love to the world.

We continue to discover his deep faith – and his constant challenges to us to live with a

faith like his. Recently, he challenged us priests to be better pastors, better leaders, better preachers. In addition, he challenged all Catholics to make our Church alive in the Lord – and in this way to make our world a better place.

I want to close this with a quote from Pope Francis from his visit to the World Youth day in Brazil, as he looks over our Catholic Church to reach out to others, especially those Catholics who are unhappy – "Faced with these situations, what are we to do? We need a Church unafraid of going forth into the night – we need a Church able to dialogue with those disciples who, having left Jerusalem behind, are wandering aimlessly, alone, with their own disappointment, disillusioned by a Christianity now considered barren, fruitless soil, incapable of meaning." Pope Francis will show us and lead us to bring new life to our Church. May we have the wisdom and faith to follow him.

So another year – a time of transition – and now a new year ahead for new adventures – Lord make us an alive and spirit filled Church.

## FOLLOW ME

# Celebrating Mary as the Mother of God

Homily at St. Mary's Cathedral  
for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,  
Jan. 1, 2014

As we begin this New Year by honoring Mary, the Mother of God, it is informative to take a quick inventory of other days on our new 2014 calendar set aside by the Church to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

First of all, our list recalls and renews the major events of Mary's life such as her Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8; her birthday nine months later, Sept. 8; her Presentation in the Temple in Jerusalem, Nov. 21; the Annunciation marks Mary's conception of Jesus, Mar. 25; the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, May 31; Our Lady of Sorrows commemorating Mary's presence at the crucifixion of her Son, Sept. 15; and Mary's Assumption into Heaven, Aug. 15.

In addition to these, there is a whole host of other days marked off for the special honoring of Mary throughout the year.

There is something special, however, about today's Feast of Mary, Mother of God. Today has the liturgical rank of a Solemnity. Today, therefore, is not a regular "run of the rosary" celebration but a major remembrance of Mary as the

Mother of God.

What do we mean when we call Mary, the Mother of God?

First of all, we are saying the mind-boggling truth that God has a mother. We are saying that the totally unbegotten, unborn, supreme and eternal God, who has no beginning and no end, who always was and always will be, has a mother.

This is the mystery expressed by Mary's title, "Mother of God." For we do believe that this infant lying in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem, this newborn child of Mary whom the shepherds had just found, this Jewish baby boy who was named Jesus, IS GOD! And Mary is His mother.

Arriving at the beginning of this New Year, we cannot foresee what these next twelve months will bring. But we do know this: as each month unfolds, Mary, the Mother of God, will be with us as we celebrate her various feast days. Today's Gospel, the first Good News of 2014, tells us that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

Slowly, but surely, Mary came to know and understand this Son of hers, and ultimately came to follow Him. Surely it was Mary who trained Jesus to go aside from time to time to pray, to think, to rest, to refresh Himself with the Scriptures.

As we move into this New Year, may every feast day of Mary give us the opportunity and the in-

spiration to let the love and mercy, the peace and joy of Jesus sink more deeply into our heads and our hearts. Mary is indeed the Mother of God, but she is also our mother. She wants each and one of us to become more and more like her son Jesus.

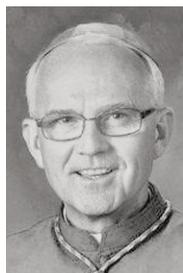
Today is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Let us, in a special way, ask our Mother, the Queen of Peace to intercede on our behalf to her Son, the Prince of Peace, as we seek renewed energy to bring peace and hope to a fractured world.

In his World Day of Peace Message, Pope Francis noted that our world is "marked by a globalization of indifference which makes us slowly inured to the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves." Globalization, he says, perhaps "makes us neighbors, but does not make us brothers [or sisters]."

With God and religion relegated more and more to the backstreets of life, we forget that we are all sons and daughters of the same Father. Therefore, no one, inside or outside the womb, is to be treated as a means to someone else's ends. All enjoy equal dignity.

Let each of us, this brand new year, resolve to be an instrument of peace by building up relationships, not remaining indifferent or unconcerned about the welfare of our sisters and brothers, no matter how near or far they may be.

May your New Year be blessed with true peace and much joy!



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Bishop LaValley is planning to release a pastoral letter about the mutually shared vision in March 2014.

### Events of 2013

As in every calendar year, Catholics of the diocese gathered for a variety of special events during the past 12 months.

January featured the Ecumenical Prayer Service in Carthage, the closing Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville and the observance of Catholic Schools Week. Also, busloads of profilers – including three buses of teenagers – traveled to Washington for the annual national March for Life.

In addition to the opening of the Envisioning Leadership process, February

events included a gathering of the Women of Grace at St. Mary's Cathedral and the Rite of Election.

Through the spring, Catholics of the diocese participated in the Public Policy Day in Albany in March, the diocesan youth rally in April and the 50th anniversary of St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru, in June.

A highlight of the year was the ordination of Father Scott Belina May 25. The new priest, a native of Wauertown, was assigned to be parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral with additional responsibility in the diocesan offices.

During June, in addition to the Corpus Christi celebration, Catholics of the diocese joined in the second Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4.

Also, Bishop LaValley

commissioned 43 lay ministers during a June 30 prayer service at the cathedral.

On July 7, St. Patrick's Church in Hogansburg closed with a final Mass after a week of events celebrating its history as the Mother Church of the diocese.

Three major events in the fall brought large numbers of Catholics together.

The Year of Faith Mass in Lake Placid was followed by the ordination of 12 permanent deacons Oct. 5 and a presentation by Catholic apologist Matthew Kelly which filled St. Mary's Cathedral Oct. 26.

Also in October, Bishop LaValley led a vocation pilgrimage to Montreal Oct. 9 for a visit to the tomb of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and the Cathedral of Montreal.

On Oct. 11, teachers of ad-

ministrators of the Catholic schools in the diocese gathered in Lake Placid for the annual Superintendent's Day.

Also, the annual diocesan Harvest Mass Was held Oct. 13 at St. James in Gouverneur.

### Anniversaries

The past year was a time for special anniversaries including the 25th anniversary of Bishop LaValley's ordination to the priesthood on Sept. 24.

Eight other priests of the diocese were honored for 55, 50, 40 and 25 years of priesthood during the annual Presbyteral Assembly held in May in Alexandria Bay.

In addition, St. Anthony's Church in Watertown celebrated its 100th anniversary

with special events during the year, including the blessing of a new Rose Window June 30.

In August, the Sisters of St. Joseph held a celebration for those celebrating jubilee years while married couples marking special anniversaries were honored at the annual Marriage Jubilee Sept. 15 at the cathedral.

Also, the Sister Adorers of the Precious Blood celebrated the 50th anniversary of their foundation in Watertown at a Nov. 17 Mass at St. Patrick's.

### Honored Catholics

Several Catholics of the diocese received special awards during 2013.

Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, was honored with

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# Community displays pro-life commitment

by Newton Greiner  
Contributing Writer

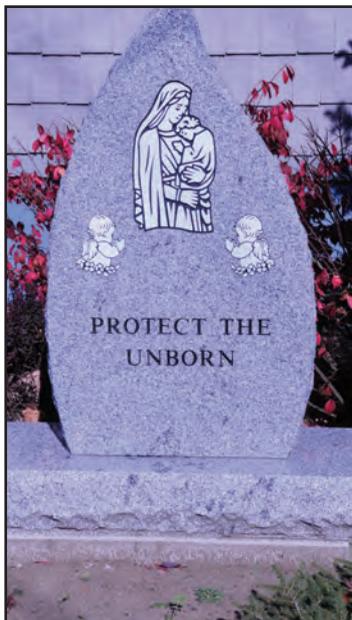
**TUPPER LAKE** - When you drive along Wawbeek Avenue and pass by the Knights of Columbus Hall in Tupper Lake you may notice a new granite monument at the corner of the building.

The gray granite monument is carved with the words *Protect the Unborn*, showing the pro-life commitment of parishioners of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name Parish.

Not everyone might agree with the anti-abortion sentiment portrayed but "whether they approve or not of the saying it is still there for the whole community to enjoy it," said Tom Arsenault of the Knights of Columbus.

The new monument was created by Plattsburgh Monuments and was purchased through negotiations with Don Sabin who procured a good financial deal for the Knights of Columbus.

The project was originally



Father Douglas A. Decker, pastor of St. Alphonsus-Holy Name Parish in Tupper Lake, blesses a new pro-life monument on the grounds of the Knights of Columbus during an Oct. 13 ceremony

started by Jeanette Keniston and Anne Gibbs who hoped to place a pro-life statue at both of the Catholic cemeteries. They got the Knights of Columbus on board and the Catholic community placed the monument on Oct. 13 following the 11 a.m. Mass.



The monument is on display at the corner of a park created by the parish on Knights of Columbus property.

It remains to be seen how permanent this can be, however, as the road construction project coming in 2015

is projected to take out at least part of that corner.

"Then we would have to move the monument up closer to the building," Mr. Arsenault said. "But for the next couple of years we'll keep it here until the road goes through."

The monument was placed in its new location by private donations including from the estate of Roger and Kay Sullivan whose daughter donated part of the proceeds for the project.

Donations also came from the Knights of Columbus and other parishioners like Don Sabin who worked closely with the monument company.

"It's something we've wanted to do, and we get a lot of compliments already on the building and the little park on the corner," he said.

The Catholic Church has always condemned abortion as a grave evil. In 1995 Pope John Paul II declared that the Church's teaching on abortion "is unchanged and unchangeable. Therefore, by the authority which Christ conferred upon Peter and his successors . . . I declare that direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an end or as a means, always constitutes a grave moral disorder, since it is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being."



## Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the Vincenza DeFazio Award by the New York State Catholic Charities directors.

The Catholic School teacher of the year for 2013

was Aimee Beidekapp, a science teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

Catholic Charities presented its annual awards during its Oct. 27 Caritas

dinner. Patricia Minter-Powell of Sackets Harbor received the Caritas Award; Tom and Mary Ann Hanley, formerly of Watertown, the President's Award, and Jordyn Margaret Mary Black of Malone, the Legacy Award.

As the year drew to a close, 14 Catholics of the diocese were honored with the *Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross from Pope Francis for distinguished service to the Church.

Bishop LaValley conferred the award Dec. 8 to Catherine Sponable, Lake Placid; Dr. John T. Middleton, Plattsburgh; Mary Ann Lepkowski, Houseville; Catherine Denny, Ogdensburg; Elizabeth Hartzell, Watertown; Mary Besio, Massena; Patricia Stabins, Watertown; Roger and Colleen Snyder, Lake Pleasant; Leo and

Theresa Giroux, Plattsburgh; Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, Ogdensburg; Joseph A. Provoncha, Schroon Lake; and James D. Carroll, Plattsburgh.

On Dec. 17, the bishop announced one more recipient of papal honors. Betty Lucia will receive the cross Jan. 5 in her home parish of Holy Angels in Altona.

### Rest in Peace

And the diocese bid a sad farewell to several clergymen who died during the past year:

Father Andrew R. Mulvaney died May 27; Father James A. Delbel, July 10; Father J. Everett Denesha, Aug. 1; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, Aug. 10; Msgr. Robert L. Lawler, Aug. 29; and Deacon Robert V. Ruddy, Oct. 29.

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

AT TRINITY



Trinity Catholic School families and friends were treated to a heartfelt Christmas play featuring many students including sixth grader Emmalyn Ellsworth, who starred as Mary. This year's production at the Massena school, "Miracle on Bethlehem Street," was directed by school music teacher, Joyce Giroux. The play featured a greedy innkeeper who had a special side to him, since he was played by identical twins, Aidan and Brendan O'Neill, who switched in the middle of the play, unbeknownst to the crowd. Even more special was the change of heart the innkeeper had after learning the true meaning of Christmas and meeting the Holy Family.

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# Week of Prayer



## For Christian Unity

**“HAS CHRIST BEEN DIVIDED?”**

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

**Ecumenical Service**  
**St. Bernard's Church**  
**Saranac Lake**  
**Sunday, January 12, 2014**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**ECUMENISM**  
 from ancient Greek OIKOUMENIKOS:  
 "the people of the whole earth who live in a  
 common house"

# Funeral held Dec. 27 for Sr. Agatha Doe, GNSH

YARDLEY, PENN., - A Mass of Christian Burial for Grey Nun Sister Agatha Doe, formerly Sister St. Agatha, was held Dec. 27 at the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Motherhouse. She died at St. Mary Medical Center, Langhorne, PA on Dec. 23 in the 75th year of her religious life.



Sister Agatha Doe, GNSH

A native of Ogdensburg, she attended St. Peter's elementary school and was a 1939 graduate of St. Mary's Academy.

She entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in September of that year.

She earned a BS in Education from D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY and a BS in Li-

brary Science from Marywood College in Scranton, PA.

From 1944 until 1981 Sister Agatha served as teacher and/or Library Media Specialist in elementary and secondary schools in Buffalo and Ogdensburg (St. Mary's Academy: 1958-66), Atlanta, GA and Philadelphia, PA.

In 1981 Sister Agatha returned again to her beloved Ogdensburg to begin her ministry in health care, serving as Patient Advocate at A. Barton Hepburn Hospital.

Retiring from that position in 1997, she volunteered at now Claxton Hepburn Med-

ical Center for ten more years. Sister Agatha moved to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Motherhouse Retirement Community in 2007, where she continued her life of prayer.

In June of 2011, failing health necessitated her move to D'Youville Manor Personal Care facility, on the Motherhouse property, where she lived until the time of her death.

She is predeceased by her parents, Henry and Alice Daniels Doe and siblings James, Charles, Rev. Vernon, Harold, Gerald, Joseph and Phyllis Doe.

In addition to her religious community, survivors include several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart 1750 Quarry Road, Yardley, PA., 19067-3998

## Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 1 – 9 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 3 – 2 p.m., Installation of the Most Rev. Salvatore Matano as the Ninth Bishop of Rochester at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester

Jan. 5 – 10:30 a.m., Mass at Church of Holy Angels in Altona

Jan. 6 – 6 p.m., Jefferson Deanery Dinner with Priests in Watertown

Jan. 7 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Father Scott Fobare has requested and Bishop LaValley has accepted his request for a leave of absence for the purpose of personal vocational discernment. The bishop has also accepted Fobare's request to resign as pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena. Father Bryan Stitt has been named as temporary administrator of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church effective immediately. In addition to his administrative role in Massena, Father Stitt will continue as Director of Vocations and of Seminarians.

## Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 1 – Rev. Earl Leo Taylor, 1974

Jan. 2 – Rev. Henry William McFadden, 1978; Deacon Robert J. LeClair, 2009

Jan. 3 – Rev. A. J. M. Viau, 1966; Rev. Hilary Neal, O.P., 1986

Jan. 4 – Rev. James Edwin O'Haire, 1877; Rev. Michael Walsh, M.S.C., 1977; Rev. Charles E. Chase, 2011

Jan. 5 – Rev. Louis Lebrecht, O.M.I., 1903; Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997

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

Jan. 7 – Rev. Leonidas Geoffrion, 1954

## Environmental Stewardship

### THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

As we begin this new year of God's grace, Pope Francis reminds us that "the vocation of being a 'protector' involves everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world."

In contemplating your New Year resolutions, consider one practice that you are willing to do that would reduce the amount of energy that you use, thus effecting the amount of resources used and pollution generated. . . i.e. notice lights left on when not needed, turn down the thermostat when out of the house, use dishwasher only when full, etc.

In addition to sharing what the voice of the Church is SAYING concerning our responsibility for environmental stewardship, we would like to share what the local diocesan Church is DOING. . . in our parishes as well as individuals.

If your parish/school/Catholic organization has adopted practices that promote a more environmental sustainable use of our resources, and you would like to share with others, please email [srbeth@cit-tele.com](mailto:srbeth@cit-tele.com). Thank you!

## 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 preregister 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, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.

Upcoming programs:  
Jan. 30- 8 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall/SUNY Potsdam, Room C-224.

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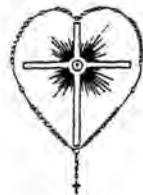
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If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrienne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [ayc-snn@yahoo.com](mailto:ayc-snn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340



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2014	St. Peter's Church			Our Lady of Victory			St. John's Church		
	Day	Date	Time	Day	Date	Time	Day	Date	Time
JAN	Sat.	1/4/2014	8:15	Thu.	1/23/2014	8:00	Fri.	1/10/2014	9:00
FEB	Sat.	2/1/2014	8:15	Thu.	2/27/2014	8:00	Mon.	2/10/2014	9:00
MAR	Sat.	3/1/2014	8:15	Thu.	3/27/2014	8:00	Tue.	3/11/2014	9:00
APR	Sat.	4/5/2014	8:15	Thu.	4/24/2014	8:00	Thu.	4/10/2014	9:00
MAY	Sat.	5/3/2014	8:15	Thu.	5/22/2014	8:00	Fri.	5/9/2014	9:00
JUN	Sat.	6/7/2014	4:00	Thu.	6/26/2014	8:00	Mon.	6/9/2014	9:00
JUL	Sat.	7/5/2014	8:15	Thu.	7/17/2014	8:00	Tue.	7/8/2014	9:00
AUG	Sat.	8/2/2014	8:15	Thu.	8/21/2014	8:00	Mon.	8/11/2014	9:00
SEPT	Sat.	9/6/2014	8:15	Thu.	9/25/2014	8:00	Wed.	9/10/2014	9:00
OCT	Sat.	10/4/2014	8:15	Thu.	10/23/2014	8:00	Fri.	10/10/2014	9:00
NOV	Sat.	11/1/2014	8:15	Thu.	11/20/2014	8:00	Tue.	11/11/2014	9:00
DEC	Sat.	12/6/2014	8:15	Thu.	12/18/2014	8:00	Wed.	12/10/2014	9:00

*Please join us in prayer for a greater reverence for all human life!*

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope's morning Masses to include parishioners from Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Ordinary members of parishes in Rome will be able to attend Pope Francis' private morning Masses in 2014. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the cardinal vicar of Rome would tell local pastors how to apply on behalf of their parishioners beginning in January, according to a Dec. 27 report by Vatican Radio. The pope celebrates Mass every morning in the Vatican guesthouse, where he lives. Excerpts from his short, off-the-cuff homilies there have attracted worldwide attention for their frank, spontaneous style and have occasionally made news with remarks on such controversial topics as the salvation of atheists and the credibility of purported Marian apparitions. Most of Pope Francis' morning congregations so far have consisted of Vatican employees. The guesthouse chapel was constructed to accommodate 120 cardinal electors and a few attendants during a papal conclave. Father Lombardi said Rome parishioners would probably be admitted in groups of 25 at a time.

## Retired Pope Benedict visits Pope Francis for lunch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Three days after Pope Francis paid his predecessor a visit on Christmas Eve, retired Pope Benedict joined the pope for lunch at the Vatican guesthouse. The two shared the meal Dec. 27 at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lives. According to a report by Vatican Radio, the pope and the retired pope were joined by their personal secretaries and by Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, and U.S. Msgr. Peter B. Wells, assessor in the Vatican Secretariat of State. Pope Francis had invited Pope Benedict to lunch Dec. 24, when the pope visited the retired pope in his residence to offer Christmas greetings. Pope Benedict lives in the former Mater Ecclesiae convent, also in Vatican City State. During the pope's visit, the two prayed briefly together and then spoke privately for about half an hour.

## Court reverses decision, orders Philly priest released from prison

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- A panel of judges for a Pennsylvania Superior Court reversed the decision on a priest's conviction in handling a clerical abuse case and ordered his release from prison. The decision, announced Dec. 26, involves Msgr. William Lynn, former secretary for clergy in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Msgr. Lynn has served 18 months of a 2012 prison sentence of three to six years after being found guilty of endangering the welfare of a child, a felony. Prosecutors had argued that the priest had reassigned abusive priests to new parishes in the Philadelphia Archdiocese in his diocesan role as clergy secretary. However, Msgr. Lynn's attorneys argued that Pennsylvania's child-endangerment law at the time applied only to parents and caregivers, not to supervisors, which was Msgr. Lynn's role. The Superior Court's 43-page opinion described Msgr. Lynn's conviction under the state's original child endangerment law of 1972 as "fundamentally flawed." It noted that the original meaning of the statute, revised in 2007, required a person who was not a parent or guardian of the endangered child to "at least be engaged in the supervision, or be responsible for the supervision" of the child. The court said the "evidence was insufficient" to demonstrate that Msgr. Lynn "acted with the intent of promoting or facilitating" child endangerment.

# Pope: Christmas is time to feel God's closeness and to experience peace

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Celebrating the first Christmas since his election, Pope Francis preached the goodness and tenderness of God, and prayed that people around the world would allow God's grace to transform them into peacemakers.

"Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress," the pope said Dec. 25, standing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and addressing an estimated 70,000 people in the square below.

"God is peace," the pope said. "Let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's goodness."

"My hope is that everyone will feel God's closeness, live in his presence, love him and adore him," Pope Francis said before delivering his Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Instead of reading Christmas greetings in more than 50 languages - from Chinese to Swahili - as his predecessors had done, Pope Francis spoke only in Italian.

As is traditional, his Christmas address included prayers and pleas for peace in war-torn and tense countries around the world, including Syria, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Israel and Palestine and Iraq, where a car bomb exploded outside a church a few hours earlier, killing a dozen people.

Looking at the Christ child, "our thoughts turn to those children who are the most vulnerable victims of wars," he said. Offering a prayer, he asked God to "look upon the

many children who are kidnapped, wounded and killed in armed conflicts, and all those who are robbed of their childhood and forced to become soldiers."

"Wars shatter and hurt so many lives," he said.

"True peace is not a balance of opposing forces," he said, and it is not "a lovely facade" simply covering conflicts and divisions. Rather, "peace calls for daily commitment -- it's homemade -- starting from God's gift, from the grace which he has given us in Jesus Christ."

Departing from his prepared text, Pope Francis asked nonbelievers who feel unable to pray to "enlarge their hearts" by ardently desiring peace.

Pope Francis also prayed for the elderly, for battered women, for the sick, for migrants and refugees, for those persecuted for their faith, for the victims of human trafficking and for the conversion of traffickers.

The pope's Christmas celebrations began in the crisp air of a cloudless winter night when he celebrated Christmas Mass Dec. 24 in St. Peter's Basilica, starting his homily with the first line from the night's reading from Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

The reading gave the pope an opportunity to combine reflections on the Christmas symbolism of light and a verb he has emphasized since his first Mass at pope: "to walk."

In his homily, the pope said that from the moment God called Abraham, believers in the one God have been a walking, pilgrim people, and through all the wandering, God has never left his people's side.

"Yet on the part of the people," he said, "there are times of both light and darkness,

fidelity and infidelity, obedience and rebellion; times of being a pilgrim people and times of being a people adrift."

In individual stories as well, "there are both bright and dark moments," the pope said. "If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us, around us."

The glad tidings of Christmas reveal that God has broken into the world with light and salvation, he said. "Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God," has entered human history and is sharing the human journey.

"Jesus is love incarnate," Pope Francis said. "He is not simply a teacher of wisdom, he is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life and history who has pitched his tent in our midst."

The biblical Christmas story tells how the shepherds were the first to hear the news of Jesus' birth and the first to run to see him. They were first, the pope said, because in social standing they were among the last. They were the ones outside town staying up all night keeping watch over the flocks. With the shepherds, he said, "let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence."

As people continue their journey through the world, even when it is dark, Pope Francis said Christmas is a reminder that they do not have to be afraid. "Our Father is patient, he loves us, he gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Epiphany - banishing darkness in the world

The theme of the Epiphany really completes the spirit of the Mass for Christmas Day. There, Isaiah had foretold that "all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God".

And the Gospel for that Mass had promised that all people would eventually be the chosen ones. "...to those who did accept Him, he gave power to become children of God".

And now, on the Epiphany, the light from the skies is intensified a hundred, a thousand fold, and

the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that "nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

To the amazement of all in that region, there come foreign camels bearing foreign scholars - wise men - kings! Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh! What courage and perseverance those strangers have shown, to brave the

dangers of travel, skepticism, and political intrigue.

But they found what they were looking for. That star gave trustworthy guidance

and now triumphantly shines as guard over the lowly dwelling wherein rests the child who possesses all meaning.

They fall to their knees in homage, for their learning has made them humble, and their wisdom leads them to recognize the Divine in the fragile flesh of a child.

What a silent Adoration! What loving glances they exchange with Mary and Joseph. But for all their simple faith, their wisdom is sharp enough to detect the sham delight and murderous intentions of the wily Herod.

And so they pay their respects, leave their gifts, and modestly depart for their homeland, sorrowfully

JAN. 5

## The Feast of the Epiphany

### READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

aware of the terrible price justice must pay for Peace.

Their role in history has been accomplished - to teach us all to follow the guidance of the Almighty, to accept our own role as Bearers of the Light, and to follow this Christ into His Mission, to partake of His Passion, and to join the millions through the ages who will preach His Gospel of universal salvation.

The Son of God is the one

Judge and Arbiter of Truth and the one Source of Light, but we are all called to be "epiphanies", providing glimpses of that Truth, showing the way in our own small spots of time and circumstance to a larger plan and destiny.

Princely Child, make of us all wise men and courageous women, obedient children who will follow wherever you lead us.

That means being faithful to prayer, diligent in imitating the enthusiasm and guidance of Pope Francis in sharing with those seeking the Light. This is the way for us to be light-bearers, helping banish the darkness and confusion in the world in which we live.

## VATICAN LETTER

# Prospects for the new year in Vatican news

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - After a year that included the historic resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and a series of celebrated innovations by Pope Francis, it is hard to imagine 2014 at the Vatican could be nearly as eventful. Of course, the biggest stories are likely to be those that come by surprise, but in the meantime, here are developments bound to loom large in Vatican news over the coming year:

- **New Cardinals:** Pope Francis is scheduled to create new cardinals Feb. 22. By that time, no more than 106 members of the College of Cardinals will be under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. Under rules established by Pope Paul VI, the college should not have more than 120 such members, though subsequent popes have occasionally exceeded that number. So Pope Francis can be expected to name at least 14 new cardinal electors.

The election of the first Latin American pope has raised expectations of greater geographical diversity among cardinal electors, so the new slate might prove relatively heavy on names from statistically underrepresented regions, especially Latin America and Africa.

- **Vatican reform:** The eight-member Council of Cardinals that Pope Francis formed to advise him on governance of the universal church and reform of the Vatican bureaucracy has already joined him for two rounds of meetings at the Vatican and will do so again in February. The body is

working on the first major overhaul of the Roman Curia, the church's central administration at the Vatican, since 1988.

Although the council has not announced a timeline for its work, Pope Francis has established a record of acting fast; in December, he approved an idea for an international commission on the sexual abuse of children just one day after the council proposed it. So few will be surprised if the council gives him a draft of an apostolic constitution reorganizing the curia before the end of 2014.

- **Canonization of two popes:** The double canonization ceremony of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II, scheduled for April 27, is almost certain to draw crowds larger than the more than 1 million who attended the latter's beatification in May 2011. By choosing to declare the sanctity of both men on the same day, Pope Francis may be trying to emphasize fundamental continuities between two popes widely seen as respectively liberal and conservative, especially with regard to reforms ushered in by the Second Vatican Council. Blessed John opened the council in 1962, and Blessed John Paul attended all four sessions as a bishop. The ceremony could thus serve as an occasion for Pope Francis to expound on his own understanding of Vatican II and its legacy for the church.

- **Papal trip to the Holy Land:** The Vatican has yet to announce dates or an itinerary for an expected papal visit to the Holy Land but has not denied recent reports that it will take place in late May and last three days, with stops in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories. Pope Fran-

cis has said a Holy Land visit would include a meeting with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, considered first among equals by Orthodox bishops.

The trip would be Pope Francis' second outside of Italy, following his visit to Brazil in July 2013, and the first planned during his pontificate. The destination would be fitting for a pope whose relations with Jews have been exceptionally warm and who has made peace in the Middle East a priority of his geopolitical agenda. While a three-day papal visit would be unusually brief for such a prominent destination, it would be appropriate for Pope Francis, who has a heavy agenda of reform at home and the media flair to reach the world without leaving the Vatican.

- **Divorced and remarried Catholics:** An extraordinary session of the Synod of Bishops will meet at the Vatican for two weeks in October to discuss the "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization."

Pope Francis has indicated topics of discussion at the synod will include church law governing marriage annulments and the eligibility of divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Communion - problems he has said exemplify a general need for mercy in the church today.

In addition to speculation about possible changes in church practice in those areas, the synod has drawn attention with a preparatory questionnaire sent to the world's bishops, which asks about the promotion and acceptance of Catholic teachings on such controversial topics as premarital cohabitation, same-sex unions and contraception.

AT THE MOVIES

# SAVING MR. BANKS

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

Fifty years after the premiere of the Walt Disney musical "Mary Poppins" comes "Saving Mr. Banks" (Disney), a film about the making of that 1964 classic.

Who would have guessed that behind the scenes of such a widely beloved movie lay a battle of wills worthy of a grand Shakespearean drama, with swords crossed over details as simple as ... "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"?

Director John Lee Hancock ("The Blind Side") serves up a delightful mix of nostalgia and sentimentality as he recreates the Hollywood dream factory of the early 1960s.

The witty script by Kelly Marcel and Sue Smith is based on a true story. Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) promised his daughters he would make a movie from the children's books they loved -- tales of the magical nanny Mary Poppins, written by

Pamela Travers (Emma Thompson) under the pen name P.L. Travers.

For two decades, Disney lobbied for the film rights, to no avail. But when Travers' fortune eventually dried up, she was forced to reconsider.

Against her better judgment, she packs her bags and heads to California, determined to protect her prized creation from being "Disney-fied."

"I won't have her turned into one of your silly cartoons!" she warns Disney. "You don't know what Mary Poppins means to me."

Disney and Travers are polar opposites. Disney, gregarious and ever sunny, is countered at every suggestion by the prickly, but-toned-up author, who is no fan of Hollywood. He launches an all-out charm offensive, including a guided tour of Disneyland, but without result.

Faring no better are the songwriters, the famous Sherman brothers, Richard (Jason Schwartzman) and

Robert (B.J. Novak). Travers is opposed to turning her book into a musical, and repelled by the chirpy songs that have become iconic, including "A Spoonful of Sugar" and "Chim Chim Cher-ee."

Things look pretty bleak until Disney senses an opportunity. Delving into Travers' background, he discovers there is an intensely personal side to Mary Poppins.

In flashbacks to Travers' impoverished childhood in rural Australia, we learn that her Aunt Ellie (Rachel Griffiths) was the model for the nanny, and her adored but flawed father, Travers Goff (Colin Farrell), the inspiration for the fictional George Banks of the title.

Although the ending of this story is well-known, "Saving Mr. Banks" has many surprises in store as it veers from comedy to tearjerker and back again. Parents should be aware of emotional moments which may be too intense for pre-teens. Overall, though, the sincer-



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Tom Hanks stars in a scene from the movie "Saving Mr. Banks."

ity and wholesomeness of the picture make for a welcome change at the multiplex.

The film contains mature themes, one use of profanity and a mild oath. The Catholic News Service clas-

sification is A-II -- adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone star in a scene from the movie "Grudge Match."

Two long-retired boxing rivals (Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone), each of whom scored a single victory against the other, are lured back into the ring for a tiebreaking rematch. Besides their professional competition, their mutual antagonism is also fueled by unresolved personal issues. Mature themes, including promiscuity, pugilistic violence, much sexual humor, pervasive crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

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## CLINTON

## MARCH FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** – Champlain Valley Right to life will be sponsoring a March for life.

**Date:** Jan. 12

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

**Place:** March starts at The Newman Center and ends at St. John's Church (Signs will be provided.)

**Features:** The march will be followed by a prayer service with Kathleen Gallagher as our Guest Speaker. She is the director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference and the co-founder of the non-denominational group, New Yorkers for Life. Come hear about the interesting events which led to the defeat of the New York State Abortion Expansion Act and what we should be doing as we move forward.

## CHARITY FUND RAISING DINNER

**Peru** – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Jan. 11

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.50; under 5, free; families, \$20; take-outs available.

## HEALING MINISTRY

**Morrisonville** – The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's announces the addition of Living Waters Healing Ministry to the Parish.

**Date:** First Thursday each month

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

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

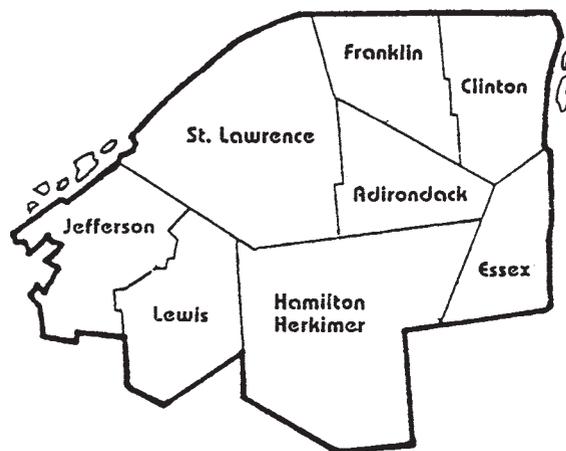
**Features:** Healing Mass, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

## QUILT SHOP OPEN

**Ellenburg Center** – Lost Sheep Quilt and Fabric Shop is now open!

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer,

**Hours:** Tues. – Sat, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Evenings and other times by appointment. Phone 594-3253 or email olaprayerhouse@gmail.com to come at other times

## 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:** "Now Magi fall down and present gifts, and recognize the King of all, and adjudge him King of heaven, thanks to the glorious testimony of the star...Come then, let us join them in adoration" (St. Gregory Nazianzen)

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

**Features:** May be pre-ordered starting on Nov. 4 by calling 518-529-6580.

## JEFFERSON

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Watertown** – Holy Family Church is holding holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

**Schedule:** Monday through Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.),

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

**Watertown** – Liferight of Watertown meets third Wednesday of the Month.

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** The office has materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

## LEWIS

## INTERNATIONAL CRÈCHES

**Houseville** – All are welcome to an exhibit of Christmas Crèches- Nativities from around the world.

**Date:** Jan. 5

**Time:** After 11 a.m. Mass or between 1 p.m. and 3

**Place:** St. Hedwig's

**Features:** The exhibit is free and open to the public. Help keep Christ in Christmas. Bring family and friends and experience

the universality of Christ and Christmas through the eyes of many different cultures.

**Contact:** 348-6260

## ST. LAWRENCE

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Massena** – Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Features:** A gathering of those who have had a recent loss of a loved one.

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

## NOVENA FOR MILITARY

**Ogdensburg** – Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

**Date:** Tuesday afternoons

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

## LATIN MASS

**Potsdam** – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

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

## COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

**Ogdensburg** – The Knights of Columbus Council 258 is starting its community free lunch program again.

**Date:** Every Wednesday

**Time:** Noon

**Features:** Free hot lunch

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday.

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

**Time:** 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN

Father Donald Robinson, pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown, will be leading a pilgrimage "Best of Spain and Portugal".

**Dates:** Feb. 18-28, 2014

**Cost:** \$2899 per person from NYC

**Included:** Roundtrip Air from NYC, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Comprehensive Sightseeing and much more.

**Features:** Madrid, Salamanca, Lisbon, Seville, Granada & Toledo

**Contact:** Fr. Robinson at 315-782-1190 or e-mail donrob4@twcny.rr.com

## 2014 BUS FOR LIFE

**Plattsburgh** – The Lake Champlain 2014 bus to Washington D.C. for the national March for Life is set

**Date:** Jan. 21-22

**Schedule:** Meet at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh on Tues. Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Arrive in Washington, D.C. early morning Jan. 22; Free Time in the morning to attend Mass, sightsee, lobby representatives, etc; Rally and March start at noon on The National Mall; Meet at St. Peter's Church in Washington at 4:45 p.m. for the trip home

**Cost:** Reserve a seat on the bus is \$30

**Contact:** To reserve a seat or to obtain more information, please contact Karen Smith at 518-566-6229. To sign up for a seat on the bus or to make a donation—please mail your check to St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Make a note on the memo line: "Bus for Life."

## DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

**Saranac Lake** – The annual Diocesan Ecumenical Service is set.

**Date:** Jan. 12

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

**Features:** Priests and clergy from other faiths will participate. The service is held in advance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25

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# A blessed New Year

From Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

Diocesan Mission Director

Happy New Year from the Mission Office in the Diocese of Ogdensburg! The time is upon us to wipe the slate clean and start fresh with new perspective. As this New Year begins, let us take comfort in the image of God blessing us with all the gifts of this earth and human life in general.

I came upon a prayer by an anonymous author that Father George Maroun used once a decade ago in his New Year's column for the *North Country Catholic*.

I think it is time we re-visit these very profound words.

*God of the years that lie behind us,  
Lord of the years that stretch before,  
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,  
Keeper and King of the open door:*

*Grant us hope and courage glowing  
White and pure as the stars above;  
Grant us faith in a full stream flowing,  
From the heights of Your eternal love.*

*Out of the ruins of doubt and sorrow  
Out of the aches and pain and tears,  
Help us to fashion a new tomorrow,  
Free from the anguish of blighting fears.*

*All through the seasons of sowing and reaping  
All through the harvest of song and tears.  
Hold us close in your tender keeping,  
O, Maker of all New Years!*

.....Anonymous

We look forward to working with you again in 2014 as we endeavor to aid those living in the developing worlds with our prayers and gifts. Happy New Year!

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)



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## OBITUARIES

**Adams-** James M. Vincent, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2013 at the Carpenter-Stoodley Funeral Home; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

**Croghan** - Edwin L. Pominville, 80; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** - Margaret E. (LeMere) King, 100; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** - Leon J. Lagree, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Mooers** - Flora M. Gauthier (Dauphinais), 89; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Romain Cemetery

**Norfolk** - John J. Plonka, 93, Funeral Serv-

ices Dec. 30, 2013, at the Church of the Visitation, burial in parish cemetery

**Port Henry** - William Rogers Hickey, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Potsdam** - Deborah Jean Forget, 49; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Redwood** - Lisa Yvette (Amyot) Derrick, 49 Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2013 at St. Francis Xavier Church; burial in Redwood Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** - Norma E. Gowan, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2013 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake** - Paul D. Provoncha, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 14, 2013 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in Schroon River Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake**- Gloria Shaughnessy, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 13, 2013 at the Kelly Funeral Home.

**Sciota** - Leon J. Vassar, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2013 at St. Louis de France Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** - Michael (Jerry) Bills, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2013 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** - Charles F. Fluno, Jr., P.E., 85; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Willsboro** - Joyce Y. (Young) Blanchard, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2013 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Willsboro** - Ralph Martin Marcotte, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2013 at St. Philip of James Church.

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