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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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The search for Christian unity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The search for Christian unity "is not a linear process," because as churches resolve their past differences, differing approaches to new questions create new difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 20 - in the middle of the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity - the pope said the unity that Jesus wants for his disciples will require human effort and conversion, but ultimately it will be a gift of God for which people must pray.

Discussing the ecumenical landscape, the pope said, "we must be aware, on the one hand, of how much real progress has been made in Christian collaboration and fraternity over the past 50 years, but at the same time,

we know that ecumenical work is not a linear process.

"Old problems, born in the context of another age, lose their weight, while in our own context new problems and difficulties are born," he said.

Pope Benedict did not list the new problems, but in the past he has noted how the approach of different Christian communities to modern moral and social sensitivities has created new divisions,

for instance when they have led some churches to ordain women or to recognize homosexual unions.

The new divisions, he said, call on all Christians "to be always ready for a process of purification, through which the Lord will make us ready to be united."

Christians will never be able to give a united witness to the world until each of them is united to Christ, he said.

'Living the pro-life way is not easy'

In her "Young Catholic Voice" column this week, Rachel Daly, a senior at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh, writes, "As this year's Roe v. Wade anniversary passes, all those things that make life beautiful and worth protecting cross my mind.

"Living the pro-life message is not easy. With all the challenges, opposition, and subsequent obligations it asks of us, it can seem downright unattractive, she said, but, "no matter what, we continue to defend life against all that threatens it."

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Remembering Fr. Soucy

Father Vinny Flynn carries the "Fr. Tim Trophy" in his travels through the North Country
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MARCHING FOR LIFE IN PLATTSBURGH



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among those leading the annual Plattsburgh March for Life Jan. 17 were Father Kris Lauzon, pastor in AuSable Forks, right, and Rita Diller, national director of STOPP (Stop Planned Parenthood) center, who spoke at St. John's Church after the walk. The Champlain Valley Right to Life organizes the annual march to protest the 1973 Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. See more photos on page 3.

MARCHING FOR LIFE

In the nation's capital



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE E. KOSSOFF-NORDBY
Tens of thousands of pro-lifers from across the country took part in the 37th annual March for Life in Washington D.C. Jan. 22 marking the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. Several buses from the North Country carried marchers from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including two exclusively for youth. Above, people gather for the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington.

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