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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 7, 2011

Religious Retirement Appeal set

Bishop LaValley has announced that Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg will conduct the 24th appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious on Dec. 10 and 11.

Religious institutes that are well known and revered for their ministry in the diocese will benefit through grants that are directed to the institutes' motherhouses.

The 2011 Religious Retirement Collection was given a generous response from North Country Catholics when \$124,648 was donated. The religious of the Diocese are grateful to those who gave generously to their care.

These funds were distributed among 31 communities of women and men who serve in our Diocese or worked here in the past.

The services the religious have provided throughout the counties: schools, hospitals, elder care, youth, and parish programs are a testimony of the past and present care of the religious for the people they love and serve in the North Country.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 7-10

The gift that keeps on giving

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WITH THE HOLY FATHER



Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome during the bishop's first *Ad Limina Apostolorum* visit Nov. 22-Dec. 1. He was accompanied by Msgr. John R. Murphy, moderator of the curia, right. Bishop LaValley writes about some of experiences in this week's Follow Me column on page 3.

NEW WORDS OF PRAYER

Reactions from pastors and parishioners



Pastors across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including Father Joseph Giroux of Malone, above, and Msgr. Robert Aucoin of Potsdam and Colton, below, offered months of preparation in anticipation of the implementation of the New Roman Missal on the First Sunday of Advent. Read how parishioners reacted on pages 4-5



FULL STORY, PAGE 4-5

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: Give yourself the gift of a lifetime... information, p. 2

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Share in the care!

Forty years ago – the last time we all had to learn a “new Mass” – we knew that we could count on a certain group of people to guide us through unfamiliar rituals.

In parishes and Catholic schools around the world, Religious Sisters and Brothers embraced the changes brought by the Second Vatican Council and shared their knowledge and excitement with the rest of us.

Today, many of these same Religious are joining us in our newest journey.

Once again they are embracing the changes and walking through them with us.

This time though, most of them are in their 60's and 70's rather than 30's and 40's.

This time, they need us almost as much as we need them.

Through the years, the number of younger Religious bringing income to their communities has decreased at the same time as

health care costs for their elderly Sisters have sky-rocketed.

Bishop LaValley said it well: “We are all beneficiaries of the tremendous contributions these women and men have made to the Church. Through hard work, prayer, and much sacrifice, they built our Catholic schools and hospitals and ministered to the neediest among us.”

This coming weekend we have the chance to show exactly how much we appreciate the generosity of these Religious with generosity of our

own in the annual Religious Retirement Appeal.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we took our first stumbling steps through a new Missal.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, we have the chance to remember those woman and men who have taken our hands through all the steps of our faith journeys.

It's our responsibility - and our privilege - to share in their care.

Mary Lou
Kilian

Give yourself a gift of a lifetime!

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Joy in the Coming of the Lord

Third Sunday of Advent - Dec. 10-11

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

John the Baptist is a great model for evangelization. He knows who he is! He is not the awaited Messiah. He is the *voice*, not the *Word*.

John the Baptist “rejoices heartily in the Lord” because he is the last of the prophets whose voice was heard in preparing the people that “one greater than he” will “bring the glad tidings to the poor. . .” (Isaiah 61:1-2).

John the Baptist had a mission and that mission was to point to the Word, the Word that would bring his people out of darkness into the light.

John the Baptist knew that he had to clear the way for people to come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

The crowds were so taken up with the many questions of who John was that they missed the real Messiah. They were expecting a different kind of Messiah.

Who is the Messiah, this Jesus in our lives? We, too, can miss the possibilities of how God might be acting in our lives.

He doesn't come in neatly wrapped packages. Sometimes He comes to us in packages that have been torn, broken into, and damaged. God does come to bring us His light that will pierce the darkness.

We are called to look in His direction, into those precious moments of being present to family, friends and loved ones to bring His light, hope, and love.

As members of the Church, we are not the light. Christ is the Light. We are witnesses to the light who is Christ ever coming everywhere and to everyone who comes into the world.

All of our lives and ministry as a family of faith is a preparation for the shining of that light ever more fully.

In the celebration of the Eucharist we come as we are. It is not a matter of how gifted we are or how rich or poor we are, or even how well Father gives the homily. We come to encounter Jesus Christ to offer Him praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.

He is the one who pours out His grace of life and love without measure to go forth from the gathered assembly to be bearers of the Good News, the beacons of hope and joy.

Today, we celebrate *Gaudete Sunday* or “*Rejoice Sunday*”. The Church: A Family of Faith is not a family of “doom and gloom” but a family that rejoices in praising the greatness of God for all that He has done for us.

By our Baptism, we are called and anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, freedom to captives, the announcement of God's favor to all those we encounter day after day.

We are also sent forth to bring justice and peace to a world who still needs the light of Christ.

We are drawing near to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. We rejoice because we await His coming, not only at Christmas time, but when we receive Him in the Eucharist, and prepare for His return at the end of time in all His glory.

How can you be a voice of hope for one who experiences “gloom and doom”?

What word of encouragement do you give?

Who is the person in your life who allowed his/her self-importance to recede so that you might grow and develop into the person God is calling you to be?

How can you thank or acknowledge this person?

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

FOLLOW ME

Ad limina Apostolarum

As many of you know, from November 22 to December 1, all the bishops of New York State, accompanying priests, and I participated in my first *Ad Limina Apostolarum* in Rome.

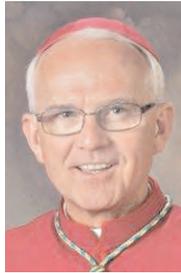
Every five years, the bishop participates in this pilgrimage at the threshold of the Apostles.

Monsignor John Murphy and I boarded the plane for the Eternal City, anticipating a privileged moment in our faith lives. We were not disappointed.

The *ad limina* visit includes three key events: an opportunity to celebrate Eucharist at the four main Basilicas of Rome; meetings with the heads of several of the major Roman Congregations that assist the Holy Father in his Petrine Office; and the privilege of meeting our Holy Father personally to discuss the state of our individual dioceses.

In this article, I wish to

share with you the premier event that was truly a blessed occasion for me. Soon after we arrived on



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Wednesday, we learned that the bishops from upstate New York were to have our personal audiences with the Pope the next morning - Thanksgiving Day.

Pope Benedict began our meeting by reflecting on his recent trip to Africa. He felt very much at home in the nation of Benin, experiencing in a powerful way the "catholicity" of our faith.

Leading the discussion, Pope Benedict said that he wanted to "learn of the struggles we encounter" in our churches in New York. He told us: "Speak frankly, as in a family setting."

So we did.

Bishop Hubbard of Albany, the dean of the bishops of New York State, was first invited by the Pope to share his concerns, followed by Bishop Kmiec of Buffalo. Next, the Holy Father turned

to me. I spoke of our deep affection for him and of the strong faith of the people of the North Country.

I felt that the Holy Father heard, felt and understood the struggles I shared

I told him that our faith has been tested and challenged by the crises of: the culture of death; clergy sex abuse; secularization; a decrease in the participation of Catholics in the sacramental life of the Church; a decrease in Church vocations; and ongoing economic distress suffered by so many in our North Country. Still, ours is a vibrant, persevering, life-giving faith.

I felt that the Holy Father heard, felt and understood the struggles I shared. He inquired about our diocesan efforts to promote the family. He said that so much of the challenges before us stem from the breakdown of the family.

He concluded our meeting by reminding us that Jesus Christ is the answer to

life's struggles.

He reiterated the point several times: we must have a relationship with Jesus Christ. It begins in our families.

The Holy Father affirmed our ministry and encouraged the bishop to remember that hope is real only through Jesus.

He offered his prayers and blessing as Advent approached.

With the other bishops, I had the graced opportunity

to be welcomed by the Successor of St. Peter to his home and share concerns about the flock entrusted to our care. It doesn't get any better!

Thanksgiving Day 2011 was truly a day in which I felt especially blessed. The pilgrimage was off to a tremendous start.

In next week's issue of the *North Country Catholic*, I look forward to sharing with you more about the *ad limina* experience.

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In Appreciation of our Pastor

The parishioners of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes in Saranac Lake, Bloomingdale, Gabriels and Lake Clear, feel blessed to have Fr. Mark Reilly as our pastor.

We admire his hard work, positive vision, personal attentiveness and his piety.

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-Hebrews 6:10



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After months of preparation, Catholics in the North Country adapt with 'just a few hiccups'

Praying with the New Missal

At Malone Catholic Parishes

Preparations for the new translation of the Mass have been underway in Malone Catholic Parishes for most of the past year.

A six-part series on the history of the Mass was held last winter, and a 6-week "Biblical Walk Through the Mass" this fall. A Q and A series in the bulletin during the summer was followed by seven weeks of full-page bulletin inserts.

September saw the introduction of new English chant at Mass, as well as the distribution of Dr. Edward Sri's guide to the new translation. Homilies made frequent reference to the coming changes, and the new pew cards and missalettes have been in place and used for pre-Mass rehearsals for several weeks.

Last week, eight-year-old Maggie Marceau picked up one of these pew cards after Mass. She scanned it attentively, then confided: "I can't wait until we start using this. We've been learning all about it. Now I am excited to start using the new prayers."

This week she got her wish, and her pastor, Father Joe Giroux, certainly shares Maggie's excitement.

"The transition here was very smooth," he explains. "There were a few hiccups - but that's okay, because it makes us sit up and take notice. We've had all this preparation and now we're trying to make it normal."

"To borrow an image," he said, "it is as if the Church has filled our mouths with marbles today; in weeks to come, we will be removing them one at a time to discover the true beauty of the words we speak."

"The best comment I heard today came from Phyllis Smith, who coincidentally is our parish secretary," Father Giroux said. "As she left church, she remarked that, with the new responses and the chanting, she participated more attentively and felt more a part of what was



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

On the first Sunday of Advent, parishioners of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh, joined English speaking Catholics around the world in prayer with the revised Roman Missal. Msgr. Dennis Duprey said, "I think our people find it relatively comfortable. It helps make us look at the Mass a little more carefully." At right, parishioners Ida Jacques and Diane Cudworth follow the Mass with pew cards. Catholics from parishes across the diocese share their reactions to the changes in the accompanying article.

going on."

Parishioner Claire Russell agrees. "I think it went very well. There is a lot more meaning because we are going back to the original prayers. The new responses bring us closer to the beauty of those prayers, and closer to the mystery we are celebrating."

Claire was well-prepared for the changes; she attended the 6-week "Biblical Walk Through The Mass" program in the fall.

"The sessions were wonderful," she relates. The way they were presented was so good. there was no way you could not understand what was coming."

Jack LaCroix likewise expresses appreciation for the level of preparation made available in Malone Catholic Parishes.

"We were learning about the changes for almost a year," he says. "The preparation was terrific, and Father Giroux did everything possible to educate us."

Still, he acknowledges,



"Nobody likes a change. It's a challenge, and we all have to take some time and adapt to it. As with any change, it will take time to accept."

Noting that he is now an adult acolyte, Mr. LaCroix notes that the new language takes him back to his days as an altar boy.

"It is as if we have come full circle," he concludes. "Then or now, the sacrament is still our greatest blessing."

In Clinton Deanery

There were some chuckles during Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville when habit took over a few times, said parishioner and Eucharistic minister Brenda Jolicoeur.

It will be tough for some to accustom themselves to the changes, she said, and maybe more so for St. Joseph's, "because the whole congregation is aging."

"But we will get used to it," she said.

Jolicoeur converted from Protestant to Catholicism just as Vatican II altered the

Mass dramatically in the 1960s, and that proved perfect timing for her.

"It was the brand-new turnaround, speaking English," she said, "and I loved it," she said. "It wasn't the scary Latin (Mass)."

Now, the new translation suits her just fine, too.

"I don't mind at all learning new ways to celebrate the Mass."

At St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point, pastored as well by Father Clyde Lewis, parishioner Sue Merchant struggled a bit.

"I think it's difficult," she said. "We've been so used to the way it was."

Now, she said, "we have to be so aware of what we have to say, which is a good thing, I think."

No longer responding by rote, she said, communicants "need to stop and think before they speak."

And so there is fuller participation.

"We're very blessed to have Father Lewis to guide us through it," Mrs. Merchant

said. "He's very patient."

It will take time, she said, and some effort on the part of adults.

"For the children, it's going to be easy."

At St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh, Ruth Ryan said that she likes the new liturgy.

"There wasn't that much difference," she said. "I go to Mass daily, so I have to pay attention the first few times. Sometimes you get used to saying words without thinking about their meaning, so having to take time to think through the new liturgy is a good thing, because it makes people think."

Scott Stevens, also of St. Peter's, said, "I didn't realize we say, 'The Lord be with you' in church so many times before today. The cue cards were helpful

His wife Laura said, "I found the change in the words quite beautiful and I found myself paying more attention because of the change."

Frank Perkin said "It's going to take a while for people to get used to things."

"It's (the adjustment) harder in the music part of it," he said.

His wife Donna agreed.

"The music connected with the change was tougher," she said. "It was stumbling. The congregation seemed to have difficulty getting into the rhythm of it

"There are some parts that I don't like ... the music," said St. Peter's Parishioner Don Romeo. "It just doesn't seem to blend well the way we're singing this stuff."

"How do they really know what they said 2,000 years ago?" he wondered, "when trying to come up with a correct interpretation of things

From the Mountains

Phil Capone, a parishioner at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, said that he is excited about the new missal.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

New Missal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Along with 60 other parishioners from St. Bernard's, St. Paul's in Bloomingdale; St. John's in Lake Clear and Assumption Capone took part in a program led by Father Mark Reilly, pastor.

"It was a good course....made me study," he said. "The class definitely helped."

"I just don't like that long word 'consubstantial'" he chuckled

Michele Tucker also took part in the Mass Study. She "came to see what the changes are" and as a musician has been "learning and practicing the new music"

In Lewis Deanery

For the churches of St. Peter's (Lowville), St. Hedwig's (Houseville), and St. Mary's (Glenfield) the new translation/transition of the Mass proceeded surprising well with humor and respectful dignity.

Father Christopher Carrara, pastor, gave cues to where the responses were located on the sheets provided to the parishioners. He stated he will continue to provide cues over the course of the next month or two until the congregation gets used to the new phraseology.

Father Carrara actually started preparing his congregations for the transition last Christmas Eve when in a joking manner he mentioned in

his homily that changes would become and that Christmas and Easter Catholics would be a bit lost if they returned next Christmas Eve.

I didn't realize we say, 'The Lord be with you' in church so many times before today

Scott Stevens, St. Peter's, Plattsburgh

Three months ago an insert was placed into the church bulletins regarding the transition obtained from the U.S. Catholic Bishops Website. During homilies he broke down parts of the Mass further, and about four weeks ago started singing the responses. .

A misconception among many parishioners was that the church was returning to pre-Vatican II, the Latin Mass. Father Carrara explained to them that the changes are related to Vatican II and the proper translation from Latin to English.

One of the hardest phrases for parishioners to get used to is *consubstantial* in the Nicene Creed. Father Carrara explained to his parishes that "this word is not a warm and fuzzy word, a word that you can snuggle up to, but it is a very deep theological belief that our Lord is made of the same stuff of his Father; a

beautiful and reaching thought."

Father Carrara believes this change has personally helped him experience a new intensity and appreciation for the quiet part of the Mass where the priest prays in the quiet voice at consecration.

In Jefferson Deanery

The Catholic Parishes of St. Mary's in Evans Mills, St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and St. Teresa in Theresa, held an educational meeting to preview the new changes for parishioners on Nov. 15.

One of the organizers was Paul Hornak. Although the parish meeting was not well attended, Mr. Hornak said this reflected that people were not alarmed or upset by the changes.

He has heard no complaints from other churchgoers.

Calling the changes "historically important," Mr. Hornak said, "Personally, I hope that with all the elevated language, over time what we pray will be reflected in our belief. Our belief will mature with the language. It will take time, that's the ingredient."

Mr. Hornak went on to say that as children who are raised in the new Roman Missal settings get older, he hopes they will realize that the language is there for a reason, and it will deepen their faith.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM AMORIEL

More than 60 parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish in Colton and St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam attended a five-part program led by their pastor, Msgr. Robert Aucoin. Using the program, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, published by Ascension Press, the group explored the Biblical roots of the Liturgy and learned about the new Mass.

Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family in Watertown, said his church prepared for the changes by introducing some new Mass parts in November

For instance, he would chant "The Lord be with you," and the congregation would respond in chant "And with Your Spirit."

Occasional mistakes happened as they practiced the changes, but he said they weren't taking themselves too seriously, and that they'd laugh.

"As long as we are praying the Mass together it will be a

beautiful experience," he said.

Father Murray said one response he received was from a 74-year-old woman who told him the changes were beautiful, and she hoped she hoped she would never be so old that she'd resist the changes.

"Change is a good thing," she told him.

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This article included contributions from NCC staff Writers Suzanne Pietropaoli, Shan Moore, Colleen Miner, Kristina Dean, Michelle Beagle and Pat Hendrick.

Memorial Mass set for Fr. Paul Walsh in Keeseville

KEESEVILLE - A Memorial Mass for Father Paul Walsh, 84, will be held Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Sacristy of St. John the Baptist Church,

Father Walsh died on Oct. 25, at St. Anthony's Children's Home, Kingston, Jamaica, following an illness.

He was well known to many in the North Country through his work as chaplain at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora in the late 1960s and 1970s and his evangelizing efforts in the Cursillo movement.

Following his assignment at the prison, Father Walsh was sent to Kingston, Jamaica, where he worked among the very poor and founded St. Anthony's Children's Home.

He worked in the home until he died, realizing his goal of raising disadvantaged children up out of their extreme poverty. This he accomplished by providing in St. Anthony's the experience of the secure, faithful family structure in which he himself was raised.

The center of the home was the chapel, where he offered Mass daily and maintained a time of daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Walsh visited the North Country every summer to meet with the supporters of St. Anthony's here, gathering funds, clothing and supplies for the home and its outreach.

In 2006 he wrote to friends that over 200 children had passed through his hands. It was expected of everyone

living in the home that they would graduate from high school or trade school. Beyond this, over 30 had achieved college and university degrees, some advanced degrees. And not one of these children, who had been born into poverty but raised out of it, had ever been convicted of a crime.

In that letter Father Walsh wrote, however, that although many of the grown children expressed their gratitude for his bringing them closer to Our Lord, he

had an increasing sense of failure concerning the increasing worldliness of the young people's attitudes toward marriage and child-bearing.

Father Walsh was born Dec. 25, 1926, in New Jersey, the son of Richard, from Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Simone, from Rochelle, France. He was predeceased by his brother Andre. He is survived by his brother John of Glassboro, N.J., his sister-in-law, Pearl of Shelton, Conn., nieces and nephews.

Important information from the diocesan development office:

Charitable gift annuity rates lowering in January; still higher than CD rates

By Janice Shoen,
Executive Director, Development Office

In a Charitable Gift Annuity, you, the donor, irrevocably transfer cash or securities to the Diocese of Ogdensburg segregated Gift Annuity Fund in exchange for our promise to pay you a fixed income for the rest of your life. The amount you receive is determined by the amount of your gift and your age at your nearest birthday at the time of your gift. The older you are when you make the gift, the higher the rate of return. Once your annuity is established your income remains constant. It is not affected by adverse economic conditions. Annuity payments can be made quarterly, semi-annually or annually, whichever you prefer.

You receive an immediate income tax deduction which may be taken on this year's income tax return or in the

following 5 years. You also receive a large portion of income payments as tax-free income. By creating a Charitable Gift Annuity you transfer assets which are now yielding fully taxable income into guaranteed life income which is partly tax-free. The tax-free amount is fixed by your age at the time of the gift. The minimum gift amount is \$5,000 for a single-life annuity and \$10,000 for a two-life annuity.

Charitable Gift Annuities provide for expense-free management of assets for others, and they insure a guaranteed income for a person's lifetime. Although the Charitable Gift Annuity does not provide a hedge against inflation, it does provide a guaranteed income which is largely tax-free. It also provides ultimately for a parish, Catholic school, diocesan agency, program or institution or the Diocese itself, but only after the guaranteed income is paid to the person(s) for their lifetime.

What persons benefit from a Charitable Gift Annuity? Donors who are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments and would like to save taxes. A Charitable Gift Annuity could be right for people in any of the following circumstances:

1)The interest rates on their CDs and other fixed-income investment have de-

AGE	OLD RATE	NEW RATE
60	4.80%	4.40%
65	5.30%	4.70%
70	5.80%	5.10%
75	6.50%	5.80%
80	7.50%	6.80%
85	8.40%	7.80%
90	9.80%	9.00%

clined, and they would like to increase their cash flow.

2)They own appreciated stock or mutual fund shares and have considered selling some of the shares and reinvesting the proceeds to generate more income, but they don't want to pay tax on the capital gain.

3)They would like to count on fixed payments, which are unaffected by interest rates and stock prices and which they cannot outlive.

4)They want to assure continuation of payments to a surviving spouse without the delay of probate proceedings.

5)They would like to provide financial assistance to an elderly parent, a sibling, or other person in a tax-advantaged manner.

The American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) board of directors held its semi-annual meeting on November 7, 2011. As part of a continual monitoring process, the board reviewed the current

assumptions that underlie the rates schedules. Given the significant changes in the economic environment, the board approved a new schedule of suggested maximum gift annuity rates which will become effective January 1, 2012.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuity Program follows these rates.

At ages older than 60, which is the earliest age the Diocese offers these Charitable Gift Annuities, the rates will decline by 0.5% to 0.8%.

Here are some examples of the decline in rates:

If you are considering a Charitable Gift Annuity through the Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuity Program the time to create one is before January 1, 2012 to get the higher rates.

For more information about Charitable Gift Annuities, please call Janice Shoen at 315-393-2920 or Email jshoen@dioogdensburg.org.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Dec. 8 – 2 p.m., Installation of the Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci as Bishop of Manchester at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Dec. 9 – 1:30 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg; 4:30 p.m., Advent Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

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

Dec. 12 – 11:30 a.m., Serra Club Luncheon at Sergi's Restaurant in Potsdam; 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at the Deacon Winter Chapel in Ogdensburg.

Dec. 13 – 9 a.m., Mass for Immaculate Heart Central at Holy Family Church in Watertown; 12 p.m., Advent Prayer Service and Visit at Immaculate Heart Central Intermediate School in Watertown.

Dec. 14 – 10:30 a.m., Mass and Visit at Augustinian Academy in Carthage; 7 p.m., Advent Penance Service at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

Dec. 8 – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

Dec. 9 – Rev. George Marion, O.M.I., 1927; Rev. Edwin Hanlon McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

Dec. 10 – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

Dec. 11 – George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969

Dec. 12 – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

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RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION 2011

Share In The Care

December 10th and 11th



WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU
... because you cared for us when you were with us.

(Pictured above are Religious who left our diocese in 2011)

Your Contributions Free Congregations to Assign Religious to Ministry



December 4, 2011



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In 2010, while visiting a senior-care facility, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI observed: "Indeed, the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude." Next weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be taking up the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity to honor and thank thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests for their faithful service.

We are all beneficiaries of the tremendous contributions these women and men have made to the Church. Through hard work, prayer, and much sacrifice, they built our Catholic schools and hospitals and ministered to the neediest among us. I'm sure that each of us can recall a sister or brother who made a positive difference in our lives.

Sky-rocketing health-care costs and decreased income make it increasingly difficult to provide necessary medication, nursing care, and basic services. Aging convents and other facilities pose additional challenges in terms of safety and handicap accessibility.

I know that this is one of numerous worthy causes in need of support. Many of our neighbors and family members face financial difficulties today. I ask you simply to give what you can to this annual appeal. In thanksgiving for all that senior religious have given, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious. Let us continue to pray for God's continued blessings on our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious priests.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Officers of Diocesan Council of Religious at Bishop's Annual Meeting with Delegates discussing ways religious could assist parishes in the future.

Front row (L-R): Sr. Annunciata Collins, SSJ, Secretary; Bishop LaValley; Sr. Rita Mary Morrissette, OSM, President; and Sr. Mary Fran Barnes, DC, Vice President.

Back row (L-R): Sr. Bernadette Ducharme, SCSL, Treasurer and Sr. Ellen Donahue, SA, Episcopal Delegate for Religious.

Orders Serving In The Diocese

- Brothers of Christian Instruction
- Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
- Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
- Servants of Mary
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Mid-Atlantic Community
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of St. Joseph
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province

Every year, the religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg humbly ask for your help because the cost of skilled and assisted care for our religious escalates. Our Diocese retains 90% of the Collection for direct distribution to religious who are currently serving or have served in the past in the Diocese. Ten percent (10%) of this collection is sent to the National Retirement Office for national distribution.

We are deeply aware of the struggle our families are experiencing because of the state of the economy. We are grateful for whatever you are able to give our fund.

Sister Ellen Donahue, SA
Episcopal Delegate for Religious



Jubilee 2011 - Celebrating the Past and Looking Forward to Continuing the Journey



New Religious Comes to Minister in Our Diocese as Parish Partnership Coordinator

A religious choosing to minister in our diocese is truly a gift of hope to the rest of us. Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, DC's gifts exemplify the contemporary need in our diocese to learn the skills which will deliver the services Gospel ministry calls us to today. See more on her ministry in the November 16, 2011 issue of *North Country Catholic*.

We miss the religious who leave us, and we continue to share in their care through the Retirement Collection.

We are grateful for the life and ministry of
Sr. Donna Jean Tavernier, GNSH
Mary Curran, DHM and Miriam Najimy, DHM
Sr. Mary Stephen Durant, OSM
Sr. Evelyn McCarte, DC
Sr. Anne Boyer, GNSH
and Sr. Patricia Allen, RSM
(Pictured on front page counter-clockwise from top left)

We joy in the new members who responded YES to come and minister in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Members of New Community of Foundation of Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod in Watertown

Left to right: Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, SCC and Sister Maria Angelica Rebello, SCC.

We are blessed to have these two gifted and dedicated religious in our Diocese. We await the arrival of Sister Julitta Fernandes, SCC, as a third Sister of the Cross.

Please be as generous as you can for the Religious Retirement Collection on December 10th and 11th

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why We Ask You to Help ...

Skyrocketing Costs

- There are more than 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2010, the average annual cost for their care was more than \$35,000 per person.
- In 2010 alone, the total cost to support senior women and men religious exceeded \$1 billion.

Insufficient Income

- By 2019, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one.
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is approximately \$4,700 - roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

If I contribute, do I share in the fruits of the ministry?

Religious always view donors as partners in ministry and remember them daily in prayer.

Our benefactors help to extend our Congregations into the future.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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- Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish.
- Write *Retirement Fund for Religious* on the memo line and give it to your parish collection

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish's annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

OR

send your donation directly to:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

P.O. Box 369

Ogdensburg, NY 13669



Members of the Sisters of the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown pray in community for the needs of the Church and the world. They daily pray for our Diocese and the donors who make possible the spreading of the Word of God.

Pictured from left to right: Bishop Terry LaValley, Sisters Martha Emery, Elizabeth (Joan) Washburn, Rose Rossi, Catherine Marie Gil, and Superior Marilyn McGillan. They are known for their smiles, and we are grateful they chose to establish their monastery in our diocese.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Christian families are key part of new evangelization, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christian families are called to welcome, demonstrate and spread the love and presence of Christ in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said. A family, founded on the marriage of a man and woman and open to having children, is "the human space for an encounter with Christ," he said Dec. 1 in a speech to members of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The council, founded by Pope John Paul II, was marking the 30th anniversary of its establishment by focusing on the role of the family in the "new evangelization." The pope said: "The eclipse of God, the spread of ideologies contrary to the family and the degradation of sexual ethics appear to be connected." In the same way, he said, "the new evangelization is inseparable from the Christian family." Like the church as a whole, the Christian family "is called to welcome, radiate and demonstrate the love and presence of Christ in the world," he said. The family does so by being a community of lifelong, self-giving love, he said. It is open to welcoming new life, it educates its members in the faith and in charity, and its civic involvement and charitable activity is motivated by faith.

Pope says economic crisis demands courage, reflection on causes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI said the global economic crisis demands the "courage of brotherhood" between the world's rich and poor, and calls on the church to look at the causes of poverty. The pope, addressing officials of Caritas Italy Nov. 24 at the Vatican, said true charity requires not only concrete gestures but also announcing hope and asking questions. "Responding to the needy means not only giving bread to the hungry person, but also reflecting on the causes that led to his hunger, with the gaze of Jesus who knew how to see the deep reality of the people who came close to him," he said. The church needs to look closely at the current economic crisis and consequent flows of human migration, the divide between the North and South and the injury to human dignity suffered by many people, he said. All of this "calls us to a charity that is able to widen, in concentric circles, from the small economic systems to the big ones," he said.

Audits of Irish dioceses show better handling of clergy abuse cases

DUBLIN (CNS) -- Audits of six Irish Catholic dioceses reveal "a marked improvement" in how the church is handling clerical abuse allegations. However, the reviews, carried out by the independent National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church and released Nov. 30, also show that, in the past, too much emphasis was put on the rights of accused priests and protecting the reputation of the church. Each review found evidence that insufficient attention was paid to the suffering of victims and the long-term consequences of abuse. Ian Elliott, chief executive of the safeguarding children board, said the audits show that "reporting allegations to the statutory authorities (now) occurs promptly and comprehensively." He said that "represents a major development, as past practice did not always reflect this commitment." He also said that "the need to create and maintain a safe environment for children in the church is comprehensively accepted and implemented." "There is greater awareness and much greater commitment to safeguarding children than was once the case. Individuals that are seen as being a risk to children are reported quickly to the authorities and steps are taken to eliminate their access to children," he said.

NEW YORK STATE BISHOPS IN ROME



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

U.S. bishops from the state of New York on their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican concelebrate Mass at the tomb of Blessed John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 29. Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown sixth from left; Bishop Robert J. Cunningham is fourth.

Seminary enrollment is up

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - In his first months as rector of Theological College in Washington, Father Phillip J. Brown has been confronting a problem that the national diocesan seminary for the U.S. Catholic Church "has not had for a long time" -- it is bursting at the seams.

Enrollment is maxed out for the 2011-12 academic year at 90 seminarians. Five of those seminarians are back in their dioceses this year gaining pastoral experience, but a Sulpician seminarian and five priests from other countries also live there, bringing the total number of residents to 91 plus faculty members.

"If I had to start with a problem, that's the problem I'd like to have," Father Brown told Catholic News Service. "It's a very healthy sign, a positive sign for Theological College and for the U.S. priesthood."

The trend of rising seminary enrollment is being duplicated around the country:

- At the Pontifical College

Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, 40 new seminarians arrived this year, bringing total enrollment to 186, the highest level since the 1970s.

But numbers seen as only part of story

- St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., welcomed 30 new graduate-level seminarians, making its class of 100 seminarians the largest since 1980. The influx forced 24 seminarians and two priests off campus into leased space at a former convent.

- In the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., where the St. Pius X diocesan seminary closed in 2004 because of declining enrollment, the number of seminarians has more than doubled from eight to 17 in the past two years.

Most of the Scranton seminarians are studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., where communications specialist Dan Skalski said enrollment has remained steady over the past five years, or at the Pontifical North American

College in Rome, where a class of 76 "new men" brought enrollment this fall to a full house of 250 seminarians.

In an April report, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University said enrollment was up for those studying for the priesthood, diaconate and lay ecclesial ministry during the 2010-11 academic year - the latest for which statistics were available.

But Theological College's Father Brown said a rise in enrollment is only part of the story. "It's not just the numbers but the quality and spirit of the men who are coming," he told CNS.

"I'm tremendously impressed with the quality of the candidates, their zeal," he added. "We're seeing a real renewal of the priesthood."

Father Brown said the full house has led to "a nice and interesting atmosphere" at Theological College because of the racial and ethnic diversity of the seminarians, who come from "a wide diversity of backgrounds and from a wide diversity of parts of the United States."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A day to wait for Jesus with *joyful* anticipation

The words of this Sunday's readings are the closest we have to the joy of Christmas itself.

In the second reading, we hear "Rejoice! Again I say to you 'rejoice!'

"Why?", we ask. The reason for joy is the same as that of the early Christians. They held to their firm belief that Jesus Christ has paid the price for their sins, and that he would bring them to glory in the life of the heaven.

Yet we can be left emotionally unmoved at this teaching. A false "holiday" spirit has robbed Jesus of His own birthday.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

So we need to spiritually enter into the hearts of Mary and Joseph as they excitedly await the child's arrival.

St. Paul knew that the early Christians would be tested, so he exhorts them (and us) to "pray without ceasing" and "give thanks always". Above all, he warns them in today's second reading, "Don't quench the Spirit". In this way they will be "preserved blameless in spirit, soul, and body... for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ". For many, Christ came quickly as their faith led them to martyrdom. But they never lost

their joyful spirit.

Today's Gospel continues the preaching of John the Baptist. How carefully he makes clear to the Pharisees that he is not the Christ, nor the light, but a voice testifying to the light that has come into the world.

Fear and doubt thrive in darkness. Just as turning on a light in dark room can take fear away from a child, so the light that increases in us each day of Advent can shrink our fears and bolster our hopes. When the light intensifies to the radiance of faith's assurance, then we know joy.

The only legitimate fear we're allowed to cling to is the fear of not appreciating enough what the coming of the Christ Child into the

Dec. 11

Third Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

world really means.

Historically, it was truly an earthshaking event. Nothing would ever be the same again. Sin and darkness fled when the Son of God was born in Bethlehem.

Of course, people can and do close their eyes to the light and choose to live without His Light. Only when we refuse to repent of our sins and hang on to the darkness can we have rea-

son to fear. When John in prison sends emissaries to Jesus to ask if He is really the Messiah, Jesus sends back the answer that He is already fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (first reading). He tells John that the blind now see, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News preached to them! John must have been filled with joy, even in prison.

Despite the poor economy and lack of civil discourse, despite growing poverty and eroding morals at all levels of society, we as Catholics must let Advent rekindle our own spirit of hope and bring as much light and spiritual joy as we can to the darkness around us as we await Christmas.

THE HOLY LONGING

An Advent reflection: *prayer as seeking depth*

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
NCC columnist

In our more reflective moments we sense the importance of prayer; yet, we struggle to pray. Sustained, deep prayer doesn't come easy for us. Why?

First of all, we struggle to make time for prayer. Prayer doesn't accomplish anything practical for us, it's a waste of time in terms of tending to the pressures and tasks of daily life, and so we hesitate to go there.

Coupled with this, we find it hard to trust that prayer actually works and brings

about something real in our lives. Beyond that, we struggle to concentrate when we try to pray.

Sustained, deep prayer doesn't come easy for us. Why?

Once we do settle in to pray, we soon feel ourselves overwhelmed by daydreams, unfinished conversations, half-forgotten melodies, heartaches, agendas, and the impending tasks that face us as soon as we get up from our place of prayer.

Finally, we struggle to pray because we really don't know how to pray.

We might be familiar with various forms of prayer, from devotional prayers to different kinds of meditation, but we generally lack the confidence to believe that our own particular way of praying, with all its distractions and missteps, is prayer in the deep sense.

One of the places we can

turn for help is the Gospel of Luke. More so than any of the other Gospels, his is the Gospel of prayer. In Luke's Gospel there are more descriptions of Jesus in prayer than in all the other Gospels combined.

Luke gives us glimpses of Jesus praying in virtually every kind of situation: He prays when he joy-filled, he prays when he is in agony, he prays with others around him, and he prays when he is alone at night, withdrawn from all human contact.

He prays high on a mountain, on a sacred place, and he prays on the level plane, where ordinary life happens. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus prays a lot.

And the lesson isn't lost on his disciples. They sense that Jesus' real depth and power are drawn from his prayer. They know that what makes him so special, so unlike any other religious figure, is that he is linked at some deep place to a power outside of this world.

And they want this for themselves. That's why they

approach Jesus and ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray!"

But we must be careful not to misunderstand what constituted their attraction and what they were asking for when they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

They sensed that what Jesus drew from the depth of his prayer was not, first of all, his power to do miracles or to silence his enemies with some kind of superior intelligence.

What impressed them and what they wanted too for their own lives was the depth and graciousness of his soul.

The power they admired and wanted was Jesus' power to love and forgive his enemies rather than embarrass and crush them.

What they wanted was Jesus' power to transform a room, not by some miraculous deed, but by a disarming innocence and vulnerability that, like a baby's presence, has everyone solicitously guarding his or her behavior and lan-

guage. What they wanted was his power to renounce life in self-sacrifice, even while retaining the enviable capacity to enjoy the pleasures of life without guilt.

What they wanted was Jesus' power to be big-hearted, to love beyond his own tribe, and to love poor and rich alike, to live inside of charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, mildness, and chastity, despite everything within life that militates against these virtues.

What they wanted was Jesus' depth and graciousness of soul.

And they recognized that this power did not come from within himself, but from a source outside him. They saw that he connected to a deep source through prayer, through constantly lifting to God what was on his mind and in his heart. They saw it and they wanted that depth-connection too, for themselves. So they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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AT THE MOVIES

THE MUPPETS

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Jim Henson's singing, dancing, wise-cracking band of puppets returns to the big screen in "The Muppets" (Disney), an old-fashioned and genuinely funny homage to a simpler age of wholesome family films.

Refreshingly restrained when it comes to the toilet humor and rude behavior so often spoon-fed to young filmgoers these days, "The Muppets" will appeal to nostalgic baby boomers, even as it introduces a new generation to the decidedly low-tech felt figures for whom charm is a strong suit.

Gary (Jason Segel, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Nicholas Stoller) and his brother Walter (voice of Peter Linz) live in Smalltown, U.S.A. They're good pals, despite the fact that Walter is decidedly different - in fact, he's a Muppet.

Together they watch TV reruns of "The Muppet Show," which, as many viewers will remember, origi-

nally aired in first-run syndication from 1976 to 1981.

When Gary decides to take his girlfriend, Mary (Amy Adams), to Los Angeles for their 10th anniversary, he invites Walter to come along and see the Muppet Studios where their favorite series was produced.

To their horror, they find that the Muppets have disbanded and the theater is in shambles.

Walter stumbles upon the designs of wicked oil baron Tex Richman (Chris Cooper), who wants to tear down the studios and drill for oil - unless \$10 million can be raised in just two days.

Walter persuades Gary and Mary to mount a rescue.

"As long as there are singing frogs and dancing bears the world is a good and kind place," Walter says. "There is hope."

They locate Kermit the Frog (voice of Steve Whitmire), down and out in his Beverly Hills mansion, surrounded by memories of long-ago fame. Walter raises the frog from his funk, telling him, "You give people the greatest gift of all."

"Children?" Kermit replies. No.

"Ice cream?" No.

"Laughter," Walter reveals, "is the third greatest gift of all."

Kermit agrees to stage a telethon, and sets out in his Rolls-Royce with his new friends to round up the old gang. Fozzie Bear (voice of Eric Jacobson) is discovered in Reno performing with a tribute band called "The Moopets."

Animal (also voiced by Jacobson), the manic rock-and-roll drummer, is taking anger management classes with Jack Black, who reluctantly becomes the celebrity host of the telethon.

In Paris (the Rolls drives there, underwater), Miss Piggy (also voiced by Jacobson) is the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She still pines for Kermit, whom she hoped to marry. "We could have had a home and raised tadpoles and grown old together," she tells him.

But felt proves thicker than water, and the Muppets reunite, clean up the old theater, and start rehearsals



CNS PHOTO/ DISNEY

Amy Adams and Jason Segel are seen with puppet characters in the "The Muppets."

for the telethon. As they assume their old identities, the brothers rediscover their own.

"Am I a man or a Muppet?" Gary asks. "Am I a Muppet or a man?" Walter asks. The answers come with good lessons about family, friendship, believing in yourself and following your dreams.

Directed by newcomer James Bobin, "The Muppets" contains several catchy songs and some exuberant

dance numbers.

Among the many celebrity cameos is Mickey Rooney, that old hooper who knew a thing or two about putting on a fun show for the entire family.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Prayer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Ultimately, we too want Jesus' depth and graciousness in our own lives. Like Jesus' disciples, we also know that we can only attain this through prayer, through accessing a power that lies inside the deepest deep of our souls and beyond our souls.

We know too that the route to that depth lies in journeying inward, in silence, through both the pain and the quiet, the chaos and the peace, that come to us when we still ourselves to pray.

In our more reflective moments, and in our more des-

perate moments, we feel our need for prayer and try to go to that deep place. But, given our lack of trust and our lack of practice, we struggle to get there.

We don't know how to pray or how to sustain ourselves in prayer.

But in this we are in good company, with Jesus' disciples.

And so a good beginning is to recognize what we need and where it is found. We need to begin with a plea: Lord teach us to pray!

--

Father Rolheiser can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

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188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662

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Address _____
E-mail _____
Donation Amount: _____
Telephone No. (____) _____
Trinity Student _____

ADIRONDACK

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lake Placid - Thee Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble will perform A Festival of Lessons and Carols:

Date: Dec. 18
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes Church
Price: \$5 suggestion donation
Contact: For more information please telephone 518-293-7613 or send a message by e-mail to hillholl@hughes.net

CLINTON

ADVENT MASS, MEDITATION

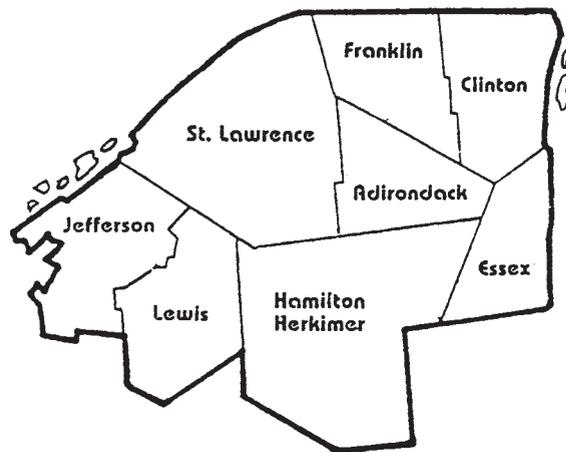
Ellenburg - Our Lady of the Adirondacks to offer day prayer and meditation.

Date: Dec. 17
Time: 9 a.m.
Features: Mass and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Fr. Ted Crosby will preside at Mass and Wanda Bushey, a native of Ellenburg Corners, will present the Joyful Mysteries in a very personal and prayerful way. Light lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.
Contact: RSVP by Dec. 15 to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 594-3253.

LESSON AND CAROLS

Plattsburgh - The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble will perform A Festival of Lessons and Carols:

Date: Dec. 17
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Price: \$5 suggestion donation
Contact: For more information please telephone 518-293-7613 or send a message by e-mail to hillholl@hughes.net



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

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

NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - The Newman Center will participate in the 22nd National Night of Prayer for Life.

Date: Dec. 8
Time: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Features: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the 4 hours, closing with Benediction. The purpose is to unite our prayers with Catholics throughout America in an effort to help lead the world to Christ and to bring about an end to abortion. The hours are chosen to coincide with Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to Juan Diego.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

JEFFERSON

SSJ ADVENT RETREAT

Watertown - The Sisters of St. Joseph are planning an afternoon of prayer and reflection.

Date: Dec. 11
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4
Features: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a reflection by Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, S.S.J., time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Contact: Please call 782-3460

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - A Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner will be held to benefit the Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus..
Date: Dec. 10
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

MYSTERY PLAYERS

Watertown - The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players will be performing this Advent Season.

Schedule is as follows:
Dec. 11: St. Cyril's in Alex Bay at 7 p.m.
Dec. 18: Holy Family Church, 7:15 p.m.
More information: www.ihcschools.org/webpages/mysteryplay

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

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Lyons Falls - There will be a Swiss Steak Dinner to benefit St. John's Church fuel fund.

Date: Dec. 13
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: McManus Hotel
Cost: \$9; Children, \$4.5; under 5, Free.
Features: A special Christmas basket for children and a Christmas lottery ticket tree will be raffled at the dinner. Take-outs and deliveries will be available by calling 377-3111 or 348-6738.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Lowville - St. Peter's Rosary Altar Society will its Christmas Banquet.
Date: Dec. 14
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: Church Hall
Cost: \$13 per dinner
Features: The Ham and Roast Pork Dinner will be catered by Joyce Hoch. Reservations need to be made with Jackie Kaban by Dec. 8 Call 376-3201 Please bring a \$5 gift to share.

ST. LAWRENCE

LIGHTING OF THE CRÈCHE

Ogdensburg - The Knights of Columbus Council 258 invite everyone to a special ceremony as they illuminate the Christmas crèche.

Date: Dec. 7
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: In front of the K of C Hall
Features: Father Joe Morgan and Father Jim Shurtleff will do the honors. A light reception will follow.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Canton - St. Mary's School will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: Dec. 10
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's School Gym
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-9, \$5; Under 5, Free
Features: The drawing for the Chevrolet car will take place at the dinner. Tickets are \$20 for 1, or \$100 for 6. Tickets may be obtained at the School, Rectory or by filling out the form in the NCC.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.
Date: Dec. 11
Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available
Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

The Franciscan Mystery Players group from St. Mary' Church in Clayton, is a traveling ministry spreading the love and hope of Jesus through "The Birth of Jesus: A Franciscan Christmas." The 2011 schedule follows:

Dec. 10 at St. Mary's Church, Potsdam at 7 p.m.
Dec. 16 at St. Mary's Church, Clayton at 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown at 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Visit www.mysteryplay.org for more information about the play and the performers.



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(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Joy is a gift

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

"The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And He is joy. Joy is the gift in which all the other gifts are included. The missionary spirit of the Church is none other than the impulse to communicate the joy which has been given."

Pope Benedict XVI

The Advent Season prepares us for Christmas and the joy of spending time with family and friends, as Pope Benedict reminds us.

As part of our preparation, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Our help is needed for children lacking food, water, and clothing as well as the elderly suffering from serious illness without medical attention.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith carries out the Pope's personal mandate to bring the Light of Christ to all nations, especially to the poor.

During Advent, we invite you to join the Holy Father by:

- praying for the success of our initiatives around the world,
- making a gift to those in need through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and
- inviting others to become a part of this important work of the Church.

Advent is a time to support the priests, religious, and lay catechists who are offering tangible help, while communicating to all of them the joy of the Christ-child: God with us!

While missionaries play critical, life-saving roles for countless families, they cannot do it alone. We are so thankful to have such generous friends, like you, dedicated to helping us.

Please "Be An Angel" for those who are in greatest need and know your support is deeply appreciated and will truly make a difference. Thank you for your consideration.

I wish you and your loved ones a holy Advent and a joyous Christmas.

Be assured that I will remember you and your intentions at Mass and in my prayers in the coming weeks.

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

OBITUARIES

Rita Mackey

WATERTOWN— A Mass of Christian Burial for Rita F. Mackey, 92, was held Nov. 23 at Holy Family Church.

She died Nov. 20 at Samaritan Keep Home where she had been a resident since February 2009.

Burial followed following in Glenwood Cemetery.

Mrs. Mackey had been a communicant of Holy Family Church, a trustee of Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg, a board member on the General Committee for the Bishop's Fund for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and had been treasurer of the Sacred Heart Foundation.

Born in Watertown on April 30, 1919, she was the daughter of Dominick and Mary Brindesi Frattali.

On May 31, 1952 she married John P. Mackey in Watertown, and he died on June 10, 1983.

Mrs. Mackey began her career in banking with Northern New York Trust Co., which merged with Marine Midland Bank. She retired as regional executive vice president in 1980.

She was very involved with her community. She was a member and on the board of directors of the Watertown Foundation, a member, on the advisory board, and second vice president of Mercy Hospital, among many other activities.

Mrs. Mackey is survived by her two sisters, Clelia M. Navarra, and husband, Nelson C., Watertown, and Lucy F. Trumble, Liverpool, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Contributions in her name may be made to either Sacred Heart or Watertown Foundations.

AuSable Forks— Sherman J. Martin, 72; Funeral Dec. 2, 2011 at St. Matthew's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage— Beatrice (Kline) Evereth, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2011 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Champlain— Marie H. Ashline, 66; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2011 at M.B. Clark Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Ft. Covington— Gloria M. (Collette) Cooke, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2011 at the Cappiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home; burial in parish cemetery.

Hammond— Agnes I. (Van Cour) Amyot, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery, Alexandria Bay.

Hogansburg— Richard C. "Dit" Garrow, 47; Funeral Nov. 26, 2011 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Hogansburg— Bruce P. Jackson, 62; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2011 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid— Thomas M. "Tommy" Fleming, 25; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2011 at St. Agnes Church.

Massena— Lois M. (Lawrence) Ashley, 88; Funeral Dec. 2, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena— Alice G. Barber; Funeral Services Nov. 29, 2011 at Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena— Kathi A. Seguin Lucas, 57; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. John's the Baptist Cemetery, Madrid.

Massena— Eva T. (Spinner) Michaud, 93; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Massena— Herman O. Smith, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville— Zigmont "Zig" Karkoski, 78; Funeral Nov. 28, 2011 at All Saints; burial in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

Moers Forks— Francis L. Menard, 73; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2011 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk— Barbara M. (Campbell) Ashley, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norfolk— George F. Regan, 59; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg— Lucy Whitcombe, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh— Clarence E. Bouyea, 87; Funeral Dec. 3, 2011 at Our Lady of Victory; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga— Carol Ann (LaTour) Alteri, 70; Funeral Dec. 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Treadwells Mills— Theresa Marie Primeau, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery, Churubusco.

Tupper Lake— Violet T. LaMare, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2011 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown— Nancy F. (Flynn) Butler, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown— Mary L. Neuroth, 91; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2011 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown— Mary Frances (McGarry) Plumpton, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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ACROSS THE DIOCESE
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Autumn scenes at North Country Parishes



Sacred Heart Parish in Chazy recently accepted a check from TD Bank in the amount of \$3,665, raised through the parish's participation in the TD Bank Affinity Membership Program. Through this program, TD Bank makes an annual contribution to an organization based on the average balances in all members' accounts (checking, savings, money market, CD, and retirement). Members' accounts are not affected in any way by this contribution and everything is totally confidential. Signing up to be a member is as simple as speaking to a teller at any TD Bank and requesting to participate with whichever organization you wish to help. A minimum of 50 members is needed to begin the process. TD Bank will provide all informational materials for pastors to inform parishioners, and will send representatives to come to the church to speak with prospective members and sign them up after weekend Masses. Shown, from left, are Kristen Nephew of TD Bank, Father Raymond Moreau, pastor in Chazy; and Germaine Hicks, assistant manager of TD Bank in Chazy.



Father Sony Pulickal blessed animals at St. Ann's Church in Wells Oct. 2 in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Among the pets blessed were Edison and Penelope, dogs belonging to Judee Lauria, who make regular visits to the local nursing home.



Linda Domagala, Father Christopher Carrara, Temmie Kubinski, and Lydia Wojnowski were among the volunteers at the Polish Festival held Oct. 16 at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville.

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