

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Says contraceptive mandate must be rescinded | PAGE 13

Businesses and Catholic organizations support Bishop's Fund insert

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SEPT. 7, 2011

## Papal message for 'cradle Catholics'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Cradle Catholics haven't done enough to show people that God exists and can bring true fulfillment to everyone, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of his former students.

"We, who have been able to know (Christ) since our youth, may we ask forgiveness because we bring so lit-

tle of the light of his face to people; so little certainty comes from us that he exists, he's present and he is the greatness that everyone is waiting for," the pope said.

The pope presided at a Mass Aug. 28 in Castel Gandolfo, during a meeting with students who did their doctorates with him when he

was a professor in Germany. Pope Benedict highlighted the day's reading in Psalm 63 in which the soul thirsts for God "in a land parched, lifeless and without water.

May God let people who are searching for water elsewhere know that the only thing that will quench their thirst is God himself and that

he would never let "people's lives, their thirst for that which is great, for fulfillment, drown and suffocate in the ephemeral," the pope told his former students.

However, it also is up to Christians to make God known to the world, "and older generations may not have done their best."

## HEARTBREAKING ANNIVERSARY

Marking ten years since Sept. 11, 2011



CNS PHOTO/VINCENZO PINTO, REUTERS. Pope John II holds his head while addressing the crowd in St. Peter's Square during his weekly audience, Sept. 12, 2001, the day after the terrorist attacks on the United States. The attacks horrified the pope and Vatican officials, who unequivocally condemned terrorism and offered prayers for the dead, the survivors and the rescue workers. Bishop LaValley shares reflections on the tenth anniversary in this week's *NCC* which also features Msgr. Whitmore's writings about the scripture readings on Sept. 11 and an article on the tragedy's spiritual dimension.

FULL STORIES, PAGE 3, 14 & 16

## A chance to help flood victims

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has established a fund to assist flood victims in the North Country. Donations may be sent to Catholic Charities, 6866 State Highway 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Donations (which will assist victims of both devastating spring storms and Hurricane Irene) can also be made online at [www.cathcharities.org](http://www.cathcharities.org).

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Rites held for Brother Rene'

Beloved teacher at MAI and Seton in Plattsburgh will be remembered at services in Plattsburgh and Maine  
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## SEMINARIANS: THE FIRST DAYS



When the doors of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, opened this week, four men from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were among more than 40 new seminarians who joined the community. From left are Michael Jablonski, Corey Haynes, Father James Wehner, rector; Christian Doran, and Alexander Pacelli. Six other diocesan seminarians, including Deacon Thomas Higman, have begun a new school year at St. Charles Borromeo in Wynneood, Penn. Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg provide support for the education of seminarians through donations to the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal. Information about this year's appeal is featured on pages 9-12.

**YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE:** Coming back home to my Catholic faith... p. 20

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLICBox 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY  
R. LAVALLEY

President

MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSI

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in April, one week in Ogdensburg and every other week in July by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

## Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

## E-mail:

news@northcountry  
catholic.orgEntered at the  
Post Office:Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$25

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$28

Canadian Rate: US Funds \$45

Matters for publication should be addressed to PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Of faith and family

Where would we be without our families?!?

I've always been thrilled that my personal family is a big one – lots of brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins upon cousins!

This past weekend, we shared great family moments as my mom celebrated her birthday (I dare not say which one!) on the same day she and my dad marked 57 years of wedded bliss.

How blest are we all!

One aspect of every good family is that we are *required* to take care of each other!

We know we can count on family in the darkest of days, in the greatest of days and just day after day... after day.

The same holds true when we consider our family of faith.

Bishop LaValley explains what that means in his letter to promote this year Bishop's Fund Appeal.

"Our common baptism has made us sisters and brothers in Christ," he writes. "God's love for us and our love for God, *reflected in our care and concern for others*, is the divine glue that keeps us together.

"Such love in action defines and describes our family of faith," the

bishop said.

The 2011 Bishop's Fund, following the theme, "Our Faith, Our Family" offers each of us the perfect way to give that care and concern to each other.

On our own, it would be impossible to keep young men in the seminary, invite hundreds of kids to Guggenheim every summer or offer parish programs to support families in the pews.

Together, we've been accomplishing all of these challenges and more for decades.

The official opening of the Bishop's Fund is set for Sept. 17-18 in parishes all across the diocese.

That gives you some time to consider how important YOUR generous donation will be.

There's all kinds of information about the work of the Bishop's Fund in the centerfold of this week's *NCC*. You'll also be hearing more in your parish over the coming weeks.

But there's really just one thing to remember: as you make your contribution, you will be doing your part to take care of the 104,000 members of our family of faith... and know that they will be there for you.

There really is nothing better than big families!

Mary Lou  
Kilian

**A Harvest of**  
Catholic news from around the world and the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg delivered to your home  
with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*

Charge my  Visa  MASTERCARD

Exp. \_\_\_/\_\_\_  New Subscription  Renewal

Check for \$25 enclosed

Outside Diocese \$28

I want to be a Patron:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$250

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

## Reconciliation in the Community

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Sept. 10-11By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI  
Director of Evangelization

"I tell you to forgive not seven times but seventy times seven." Forgiveness is never easy on a personal level or within the Church community. There can be all kinds of excuses not to forgive, e.g. Will I be taken advantage of?, or, do I appear weak? This may have been the servant's thoughts as well when he encounters his fellow servant and demands his money back. We are always in need of reconciliation throughout our Christian journey. Forgiveness is about the way God forgives. This story relates back to the Lord's Prayer in Matthew's Gospel. It is in Matthew 6: 14 that Jesus underscores His teaching when He says, "If you forgive others, your Heavenly Father will forgive you." If you do not forgive others, you are not forgiven. This gives us much to think about.

Our Christian life is not about just obeying the laws and think we will be saved. Our life is about how we treat one another, forgive one another, and love one another. Forgiveness is God's mercy. Forgiveness is forever—seventy times seven. To forgive is to forgive from the heart. We must go out of our way to forgive, no matter how hurt we have been. In order to experience the peace within our own hearts, we have to dig deeply into our souls and forgive—no matter what. This does not mean that we pretend that nothing happened or simply forgetting about the offense.

Forgiveness means loving the person in spite of the offense. The offender is precious to the Lord, therefore precious to us. The other element in forgiveness is that God does not forgive because the sinner deserves forgiveness. God forgives because God is a forgiving God. We are not called to forgive because the offender deserves forgiveness, but because God calls us to forgive, to express His love even to those who may not deserve that love. If we want to be like God, forgiveness is absolutely necessary.

As we pray the Penitential Rite in the Mass as brothers and sisters of one another, we acknowledge our sins through our own fault, striking our breast with humility, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. It is when we come together as a Family of Faith to celebrate Eucharist, we are able with God's grace to embrace our daily struggles and trials that cause us to lose focus. Christ's words of love and mercy can help us regain perspective. As God's family, God's love bonds us into one community as an extended loving family. Through God's divine infusion of His love, mercy, and forgiveness, God gives each of us the power to be united in love.

As we prepare to welcome the Third Edition of the Roman Missal, study of liturgical prayer in the coming weeks will help parish communities to renew and to deepen their understanding and experience of the power of the Eucharist in their daily lives. Begin now to prepare for next Sunday's liturgy by prayerfully reading and reflecting on the Scripture readings during the week: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Psalm 103: 1-4, 9-12; Romans 14: 7-9; Matthew 18: 21-35.

The Department of Workshop is preparing Regional mornings of reflection around the Diocese on each Saturday in October from 9:30 am-12:00pm to prepare for these changes. (See schedule on page 8 in this Week's *NCC*)

Novena to the Holy Spirit will begin on Sunday, September 25 for the fruitfulness of the implementation of the New Roman Missal.

## Novena Prayer

Receive, Lord, my entire freedom. Accept the whole of my memory, My intellect and my will.

Whatever I have or possess, It was you who gave it to me; I restore it to you in full, and I surrender it completely to the guidance of your will. Give me only love of you together with your grace, and I am rich enough, and ask for nothing more. Amen.

FOLLOW ME

# Thank God that in our land the flag waves freely

Whenever I go jogging around the streets of Ogdensburg, I check out two landmarks in the city: the flag flying outside the Fire Department building and the one waving outside the City Police Department.

They give me an idea about the wind speed and direction to see how much energy I'm going to need to muster up running against the wind, especially in the winter.

One day, as I was out pounding the pavement, I began to notice how often those two flags were flying at half-mast rather than hoisted to the top of the pole.

Particularly since that fateful day of September 11, 2001, I thought how much the weight of the whole world has tugged that tri-colored fabric from the full height of its soaring place to that half way mark to the ground.

For just a moment let us reflect on those two positions on the flag pole.

The flag at half-mast means something has happened.

Someone who has helped to keep the flag soaring in the skies has fallen... leader, firefighter, EMT, rescuer, soldier, sailor, Marine, policeman or woman, heroes all.

Each gave the ultimate to keep the stars and stripes in their rightful perch atop the pole. The wrenching loss felt by all who are good, by family, neighbor, friend, and fellow citizen, tugs at the heart and pulls our nation's banner's precious weight downward.

Yet, as the burden and weight seem so overwhelming, we know that the pull earthward is ever

so fleeting. The flag never remains in that state of limbo, wavering between heaven and earth.

No, it inevitably returns to its rightful loft. The wounded eagle eventually rises. Goodness wins.

The hearts and souls of a Godly nation once again pull the patriotic cloth to the heavens, soaring in the skies, never, never to be pinned down.

Yes, ours is a nation called to be forever Godly!

Yet, the wound must be acknowledged. The hurt must heal.

Gatherings such as this being held throughout our vast land today provide a balm for us all. When all is said and done, goodness always wins.

Yes, at times we feel the weight of the world on our nation's shoulders.

At times, the weight of the world of a particular family is laid upon the shoulders of those who seek to rescue and save their loved ones. And, because the weight continues to impress itself upon us, we remember.

As we remember, we do so not without hope because ours is a God who does not forsake or forget.

Ten years ago we were brutally invaded, a certain innocence was lost and more than 3,000 souls perished. Yet, because of hearts strong and brave, 20,000 lives were saved in the midst of that holocaust.

Loaded with safety gear from Station #'s too many to count, Ground Zero became the hallowed grave site of heroes and heroines.

Their ultimate sacrifice inspire our moms and dads, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles who today serve us in our communities at home and others serving in harm's way in distant lands all too familiar to our brave military women and men.

## A reflection on the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2011 terror attacks

Ten years ago, we suffered brutal terrorist attacks on New York, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. A dagger was thrust our way. Our pulse has never been stronger.

As we gather today and remember, let us take note of the stars and stripes and all that they symbolize, particularly the blood, sweat and tears that have become stitched into the very fabric of the banner. Take note from where on the pole it hangs.

Thank God that in our land the flag waves freely.

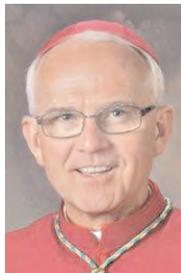
As we continue to struggle with the immense pain inflicted upon so many innocent people, with the horrific event etched into our minds and hearts, we seek healing and understanding.

We pray, Lord, *Thy Kingdom Come* where terror and violence no longer break hearts.

Whether the flag's at half-mast or in the height of flight, we have so very much for which we must thank our Lord.

God Bless America.

*(Bishop LaValley's reflection on the 9/11 Commemoration will be delivered at Library Park, Ogdensburg, Sept. 11, 2011)*



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

## October is Respect Life Month

We are inviting you to consider sponsorship of a full page advertisement with the theme

I came so that all might have

*Life*

And have it to the full



to appear in our October 5th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**

For only \$25 your name will appear as a supporter of human life from conception through natural death.

Must be returned to the NCC by September 26, 2011

**YES!** I/We would like to support a Respect Life Page in the *North Country Catholic*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it will appear in the ad (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks payable to: *North Country Catholic*  
PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669



## D.L. CALARCO Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue  
Watertown • 782-4910

Service Available

# Rites held Tuesday for Brother Rene Demers, FIC

PLATTSBURGH — A Mass of Christian Burial for Brother Rene Demers, 80, was held Sept. 6 at St. Peter's Church.

Following the liturgy, his body was moved to Alfred Maine, for a Sept. 7 Mass of Christian Burial at Notre Dame Chapel.

Burial followed in the Brothers of Christian Instruction Cemetery in Alfred.

Brother Rene died Sept. 1 at the Champlain Valley Medical Center.

He was born in New Bedford, MA, on Aug. 31, 1931, the son of Charles and Dora (Dubois) Demers.

He entered the Brothers of Christian Instruction in 1949 in Alfred, and made his novitiate in OKA in 1950. A brother for 61 years, he manifested a great devotion to the founder of the brothers, venerable John-Mary De La Mennais.

Brother Rene completed a bachelor's degree at St. Fran-

cis College, Biddeford, ME. In 1952 he started his teaching career with a brief stint at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.



Brother Rene  
Demers, FIC

He then taught at St. Joseph's School, Waterville, ME, ten years in St. Louis H.S., Biddeford, ME, Denis Hall Jr. High, in Alfred, ME and three years in Msgr. Prevost High School in Fall River, MA. In 1969, Brother Rene arrived in Platts-

burgh where he taught accounting courses at Mount Assumption Institute.

He took charge of the Alumni Association and maintained regular contact with alumni through "The Bridge" the school alumni newspaper. He faithfully clipped from the local newspaper anything about the school or alumni, creating 35 volumes which are a great historical resource. He also enjoyed running a concession stand after school and at basketball games.

In 1989 Brother Rene was

appointed director of foreign students for the newly created Seton Catholic Central. He was actively retired until several years ago when health issues started taking their toll.

Brother Rene was first of all a community man; one could always call on him for a variety of tasks. He took great pride in decorating the residence and the house chapel. He had a green thumb; his garden was a source of beauty. He was interested in jigsaw puzzles, often framing them as gifts for his special friends.

Over the last four years he spent much time with his many friends at the Clinton County Senior Center, which he called his second home. In addition he had many long term friends from among his former students.

He regularly volunteered for Seton Bingo on Saturdays and the Knights of Columbus Bingo on Mondays.

Brother Rene was a member of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer Council and Bishop Wadhams 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and St. Peter's Church. He is survived by one sister Jeanne Sukwa of Fairhaven, MA; special niece Carol Jean Baber of Howardsville, VA; special grand niece Camille Rojas and her children James Griffin and Alyssa Griffin and many other nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brothers, Raymond, Richard and Robert and one sister Theresa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Brother Rene Demers Memorial Scholarship Fund to be established at CVCS Alumni Association of which Mount Assumption Institute is part of, 407 West Bay Plaza, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

Online condolences and memorial candles may be offered at [www.brownfuneral-homeinc.com](http://www.brownfuneral-homeinc.com).

## Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes

New or Used Manufactured  
and Modular Homes

7109 State Route 9

518-563-1100 or 1-800-640-1833

[www.pwmh.com](http://www.pwmh.com)

## Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 206, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901



**NEW** Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards  
**NEW** Baptism, Wedding & Sacramental Gifts, Statues  
**NEW** Memorial, Candles, Icons, Music, DVDs, Recovery  
**NEW** Willow Tree Products, Seasonal, Maple Syrup & More!

*Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!*

Hours: M-F 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sat. 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(518) 561-5083 [peacefuldovebng@aol.com](mailto:peacefuldovebng@aol.com)  
Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

The Information Technology office provides the diocesan offices with technology solutions along with recommending strategies to maximize efficiencies in a cost-effective manner. The Information Technology office also supports all computer, phone, network and web related needs.

The IT Office also provides support for parishes throughout the diocese.



Supporting the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal Insert

# BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the  
North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website  
at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

## MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Theology of the Body at Celebrate Christ

**MASSENA** – This year’s Celebrate Christ program will feature noted speaker Christopher West offering two day-long presentations on the Theology of the Body.

The programs are set for Sept. 16 for priests, religious and deacons and their wives at St. Mary’s Church; and Sept 17 for all of those interested in learning about this topic at Sacred Heart Church.

Through philosophical reflection, humor and references to current culture realities.

West will demonstrate how the Church’s teachings on marriage sexuality make sense and correspond with the deepest longings of the human heart.

Further information about the presentation and registration forms are available on the diocesan website homepage ([www.dioogdensburg.org](http://www.dioogdensburg.org).)

Click on the Christopher West Theology of the Body icon at the bottom of the page.

Registration also may be made through pastors.

## Serra Club Pilgrimage

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

The trip is sponsored by the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office of Ogdensburg.

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

Bus pick-ups will be in Watertown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Plattsburgh. The cost for the pilgrimage including bus travel is \$90 per person. For pilgrims arranging other transportation, the cost is \$50 per person.

Registration forms are available in all parishes and on this page of the *North Country Catholic*.

Further information is available from John or Sondra Castle at (315) 265-3578.

## Altar Server Mass and Barbecue

**OGDENSBURG** – Altar servers from throughout the diocese are invited to a special Mass and barbecue Sept. 18

The Mass begins at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral and the barbecue will follow at the Knights of Columbus.

Registration may be made with pastors who should contact Jean Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 ext. 401 or e-mail [jgrizzuto@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@dioogdensburg.org) by Sept. 14 with the number of participants.

## Marriage Jubilee

**OGDENSBURG** - Bishop LaValley will preside at the annual Marriage Jubilee Mass Sept. 25 at 2:30, honoring couples celebrating anniversaries and their families.

Registration should be made with pastors.

Further information is available from the diocesan Family Life Office at 315-393-2920, ext 420 or on the Website, [www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/familylife).

## NEW PRINCIPALS



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

Four new principals are welcoming students to Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg this week. They are, front, from left, Gary West at Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in Watertown; Kyle Jabobs, St. James School, Gouverneur; and Father John Yonkovic co-principal at St. Agnes School; Lake Placid; back, St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, assistant superintendent of schools; Catherine Bemis, co-principal at St. Agnes, Lake Placid; and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent.

## To aid victims of floods:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has established a fund to assist flood victims in the North Country.

Donations may be sent to Catholic Charities, 6866 State Highway 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Donations (which will as-

ist victims of both devastating spring storms and Hurricane Irene) can also be made online at [www.cathcharities.org](http://www.cathcharities.org)

**Fall Pilgrimage to St. Agnes' Church, Lake Placid**  
October 4, 2011  
Sponsored by the Serra Club and Vocation Office of Ogdensburg

**Cost: \$90 per person including bus transportation or \$50 if you provide your own transportation**  
Includes: Luxury Coach Transportation, Mass with Bishop LaValley at 11 a.m.,  
Buffet Luncheon at the Crown Plaza Hotel at 12:30 p.m. and a Holy Hour at St. Agnes Church at 2:30 p.m.

**Return Form Below No Later Than September 15, 2011**

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

Please select:  Private Car \$50 per person  Bus Option \$90 per person  Plattsburgh  Watertown  Ogdensburg  Potsdam  
Bus pick up areas will be sent upon close of registration. Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ seats.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**NO CANCELLATION REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**  
For further information please contact: John & Sondra Castle at 315-265-3578

FROM EAST TO WEST IN THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

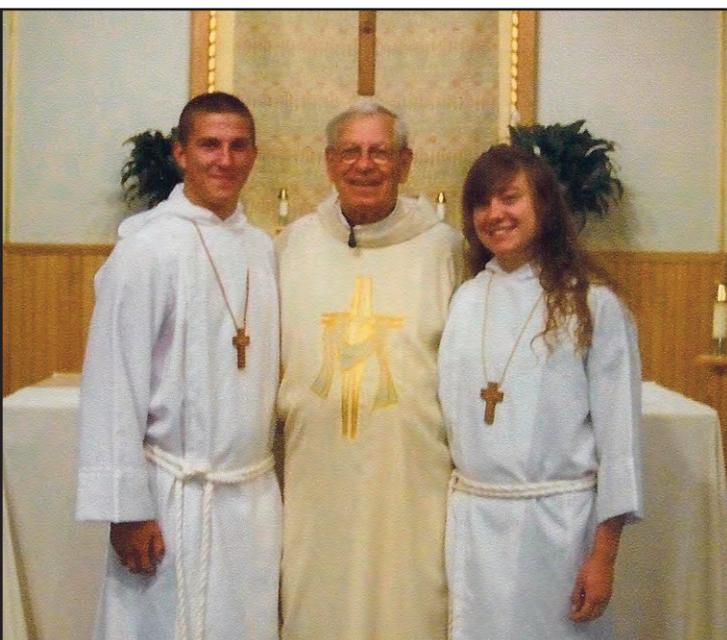
# FACES OF FAITH



The Altar Rosary Society at St. Patrick's Parish in Brasher Falls recently held its Communion Breakfast at Erin's Isle in Brasher Falls. The guest speaker was Servite Sister Mary Stephen Durant from Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Parish in Massena who spoke about Mary the Mother of Jesus. Pictured, front, from left are Liz Compeau, Margaret Hammill, Lorretta Gerow, Jud Dullea, Rita Kilcoyne, Theresa Phillips, Theresa Monroe and Jane Sochia; middle, Bev Moody, Marilyn Lane, Joanne Foisy, Cathy Hance, Betty Williams, Mary Eldridge and Rayona Thompson; and back, Katy Brown, Sue Martin, Patty Eldridge, Ann Norton, Bernadette Frohm, Kathleen Collins, Father Garry Giroux and Elvia Cherniak



Father Scott Fobare, pastor in Port Henry, recently blessed the cross for the new Catholic Community of Moriah Cemetery. The Port Henry Knights of Columbus Divine Mercy Council 384 donated the Corpus of Christ that hangs on the cross. Pictured, from left are Knights Martin Bezon, Napoleon Marcotte, Father Fobare, Patrick Sullivan, Gerald Farrell, Tom Wood, Tom Langey and Chuck Kolodzey.



Christopher Veverka and Sarah Mahler, recent graduates of Schroon Lake Central School, were recognized by parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church for 10 years as altar servers at Mass. Christopher, who has twice been to Nicaragua with the North Country Mission of Hope, will be attending SUNY Canton this fall while Sarah, valedictorian of her class, will be enrolling at the Culinary Institute of America. They are pictured with the pastor, Father Richard Sturtz, following their last Sunday as servers.



Pearl Puterbaugh of St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg was presented with a Senatorial Proclamation by State Senator Patty Ritchie in recognition of her achievement as a centenarian. Pearl was born in St. Lawrence County in 1910 and has lived her entire life here. She is the eldest of six generations and is the mother of Ruby Bullock of Wilson, NY, Joyce O'Brian of Norwood, Janice Sargent of Ogdensburg, and John Puterbaugh of Cape Coral, Fla. Her youngest daughter, Saron Zastrow is deceased. She enjoys music, bingo and visiting with family and friends and sharing numerous good memories. Pictured. With Mrs. Puterbaugh, from left are Dick Sargent, Janice Sargent, Joyce O'Brian, Sydney Sargent (great-granddaughter) and Scott Sargent (grandson).

# Oct. 2 Life Chains planned

Life Chains have been scheduled in several sites in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 2 in observance of Respect Life Sunday.

## To open Respect Life Month

Colleen Miner, diocesan director of respect life ministry said, "More than 1,800 locations across the United States and Canada will participate in this peaceful, prayerful, public witness which is the kick-off for Respect Life Month.

"Life Chain is open to all faiths," she said. "It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the sanctity of human life should be supported from the moment of conception until natural death.

Life Chain participants stand in prayer on sidewalks across the United States and Canada, holding professionally printed signs which are provided at each area.

The North Country locations are:

- Plattsburgh - Smithfield Blvd at Cornelia St, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30; Contact: Wanda Gaffney, 518-586-2778

- Potsdam - Market St at Main St, 2 p.m. to 3:30; Contact: Chris LaRose 315-403-8123

- Saranac Lake - Bandshell Park at River St, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Contact: John & Colleen Miner 518-891-2309

- Willsboro - Main Street near the library, from 2 p.m. to 3, pick up signs at the empty parking lot.



Proud to serve the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg.

**PINTO MUCENSKI HOOPER  
VAN HOUSE & CO.**  
Certified Public Accountants, P.C.

42 Market St. Potsdam, NY 13676 Phone: 315 265 6080 Fax: 315 265 3530	443 S. Main St. Massena, NY 13662 Phone: 315 769 7430 Fax: 315 769 8377
--	--

202 Ford St.  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
Phone: 315 393 7502  
Fax: 315 393 9231

Members: American Institute of  
Certified Public Accountants  
NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants

*Supporting the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal Insert*

**STAFFORD · PILLER**  
MURNANE · PLIMPTON  
KELLEHER · TROMBLEY  
PLLC  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW

*One Cumberland Avenue  
PO Box 2947  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901*

Ph: 518-561-4400  
Fax: 518-561-4848  
Website:  
[www.soctlaw.squarespace.com](http://www.soctlaw.squarespace.com)

---

Supporting the 2011  
Bishop's Fund Appeal Insert

Since 1954

**MORT BACKUS & SONS, INC.**  
OGDENSBURG, NY

**CHEVROLET • BUICK**

Ogdensburg-Canton Road  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**315-393-5899**  
[www.mortbackus.com](http://www.mortbackus.com)

*Supporting the 2011 Bishop Fund Appeal Insert*

**Sullivan's**  
Office Supply, Inc.

219 Center Street Massena, NY 315 764 0295

Office Supplies  
[sosupply.com](http://sosupply.com)

Specialty Gifts  
[seasons-gifts.com](http://seasons-gifts.com)

*Seasons*  
Specialty Gifts

27 West Orvis Street Massena, NY 315 764 7671



## Our Faith, Our Family

**Respect Life Office**  
**Natural Family Planning Office**  
**Pre-Cana/Marriage Preparation office**  
**Family Life Office**

*Working together to build and strengthen our diocesan families.*

### Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**Sept. 8** – 2 p.m., Installation Mass of the Most Rev. Charles Chaput as Archbishop of Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

**Sept. 9** – 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Candidates at Wadhams Hall

**Sept. 10** – 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisville.

**Sept. 11** – 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**Sept. 12** – 11:00 a.m., Canonical Elections at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown.

**Sept. 13** – 10:30 a.m., Investment Advisory Committee Meeting at the Brzana Conference Room in Ogdensburg.

**Sept. 14** – 12:05 p.m., Bishop's Heritage Circle Mass at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh followed by luncheon.

### Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training.

Further information: Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920. ext. 403. Upcoming programs:

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

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

**Sept. 24** – 8:30 a.m., Immaculate Heart Central Intermediate School, Watertown

**Sept. 24** – 9:30 a.m., St. James Minor Church, Carthage

Nov. 5 – 1 p.m., Holy Ghost Academy, Tupper Lake

**Nov. 17** – 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Chazy

### Regional reflections

**Every Saturday** during the month of October, the Department of Worship is providing mornings of understanding, reflection and prayer on the changes in the Roman Missal for the people of the Diocese. People in the parishes will also have the opportunity for prayer and faith-sharing experiences using the resource *Lifting Up Our Hearts* or another resource to deepen their understanding of becoming an active participant in the Liturgy. The dates for the Regional Saturday Mornings of Reflection follow. All the programs are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon, :

**Oct. 1** – St. James Church, Carthage

**Oct. 8** – Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg

**Oct. 15** – St. Patrick's Center, Port Henry

**Oct. 22** – St. Bernard's School, Cafeteria, Saranac Lake

**Oct. 29** – St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh

### Rest in Peace

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

**Sept. 5** –; Rev. Louis C. Gardner, 2000

**Sept. 6** – Rev. James Connor, 1930

**Sept. 7** – Rev. Manuel Belleville, 1964

**Sept. 8** – Rev. William Coffey, 2000

**Sept. 9** – Rev. Michael Olivetti, 1863;

Rev. Thomas P. Fitzgerald, 1914; Rev. Antonio Audet, 1957

**Sept. 11** – Rev. J.A. Langlois, 1872;

Rev. Hyacinth Rueberg, 1913

**Sept. 12** – Rev. Vincent Skiba, 1984



### CAR RAFFLE

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

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

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

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

ST. AGNES CHURCH  
 169 HILLCREST AVE  
 LAKE PLACID, NY 12946

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20 EACH or 6 for \$100**

You do not have to be present to win.

NCC

# WILLIAM J. MURRAY, INC.

*Electrical Contractors*

**118 HAMMOND LANE  
 PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901**

COMMERCIAL AND  
 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL  
 CONSTRUCTION WORK

Established 1931

*Supporting the 2011 Bishop Fund Appeal Insert*



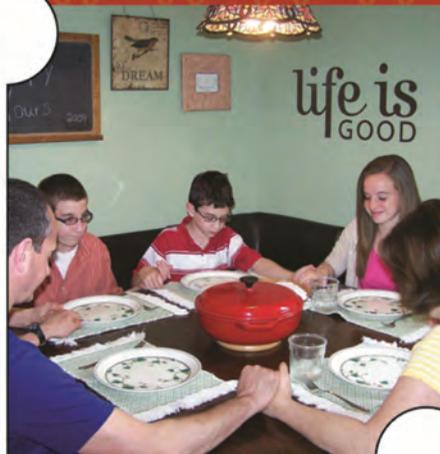
**MALONE  
 OFFICE  
 PRODUCTS**

Dean Lamica  
 Sales Representative

333 West Main St., Malone

**1-800-894-6626**

**518-483-6600**



**OUR FAITH, OUR FAMILY**



# **2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal**

# OUR FAITH, OUR FAMILY

*The Bishop's Fund Appeal provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following are among the ministries supported:*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:



Sister Sledge had a hit that became the theme song for the 1979 World Series Champs, the Pittsburgh Pirates: "We Are Family." That year, the Pirates were successful inasmuch as their team philosophy, expressed in that song title, reflected the closeness of team members and their support for each other, regardless of the positions they played on the field. Family defined and described who they were.

Our family members support and care for each other, not in hopes of winning the World Series, but because our homes are havens of love. Our common baptism has made us sisters and brothers in Christ. God's love for us and our love for God, reflected in our care and concern for others, is the divine glue that keeps us together. Such love in action defines and describes our family of faith.

The theme for the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal is "Our Faith, Our Family." Our faith, our love of God, impels us to care for one another in our common journey of faith. The ministries and services provided by your support of the Bishop's Fund Appeal helps our local Church reach out to our North Country neighbors.

Did you know that because of your generosity to last year's Appeal we have been able to:

- Provide academic, pastoral and spiritual formation to our priests, seminarians, deacons and commissioned lay ministers who will serve in parishes across the Diocese;
- Promote and foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life;
- Provide programs to strengthen marriages and families;
- Promote respect for all life;
- Assist those who are hurting: the poor, sick, elderly, hungry, and the unemployed;
- Educate children in Catholic Schools and the adults and youth in Religious Formation;
- Provide our parishes support and resources to build and sustain youth-centered, parish-based youth ministry programs; and
- Reach out to college students and young adults through campus ministry and young adult ministry programs.

These ministries, provided through your continued generous support of the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal, make us who we are: a family of faith. Thank you for the sacrifice you make for this year's Appeal. It is, after all, Our Faith, Our Family.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

*Terry R. LaValley*

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

**For more information and to view the  
2011 Bishop's Fund Video, please visit  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/development](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/development)**

## Religious Formation & Spiritual Life

### Department of Christian Formation

Through its central office in Ogdensburg and the regional offices in Watertown, Plattsburgh, and Ogdensburg, it assists parishes in establishing and maintaining religious education and formation programs for children and adults. For those who wish to become religious educators the Department provides the catechist formation program with the end result being a certified catechist qualified to work in catechetical formation and education in parishes.

### Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry

Dedicated to be the traveling companion of our young people on the road of life and it is incumbent upon us as a Church community to nurture, guide, and support these young disciples. The Office of Youth Ministry is committed to providing the parishes of the diocese with the support and resources needed to build and sustain youth-centered, parish-based youth ministry programs. The Office of Youth Ministry operates Camp Guggenheim and SportsCamp at Wadhams Hall.

### Young Adult Ministry

Assists and encourages young adults (ages 18 – 39) to deepening their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In partnering with young Catholics throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg we will create a faith experience that is relevant in today's world through prayer, service, education and fellowship that positively highlights the magnificent work of God in our world -- past, present and future.

### Guggenheim Center

A summer retreat and camp for children, young adults and adults, which provides an opportunity for all ages to enjoy one another within a faith-based environment in the beautiful Adirondacks. Modern facilities, newly renovated kitchen and dormitory all facing on a beautiful, clear mountain lake.

### Office of Evangelization

Strives to find creative methods to proclaim and to teach the Word of God and to help the parishes and the People of God be aware of their experiences of God's love in their life and to express this to others. The spiritual life of the People of God grows in different ways. Some of the ways of growing in the faith and being evangelizers of the faith are through prayer, reflection, study of Scripture and becoming involved in small community faith-sharing groups. Resources are available to parishes to support their evangelization efforts and to aid inactive Catholics to help them reconnect with their Catholic faith.

### Department of Worship

Offers assistance in areas of worship, of church art and architecture, and of music and liturgy. Its primary purpose is to help parishes implement the liturgical norms of the Roman Catholic Church, as well as, to be available as a resource for liturgical celebrations and formation throughout the diocese.

## Social Concerns

### Family Life Office

Prepares and educates us about the covenant vocation of marriage and family life. This ministry encourages couples to be a living sacrament, a sign of God's love, life and service in our world, supports families through changing life cycles and nurtures the holiness of family life. The Family Life Office provides programs to strengthen family life, such as *Family Guggenheim* Family Retreat Program, parish programs for marriage enrichment such as "Dinner for Two" and other opportunities to help build family life. We celebrate the sacrament of Marriage with the annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee. The office strives to work collaboratively with other offices to help provide support for strong Family Life within our diocese.

### Natural Family Planning Office

Helps couples live as good stewards of married love and the gift of life. Through parish outreach, media, marriage preparation, and Natural Family Planning classes and consultation, this ministry educates couples to understand and embrace God's plan for marriage and family.

### Respect Life Ministry

Dedicated to building a Culture of Life through education, communication and advocacy. This ministry provides educational materials on a variety of life issues through pastors, parish pro-life representatives, the diocesan newspaper, the respect life website and at diocesan events.

### Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund

Through your generosity, the Good Samaritan Fund enables Bishop LaValley to provide Christian charity, an ongoing good work of the Church, to people in the North Country who are experiencing particular financial difficulty.



## Priest, Deacon & Lay Education

### Education of Seminarians

Enables our seminarians to pursue God's call to the priesthood by assisting with tuition, room and board and medical insurance.

### Continuing Education & Formation of Clergy

Conducts programs and conferences that support the ongoing formation and education of the priests for the Diocese.

### Priests' Graduate Studies

Provides graduate studies for priests in sacramental theology, Scripture, moral theology, Canon Law, and counseling, among other areas of concentration where the Bishop would see a need.

### Vocation Office

Fosters and promotes Church vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life in the Diocese of Ogdensburg with the awareness that every son or daughter of God receives the call of Christ to "Follow Me."

### Permanent Deacons

Facilitates assignments and retreats, and organizes ministerial activities and continuing education opportunities.

### Deacon Formation

Provides the spiritual, pastoral, personal and academic formation of candidates who are discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate.

### Formation for Ministry Program

Provides academic, pastoral and spiritual formation for sponsored persons called to ministry in their local parishes or in a recognized pastoral ministry within the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Catholic Education



### Tuition Assistance Program

Financially supports parents in their efforts to provide their children with a quality Catholic school education.

### Campus Ministry Program

Supports Campus Ministries at the nine colleges located throughout our Diocese.

### Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools

Dispenses the matching grants to Catholic Schools.

## Bishop's Fund Prayer



**Loving God,  
pattern of family life,  
may the Church of Ogdensburg  
always live as your holy people,  
united as you are  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Make us a sign of your love  
for the people of the North Country and beyond.  
Help us to show forth in our family  
the living presence of Christ.  
May we persevere in faith and in witness!**

**Bless the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal.  
Instill within us a generous and life-giving spirit.  
Help this local Church to grow  
in faith, holiness, charity, and loving service.**

**One God, three Persons,  
be near to the people formed in your image,  
and may your love become effective in our lives.**

**Amen.**

# Our Faith, Our Family



*2011 Bishop Fund  
Appeal Goal  
\$1,250,000*

*Your support of the 2011 Bishop's  
Fund Appeal continues the good  
works of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



## Ways to Give

**Gifts of Cash:** Checks should be made payable to the "Bishop's Fund Appeal."

**Pledge:** A gift to the Bishop's Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

**Gifts of Securities:** Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date of your gift.

**Matching Gifts:** Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company's Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

**Online Giving:** The Bishop's Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit [www.dioogdensburg.org/development](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/development) and click on Donate Now.

*Please help to support the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal - Give Generously*

YES! I WANT TO MAKE MY GIFT TO THE 2011 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

SEND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: **Bishop's Fund Appeal** OR FILL IN CREDIT CARD INFO.

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_        

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE GIFT  PLEDGE  MATCHING GIFT TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TOTAL GIFT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOW PAYING \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEDGE AMT DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL  
PO BOX 150  
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669

OR PLACE IN YOUR PARISH COLLECTION

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Revised Roman Missal binds Catholics across a 2,000-year history

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When the third edition of the English-language version of the Roman Missal is implemented at Advent, it will mark the continuing evolution of the eucharistic liturgy that began in the earliest days of the church. The most recent changes -- which more closely reflect "Lituriam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy"), the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments' 2001 document on liturgical translations -- are unlikely to be the last, liturgists agree. From Aramaic to Greek to Latin to vernacular language after the Second Vatican Council, the Mass has evolved over 2,000 years in an effort to help worshippers appreciate the mystery that is God. "It's not the changing that's abnormal. It's not changing that's abnormal," said Jesuit Father John Baldovin, professor of historical and liturgical theology at Boston College, who explores the history of the missal and the new English translation in a video series on the National Jesuit News website. The translation that began being implemented in English-speaking countries in 2010 has been openly criticized by some clergy and liturgy experts for its structurally complicated language that they believe strays from the intent of Vatican II's liturgical reforms. But other liturgists responsible for catechesis on the missal are reminding the faithful that the translation helps bind modern-day Catholics with early Christians through its more authentic language. "People may find it interesting that this has developed over centuries. It isn't something dropped out of the sky at Vatican II, but it has a history," said Christina Ronzio, director of the Office for Worship in the Cleveland Diocese.

## Bishops urge 'supercommittee' to remember poor in budget talks

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' international and domestic policy committees urged the 12-member Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction -- popularly known as the "supercommittee" -- to remember the poor and vulnerable as they come up with a plan to deal with the nation's financial deficit. "In this effort, you will examine endless data, charts and alternative budgets," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Bishop Stephen E. Blaize of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, in their Aug. 31 letter. "Behind all those numbers are people we serve every day in our parishes, schools, hospitals, shelters and soup kitchens. The poorest and most vulnerable do not have powerful lobbyists, but they have the most compelling needs and a special claim on our individual consciences and national choices, especially in these times of massive joblessness, increasing poverty and growing hunger," they said. The supercommittee, made up of six members of the Senate and six of the House of Representatives, and equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, was created as part of the August deal to raise the national debt ceiling. It will first meet Sept. 16, and it must recommend by Thanksgiving cuts of \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. If its recommendations are not adopted, \$1.2 trillion in cuts over 10 years would be triggered -- half involving defense spending. "A just framework for future budgets cannot rely on disproportionate cuts in essential services to poor and vulnerable persons. These programs need to be made more effective, efficient and responsive and we should work to strengthen and improve them on an ongoing basis," said Bishops Hubbard and Blaize.

# Says contraceptive insurance mandate must be rescinded

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The federal government's mandate that all health insurance plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge "represents an unprecedented attack on religious liberty" and creates "serious moral problems" that require its rescission, attorneys for the U.S. bishops said in comments submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services.

In a 35-page comment submitted Aug. 31, Anthony R. Picarello Jr. and Michael F. Moses, general counsel and associate general counsel, respectively, for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called the HHS mandate "unprecedented in federal law and more radical than any state contraceptive mandate enacted to date."

"Only rescission will eliminate all of the serious moral problems the mandate creates," they said. "Only rescission will correct HHS' legally flawed interpretation of the term 'preventive services.'"

The mandate and a proposed religious exemption to it were announced Aug. 1 by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and are subject to a 60-day comment period.

The USCCB attorneys also took issue with the religious exemption proposed by HHS, saying it "represents an unprecedented intrusion by the federal government into the precincts of religion that, if unchecked here, will support ever more expansive and corrosive intrusions in the future."

HHS has proposed that only religious employers meeting four criteria would be exempt from providing contraceptives and female sterilization through their health plans. Those requirements are that the organization "(1) has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; (2) primarily employs persons who share its reli-

gious tenets; (3) primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets; and (4) is a nonprofit organization" under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

**The mandate represents an 'unprecedented attack on religious liberty' and creates 'serious moral problems'**

"Under such inexplicably narrow criteria -- criteria bearing no reasonable relation to any legitimate (let alone compelling) government purpose -- even the ministry of Jesus and the early Christian church would not qualify as 'religious,' because they did not confine their ministry to their co-religionists or engage only in a preaching ministry," the USCCB comments said.

"The government has no business engaging in religious gerrymanders, whereby some churches are 'in' and others are 'out' for regulatory purposes based on who their teaching calls them to serve, how they constitute their workforce or whether they engage in 'hard-nosed proselytizing,'" the attorneys added.

They said it is "blatantly unconstitutional" to treat religious denominations or organizations differently because some are "so to speak, insular in their workplace and ministry" and others "have a missionary outlook."

"Church agencies with the temerity (in the government's view) to hire and serve persons other than their own members are penalized by the HHS exemption or, alternatively, forced to fire nonmembers and withdraw from or limit public service," they said. "Such a forced choice is offensive, discriminatory and unconstitutional."

The USCCB also said in its comments that the HHS contraceptive mandate violates the Weldon amendment, cer-

tain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Obama administration's public statements about coverage of abortion, because the contraceptives that must be covered include ella, which can cause abortions.

It also "targets Catholics for special disfavor 'sub silentio' and therefore violates both the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment," the comments said.

"Moral opposition to all artificial contraception and sterilization is a minority and unpopular belief, and its virtually exclusive association with the Catholic Church is no secret," Picarello and Moses said.

"Thus, although the mandate does not expressly target Catholicism, it does so implicitly by imposing burdens on conscience that are well known to fall almost entirely on observant Catholics -- whether employees, employers or insurers."

The mandate also interferes with church governance by "forcing churches as employers (save those few excepted) to purchase for, and then provide without charge to, their employees services that violate the religion's own moral rules," the attorneys said.

"If the state forces church institutions to violate their own moral rules, then their governance structure is damaged not only by the immediate compulsion, but also by severely compromising that church's ability to enforce those same rules internally in the future," they added.

In composing a religious exemption, the USCCB urged HHS to look to the "church plan" exemption found in section 414(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, which defines a "church plan" to include any pension or welfare plan to covers employees or a church or tax-exempt organization associated with a church."

Sept. 11, 2011 - the tenth anniversary

# Reflection on tragedy's spiritual dimension

By Beth Griffin  
Catholic News Service

**RYE, N.Y. (CNS)** - As Chief Joseph W. Pfeifer of the New York City Fire Department sees it, the 9/11 terrorist attacks were a global trauma and the 10th anniversary of the attacks provides a transformative opportunity for the world community to pause and think about the tragedy's spiritual dimension and its aftermath.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Pfeifer was chief of the 1st Battalion, one of the first on the scene and in charge of directing firefighter response in the north tower of the World Trade Center. He met his firefighter brother in the lobby of the building as Lt. Kevin Pfeifer responded to the second alarm. They exchanged a few words, and Kevin headed up the stairs. He helped evacuate workers and directed other firefighters to safety, but he was killed in

the collapse of the building.

"People were angry at God and they had every right to be, but that was not my experience," Pfeifer said in an interview with Catholic News Service. "I was walking back to the firehouse from the site on the second day, when we knew there would be no more survivors. It was completely dark except for the lights we had brought in. There was no power and there was smoke everywhere.

"Instead of anger, I felt an encounter, as if I was coming back to an old friend, or putting on an old sweatshirt. I had wrestled with God and spirituality before. I had had the experience of being in a conflicted place and trying to understand what it means," Pfeifer said.

"How do you encounter spirituality and what is your personal experience of God? Mine was very much on West Street, walking back in complete sadness, but it was a

place I'd been to before."

Pfeifer graduated from Cathedral College in Douglaston, N.Y., and studied two years at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, N.Y., from which he later earned a master's degree in theology. He said he was familiar with wrestling with God and trying to figure out what he was called to do with his life. He is now the chief of counterterrorism and emergency preparedness for the New York City Fire Department and addresses groups of people in many parts of the world.

Pfeifer said there is transformation through trauma.

"We used to think the 9/11 attacks were just New York and D.C., and Pennsylvania, but they were more than that," he said. "It was a global trauma, an entire world encounter and transformation occurred" when people could see that all local acts of terrorism, whether in Ireland or Israel or Afghanistan, were represented at the World Trade Center.

"It gave the victims of terrorism an international voice and showed that terrorism is a crime against humanity," he said.

People encounter spirituality in different ways, he said, and the 10th anniversary will allow people to connect their individual experiences with those of people in a larger group.

One such larger group devastated by the Sept. 11 attacks lives in Rockaway Peninsula at the southwest tip of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Rockaway is a relatively isolated section of the populous borough of Queens. Generations of New Yorkers have escaped the summer heat on its Atlantic Ocean beaches and more than 100,000 people are now full-time residents of the handful of communities that span the narrow 10-mile stretch. The barrier peninsula is known locally as the Irish Riviera because it attracted so many



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ  
**Msgr. Martin T. Geraghty distributes Communion during Mass at St. Robert Belarmine Church in Bayside, N.Y., Aug. 23. Msgr. Geraghty was pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Belle Harbor in 2001, where funeral Masses were celebrated for 12 victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.**

New Yorkers of Irish ancestry.

Rockaway is home to firefighters, police officers, emergency responders and financiers and the collapse of the World Trade Center tore a huge hole in the heart of the peninsula. Seventy residents were killed in the disaster. Many of them worshipped at one of the eight Catholic churches that punctuate the flat, sandy neck of land.

Pfeifer is a longtime summer resident of Breezy Point and worships at St. Thomas More in Rockaway Point. He described one of several memorials on the peninsula that includes quiet spaces to encourage reflection.

Msgr. Martin T. Geraghty was pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Belle Harbor in 2001. Twelve of the World Trade Center victims were buried from the church. On Nov. 12, three days after the last funeral, Msgr. Geraghty was celebrating the 9 am Mass

when an American Airlines flight bound for the Dominican Republic crashed one block from the church, killing all 260 people on the plane and five on the ground, including parishioners.

"At Christmas 2001, a friend from Michigan asked if I was 'over it yet'," Msgr. Geraghty said. "I told him it'll never be over for us. It has been a defining moment in the lives of families here."

He said, "There is an ongoing role for people. The message of the Gospel didn't become irrelevant that day. We're just at the beginning: 2,000 years hasn't been long enough for our tribal human hearts to absorb the message of Jesus Christ."

Msgr. Geraghty said tribal human hearts is his way to describe that human beings have only had a short time of mindfulness since their creation and still have a long way to go.

"We're at the beginning of this. God is calling us out of tribalism into a different understanding," he said.

Rosellen Dowdell is the widow of Lt. Kevin Dowdell, who was a New York firefighter. She is a parishioner at Blessed Trinity Parish, which includes three churches in Rockaway.

"I've never blamed God," she told CNS. "I've always looked to God for an answer. I guess I always hoped there was solace in going to Church and being in the presence of God."

Msgr. Michael J. Curran, pastor of Blessed Trinity, said 10 years after the disaster, "So many of these families, who have every reason to be angry at God, have not given up. They are still faithful. I'm more aware of the spiritual strength of people. Folks are not fair-weather friends of God."

"The question of 'why?' is still out there, but they are willing to trust God and keep him at the center of their lives. Nobody has just slammed down their bat and ball and gone home," he said.



**MURNANE**  
**BUILDING**  
**CONTRACTORS**

104 Sharron Ave., PO Box 3048  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
Phone: 518-561-4010 Fax 518-561-5926

Supporting the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal Insert

# Change in leadership can bring spiritual lift

By Chaz Muth  
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)-- When Nancy Frankowski walks to church, she is confronted with scaffolding covering much of her beloved Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul so that workers can refresh the exterior of Philadelphia's 147-year-old Catholic structure.

While it's a temporary eyesore, the Philadelphia Catholic says she is looking forward to seeing the building restored to its original grandeur.

She is also looking for a renovation of sorts for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia when it welcomes Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, formerly of Denver, who succeeds the retiring Cardinal Justin Rigali Sept. 8.

A fresh face at the helm may provide the spiritual lift that is needed in an archdiocese that has been rocked by a child-abuse scandal and indictments, Frankowski said following a 12:05 p.m. Tuesday Mass. "I think it will be good for Philadelphia."

A change in leadership can provide a psychological boost to every diocese and archdiocese, said Father Dennis Gill, director of the Office for Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Archbishop Chaput's appointment to Philadelphia comes as the archdiocese is still reeling from a scathing grand jury report released in February.

It accused the Philadelphia Archdiocese of failing to stop priests from sexually abusing children even after a previous report had called attention to problems. It said more than three dozen priests with allegations of sexual abuse were still in positions where they could contact children.

At the grand jury's recommendation, two priests, a layman and a former archdiocesan priest were charged with criminal counts related to abuse of juveniles. Another priest was charged with endangering child welfare for his role in assigning the accused priests.

In response, the Philadelphia Archdiocese has taken actions that include hiring a former sex crimes prosecutor to review personnel files of the 37 priests named in the grand jury's report. Cardinal Rigali also placed more than two dozen priests on administrative leave while al-

legations against them are reviewed.

"It has been a very difficult period, that's true," Father Gill said. "There's been a lot of pain, in so many different ways during this period."

A different leader will also provide a fresh perspective when dealing with the challenges that face the archdiocese, said Michele Meiers, an administrator for the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Meiers said employees throughout the archdiocese have expressed excitement about the changing of the guard. It's not that they have

been unhappy with the leadership of Cardinal Rigali, but a change at this time offers everyone a clean slate, she said.

"There is a hope that with someone who is new, things will be different and things will be better," Father Gill said.

**+Benedictus+**

Created for Pope Benedict XVI on the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination. Linden blossom, bergamot and frankincense create a soothing, refreshing aftershave.

**Order now:**  
www.ExcelsisUSA.com or  
888-357-3957



# It's Our Mission.

## Quality Health Coverage





**FIDELIS CARE®**

### Medicaid Managed Care with Fidelis Care

- Health insurance coverage for children and adults in New York State who qualify
- Checkups with your own doctor
- X-rays and lab tests
- Hospital and emergency care
- Dental and vision care
- Speech and hearing services
- Behavioral health services
- More than 43,000 quality providers

**Proof of age, income, and address necessary to enroll.**  
Medicaid Managed Care is a New York State-sponsored health insurance program offered by Fidelis Care.

**Fidelis Care is sponsored by the Diocesan Bishops of New York State**



To find out if you are eligible for one of our government-sponsored health insurance programs, contact Fidelis Care at:

**1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547)**

(TTY: 1-800-421-1220) • [fideliscare.org](http://fideliscare.org) To renew your coverage each year, call 1-866-435-9521

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# God speaks to our hearts on Sept. 11

This Sunday we commemorate ten years of a terrible wound inflicted on our country by foreign terrorists.

Devastating though it was to buildings that symbolize American power, the murder of thousands of lives that day was far greater.

During these past ten years, families still grieve the loss of loved ones, and our nation still fights off insecurity and fear--and unforgiveness.

God is surely speaking to our hurts in the 27th and 28th chapters of Sirach that make up our first reading for this Sunday. "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; when when yo pray, your own sins will be forgiven."



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

Just like a fearful child will hang on to an old piece of blanket, so will the "sinner" (that's me!), hang on to unforgiveness. It's mine! I'll feel weak and defeated if I let it go.

And so we hug it to ourselves.

Isn't it something how slow we are to let old hurts heal?

They will probably never heal until we see our enemies as human.

We need to understand more of their anger and wrath. We need to know more about their religion, and what true and moderate Islam really teaches.

There's more really good advice in today's passage from Sirach.

He asks how we can possi-

bly expect healing from the Lord unless we let go our unforgiveness.

Now that's a thought to ponder. There's a real connection between God's forgiving me and my forgiving my neighbor.

God says there is a connection, and we need to listen.. It's human to want revenge, but is it God's way?

How many times has God forgiven our sins and failings!

Look at the steward in this Sunday's Gospel. He probably thought his Master was foolish and soft to forgive him the millions of dollars he owed, even though he gladly accepted the favor.

But he evidently didn't see any reason why he himself should act in the same way toward his fellow servant.

And that servant owed a bare fraction of the debt his

## SEPT. 11

### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings

Sirach 27:30-28:9

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

master had forgiven him.

What a huge debt we owe God for His great mercy toward us. Forgiving others is the way we pay that debt to God.

And the funny thing is that we don't really lose anything at all by forgiving. It's not money out of our pocket, nor is it hurting our health. Just the opposite.

Holding grudges is what hurts our health, while forgiving others is actually beneficial.

To forgive means to let go,

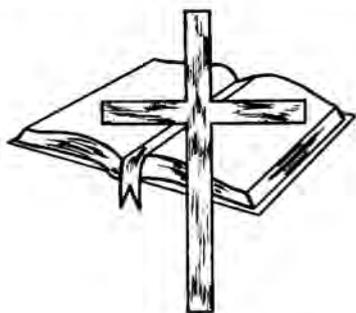
and letting go helps our blood pressure, slows down our heart rate, and soothes our nerves.

How often we complain about being "stressed out". Forgiving others opens our heart to God's forgiveness, lowers our stress considerably, and helps us to pray better. Now, doesn't that sound attractive? It's a win-win situation.

On this weekend that commemorates the great assault to our national pride, the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, let's bring ourselves to pray for a change of heart for all who are contemplating acts of terror or hatred this week. Let's throw in for good measure all who have offended us.

If we do, God will lift some of the weight from our hearts.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AND FORMATION OF PRIESTS



Our mission is to provide Spiritual, Theological and Formational experiences for the human development and ongoing formation of the priests.

- Provide opportunities for ongoing education and formation in their ministry to the Church of Ogdensburg.
- Arrange opportunities for short term study and sabbaticals.

*By supporting the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal you are helping each and every priest continue their formation and education so they may better serve you and the Church of Ogdensburg.*



### Office of Evangelization Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Director Sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg



**Evangelization** is the mission to proclaim Jesus as the Savior of all.



It is a call to help Catholics to reconnect with their faith within the family of faith.



#### The Office of Evangelization provides:

- **Diocesan Program:** During Advent and Lent to support Small Christian Communities
- **Horizon Monthly Newsletter:** Information for Parish and Family
- **Parish Evangelization Workshops**
- **Collaborative Resources from Other Diocesan Offices**
- **Programs and Resources:** For Parish Evangelization and Inactive Catholics

For More Information visit our web site at:  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/evangelization)  
Or call Sr. Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, Director,  
Office of Evangelization  
315-393-2920

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Thanks to NCC

Just a note to express my appreciation to you for the excellent article and coverage you provided for the August 27 Mission of Hope Benefit Concert.

There were over 80 participants who enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and excellent music by the band Towne Meeting.

The donations will be used to provide low-tech, fuel efficient, safe stoves for families in Nicaragua. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

JUDY CHARLAND  
PLATTSBURGH

For a New or  
Used Car  
**MORT  
BACKUS  
& SONS**  
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
Phone  
**315-393-5899**

## AT THE MOVIES

## THE DEBT

This stylish - though frequently violent - remake of the 2007 Israeli spy thriller of the same name is a game of cat-and-mouse across two time periods as three Mossad agents (Helen Mirren, Tom Wilkinson and Ciaran Hinds) track down and capture a Josef Mengele-like Nazi war criminal (Jesper Christensen).

Their feat - told in flashback by their younger selves (Jessica Chastain, Marton Csokas and Sam Worthington) - has made them national heroes.

But it seems there's more to their exploit than the official story recounts.

While suitable only for mature viewers open to challenging material, as directed with flair by John Madden, this gritty drama will certainly keep them guessing right up to the end.

Considerable bloody violence, a disturbing portrayal



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS FEATURES

Sam Worthington and Jessica Chastain star in a scene from the movie "The Debt."

of anti-Semitism, brief non-graphic premarital sexual activity and some rough 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 R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**TOM DUDA**  
The Polka Beat  
For Your Dancing Feet  
**(315) 344-7238**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**  
is on  
**FACEBOOK**



- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

 Like

*Youth Ministry*

In addition to operating Camp Guggenheim and SportsCamp, we are here to be a resource for every parish whether you have a robust and active youth ministry program or if you're starting from scratch.

The youth department is eager to serve all of our parishes in building up the faith of our young people and calling on them to be authentic witnesses of the gospel under the direction of our youth director Deacon Brian Dwyer.

If your parish has an active program please check out our list of available resources on our website ([www.dioogdensburg.org/youth](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/youth)). If your parish is interested in developing a new youth ministry program, please contact our office at 315-393-2920.

**There will be a Youth Mass on Sept. 18, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg at 2:30 p.m. Followed by a BBQ at the Knights of Columbus.**  
**There will be games and activities for all ages. Please contact Jean Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 for more information.**

**Frank J. Walters  
Associates, Inc.**

**Consulting Actuaries  
for the  
Lay Employees & Priests  
Retirement Plan**

*Supporting the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal Insert*

EXPERIENCE & COMPASSION  
Always Make a Difference

MANNING & NAPIER  
*Foundation*

Proud to Support the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal

Diocese of Ogdensburg & North Country Catholic

*Our mission is to help organizations like the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg & North Country Catholic  
enhance our community through good works and responsible  
financial stewardship.*

ANTONY DESORBO | MANNING & NAPIER FOUNDATION, INC.  
290 Woodcliff Drive | Fairport, New York | (585) 325-6880  
[www.manning-napier.com](http://www.manning-napier.com)

## ADIRONDACK

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Lake Placid — On the Feast of St. Francis a blessing of animals will take place.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

## PARISH MOUNTAIN CLIMB, MASS

**Keene** — All in St. Agnes Parish in Lake Placid and St. Brendan's Parish in Keene as well as people visiting the Adirondacks are invited to celebrate Mass on top of Baxter Mountain.

**Date:** Sept. 18

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Features:** Car pooling will take place in the parking lot of St. Brendan's church or you may go to the trail start on route 9N on the top of Spruce Hill near the intersection of the road leading to Mountain House.

## CLINTON

## HARVEST DINNER

**Altona** — Roast Pork and Beef Harvest Dinner to be held to benefit St. Louis of France Parish.

**Date:** Sept. 11

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children, \$4; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available; immediate seating, raffle and country store; Craft tables available call 236-5848 to reserve a table.

## ANNUAL DINNER

**Moers Forks** — St. Ann's will be having their annual Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 18

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

**Cost:** Adults, 9; Senior Citizens, \$8; Kids 6 and older, \$5; under 5, Free; Takeouts, \$9

## ROAST BEEF &amp; PORK DINNER

**Ellenburg** - Catholic Daughters of The Americas, Court Little Rose # 1300, will hold an all you can eat Roast Beef/Roast Pork dinner with all the trimmings.

**Date:** Sept. 25

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

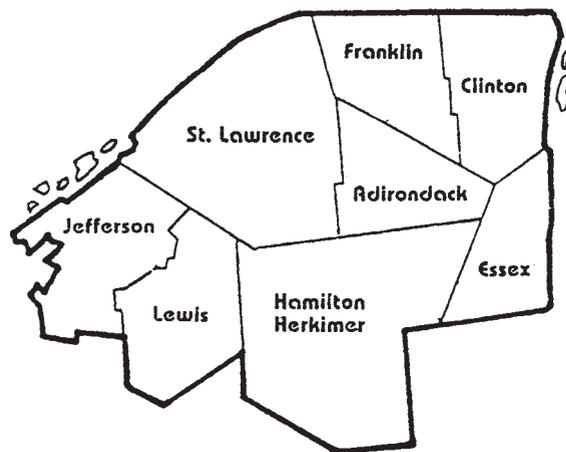
**Place:** St. Edmunds Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$8.50; Children 5-12, \$4.25; under 5, Free

**Features:** Bake sale and raffle Drawings. Take outs available: Call 594-3121.

## CRAFTS AND BAKE SALE

**Moers** — The Ladies of St. Ann will be holding their 24th Annual Crafts Plus



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.

and Bake Sale.

**Date:** Oct. 15

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

**Features:** Lunch will be available. Many space still available for vendors. Call Marge Pombrio at 518-236-4577

## BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church.

## BINGO'S BACK

**Champlain** — BINGO is returning to St. Mary's Parish.

**Date:** Beginning Sept. 12 and the first Monday of the month there after.

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

**Time:** 6:45 p.m. with 50/50 Early Bird (doors open at 5:15)

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

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

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

## ESSEX

## ROAST BEEF HARVEST DINNER

**Elizabethtown** — St. Elizabeth's Church will hold its annual Roast Beef Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 9

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6

**Place:** The Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children under 12, \$5

**Features:** Take-outs will be available after 1:30 p.m. Cash raffle tickets and for other items will be available.

## FRANKLIN

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**Brushton** — St. Mary's Church will be having a breakfast.

**Date:** Sept. 11

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$20; Take-outs call 529-6580

## TURKEY DINNER

**Brushton** — St. Mary's will be having a Harvest Turkey Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 25

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children, 6-12, \$6; under 5, Free; Take-outs call 529-6580

## JEFFERSON

## SACRED HEART FOUNDATION

**Watertown** — The Sacred Heart Foundation will be holding its 38th Annual Benefit Dinner and Membership meeting.

**Date:** Sept. 21

**Time:** 6 p.m. social hour; 7 p.m. dinner

**Place:** North Side Improvement League

**Cost:** \$30 per person

**Speaker:** Bishop Terry LaValley

**Contact:** Foundation Office at 315-782-3344

## 24-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

**Evans Mills** — The Knights of Columbus of Evans Mills, Philadelphia and Theresa are offering a bible study program featuring the Study of Matthew with Jeff Cavins

**Date:** The 24-week program will be held on Mondays, beginning Sept. 12

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

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

**Contact:** Kim at 767-1613.

## ROAST BEEF DINNER

**Evans Mills** — Annual Roast Beef Dinner to benefit the Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus has been set

**Date:** Sept. 11

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; senior citizens, \$7; children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

## PARKINSON GROUP

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

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

**Watertown** - Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

## LEWIS

## ST. HEDWIG'S POLISH FESTIVAL

**Houseville** — St. Hedwig's Parish is holding its annual Polish Festival to raise funds for church repairs and restoration.

**Date:** Oct. 16

**Time:** Events begin after the 11 a.m.

Mass

**Features:** Polish Food Platter, Theme Basket Raffles, White Elephant and Bake Sale, Ice Cream Sundaes. Donations of theme baskets, white elephant items and baked goods appreciated. Monetary donations to defray expenses also ac-

cepted. Workers needed

**Contact:** Jo Ann 348-8735, Mary Ann 348-6260, or Mania 348-8636.

## K OF C BRUNCH

**Lyons Falls** — South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having a brunch.

**Date:** Sept. 18

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 5-12, \$3; Under 5, Free

## ST. LAWRENCE

## HARVEST WALK DINNER

**Ogdensburg** — The Place will be hosting a Harvest Walk Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** Sept. 12

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Cost:** \$8

**Features:** Eat in or take out, delivery available by calling 393-3080. There will be drawings for a flat screen TV donated by Walmart, 75/25 Raffle.

## CHICKEN BARBECUE

**Gouverneur** — St. James School will hold its annual Chicken Barbecue.

**Date:** Sept. 11

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$4; under 5, Free

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

**Ogdensburg** — Sept. 11 marks the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. The Knights of Columbus Council #259 will celebrate a World Day Prayer for Peace and a prayer for remembrance.

**Date:** Sept. 12

**Time:** Noon

**Place:** In front of City Hall

**Features:** This prayer will recall the tragic events of that day and honor the thousands who lost their lives.

## K of C BRUNCH

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

**Date:** Sept. 11

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

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

## 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.



## The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401  
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

# Good news on the radio

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

This past July and August, Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, a Missionary at the Working Boys Center in Quito, Ecuador, (El Centro Del Muchacho) and native of Massena, visited several parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg while participating in our Annual Mission Cooperative Program.

Just recently, Sister Cindy shared with me a letter she received and I thought I would pass it along to our readers.



Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM

"Dear Sisters,

*I was driving on I-81 near Watertown, NY on Sunday Morning, August 7, 2011, and scanning radio channels. I came across a Sunday liturgy being broadcast live from a church there. I decided to (partially) fulfill my Sunday obligation by "participating" in the liturgy on the radio as I drove.*

*The guest homilist was your Sr. Cindy Sullivan. I listened to her talk about all of your good works in Quito, Ecuador. I was so moved, that I want to share this modest donation with you to thank you for your good work and to bolster your ministry there.*

*I know...God truly works in strange ways! May he continue to bless you all.*

*In Christ,  
Phil from NY"*

Phil is right. God does work in strange ways and wonderful ways too!

May the missionary spirit that Phil was moved by find its way into the hearts of us all.

As Phil now knows, we do not find the mission, the mission finds us.

Sometimes, the mission finds us on the radio.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Brownville** — Frederick F. Schweitzer Sr., 80; Funeral Services Aug. 30, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Burke** — Frances Irene (Lawrence) Eldridge, 93; Funeral Services Aug. 29, 2011 at St. George's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Canton** — Therese A. Coakley, 79; Memorial Services Sept. 3, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

**Clayton** — Roger J. Wakeel, 65; Memorial Services Sept. 5, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

**Gouverneur** — Jane M. (McDonald) Bradish, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 30, 2011 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Harrisville** — Gabrielle L. Conlin, 6; Funeral Services Aug. 29, 2011 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in Harrisville Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — Henry S. Smoke, 79; Funeral Aug. 30, 2011 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Keeseville** — Ruth Bleau Doyle, 83; Funeral Services Aug. 29, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lake Placid** — Minnie M. McCasland, 99; Funeral 9 Aug. 30, 2011 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lowville** — Mildred R. Russell, 58; Funeral Service Sept. 2, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** — Debra A. Company Sauer, 55; Funeral Services Aug. 26, 2011 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Malone** — Joyce H. (Robinson) Auger, 84; Funeral Services Sept. 6, 2011 at Notre

**Nelson Florist**  
420 East Main St.  
Malone, NY 12953  
483-1330

Your Professional Downtown Florist

420 East Main Street  
Malone, New York  
**1-888-992-5666**

Dame Church.

**Mineville** — Florence Catherine (Trudeau) Glebus, 90; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at Church of All Saints.

**Mooers Forks** — Bernard Joseph Duval, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Newcomb** — Lucienne Rita Bureau, 87; Funeral Sept. 3, 2011 at St. Therese Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Norfolk** — Lillian L. (Thomas) Brothers, 92; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Norfolk** — Lawrence H. "Buddy" Haggett, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Julia Mae (Robare) Dobbs, 69; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2011 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** — Mary (Stark) Hess, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2011 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Mabel (Johnson) Petell, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** — Rebecca J. "Becky" Nolan, 50; Fu-

neral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** — Joann B. (Patnode) Trudo, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

**Plattsburgh** — Adele M. (Downs) Rabideau, 59; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — JoAnn (Boulerice) Trudo, 77; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

**Redford** — Marion Evelyn "Mim" (Liberty) Allinson, 78; Funeral Services Aug. 30, 2011 at Church of the Assumption.

**Ticonderoga** — Barbara A. (LaBounty) Olcott, 74; Funeral Services Sept. 2, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Waddington** — Helen J. (Valois) Murphy, 85; Funeral Sept. 3, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Clifford F. Damon, 82; Funeral Services Sept. 3, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Assunta "Sandy" Marrone, 100; Funeral Services Sept. 1, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE

**Enter for your chance to win a 2011 Chevy Cruze or \$12,000 CASH!!!**  
Drawing will be held December 10, 2011.  
All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.  
Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

**St. Mary's Church**  
**68 Court Street**  
**Canton, NY 13617**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20 EACH or 6 for \$100**  
You do not have to be present to win.

**NCC**

## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# Coming back home

**By Kristina Dean**

Parishioner, St. Joseph's, Philadelphia

I should have felt the change. I should have felt something. Something dramatic with lights flashing and wind blowing strongly. I should have seen the shift or felt the heavens open up. Perhaps when I looked into the mirror, somehow my appearance should have been altered.

But none of this happened when I came back to the church.

On the other hand, nothing fell down - I should be thankful for that.

I've been back to my Catholic faith for about five years. Actually, I should say "coming" back. The process didn't happen all at once - there were steps and it involved some work. I needed to overcome obstacles as well as addressing some incorrect beliefs. People helped me along the way. Without them - well, let's say my soul's retirement would be in a warmer climate.

My story is much the same as a lot of people. I am a "cradle Catholic" who went with the family every weekend to church. I received Holy Communion and was Confirmed. My family did the music at church, and that's where I found my initial niche.

Religion was something I did, and not something in which I put a lot of thought or effort.

So when I went off to college, I kept it up for about two years. I went to Mass at the Newman Center at SUNY Plattsburgh, continuing the family tradition of partici-

pating in the singing group at church. This lasted until late into my sophomore year when I began working to pay for my apartment, car, groceries, etc.

**I've been back to my Catholic faith for about five years.**

**Actually, I should say "coming" back. The process didn't happen all at once - there were steps and it involved some work**

As a college student, one never has enough money for bills so one takes the hours one can get - usually weekends, evenings, nights.

So - there went my church time.

And I didn't miss it. I let the world into my life - always living for the moment, having fun, going to parties, meeting friends. Oh, I occasionally thought about God, mostly when I needed something. I eventually graduated, found a job, got my own place.

Fast forward my life to 2006. I am married with a five-year old child and a brand new baby.

I am working as a teacher, and my husband and I move into a new house. We have a wonderful family. Despite my blessings, I am blind to God's presence.

In 2006, things change. My father is diagnosed with lung cancer and passes away four weeks later.

Before dying, he gives me his Rosary, asking me to begin praying. Dad always had a very strong faith. He was tremendously devoted to the Blessed Mother and

saying the Rosary every day. In the hospital, he tells me, "If it's my time, then I'm ready."

He had an easier time with his death than I did. I couldn't stay the night he passed. Although I'd always thought I was strong emotionally, apparently I can't handle watching someone I love leave this world.

I left the hospital. I prayed for the cancer to leave. I prayed for dad to live. When this didn't happen, I mistakenly thought God wasn't listening.

Fast forward again. Several months later, a friend's mom passes away. I am asked to sing at the funeral. Other than dad's funeral, this was the first I'd been to a church in a long time.

Afterward, still wearing my grief like a cloak, I speak to the priest about dad. The pastor gently encourages me to attend Mass and I do, listening to the Homily, praying once more and receiving Communion. It was like coming home.

Thus began my "coming back to faith" process. There were many kick-starts along the way.

One example of a coming-back-to-faith moment is humbling for me to share.

After about a year of being back to church, my pastor - the celebrant from the funeral - asked me to lead the music since our small, country church had no organist or cantor. I refused. I was not helpful at all, dragging my feet. I couldn't see how I would sing, all by myself with no music.

But this isn't what God wanted. It stayed in my head like a "push" or a



Kristina Dean

"nudge" it wouldn't leave me alone. Eventually, when several church members asked if I would start a choir, I realized that I needed to step up, no matter how uncomfortable. I knew God wanted me to, even if I didn't.

I thank Him now for His prompting! What a beautiful blessing and gift it is to lead others in song. It is a part of me.

Somehow God acts through me, makes me sound okay and puts all the right notes in my head when I need them. Well, most of the time - there was the time I accidentally sang the Memorial Acclamation instead of the great Amen, even though I'd just sung it two minutes before. How embarrassing - in that case, the notes were in my head, just not the right words! Despite that moment, it is truly a gift from God..

My small seedling faith is also a gift. It's something I need to grow and nurture - to protect from the spiritual "hurricanes" that could tear

it up and uproot it.

As I look back, I recognize moments when I was progressing in my faith.

These steps, or "kairos" moments brought me closer to Him. I think of them as "God moments" or opportunities in our lives when, through events - which can be painful or uncomfortable and sometimes contain suffering - we are brought to a place where we learn how to be closer to Him.

They are spaces on a time line of faith. In my case, my progress had stalled. I was off the path wandering blindly, lost.

It is ironic to me that my father's death began such a beautiful process - putting me in contact with spirit-filled people that helped me, despite my stupidity and stubbornness. Every day I thank God for them.

Sometimes I feel very slow, or child-like in my growing faith. I feel like I'm far behind others. I need to remind myself we all travel on this path to Christ at different speeds and from different places.

What matters is that we get to Him in the end, not how long it takes or where we come from.

The death of my parent was a wake-up call. I'd lost that father-daughter relationship here on earth. As I looked toward heaven I realized how unfair I'd been to my heavenly Father.

As a lapsed Catholic, I'd ignored Him for years but yet, He was ready to welcome his daughter home. I am like the Prodigal Son, er-daughter, and it amazes me how readily He forgave me. What a beautiful gift.

I vow to never leave again.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
NORTH COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC



What we're hearing about the newly designed [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org):

**"Excellent job on the new website. It's clean and easy to navigate. And, you now have the capability to provide news daily and hourly. Good work!"**