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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 5, 2014

Pope: Confirmation is critical

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Many Catholic parents go to great lengths to ensure their children are baptized, and they must make similar efforts to see that their children are confirmed, Pope Francis said. Without confirmation, he said, young people will re-

main "halfway" on the path of Christian maturity and membership in the church. Confirmation "unites us more solidly to Christ. It completes our bond with the church," Pope Francis said Jan. 29 at his weekly general audience.

The sacrament "gives us the special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith, to confess the name of Christ and to never be ashamed of his cross," the pope said. Confirmation solidifies and increases the grace given at baptism,

"which is why it's important to make sure our children and young people receive this sacrament. We all make sure that our children are baptized, which is good, but perhaps we're not quite so diligent in making sure they are confirmed."

YOUTHFUL PRO-LIFERS

Weather the Weather



When the t-shirt design for this year's Youth Buses for Life pilgrimage was created, no one realized how relevant it would be to the 2014 DC trek, writes Colleen Miner, diocesan director of respect life ministry and one of the organizations of the Youth Buses for Life program. "Keep Calm and March On" was based on a motivational poster (Keep Calm and Carry On) produced by the British Government months before WWII, intended to raise morale," she said. "Father Bryan Stitt created this year's shirt design, replacing the king's crown with precious feet, the international pro-life symbol.... The young pilgrims remained calm through many unforeseen schedule changes and continued to march on with positive and grateful attitudes.

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Day of prayer to end trafficking



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Catholics at the Capitol

Annual public policy day sponsored by the New York State Catholic Conference set for March 19
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BLESSINGS FROM POPE FRANCIS



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Francis blesses a baby as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Jan. 29.

CHURCH IN RURAL AMERICA: Similar challenges seen across the country... p. 11

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank goodness it's February!

TGIF - thank goodness it's February!

I'd venture to say that even the hardest among us are relieved to turn the page on January 2014, the coldest and snowiest month we've seen in years.

Yes, we know we have plenty of winter ahead of us, but moving into the short-sweet month of February is a great source of hope for those of us counting down the days till spring (41, give or take).

For our church, February comes with encouragement for some special praying.

This past Sunday, the Feast of the Presentation, Candlemas AND the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, we offered prayers for our religious brothers and sisters (as a prelude for the Year for Consecrated Life in 2015.)

Mary Lou
Kilian

And, next Saturday, we have been asked to join in the prayer to end human trafficking. Feb. 8 is the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a trafficking victim who has been proposed as the patron saint for victims of human trafficking and survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

A copy of St. Josephine's prayer card and more information is printed on page 7 where you can also read about the efforts of the Daughters of Charity in this ministry.

Another prayer opportunity this weekend comes with the opening of the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

As usual with the Winter Olympics, fans in the North Country have a personal stake. We will have the opportunity to cheer for a hockey player from Ogdensburg and nine (!) Olympians from the Tri-Lakes area who will be competing in the luge, bobsled, ski jump and various skiing events.

We will be praying for the safety of our athletes and their families in games already marred by terrorist threats as well as for safety in travel and in competition.

Living out faith in February will also mean prayers for those who are sick (on the feast of our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11), for those in love (Valentine's Day) and for those who have led our country (President's Day.)

Unlike most other years, we *won't* be looking at the beginning of Lent this February. Ash Wednesday won't arrive until the first week of March.

But that's okay; we have plenty to keep us prayerfully occupied.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

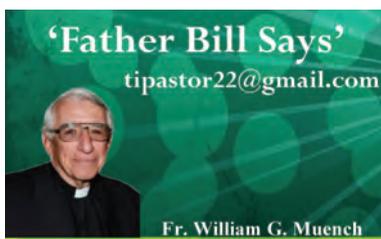
Seeing and following God's plan for us

I want to make certain to tell you that I was thinking of all of you, suffering in the frigid weather, while I was in Florida. The news of the weather up north came up in the news every day. I prayed for you all - especially those who were suffering badly because of the weather.

While down south, I truly enjoyed a long walk almost every day. One day I was walking along - really not thinking of anything in particular. Then as I came to a driveway, a driver coming out stopped to allow me to pass by.

As I hustled by, I noticed his license plate - it boldly proclaimed, "God has a plan for you." I must admit it stopped me in my tracks. From then on - and I must admit even to the present - I have been wondering and praying about God's plan for me.

I have heard this before - in fact, I have preached on God's plan for us, many times. Yet, on that day the thought of "God's plan for me" - today and tomorrow and the next day - truly captured my attention.



I know that I will discover God's plan, probably in a very surprising moment when I least expect it. I may be visiting someone or someone may call me on the phone - or something like that - and then a light will burst forth for me - the message of God's plan will hit home.

I must always be ready to recognize God's message. I must pray for a deeper trust in God so that I will always be ready. I must be unafraid to accept guidance and direction as coming from my God. So, my prayer is that I will always be an open, trusting disciple of the Lord.

Recently, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis presented a message on the way Jesus brought his message to the world. The

Pope was speaking during his Sunday Angelus message to the people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis reminded us that Jesus chose as his first disciples not the learned scholars of his day but rather he chose fishermen. Jesus entrusted the hope of building a future Church universal, to our surprise, to fishermen who prove to be very capable men of the north of Israel.

The surprise is that they were so successful - a true proof of the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They transformed this world as they brought Jesus and his message to our world.

This Jesus continues to profoundly influence this world right down to the present. The lives of so many continue to be transformed by Jesus' words.

Considering this, I have come to realize that Jesus has touched my life and will continue to transform me through many whom I would least expect. Jesus has chosen as my guides, who show me God's plan, many who are complete

surprises to me.

I do wonder who they will be in my future. Will it be something I will read or maybe a homily that one of my priest friends delivers? Or will it be a friend that reaches out to me or maybe even a complete stranger who suddenly says something that changes my life?

As I look back over my life, I can easily recognize the many guides that the Lord has sent into my life, those who have carefully indicated God's plan for me. Yet, I must admit that I didn't always recognize them at the time as being sent to me.

I have always known that one of the biggest influences in my life came from a priest that I never met - in fact, he died before I ever knew of him. It turns out that he was the one who was influential in steering me to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I pray for him often.

So, "God has a plan for me." I am ready, Lord - I promise to listen carefully, to be constantly ready to notice everything. I ask for the grace to discover you direction, Lord.

FROM IHC TO DC AND BACK



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Seth Conklin, theology teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School of Watertown, and Father Scott Belina, an IHC graduate, count heads as they prepare to board the western bus, which carried several IHC students, after the Jan. 22 March for Life in Washington. Parents have an opportunity to learn about the spiritual and educational opportunities at IHC at open houses scheduled in February and March. See story below.

Immaculate Heart Central schools plan open houses

WATERTOWN – The Immaculate Heart Central schools will be holding open houses in the coming weeks.

The schedule follows:

- IHC Junior/Senior High (grades 7-12), Open House – Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m., IHC High School, 1316 Ives St.
- IHC Elementary (grades K-6), Open House – Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m., IHC Primary School, 122 Winthrop St.
- IHC St. John Bosco Pre-School and Junior Kindergarten (ages 3, 4, and 5) – March 4, 6:30 p.m., IHC Primary School, 122 Winthrop St.

The principals, as well members of the faculty, guidance department, staff, and business office will be present. Current parents and students will also share their experiences.

The program includes a welcome from the principal, a presentation on the IHC experience: the school's mission, beliefs, and vision, as well as parent and student

testimonials.

Information will be provided on IHC's academic programs, the spiritual life at IHC and the athletic, service, arts and other extracurricular programs.

Tuition will be discussed along with financial aid and scholarships.

Participants will have the opportunity to tour the facilities and ask questions.

Each family will receive an informative IHC Welcome Packet – 2014-2015 School Year, all necessary application forms, and other information.

For questions, please contact:

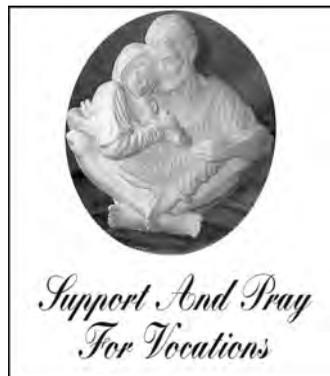
- Mr. Chris Hornbarger, IHC Executive System Administrator, (315) 221-3785, chris.hornbarger@ihc-schools.org
- Mrs. Lisa Parsons, Principal, IHC Junior/Senior High School, (315) 788-4670
- Ms. Teresa Lucas, (315) 788-4670, teresa.lucas@ihc-schools.org

- Mr. Gary West, Principal, IHC Elementary School (315) 788-07011, gary.west@ihc-schools.org

- Mrs. Annette Connolly, Vice Principal, IHC Elementary School, (315) 788-3935, annette.connolly@ihc-schools.org

- Ms. Judy Norris, IHC Business Manager, (315) 788-1632, judy.norris@ihc-schools.org

- Mrs. Terry Ranger, Director, St. John Bosco Pre-School and Junior Kindergarten, (315) 788-7011, terry.ranger@ihcschools.org



Celebration of consecrated life deferred to March

By Sister Ellen Donahue, SA
Episcopal Delegate for Religious

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2.

Work of religious to be highlighted March 8-14 in anticipation of Year for Consecrated Life in 2015

This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world.

So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

The Universal Church celebrates this day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. Religious women and men were prayed for in our local parishes on this day during the Prayer of the Faithful within our weekend liturgies.

This year's observance of the World Day for Consecrated Life was quieter than usual because Pope Francis



said the church would make consecrated life its focus in 2015.

The Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations is asking all dioceses to bring greater visibility to the life and ministry of religious women during a special week to highlight the work of women religious in our diocese.

The special week designated to highlight the works of Catholic sisters is March 8-14. It is for this reason that we have deferred our usual celebration in the local churches of the Day for Consecrated life to the week of March 8-14th.

At this time we will work with the local churches to highlight this awareness during National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14

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PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Three busloads with 138 teenagers traveled from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Washington, D.C for the an-

nual Jan. 22 March for Life. The group is pictured, in their "Keep Calm and March On" t-shirts, in front of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where they joined Bishop LaValley for Mass.

Keep Calm and March On

National March for Life draws 138 North Country teens to Washington, D.C.

By Colleen Miner

Diocesan director of respect life ministry

When the t-shirt design for this year's Youth Buses for Life pilgrimage was created, no one realized how relevant it would be to the 2014 DC trek. "Keep Calm and March On" was based on a motivational poster (Keep Calm and Carry On) produced by the British Government months before WWII, intended to raise morale.

Father Bryan Stitt created this year's shirt design, replacing the king's crown with precious feet, the international pro-life symbol.

The young pilgrims remained calm through many unforeseen schedule changes and continued to march on with positive and grateful attitudes.

Departing the North Country on Jan. 20, travelers were met with unpredicted snow which caused many to travel at slow speeds to meet their bus. Blowing snow and slippery roads set the buses behind schedule thus canceling the outdoor monument tour and rescheduling dinner.

At dinner, the 138 travel-

ers were greeted by Bishop Terry LaValley and Father Doug Lucia who joined them for the remainder of the pilgrimage.

A fast moving weather front predicted to hit the DC area on Tuesday closed the Smithsonian museums. Even though not a flake had fallen, travelers had to forego the Air & Space and Holocaust Museum tour. This allowed an extra hour at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

As planned, Bishop LaValley, Father Scott Belina, Father Lucia and Father Tom Higman concelebrated 9:30 a.m. Mass at the shrine.

As pilgrims departed the basilica, the snow began to fall and roads quickly became slippery. The outdoor tour of the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials was cut short. As ice and snow pellets blew into faces and cars were spinning out, the decision was made to leave the District of Columbia to be closer to the evening venue in case roads were closed.

The Life is Very Good Evening of Prayer sponsored by the Arlington Diocese featured motivational

speakers Father Agustino Torres CFR and Mary Bielski. The event included praise and worship led by Catholic musician Matt Maher and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Wednesday morning – the day of the March for Life – marchers were met with sunshine and cold temperatures. For North Country folks, it was mild (except for the occasional gust of wind).

After a brisk walk to a nearby church for morning Mass, we were on our way to DC. Two of the buses dropped travelers at the Museum of Natural History where they toured and had lunch before the March rally began at noon. The third bus was having engine troubles so those pilgrims were brought into DC by one of the other buses. Yet they still had time to grab a quick lunch at the museum and head outside as the March began at 1.

Following the March for Life, which had less attendees due to snow the day before, all assembled at the Library of Congress. After a head count, the group moved to the Air and Space Museum where two buses were waiting. Those two

buses (Northern and Western) departed for home. The passengers on the Eastern bus spent an hour touring the museum before receiving word that the bus was not fixed and they needed to return to the hotel. A new bus and driver were hired and the third bus was on the road by 9 p.m..

While there were changes in schedule and inconveniences along the way, that's what pilgrimage is all about.

Some schools have equated the March for Life with a rock concert, a ski race or a golf tournament. But participants can tell you, it's none of these things! A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place undertaken to gain divine aid as an act of thanksgiving or penance or to demonstrate devotion.

The Youth Buses for Life would not be possible without the generosity of many. Grants from the Respect Life second collection help offset the cost. Virtus-trained chaperones take time off of work, priests take time from their parish responsibilities and parents allow their children to miss school and drive them to and from the buses.

Two chaperones who deserve special recognition are Linda Lowe and Tom Garcia from Schroon Lake. They were first time attendees but never made it to the March due to a student in their group becoming ill.

Also deserving a big thank you are bus captains Samantha Fazioli, Erin Miner and Seth Conklin whose constant coordination kept their buses informed of changes. And thank you to the spiritual guidance of the diocesan clergy who so bravely spent three days with teenagers: Bishop Terry LaValley, Father Doug Lucia, Father Tom Higman, Father Scott Belina, Father Doug Decker and Deacon Brian Dwyer.

The "Keep Calm and Carry On" British wartime poster was the third in a series of three. The other posters were "Freedom is in Peril. Defend it With All Your Might" and "Your Courage, Your Cheerfulness, Your Resolution Will Bring Us Victory".

How timely and relevant are those messages to today's fight for the protection of the unborn!

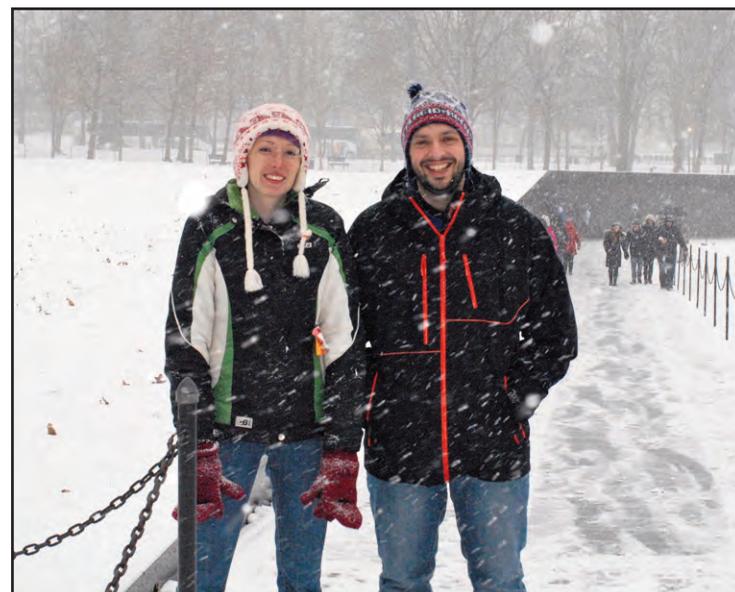
Keep calm and march on...for life!

LOCAL PILGRIMS JOIN 2014 MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON

SCENES FROM THE MARCH



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER
Bishop LaValley, center, and Father Doug Lucia, right, are shown with a group of the North Country young people at the conclusion of the 2014 March for Life.



Seminarian Alex Pacelli and Jen Campbell, director of religious education at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, are pictured at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



Father Douglas Decker of Tupper Lake and Carol Gonthier of Norfolk were two of the adults who made the trip to Washington with young people in their parishes.



On the night before the march, Fathers Tom Higman of Malone and Scott Belina of Ogdensburg had the chance to meet Matt Maher, a popular Christian musician. Maher presented a concert as part of the Life is Very Good Event sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington.



Schroon Lakers Peter Veverka, Linda Lowe and Abigail Veverka participate in the Life is Very Good Event.

Catholics at the Capitol scheduled for March 19

ALBANY - Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the Bishops of New York State will join hundreds of fellow Catholic New Yorkers at the annual Catholics at the Capitol public policy advocacy day March 19 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

Participants will represent all eight dioceses of New York State. Many will meet with their legislators, while others will serve as a visible presence in the halls of the state Capitol.

Following a boxed lunch, there will be a Rosary procession led by the Knights of Columbus to the nearby Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for 1:30 p.m. Mass with the Bishops. Cardinal Dolan will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

Participants will lobby their legislators on five issues identified as priorities by the bishops. They are:

- Support pregnant women and oppose abortion expansion
- Preserve Catholic schools
- Ensure sufficient funding for programs for vulnerable populations
- Support humane treatment for incarcerated individuals
- Support equitable labor standards for farmworkers

The Bishops will honor two Catholic New Yorkers for their work on behalf of the public policy concerns of the Church. James F. Gill, a prominent Manhattan attorney, who has served as an informal public policy adviser to the Bishops for many years, will receive the John

Cardinal O'Connor Award for Extraordinary Service.

Long Island native Barbara Samuells, who founded an organization of grassroots Catholic laypeople called Catholics for Freedom of Religion in the Rockville Centre Diocese, will receive the J. Alan Davitt Award for Exemplary Service.

Further information and online registration is available at www.nyscatholic.org or through the diocesan coordinator, Sister Donna Franklin, (315) 393-2255, ccdirec@wadhams.edu.

Knights of Columbus and their families attending with their council should contact Louis Pepe, administrative state Catholic advocacy coordinator, at bigloupepe@gmail.com for bus information and other details.

There is no cost to attend and a boxed lunch will be provided. A goodwill offering will be taken at Mass to offset the costs of the day.

The Catholic Conference represents New York State's Bishops in matters of public policy.

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 9 – 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Ann's Church in St. Regis Falls
11:30 a.m., Mass at Holy Cross Church in Hopkinton

Feb. 10 – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 11 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Environmental Stewardship

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."
Pope Benedict XVI

Did you know that... Americans are less than 5% of the world's people, but we consume roughly 28% of the world's energy. (Richard Gast, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County) For us, as Christians, this become a moral challenge. The natural resources are given to all of God's children. So how can we use these gifts more responsibly? One way is to conserve the energy in our homes by plugging up the leaks. Good news is that New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERTA) offers energy audits to help you assess where your energy is going, and offer suggestions for conservation.

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Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 5 – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

Feb. 6 – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009

Feb. 8 – Msgr. Patrick B. Riley, 1981

Feb. 9 – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

Feb. 10 – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

To Report Abuse

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

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming programs:
Feb. 6 - 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone

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**Join hundred of other concerned people
in a Day of prayer for
Victims of Human Trafficking
When: The Feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita
February 8, 2014**

You can pray as an individual or invite a group of family/friends to pray with you.

For more information contact Catholic Charities
315-393-2255 or ccdirect@wadhams.edu or see
www.redney.org/human-trafficking



St. Josephine Bakhita

*Prayer to
St. Josephine Bakhita*

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery
as a child
and endured untold hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,
you found true redemption in your encounter with
Christ and his Church.

○ St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a
state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf
so that they will be released from their chains
of captivity.
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery
and let them look to you as an example of hope
and faith.
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for
those enslaved among us.

Amen.

St. Josephine Bakhita has been proposed as the Patron Saint of victims and survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

For more information about St. Josephine Bakhita please visit:
[http://www.catholicsentinel.org/main.asp?](http://www.catholicsentinel.org/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=17292&SectionID=2&SubSectionID=35&S=1)

Search=1&ArticleID=17292&SectionID=2&SubSectionID=35&S=1
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Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul take stand against human trafficking

The motto of the Company of the Daughters of Charity of Sr. Vincent de Paul states: The charity of Jesus crucified urges us.

Founded in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise De Marillac, the Daughters of Charity have one focus – Service to the most vulnerable members of our society.

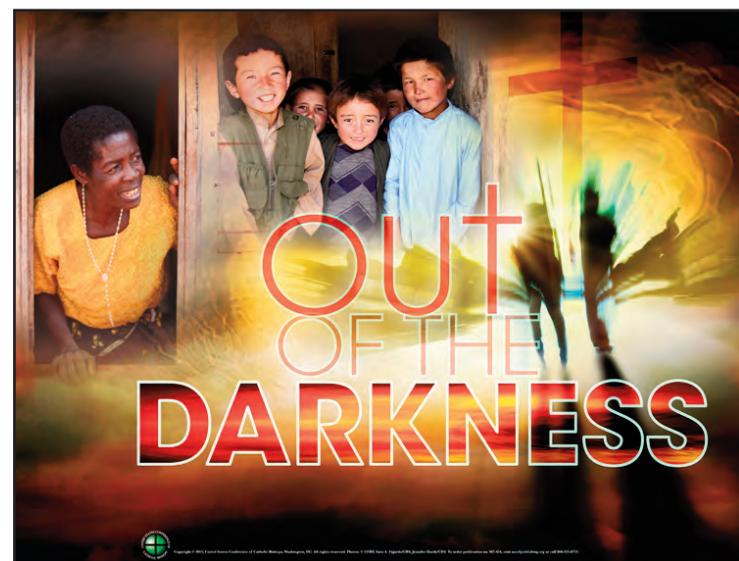
As an international community, the Daughters are aware of the reality and the impact of trafficking on victims and on society. Because of our charism and our understanding of the horror of human trafficking, the Daughters of Charity in the United States and Canada adopted, in 2012, a United Stand against human trafficking.

The United Stand states: We, the Daughters of Charity of the United States and Canada, in keeping with our conviction regarding the dignity of each person, adopt a united stand in support of human rights and oppose human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

We amplify our opposition to this violation of human dignity by implementing the following interventions:

- Advocate for policymaking which promotes detection and rescue of victims.
- Endeavor to educate first line healthcare providers to identify signs/symptoms of the trafficked person in order to secure a safe rescue and re-entry.
- Exercise consumer practices which are consistent with our commitment to human rights and trafficking prevention measures.
- Pray for the victims of human trafficking and for those working to help victims rebuild their lives.

The 650 Daughters of



Charity of the United States and Canada serve in 28 US states, Washington, DC and Montreal Quebec Canada; worldwide, 17,000 Daughters of Charity serve in 90 countries.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Three Daughters of Charity serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Sister Mary Frances Barnes, DC serves as Pastoral Assistant in Sts. Peter and James Parish in Lisbon. Sister Patricia Collins, DC serves as a case-worker and Program Supervisor in the Ogdensburg Regional Office of Catholic Charities. Sister Donna Franklin, DC serves as the Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities.

Currently, many Daughters throughout the world are involved in efforts to end human trafficking, help victims reenter society/families and educate others on human trafficking.

The Philippines is one example. Traffickers are op-

portunists. When communities/countries suffer from a disaster, traffickers use that time to harvest victims. Children and teens separated from parents and caretakers are particularly vulnerable. Individuals looking for work so they can rebuild their lives are easy targets.

The Daughters of Charity in the Philippines are working as part of the Church's anti-trafficking campaign. They are reaching out to high risk populations and providing educational materials and warnings about traffickers and their manipulative and exploitive behaviors.

For more information on the Daughters of Charities of St. Vincent de Paul visit our website: DaughtersofCharity.com or contact: Sister Mary Frances Barnes, DC (315) 713-4511 or cell-phone: (315) 323-1596.

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Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at an anniversary Mass at St. Rita's Church in Deferiet Jan. 11. He is shown above with Father John Cosmic, a native of Deferiet; Deacon William Raven and Father Robert Decker, pastor.



Bishop LaValley and Father Decker, who has served as pastor of St. Rita's and St. Paul's in Black River since September, are shown after the Mass.



Lucille Frank, a member of St. Paul's Parish in Black River is pictured with the bishop at the parish dinner which followed the Mass.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ST. RITA'S IN DEFERIET

DEFERIET – Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined parishioners of St. Rita's Church for Mass and dinner Jan. 11, exactly 101 years after the Jefferson County parish was incorporated on Jan. 11, 1913.

Also participating in the liturgy were Father Robert Decker, pastor of St. Rita's as well as St. Paul's in Black River; Father John Cosmic, a

native of Deferiet; and Deacon William Raven from St. Paul's.

At the time of its incorporation, St. Rita's was a mission church of Carthage, through 1921 and then a mission of Black River until 1958. That's the year when the first resident pastor – Father Francis B. Ruddy – was appointed.

The parishioners were served by resident pastors through 1984, including Fathers Edward E. Papp, Edward Brusio, John M. Crable, Patrick C. Callaghan, Eugene A. Kelly, Rolland Hart and Francis Menard.

In 1984, the parish was placed under the care of the priests of St. James in Carthage until 1999 when

the parish began to share a pastor with St. Paul's in Black River, the current configuration.

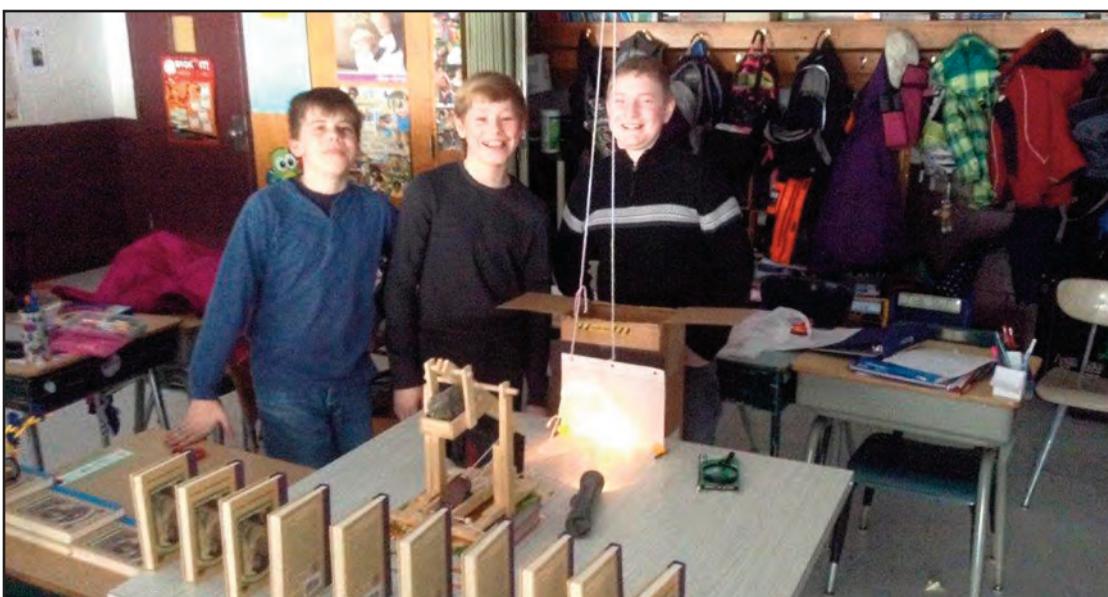
In a 1993 article in the *North Country Catholic*, Eileen Baker, parish trustee at the time, said "losing a pastor was scary at first but everybody picked up the ball and ran with it.

"We have a good working

congregation with lectors, Eucharistic ministers and choir members," she said. "And the lay people have had to make a lot more decisions without a pastor right here.

"Parishioners of St. Rita's feel a special closeness to the church since many fathers of current parishioners actually built the church themselves." Mrs. Baker said.

THE ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE!



The sixth grade class at St. Mary's School in Canton completed a unit on simple machines with an exhibition of their Rube Goldberg projects. After studying the different types of simple machines, the students learned about Rube Goldberg, a cartoonist who designed overly complex machines which performed a simple task. Their teacher, Marianne Augenstein, then challenged the students to create their own designs. The students worked on the projects for several days, fine-tuning the parts of their design. It took a good deal of patience, as the students carefully set up rows of dominoes and adjusted the heights of inclined planes. The students worked hard to use communication and team building skills, and the end result was an exciting display of movement. Above are Will Jados, Matthew Mikolay and Jack Collin; at right is Gretchen Warner.



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope: Church must always protect, support children against abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Children and young people must always be protected against sexual abuse and always find adequate support in the church community, Pope Francis told the Vatican doctrinal office dealing with suspected cases of sexual abuse by clergy. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith should also look at ways to collaborate with a new papal advisory commission on abuse, which, the pope said, he wants to be an exemplary model for child protection. "I want to thank you for your dedication to dealing with the delicate set of problems concerning the so-called most grave crimes, in particular cases of sexual abuse of minors by clerics," Pope Francis said in a written speech Jan. 31. He called on the congregation, which was given exclusive jurisdiction over a number of these most serious crimes in 2001, to focus on "the well-being of children and young people, who in the Christian community must always be protected and supported in their human and spiritual growth," he said. The pope asked the doctrinal office to also study ways it could cooperate with the special commission for the protection of young people he established in December.

Advocates sponsor rally in nation's capital to celebrate school choice

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Educational advocates from across the political divide came together in Washington Jan. 29 for the Put Kids First rally, part of National School Choice Week. The event coincided with National Catholic Schools Week. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., spoke about the importance of educational opportunity for all. "We need to empower every single child -- no matter where they come from -- to have the best education and the best future." Cantor said the District of Columbia was proof that school choice works. Nearly half of the public school students in the district attend public charter schools. The DC Opportunity Scholarship Program also funds private school tuition for low-income families. Students in the program have a 90 percent graduation rate. "Let's make this a model for what the rest of the country can do," Cantor said. The Archdiocese of Washington has praised the efforts of the scholarship program. "OSP levels the playing field for low-income families in the district by giving them access to great schools," Tom Burnford, the archdiocese's secretary for education, told Catholic News Service Jan. 30.

If you can cheer for a sports team, you can praise God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Prayers of praise for God aren't just for charismatics, Pope Francis said in a morning homily. "We find it easy to understand praying to ask God for something and also to thank the Lord," he said Jan. 28 at his early morning Mass. But prayers of praise "don't come so spontaneously." According to a report in Vatican Radio, Pope Francis focused his homily on a line from the day's first reading, which described David as "dancing before the Lord with abandon." Pope Francis said he could imagine someone objecting, "but, Father, that's for people in the Renewal in the Spirit, not for all Christians. No," he said, "prayers of praise are Christian prayer." In fact, the pope said, the Psalms are filled with prayers of praise and that's what the Sanctus or "Holy, Holy" and the Gloria recited at Mass are. Returning to possible objections, he said he knows some people might think they just can't pray that way. He said he would counter, "You're able to shout when your team makes a goal, but you cannot sing the Lord's praises?"

2015 celebration of religious life won't ignore problems, officials say

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis has called for a special year-long focus on consecrated life, asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope, a Vatican official said.

"Consecrated men and women are aware that besides recounting the great stories they have written in the past, they are called to write a no-less-beautiful and great story in the future," said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

At a news conference Jan. 31, the cardinal spoke about plans for the 2015 Year for Consecrated Life, which Pope Francis announced in November.

The congregation hopes Pope Francis will celebrate the year's opening Mass Nov. 21, when the church marks a day of prayer for cloistered religious. The events would conclude one year later on the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council decree "Perfectae Caritatis" on the renewal of religious life.

"We are convinced that the council represented the breath of the Holy Spirit not only for the entire church, but in a particular way for consecrated life," Cardinal Aviz said.

"We are also convinced that in these 50 years, consecrated life has followed a fruitful path of renewal -- certainly not without difficulties and struggles," the cardinal said. "In this year, we want to recognize and confess our weaknesses, but we also want to show the world with

strength and joy the holiness and vitality that are present in consecrated life."

Responding to questions about the huge numbers of religious who have left consecrated life since the council, Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, congregation secretary, said: "In consecrated life, there are lights and shadows, and recognizing this is an exercise of lucidity and courage. There are lights and shadows, just as in every area of the life of society and of the church."

The archbishop said he had no problem talking about, and even publishing in the Vatican newspaper, the number of priests, brothers and nuns who leave religious life each year.

"It's part of the crisis that society is living through," he said. "We consecrated people, thanks be to God, are part of the societies of this world."

In October, the archbishop wrote that between 2008 and 2012, the congregation for religious issued 11,805 dispensations, releasing men and women from their religious vows. Other religious received dispensations from the congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith, for Bishops and for Clergy, bringing to about 3,000 the average number of perpetually professed religious who left each year.

The figures, he said, work out to be about 2.5 dispensations annually for every 1,000 consecrated men and women with perpetual vows. The Vatican's Statistical Yearbook reported that at the end of 2011, there were more than 903,300 religious priests, brothers and sisters in the world; however, that figure includes those with temporary vows.

Commemorating the Second Vatican Council during

the Year for Consecrated Life will not mean ignoring "the shadows," but it also will not mean wallowing in them, the archbishop said.

"We believe the council was a breath of the Holy Spirit and the point of departure for a profound renewal of consecrated life, which retains its evangelical significance," he said.

"It's sad when a consecrated person leaves, just as it's sad that many families break up, but this is part of the reality of grace and sin that exist in the church and every human reality," he added.

Cardinal Aviz said a key challenge of being Christian and being a religious is looking toward the future with hope.

"We want to see these crises not as an antechamber of death, but as a 'kairos,' a favorable occasion for growth" and the Year for Consecrated Life should be a further push for doing so, he said.

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Atlanta archbishop describes youths as 'Davids' in pro-life battle

By Nichole Golden
Catholic News Service

ATLANTA (CNS) - While all generations were well represented at the Mass for the Unborn Jan. 22 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory gave special words of encouragement to the youth working to protect human life.

In the reading for the Mass from the First Book of Samuel, young David puts aside the armor and shield offered by Saul to defeat the giant Goliath with just a slingshot and stones.

"You young people are the Davids of our generation confronting the Goliath of death that urges us to waste the most precious gift of our human dignity," said Archbishop Gregory of Atlanta.

The archbishop acknowledged that those who fight for life might feel the deck is stacked against them.

"However, the Lord will work with you, accompany you, and bring victory through you," he said.

Catholic school students from across the archdiocese, families, professionals, and parish groups filled the pews and overflowed into the cathedral's Kenny Hall for prayers and Mass.

Mary Boyert, director of the archdiocesan Respect Life Ministry, estimated that 1,000 people participated in the annual Mass and rosary for life, and that more than 800 people took part afterward in a Stand for Life public witness, a new initiative of the archdiocese.

In his homily, Archbishop Gregory noted that people have "gone green" in becoming more aware of the preciousness of earth and its resources.

"All of these concerns are



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

A young man receives Communion during a pro-life youth Mass at the DC Armory in Washington Jan. 22. More than 6,000 young people gathered at the arena to rally and pray before taking part in the annual March for Life, which this year marked the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion across the nation. In another Jan. 22 pro-life event Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory in Atlanta had special words of encouragement for young pro-lifers.

important and wonderful, but what about the human race itself? We who inhabit this shared planet and are entrusted with its care are also a part of nature -- an indispensable part of God's creation," he said.

"Even as we have taken serious and very important actions to protect the other elements of nature, we have too often ignored the importance of the dignity of the human person, whom God placed over all of creation," he said.

More than 20 priests celebrated the Mass, which also included a commissioning of parish Respect Life ministry leaders.

"It was beautiful," said Leslie Willis, who brought her daughter, Cami, and

friend, Maddie Cohen, both 10, to the Mass.

"I love that we're standing up for life," said Cami Willis told The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta's archdiocesan newspaper.

Leslie Willis, whose 17-year-old son joined a group of friends going to Washington for the national March for Life, said it's important to stand up for "whatever you feel strongly about," and to make one's children aware of the dignity of life early.

Boyert said the number of Stand for Life participants covered 17 street blocks. Motorists driving past often honked their horns, waved and gave a thumbs-up to indicate their support. In addition to the "Stand for Life" signs, other placards read "Jesus Heals and Forgives" and some included phone numbers for crisis pregnancy centers.

Despite the chilly temperatures, participants were enthusiastic about working to implore others that life is sacred.

"Stand up and speak for life," said Jean Larson of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Woodstock. She has been participating in the Jan. 22 events for about eight years.

One of Larson's sisters has seven adopted children and the other has two adopted children. She believes strongly in the promotion of adoption to women considering an abortion.

Boyert said the day's events gave people a "wonderful opportunity to join together in prayer and witness."

"We need these times of prayer and action to give us strength to continue in our efforts to bring about a culture which values every human life from natural conception until natural death," she said.

Homilies 'should show how God's word touches lives'

By Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

MILWAUKEE (CNS) - For Bishop Richard J. Sklba, "Fire Starters" is a compilation of the study, prayer, reflection and pastoral creativity that have been part of his more than 54 years of priesthood.

Thus, it is fitting that a volume devoted to the homily at daily Mass includes a declaration that the author preaches and practices.

"I've been praying about the readings, as a personal practice, for decades. As the years go by, I continue to see more and more in those readings -- the more applications, the more people I deal with, the more pastoral implications I am exposed to, the more I see the Word continues to have an application," said Milwaukee's retired auxiliary bishop.

A year before his retirement Oct. 18, 2010, shortly after his 75th birthday, Bishop Sklba was looking for "a project that would bridge into retirement."

"I wanted a project that might possibly take what I had experienced and prayed over and put it at the service of other people," he said.

Since moving to Old St. Mary's Church, Milwaukee, seven and a half years ago, Bishop Sklba has celebrated the parish's 7 a.m. Mass on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"Consequently, about a year before I retired, I'd come up from the morning Mass and sit down and write into my computer a couple of ideas," he said.

Eventually, the bishop established a regimen that included three hours of writing each morning, and nearly another three every afternoon.

The result of his efforts is the 605-page "Fire Starters."

It was published by Liturgical Press five months later than scheduled because, in the course of compiling it, Bishop Sklba noted, he had "a whole series of 'On second thought' and 'On third thought' moments."

One thought in that series had to do with the psalm response, which he said had "potential for spiritual depth."

"I began to be conscious as I really prayed intensely over the readings, even when I didn't have to preach, that the psalm response was not by accident," the bishop said. "It was chosen with a great deal of care by the people who put the Lectionary together to reflect the sense of the readings."

The bishop also inserted the short introduction the Lectionary includes before each reading, literary links for the Gospels because "that's a helpful element that should be put at the service of people who are using the Lectionary," and, when a new book starts, "a short paragraph that at least reminds people there is a bigger purpose to the book."

The impact of "Fire Starters" on Bishop Sklba's spiritual life, he said, was in the transition of praying for himself "to praying the Scriptures with an eye on the folks who showed up for Mass at Old St. Mary's in the morning."

"It made me increasingly conscious that the Word proclaimed in that weekday group of professional folks needed to be somehow targeted for their life, not just for my personal prayer, and it would have been targeted for them, if I was preparing to preach, as I have always insisted on," the bishop said. "So gradually my spirituality became increasingly pastoral or priestly or congregationally oriented."

A READER'S REFLECTION

The Church in rural America

By Dr. Charles Robinson

State Secretary, NY K of C State Council
Parishioner, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk
Commissioned Lay Minister

My wife Kathy and I got a glimpse of the future of the Catholic Church in rural America, and especially in places like our diocese in Upstate New York.

It is bleak indeed, unless we can get more vocations and more committed lay ministers.

Catholic churches in Utah and northern New York see similar challenges, joys

We recently traveled through a number of the National Parks in Utah, Arizona and Colorado. One night, we stayed in Kanab, UT, a great small town.

On Sunday, we went to St. Christopher's Catholic Church there. We found that there was not a Mass, but a Sunday Eucharistic Service. A deacon led the Sunday Eucharistic service, with his wife as the lector. There were probably 50 in attendance, and few youth. About half were visitors.

One might expect such small numbers due to the prevalence of the Mormon Church in that region, but the deacon said that even the Mormons have much trouble keeping their youth and finding good leaders.

The deacon pointed out that St. Christopher's was one of six mission churches served by a pastor, two deacons and a nun. The home parish in Cedar City, UT, was 105 miles away and served an area of 21,000 square miles. A mission might have a priest say Mass one or two Sundays a month, with services led by the other religious on other Sundays. The deacon and his wife had to drive 80 miles one way to

celebrate another Sunday service later that morning.

The diocese of Salt Lake City serves the entire State of Utah, much of it being the sparse rocky land of the Colorado Plateau.

It has 90 parishes/missions, 80 priests, and 71 deacons. Salt Lake City as the diocesan see sits in the far northwest corner of Utah.

Like their diocese, our see in Ogdensburg sits in the northwest corner of our diocese. Our diocese covers 12,000 square miles, much of it being the wooded and sparsely populated Adirondack Mountains.

We have 102 parishes, seven missions and 24 Oratories with 76 active priests (assisted by 20 or so retired priests), 70 deacons and 833 commissioned lay ministers, plus 119 professed religious.

However, we are projected to only have 40 active priests ten years from now.

Excepting the fact that their diocese covers an area seven times larger than ours, Salt Lake City has many similarities with ours. We are both very rural dioceses with impressive natural wonders, but with only a smattering of urban centers.

Catholics in our diocese form 21% of the nearly 0.5 million in our area.

Catholics are 9% of the 2.7million Utah residents.

Both dioceses have almost the same number of priests and deacons. But one cannot help but note that their one home parish in Cedar City covers almost twice the area of our entire diocese!

One big difference is that our diocese is fortunate enough to have a large number of commissioned lay ministers who have all undergone an extensive two-year training period.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Hospitality and openness to other Christians

One of the great concerns of Pope Francis since his election, is that of hospitality, openness to other Christians, working for real Church unity.

The theme of the Week for Christian Unity this year asked a question: "Has Christ been divided?"

Our Holy Father has said with intense sincerity that our divisions must stop. They are not inevitable.

With humility and trust we must continue our journey together, exploring reasons for our differences.

Unity will not come for

merely human efforts. We must walk together in the Holy Spirit. It's a very special aspect of the New Evangelization.

While we take joy and constant nourishment from our cherished forms of worship and devotions, we must be always aware that Christ established One Church, not many.

Jesus, in the Gospel today says to those who had just heard His teaching on the Beatitudes, "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world." In this passage, Jesus urges them not to

"light a lamp, and then put it under a bushel basket." No, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." We need always to look outward to those who are looking for light, as well as to those who have given up hope of ever finding it!

Love isn't love until it is shared, not just to our own, but to all whom we meet in our streets and in the public square. A special way to be light-bearers is to look to the physical needs of our neighbor.

In our first reading today from "late" Isaiah, we hear the prophet giving God's word to those who had just returned from the Babylon-

FEB. 9

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

selfishness and take care of those in need, "then your light shall break forth like the dawn...and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard". If you correct your unjust behaviour, "then you shall cry for help, and he [God] will say 'Here I am'!"

Very often our long, cold winters can bring depression and darkness to our souls. The best medicine for huddling inwardly in misery these days, is to look to the misery of our neighbors, whether spiritual or physical. Heeding the words of Pope Francis can lift our spirits and bring the warmth of Christ's light to our neighbor - and welcome him to the community of the Church.

ian exile, a people who were eager to observe the rituals which had been denied them for many years.

At the beginning of this 58th chapter, the prophet is scolding them for their lack of concern for widows, orphans, and aliens, despite their observance of many fasts.

But then his tone abruptly changes. He tells them that if they look beyond their

OUR READERS WRITE

Vote for values

Now that our Governor has emphatically stated that if you are one of those right-wing extremists who are pro-life, "you don't belong here"; will the Catholics who voted for him stand up and show their support for "life"?

Or will they decide that it's time to

become pro-abortion, because they don't want to offend the man that they helped put in to office?

Maybe it's time for them to examine their "party-first" attitude and to stop voting along party lines, and to start voting along "value-lines".

CALVIN CASTINE,
CHAMPLAIN

Rural

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

They are vital to the continued health of our Church here in the North Country.

The deacon in Kanab sent me a special plea to invite vocations to the diocese of Salt Lake City in such a spectacular region. But I hasten to add that the same need for vocations exists in our own spectacular area of the country.

The deacon said that the mainstay of St. Christopher's has been the Knights of Columbus Round Table that was formed there. We were greeted by the Knights at the church door and feasted by them with coffee and rolls afterwards.

One 30-something young parishioner had just re-

ceived his first degree the week before. That would not have occurred without the presence of a Round Table.

The Parish Round Table Program was designed to have a Knights of Columbus presence in parishes and missions that are not able to support a full council.

It is an easy and effective way for Knights to better serve their individual parishes, their priests, and to be the force for visible Catholic action through works of charity in their community.

The Round Table representatives are members of the sponsoring council, and are members of that parish or mission.

The deacon was a member of the Knights and proudly wore his K of C name badge to the brunch. We had a

chance to talk to him about our Commissioned Lay Ministers Program, and he immediately invited us to move out there permanently to work with him and his pastor.

We will not do that (although sorely tempted!), but it does point out the great benefit that our diocese gains by having Commissioned Lay Ministers, trained well over a two-year period.

Through prayer, vocations, and possibly via more K of C Parish Round Tables and more commissioned lay ministers, we need to figure out how to keep our church vibrant and growing in rural areas like the mountains of Utah and our own Adirondack Mountains.

It is a tall task (pun intended), but with God's help, we will succeed.

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AT THE MOVIES

12 YEARS A SLAVE

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

If you thought Alex Haley's "Roots" was the definitive take on antebellum slavery in the United States, prepare for a harsh wake-up call with "12 Years a Slave" (Fox Searchlight).

Unlike Haley's 1976 book, which became a landmark TV miniseries, this film focuses on man's inhumanity to man, portraying it with brutal honesty and a degree of violence that is almost intolerable.

That alone would normally restrict the picture's appropriate audience to a small group of adults. Yet at least some mature teenagers might benefit from this important history lesson with its searing depiction of the endurance of the human spirit against crushing odds.

Directed by Steve McQueen ("Shame") "12 Years a Slave" is based on the true story of Solomon Northup

(Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man who published the eponymous memoir in 1853 and became a prominent abolitionist.

The beginning of the screen account finds Northup living happily with his wife and children in upstate New York where he earns his living as a carpenter and violin player. Befriended by two strangers, Northup is persuaded to travel to Washington to earn extra money as a musician.

There Northup's nightmare begins. He awakens from a drunken evening in chains, sold by his new "friends" into slavery. Stripped of his identity and now called Platt, he is shipped to New Orleans, where he's auctioned off to the highest bidder.

The viewer shares Platt's sense of disbelief and horror as he endures every possible indignity, not to mention repeated beatings and whippings. As bleak as the outlook is, Platt stays focused on regaining his freedom and returning to his

family -- somehow.

"I don't just want to survive," he tells his fellow slaves. "I want to live!"

To do so, he must walk a fine line, not revealing his true identity or the fact that he is an educated man who can read and write, a threat to any slave owner.

Over a dozen years, Platt has two masters, one benevolent, one not. Kindhearted plantation owner William Ford (Benedict Cumberbatch) senses something unique about Platt and enlists his help as a musician and engineer.

Platt's talents, however, are resented by Ford's overseer John (Paul Dano), who abuses him. When Platt snaps and beats John to a pulp, Ford has no choice but to sell Platt to keep the peace.

His new owner is Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender), a sadist who quotes scripture as justification for beating his slaves and raping the women among them. As the years pass, the future seems bleak for Platt, until he



CNS PHOTO/FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Chiwetel Ejiofor, center, stars in a scene from the movie "12 Years a Slave."

learns to trust in the unexpected kindness of a stranger (Brad Pitt).

The violence in "12 Years a Slave" is relentless and an assault on all the senses, its tone and feeling reminiscent of "The Passion of the Christ." Both films employ brutality to make an important point. Here it serves as a reminder of the sufferings of African-Americans and the long, dark shadow cast by their bondage down to the present day.

The film contains grue-

some bloody violence - including hangings, beatings, whippings, torture and rape - full nudity, nongraphic consensual but nonmarital sexual activity and some profane 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.

CONSIDER THIS

Breaking news: we need more from our media

By Stephen Kent
Catholic News Service

A recent editorial cartoon depicted Richard Sherman, a cornerback for the Seattle Seahawks, standing disconsolately, hands in pockets, as a television announcer runs away from him shouting, "Not Now!! Justin Bieber's in trouble."

It's a good illustration of what I call cocker spaniel journalism: providing end-of-the-world coverage to a relatively insignificant event until the next "crisis" attracts the cameras and microphones.

It's not doing much for creating understanding in the world.

"The speed with which information is communicated exceeds our capacity for reflection and judgment," said Pope Francis recently in his World Communications Day message, adding that "this does not make for more balanced and proper forms of self-expression."

In others words, the "breaking news" and "this

just in" cries of television provides the listener little context of the event's importance. Pope Francis addresses this in the prepared statement for the communications day to be celebrated June 1. His message is not just for practitioners. It is meant for consumers as well.

The pope agrees that a variety of opinions can be helpful but "also enables people to barricade themselves behind sources of information that only confirm their own wishes and ideas, or political and economic interests." Think Fox News or MSNBC.

Advances in communication technology are exponential. We used to receive news in a matter of weeks. Then it became a matter days, then hours, then minutes, and now seconds. Eyes and ears are now assaulted by minute-by-minute "updates" from a multitude of sources.

"We need ... to recover a certain sense of deliberateness and calm," advised Pope Francis.

The pope says the parable of the good Samaritan is also a parable about communication. The Samaritan not only aids the victim but takes responsibility for him after two other passers-by

ignore his plight.

But what about the first two who ignored him? Who would they be in today's society? They may be the gatekeepers in the media. They are the filter that allows or denies the disadvantaged access to the communication system to share their plight. They may be individuals who are not attentive to others, to listen and learn from others, to find value in different cultures and traditions.

"We are challenged to be people of depth, attentive to what is happening around us and spiritually alert," says the pope.

That challenge is hard when faced with cocker spaniel journalism and hundreds of emails and websites competing for our attention.

It is not enough to be simply connected, the pope said. Connections need to grow into true encounters. A culture of encounter is what will inspire solidarity and bring unity.

Kent is the retired editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and Seattle. Contact him at: considersk@gmail.com

ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Lake Placid - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Date: Feb. 4 & 11, Lake Placid; Feb. 18 & 25, Tupper Lake

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Features: New volunteers will join Mercy Care's 90+ Friendship Volunteers from Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid who are helping elders stay connected to their communities.

Contact: Sheila Schneck at 518-523-5583

CLINTON

BAKED HAM DINNER

Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a baked ham dinner.

Date: Feb. 8

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$3.50; under 5, Free

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold a Pancake Breakfast.

Date: March 2

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$3; under 5, Free

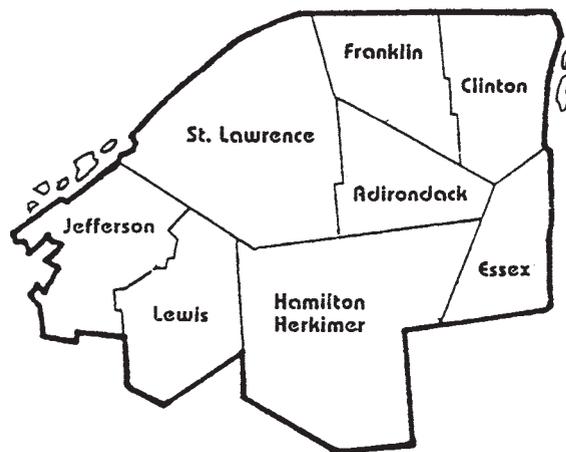
Features: All you can eat pancake, real maple syrup, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, coffee, orange juice or milk.

QUILTING CLASSES

Ellenburg Center - The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop is holding classes

Charm Quilt Class: Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30; Debbie Baldwin, Instructor; **Cost:** \$15 - does not include material; Call 518-594-3253 or email to register

Through the Year Wall Hanging: March 15, 22, and 29; Rita Breen, Instructor; **Cost:** \$40 for all 3 classes. Call or email to reserve a spot by March 1. Class size is



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese"

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

limited to 7.

Sew Together: any Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3. This is a quilting group designed to share ideas, help fellow quilters, teach beginners. Bring a bag lunch if you come for the day.

Contact: The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer, 7270 Star Road, Ellenburg Center, 518-594-3253, olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

HEALING MINISTRY

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

Date: First Thursday each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

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

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

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will have a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

Date: Feb. 15

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$5; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown - St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Feb. 27

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Schedule: Monday through Friday fol-



lowing the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.),

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown meets third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

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

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

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Lowville - St. Peter's Church will be having a Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Feb. 6

Time: Take-Outs Available 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-10, \$4; under 5, Free

Contact: 348-6260.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Feb. 13

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to worship The Exposition, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, The Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and The Benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs available

5K WALK/RUN

Massena - The 2nd Annual Glory in our Hearts 5K Walk/Run to Remember will bring together walkers and runners, for a heart healthy fundraiser to support the 2014 outreach activities of the Glory in our Hearts Foundation.

Date: May 3

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Robert Moses State Park Picnic Area at Barnhart Island

Features: Stroller and child friendly 5K event. Visit the Glory in our Hearts 5K website at <http://www.gloryinourhearts.org/5k.html> for race information.

DINNER AND SHOW

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Altar & Rosary is sponsoring a bus trip to the Syracuse Oncenter.

Date: June 4

Cost: \$120 per person (includes show ticket, bus fare, and dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant.)

Features: Performance of Million Dollar Quartet. at 7:30 p.m.. Inspired by the electrifying true story of the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

Contact: Call Cherie @393-5050 or 393-7158 or Joyce @528-1819.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Convent

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

Contact: 315-769-3137

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

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

Date: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 1:30 p.m.

LATIN MASS

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

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

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

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: Noon

Features: Free hot lunch

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday morning.

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

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

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

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The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

The Missions: an overview

What the Pontifical Mission Societies Do . . .

Say "mission" today and most think of Africa and Asia, of faraway places where the poor hear the "Good News" of Jesus and experience the Lord's great love through the work and witness of missionaries. But a century ago, the "Missions" were right here at home, and missionaries from Europe proclaimed the Gospel and served the poor on our shores, all motivated by the command of Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations."

The Pontifical Mission Societies are: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, The Society of St. Peter Apostle, Holy Childhood Association and Missionary Union of Priest and Religious

I would like to present some frequently asked questions about the Pontifical Mission Societies. Both the questions and responses in this column are part of a number of Frequently Asked Questions that are found the Pontifical Mission Society webpage:

www.onefamilyinmission.org/faqs.html.

Where are the Pontifical Mission Societies located?

National offices exist in more than 120 countries around the world including the United States. Central administrative offices are located in Rome, Italy, under the direction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The national office of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States is located in New York City. The national director is Father Andrew Small. In addition, every diocese in the United States has a diocesan director who is appointed by the Bishop of that diocese.

What makes the Pontifical Mission Societies unique from other mission organizations?

According to the teaching of Vatican Council II, the Pontifical Mission Societies are institutions of the Universal Church and of each local church. Therefore, unlike any other mission organization, the Pontifical Mission Societies are both pontifical and Episcopal in nature.

And, as such, the Pontifical Mission Societies are recognized as the principal instrument for educating the faithful to an awareness of the Church's universal mission and for encouraging their support, in prayer and sacrifice, for the evangelizing mission of the Church among two-thirds of the human family.

Perhaps these were questions you wondered about and are now answered for you! Maybe you never even thought about such questions but hopefully enjoyed learning a bit about the Missions.

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

OBITUARIES

Champlain - Terry Lee Lashway, 53; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

Clayton - Mary Elizabeth (Hunt) Balcom, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Grindstone Island Cemetery.

Croghan - Carolyn E. (Bush) Buell, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2014 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Fort Covington - Carole A. (Baldauf) Jock, 56; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2014 at the Capiello-McKenzie and Cosgrove Funeral Home.

Glenfield - James B. West, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Lake Placid - Frances "Fran" B. (Boland) Cassidy, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2014 at M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Louisville - Liguori Joseph "Junior" Murphy, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone - Robert "Bob" Loetterle, 57; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2014 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Malone - Francis Daniel Machabee, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena - Barbara A. (Chase) Cunningham, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2014 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Joseph P. Kish Jr., 66; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena - Randy P. Stewart, 49; Funeral Services at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville - Allen Joseph Weaver, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2014 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Beverly National Cemetery, NJ

North Lawrence - Richard E. Villnave, 66; Funeral Jan. 27, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Dorothy "Dotti" M. (Moore) Ahrens, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 20, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Pauline Norma Vincent Trumble Amo, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2014 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg - Aylene S. (Sovie) Cole, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Terry George, 59; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2014 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Frances G. (Prusinoski) Williams, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2014 at St. John's Church; burial in St.

Patrick's Cemetery.

Port Henry - Renee Mary Hughes, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church.

Raymondville - Charles A. Furnace, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2014 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Redford - Mary A. (Wood) Bainbridge, 73; Memorial Services Feb. 1, 2014 at Church of the Assumption.

Rossie - Marguerite (Refici) Johnson, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Gouverneur.

Saranac Lake - Jay C. Swartz, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 25, 2014 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Saratoga National Cemetery.

Watertown - Alice Sykes Dasno, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2014 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Sandra J. (Baker) Miller, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2014 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown - Elnora "Sukey" Yerdon, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2014 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.



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Veteran Vatican reporter looks back on first year of a papacy

Bishop of the poor becomes 'pope of mercy'

By Anna Maria Basquez
Catholic News Service

ARVADA, COLO. (CNS) - Veteran Vatican reporter John Allen Jr. took up the old journalist "man on the street" challenge by a priest in the poorest part of Buenos Aires when he sought the truth about how Pope Francis came to be known as a bishop of the poor.

Allen has covered three popes in his career and was recently hired as associate editor of the Boston Globe after years of writing for the National Catholic Reporter weekly newspaper.

He recounted the story in a recent talk about Pope Francis' first year before a crowd of nearly 500 people at Spirit of Christ Catholic Community Church in Arvada, in the Denver Archdiocese.

Allen visited the place where Pope Francis chose to live for his 12 years as archbishop of Buenos Aires.

"Rather than living in the archbishop's palace, he chose to live in a very Spartan apartment in the heart of the city where the poor lived," the journalist said a mid-January presentation. "When I say Spartan, I don't just mean that in the language of real estate professionals. This was the kind of place that you had to leave



CNS PHOTO/PARROQUIA VIRGEN DE CAACUPE, HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis, as bishop, is seen celebrating Mass at the Villa 21-24 slum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1998. Veteran Vatican reporter John Allen traveled to Buenos Aires this year to seek the truth about how Pope Francis came to be known as the bishop of the poor. Allen, who was recently hired as an associate editor of the Boston Globe, shared his impressions of Pope Francis' first year during a January talk in the Archdiocese of Denver.

the stove on 24/7 over the weekend, because they didn't have enough money to leave the heat on over the weekend."

He also visited the slums of Buenos Aires - called the villas of misery - where the future pope, then-Cardinal

Jorge Bergoglio, spent much of his time.

He asked the pastor there about Pope Francis being the bishop of the poor, saying, "To what extent is that reality or to what extent is that (public relations)? He replied, 'Look, why don't you just go out in the street and ask the people.'"

"On that dare, I went out on the street," Allen said, "and I polled about five or six people and asked, 'What do you know about Bergoglio?' ... Before they even vocalized an answer, they all went into these tin shacks they lived in that they called their homes and they came back out with these prized pictures with Bergoglio baptizing their children, or confirming their nephew or sitting in their living room when their husband died because he spent his time there."

"That's where he drew the oxygen in his lungs," Allen added, "to think about what

kind of church he wanted."

And also, said Allen, to think about what he wants people to see when they see the Catholic Church -- service to the Gospel rather than power and privilege.

In his talk, Allen outlined three areas where he believes Pope Francis will have the most impact -- leadership as service, the social Gospel and mercy as the core Christian message in this era.

He said he was using three measurements to look at the pontiff's impact - popular appeal, media appeal and his impact on the culture of Rome.

When it comes to social Gospel, Allen said, Pope Francis has done several interviews so far as pope, and he has said it was not necessary to talk continually about church teachings on abortion, gay marriage and contraception because those are already well known.

"In some quarters I think

this has been misunderstood," Allen said. "There are some who believe what this signifies is the church is somehow pulling back from the Gospel of life. That perception is so widespread. There is no retreat. There is a determination to lift up other elements of Catholic teachings that he believes have not gotten a commensurate level of attention."

That the pope has widespread popular appeal is a fact, he said. "In every region of the world in which public opinion can be scientifically surveyed, Pope Francis has approval ratings that politicians or celebrities would sacrifice their children to pagan gods to attain," he joked.

He noted a Pew survey recently found that 96 percent of American Catholics "have a favorable impression of this pope."

Allen said Pope Francis is expected to come to the U.S. in September 2015 for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

He said each of three popes he has covered are complex men but have had a signature phrase that gets to the heart of what they are about.

For Blessed John Paul II "it was 'Be not afraid.' It was this invitation to the church to recapture its boldness, its missionary self-confidence after the years of introspection and self-doubt that followed the years of the Second Vatican Council."

Pope Benedict XVI's phrase was "reason and faith ... that reason and faith need one another ... to be healthy these two things need one another," Allen said.

With Pope Francis, it is "the Lord never tires of forgiving," he said.

"I believe that Pope Francis ultimately is going to be remembered as the pope of mercy," because he wants the world when it looks at the church to see mercy, Allen said.

JOB OPENING

Trinity Catholic School, Massena, is seeking an energetic, compassionate, and flexible person to join our family as a full-time Cafeteria Manager, beginning April 1.

The job will include scheduling and supervising food preparation and serving of the cafeteria, as well as planning menus, ordering necessary supplies and food, and organizing and maintaining inventory. The manager will ensure that all federal, state and local health codes for food service operations are followed and that the cafeteria stays within their budget. Computer skills a must, with knowledge of Quickbooks and Excel preferred. Accounting and secretarial skills beneficial. On the job training provided. Health insurance is available.

Send letter of interest and resume by February 28 to Kathy Behrens, 188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662.