Praise for women

VATICAN CITY, Oct. 27 - Pope Benedict XVI praised the millions of Catholic women in the world who inspire their husbands and children to live truly Christian lives.

At his weekly general audience Oct. 27, the pope said he wanted to recognize "the many women who, day after day, enlighten their families with their witness of Christian life. May the Spirit of the Lord raise up holy Christian spouses today to show the world the beauty of marriage lived according to the Gospel values: love, tenderness, mutual help, fruitfulness in generating and educating children, openness and solidarity with the world, and participation in the life of the church," he said.

The pope's remarks about women in the church and in family life were part of his main audience address about the life and influence of St. Bridget of Sweden, who lived in the 14th century. Bridget and her husband, Ulf, were the parents of eight children and were models of "an authentic conjugal spirituality," the pope said.

"Often, as happened in the life of St. Bridget and Ulf, it is the woman who, with her religious sensitivity, delicacy and sweetness, is able to make her husband mature in the faith journey," he said.

CARITAS WINNER IS HONORED

St. Joseph Sister Gabriel Marie Meyer, the 2010 recipient on the Catholic Charities Caritas award, is shown after the Oct. 24 ceremony with, from left, Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin, Catholic Charities director; Bishop Terry LaValley and Father Arthur LaBaff of Clayton, chair of the Board of Trustees. In addition to Sister Gabriel Marie, all the Religious men and women of the diocese were honored at the Caritas dinner. See page 3 for Bishop LaValley’s reflections for the occasion.

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS: Bishop’s Fund supports family life... page 7
**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Valuable lesson

Phew – we did it! We actually managed to produce the first copy of our "new" NCC (from our new office, using our brand new system) and send it off to your mailbox.

Believe me, we were more than a little relieved to see the finished copy. The blunders were minor – thank goodness!

But, alas, there was no time to rest on our limited laurels.

Another deadline day loomed. And, once again, the editor approached the task with trepidation.

There is so much to remember, so many extra steps to take before each page is ready to be emailed to the printer.

In a couple of weeks, the process will be second nature (please, God!) but in the meantime, it's all a little daunting.

So... when Thursday afternoon rolled around and the diocesan staff was heading up to Wadhams Hall for a special prayer service, I almost stayed behind.

I knew how much saner the remainder of my week would be if I spent those precious three hours in front of my computer screen.

But, the proverbial Catholic guilt won out. I had signed up to lead the prayer. It was the polite thing to do.

And, no surprise, it was the right thing to do as well.

Our guest prayer director was Sister Cindy Sullivan, a Massena native, a missionary and a frequent subject of our weekly mission column in the NCC.

We have published articles about Sister Cindy's work in the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador for more than 30 years. What a pleasure it was to finally meet her.

And, what a pleasure to listen to her talk about all the success she and her fellow missionaries are seeing as they teach, feed... save Ecuadorans, one family at a time.

Usually when you sign up for a day of prayer you expect scriptural reflections, times of silence and perhaps some inspirational music.

This day was a different.

Sister Cindy gave a report of her work which, on the surface, seemed more appropriate for a classroom than a chapel.

Until you listened closely.

Sister Cindy talked about her utter dependence on God in such a matter-of-fact way that you might not be struck by how rare and extraordinary this is.

The work of Sister Cindy and her colleagues in Quito doesn’t lead to prayer – it is prayer.

And that was a valuable lesson to learn on the days/weeks when it’s hard to keep a good perspective on what really matters.

Surely the pages of the North Country Catholic are better served with an editor (sane or not?) who is reminded about this every so often.

MLK

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**WIDENING YOUR VIEW**

Only a small percentage of the hundreds of photos taken at diocesan events over the past few years has appeared in the pages of the North Country Catholic.

To see more photos from events at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, taken by photographer Betty Steele, visit the St. Mary's Cathedral website (www.saintmaryscathedral.net) and find the links for "recent events" and the photo album.

To see more photos from across the diocese -- and Ireland, too -- visit the website for Pat Hendrick Photography (www.pat hendrick photography.com). Find the link for North Country Catholic Events and click. Then click on "all categories" to find the event of your choice and, finally, click on "refresh" on the right side of the page.

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**The North Country Catholic has moved!**

But all of our contact information is the same! Please use the information below to contact us.

Phone: 315-608-7556
Fax: 1-866-314-7296
Mailing Address: PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Bishop LaValley’s address at the annual Catholic Charities Caritas gathering held Oct. 24 in Lake Placid

The national organization of Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities USA, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. So, it is fitting that on this occasion we congratulate and extend heartfelt words of gratitude to our own Catholic Charities.

Sister Donna Franklin and her staff, as well as all their predecessors, fulfill so many of the needs of our sisters and brothers by providing direct service and advocacy on their behalf.

We congratulate and thank them for their Gospel witness of love.

In our visitations, we’ll get a taste of the tremendous gifts that the consecrated women and men have been to this local family of faith.

When I began reflecting on what I might say on this occasion in which we honor women and men religious, I decided that I didn’t want to spend a whole lot of time reviewing with you the rich theology upon which the consecrated life is founded. But I wasn’t exactly sure where I wanted to go with this.

Of late, I spend a considerable amount of time in my car, providing me with time to pray. Recently, while praying the second joyful Mystery, the Visitation, I thought it might be interesting if I invited all of you to join me for the next few minutes in making some visitations of our own over the many miles of our expansive diocese and through the many years of our existence as a diocese.

During our journey, we’ll make some stops. Best part...I won’t charge you for gas.

We don’t speak too often about God’s beauty. My sisters and brothers, the beauty of God is a many-splendored thing.

In our travels, we will see the glory of God shining through the witness of the lives of the Religious. In our visitations, we’ll get a taste of the tremendous gifts that the consecrated women and men have been to this local family of faith.

What better place to make our first stop than to marvel at God’s beauty as reflected in the person of this year’s Caritas Award winner: Sr. Gabriel Marie Meyer.

As a teacher from one end of our diocese to another, as Group Mother and Administrator at St. Patrick’s Children’s Home in Watertown, as social case worker, pastoral associate, volunteer at Hospice, Women’s Crisis Center, Respite Center, teacher in special education she lives the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of love of God and love of neighbor so generously.

 Doesn’t Sr. Gabriel Marie reflect the beauty of God’s love? Congratulations Sister Gabriel Marie!

Our next stop...let’s head northeast to Plattsburgh – and travel back, a few decades or so. It certainly was no easy task for most, but to the Brothers of Christian Instruction, it was a labor of love to educate young men at Mount Assumption Institute or what about the tremendous gift that the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis provided the community and the Church at Our Lady of Victory Secretarial School.

Didn’t we see the beauty of our God’s face in the witness of love of these faithful consecrated religious?

Now, we’re headed up the military turnpike, connecting with Route 11 on our way to Akwasasne. No, not the casinos, but the homes, the churches, the nursing homes of the native Americans living there.

In years not so long ago, a religious sister, a brave and fiercely faithful Sister of St. Joseph traveled dangerous roads where blood was shed, where brother fought brother. Nevertheless, the Sacraments had to be administered, the sick were to be visited and the bereaved comforted.

This blockade busting Sister of St. Joseph continues, many years after the glory of the Lumen Christi Award has dimmed, to illumine the lives of the Mohawk children of God with her loving presence. God’s beauty is made manifest in this special religious and the lives she continues to touch.

Taking a few back roads, we can get back on Route 11 and find that new facility today that stands as a testament to the vision and hard work of one woman who looks to her founder, Marguerite D’Youville for inspiration. Hospice in St. Lawrence County continues to be about the corporal works of mercy, bringing comfort and consolation to the dying. Even in our most vulnerable and fragile physical condition, the beauty of God shines through.

That same Foundress inspired many dedicated women to our North Country caring for the sick in hospitals, operating orphanages, teaching in our schools and giving tireless witness of love in our parishes.

As we exit Rte. 11, we meet up with Rte. 68 that will connect us with Rte. 37, heading for the city. We go by and reminisce about the commitment of those Sisters of St. Joseph who created a college under the patronage of the Mother of God. Here was provided a loving place where many of the family of faith, the traditional and non-traditional student, from throughout our diocese would gather to learn. Didn’t we see the many splendorous facets of God’s beauty in the faces and hearts of all who entered that place?

It’s time we continue trekking south to the house that all in this particular religious congregation call home. In it you will find many, many faith-filled women, although some unable to actively minister today, their prayers and presence glisten with divine presence.

Here we’ll find the Sister who for years was so faithful in our Catholic schools, teaching and administrating. Then the Lord called her to a new ministry of Parish Administrator where she served God’s people so very well, so much loved. Then, her body resisted her desire to continue in that ministry. We rely on her prayers today in her infirmity as she shows us the beauty of the face of Christ suffering.

And, again, in that same abode, there is another woman richly blessed - a pioneer, of sorts, in our family of faith, where she taught the faith to our Catholic School teachers - a holy, conscientious woman with so much to give, in love with the Word of God.

She, too, experienced the rebellion of her body and mind and today whose saintly life at the motherhouse causes us all to hope in the rewards of eternal life gained for one so beautifully faithful in this life.

And while we are in our diocese’s largest city, we must make a visit to those who adore the Precious Blood of Christ continually. Those who respond to the Lord’s call to live a cloistered life, one dedicated to constant prayer and veneration of the Precious Blood of our Savior, praying for the world and our Church outside its cloistered walls.

If we head due east, continuing our journey of this haloed circle of our beloved land of the north, we’ll come to that place founded years ago as a place of hope and recovery for those who suffer the scourge of addictions.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
St. Joseph's Home to benefit from collection

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley has recently written to the pastors of St. Lawrence Deenery inviting parishes to take up a special collection Nov. 7.

To be taken up in parishes of St. Lawrence Deenery Nov. 7

The proceeds would be used to benefit the St. Joseph's Home Foundation which provides financial support to benefit St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg.

This collection remains optional. It is expected that it will be taken up in most parishes of the Deenery.

St. Joseph's Nursing Home is the only Catholic healthcare facility open today within the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It provides a permanent residence to eighty-two people in need of skilled nursing care. At the present time, forty-six of its residents are Catholic.

Three priests of the Diocese, Msgr. George M. Phillips, Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, and Father Harry E. Giroux, reside at the home at the present time.

The St. Joseph's Home Foundation assists the nursing home both through direct grants to help meet some costs involved in patient care and through a longer-term commitment of financial support from its modest endowment. When the Home's new campus was built recently, efforts of the Foundation were integral and substantial to the funding of the cost.

It is hoped that Catholics from the communities of St. Lawrence Deenery will respond generously to the upcoming special collection. Gifts are welcome from other sources as well.

Further information about St. Joseph's Nursing Home can be obtained from its Director of Development, Joyce Kelso at St. Joseph's Nursing Home, 950 Linden Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Bishop's Heritage Circle is assisting Bishop LaValley

By Janice Shoen Executive Director, Development Office

The People of God who call the North Country "home" possess rich and treasured heritage of faith. From one generation to the next, the local Church has been enabled to meet the spiritual and temporal needs of countless individuals through the generous commitment and sacrifice of so many.

Today, our beloved Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to be challenged to meet certain extraordinary needs.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde, after extensive consultation with clergy, religious, and laity leaders, formed the Bishop's Heritage Circle in 1995 to assist in funding specific extraordinary needs of the Diocese and to enhance the invaluable heritage passed on to us. The generous support of the Heritage Circle since its inception continues under Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

The special needs for the 2010 fiscal year are:

1. Special Care of Diocesan Priests,
2. Seminarian Endowment,
3. St. Mary's Cathedral Baptistry, and
4. the continued upkeep of our historic Bishop's Residence.

One of the original extraordinary needs has been Bishop's Residence. The Bishop's Heritage Circle is asked to make the upkeep of the residence a high priority, while preserving the operating funds for the mission of the Church of Ogdensburg.

Originally a duplex for two families and land office for the Parish, the Bishop's Residence at 624 Washington Street has been a residence for all fourteen bishops of the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1879.

Built just before the Civil War at the cost of $25,000, the building was purchased from Mr. George Parish for $5,475. Not only did it house the Bishop's Residence, but it was also the site of the first Chancery Office. Beginning in 1994, substantial work has been done to update and preserve the residence.

The members of the Bishop's Heritage Circle have over the years refurbished Bishop's Residence by installing 73 energy efficient windows, interior preservation work and room rehabilitation has been carried out and Bishop's Chapel has been renovated.

This small group of individuals has also made a large contribution to the renovation of St. Mary's Cathedral's Chapel, a beautiful space for prayer and worship for the public.

Each member of the Bishop's Heritage Circle is to be a practicing Roman Catholic or the spouse of a practicing Catholic. It is expected that the individual or couple will have made and will continue to make generous contributions to their local parish, the Diocese and the Universal Church.

The members met recently in Plattsburgh with a Mass at St. John's Church followed by the annual luncheon meeting.

Further information on becoming a member of the Bishop's Heritage Circle is available from Janice Shoen at 315-393-2920 or Email jshoen@dioogdensburg.org.
Father Douglas J. Lucia, diocesan director of the Worship Office, was a main presenter at the 2010 Fall Pastoral Conference, devoted to the Revised Roman Missal which is expected to be implemented in Catholic parishes in Advent, 2011. Above he displays some of the material provided by the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship to facilitate parish efforts across the United States. The conference, sponsored by the diocesan Department of Christian Formation, was held Oct. 18-19 at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid.

Among the topics addressed during the conference were the background of the Roman Missal and its history before and after the Second Vatican Council. Participants also heard information about the process used in translating the Missal and the motivation among which was “unity with all Catholics around the world.”

Father Lucia addresses about 150 priests, deacons, principals, pastoral associates and catechetical leaders who took part in the conference. The goal of the program was to begin the process of education and preparation among those who will work with pastors in implementing the Roman Missal in all the parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Gayle Frank, diocesan director of Family Life ministry; and St. Joseph Sister Gregory Munger of Watertown were among those who took part in the conference.
Foundation Board holds annual meeting

By Janice Shoen
Executive Director

OGDENSBURG-The annual meeting of the Board of Directors for The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. was called to order by Bishop Terry LaValley, President.

The Board discussed the audit of the Foundation’s financial statements and required communications for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, prepared by Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, Van House & Company, Certified Public Accountants.

Ed Mucenski was present to review the audit and reported that the auditor issued an unqualified opinion that the financial statements of the Foundation as of June 30, 2010 fairly presented the financial position of the Foundation for the period covered by the statements.

The Board reviewed the investment performance of the Foundation for the fiscal year. Antony DeSorbo provided statements showing the performance and current holdings. Michael Tooley, Diocesan Fiscal Officer, reviewed the budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Mr. Tooley also reviewed the contributions, transfers and dividend distributions. The 33 endowments that the Diocese of Ogdensburg oversees have a contribution value of $3,189,016.

The Board of Directors approved dividends in the amount of $36,000 in 2010-2011, which represents a 12.5% increase over the dividends paid to beneficiaries of the Foundation endowments in 2009-2010.

The Foundation's Mission

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds. The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to invest to benefit the people and the communities of the Diocese as designated by donors.

Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders.

A professional staff administers the day to day operations of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals. For more information contact Janice Shoen, Executive Director, at 315-392-2920 or Email jshoen dioogdensburg.org.

PARISH PIG ROAST

Parishioners from St. Patrick’s, Rouses Point, and St. Joseph’s, Coopersville gathered Sept. 19 for their Annual Pig Roast at St. Patrick’s Church. The weather was gorgeous, the food was plentiful and a good time was had by all! Pictured here are: Ruth Fitzgerald, Laurelle Montpelier, Aline Bedard, Eddie Bechard, Therese Fosher, Claire Fosher, Jackie Ducharme, Thelma LaFoun­

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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 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. Ongoing monthly training is required for all employees involved in activities with minors.

Volunteers are strongly encouraged to continue their training. Further information is available from Atone­ment Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-392-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:
Nov. 6 - Fort Drum, 9 a.m., 6:30 p.m.;

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volun­teers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-392-2920 or the Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri­anne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Platts­burgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: ayulavich@westelcom.com

Bishop LaValley’s Schedule

Nov. 3 - Gathering for recently or­dained Priests at the Malone Catholic Parishes.
Nov. 4 - 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg.
Nov. 5 - 5 p.m., Dinner for Two at St. John’s Church in Plattsburgh.
Nov. 6 - 4 p.m., Confirmation at St. Joseph’s Church in Dannemora.
Nov. 7 - 1 p.m., Harvest Mass at St. Augustine’s Church in Peru; 6 p.m., Priests’ Sunday Dinner at the Knights of Columbus in Ogdensburg.
Nov. 9 - 11 a.m., Development Board of Advisors Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg.
In support of family life

By Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank
Directors, Family Life Office

Each year we are asked by the Bishops Fund Office to contribute an article to the “North Country Catholic.”

We are asked to share what our agency is doing, to help the members of our diocesan family to see what their Bishops Fund dollars are doing.

This year we decided that a picture is worth a thousand words.

We want to say “Thank You” to all the people in the “North Country” for their generous support of the Bishops Fund.

“If you haven’t given yet.....there is still time!!

How are your Bishop's Fund dollars used in the Family Life Office: Marriage Preparation, Pre-Cana, Sponsor Couple programs, Marriage Enrichment; “Dinner for Two,” Marriage Jubilee, Six Dates for Catholic Couples, Family Retreats; Family Guggenheim, parish family life programming.

We work together with other diocesan departments to help to promote a "Family Perspective" which simply means to view all our programming through the lens of the family.... to make programming family friendly, in our collaborative outreach to the members of our diocesan family.

We are privileged to work with other diocesan departments.

Many of our programs are staffed by incredibly dedicated individuals who lovingly volunteer their time and their treasures to make these programs happen.

Your Bishops Fund dollars.... are at work enabling those working together to serve the needs of The Church our Family of Faith in the diocese of Ogdensburg.
Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations, Catholic Charities USA on your Centennial year! Celebrating one hundred years of service is a remarkable achievement. Catholic Charities USA is the national member organization that brings together the Catholic Charities agencies from the various dioceses across the United States.

Catholic Charities USA is a national leader in advocating for public policies that respect the sanctity and the dignity of human life at all stages. This faith-filled organization is consistent and passionate about building a just society based on Gospel values as detailed in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It is through this organization that the collective story of Catholic Charities is told on a national level. As a group, Catholic Charities agencies are the second largest provider of human services in the United States. Catholic Charities is the formal organized branch of the Church responsible for providing leadership in assuring that our brothers and sisters in need never be invisible or more marginalized.

Strong in their Catholic identity and faithful to Jesus’ directives to love God and love one’s neighbor, the Catholic Charities family fulfills its mission of direct service and advocacy. We take pride in its accomplishments at the local and national levels.

One hundred years of effective servant leadership is an amazing record. May our compassionate and loving God continue to bless Catholic Charities.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
Pope at synod end: peace is possible in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Closing the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, Pope Benedict XVI said, "We must never resign ourselves to the absence of peace. Peace is possible. Peace is urgent," the pope said Oct. 24 during his homily at the Mass closing the two-week synod.

Peace is what will stop Christians from emigrating, he said.

Pope Benedict also urged Christians to promote respect for freedom of religion and conscience, "one of the fundamental human rights that each state should always respect."

Synod members released a message Oct. 23 to their own faithful, their government leaders, Catholics around the world, the international community and to all people of goodwill.

The Vatican also released the 44 propositions adopted by synod members as recommendations for Pope Benedict to consider in writing his post-synodal apostolic exhortation.

Although the bishops said the main point of the synod was to find pastoral responses to the challenges facing their people, they said the biggest challenges are caused by political and social injustice and war and conflict.

"We have taken account of the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the whole region, especially on the Palestinians who are suffering the consequences of the Israeli occupation: the lack of freedom of movement, the wall of separation and the military checkpoints, the political prisoners, the demolition of homes, the disturbance of socio-economic life and the thousands of refugees," they said in one of the strongest sentences in the message.

Opposing death penalty comes down to God's mercy

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - As the 2010 edition of Respect Life Month drew to a close, the issue of capital punishment was once again in the world spotlight as the Vatican called on Iraq not to execute convicted murderer or for someone like Aziz, sentenced to death by hanging for persecuting Shiite Muslims, but it is important to the pro-life cause, said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"It demeans our culture to use violence to answer violence, and it can only further undermine respect for innocent life," McQuade told Catholic News Service Oct. 27. "If the state can protect us without committing additional violence, that is the way we are called to go."

Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., made that point in one of the articles for this year's Respect Life program, linking the death penalty issue to the Catholic belief in divine mercy.

"God did not abolish justice. Rather, he intended by the offering of his Son to purge human justice of any sense of wrath or revenge," he wrote. "As we seek a reason to put aside the practice of the death penalty, perhaps the best motive is our desire to imitate God in his mercy toward those for whom Jesus died."

Bishop Finn’s call came at a time when many others - including members of law enforcement - were calling for an end to or curtailing of the use of capital punishment.

Police Chief James Abbott of West Orange, N.J., said his six months serving on the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission changed his mind about the death penalty. He said he still believes in it in theory, but "no state has found a way to carry out the death penalty quickly and cheaply and also accurately."

"I don't know that in practice, (the death penalty) does more harm than good," he said at a mid-October forum at the National Press Club in Washington that brought together representatives of U.S. and European law enforcement.

"So while I hang on to my theoretical views, ... I stand before you to say that society is better off without capital punishment," Abbott added. "Life in prison without parole in a maximum-security detention facility is a better alternative."

Former Detective Superintendent Bob Denmark of Lancashire Constabulary in England said he investigated more than 100 homicides in the United Kingdom and genocide in Africa on behalf of the United Nations. In some of those cases, he was certain a defendant was guilty but was later proved wrong, he said.

He also said he did not think deterrence would have been a factor in the "vast majority" of the cases he investigated.

"If you were to use execution of killers as a deterrent, I think you would end up having to execute every killer in the hope that you might deter some potential killer in the future," Denmark said.

A national poll of police chiefs last year found that they considered the death penalty an inefficient use of taxpayer resources and would prefer more state and federal funding go to improving law enforcement resources and providing treatment for drug and alcohol problems.

A San Francisco-based group called Law Enforcement and Judges for Alternatives to the Death Penalty says California could save at least $1.25 billion a year by abandoning the capital punishment option in favor of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

In Texas, where 464 people have been executed since 1976, including 17 of the 43 executed in the United States this year, Anthony Graves was freed Oct. 27 after 18 years in prison, including 12 on death row, for a crime that prosecutors say he did not commit.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center, nearly 140 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence since 1973.

But for Catholics, the central reason for opposing the death penalty does not have to do with the possibility of killing an innocent person, the deterrence factor or the economic costs of capital punishment. Instead, it is related to respect for the dignity of human life and divine mercy.

Those who believe in Christ "never see anyone as irredeemably wicked," McQuade said. "God's mercy extends to all of us."

The U.S. bishops, who have been advocating against capital punishment for more than 25 years, began an ongoing Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty in 2005. The Respect Life program has been featuring the issue of capital punishment every few years since the program began in 1973, McQuade said.

But this is the first time a Respect Life article has focused on "the spiritual dynamics" of the issue, she said.
New Evangelization’ is to be theme for 2010 synod

Pope: bishops must educate faithful to vote against abortion

By John Duvall
Catholic News Service

The Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, which begins Oct. 24, offers leaders of the Church in the region an opportunity “to help the faithful achieve greater self-sufficiency.”

Both of Brazil’s presidential candidates, Dilma Rousseff and José Eduardo dos Santos, have said they will vote against abortion if elected in October. The bishops said that while they respect the right and duty to use their consciences in choosing their candidates, they have a moral obligation to vote their consciences.

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Giving new meaning to 'take care of yourself'

We always chuckle when someone says to us, "If I had only known that I would live so long, I would have taken better care of myself!"

This Sunday's readings give a whole new meaning to that witty saying. They all speak of the hope of the resurrection of the body to everlasting life. The living conditions of our life after death depend very much on how we took care of that body in this life.

Did we use it as an obedient servant, helping the spirit to love God and neighbor, or did we let it run riot like a spoiled child, satisfying its own selfish desires? In the first reading from the Book of Macæebæus, the Israelites finally rebel against the viciously cruel Anti•ochus Epi•hanes IV. A brave mother, having encouraged her sons to keep faithful to the death, now watches one after the other being tortured and killed in front of her eyes.

As they die, each of them declares publicly his belief in a resurrection of the body to everlasting life.

At the time, some Jews were shocked at the teaching, for not all believed in the resurrection of the body. In the Gospel, Jesus enters into a public debate with the Sadducees, a party of the Jewish leadership who did not believe in bodily resurrection.

While relying heavily on Sacred Scripture for his arguments, He also let his hearers in on some new teaching about what our lives would be like in heaven.

For instance, our happiness there will far exceed the sexual joys of marriage in this life, so the ridiculous problem of a man who had seven wives in this life won't apply in the next. (Provided the man makes it to glory in the first place, he won't have to worry about getting six of them angry at him.) Jesus explains that in heaven, we will all be "like angels."

The Master is really telling them to let God the Father take care of heavenly problems.

On earth, our task is to recognize the surprising endurance of our bodies. God has created them as partners of our souls, either helping them on the journey to view the loving face of God, or leading them into darkness and the eternal pain of Paradise Lost.

Today's readings certainly give new meaning to taking better care of ourselves!

Wearing 'White Ribbons Against Pornography'

By Betty McIntyre
Parishioner, St. Agnes, Lake Placid

"Illegal hardcore adult pornography ("obscenity") is pouring unhindered into our communities through the internet, pay-TV channels, sexually oriented businesses, neighborhood video stores and other outlets. This flood tide of obscene material is harming our nation, its communities, and families and individuals of all ages. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT," wrote Robert Peters, President of Morality in Media, in his monthly newsletter. The annual White Ribbons Against Pornography (W.R.A.P.) aims to do something about it.

This year, the campaign takes place this week, Oct. 31-Nov. 7. During this period, we are asked to wear or display a white ribbon, to show we are aware and concerned about this spreading moral cancer, and are willing to join the efforts to fight it, and also to encourage others to join you.

The 2010 WRAP campaign is focusing on the role of government, in helping to solve the problem.

We have been asking "Why aren't federal obscenity laws being vigorously enforced against the flood tide of obscenity, engulfing our nation and its youth?"

Annual campaign: Oct. 31-Nov. 7

MM reports "The Supreme Court has held repeatedly that the First Amendment does not protect obscene materials, and in 1996 Congress amended two federal obscenity laws (18 USC 1462 and 1465) to clarify that use of the internet to distribute obscene material is prohibited.

In 2003, the Senate also passed Concurrent Resolution 77 expressing the sense of Congress that "the Federal obscenity laws should be vigorously enforced throughout the United States." However, the U.S. Justice Department and the FBI, in most part, have failed to comply.

The Congress, FBI and the Justice Department need to hear from us, the CITIZENS of the United States. We must let our voices be heard! Write, or e-mail President Obama, our U.S. Senators and Representatives from New York state, urging them to petition the Attorney General, the FBI and the U.S. Attorneys to get on the ball, and "take obscenity crimes seriously and to vigorously enforce obscenity laws."

We, also, should contact Attorney General Eric Holder and FBI Director Robert Mueller and voice our opinion. We, also, should contact state representatives, in Albany, our New York District Attorney, as well as our county District Attorney urging them to do all in their power, to get the obscenity laws enforced. Tell them, no new laws are needed, simply the enforcement of those already on the books.

During the W.R.A.P. campaign, we are asked to take special heed of the pornography that has invaded our daily lives - on television, movies, magazines, newspapers, music, cell phones, and especially the Internet. Will you be concerned at all with it, and how it is affecting the minds and actions of adults and especially the youth or will you accept it, thinking there is nothing you can do about it?

We CAN write letters and e-mails of protest. The old saying goes, "the pen is mightier than the sword." Write in protest to television managers, radio DJs, advertisers, to the editor's column in newspapers and magazines. Voice your concern. Bring attention to it! To your friends and neighbors, to your parish community and organization you belong to. Encourage them to join you in writing. Find ways to organize and act as a group. Raise awareness of this evil in our society. You can make a difference. For information go to www.moralityinmedia.org.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde, former Bishop of our diocese, and now Bishop of Arlington, Va. diocese, is actively involved in the anti-pornography movement. He has written a book entitled "Bought With A Price," in which he calls pornography "an evil plague that is ravaging society."

"In an interview, he states "I believe it is the responsi-

bility of all Catholics to bring this issue out of the darkness and into the light... It is certainly something that needs to be discussed, as it is becoming more common and accepted, with the passing of time." He urges prayers to St. Joseph, the saint of purity, to win the fight against the evils of pornography.

The book can be purchased online.

Morality in Media, Inc is a non-profit, interfaith, national organization working to stop pornography constitutionally. It was formed in 1963 by Father Morton Hill S.J. Their address is 475 Riverside Drive Suite 1264 New York, New York 10115. They sponsor the W.R.A.P. campaign, each fall. In St. Agnes Parish, Lake Placid, and St. Brenden's in Keene, the WRAP campaign is sponsored by Court Dr Tom Dooley, Catholic Daughters of the Americas. They furnish the white ribbons, pamphlets, literature, addresses and other information for free. They encourage you to join them in helping to make a more Christian world.
By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - It's not every day that the Vatican newspaper declares that a fictional character from the world of television is a Catholic — and a cartoon character at that.

Homer, Catholicism and 'The Simpsons'

But that's precisely what L'Osservatore Romano did in early October when it asserted that Homer Simpson, the patriarch of the 21-season Fox sitcom "The Simpsons," is a Catholic. Oh, and bratty son Bart, too.

The Vatican's fascination with "The Simpsons" began last December, when L'Osservatore Romano said that "the relationship between man and God" is one of its most important themes and that it often mirrored the "religious and spiritual confusion of our times."

On Oct. 16, La Civilta Cattolica, a Jesuit weekly, published an article titled "The Simpsons' and Religion," which said the series "is one of the few television shows for kids in which the Christian faith, religion and questions about God are recurring themes."

The Simpsons "say grace before meals, and in their way, believe in heaven," said the essay's author, Jesuit Father Francesco Occhetta.

Then came the L'Osservatore Romano opinion piece the next day. "Few people know it, and he does everything he can to hide it, but it is true: Homer J. Simpson is a Catholic," the Vatican newspaper said in the article, headlined "Homer and Bart are Catholic." Father Occhetta later told Catholic News Service in Rome he thought the Vatican newspaper had exaggerated his point but added that the sitcom shows Homer "is open to the question of faith and God."

Faithful followers of the series know Homer and family go to Springfield Community Church, which series executive producer Al Jean says is "presbyterian."" Mark Pinsky, former religion writer for the Orlando Sentinel, wrote the book "The Gospel According to the Simpsons" in 2001. As the series has become TV's current prime-time entertainment program marathon winner, he has updated his book as well as a companion guide for leaders of study groups.

"Homer being a Catholic is mostly a case of wishful thinking on the part of L'Osservatore Romano," Pinsky said.

He described the episode which has gotten the TV and the Catholic blogosphere talking.

Bart gets thrown out of Springfield Elementary yet again, so "they try Catholic school. Bart takes to the bloody martyr stories," Pinsky said. "Homer, goaded by Marge, goes to the church to remove Bart from this setting, and he's seduced. Homer being Homer, he's seduced by a pancake dinner and bingo, which he sorts of turns around from being very hostile. Then he becomes very curious about it. Then Liam Neeson (the voice of the priest in the episode) explains confession and absolution, which Homer thinks is the best deal in the world. ... The wine's another draw."

Pinsky added, "Homer enrolls with Bart in a sort of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course, and of course, he misunderstands parts of it. ... He's attracted to Catholicism for what we might say are all the wrong reasons."

Marge rounds up Reverend Lovejoy and the Simpsons' evangelical neighbor, Ned Flanders, to conduct an intervention.

Pinsky alluded to some spats writers for "The Simpsons" have had with Bill Donohue, head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. Donohue, in an Oct. 26 phone interview with CNS in Washington, said the arguments were legitimate, but "I would hardly regard the show as anti-Catholic, if it's been around for 20 years. It would hardly raise my ire. I would have more concern about (talk show hosts) Joy Behar and Bill Maher than 'The Simpsons.'"

Donohue laughed as he was asked whether he would welcome Homer Simpson into the Catholic faith with open arms. "It's really rather silly," he said. "What this smacks of to me is the craven need on the part of some Catholics for the bouquets that may be bestowed on them by the secular media. This is not the way to improve relations, if my hunch is right," he said.

"The show is so inoffensive to us we don't have it on our regular schedule of taped shows" the league monitors, Donohue said.

But what about for his own personal viewing enjoyment? "Quite frankly, I'm up at 5:30 in the morning to get to work at 7:15. I get to bed early on Sunday night. I don't even stay up late to watch the (New York) Yankees when they're in the playoffs."

Perhaps the Vatican media-watchers will note the "Simpsons" episode from last season in which the Simpsons went to the Holy Land and Homer, ravaged by heat and thirst, imagines himself the Messiah — as do several others in the tourist party.

Pinsky, in his book, notes that when you're drawing animation cels (short for celluloid), you can be anywhere you want without having to build expensive sets. So a church naturally comes into the Simpsons' world. On the flip side, he said CNS, "because the characters never age, there are only so many situations you can do."

"The Simpsons" has touched upon mainstream Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism in its long run.

"The group that comes in for the most ribbing are the Unitarians," he said. "They (writers) know they won't complain," Pinsky said, noting that in an episode where Homer is a missionary in the South Pacific and is asked, "What's the one true faith?" He responds, "If it's Unitarians I'll eat my hat."

He also recalled a scene in another of the show's 400 episodes that had a backyard ice cream social.

"There's a table for toppings, each one with a denominational name on it," he said. "The Unitarians? It's empty, there's nothing there."

Pinsky said "The Simpsons" is a show that rewards intelligence. "The smarter you are, the more funny you will find it."
**ANNIVERSARY MASS VIDEOS**


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**LITTLE ROCK SCROLLARY SERIES**

Plattsburgh - St. Peter's Parish is presenting the Little Rock Scrollary Series.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

- **Nov. 13**
- **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- **Helena Fire Station**
- **Crafts, raffles, baked goods, and "Yesterday's Treasures"**

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

- **Houseville** - St. Hedwig's Church to hold Divine Mercy Devotions.
- **Date**: Nov. 7
- **Time**: 3 p.m.
- **Features**: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), and Benediction. All are most welcomed to attend. Refreshments.

**CABBAGE ROLL SALE**

- **Nov. 2, Election Day**
- **6 a.m. until all sold**
- **St. Mary's Church**

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**ROAST BEEF DINNER**

- **West Leyden** - St. Mary's Church to have a Roast Beef Dinner.
- **Date**: Nov. 7

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**ST. LAWRENCE**

**PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY DINNER**

- **Ogdensburg** - The Knights of Columbus Council 258 will be having a bip-monthly-dinner.
- **Date**: Nov. 13
- **Time**: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Cost**: Adults, $8; Children, $4

**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY DINNER**

- **Ogdensburg** - The Knights of Columbus Council 258 will be hosting an annual birthday party.
- **Date**: Nov. 13
- **Time**: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Cost**: Adults, $8; Under 13, $4

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**FRIDAY FISH FRY**

- **Ogdensburg** - Fish Fry Buffet will be held every Friday sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 258.
- **Date**: Nov. 26
- **Time**: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Place**: Knights of Columbus Hall; Eat in or take out, deliveries available only to the Towers.
- **Cost**: Adults, $8; Under 13, $4; under 5, Free

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**HOLY HOUR FOR Vocations**

- **Ogdensburg** - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.
- **Date**: Thursday before the First Friday
- **Time**: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Place**: Deacon Winter Chapel
The Augustinian Friars show gratitude

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

The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg each year provides continued financial support of our former mission in Mollendo, Peru; to support the U.S. Bishop’s annual appeal for Latin America; and to help any other missionary projects throughout the world that the Diocese of Ogdensburg might deem appropriate as part of its evangelization effort. The Augustinian Friars are an organization supported by these efforts. The charisma of Augustinians is love of God and love of neighbor, which are the foundation of the gospel of Christ and which Saint Augustine enunciates time and again in his writings, especially in his Rule. For Augustine and Augustinians, the interior manifestation of this charisma is the life that his followers lead in common and the bonds of friendship that hold them together. It is externalized by the hospitality that Augustinians extend to others, our service to the world, recognizing that each member of our community and each person with whom we come in contact is a temple of God. “You are gods,” is Augustine’s famous phrase, quoting Psalm 82:6.

Earlier this year, the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg assisted the Augustinian Friars in their efforts overseas. Father Anthony P. Burrascano, OSC and Director of the Foreign Mission Office for the Augustinians wrote, “Our mission in Africa, among other projects, supports a school for 685 Zulu children, many of whom are orphans due to HIV/AIDS. One of our biggest needs at the school is to provide one meal per day to the children. Thank you for your support in this very important ministry. Father Donald F. Reilly, OSA, Prior Provincial writes, “Thank you for your generous contributions. Concerned people like you will change the world, one life at a time.” Father Reilly goes on to say, “Your belief in our vision and our mission gives us confidence to go forward. Know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of our entire Province and that you are remembered daily at masses offered by our friars and laity in Africa.”

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Mission Office is grateful for your support of the Missionary Projects of the Diocese. Good work is going on in the world because of generosity here at home.

www.dioodensburg.org/missionoffice
Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
Follow Me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Religious men, under the patronage of St. Joseph with the charism of the Atonement Fathers, saw the beauty of the face of Jesus in the countenances of those whose demons wreaked havoc with their lives and the lives of their loved ones. They were truly at one with the marginalized.

And our quick trip didn’t include what many of our sisters and brothers are up to in the rest of the world. If we were to board a jet, we would see what a consecrated sister of St. Dominic was able to accomplish with a vision, a tender heart, and many associates, a woman on a mission of hope that helps many of us open our minds and hearts to see the beauty of Christ in those less economically well off than ourselves.

We have become enriched.

And then, there are those Missionaries devoted to the Sacred Heart who have blessed our local Church for so long whose ministries also take them all over the world, including to the peoples in the Far East, to Zambia and South America. And then there is the ministry our own have given to the native people of Alaska.

They reveal to us the beauty of God in the faces of people of all hues and cultures.

It’s been quite a trip, hasn’t it? And there was so much more to see. I hope I haven’t offended those that we missed on this trip. Time constraints here don’t permit me to continue the visitations with you this afternoon. But know that your beauty, the beauty of every consecrated Religious, male and female, is vital to this Body of Christ we call the North Country.

Consecrated women and men are constitutive parts of our landscape of the Church.

You see, my sisters and brothers, the consecrated religious life is an integral part of the Church: our holiness, our mission. Through the lived experience of chastity, poverty and obedience, we are gifted with a sign of a radical way of following Christ.

It is no wonder that four out of five of the canonized saints in our Church are Religious. The most recent being, of course, the consecrated Holy Cross Brother, Saint Andre of Montreal. The Religious have evangelized the world!

Think of how they have evangelized our North Country, just reflecting on our very, very brief trip around the North Country. Their impact has been tremendous.

Personally, I am grateful for their counsel and active roles in ministry with us. Many of us have been inspired, encouraged and challenged by these individuals through their faithfulness to a lifestyle of simplicity and prayer. These individuals were consecrated in the Church, by the Church, for the Church. Theirs is not a parallel way of following Christ outside the living structure of the Church. They are intrinsically part of the very fabric of the One Body of Christ.

In a special way today, we recognize and give thanks to women religious who, first arriving in America 300 years ago, throughout periods of great struggle, established schools, hospitals, and colleges, and provided social services that have served millions in our nation.

The gas tank approaches empty and we cannot continue our visitations at this special event. But, we all know of so many more Godly examples of what the consecrated women and men who have served and those who continue to serve our North Country mean to us. For the times we might have taken our Religious for granted, we express our sorry. My sisters and brothers, please continue, through the grace of God, to show us God’s beauty through your faithfulness, your simplicity, your prayer, your holiness.

You are treasured companions on life’s journey as we all seek to respond faithfully to Jesus’ invitation: Follow Me.

Through you, may God be praised...forever...may God be praised!