The beauty that comes from pain

Turning personal tragedies into triumphs

Well after three and a half crazy months at my school, I no longer had any obligations to anyone. For the first time in my life, I could remember, I was not a member of a club, organization, or team. Aside from going to church every weekend, I was on my own. I realized that there was no one that I had to be around, no one that I had to see. I could do pretty much anything that I wanted.

Though I did not need to help plan the dances, and I did not need to sit in the Back Pew or talk about my own experiences, I was able to do so much more than I ever have before. I was able to plan my whole week around my own schedule, not anyone else’s. It was great to be able to do things on my own for some time. All the stress that I had during the last few months of school was gone.

I realized right then that I had never gone to a school dance in my whole life. I had not had plan, put up, or clean up. Now, if I wanted, I could just take advantage of everything my school offered without ever giving back. I had enjoyed being a part of all of the organizations and fundraising for things. I was a part of the high school, but I had to be back in my mind it was still over with.

When I did not con- tribute, the last few days on a few events, it felt guilty not being around. After I had the opportunity, I thought the same goes for my friends. When we got to college, our spiritual lives, we might have to stop thinking about our summer jobs, or notice our sometimes, missing. It had always been a pain mopping the cafeteria floor before a high school dance, but nothing made me feel more like a true vet- eran of the school than knowing my way around the dance floor.

Our sports teams raised money by working the con- cession stand at Airtime Sports Park. Luke, Bailey, and I left there hot, sweaty, and smelling like fried food, but we made some great memories along with finding people’s orders. In high school, I never really thought about the beauty, and the pains of maintaining our school’s clubs, organizations, and sports teams. I just never thought of the real moments that I had.

Only after a bit of separa- tion do we realize how much we miss them, I think the same goes for our friends, our spiritual lives, we might have to stop thinking about our summer jobs, or notice our sometimes, missing. It had always been a pain mopping the cafeteria floor before a high school dance, but nothing made me feel more like a true vet- eran of the school than knowing my way around the dance floor.

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**Our family of faith**

We will be heaving a lot about our North Country Catholic church this month. In the past several years, Bishop LaValley has chosen this theme for evangelization efforts. And why should we? It is the work of Why Catholic? A book authored by the diocesan director of evangelization, Msgr. Randy Lawler. 

This week’s NCC will focus on “Part of a Church: A Family of Faith.” (See page 6)

We are all members of a great and loving family, the Church. As faithful children, we are called to be disciples of Jesus, and to do what he did: to love and serve others. This is a family of faith.

**Becoming the Lamb of God**

**By Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ**

"Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

It is something to know that the Baptist recognizes him who is not his. He says: "I am not the Christ; I am not the Prophet." As John the Baptist preaches who he is, he speaks the truth. "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove." We should rejoice in the presence of God. We rejoice in the way the Lord of the world is revealed.

"Behold the Lamb of God!" From a church girl, Rachel Daly.

Each of us is a member of the Church. We are part of a community that has joined together to follow Christ. We are called to be witnesses to his love and light.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will go out for the lost sheep who wanders alone. As John the Baptist is pressed to say who he is, he quotes Isaiah, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness." He is the one who prepares the way for Jesus. And he says that "Jesus is the Light of the World." He paved the way for us to be light for those in darkness.

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**ST. MARGUERITE D’YOUVILLE RETURNS TO HER BIRTHPLACE**

**ST. MARGUERITE D’YOUVILLE, Five pilgrims from Malone and Ogdensburg, Dec. 7 to celebrate the 1981 jubilee of the birth of St. Margaret D’Youville to her home town and the Church of her baptism.**

To the Novens of the Sacred Heart Sisters Sisters Rita L. Byers, O.S.S. and Jeanne Chantrol, O.S.S. and Mary Elizabeth Looby and Regina F. Chase, O.S.S. will be joined by Father Joseph Giroux, O.F.M. Cap. Diocesan offices will include Mass Novena of St. Margaret D’Youville on Feb. 11 to Feb. 20 plus parish programs and an official day of consecration on March 26 to St. Margaret D’Youville.

Father Joseph Giroux will present a spiritual celebration at the Notre Dame Basilica of the transfer of the mortal remains of St. Margaret D’Youville on June 22-23.

Papal ofsy saint, served at another site in Montreal. The remains of St. Margaret D’Youville, foundress of the Congregation of the Holy Family of the Sacred Heart in New York, are in the church. A large number of people, mostly Grey Nuns, were present to witness the move of the body of St. Margaret D’Youville, foundress of the Congregation of the Holy Family of the Sacred Heart. The remains of St. Margaret D’Youville were moved to a new site in downtown Montreal to complete the move of the body of St. Margaret D’Youville to her final resting place.

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The doctor said that's because it was beautiful.

That included a trip to a housekeeper of many years.

He even skated with the children in loving care many times a day, said the priest's housekeeper, Mrs. Trombley.

Mrs. Trombley said. "Even our flock in Immaculate Heart's beautiful gift of Mary Church in Churubusco church alive."

"You couldn't help but laugh, too.

The pastor's next parish was St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, and he took the Trombleys with him.

And Father's personality gets a certain flare, as well.

He was a priest of Holy Angels Parish in Altona; she and her family brought him to Plattsburgh one day, she opened her purse and found some fake light bulbs for night skating.

As a kind of hero.

As a kind of hero.

The Foggs Parish in Altona; she brought Karen, just a baby 11 months old, to my office for the first time.

As a kind of hero.

Casland demonstrated the flock in Immaculate Heart's Conception Church in Churubusco where he served as administrator until his death.

He died at the age of 92 on Dec. 27.

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Priesthood: there is no other calling its equal!

The lights of Christmas and Epiphany have all faded. We’ve come from last Sunday’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord into tonight’s Ordinary Time. If you have been out and about, you may have noticed: a sudden return of the fullness of life; a gradual increase in the noise and bustle of the world; the familiar sound of the clock ticking on; the air growing colder outside. Perhaps you have noticed these things and been reminded of Christmas and Epiphany in your own way. Perhaps you have noticed them and been reminded of the Lord’s corresponding actions. Perhaps you have noticed them and been reminded of what it means to have a mission, a vocation, a calling. Perhaps you have noticed them and been reminded of the grace and mercy of Christ in our lives.

We have several area Deacons attend and participate in the celebration of Christmas Eve at Holy Name Church in Au Sable Forks. We further wish to offer a heartfelt appreciation and a special thanks to those who provided a ceremony in honor of Joseph’s military service; and to the officers of the American Legion Post 504 who accepted our presentation of the flag at Joseph’s military service; and to the Sprague Funeral Home (218 E. Main St., Chateaugay) for the funeral service.

The Deacon Program is an opportunity for "SHARING WHAT YOU KNOW" with the children of your community.

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Many of the same challenges that faced Jesus in his time continue to face the Church in the 21st century. In his pastoral letter, Pope Benedict XVI calls on bishops to lead the faithful in embracing the newness of Christian life and to be part of a parish community that encourages and challenges people to be a family of faith. The Church is not only a place of worship but also a community where people can find strength, support, and guidance. The Church is a family of faith where people can find hope, comfort, and a sense of belonging.

Archbishop Dolan pledges to help pregnant woman in need

Archbishop Dolan pledges to help pregnant woman in need. The Archdiocese of New York is committed to supporting pregnant women and their families, and providing them with the resources and support they need to make informed decisions about their situation.

Voice of the Good Shepherd

The Archdiocese of New York is committed to supporting pregnant women and their families, and providing them with the resources and support they need to make informed decisions about their situation. The Archdiocese is dedicated to helping pregnant women find their way to a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Praying for Peace

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Archbishop Dolan pledges to help pregnant woman in need

By Sister Erin

SISTER MARY EAMON LYNCH, SSJ

The Church in the 21st century continues to face many of the same challenges that Jesus' mission and teaching were directed towards. The Church's presence during the 1st century is still necessary and shed light on the essentials of faith and the way of being Church and an expression of the Church.

The Church in the 21st century is one in which parishes continue to feel the squeeze of changing demographics. As parishes continue to merge and to link together, the Catholic Churches of the Plattsburgh Diocese are working to create a stronger community within the diocese and to the diocesan level.

The Church in the 21st century is one in which the roles of a Church: A Family of Faith, a Community of Disciples, and a Community of Life and Respect Life continue to change and develop. The Church in the 21st century is one in which the journey upon which the Milwaukee Archdiocese is embarking shared their experience and perspectives.

The Church in the 21st century is one in which the Burke family of faith, the Church in Plattsburgh; 2 p.m., Plattsburgh.

In response to research conducted between January and July 2010, 41 percent of pregnant women said they felt unsupported in their decision to continue the pregnancy or not to abort. A survey of 1,000 pregnant women from New York State revealed that 32 percent of pregnant women felt isolated and unsupported in their decision, with 18 percent saying they felt judged and 11 percent saying they felt discriminated against.

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Priesthood: there is no other calling its equal!

The lights of Christmas and Epiphany have all faded. We’ve come from last Sunday’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord into this Sunday in Ordinary Time. What does it all mean? The readings are certainly trying to say something. But as Andrew did. He turned to his own followers and asked, “Come and see” and ask their pastor for information and advice. Of course, the underlying attraction is love. Only a young man falls in love with Jesus as Andrew and Simon did. He will never pursue another vacation. Only love can quiet the voices of protest from the world around them, and give them the courage to sacrifice the normal seeking out of a lovely woman with whom to have a family, and build a career. Why should young men seriously consider priesthood as a lifetime commitment? Because priesthood leads not only to personal holiness and salvation, but because it brings this about through the priest’s prayers, sacrifices and salvation through the sacraments of the church. There is no other calling in life to equal it. It is a life of imitation of Jesus Christ, a life of great love for people, his brothers and sisters, to guide them, to comfort and encourage, to forgive sins by God’s power, to be a part of every family, yet belonging to none. What does it take to come a priest? Priesthood takes sacrifice, gentleness, common sense, capacities, intelligence, piety, and a sense of humor. Know anyone that has those qualities? Then give them a nudge, pray for them, and encourage them. The Holy Spirit will carry on from there.

Sister Mary Louise, Sister Ellen Rose, Father Gerald Cerank, Sister Mary Paul, Sister Sharon Ann and Sister Ronald Marie.

The Holy Spirit will carry on from there.

Bishop Litakas, a choir director, leads the choir in carols before Christmas Eve Mass and accompanied on piano/organ by Michelle Larkin at St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake. The choir sang throughout the Mass on Christmas Eve which began at 8 p.m.

At the invitation of Father Gerald Cerank, pastor, some Sisters of St. Joseph recently visited St. Anne’s Parish, Heaven Field and St. Joseph’s Parish in Malone. The Sisters visited many of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the importance of praying to know one’s vocation. Pictured, from left are Paul Pezze, Sister Mary Carol, Sister Christine Oakes, Sister Brenda Brunig, Sister Phyllis Geno and Sister Mary Margaret, back, Sister Mary Leon, Sister Renee Ross, Father Gerald Cerank, Sister Mary Paul, Sister Sharon Ann and Sister Ronald Marie.

Is it Jesus who fails to attract them? Or is it the life of the priest that doesn’t appeal? Young people should not be mouthy. Why should young men be loved? Does Jesus love them? The Holy Spirit will carry on from there.

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; John 1: 29-34

JAN. 14

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The Holy Spirit will carry on from there.

We felt honored and humbled to have several area Deacons attend and welcome the Bishop of Ogdensburg, Terry LaValley, for officiating over Joseph’s funeral mass along with Terry LaValley and Rev. Phillip Allen. A very special appreciation and thank you to members of the American Legion and the Sprague Funeral Home) professional and support personnel who prepared and hosted the service.

Sincereest regards, Terry LaValley
“He had his long cassock that buttoned all the way down on top of him,” Mrs. Trombley said. “He couldn’t get mad, her daughter said. He had this little dimple when he laughed. ‘You couldn’t help but laugh too,’ Mr. Barcombe said.”

The pastor wanted local youth to keep busy in a healthy way, Mrs. Trombley said, so he opened Father Holy Angels’ Hall, put up lights for night skating. “Even skated with the kids that day, she recalled.”

And he played kick ball with them in the driveway. “He had long cassock that buttoned all the way down on top of him,” Mrs. Trombley said. “He couldn’t get mad, her daughter said. He had this little dimple when he laughed. ‘You couldn’t help but laugh too,’ Mr. Barcombe said.”

He was a kind of secret, she thought. “I always said I wanted to be like Father Howard. He died the way he lived,” she said. “He took part in the rosary before Mass on Saturdays. The rosary meant very much to him, Mr. Barcombe said.”

And Father’s personality seemed to Nina — with fulfillment of her dreams of success — as well as masturbation, drug use, as well as masturbation, drug use, and consensual heterosexual activity, as well as masturbation. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II.

The story of Nina and Mark partially — from the movie "Black Swan." Nina is obsessed — or so at least it seems to Nina — with fulfilling her dreams of success vicariously through her daughter. Nina gains a role model in Mark, which he doubts her ability to carry off the part of the Black Swan. He insists on fulfilling her dreams of success vicariously through her daughter.

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When talking about the challenges he faced as a vineyard manager, he said his biggest challenge was making sure the vines were healthy and producing the best grapes possibleeach year.

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March for Life, sponsored by the Champlain Valley Right to Life, will be held every Friday sponsored by Knights of Columbus. Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, 1492 Main St., Plattsburgh.

Eucharistic Adoration Plattsburgh: Eucharistic Adoration is held Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Place: St Francis de Sales Church, 303 Grand Ave.

40 Days for Life Place: 1,150 Main St., Plattsburgh.

March for Life Plattsburgh – The annual Plattsburgh March for Life, sponsored by the Champlain Valley Right to Life, began with the marchers gathering at the start line in front of Sacred Heart School of the Nazarenes, at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 18. The marchers then marched along Main Street, around the downtown and back to Sacred Heart School for the ceremony of the day. Following the vigil, the marchers continued to the Towers.

Funeral held for Fr. Charles Chase

Funeral services for Fr. Charles Chase, Pastor of St. Maria Goretti Church in Malone, who died March 14 are invited to participate in the local observances of the March for Life, sponsored by the Champlain Valley Right to Life, which is held every Friday sponsored by Knights of Columbus. Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, 1492 Main St., Plattsburgh.

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We will be hearing a lot about our North Country Catholic church and faith in 2011. For one thing, Bishop LaValley has chosen this theme for evangelization effort in 2011 to help us understand and work out the meaning of Why Catholic? What can we say about the diocesan director of evangelization? His name is Jim Martin. He has been sharing weekly reflections on the subject for the ACC. (More often than not, his words will appear right on this page.) He also shared information about a February workshop for our families in Bemus Point, an event that is Part of a Church: A Family of Faith. (See page 8.)

I guess this means that the ACC focuses on the meaning of the word faith as it affects the way we live as a family. And this is about us: our love and our commitment to each other.

This year—as always—we will be the place to keep up on all the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s latest developments.

This ACC will focus on several very special family members.

On page four, for example, our Plattsburgh area writer, Shan Massella, offers a tribute to Sister Mary Ellen Howard, the words that she has written about this wonderful person who remembered his family and friends with grace and his practical jokes.

Howard once was our Parish Advocate in Ogdensburg, a diocesan institution. Father Douglas Lucia, homilist at our Holy Cross Mass on the feast day of Our Lady, Eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, said “I always wanted to be like Father Howard. He lived in possession of his faith and he gave it to us.”

“Father McCasland just had tunnel vision of people loving Jesus,” Father Lucia said. Another young writer, Father Bryan Stitt, shared a thought with friends on the day before the funeral Mass. “If you’d like to say that you’ve been to a saint’s funeral, come to Churubusco at 11 a.m. to morning prayer.”

And so we are going to say goodbye to Father Howard, we are grateful to say “welcome back” to our young cousin, Rachel Daly. She also shared reflections on the subject of the ACC. A popular column that had hoped to continue her contributions to the ACC from her college dorm in Texas but quickly discovered that serious students have many hours—or brain cells—to share with outside activities. We’re pleased that her trip back home for Christmas allowed her the freedom she needed to write for us.

See page 12 to catch up with our “college” girl. And see the ACC throughout this brand new year to keep up with “the Family” as we all strive to grow in faith, in wisdom and in grace.

Our family of faith

By Sr. Jennifer Votra W, SSJ

Letter from the Editor

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 12, 2011

Acceptance of the Lamb of God

As a people of faith, we see the whole of creation as the handiwork of God, and as a result of our experience of God as we walk through a forest, gaze out into a high place, and celebrate the marriage of two people, we are aware that the greater community of creation sustains not only the community of believers, but as is shown in the Gospel of Jesus, too, seems to have experienced God in the midst of creation. He speaks about “the wild beasts” for 40 days after beginning his active ministry, and every time the Gospel describes Jesus in prayer, he is once again outdoors. Jesus’ parables and teachings are full of metaphors drawn from nature: the birds, the lilies of the field, the mustard seed, the fish in the sea, and the cultivation of the soil.

Just as “God so loves the world,” we are called to love ever for the earth and all its creatures. Yet, we are also called to love God as we walk through a forest, gaze out into a high place, and celebrate the marriage of two people. The entire balance of the intricate web of life that God created to be restored and extended, and this is happening as a result of human activity.

As we begin a new year, let this be one resolution for us: to respond to this unfolding crisis? All of creation can be seen as a revelation of God’s love for us, as a story of God’s love for all living creatures. God created all on earth to love and care for one another, to love and to protect each other. Each creature is being undermined, and this is happening as a result of human activity.

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Turning personal tragedies into triumphs

As Luke Chupp got ready to walk into his high school in North Carolina, he knew it was going to be a tough day. Just two years earlier, his best friend Greg Chupp had died in a car crash, leaving Luke and his community devastated.

As Luke entered his classroom, he felt the weight of his friend's absence. He knew that Greg, who was also a talented musician, would have been proud of him. But he couldn't help feeling a sense of emptiness.

That's when Luke's teacher, Ms. Brzana, walked into the room. She knew how much Luke was struggling and decided to take action. She organized a concert that would honor Greg and raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

The concert was a huge success, and it led to the formation of the Race to Save Hearts, a national movement to prevent car accidents. Luke and his classmates continued to organize events and speak out about the importance of safe driving.

The whole process was difficult, but Luke knew that it was worth it. Greg's death had given him a purpose, and he was determined to make a difference.

Now, when Luke looks back on those crazy months at school in Texas, he can see that his experience was a turning point. It taught him the power of hope and perseverance, and it helped him grow into the person he is today.

As Luke graduates from high school and looks towards the future, he knows that he has Greg to thank for his strength and determination. Greg's memory lives on in the work of the Race to Save Hearts, and Luke is proud to be a part of it.