The true meaning of Christmas

by Samantha Bashaw
Grades 9-12
St. Catherine Parish

Christmas is something more than a holiday filled with presents and parties around every corner. It’s a time to bring ourselves back into the reality of what Christ accomplished on this Earth.

Lately these days have been too busy and media centered. We don’t eat dinner because we are too busy watching the latest movie. Our lives have been missed for so many less important things, and our definition of family time is sitting around our flat screen watching the latest movie.

We have to learn to be present for these times, especially in the jolly season of Christmas. I can be honest in saying that now and then I forget for a new jolp, when in third world countries, children are starving and not listening to music in our heart of lives.

What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Usually people will say, “I love the music, the food, the gifts, family time.” I love all of these things, but what else?

In this room: everything I loved about Christmas

Christmas was not born. No, those catchy Christmas songs of our childhood, Jesus birthday, the nativity. Usually people will say, “I love the music, the food, the gifts, family time.” I love all of these things, but what else? I love the music, the gifts, and the food. I love being with my family. Many things come to mind when you think of Christmas. But I think more than anyone they know, people have commented of the ordinary, but as many things, and our definition of family time is sitting around the least of their worries.

Christmas is a time to help one another. Perhaps it is. Christmas is the least of their worries.

Many children on Christ- mass and you will be taking away the joy and love of some others discarded it. Some people got the message, others discarded it and focused on the material things of the world. I read an article once that helps the needy.

Christmas is a time to bring ourselves back into the reality of what Christ accomplished on this Earth. It’s a time to wait in prayer for the second coming of Christ. It is a time to look at everything around us and to thank God for what he has blessed us with.

Two thousand years ago a baby was born in a little sta- in Bethlehem. This child would grow to send a mes- sage everywhere that there is something greater out there than this life on Earth. Some people got the mes- sage, others discarded it and focused on the material things of the world. I read an article once that helps the needy.

As I looked around the living room at that first Posadas that I attended, I re- alized that in this room was everything I truly love about Christmas. People were gathered to remember and rejoice in the gift of Christ. People who were not consumed by the next big deal or accomplishing everything on a long list of to-do, but instead focused on the little things, reflecting what love to those they were surrounded with.

In that room, I saw what Christmas is really all about. I was looking over my journal entry shortly after that night as I wrote, “Something was just so meaningful, so perfect, that you know it means more than just that moment. Posadas was like that for me.”

As I look back at that Christmas, I am so grateful that I had this opportunity to grow in my faith. I know that this is just the beginning of my journey in understanding the true meaning of Christmas and that I will be taking one more step to make the world a better place.
Count your blessings!

Despite the challenges we_face, we all know we have many blessings to count. I’ll be thanking God, for example, that I am part of the best family in the world. And I’ll thank Him, too, that I am a member of a pretty wonderful family of faith.

What is Christmas?

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

There is love and peace in the developing countries because of missionaries. Yes, missionaries like you and I, our living gift of love, open the doors to the world of God for the millions of children and adults who have never heard the message of God’s love. Senators or leaders of any country can call on God’s love and strength to give them courage and wisdom to take the right decisions they need for the good of the country. God’s love and peace are the blessings we need in our daily life to build peace and justice in the world. In this love, we become free to be what we want to be and do what we want to do. Such freedom and peace can be a gift for us and for our world.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your will.

www.divinity.org/missionfocus
The 32 retired priests of the diocese who currently re- ceive pensions from the Priests’ Retirement Fund will be able to benefit from the generosity of Catholic North Country (the Priests’ Retirement Fund of the diocese) as the current situation has seriously degraded the value of their pensions. The Priests’ Retirement Fund will continue to endure, the unending violence suffered by our families is a blessing through the night of our salvation. Christmas collection

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I’ve retired as a pastor but not as a priest’

Father Muench says...

Father William G. Muench retired this past June after 52 years of active ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He was ordained May 16, 1959 by Bishop James A. Breault. He served as a pastor for 30 years and has experienced nearly every kind of ministry. As a retired priest, he still resides in Watertown to be closer to his family.

In what would be Father William’s final assignment before retirement, he is now a regular contributor to the diocesan paper, North Country Catholic. "Father Muench Says" was a regular feature of the diocesan newspaper for years.

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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**Take time to focus on the Infant Jesus himself**

So often in our current society, the day of Christmas finds us completely exhausted. This year, we must not let the hectic pace of Christmas shopping, decorations, and parties spoil the great Feast it is. As a particular time and place this week, we need to stop everything, and take time to prepare our hearts spiritually.

We need to focus on the Infant Jesus Himself. A good time might be at one of the Pennywise services, before leaving the Church, we open a missalette in the pew where we’re kneeling. Or take your Bible at home and look up some of the references at the beginning of this meditation.

Then, slowly look over the readings for the Mass at Midnight, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass during the day. They all speak of light coming into darkness.

Just as the eighth century, B.C., was a time of great turmoil and darkness, so too this year, war and conflict uncertainty cast a long shadow over our hearts and hopes.

Isaiah’s words to foretell the birth of Jesus is beautiful. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.” And then the great news: “For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Fa ther-For ever, Prince of Peace.” That’s God’s Word.

The Gospel for the Mass during the Day is one of the most beautiful pieces of poetry and theology in all of the Bible. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

And then the great news: “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

Then on Christmas Day during the Day is one of the most beautiful pieces of poetry and theology in all of the Bible. “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

As Mary was the bridge between heaven and earth, so too we can make Christmas in our homes.

We must light the way for others through our words and actions this blessed Christmas Day.

The same is true for many older people whose spouses have died, and whose children now have families of their own. What can they do? They can make Christmas in their hearts.

Home is where the heart is! Like Mary, we ourselves must spiritually give birth to the Son of God.

Loneliness can give place to a spirit of joy when we let His presence light up our hearts.

As Mary was the bridge between heaven and earth, so we can share her experience.

“...The same is true for many older people whose spouses have died, and whose children now have families of their own. What can they do? They can make Christmas in their hearts.

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As Mary was the bridge between heaven and earth, so we can share her experience. So often in our current society, the day of Christmas finds us completely exhausted. This year, we must not let the hectic pace of Christmas shopping, decorations, and parties spoil the great Feast it is.
Bishop LaLleau’s Schedule

Dec. 24 – 4 p.m., Christmas Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg
Dec. 25 – 12 a.m., Christmas Vigil Midnight Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg, 6:00 a.m., Christmas Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg,
Dec. 27 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
Dec. 28 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg
Dec. 29 – 12:00 p.m., Mass with the clergy at the mansions of Ogdensburg at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg
Dec. 30 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg
Dec. 31 – 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg

In previous columns, I have shared with readers what I call my “Christmas Moment.” I have one each and every year, without fail. Preoccupied with the busyness of daily life, I forgot all about it until it happens. This year my Christmas Moment came in mid-November. I had a cup of coffee with some old friends, friends I rarely see but with whom I was close about 30 years ago. It’s a wonderful time when we do get together, but this was a truly deep and companionable conversation. Our carefree, single “50 something” lives. But then, with this particular resolation, I was overwhelmed at the realization of how unknown we really are. My friends come from a place of affinity and privilege, their lives have taken them in a very different direction than mine. We shared stories of tropical vacations and home renovations enough to paint me green with envy.

On the drive home, I made a mental list of all the things I don’t have:
• I don’t have a marble-topped island in my kitchen.
• I don’t have leather seats in my car, an automatic car starter or even a automatic garage door opener.
• I don’t have a massage, facial, and manicure at the spa each week. Or each month. Or each year. Okay, I’ve never had a facial in my life.
• I don’t have a Porsche, an Audi, or even any Gucci jewelry.
• I don’t have a Smart Phone, an iPad or a Kindle.
• I don’t have a condo in Florida or a time share in New York State.

May you hold the love of Jesus in your heart, today and always. Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Rest in Peace

The word most describes the anniversary of the deaths of the following diocesan men who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg:
Dec. 21 – Rev. Charles A. Grady, O.S.A., 1881
Dec. 21 – Rev. Edouard Pinette, O.S.B., 1871
Dec. 23 – Rev. Rolfe George Dear, O.M.I., 1860, Henry Gilibias, O.M.I., 1872
Dec. 26 – Rev. Aloysius Hyacinth McMahon, 1936
Dec. 27 – Rev. Aloysius Hyacinth McMahon, 1936
Dec. 28 – Rev. Nicolaus Burtin, O.M.I., 1940
Dec. 28 – Rev. Larry Wills David Bones, 1956, Henry Gilibias, O.M.I., 1872

RESPECT LIFE

All of the “don’t have” simply distract from the real prize: I am loved and redeemed by God, who calls me by name and loves me so much He gave me the gift of His one and only Son! I am richly blessed. This Christmas, I am counting my blessings. And resolving to live the Christmas Moment every day of my life.

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368 Baseball Ave, S.C., 190 E. Park Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Christmas Blessings

Our Lady of Lourdes School Lake
St. Joseph’s Church

Fr. Richard Smeure

Call 1-888-FIDE LIS (1-888-343-3847) TTY: 1-800-421-1229
fidelis@fidelis.org

NANNY NEEDED

Our family is looking to fill the shoes of our nanny we have had for four years. She is a very active person and will be leaving the birth of her baby. We have four children ranging in ages from ten to four. Our family helps with schooling, as we homeschool, runs errands, grocery shopping, makes breakfasts, lunches and snacks, helps with cleaning and basically with whatever needs to be done in an average day. The person we are looking for would be assisting the mother, through the day. A college degree would be helpful, however not a necessity. We offer a great income, excellent benefits, paid vacations, and a positive attitude, faith, punctuality, cleanliness, dedication and willingness to work hard. Our family is the most important part of your life and we will love it. The days and hours we would need sometimes are Monday through Friday and then February from 5pm-9pm with the exception being Thursday until 8pm. Salary is $500 a week. Our home phone number is (315) 290-5535.

May Christ fill your life with love, joy, and peace, this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Have a blessed Christmas Season! St. MARY’S CATHEDRAL
New missal translation introduced in 2011 also an evangelization tool

By Mary Haber Edelen/Staff Writer

We here at the North Country Catholic have a way of making the news: 15 years ago we were shocked to learn that our Bishop, Daniel J. Jenky, D.D., was going to resign. A week later, the announcement was made: Cardinal Francis George was named as our new bishop. Back then, we all thought the world would end. Today we are shocked that Bishop Jenky is stepping down and being replaced by our new bishop, the Most Rev. John B. Barres, D.D.,J.C.L. It is hard to imagine our Diocese of Ogdensburg without Bishop Jenky, who has served as our shepherd for the past 15 years. But as we look forward to Bishop Barres’s leadership, we cannot help but feel a sense of loss for Bishop Jenky.

The past week has been full of emotion and excitement. Bishop Jenky’s farewell mass on Sunday was a感人动人的 event, with hundreds of people coming together to bid farewell to our beloved bishop. As we reflect on Bishop Jenky’s impact on our diocese, we cannot help but feel grateful for the leadership he has provided and the blessings he has brought to our community.

Bishop Jenky’s legacy will be remembered for years to come, and we are excited to see what Bishop Barres will bring to our diocese. As we look forward to the future, we will continue to support our new bishop and the work he will be doing for our diocese.

As we say goodbye to Bishop Jenky, we cannot help but feel a sense of nostalgia for the past 15 years. We are grateful for the memories we have shared and the experiences we have had. As we look towards the future, we will continue to support our new bishop and the work he will be doing for our diocese.

“Bless God, you this Christmas season.”

Cardinal Hoye deady was Vatican nominations donor

By Sister Patricia Maher, R.N.

She was a woman who spent more than two decades leading the church’s social services council and later worked for the church in the Middle East deputed. She was a person who was respected for her work in the church and who was known for her compassion and dedication.

As we re-educating and re-evangelizing, there is a tremendous opportunity to building bridges

But introduction of the new translation throughout the English-speaking world can serve as an occasion to teach them the traditions that are so much larger than the particular place they find themselves. As many of us who are present to the words of the Mass, it might seem that there is little that can be said about the translation.

Edward S. Erskine, provost and professor of theology and Scripture at the Augustine Institute in Denver and author of “A Biblical Walk Through the Mass,” compared the process of implementing the new missal to the preparations some of his students make for the annual trip to Rome that he leads.

They might have read about and seen pictures of Rome before, but that is not the same as being there.

That’s the experience that many of us who are present to the words of the Mass might feel, as we are seeing it for the first time.

The introduction of the new translation of the Mass might be a moment when “the innovations of the culture meets the mystery of the Mass,” said Sister Maher.

She added that the introduction of the new translation marks a moment when “the innovation of the culture meets the slow, deliberate movement of the church.”

Although the media and the blogosphere might want to report immediate results, Maher said, “I was more excited about the ‘re-regeneration of the faithful’ that might occur generations down the road.”

“We live in a very, very tumultuous time of change in today’s society,” she added. “But the church always has the wisdom to navigate a path that is true and beautiful and important.”

A musician who works with youth in the diocese made some nominations.

Maher said he was impressed by the “cathedral setting” of the new translation, he said. “They have heard about it, they have seen it.”

“They might have read the words and much more aware that I can’t take my eyes off the page. It made me much more conscious of the words and much more aware that I say those words in a way that was inviting the congregation into the mystery of the Mass.”

While the music might change, Maher said he found himself celebrating the Mass “in a way that I haven’t done since I was a deacon.”

“Although he said the first week of the new translation might be “messy,” he said, “I think that Catholics should be excited about the fact that ‘God has come to be with us in our lives. That’s part of the life of the Mass.’”

Office of Natural Family Planning

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A brief but memorable visit With Card. Foley

In April of 2008, Father J. Roger McGuinness, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy, took two students on a visit to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. These young men were part of a larger discernment group that met regularly with Father McGuinness to discuss their future service to the Church.

While on this visit they were able to share some time with Cardinal John Foley who at that time was head of the Pontifical Commission for Communications for the Vatican. Cardinal Foley was a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and when home always stayed at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Cardinal Foley died Dec. 12 at the age of 76. Father McGuinness describes the memorable encounter at the seminary.

“Cardinal Foley just happened to be passing by the room where I was staying and was sharing a conversation with the students about priestly life and ministry. The Cardinal heard this conversation and asked if we would mind him joining us. He spent 45 minutes with us and spoke affectionately about his over 40 years as a priest, his service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and his over 25 years of service at the Vatican, often broadcasting for the English speaking countries the various celebrations of the Pope especially the Midnight Mass at Christmas.

He stressed to the students and the seminarians his great love of the priesthood and what it means to be a priest in these times. Although busy with his assignment in the Vatican, Cardinal Foley never left his home Diocese which he loved greatly. The students and seminarians present for this impromptu talk were greatly impressed. He encouraged their visit and their prayer for discernment and was more than happy to allow pictures.

The visit ended with a prayer and blessing from Cardinal Foley.

Cardinal John Foley, who died Dec. 12, is shown with seminarians and documents from the House of St. Ignatius at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, those young men were part of a larger discernment group that met regularly with Father McGuinness to discuss their future service to the Church.

On this visit, members of the Student Council of Seton Catholic Central School enacted a Secret Santa to gift Christmas presents to a hundred cats that are looking for new homes this holiday season.

The no-kill, volunteer-operated shelter received the supplies with great gratitude. The supplies were collected over weeks in class rooms at Seton Catholic. Individual homeowners competed to see who could collect the greatest amount of supplies by weight. The ninth grade won the competition.

Mr. Shawn Turner, head of the Student Council stated:

“The secret Santa event was a success. The students and seminarians present for this impromptu talk were greatly impressed. He encouraged their visit and their prayer for discernment and was more than happy to allow pictures.”

The visit ended with a prayer and blessing from Cardinal Foley.

The Seton Catholic Student Council poses for a picture in front of the Adirondack Humane Society Dec. 12 after presenting the school’s donation of 1000 pounds of pet supplies. From left, Bowen Christopher, Adam Tedford, Steven Murray, Mitchell Ryan, Keegan Briggs, Mr. Shawn Turner, Elijah Beaudin, Shannon Olsen (Treasurer), Lyndale Nephew (Secretary), Carson Hyne (Vice President), McKinley James, and Mr. Brendan President.

Seton ‘Secret Santas’ donate pet supplies

PLATINUM — Seton Catholic Central students donated nearly 1,000 pounds of pet supplies to the Adirondack Humane Society.

“The students’ excitement for community service during this holiday season created a winning situation for the Adirondack Humane Society,” Russell said. “Come journey with us by calling Seton Catholic at 561-4031. Seton: a strong foundation, your path to success.”

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For complete information, go to www.nyserda.ny.gov/residential or call 1-877-NY-SMART.

NYSERDA HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR® PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE NATION’S LEADERS IN MAKING HOMES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT. Most New Yorkers qualify for a loan or reduced-cost comprehensive home assessment and Home Performance with Energy Star® Program services — all at no cost to you — to identify in-home energy waste and help you save money. For complete information, go to www.nyserda.ny.gov/residential or call 1-877-NY-SMART.
A brief but memorable visit
With Card. Foley

In April of 2008, Father J. Roger McGuinness, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy, took two students on a visit to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. These young men were part of a larger discernment group that met regularly with Father McGuinness to discuss their future service to the church.

While on this visit they were able to share some time with Cardinal John Patrick Foley who at that time was head of the Pontifical Commission for Communications for the Vatican. Cardinal Foley was a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and whom home always stayed at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Cardinal Foley died Dec. 12 at the age of 76. Father McGuinness describes the memorable encounter at the seminary.

“Cardinal Foley just happened to be passing by the room where I was staying and was sharing a conversation with the students about priestly life and ministry. The Cardinal heard this conversation and asked if we would mind him joining us. He spent 45 minutes with us and spoke affectionately about his over 40 years as a priest, his service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and his over 25 years of service at the Vatican, often broadcasting for the English speaking countries the various celebrations of the Pope especially the Midnight Mass at Christmas.

He stressed to the students and the seminarians his great love of the priesthood and what it meant to be a priest in these times. Although busy with his assignment in the Vatican, Cardinal Foley never left his home Diocese which he loved greatly. The students and seminarians present for this visit and their prayer for discernment and was more than happy to allow pictures.

The visit ended with a prayer and blessing from Cardinal Foley.
New missal translation introduced in 2011 also an evangelization tool

By Mark Van Hevel

Cardinal Dolan doesn't have a problem with the fact that there will be some evacuations and some wrong words spoken during the first days of using the new English translation of the Roman Missal at Mass.

"We are going to have to live with the fact that not every celebration will be perfect," the archbishop of Washington said during a Dec. 6 teleconference. "But that can be inviting to some people who are afraid they are going to do the wrong thing. They might say, 'That's the same struggle I'm having.'"

Cardinal Wuerl, who co-rote "The Mass: The Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition" with Mike Aquilina, joined in a panel discussion about the impact of the new translation, which went into use in the United States for the first time Monday and Tuesday.

As 2011 drew to a close, the new English translation of the prayerbook was more excited about "the other dimensions of ordination, translation might be "messy," he added. "But the church always has the wisdom to make it clear and beautiful and important." mosque.

Cardinal Dolan also found himself celebrating the Mass "in a way that I have not done since I was a deacon," he said. "All of the first weeks of the new translation might be "messy," he said. "Cardinal Dolan also found himself celebrating the Mass "in a way that I have not done since I was a deacon," he said. "All of the first weeks of the new translation might be "messy," he said. "All of the first weeks of the new translation might be "messy," he said. "All of the first weeks of the new translation might be "messy," he said. 

"I give thanks to God for this great moment that I can be a part of," Father Barron said chil-

The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist
www.broadstradestreet.org

Christmas Eve
4:00PM at St. John the Baptist – (18 Broadway) Children's Mass with Handbell Choir
6:00PM at St. John the Baptist – (18 Broadway) Christmas Music with Parish Choir
9:00PM at Newman Center – (90 Broadway) Christmas Music with Joy LeSage

Christmas Day
10:00AM at St. John the Baptist – 18 Broadway
O come let us adore the Prince of Peace! Merry Christmas

Father Timothy G. Canaan, Pastor

Rejoice in the Wonder of God's love and Peace!

The Parish of St. Anne
555 Main Street, Danbury, CT
Telephone 203-797-8500

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) -- Boxes wrapped in ribbon and a happy little boy are Christmas images, but the combination had another joyful meaning Dec. 11 during ceremonies during the Diocese of Peoria's inquiry into an alleged miracle resulting from the intercession of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. "May God, who began this great work, bring to fulfillment," said Panama Bishop Daniel J. Nury after an over was made in a box containing evidence gathered in the past three months by an individual investigation. That evidence is now in its way to Rome for consideration by the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The congregation is study- ing the sainted archbishop's cause because a Central Illinois native and priest of the Peoria Diocese who became an internationally known evangelist, radio/TV host and writer decided to become a sainthood candidate after affixing a wax seal on a box containing evidence gathered in the past three months by an individual investigation. 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Blessings on this Christmas.

May you hold the love of Jesus in your heart, today and always.

Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

The Pastor and Parishioners
Of St. Paul’s Church, Black River &
St. Rita’s Church, Deerfield

My Christmas Moment

My Christmas Moment makes it clear that the essence of Christmas is not about me at all. It’s about the Father and His one and only Son. It’s about Jesus, who came to live among us, to cherish us, to love us, to redeem us, to save us, and to be with us always.

Christmas is about love. It’s about Jesus, who gave us the gift of love. It’s about the love that we should give to others, just as Jesus gave us the gift of love. It’s about the love that we should receive from others, just as Jesus died to give us the gift of love.

It’s about the love that we should have for each other. It’s about the love that we should have for ourselves. It’s about the love that we should have for the world. It’s about the love that we should have for God. It’s about the love that we should have for Christmas.

The Christmas story tells us that when Mary gave birth to Jesus, she did so in a dirty, smelly, uncomfortable stable, with no heat and no light. Jesus, at his birth, had nothing. He was, and is, the embodiment of pure simplicity, of total vulnerability, of complete dependence.

Jesus, at his birth, was a bird in the air; they do not sow or reap, they do not have any help. Jesus, at his birth, was a bird on the wing. Jesus, at his birth, was a bird on the wing, with no need to worry about his clothes, vacations, or possessions. They are not the ‘treasures’ that matter.

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Take time to focus on the Infant Jesus himself

So often in our current soci­ety, the day of Christmas finds us completely exhausted. This year, we must not let the hectic pace of Christmas shopping, decorations, and parties spoil the great feast it is. As a partic­ular time and place this week, we need to stop everything, and take time to prepare our hearts spiritually.

We need to focus on the Infant Jesus Himself. A good time might be at one of the Pennywise services, before leaving the Church, we open a misselette in the pew where we’re kneeling.

Open your Bible at home and look up one of the references at the begin­ning of this meditation.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Or take your Bible at Midnight when, before leaving the Church, we open a misselette to the great Feast it­self. On the Infant Jesus Himself.

We need to focus on the Infant Jesus Himself.

A good time might be at one of the Penny­wise services, before leaving the Church, we open a misselette in the pew where we’re kneeling.

Take your Bible at home and look up one of the references at the beginning of this meditation.

"A scene so peaceful in the night, the starry sky is soft and bright... As God’s Own Son has come to Earth, may we behold His wondrous birth!"

On behalf of missionaries and the people they serve in the mission lands, we wish you a joy­ful Christmas!

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
Molly McKee Ryan, Secretary

CHRISTMAS READING

Christmas Day

Mass at Dawn


Mass during the Day


The same is true for many older people whose spouses have died, and whose children now have families of their own. What can they do? They can make Christmas in their heart.

Home is where the heart is! Like Mary, we ourselves must spiritually give birth to the Son of God.

Loneliness can give place to a spirit of joy when we let His presence light up our hearts.

As Mary was the bridge between heaven and earth, the divine and the human, so we can share her experi­ence.

The Christmas readings are the key. Pray them slowly. "Take time to plant them in your heart."

As the Gospel of John tells us, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Monsignor Paul C. Whitm ore

DEC. 25

OUR READERS WRITE

Christmas must not forget what Christmas is about

How many times have you heard “Merry Christmas” and actually pondered the meaning of the joyful greeting?

Have you observed cars with bumper stickers or magnets that say “Jesus is the reason for the season,” or “Keep Christ in Christmas?”

With society becoming increasingly secular, culturally aware, and even polit­ically correct, Christmas seems to get lost.

The race to the mall, newest electronic gadget, big screen televisions, and holiday celebrations not Christmas parties have become the norm.

Our founding fathers assumed the right of freedom of religion, however the lines seem to be blurring at this juncture in our history.

Therefore a Christian must not forget, get caught up in consumerism, or even like Peter we say, “We know Christ, but do not see Him.”

The Christmas readings are the key. Pray them slowly. "Take time to plant them in your heart."

As the Gospel of John tells us, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

MICHELLE B. BEAGLE

Education Director

NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.COM

On December 25th, after the celebration of the Birth of Christ, the Church calls for a reflection on the “Word made flesh” of Christmas. This meditation is meant to help us do just that.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Merry Christmas to all our readers.

Fr. Stephen H. Grumet

Fr. Andrew A. Angayl

Fr. William G. Manzsch

Fr. Andrew K. Maloney

Provide for our priests through a generous gift to your parish collection.

Christmas Collection

A gift to the Christmas Collection in your parish helps to support our retired priests.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
I’ve retired as a pastor but not as a priest

By Fr. William G. Muench

Father William G. Muench retired this past June after 52 years of active ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. A native of Kaukauna, Wis., he was ordained May 19, 1959 by Bishop James J. Navagh. Through the years, Father Muench has experienced nearly every kind of ministry and I am confident that his contributions to his diocese, such as teaching high school principal, college chaplain, and mission pastor make the list of a very popular cleric in the North Country Catholic. The column that I am writing is a regular feature in the diocesan newspaper, the North Country Catholic. I have many memories and stories to tell about Father Muench, who reflects on the past few months!

SHALOM HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS

By Stephen Fry

Shadow Games. (Warner Bros., 97 min.)

If it were to be the last time you watch Professor James Moriarty (Robert Downey Jr.) terrorize Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) in the grand finale of the TV series, then this sequel to the 2009 film of the same name is violently interrupted by a Gypsy fortuneteller in the film’s final act, during which Moriarty’s machinations will be violently interrupted by a Gypsy fortuneteller in the film’s finale. The tension between the two is the key to the film’s success, as the chronicler of the great man’s exploits, and for his佛山的纪实片, Mycroft’s eccentricities are not to be taken as anything more than comic fluff. As his struggle with Moriarty leads them to London and Paris, the iconic pair is aided and abetted by Rachel McAdams and Robert Downey Jr.’s headstrong Mary Watson (played by Jude Law), who is slowly coming to terms with her own powers of deduction.

Shadow Games is a thrilling and exciting way to spend a summer afternoon. A great film for children under 13, it is strongly cautioned. Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The film contains strong action sequences, partial nudity, stubborn sexual humor; and a few crude terms. The Catholic News Serv- ice classification is R. Adults.

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Bring this ad in and receive $100 off the purchase price of a new home.

May the Spirit of Christmas be with you throughout the year!

With peace and blessings,

The pastor and parishioners of St. Mary’s, St. Theresa’s & St. Joseph’s (Evan’s Mills, Theresa & Philadelphia)
Treadwell Mills – RCC St. Alexander & St. joy that ought to accompany the birth of the Christmas story. The empty manger is a dual symbol. Like the empty manger in the Christmas story, the abortion clinic is a place where life has been saved from abortion when their children could have been a gift. Parenthood.

Christmas Carolling Day, pro-lifers will be singing Christmas Carols in front of Planned Parenthood. In celebration of the economic distress that our families confront annually to assure the financial assistance of the diocese to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earths.” (Ps. 69:1) It is the festival of infinite love and mercy, the festival of tomorrow’s possibilities, the festival of our salvation. May the Lord give you and your family the hope and joy which the shepherds experienced when the light of God’s glory shone around them on that first Christmas night, and may your lives be enlivened by the power of His Spirit. Love one another, as Christ loved us. A Blessed Christmas and Joy filled New Year!


date: December 8, 2011

Christmas blessings from Bishop LaValley

The hope and fears of all the years are met in this One truth. The lyrics from the Christmas hymn, “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” capture well the paradox of our times. In the face of medicine and communication open up whole new vistas of hope-filled possibilities, yet our fear of the very fabric of our families are sobering. The light shines in the darkness so that it is difficult to be hopeful about what tomorrow may bring. A gift to the Christmas collection. May the Lord give you and your family the words, His most profound Word, His most beautiful Word into the world. And that Word means: I love you and live your hope and joy which the shepherds experienced when the light of God’s glory shone around them on that first Christmas night, and may your lives be enlivened by the power of His Spirit. Love one another, as Christ loved us. A Blessed Christmas and Joy filled New Year!

The 32 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests’ Retirement Fund will have benefited by the generosity of Catholic. The 13 priests age 70 and older who remain active in the diocese receive pensions from the Priests’ Retirement Fund increased over a Christmas collection.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is sponsoring the Christmas collection. Christmas blessings from Bishop LaValley.


date: December 8, 2011

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There is love and peace in the developing countries because of mission work. Yes, mission work like your solutions let the love of Christ shine in the lives of people in the missions. It is our only guarantee of generous donations. On behalf of missionaries and the people they serve, I express my thanks for the Propagation of the Faith, the Holy Child Association, the Society of St. Peter's, and the Missions Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I thank you for your support. Your support touches the seeking hearts of the suffering poor in mission lands.

My co-worker is my inspiration. My wife, Molly Ryan, and I offer prayers of gratitude for you. God bless you and your families. I pray you will continue to support the work of the Church in the world.

Please remember ‘The Society for the Propagation of the Faith’ when writing or changing your will.

www.dwogdensburg.org/missioner/
The true meaning of Christmas

By Kelly D. O'Donnell "North Country Catholic"

Advent is here and with it, my love for the entire Advent and Christmas seasons. I absolutely love Christmas. When I was a yearlong volunteer through Franciscan Volunteer Ministry in Wilmington, Delaware, my first year out of college (‘09-‘10), I explicitly saw this humbleness everywhere, and the genuine sentiments of peace and goodwill that are readily expressed. But I think more than anything, I love the profound realization of Christ’s humility and love for us. God’s love for us is reflected in His willingness to become man, a humbled, humble from His birth in a manger to His death on a cross. This is a realization that strikes me each year, and each year, it is just as poignant as the last.

Sometimes something is just so meaningful, so perfect, that you know it means more than just that moment. Posadas like that for me.

When I was a yearlong fulltime volunteer through Franciscan Volunteer Ministry in Wilmington, Delaware, my first year out of college (‘09-‘10), I explicitly saw this humility everywhere, and the genuine sentiments of peace and goodwill that are readily expressed. But I think more than anything, I love the profound realization of Christ’s humility and love for us. God’s love for us is reflected in His willingness to become man, a humbled, humble from His birth in a manger to His death on a cross. This is a realization that strikes me each year, and each year, it is just as poignant as the last.

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