FACES OF FAITH

Autumn scenes at North Country Parishes

Sacred Heart Parish in Chazy recently accepted a check from TD Bank in the amount of $3,665, raised through the parish’s participation in the TD Bank Affinity Membership Program. Through this program, TD Bank makes an annual contribution to an organization based on the average balances in all members’ accounts (checking, savings, money market, CD, and retirement). Members’ accounts are not affected in any way by this contribution and everything is totally confidential. Signing up to be a member is as simple as speaking to a teller at any TD Bank and requesting to participate with whichever organization you wish to help. A minimum of 50 members is needed to begin the process. TD Bank will provide all informational materials for pastors to inform parishioners, and will send representatives to come to the church to speak with prospective members and sign them up after weekend Masses. Shown, from left, are Kristen Nepheu of TD Bank, Father Raymond Moreau, pastor in Chazy; and Germana Hicks, assistant manager of TD Bank in Chazy.

Linda Domagala, Father Christopher Carrara, Temmie Kubinski, and Lydia Wojnowski were among the volunteers at the Polish Festival held Oct. 16 at St. Hedwig’s Church in Riverville.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 66, Number 31

DEC. 7, 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Good news about seminary numbers / PAGE 11
Advent reflection on prayer / PAGE 12

WITH THE HOLY FATHER

Reactions from pastors and parishioners

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome during the bishop’s first Ad Limina apostolic visit Nov. 22-Dec. 1. He was accompanied by Msgr. John R. Murphy, moderator of the curia, right. Bishop LaValley writes about some of his experiences in this week’s Follow Me column on page 3.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome during the bishop’s first Ad Limina apostolic visit Nov. 22-Dec. 1. He was accompanied by Msgr. John R. Murphy, moderator of the curia, right. Bishop LaValley writes about some of his experiences in this week’s Follow Me column on page 3.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: Give yourself the gift of a lifetime... information, p. 2
The Holy Spirit gives us joy. And He is joy. Joy is the gift in all which the other gifts are included. The muc- susion of the joy of the Lord is the fruit of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit gives us joy because He has the divine light which will pierce the darkness. We are called to be light in the world. We are called to have the grace to bring people to the world of light in the darkness of the world. We are called to have the grace to bring people to the unity of light. We are called to be the light of the world. We are called to bring the light of the world to the light of the Lord. We are called to bring the light of the world to the light of the Lord. We are called to bring the light of the world to the light of the Lord.

The Advent Season prepares us for Christmas and the joy of spending time with family and friends, as Pope Benedict reminds us.

As part of our preparation, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Our help is needed for children lacking food, water, and clothing as well as the elderly who are in poor health, and the hospitals and ministered to by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. As part of our preparation, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Our help is needed for children lacking food, water, and clothing as well as the elderly who are in poor health, and the hospitals and ministered to by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.


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The Spirit of the Lord is upon you. Today, many of these religious are joining us in our newest jour-

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Mystery Players
Varied - The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players will be performing this Advent Season. Schedule is as follows:
Dec 27, 11 a.m. at St. Rita's
Dec 28, Holy Family Church, 7:30 p.m.
For more information, please contact: hillholl@hughes.net

Lighting of the Christmas Tree
St. Lawrence Church 2011 will be lighting the Christmas tree on the second Tuesday of December. It will be a two hour event from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will be held in the Outreach Center.

Advent Mass, Meditation
Elsburg - Our Lady of the Adirondacks Church will be hosting an Advent Meditation every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact the church office at 518-982-3131 to reserve your spot.

Lessons and Carols
St. John's Adoration Chapel, December 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a beautiful event for the whole family. It will include Lessons and Carols. Come and be blessed by our Holy Father personally and the privilege of meeting Monsignor John Murphy and I boarded the Eternal City, anticipating our long awaited moment in our faith lives. We were not disappointed.

The Ad Limina visit includes three key events:

1. An opportunity to celebrate Eucharist at the main Basilica of Rome; meetings with the heads of several of the Diocese's Congregations that assist the Holy Father in his Petrine Office; and the privilege of meeting our Holy Father personally to discuss the state of our individual dioceses.

As many of you know, from November 22 to December 1, all the bishops of New York State, accompanying priests, and I participated in what is often called the First Ad Limina in Rome.

Every five years, the bishop participates in this fitting ceremony at the threshold of the Apostles. 

Monsignor John Murphy and I boarded the Eternal City, anticipating our long awaited moment in our faith lives. We were not disappointed.

The ad limina visit includes three key events: an opportunity to celebrate Eucharist at the main Basilica of Rome; meetings with the heads of several of the Diocese's Congregations that assist the Holy Father in his Petrine Office; and the privilege of meeting our Holy Father personally to discuss the state of our individual dioceses.

In this article, I wish to share with you the premier event that was truly a blessed occasion for me. Soon after we arrived on Wednesday, I participated that evening with bishops from upstate New York to have our personal audiences with the Holy Father.

I felt that the Holy Father heard, felt and understood the struggles I shared.

I told him that our faith has been tested and challenged by the crises of: the emergence of death, clergy sex abuse, secularization, a decrease in Church vocations, the publication of Catholics in the sacraments, and a decrease in Church attendance.

The Holy Father said that he observed that our dioceses are physically successful, a vital and vibrant parish, but also said that the challenges of the contemporary world are unsurmountable.

I felt that the Holy Father heard, felt and understood the struggles I shared. He inquiries our diocesan efforts to promote the family. He said that so much of the crisis of faith stems from the breakdown of the family. He concluded our meeting by reminding us that Jesus Christ is the answer to life's struggles.
Praying with the New Missal

After months of preparation, Catholics in the North Country adapt with ‘just a few hiccups’

At St. Patrick’s Church in Rouses Point, pastored as St. Patrick’s Church in Coopersville when Father Lewis to guide us through it,” Mrs. Merchant said. “He’s very patient.”

CNS PHOTO/ DISNEY

The best comment I heard from Parishioner Claire Russell was, “I think it went very well. This way we are going back to the original prayers, new responses bring us closer to the beauty of those prayers, and closer to the mystery we are celebrating.”

Clair was well-prepared for the changes, she attended the 6-week “Walk Through The Mass” program in the fall. “The sessions were wonderful,” she relished, the way they were presented so was great, no way you could understand what was coming.”

Jack Lalanne likewise ex-

After the Best of Aventures’ and St. Joseph’s Church in Plattsburgh, Español-speaking Catholics around the world in prayer with the recent Roman Missal. Meg, after Pregui Deeg, said: “At first I thought, but it made things easier. It helps make as if we have come full circle,” he concludes. Then, now, the sacrament is still our greatest blessing.”

Singers Gary (Jason Segel, who also co-wrote the screenplay for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. She was the plus-size editor for Vogue magazine. 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A day to wait for Jesus with joyful anticipation

DIeCkS
Dec. 7, 2011

The words of this Sun-
day’s readings are the
death of Jesus, but the
joyful anticipation
that they bring us. We
are called to pray, to
praise and to thank God
for His mercy and love.

In our more reflective
moments, we are aware of
the presence of Jesus in
our lives. He is the love
that we experience in
our relationships, the
peace that we feel in our
hearts, and the joy that
fills our spirits.

Today’s readings also
remind us of the impor-
tance of prayer. We are
called to pray for our-
selves and for others, and
to pray for the world.

In the first reading, we
are called to pray for our
families and for our
friends. We are called
to pray for our neighbors
and for our enemies.

In the second reading,
we are called to pray for
the poor and for the
widows and orphans.

In the Gospel reading,
we are called to pray for
our Lord and Master,
Jesus Christ. We are
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in Charitable Gift Annuity is yours to keep if you don’t outlive your charitable gift annuity. You may also choose to donate the charitable gift annuity to a charity of your choice. It’s a simple way to give back while enjoying the financial benefits of your gift. There are no administrative fees or other costs related to the charitable gift annuity. The charitable gift annuity is available in all states, and it is a tax-deductible charitable contribution. 

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuity Program offers these benefits. At ages 60 or older, which is the earliest age the Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuities, the rates are the same as the Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuity Program for life. If you are considering a Charitable Gift Annuity Program through the Diocese of Ogdensburg Charitable Gift Annuity Program, the time to make a decision is before January 1, 2012. To get the highest possible rates, you should make your gift before January 1, 2012.

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**QUESTIONs AND ANsWERS**

Why We Ask You to Help ...

**Skyrocketing Costs**
- There are more than 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2010, the average annual cost for their care was more than $35,000 per person.
- In 2010 alone, the total cost to support senior women and men religious exceeded $1 billion.

**Insufficient Income**
- By 2019, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one.
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is approximately $4,700 - roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

If I contribute, do I share in the fruits of the ministry?
Religious always view donors as partners in ministry and remember them daily in prayer.

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Our benefactors help to extend our Congregations into the future.

Amount Enclosed: $ ____________
Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City State Zip ___________________
- Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish.
- Write Retirement Fund for Religious on the memo line and give it to your parish collection.

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish’s annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

OR

send your donation directly to:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
P.O. Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**COMFORTING • NURTURING • TEACHING • NURSING • SHARING • LOVING • CARING**

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Members of the Sisters of the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown pray in community for the needs of the Church and the world. They daily pray for our Diocese and the donors who make possible the spreading of the Word of God.

Pictured from left to right: Bishop Terry LaValley, Sisters Martha Emery, Elizabeth (Joan) Washloum, Rose Rossi, Catherine Marie Gill, and Superior Marilyn McMillan. They are known for their smiles, and we are grateful they chose to establish their monastery in our diocese.

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WE WILL NOT FORGET YOU
... because you cared for us when you were with us.

(Pictured above are Religious who left our diocese in 2011)
December 4, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In 2010, while visiting a senior-care facility, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI observed: “Indeed, the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much an act of generosity as the repayment of a debt of gratitude.” Next weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be taking up the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity to honor and thank thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests for their faithful service.

We are all beneficiaries of the tremendous contributions these women and men have made to the Church. Through hard work, prayer, and much sacrifice, they built our Catholic schools and hospitals and ministered to the neediest among us. I’m sure that each of us can recall a sister or brother who made a positive difference in our lives.

Skyrocketing healthcare costs and decreased income make it increasingly difficult to provide necessary medication, nursing care, and basic services. Aging convents and other facilities pose additional challenges in terms of safety and handicap accessibility.

I know that this is one of numerous worthy causes in need of support. Many of our neighbors and family members face financial difficulties today. I ask you simply to give what you can to this annual appeal. In thanksgiving for all that senior religious have given, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious. Let us continue to pray for God’s continued blessings on our elderly sisters, brothers, and religious priests.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Orders Serving In The Diocese

brothers of Christian Instruction
Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Dominican Sisters of St. Mary
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Sisters of Mercy of St. Joseph
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Our Lady of Lourdes Sisters of the Eastern Province

Every year, the religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg humbly ask for your help because the cost of skilled and assisted care for our religious ecclesiates. Our Diocese retains 90% of the Collection for direct distribution to religious who are currently serving or have served in the past in the Diocese. Ten percent (10%) of this collection is sent to the National Retirement Office for national distribution.

We are deeply aware of the struggles our families are experiencing because of the state of the economy. We are grateful for whatever you are able to give our fund.

Jubilee 2011 - Celebrating the Past and Looking Forward to Continuing the Journey

We miss the religious who leave us, and we continue to share in their care through the Retirement Collection.

We are grateful for the life and ministry of Sr. Donna Jean Tavernier, GNSH
Mary Curran, DHHM and Miriam Najmy, DHH
Sr. Mary Stephen Durant, OSM
Sr. Evelyn McCarty, DC
Sr. Anne Boyer, GNSH
and Sr. Patricia Allen, RSM
(Pictured on front page counterclockwise from top left)

We joy in the new members who responded YES to come and minister in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Members of New Community of Foundation of Sisters of the Cross of Chavonad in Watertown
Left to right: Sister Maria Flavia D’Costa, SDC and Sister Maria Angela Rebello, SDC.

We are blessed to have these two gifted and dedicated religious in our Diocese. We await the arrival of Sister Julitta Fernandes, SDC, as a third Sister of the Cross.
**Questions and Answers**

**Why We Ask You to Help...**

**Skyrocketing Costs**
- There are more than 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2010, the average annual cost for their care was more than $35,000 per person.
- In 2010 alone, the total cost to support senior women and men religious exceeded $1 billion.

**Insufficient Income**
- By 2019, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one.
- For most of their lives, elderly religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is approximately $4,700 - roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

If I contribute, do I share the fruits of the ministry?
Religious always view donors as partners in ministry and remember them daily in prayer.

**Our Benefactors Help to Extend our Congregations into the Future.**

Amount Enclosed: $ ________________________________
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City State Zip ________________________________

- Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish.
- Write Retirement Fund for Religious on the memo line and give it to your parish collection.

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish’s annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

OR

Send your donation directly to:

**Retirement Fund for Religious**
P.O. Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Comforting • Nurturing • Teaching • Nursing • Sharing • Loving • Caring**

**Religious Retirement Collection 2011**

Share in the Care

December 10th and 11th

Members of the Sisters of the Precious BloodMonastery in Watertown pray in community for the needs of the Church and the world. They daily pray for our Diocese and the donors who make possible the spreading of the Word of God.

Pictured from left to right: Bishop Terry LaValley, Sisters Martha Emery, Elizabeth (Joan) Washburn, Rose Rossi, Catherine Marie Gill, and Superior Marilyn McMillian. They are known for their smiles, and we are grateful they chose to establish their monastery in our diocese.

**We Will Not Forget You... because you cared for us when you were with us.**

(Pictured above are Religious who left our diocese in 2011)
In a Charitable Gift Annuity, you, the donor, irrevocably transfer cash or property to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. A life-income annuity is established which pays a guaranteed income, the rate of which is partly tax-free. The amount is $5,000 for a single-life annuity, $10,000 for a two-life annuity. The donor receives an income-tax deduction which may be taken on this year’s income tax return or in the coming year, depending on the year at which the gift is made. The amount of your gift and your rate of return is determined by the following: (1) the amount you are willing to provide for expense-free future income payments to the agency, program or institution you select; (2) the amount you are willing to provide for fee-for-service or partially tax-free income payments to the agency, program or institution you select; and (3) the amount you are willing to provide for fee-for-service or partially tax-free income payments to the agency, program or institution you select. The higher the rate of return, the higher the amount of your gift and your rate of return. Once your annuity payments begin, the higher the rate of return, the higher the amount of your gift and your rate of return.
The words of this Sun- day’s readings are the ones that bring to the joy of Christ- masy. In the second reading, the “Rejoice again” to say to them, “Why,” we ask. The word is the same as that of Jesus to his disciples, that he would be with them always, and “Do not be afraid.” Yet we can be left emo- tionally numb to the joy of Christ- masy. A false “holiday” would bring them to glory.

A day to wait for Jesus with joyful anticipation

In our more reflective mo- nths, we find a deeper appreci- ation of prayer. Yet, we are generally not very good at prayer. First of all, we struggle to make time for prayer, and when we do pray, deep prayer doesn’t come easily. Once we do set time to pray, we often find ourselves overwhelmed by day- to-day concerns, half-formed thoughts, and the impending event of the day. And the impending event of the day makes clear to the Pharisees and the Herodians why they came to ask Jesus. That’s why they came to ask Jesus.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we are invited to pray with new eyes and a new heart. The Lord is teaching us that the joy of Christ- masy comes from within, from the heart, not from without and that we can have the true joy that Jesus Christ is providing to us when we pray, that we can experience the true joy that Jesus Christ is providing to us when we pray, as long as we live.

Memorial Mass set for Fr. Paul Walsh in Keesville

The center of the home was the chapel, where he had his Mass daily and main- tained a time of daily adoration. He passed through his school years in the parochial system of St. Anthony’s the experience of a person in a parish who was not a part of any religious order. The beautiful, and teaching through the New Missal

For the churches of St. Anthony’s the experience of a person in a parish who was not a part of any religious order. The beautiful, and teaching through the New Missal.
Praying with the New Missal

After months of preparation, Catholics in the North Country adapt with just 'a few hicups'

Parishes for Preparation for the new Missal in the North Country Catholic Parish with a few months ago. The total parish with the new translation of the Mass have come to us.

Divisive and now we're trying to get used to it. As with any change, it's going to take some time and adapt to it. As with any change, it's going to take some time. We've been so used to it, now we're trying to make it normal.

The challenge here was very smooth, he explains. "There were a few hicups, but that's okay, because it's part of the process. We've had all this preparation and now we're trying to incorporate it into our lives." The sessions were held, he said, "as if we have a full circle, he concludes. Then, or now, the salvation is still our greatest blessing."

"The music connected with the change," she said. "I didn't mind at all learning new music because of the new melodies."

Frank Perkin said, "It's going to take a while for people to get used to things."

"The translation suits her just fine, too."

"It's (the adjustment) going on."

"We're so used to it, now we're trying to incorporate it into our lives."

The new translation suits her just fine, too. She said, "I loved it," and "I wasn't that scared Latin (Mass). Now, the new translation suits her just fine, too. She said, "I loved it," and "I wasn't that scared Latin (Mass)."

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"It's (the adjustment) going on.

Ultimately, we too want to teach our children to pray in our new lives. Like Jesus disciples, we also know that we can only at this point, through accessing a power that comes from you deep of our souls and be-"
MYSTERY PLAYERS
Waterloo – The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players will be performing this Advent season.
Schedule is as follows:
Dec. 7-9: Lights of the Hudson at the Church of the Good Shepherd.
Dec. 10: Holy Family Church, 7:30 p.m.
For more information, www.hudsonmistjuryplay.org
LIFEIGHT MEETING
Waterloo – Lifeight of Waterloo will hold their monthly meeting on the Wednesday of the 3rd week in December.
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: 312 Sherrill Street.
Features: Growth in a positive adult
functional organization. The office will
offer educational talks and informational
meetings which may be borrowed. Topics
involving assisted suicide, assisted suicide,
and the privilege of meeting
our prayers with Catholics throughout
the Holy Father said that he
inquired about our diocesan
efforts to promote the famil
He said that so much of what
came from the breakdown of the family.
He concluded our meet-
ification as the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Father turned
to life's struggles.
He reiterated the point
everal times: we must have
erea of the North Country.
I feel that the Holy Father
the opportunity. That begun with the
I offered his prayers and
Festival as they illuminate the Christ-
We may have to face the
t over flow of the North Country.
I spoke of our deep
for him and of the strong
of the faith of the people
the North Country.
I felt that the Holy Father
with the students of the
the Holy Father personal
I feel that our faith has
test and chal-
Risper: “Speak frankly,
as a family setting.”
So we did.
Bishop Hubbard of Al-
defed the diners of the 
bishop, and the privilege of meeting
our prayers, followed by Bishop Hubbard.
We must have our
the challenges before us
The Holy Father affirmed
The Holy Father said that he
We may have to face the
Our faith has been
to be welcomed by the
home of the nation of
and share concerns about
home in the nation of
and the privilege of meeting

MANOR HOUSE
90 MAIN STREET
DELMAR, NY 12054
PHONE: (518) 695-0990
FAX: (518) 695-0660
WWW.MANORHOUSE.COM

I wish to in-
He concluded our meet-
I spoke of our deep
for him and of the strong
of the faith of the people

Mystery Players will be performing this Advent season. Schedule is as follows:
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Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

2011.  We are all on a
a day in which we
especially the young. In
next week's issue of the North Country Catholic, I look forward to sharing with
you more about the ad

Jesus: A Franciscan Christmas.” The 2011
Phantom, and the privilege of meeting
with the students of the
Festival as they illuminate the Christ-

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Under 5, Free; Family, $16

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Papal Visit. It is the most important opportunity for the
bishops to update Pope Benedict on the pastoral work of
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Share in the care!  

Thirty years ago – the last time we all had to learn a “new Mass” – we could count on a certain group of people to guide us through unfamiliar rituals. Religious sisters and brothers and Catholic schools around the world, whether through the Second Vatican Council and the new liturgical books of the Church, or in the rebuilding of liturgical structures after the Second Vatican Council and the liturgy of the hours, have worked hard to bring about changes and to help the people of God come to know the changes and walking through the Second Vatican Council changes brought by the liturgy of the hours, have made to the Church. Through hard work, prayer, and much sacrifice, they built our Catholic schools and hospitals and ministered to the needs of the people of God. This coming weekend we have the chance to show exactly how much we appreciate this generosity of these Religious with generosity of our own in the annual Religious Retirement Appeal. On the First Sunday of Advent, we took our first stepping stones through a new Missal. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we have the chance to remember those women and men who have taken our hands through all the stages of our faith journey. It is our responsibility – and our privilege – to show our care.

Once again they are embracing the change, standing with us through it. This time, they need us as much as we need them. Through the years, the number of options have brought in our communities to their homes has increased at the same time as our desire to share in our own in the annual Religious Retirement Appeal.

The Advent Season prepares us for Christmas and the joy of spending time with family and friends, as Pope Benedict reminds us. As part of our preparation, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Our help is needed for children lacking food, water, and clothing as well as the elderly and from serious illness without medical attention.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith carries out the Pope’s personal mandate to bring the Light of Christ to all nations, especially to the poor. The Society is the proud sponsor of our Annual Christmas Appeal. Please “Be An Angel” for those who are in greatest need by giving generously to this important cause. Be assured that I will remember you and your intentions in prayer.

Brothers and sisters, please mark your calendars for the following dates:

• inviting others to become a part of this important cause.
• praying for the success of our initiatives around the world.

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Autumn scenes at North Country Parishes

Father Sony Pulickal blessed animals at St. Ann’s Church in Wells Oct. 2 in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Among the pets blessed were Edison and Penelope, dogs belonging to Judee Lauria, who makes regular visits to the local nursing home.

Sacred Heart Parish in Chazy recently accepted a check from TD Bank in the amount of $3,665, raised through the parish’s participation in the TD Bank Affinity Membership Program. Through this program, TD Bank makes an annual contribution to an organization based on the average balances in all members’ accounts (checking, savings, money market, CD, and retirement). Members’ accounts are not affected in any way by this contribution and everything is totally confidential. Signing up to be a member is as simple as speaking to a teller at any TD Bank and requesting to participate with whichever organization you wish to help. A minimum of 50 members is needed to begin the process. TD Bank will provide all informational materials for pastors to inform parishioners, and will send representatives to come to the church to speak with prospective members and sign them up after weekend Masses. Shown, from left, are Kristen Nephew of TD Bank, Father Raymond Moreau, pastor in Chazy; and Germaine Hicks, assistant manager of TD Bank in Chazy.

Linda Domagala, Father Christopher Carrara, Temmie Kubinski, and Lydia Wojnowski were among the volunteers at the Polish Festival held Oct. 16 at St. Hedwig’s Church in Hoosicville.

Religious Retirement Appeal set

Bishop LaValley has announced that Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg will conduct the 26th appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious on Dec. 10 and 11.

Religious institutes that are well known and revered for their ministry in the diocese will benefit through grants that are directed to the institutes’ motherhouses.

The 2011 Religious Retirement Collection was given a generous response from North Country Catholics when $124,648 was donated. The religious of the Diocese are grateful to those who gave generously to their care. These funds were distributed among 31 communities of women and men who serve in the Diocese or worked here in the past.

The services the religious have provided throughout the country: schools, hospitals, elderly care, youth, and parish programs are a testimony of the past and present care of the Religious for the people they love and serve in the North Country.

Special Section, Pages 7-10

The gift that keeps on giving

Make sure a loved one receives Catholic news at home every week with a subscription to the NCC. New subscribers receive a special discount.

WITH THE HOLY FATHER

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome during the bishop’s first Ad Limina Apostolorum visit Nov. 22-Dec. 1. He was accompanied by Msgr. John D. Murphy, moderator of this column, right. Bishop LaValley writes about some of the experiences in his column this week. Follow his column on page 3.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: Give yourself the gift of a lifetime... information, p. 2

NEW WORDS OF PRAYER
Reactions from pastors and parishioners

Pastors across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, including Father Joseph Giroux of Malone, above, and Msgr. Robert Ainsworth of Potsdam and Colton, below, offered reactions of preparation in anticipation of the implementation of the New Roman Missal in the First Sunday of Advent. Read their reflections printed on pages 6-7.