Vatican takes a different approach toward President Obama

Four years later

Pursuing greater good

BY FRANCESCO POGGI

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI called on people to never be satisfied with their earthly achievements because “the greatest good is demanding and cannot be built or procured by mere human effort.”

During his audience talk at the University of Virginia last November, the pope spoke about the “messianic desire for God,” which lies deep in every human heart. Despite recent problems of anticlerical sentiment and people’s claims of being indifferent to God, an innate yearning for God “has not completely disappeared and still today, in many ways, aspirations to the heart of mankind.”

People always strive for happiness and a well being “often far from spiritual,” and yet they are also aware that there remains a deeper yearning for something that could truly satisfy that “restless heart,” he said.

“Every wish that arises in the human heart is eschewed by a fundamental desire that is beyond reason,” the pope said.

True love pushes people to think beyond themselves and be at the service of the other in unity and union to God, he said.

The day after Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, hailed his election as a “choice that unites,” exemplifying America’s ability to change its response to challenges “until only recently could seem incurable.”

“Obamaspoke in the president of a congratulatory telegram the same day, noting “the Catholic tradition,” into which I am committed,” Obama vowed.

Four years later, the Vatican’s reaction to Obama’s re-election has been cooler, with Pope Francis voicing hope that current tensions, including the dispute over the Affordable Care Act mandate, might be resolved.

Obama’s second term.

Yet the Vatican itself remained largely aloof from such disputes, at least in public statements, of several U.S. bishops.

Archbishop Vigano concluded by lamenting the possibility of “a papal diplomat to comment publicly on a question of human rights,” including rights related to family life and freedom of conscience. The Vatican’s reaction to Obama’s re-election has been cooler, with Pope Francis voicing hope that current tensions, including the dispute over the Affordable Care Act mandate, might be resolved.

Fought religion

If the mere timing of his speech was not sufficient to underscore its political implications, Archishop Vigano concluded by lamenting the possibility of “a papal diplomat to comment publicly on a question of human rights,” including rights related to family life and freedom of conscience.

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We are called to be people of peace.

**Father Bill Says:**

*fpbillsays@gmail.com*

.../.../2012

Regular readers will notice a re-working of our new page format. Our
town Munchie a little more breathing room.
His column has quickly become one of the most popular fea-
tures of the Diocesan News – and, it’s safe to say that all Catholics of all ardent fans appreciate his message of peace.

My memories of Father Bill are all too frequently
developed a delight to read. I don’t think he has
to stand on the other side of the altar rail back in 1962.

As we’ve heard, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the
Second Vatican Council is among the reasons that we’re now observing a Year of Faith.
Bishop LaValley has taken advantage of the past pastoral letter on faith formation for this Year of Faith
The comprehensive document, the pastoral letter will be printed in four parts beginning page 3 of this week’s
gazette and will be also posted in its entirety on the
diocese’s website.

We are blessed to have a bishop who can express so beau-
tifully what it means to be Catholic; we would be wise to read his message with an open heart.
We’ll also be smart to take advantage of all the Catholicism
for the Year of Faith that Bishop LaValley has made available to us.

It will be a chance for us to honor some of our “saints” from the past, like Mother Marianne Cope, OSS,
and – to listen to a very special guest – the author of the Mary

And, it will be a wonderful opportunity for us to gather as a
family of faith, joining together with followers from across the diocese who are also striving to “taste again for the first time.
See you on Sunday!”

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

**The Pontifical Mission Society of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

**From the Director’s Desk**

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

Thanks to all of you throughout our North Country who have contributed to the Year of Faith in your parishes and
developing countries. I give thanks to Almighty God when I see up, our generosity in support of the missions – Reaching out to offer material and pray erful support
for the works of the Church in the modern world

The Pope has called upon all Catholics to make the world a better place by fostering peace.
As I write this edition, I immediately thought of the

Church in the Modern World is inhabited with a Church that is healthy and whole; the Church in the Modern World is a Church that is healing and whole; the Church in the Modern World is a Church that is healing.

If we ever stop believing that peace is possible, all will be lost.
I see this when a person lives with respect for all others in his or her community. I see this when parents strive to make our homes the most peaceful places on the face of the earth, not just for our children, teaching them the value of peace and respect for their neighbors.

We remember in prayer especially the faithful departed who remembered the Missions in their will. This remem-

He has truly become a voice for peace and justice.
May we strive to maintain our homes holy and peaceful places on the face of the earth, to make our homes the most peaceful places on the face of the earth.

Peace is not just some sort of sitting around quietly and avoid others – although it may be good at times.
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May we pray often that God will give us grace to bring peace to the world.
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Peace is an opportunity to encourage others to do the same, to make the world a better place, a happy place.
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**Obituaries**

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THANKSGIVING DINNER
Elsberg Center Church – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, $8; Children 5-12, $4; under 5, FREE

Thanksgiving Day and on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Monetary Donations and donations of food stuffs appreciated. Checks can be made out to: Adirondack Sisters, Adirondack House of Prayer.

Contact: Bill Ose, 315-232-4433

Serving Thanksgiving Dinner.

Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Joseph’s Foundation is planning its 8th Annual Christmas Fair.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter’s Church, St. Brother Andre Chapel.

Cost: $9, kids 5-12 years $5, Under 5 FREE

Date: Nov. 17

Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter’s Church, St. Brother Andre Chapel.

Cost: $9, kids 5-12 years $5, Under 5 FREE

Food can be dropped off at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph’s Foundation, 208 N. Main St., Ogdensburg. Harry Lucchetti. Food can be dropped off on Thanksgiving Day and on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Checks can be made out to: Adirondack Sisters, Adirondack House of Prayer.

Contact: Bill Ose, 315-232-4433

ST. LAWRENCE
HOLY HOUR FOR OVGECENTORS
St. Lawrence Catholic Church hosts a monthly Holy Hour to pray for vocations.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: Thursday before the First Friday

Place: Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Potsdam

Contact: Phone 315-788-8491; website: www.liferight.org.

NOVEMBER FOR MIDDLE ADOLESCENCE

exercise the freedom to be a person in a personal way but also to have the freedom to be a follower of Jesus. It is the freedom to ask a question, to be curious about the world, to have faith in the presence and power of God, and to be open to the mystery of the divine. This is a freedom that is not just for the individual but also for the community, for the Church, and for society as a whole. It is a freedom that is rooted in the teachings of Jesus and is fostered by the Holy Spirit.

- By Bishop Terry LaValley

Bishop Terry LaValley, shepherding us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into Church. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. (Porta Fidei, 41)

At the very start, the HolyFather uses that image of journey to provide us with a way of understanding the dynamism of what to expect, i.e., a pilgrim people on the move—"Follow Me" is the term that best expresses the meaning of the画像世界が現実化する要因です。
Became a local Methodist pastor. And Sisters of Charity. Were in a “community”, the Brothers some Catholics from up by us who began praying and devoured Holy in love with Jesus!

In 1990, I attended a tor began visiting us, praying for us. I ended up with a small education Bible School at a small ready working as He guided us to Here we find a rich descrip-

tion of the truths of our Church to the moon that reveals the Church as the Father's will, whatever it may be. (John 5:25)

I still couldn't understand the whole... Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’ (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23) "And the Lord will have mercy upon the house of Israel, and will choose the tribe of Israel, and will choose the city of Jerusalem... (Isa. 14:19)

How could this happen, I had Jesus Catholic, I stopped going to Mass. I became a Stephen Ministries Congress. Aided by his sec-

etary of state, William Sie- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we have beheld His glory... (John 1:14) God actually has a glorified body. He is not flesh any more. But He has His charistic feast of the Mass. "He abides in His Father, and the Father in Him... (John 14:16)"

They estimated names here refers to the fact that any major Catholic church has been written about Presi-... few endearing foibles - is vividly illuminated in... Who in line with his-... ﬁlm is A-III - adults. However, Lincoln was not above...
A call to review our lives: will we pass muster?

By Paul Whitmore

Struggling to figure out what candidates would do to make the good and the least harm - especially to the poor and vulnerable - and then showing up to vote, was the easy part.

Now the hard work begins...

With so much elected officials choosing the security of a full term in office, we now have a special responsibility in support from corporations, super PACs (political action committees) and wealthy individuals who will expect special attention and favors – it is our responsibility to stand as the Catholic, and all people of good will, to be heard and part of the voice of the voiceless.

The voices of the invisible poor and vulnerable will surely continue to remain unheard by the powers in Washington, D.C. and state capitals throughout the United States, unless you and I put our faith action in the political arena.

But committed lobbying is not a luxury that the poor and vulnerable can afford. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing political and legislative process.

Church efforts to pass medically uninsured, medically documented, unemployed and underemployed had no money to feed the financially engorged political beasts of both major parties...
Funeral held for Sr. Maria Gessi, SJ

Sr. Maria was a Sister of Divine Providence, a member of the religious order founded by St. Joseph Calasanz, a Spaniard from Madrid, Spain, in 1831 and is known for its mission in education, especially in the areas of teaching and the arts. Sr. Maria Gessi was a beloved member of the community, known for her dedication to education and her service to the archdiocese.

Cardinal sees phenomenal solidarity, compassion in Hurricane Sandy recovery

The Cardinal’s message is a testament to the strength of the human spirit in the face of disaster. It underscores the importance of solidarity, compassion, and community in times of need. The Cardinal’s words also reflect the enduring values of the Catholic Church, which emphasize the importance of care for one another and the common good.

Voters in three states approve laws permitting same-sex marriage

The passage of these laws in Maine, Washington, and Maryland is a significant victory for supporters of same-sex marriage. It represents a endorsement of the principle that all people should be afforded the same rights and opportunities, regardless of their sexual orientation.

We have an obligation – a moral, an ethical obligation – to protect the basic rights of all people, the Cardinal said. We have a moral obligation to protect the dignity of every person. We have a moral obligation to protect the freedom of every person.

These people inspire me! They are a living homily into our very nature. No matter what policy, law or judicial decision is put into place, “The meaning of marriage, though, cannot be redefined because it lies within our nature, within our human dignity,” the Cardinal said.

Our very nature. That’s our American nature. It’s a share in the divine. It’s a share in God’s image and likeness. And that’s a gift that we can’t take away from people. It’s a gift. It belongs to all of us. It’s a right. It’s a fundamental right.

The Cardinal’s words are a reminder of the importance of upholding the fundamental values of human dignity, freedom, and equality. They are a call to continue working towards a society where all people are treated with respect and dignity, where the rights of all are protected, and where the principles of justice and morality are upheld.
Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment – Support of Priests’ Disabilities
Catholic Charities Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment – Corporate purposes
St. Joseph’s Home Foundation Endowment – Corporate purposes
Catherine Aurelia Endowment – Bishop’s Charities and Religious Works
Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment – Support of the Diocesan Archives
Building For Tomorrow Endowment – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
Education of Seminarians Endowment – Funding to the annual operating budget
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Spratt Memorial Endowment – Support capital needs
St. Alexander’s Catholic Education Endowment – Support of Catholic education at parish
Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
Lawrence H. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
St. Augustine’s Church Endowment – General purposes
Margaret Brothers Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
Victor West Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
St. Mary’s Champlain NY Endowment – Support of St. Mary’s Academy and St. Mary’s Church
Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment – Support of disabled priests
Good Samaritan Endowment – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
Holy Family Strass Educational Endowment – Promote Catholic education
Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment – Education of Seminarians
William Cornish Endowment – St. Henry’s Church, EWTN, Diocese
Donald J. Grant Endowment – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
St. Lawrence Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence
St. Patrick’s Church Shamrock Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls
ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril’s and St. Francis Xavier
Special Care of Priests Endowment – Funding for annual operating budget
Alice Austin Mass Endowment – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
St. Francis of Assisi Endowment – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
William L. Pateode Endowment – Education of Seminarians

NET ASSETS AS OF JUNE 30, 2012 - $3,772,688
CROSSING OUR LIVING FAITH

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its parishes, schools, diocesan organizations and the administration of funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:
1. Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
2. Provide gift vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
3. Provide responsible financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live this second mission of the Church, through wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

WHY A CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Endowments through The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc., provide permanent annual income for all years ahead solely for the specific religious purposes designated by the donor. Our donors enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that their gift will generate steady annual income to the causes that have been most meaningful in their lives. Such causes include classrooms and projects within parishes, agencies, organizations and Catholic schools.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DiOCESAN OF OGDENSBURG

Dear Friends,

Through the generosity of the people of the North Country, 40 Endowments (see back page) have been created since the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY Foundation was incorporated in 2007. Parishes establishing endowments to benefit their respective parishes and schools as well as generous donors have combined to leave a legacy for over 25 different funds creating a personal source of income for their respective beneficiaries.

Endowments are gifts that keep on giving. They are permanently invested by the Foundation generating interest that is used for the purpose you choose to support—parishes, ministries and programs within the parishes, agencies, organizations, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The principle of the gift is never to divide funds from investments are allocated/distributed to the beneficiary of your choice (Diocese, programs/agencies, Catholic School, parish, etc.). It is a gift that lasts a lifetime as you know your beneficiary will continue to receive dividends while your original gift remains intact. Please take a moment to review the endowments on the back page. I invite you to consider how you can share your resources to help protect human life, promote dignity, defend those who are poor, strengthen the Church and to seek common good for future generations.

An endowment can be opened with a contribution of cash, securities or other property and may be added to at any time by you or someone else who wishes to contribute to the same organization.

Our office will work with you to clearly define your wishes and to establish (or help you add to an existing one) that will utilize your gift exactly as you desire. Please contact our office if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely Yours,

Scott M. Lathre
Executive Director

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

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Board of Directors

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N O R T H  C O U N T R Y  C A T H O L I C

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC FOUNDATION REPORT

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

M I S S  C A T H O L I C  O F F I C E S  C A T H O L I C

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

F O U N D A T I O N  R E P O R T

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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Spratt Memorial Endowment – Support capital needs
St. Alexander’s Catholic Education Endowment – Support of Catholic education at parish
Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
Lawrence H. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
St. Augustine’s Church Endowment – General purposes
Margaret Brothers Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
Victor West Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
St. Mary’s Champlain NY Endowment – Support of St. Mary’s Academy and St. Mary’s Church
Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment – Support of disabled priests
Good Samaritan Endowment – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
Holy Family Strass Educational Endowment – Promote Catholic education
Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment – Education of Seminarians
William Cornish Endowment – St. Henry’s Church, EWTN, Diocese
Donald J. Grant Endowment – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
St. Lawrence Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence
St. Patrick’s Church Shamrock Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church in Brusher Falls
ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril’s and St. Francis Xavier
Special Care of Priests Endowment – Funding for annual operating budget
Alice Austin Mass Endowment – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
St. Francis of Assisi Endowment – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
William L. Patteode Endowment – Education of Seminarians

NET ASSETS AS OF JUNE 30, 2012 = $3,772,688
Funeral held for Sr. Maria Grotto, SJJ

Sr. Maria Grotto, SJJ, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, died Nov. 3 at the Motherhouse in Watertown, Mass. She was 89. Sr. Maria was born Nov. 11, 1924! in Utica, N.Y. and entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs on Aug. 11, 1940. She professed her first vows Aug. 6, 1941, and her final vows Aug. 13, 1943.

Sister was a graduate of St. Mary’s Academy, Carthage, N.Y.;各行diem Academy, Troy, N.Y.; and Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass. She served as a teacher in parishes in Brooklyn, N.Y., Carthage, N.Y., and Niagara Falls, N.Y. She also taught in a teacher training program at Niagara University. From 1987-95, she worked in the diocesan Office of Religious Life.

Sister had a special interest in the arts and music. She played the piano and sang in several choirs. She was a member of the American Guild of Church Musicians and the Guild of Saint Francis. She received the seal of charity from the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in 2000.

Sister had a special affection for the poor. She spent much of her life caring for the sick and the elderly. She was a hospice volunteer and worked at the Vincentian House of Hospitality in Erie, Pa.

Sister was predeceased by her parents, George and Mary Ann; her sister, Sister Mildred; and her brothers, Joseph and Richard. She is survived by her sister, William; and her nieces and nephews.

Sister laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Watertown, Mass. Mass of Christian Burial was Nov. 6 at the Dominican Sisters’ Chapel in Watertown. Interment was Nov. 9 at the Motherhouse Cemetery in Watertown.
Today in the prophecies of the end times, we are reminded of the importance of human dignity and the need to bring to light the injustices of our time. The readings speak to the need to be the voice of the voiceless, to become the Catholic, and all people of good will be called to remember that “Jesus called us to ‘love one another.” Our Lord’s example of faithful citizenship continues, urging us to put and keep his teachings into action.

The hard work of faithful citizenship continues, with so many elected officials relying on the security of a full term in office, and the need to make here and now the sacrifices necessary to support the poor, medically uninsured, unemployed and underemployed, and hungry, homeless, war-torn, and victims of violence. The voices of the voiceless need our support to continue to be heard.

The voices of the invisible poor and vulnerable will surely continue to remain unheard by the powers in Washington, D.C. and state capitols throughout the United States, unless you and I put faith into action. We must act now to ensure that the voice of the voiceless is heard before the elections, is more important than ever.

Daniel and of Jesus Himself. The prophet Daniel reveals during the Greek persecution of the Jews under the infamous Antiochus IV Epiphanes, one of the cruellest rulers of all time.

Just one hundred and fifty years before Christ, the prophet expressed his belief in the resurrection of the dead: “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake: some shall live forever, others shall be in everlasting horror and distress.” Then he describes the other side of justice—justice for all who have patiently endured and courageously witnessed to the truth. “But the wise shall shine brightly as the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars for ever.”

These are words that stir up our hope in eternal life, and vindicate the efforts of all who fight injustice. We do not suffer in vain. This prophecy contradicts those who tell us there is no God, and prayer is useless. Even more dramatic is the prophetic vision of Jesus in the Gospel. Jesus, who knows already that He is to be the Judge of all creation on the Last Day, realizes too that He is soon to offer His own Body and Blood on the cross once and for all in expiation for the sins of the world. (This theme is treated in Jesus’ second reading from Hebrews.)

In this vision of the final days, Jesus declares that a cosmic collapse of the powers of heaven and earth will occur first, then He Himself will come in glory to gather those He has chosen.

Then, He gives his listeners a warning to be on alert. Only God the Father knows the exact day and the hour. This Sunday is a call to review our lives. Will all our deeds “pass muster” before the keen gaze of Jesus, the Just Judge?

Are there corrections we need to make here and now in the direction of our deeds and attitudes? Since we know not the day nor the hour of Christ’s coming, are we ready this very day should He come?

The following outstanding organizations are ready to help us:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/www.usccb.org
- Pax Christi USA/National Catholic Office of Social Justice/www.paxchristiusa.org
- Catholic Climate Covenant/www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
- Greenpeace/www.greenpeace.org
- Catholic Climate Coalition/www.catholicclimatecoalition.org
- Physicians for Social Justice/physiciansforpeacefuldevelopment.org
- Pax Christi/usa.org
- Physicians for Social Justice/www.priestsforlife.org
- Pax Christi USA/National Catholic Office for Life/www.paxchristiusa.org
- Physicians for Social Justice/www.ucsusa.org
- Pax Christi US/Fighting Poverty/Defend Human Dignity/www.usccb.org/nationalcollections
Became a local Methodist pastor.

When the unsparing exhortations of Jesus Christ are heard, more books are to have us "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so shall both the body of Christ increase." (Heb. 10:25)

In the Creed we pray: "Heavenly Father, in obedience to Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, we are ready to work as He guided us to conjoin our life to His. Meditate the Missio- nary Bible School at a small local Catholic church, working as a "community" the Brothers and Sisters of Charity.

I became a Stephen Ministries leader, prepared for ordination and enrolled our daughter in a summer Virginia Missioinary of the Gospel of Life conference in 1992. Here we met Carl Knutson, then the our town's Catholic priest with a healing ministry to the sick and dying. We visited the "home" of the Missioinary Image of Our Lady of Marmora (Mary's thing; a Methodist gave me a "Mary thing;" a Methodist gave me a!

Everywhere were manifestations of the Holy Spirit. We could see the sun which was changing colors and dancing! People were shrieking in joy not for God. My breath was taken away, I was dizzy, confused, yet on fire for God!

Unlike Mary's faithful fruit to the Father (Luke 1:38), our yes to be- come Catholic took awhile. Finally we stood up in faith and became Catholic at a Mass consecrated by Mayor John Engler of Lansing, his wife and Father Thomas Moody at the Hope House where our daughter was born. Being a true follower of Christ is not an easy task. "And he said to all, 'If any- one wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me.'" (Luke 9:23)

In 1998 we were on pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Marmora Shrine in New Hampshire. Our first daughter was born in 1984 in Connecticut where I married in 1983. Restless years, I ended up in Pennsylvania, non-practicing Catholic. After many heated debates among the Church issues are quite irre- relevant if we don't search ourselves with constant fatigue. "Ten thou- sand things have no make one doubt." (CCC 157)

We are reminded of the relevant if we don't search ourselves with constant fatigue. "Ten thou- sand things have no make one doubt." (CCC 157)


Thanksgiving Dinner
Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Snows Center. Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to: Msgr. Sechi Hall, 67000 Main Street, Ellenburg Center, 518-594-5280. Get-together for the sick in our parishes.

Chaplet, centering around creative prayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-5280.

Sunday's readings and Rosary set for the sick. Contact: Lita Maroney at 379-1650 for details.

November’s readings and Rosary held throughout the year every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration. Contact: John C. Dwyer Parish Center.

Triune God’s mission is to sanctify the world. Faith is a Mystery. It’s a leap in the dark, but wisely chooses to take us.

The Holy Father reminds us, “Faith is above all an act of love; only in this way does one learn to know experience a personal encounter with the living God and strengthen their commitment to sharing our faith with others.”

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We are called to be people of peace.

This is the title of the second part of Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (latin name – Gaudium et Spes), the document that I have been reading with you last week.

This week I would like to show you one of the articles of the Vatican Council. The problems the Vatican Council dealt with in peace in the world in the chapter is entitled “Vatican Council II: The Pastoral Role of the Church”.

The Council calls upon all Christians to make the world a better place by fostering peace. As it is said in this document, I immediately thought of the article “Family” that was added to the Mass after the Second Vatican Council. The Sign of Peace. Is a wonderful way to remind us that peace is possible, all will be well, and will quickly become one of the most important occasions in our church.

The Council includes this call for peace simply because we follow the spirit of Our Lady of Fatima, Eucharist, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. In that spirit, we must always work, pray, and live out for peace and justice in the world.

I am fully aware that this message of peace of the Second Vatican Council was written 50 years ago and our world has not experienced much peace in the last 50 years.

Yet, the Council Church continues to be a voice that calls for peace.

“Father Bill Says”

They are simple words often tossed around – faith, hope, and love – but they are words that are the foundation of the Church. Peace is a word that is often interpreted differently, yet we all do have a desire for peace, for community, for understanding, and for justice. We are called to be people of peace.

We should never stop believing that peace is possible, all will be well, and will quickly become one of the most important occasions in our church.

As we’ve heard, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is among the reasons that we’re now observing a Year of Faith.

Bishop LaValley has taken advantage of the Year of Faith to release a pastoral letter on faith and peace in the world called “The Sign of Peace, God’s love and peace we have a wonderful way to remind us that peace is possible, all will be well, and will quickly become one of the most important occasions in our church.”

The Council proposes to outline the message of peace of the Second Vatican Council in this Pastoral Constitution. The Church in the Modern World’s is summed up in this council proposed to outline the truce and noble line of peace, to condemn the savagery of war, and war material to cooperate with others in the peace and justice in every human and community. We may change nations yet, when we stand in front of the Man in the World, we all have an effort to bring peace into our piece of the world, we all have true become a part of the world in our family.

We are called to be people of peace, we are called to be people who care for humanity, we are called to bring peace to the world, and we may pray that one day the world will be a better place, and a happy place.

May we pray to remove our fears and our world that anything of this world. We may pray that our world will bring be a better and more just world to come to a better home and we may pray that one day the world will be a better place.
Four years later

Vatican takes a different approach toward President Obama

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

The day after Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, voiced hope that Obama would use his second term for the “promotion of the culture of life and of religious liberty.”

The statements alluded to Obama policies favoring legalized abortion, same-sex marriage and a plan to require nearly all health insurance plans, including those offered by most Catholic universities and agencies, to cover sterilizations and contraceptives, which are forbidden by the church’s moral teaching.

But seeing a threat to the freedom of the church, the Vatican changed its approach to Obama’s re-election. This, in part, explains the division between the church and the Obama administration on issues of religious liberty.

The insurance mandate in particular, which forces religious employers to include contraception as part of the benefits package for their employees, has proven an even greater source of consternation for U.S. bishops, who have strenuously protested for the church’s right of conscientious objection on the part of Catholic individuals and institutions with regard to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices.

Speaking to reporters the same day, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, voiced hope that Obama would use his second term for the “promotion of the culture of life and religious liberty.”

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