the constant face of death, of Christ, that even in their faith in the resurrection they still find time for their parish business. 

Priests deal with death on a daily basis. It is because of their faith in the resurrection of Christ, that even in the constant face of death, they are able to remain joyful and faithful.

One thing to remember is that priests are human as well. Priests get lonely, frustrated, and tired. While many lay people are planning long trips to visit family as the Christmas season approaches, priests are busy as ever, planning and preparing to help make the coming season a spiritual experience for all. They know their gifts are needed. Priests act “in persona Christi” (in the person of Jesus) and it is through them as servants to the Church that we are blessed. Priests: let us show love, care, and compassion.

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Rest in peace, Father, teacher and friend

I truly love being a priest. I must admit that I wasn’t an easy decision to enter the seminary as a young man. I have nothing but an unreserved appreciation for the priesthood, the right thing for me to do. It was not easy to give up a career of being a love being a priest. God has blessed me with a wonderful family, wonderful segments, wonderful experiences. I am most grateful for each hand in hand with the Lord. I have had the unique opportunity in my life to realize that I have been blessed to be full-time in the Church. The grace of God has been known to priest and pastor so many wonderful people. I have also been a part of a wonderful family of priests that I also pray for in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

During these past few years, as I have worked on this col- umn, I have immersed myself in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Not only all of Father Christman’s work but others had prepared and promulgated the documents in the North Country Catholic. Leading a Catholic newspa-

per through the upheaval of the post-Vatican II church was a task with great heartache. The ravages of post-Vatican II had nearly demolished the effectiveness of a group of church people – every one was either angry or disheartened. Father Christman wrote in his last editorial Feb. 17, 1982, it was a mark of providence of ap- portioning an editor who did not now know how to talk to these families, so many wonderful priests in mine. Father Christman was an “enlightened, left wing and progressive” by some and “reactionary” by others, but he assured me he would treat the fine line which kept most of the people happy – or at least

In this week’s NCC – we’re cel-

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amining the special priests in our lives. It’s my privilege to remember one of the special priests in mine. I have forgotten the weeks in July  by the Diocese

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Faith as gift – called to belong

In the second part of this pastoral letter for the year of faith, parish bishop, Bishop LaValley writes, "This prayer for an increase in faith is an invitation to revere our Saint and to cast aside our Pilgrim of Faith. It highlights the need to 'taste again' for ourselves, 'with our faith lived out,' the love that we are called to belong to Jesus Christ. It is when we remember that we are a 'people of the Holy Spirit.'" (Fisichella, Origins, Vol. 42, Dec. 12, 2006)

Faith as gift – called to belong

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In the greeting of his letter to the Beloved of God in Rome, St. Paul wrote that, indeed, all people are "called to belong to Jesus Christ." (Rom. 10:17) Faith comes through the Word of God, as St. Paul reminds us, too, in his letter to the Romans: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and so come to life, but it is also a gift. Through baptism we become a member of the Church, the door of faith for each one of us. Hence the beginning of faith is always present. Eucharistic communion produce faith on our own.

We must, however, respond to the Lord’s call to evangelize. Such a call does not mean that one can do this on their own. In fact, it is not possible for baptized Catholics to do this on their own. Such a call to evangelize requires the work of the Holy Spirit and the support of the Christian community. To be such an evangelizer requires a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, and a personal relationship with the Church. It is this personal relationship that is the key to our faith. All of these gifts are given by God to us.

The band will be the Fulton County Philharmonic, and the featured performance will be "The Holy Spirit." (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Vol. 42, Dec. 12, 2006)

As St. Paul tells us: "We all belong to Christ, one family, one body, in Christ, and in the communion of saints, we are numbered among a vast multitude of saints, all called to belong to Jesus Christ. Faith is the foundation of baptism, God holds open the door of faith for each one of us. Hence the beginning of faith is always present. Eucharistic communion produce faith on our own.

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*Faith: the greatest unsolved mystery*

Father Bryan Stitt, pictured with his niece Grace Cruess. Wrote that an episode of the show that ran in the late 1970s was not a murder case involving Juan Diego near Mexico City related the story of a beautiful woman named Mary dressed in a cloak of roses. He wondered how someone so smart and inspiring could be a man.

"If Jesus is true, then Father Muench's menu of practical and spiritual help for the battle of good vs. evil. "The search for Silva is a tense, scenic one, sending Bond to Istanbul and the essential character of being human, and the essential moral obligations we have towards each other.""~ Rev. Tadzio Pacholczyk, author of "The Political Catholic" and "The Case for Catholic Bioethics Center in Washington, D.C."}

+**Benedictus**+ Created for Pope Benedict XVI on the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination.

Lindon Bergmann, bassoonist and flautist, performed a concerto at the Sixtieth Anniversary of Pope Benedict's Ordination. She is now the first American woman to hold the title of "Benedictus."

+**Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes**+ Created for Pope Benedict XVI on the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination.

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Christ the King: good triumphs over evil

Today marks the last Sun-
day of the Church year, cel-
brating the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds of heaven at the end of time. As the Church has been doing for centuries, Christians have found im-
mense consolation from these teach-
ings that give us hope that, despite the violence, wars, and crimes against humanity of our times, God’s justice will prevail at the end. Just when we seem to be heading for cosmic, social, economic, and political dis-
order, we are reminded that good will prevail at the end of the day of the Church year, cele-
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In John’s time, Christians
were already suffering per-
secution under the Emperor Domitian. As the Jesus
was with the Father at the creation of the world, so will
he be the one to judge all
nations at the end of time.
He says of Himself in
John’s vision, “I am the
Alpha and the Omega (the
first and last letters of the
Greek alphabet). He is our
past, our present, and our
future King.

Every living follower of
Christ has reason to find
meaning and purpose in the
kingdom. In him who loves us and has freed us from our sins
by his blood, who has made
us into a kingdom, priests
for his God and Father, and
to him be the glory and power
forever and ever. Amen.”

In the Gospel, Jesus
boldly affirms to Pilate that
He is that Son of Man who will come on the clouds of
heaven as a king.

In effect, Jesus is saying,
“Don’t worry, Pilate. I’m not
here to take your job, or to
make triumphs of good over
evil, and of the effectiveness
of our witness through brave
and sufferings, I dare to
struggle to serve His King.

Thinking clearly about consciousness, abortion

Imagine a deadly scenario
like this. A successful busi-
nessman is rendered uncon-
scious by medical agents to
cause a medically-induced
coma. During his trial,
tal and kills the comatose
him dead, enters the hospi-
tality competitor, wanting
maceutical agents to cause a
scious, at least until very late in
pregnancy. This evidence
has heavily influenced my
views here, and conse-
quence.

As a neuroscientist and
an ethicist myself, it’s clear
how Dr. Betz’s conclusion
does not follow from his
premises. He fears for the
crown consciousness as
king, turning into the
highest good, elevating it
above life itself.

Consequently, he
misses the deeper
truth that human
consciousness and
particularly self-con-
sciousness is a fea-
ture of certain kinds
of beings, namely
human beings, who
are conscious or aware.

Our humanity pro-
cedes our conscious-
ess on a necessary basis for it,
with its value and inviolability flowing not
from what we might be ca-
pable of doing (manifesting consciousness or aware-
ness) but from who we in-
trinsically are (human
beings and members of the
human family).

Regardless of whether we
might or might not be able
to manifest consciousness
at a particular moment
when we are asleep, under
anesthesia, in a coma, or

growing at early timepoints
inviolability flowing not
from what we might be ca-
pable of doing (manifesting consciousness or aware-
ness) but from who we in-
trinsically are (human
beings and members of the
human family).

Some might reply that a
fetus can respond to
sights, sounds and smells,
and thereby react to these
by producing facial
expressions. The evidence
is usually clear, however,
that these responses are
merely dormant, or
merely dormant. If they
come to life, it will
experience pain,
least until very late in
pregnancy. This evidence
has heavily influenced my
views here, and conse-
quence.

For a very early human em-
by a series of
duced by the pla-
iconscious, at least on the
grounds that they might
be able to feel pain, should
not be seen as problematic
should it be restricted as a
person.

Any person would appreciate the absolute lack of gos-
mament, much as they
ought to recognize the
reasonableness of a similar
campaign against
roscientist Dr. Daniel Bor in
a recent piece in The Dallas
Morning News:

The claim is clear that a
fetus can respond to
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and it can even react to
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Former editor of the North Country Catholic dies Nov. 11 in Florida

Funeral held for Msgr. Bernard Christman, 81

 Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 53 years, died Nov. 11 at his home in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. A Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Bernard E. Christman and choir director at St. Patrick’s, Rouses Point; and assistant pastor at St. Meinrad’s, Norwood, and pastor of玷 Phillip and James, Lisbon and St. John the Evangelist, Morrisstown. In 1971, while continuing as pastor in Morrisstown, he was appointed editor of the North Country Catholic, a position he held until 1982. During Msgr. Christman’s tenure the diocesan newspaper received several awards from the Catholic Press Association, including a first place for general excellence for two years. In 1985, he was also named pastor of St. Bernard’s in Lyon Mountain and chaplain of the Lyon Mountain Correctional Institution. In 1992, Father Christman was named Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor. He served the diocese as a member of the Diocesan Council of Priests and the North Country Catholic editorial board. In 1983, he was named pastor of St. Peter’s in Lowville with additional responsibilities as pastor in Glenfield and Greig added in 1985. In 1991, the parish in Hooserville was added. In 1996, Msgr. Christman was named pastor of St. Bernard’s in Lyon Mountain and chaplain of the Lyon Mountain Correctional Institution. After his retirement in 2005, he moved to Indian River Beach, Fla. in the Diocese of Orlando. Msgr. Christman helped out in Holy Name of Jesus Church in Indianapolis, Ind. prior to his death.

Fr. Timothy Canaan, Thank you for your unfailing love, commitment, and service to your parish family. What a wonderful shepherd you are for all of us. We are all blessed and thankful for our Parish Vicar, Fr. Bill Edwards and our retired priest, Fr. Normand Cote. May the peace of Christ shine upon you.

The parishioners of RCC of St. John the Baptist

Pope tells young to welcome Christ’s embrace

CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

By Cindy Wooden

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrates Mass at the start of the bishop’s annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12. The bishops approved the launching of a special collection in the U.S. parishes to benefit the work of the Vatican’s archdiocese.

Cardinal Dolan is joined by Auxiliary Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services at the start of the bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12.

The theme of World Youth Day 2013 is: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

“We are links in a great chain of men and women of faith with others, the fruit of God’s love,” he said. “God loves everyone, even those who have fallen away from him or disregard him.”

As the Catholics most impacted by globalization and new technology, Pope Benedict said, young people need special awareness and have special responsibilities in those areas.

By Greg Burke

Catholic News Service

WHY THEY CHOSE THE LORD. When young Catholics from around the world gather in Rio de Janeiro in July, they will be under the gaze of the city’s famous statue of Christ with outstretched arms, a reminder of his desire to embrace all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his message for World Youth Day 2013, the pope asked young people to welcome Christ’s embrace and share with others the joy of being loved by him.

In preparation for the international youth gathering July 23-28, Pope Benedict asked young Catholics to “renovate your personal history,” looking at how the faith was passed down to them from previous generations.

The pope also asked them not to wait to begin the task of sharing their Christian faith with others.

“We are links in a great chain of men and women of faith with others, the fruit of God’s love,” he said. “God loves everyone, even those who have fallen away from him or disregard him.”

As the Catholics most impacted by globalization and new technology, Pope Benedict said, young people need special awareness and have special responsibilities in those areas.

How can you thank us? What model would you see in us? What would you tell us? You who have walked with us in our grief, counted as in our trouble, held us in our joy.

In adorning our sin, raising us in prayer, breaking with us Eucharist, giving for us, pastor, priest, friend and guide.

Fr. Timothy Canaan, Thank you for your unfailing love, commitment, and service to your parish family.

What a wonderful shepherd you are for all of us. We are all blessed and thankful for our Parish Vicar, Fr. Bill Edwards and our retired priest, Fr. Normand Cote. May the peace of Christ shine upon you.

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Bishops passed documents on penance and better preaching, voted down one on economy

**Highlights of the US Bishops’ Documents**

Bishops passed documents on penance and better preaching, voted down one on economy.

**Bishops’ Docuements**

**Preaching**

The bishops approved a new document, “Preaching the Gospel in Difficult Times: A Pastoral Message on Work, Poverty and the Economy.”

**Penance**

The bishops approved a new document, “The Hope of the Church: Pastoral Letter on Penance,” which aims to ease the fears of some Catholics about the sacrament of reconciliation or “penance.”

**Better Preaching**

The bishops approved a document, “Homily,” which recommends improvements to the liturgical prayers used at various Mass celebrations and renewal of the homily as an “important moment to bring the Good News to the people.”

**Other Documents**

- **Citizenship:** The bishops approved a document, “Catechesis in a Time of World Citizens,” encouraging the faithful to become “World Citizens” by engaging in various activities that promote the common good.
- **Evangelization:** The bishops approved a document, “Evangelization and Catechesis in the United States,” which provides a “road map” for the USCCB’s work for the next four years.

**Vote Required for Passage**

Despite the new documents, one document, “Economy and What Their Responsibility is,” failed to get the two-thirds vote required for passage.

**Poverty and the Economy**

The bishops voted down a document, “The Hope of the Church: Pastoral Letter on Penance,” which aimed to ease the fears of some Catholics about the sacrament of reconciliation or “penance.”

**Election Day**

The bishops approved a document, “Homily,” which recommends improvements to the liturgical prayers used at various Mass celebrations and renewal of the homily as an “important moment to bring the Good News to the people.”

**After Election Day**

The bishops assembly, which met mostly remotely from Nov. 12 to 15, considered the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election and its impact on Catholic life.

**Nationals**

The bishops also approved a document, “National Collections,” which sets the collection for the U.S. and Canadian dioceses for the year 2021.

**Collection for Catholics Abroad**

The bishops also approved a document, “Collection for Catholics Abroad,” which sets the collection for Catholic missions outside the U.S. and Canada for the year 2021.

**Communications**

The bishops approved a document, “Economic and What Their Responsibility Is,” which aims to enhance the effectiveness of the USCCB’s public relations and communications efforts.

**Technology**

The bishops approved a document, “New Technologies and What Their Responsibility Is,” which calls for an opportunity to “take advantage of new communications technologies.”


Thanks from the Vatican

At the Holy Father’s direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of Thanks to you, in the last year our 49 Diocese of Ogdensburg are grateful for our Lord’s many blessings. The ministry. He deeply appreciates your which assists him in the exercise of his writing to acknowledge the sum of

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We Appreciate Our Priests

Fr. Kennedy, In appreciation for your service at Sacred Heart, Watertown.
~Susanne Williams

Fr. Charles Roche, A most compassionate Priest.
~St. John’s Parishioner

Our Healer, Our Breath of Christ, Fr. George F. Maroun!
~Leo M. Archer

Fr. Don Kramberg, You are our ‘Priceless Gift’! Mercy!
~Ronse’s

Fr. Ray, Thanks, Peace. Jesus love shines through you.
~Underwood’s

We appreciate all that you have done for us.
~Jane & Skip

Thank you for teaching me the business isn’t only about money, but it’s about kindness and making a difference in business and life.
~Vincent Thouin

Fr. John Looby, Thank you for your generous response to the Lord and for your continued support and encouragement.
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Thanks for all you do.
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~From the parishioners of Massena and Louisville

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Fr. Ted, Thank you!
~From Court Little Rose #1300

Fr. Chris, You are the greatest!
~St. Peter’s Altar Society

Fr. Chris Carmine, He was called by God!
~Thank you Lord.

Fr. Beyette, a devoted priest. We appreciate all that you do.
~Deacon Gary and Arletha Brunell

Fr. Scott Seymour, We appreciate all that do for us.
~Reome Family

The fair choice is the right choice. The daily decisions you make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When you choose to buy fair trade products you are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. Our CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system. Team up with us. Buy fair trade products and you return human dignity to people just like you.

Give Gifts That Give Hope

Fair Trade Coffee
Serve coffee that serves others.

Find a CRS partner near you and buy some of their fantastic Fair Trade coffee to drink at home. Persuade the powers that be to serve it in your parish, office and school. Lobby to get it into the dining halls on your campus. Sell it as a fundraiser.

Fair Trade Crafts
Give gifts that give hope.

Fair Trade Chocolate
Make the world sweeter.

The CRS Fair Trade Fund
Expanding Fair Trade.

Every time you buy an item through the CRS Fair Trade Program, a percentage of your purchase goes to the CRS Fair Trade fund to support the CRS model through Development Grants to producer groups overseas and Market-Building Grants to Fair Trade advocates in the United States. And now you can contribute directly to the Fair Trade Fund through our secure online donation platform. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contributions are used to support worthy projects.

Coffee, chocolate and handmade items from around the world can be purchased through the Catholic Relief Services website: www.crsfairtrade.org
Catholic Charities supports fair trade. For more information contact Catholic Charities at 315-393-2255
Bravo to the voters in Massachusetts who went to the polls on Election Day and rejected a proposal to legalize so-called “death with dignity.” They didn’t buy it. They saw through the gushy gobbledygook of “aid-in-dying” for the terminally ill, and unmasked the ballot initiative for what it truly was: the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide.

Here’s why voters did the right thing.

Common sense says we should prevent suicide, not enable it. Our society has always recognized suicide and attempted suicide as a tragedy. We say to the man on the ledge “Don’t jump!” and send first responders to help him. Bridges post signs that say “Life is Worth Living” and attach telephones with a 24-hour suicide prevention hotline number. Those who attempt suicide are generally depressed and in need of psychiatric evaluation. They cry out for our love and assistance, not a lethal dose of drugs.

We must maintain the physician’s role as healer. The Hippocratic Oath says “First, do no harm” and “I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked.” Massachusetts medical groups including the medical society, nurses association, hospice and palliative care federation, family physicians, pharmacists—all lined up against the assisted suicide referendum. They know it would undermine the doctor-patient relationship, and they are committed to providing high quality end-of-life care. Their job is to kill the pain, not the patient.

Most pain can be controlled. Advances in pain management have come a long way. Today, pain is recognized as a vital sign, just like blood pressure, and it is monitored, assessed and treated on a regular basis. Once that is done, according to Dr. Kathleen Foley, a pain specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, requests for death disapper. Suffering can be alleviated without resorting to intentional death. Patients would feel financial pressure to end their lives. There is no question that dependent and vulnerable patients would be pressured—by insurance companies, government payers, HMOs, family members—to choose the least expensive course of treatment.

In Oregon and Washington, the only two states where voters have approved assisted suicide, health insurance covers the cost of a deadly prescription, but often will not cover the more expensive treatments desired by those with a terminal diagnosis.

In 1994 NY Governor Mario Cuomo’s Task Force on Life and the Law soundly rejected doctor-assisted suicide and said this: “The growing concern about health care costs increases the risks presented by legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia. This cost consciousness will not be diminished, and may well be exacerbated, by health care reform.” Amen to that.

It would be a slippery slope. The experience in the Netherlands is instructive. Euthanasia was first approved there in 1984 for the competent and terminally ill. But the practice has now been widened to include the non-terminal, the incompetent, those facing chronic depression, even infants born with disabilities. By some accounts, the rate of euthanasia in the Netherlands has increased by 73% over the past eight years.

Here in New York we have long had a law on the books that rightly criminalizes assisted suicide. In 1997 that law was unanimously upheld as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Bills have been introduced in our state legislature to overturn this ban, but they have never gained traction and generally die in committee.

Let’s pray that the defeat of the Massachusetts referendum signals a “final exit” for assisted suicide proposals here on the east coast.
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WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

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Fr. Moreau. We appreciate your services, especially toward the children.
A Grateful Parishioner
Fr. Ted, Thank you!
From Court Little Rose #1300
Fr. Chris, You are the greatest!
St. Peter’s Altar Rosary
Fr. Chris Carmos, He was called by God! Thank you Lord.
Fr. BYUelet, a devoted priest. We appreciate all that you do.
Deacon Gary and Arletta Brunell
Fr. Scott Seymour, We appreciate all that do for us.
Reome Family

From the parishioners of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes in Saranac Lake, Bloomingdale, Gabriels and Lake Clear

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS
2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

Celebrating your faithfulness throughout the year

Fr. Kennedy, in appreciation for your service at Sacred Heart, Watertown.
~ Susanne Williams
Fr. Bill Edwards, a most compassionate Priest.
~ A St. John’s Parishioner
Our Healer, Our Breath of Christ, Fr. George F. Maroun.
~ Leo M. Archer
Fr. Don Kramberg, you are our “Priceless Gift”! Merci!
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The fair choice is the right choice. The daily decisions you make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When you choose to buy fair trade products you are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. Our CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system. Team up with us. Buy fair trade products and you return human dignity to people just like you.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE
Serve coffee that serves others.

Find a CRS partner near you and buy some of their fantastic Fair Trade coffee to drink at home. Persuade the powers that be to serve it in your parish, office and school. Lobby to get it into the dining halls on your campus. Sell it as a fundraiser.

The World Fair Trade CenterTM

FAIR TRADE CRAFTS
Give gifts that give hope.

Work of Human Hands features thousands of beautifully handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world. When you hold a consignment sale in your parish, school or office, you allow members of your community to buy beautiful items for their homes and to give gifts that give hope. No time to organize an event? Then purchase Fair Trade items directly from the catalog.

The CRS FAIR TRADE FUND
Expanding Fair Trade.

Thanks to Fair Trade, chocolate is not just a yummy treat, but a delicious way to promote economic justice. Divine Chocolate helps cocoa farmers in Ghana earn extra income to invest in community services, such as water wells, schools and health clinics. Divine Chocolate also empowers farmers like the ones pictured here to take greater control of their lives, since they own nearly half the company! Buy Divine Chocolate for yourself or sell it in your school as a way to “Pass Money Right.”

Every time you buy an item through the CRS Fair Trade Program, a percentage of your purchase goes to the CRS Fair Trade Fund to help expand the Fair Trade model through Development Grants to producer groups overseas and Market-Building Grants to Fair Trade advocates in the United States. And now you can contribute directly to the Fair Trade Fund through our secure online donation platform. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contributions are used to support worthy projects.

Coffee, chocolate and handcrafted items from around the world can be purchased through the Catholic Relief Services website: www.crsfairtrade.org
Catholic Charities supports Fair Trade. For more information contact Catholic Charities at 315-393-2555

Give Gifts That Give Hope

From the parishioners of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes in Saranac Lake, Bloomingdale, Gabriels and Lake Clear
Thanks from the Vatican.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

DAVID L CLARK
PLATTSBURGH

Blessing.
Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

1. abortion
2. euthanasia
3. embryonic stem cell research
4. human cloning
5. homosexual ‘marriage’

Bishops endorse cause of Catholic Worker’s Dorothy Day

Bishops of New York (Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan), Denver (Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila), Seattle (Cardinal J. Peter Dearden), Milwaukee (Cardinal George G. Lucas), Dallas (Archbishop John E. Wester), Denver (Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila) and Portland, Ore., (Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr) are among the co-signers of a letter sent to the papal congregation for the Causes of Saints supporting the cause of Dorothy Day.

A look at the American bishops’ annual fall general assembly

By Amy Sullivan

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, delivered his annual address to the assembly.

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering several events to protect God’s Children’s safety.

Petition

Bishops’ Schedule

Nov. 21 – 11:04 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting, Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

Nov. 21 – 11:30 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg

Nov. 26 – 1:00 p.m., Essencyr Birthright Project (Knights of Columbus) Church in Partney

Nov. 27 – 1 a.m., prayer service, visit and lunch at Immaculate Heart College in Madoc, Ont.

Nov. 27 – 9 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting, Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

Nov. 28 – 9 a.m., prayer service, visit and lunch at Immaculate Heart College in Madoc, Ont.

Nov. 29 – 9 a.m., prayer service, visit and lunch at St. Mary’s Church in Plattsburgh

Dec. 4 – 6 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

Office of Vocations 315-393-2920

baugnott@ogdenbishops.org

For our listeners write

Thanks from the Knights

You may wish to know that the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are grateful for the public’s continued support.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CLARK CHAPLAIN

DUNSFORD CHAPLAIN

NORTHERN CONFERENCE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLATTSBURGH CHAPLAIN

Thanks from the Vatican

Thanks to you, in the last year our 49 parishes, governed by 51 resident priests and 15 deacons, are and do some “digging.” Why bother, you want to know what their positions mean that you could be morally “complicit” with these positions means that you are a believer in God or the common good or the dignity of the human person.

A light for those in darkness.

About new evangelization

Support your local economy by spending 30% of your holiday food and gift money within a mile radius of where you live!

Here are some shopping ideas:

• Buy things from your local craft persons.
• Buy gift certificates to locally owned restaurants.
• Support locally owned businesses.
• Support businesses that sell local products.
• Don’t forget your local farmer for cheese, maple syrup, apples, cider and other local food items for holiday meals & gifts.

Just think...

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent $100 at local businesses or on local products...that would add $2,500,000 to the North Country economy.

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent $100 at local businesses or on local products...that would add $5,000,000 to the North Country economy.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities
During their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 12-15, the U.S. bishops voted down a document on the U.S. economy, passed docu-
ments on penance and better preaching, approved a reor-
ganization of their Committee on Catechetical Educa-
tion and endorsed the sainthood cause of Washington D.C. Archbishop Wil-
burus John Cardinal Dolan's predecessor in that city.

On the assembly's opening day, the bishops discussed the state of the nation's troubled economy and what their response to it should be, but a day later they proposed out the document "The Hope of the Gospel in Difficult Times: A Pastoral Message on Work, Workers and Worker Movements," according to Archbishop Robert J. Car-
lson, archbishop of Baltimore.

When it was introduced Nov. 12, some bishops criti-
cized the document for being too long to be practiced, and for failing to include a variety of points and histori-
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On preaching

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cal references.
Former editor of the North Country Catholic dies Nov. 11 in Florida

Funeral held for Msgr. Bernard Christman, 81

Mr. Christman was born Nov. 5, 1931, in Palm Bay, Fla., and was educated at grade school in Palm Bay, Fla., and at St. Joseph's Seminary in Louisiana, St. Charles in Indiana and Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He earned advanced degrees in music from Ohio St. and Catholic University. Msgr. Christman was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg May 16, 1959 at St. Mary’s Cathedral by Bishop James J. Navagh.

After his first assignment as assistant pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Watertown, Father Christman served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick’s, Rooseve Point; and St. Patrick’s, Brasher Falls; as administrator of St. Andrew’s, Norwood; and pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Watertown. In 1971, while continuing as pastor in Morristown, he was appointed editor of the North Country Catholic, a position he held until 1982. During Msgr. Christman’s tenure the newspaper received several awards from the Catholic Press Association, including one for first place for general excellence for two years.

As years as a editor, he also served as organist and choir director at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. In 1992, Father Christman was named Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor. He served the diocese as a member of the Diocesan Council of Priests and the North Country Catholic editorial board. In 1983, he was named pastor of St. Peter’s in Lowville with additional responsibilities as pastor in Glenfield and Craig added in 1985. In 1991, the parish in Hooservil was added. In 1996, Msgr. Christman was named pastor of St. Bernards in Lyons Mountain and chaplain of the Lyon Mountain Correctional Institution.

After his retirement in 2005, he moved to Indian River Beach, Fl. in the Diocese of Orlando. Msgr. Christman helped out in Holy Name of Jesus Church in Indiana, Fl. prior to his death.

Pope tells young to welcome Christ’s embrace

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — When young Catholics gather around the world in Rio de Janeiro in July, they will be under the gaze of the city’s famous statue of Christ with outstretched arms, a reminder of his desire to embrace all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his message for World Youth Day 2013, the pope asked young people to welcome Christ’s embrace and share with others the joy of being loved by him.

In preparation for the international youth gathering July 23-28, Pope Benedict asked young Catholics to “reenact your personal history,” looking at how the faith was passed down to them from previous generations.

The pope also asked them to want to begin the task of sharing their Christian faith with others.

“We are links in a great chain of men and women who have transmitted the truth of the faith and who depend on us to pass it on to others,” he said in the message released Nov. 16 by the Vatican.

The theme of World Youth Day 2013 is: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

“This mandate should resound powerfully in your hearts, the pope told young people.

In fact, he said, the heart has a major role to play in bringing them closer to Christ, motivating them to share his Gospel and determinant the words and actions they should use in approaching others.

“Many young people today seriously question whether life is something good and have a hard time finding their way,” the pope said.

Faith helps people see that “every human life is priceless, because each of us is the fruit of God’s love,” he said. “God loves everyone, even those who have fallen away from him or disregarded him.”

As the Catholics most impressed by globalization and new technology, Pope Benedict said, young people need a special awareness and have special responsibilities in those areas.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrated Mass at the start of the bishop’s annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 15. The bishops approved the taking up of a special collection in U.S. parishes to benefit the work of the Vatican archdiocese.

Auxiliary Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services attends the U.S. bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 13. The bishops approved the taking up of a special collection in U.S. parishes to benefit the work of the Vatican archdiocese.
Thinking clearly about consciousness, abortion

Imagine aIdeally, scenarios like this. A successful busi-nessman is rendered unconscious by medical professionals to help him heal after a serious car acci-dent, using powerful phar-maceuticals to help him conscious by medical means. The evidence generated by the most primitive parts of the brain, which are unconnected to conscious processing and pain perception, has been wrongly disconnected from consciousness. So killing those who are uncon-scious, at least on the grounds that they might feel pain, should not be seen as problematic or necessary if it is restricted to a particular subset of patients who are unconscious, one could argue. Anyone who would appreciate the absurdity of such an approach should be criticized, much as they ought to recognize the absurdness of a similar conclusion reached by neuroscientist Dr. Peter Bors in a recent piece in The Dallas Morning News:

"The evidence is clear that a fetus can respond to sights, sounds and smells and it can even react to these by producing facial expressions. The evidence is equally clear, however, that these responses are not the deliberate actions of a conscious being. It’s clear that a fetus, at least until very late in pregnancy, has the capacity for consciousness, but there is no scientific reason to believe that it could ever be conscious in the womb. Consequently, it cannot be concluded that a fetus is conscious yet, there is ‘nobody home,’ and from there the argument continues, ‘there is therefore nothing important to do concerning the development occurs, until the brain has not developed sufficiently. Until then, the argument concludes, ‘there is nobody home’ and therefore nothing important can be done to save the human embryo. This would be false to conclude that ‘nobody is home.’ As that embryonic human continues to grow at early tim-estimates, our humanitarianism is still present and unswavish in the face of unconditional respect. Those who lack the deepest scions of compassion or awareness are still human, and should be cherished and protected as much as anyone else with limitations or disabilities. Some might reply that a human embryonic being is simply a human embryo, and that the argument is thus flawed. While this is a valid point, it is not the only point. The issue of consciousness or awareness is not an isolated one, but is part of a larger discussion about the meaning and purpose of life. For a very early human being, who has only a short period of time to develop certain kinds of memories, awareness, etc. For a very early human being, who has only a short period of time to develop certain kinds of memories, awareness, etc.
Faith: the greatest unsolved mystery

By Joseph Maher, L.C.

Don’t be misled by the Chicken Little title, “Skyfall” of Columbia is high-flying entertainment, a no-nonsense return for James Bond and a much-needed injection of vitality into the 50-year-old film franchise built around the super-spy. Director Sam Mendes “Championship” over Bond 23 with a smart mix of reverence, nos- talgia and humor that will be delighted by the spectacle of super-human, characteristically exotic Jaws.

It’s all fluff, as the script was by Neal Purvis and Robert Wade and John Logan, is thoughtful and character-driven, raising is- sues of loss, responsibility, and patriotism and loyalty amid the chase of good versus evil. “Skyfall” opens in familial territory: Bond (Daniel Craig) is in Istanbul, chasing a bad guy who has stolen a computer disk containing the identities of every secret agent in the world. At his disposal is the beautiful Naomie Harris, who proves herself as handily with a straight razor as she is with a rifle. The assorted trouble agent with unique know-how, Daniel Craig, fuels his desire for revenge. M (Judi Dench) is on the side is the resilient, British intelligence agent known as 007 (Daniel Craig) takes on the theft proves the perfect ex- ample of official Gareth Malory M’s quest to challenge M’s competence, force her retirement and to do new and different things at the agency. “No is your turn now,” Malory tells Bond, tip- ping the balance of the 21st-century progresses — to rely more on technology than spies on the ground. Trouble is, neither Bond nor M is quite ready to let it. Added by the new “Q” (Ben Whishaw), a computer genius, they reevaluate their efforts to solve the robbery and to blame the late patriarch’s embracing a renaissance of ter- ror for across London. Called Silva (Javier Bardem), the only big movie megamaniac (naturally) it was hosted by a man with a chilling voice named Robert Stack.

Two many nights in my childhood, I was too scared to even close my eyes. For real world events, a episode of “Unsolved Mysteries” aired on a special day in my childhood, I knew that my life did not make sense. There was something to Mary.” If Mary is true, then there must be something to Jesus.” If Jesus is true, then Mary’s existence, the Tu- chari, the Church... It only makes sense that there are “some things” in this world. I could tell you that from that moment I never looked back. But that wouldn’t be accurate. There was more question, there was more searching; and there was still are times of darkness.

I didn’t believe that special way I truly be- lieve of this congregation. I went to Mass for 80’s and through the 90’s that normally ran fear inducing television shows that stretched as he grew. The outfit he wore to fight crime was not a murder case - when the Man of Steel, Superman’s costume is of a special material frontwards and backwards. He loved his work so much, that he inspired us to know it and love it as well. Through the course of my classes with him, I discovered that he was a atheist. What’s more, he was an atheist who was a former Catholic. When I was in my last year of high school, I was educated by the Sis- ters of St. Joseph at St. Mary’s. I must have wondered if I shouldn’t be- come a new person ever since. I was educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga, a city I had never set foot in before. I was the one that raised me, my parents. I was educated by the Sis- ters of St. Joseph at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga, a city I had never set foot in before. I was the one that raised me, my parents. I was educated by the Sis- ters of St. Joseph at St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga, a city I had never set foot in before.
Faith as gift—called to belong

We must, however, respond to the Lord’s call to evangelize. It is not enough just to do one thing, even if it can also be done, such as fostering prayer life, and communal prayer life. How disciplined in my daily life, how often I say: “My God, I trust in you.” When the door of faith for each one of us that opens in the beginning of our life is always present, we must produce faith on our own.

Pastoral Letter for the Year of Faith

In the second part of this pastoral letter for the year of faith, printed here, Bishop Buckley writes: “This year in faith is a moment of grace to increase our belief and hope.”

Chaplet, centering around creative drive or a new, unwrapped toy for the carry items, 50/50 Drawings, Seton Divine (Divine Reading), every Friday.

Dinner and Silent Auction Adirondacks House of Prayer will be holding their annual “O Come All Ye Faithful,” drawings. Homemade doughnuts, candy booth, cake walk, a Chinese auction.

Thanksgiving Dinner Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Thanksgiving Dinner Thanksgiving day and on Nov. 20 begins-ing morning. Volunteers are also invited to become a believer into personal act of faith, under the guidance of the Word of God. We must, however, re- mind us that the “grace of the Holy Spirit.” (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Vol. 42, 2006) is heard, and what is heard is believed: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him. Everyone who hears and learns from the Father and comes to me has eternal life and will never be put to death, because I am the living way, the only way to the Father. If you know me, you will know my Father also and from now on you will see me and my Father will be seen together.” (Jn 14:6)

This Year of Faith is an in- ternal invitation to renovate our Sacrament of confirmation to communicate the Sacrament, both as individuals and as a family of faith. There can be no lonerangers when it comes to living out our Catholic faith.

Indeed, faith is a mystery, Vatican Council II reminds us that the “grace of the Holy Spirit” is heard, and what is heard is believed: “We must, however, re- mind us that the “grace of the Holy Spirit.” (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Vol. 42, 2006) is heard, and what is heard is believed: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him. Everyone who hears and learns from the Father and comes to me has eternal life and will never be put to death, because I am the living way, the only way to the Father. If you know me, you will know my Father also and from now on you will see me and my Father will be seen together.” (Jn 14:6)

Thanks be to everyone in assent-ing to the truth and believ-ing to everyone in assent-ing to the truth and believing. This prayer for an in- crease in faith in the Eu- charist can be most powerfully experienced be-fore the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Quiet time at the Adoration, Setes pro-vides the perfect setting to at-tend and pray for our pious- refections. The Surviving Spouse Family Center—Our Lady of the Rosary will hold its monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers are also invited to become a believer into personal act of faith, under the guidance of the Word of God. We must, however, re- mind us that the “grace of the Holy Spirit.” (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Vol. 42, 2006) is heard, and what is heard is believed: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him. Everyone who hears and learns from the Father and comes to me has eternal life and will never be put to death, because I am the living way, the only way to the Father. If you know me, you will know my Father also and from now on you will see me and my Father will be seen together.” (Jn 14:6)
Rest in peace, Father, teacher and friend

In this week's NCC, we're celebrating Thanksgiving by ex- hibiting our gratitude to the special priests in our lives. It's my privilege to remember one of the special priests in mine.

Father Christman was a beloved pastor who served the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1971 to 1972. He was a priest who knew the right thing for me to do. He was a mentor who instilled in me the love of a priest and a shepherd who was a shepherd in hand and hand with the Lord. He taught me how to see the unique opportunity in my life as an eternal blessing to the Church. He was blessed to know and pastor so many wonderful priests and people of all ages and backgrounds in the region of Canastota.

During these past few weeks, as I have worked on this col- umn, I have been reading through the documents in the files of the Second Vatican Council. It's been a wonderful opportunity to remember the priests attached to the Diocese of Ogdensburg who served that community and all the people who have served the priests.

Here are a few examples:

One bishop who had a significant impact on the community was Bishop Brzana, who was the bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1963 to 1976. He was a bishop who was a shepherd in hand and hand with the Lord and who was a mentor who instilled in me the love of a priest and a shepherd who was a shepherd in hand and hand with the Lord. He taught me how to see the unique opportunity in my life as an eternal blessing to the Church. He was blessed to know and pastor so many wonderful priests and people of all ages and backgrounds in the region of Canastota.

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In Persona Christi

By Marcia Gadke

Young Catholic Voice

Working for the Church has taught me very quickly that priests are truly the superheros of our modern world.

Even in my short time at St. Mary's I have witnessed Father Doug Lucia's constant self-sacrifice.

He wakes at any hour of the night to attend to someone who is sick or dying and he often gives up his "days off" to celebrate a funeral or tend to some other parish business.

The truth is priests don't really get a "day off." That is one of the most beautiful things about the priesthood. They have totally given their lives to the Church, to Christ.

Many don't realize that priests deal with death on a daily basis. It is because of their faith in the resurrection of Christ, that they are able to remain joyful.

The constant face of death, their faith in the resurrection, is tended to. I know with my lack of pain tolerance, if I were in his situation I wouldn't be quite so resilient.

One thing to remember is that priests are human as well. Priests get lonely, frustrated, and tired.

While many lay people are planning long trips to visit family as the Christmas holidays approach, priests are busier than ever, planning beautiful liturgies and carefully preparing to help make their parishioners' spiritual lives more fruitful during the Advent season.

I know that I don't thank the priests I know nearly enough. Priests act "in persona Christi" (in the person of Christ) and it is through them as servants to the Church, that we are blessed as Catholics to share in the amazing gift of the Eucharist.

The second part of Bishop LaValley's pastoral letter to mark the opening of the Year of Faith is printed on page three.

Faith "isn't an illusion, except for the person of Jesus," Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Many people today have a limited concept of what the Christian faith is because they identify it with a mere system of beliefs and values and not with the truth of a God revealing himself in history, eager to communicate with humanity one-on-one in a relationship of love," he said.

"Faith isn't an illusion, escapism, a comfortable safe haven or sentimentalism," rather it is something that engages one's whole life and it proclaims the Gospel with courage, the pope said Nov. 14 during his weekly general audience.

United with God, people of faith are "not afraid of showing their beliefs in everyday life," and they are open to di-

Father Douglas Lucia, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton offers some encouragement and advice to the members of St. Mary's School basketball team.

Priests are constantly called to approach delicate situations with love and fear to tread.

They go where many would not, and they often give up their whole lives to the Church, to their faith in the resurrection of Christ. This is often a daunting task!

"One thing to remember is that priests are human as well. Priests get lonely, frustrated, and tired. While many lay people are planning long trips to visit family as the Christmas holidays approach, priests are busier than ever, planning beautiful liturgies and carefully preparing to help make their parishioners' spiritual lives more fruitful during the Advent season.

I know that I don't thank the priests I know nearly enough. Priests act "in persona Christi" (in the person of Christ) and it is through them as servants to the Church, that we are blessed as Catholics to share in the amazing gift of the Eucharist.

During this month of thanksgiving, please remember to tell the priests in your life how thankful you are for them.

"You are a true inspiration to us - Thank you and God Bless you!!" ~ Deacon James and Christine Chautby

St. Mary's School & Parish are grateful for Fr. Doug Lucia, and are proud to follow in his footsteps.

Trinity Catholic Loves our Priests! Thanks YOU for your loving dedication to our school!

Christiana: encounter with love

Year of Faith Pastoral

The second part of Bishop LaValley's pastoral letter to mark the opening of the Year of Faith is printed on page three.

The bishop focuses on "faith as gift," writing "Indeed, faith is a mystery, but it is also a gift. Through baptism, God opens the door of faith for each one of us. For this reason, the beginning of faith is always possible. We cannot produce faith on our own. We must, however, respond to the Lord's call to enter through the gate. No one else can do that for us."

Full story page 3

Witnesses of Faith

Coverage of the Nov. 18 prayer service opening the discussion among the members of the Year of Faith will appear in next week's NCC.

Full story page 4

Young Catholic Voice: Priests are the superheroes of today... p. 20