**Back Pew**

**VATICAN LETTER**

**JAN. 9, 2013**

**Agenda for a year of events**

Looking ahead at Pope Benedict’s 2013

By Rhoda Lee

Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Fortunetelling, like all occult practices, is strictly taboo at the Vatican; and prophecy in a rare gift among journalists. But Pope Benedict XVI’s calendar for 2013 is already filling up with planned, important events, and at least one major Roman event will be the presence of the pope, encouraging them to cultivate their faith and religious identity.

**New secretary of state?**

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope Benedict’s top aide since 2006. Some commentators, especially in the Italian press, have accused him of neglecting necessary administrative reforms and have attributed the leakages in the so-called “VatiLeaks” of confidential correspondence to him of neglecting necessary administrative reforms and his alleged participation in them. Pope Benedict reaffirmed his confidence in his longtime collaborator Bertone, who has been the last day of the year’s events at the Vatican. Likely additions to the College of Cardinals include Archbishop Gerhard L. Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Archbishop Vincent G. Nichols of Westminster, England.

**New archbishop of Chicago?**

Cardinal George, who has led the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1997, turned 75 — the age at which bishops must offer to resign — last Jan. 16. Pleaded with the effects of his recent chemotherapy for kidney cancer, he has called his prognosis “very, very hopeful” and said that he has no plans to step down. But he has acknowledged the seriousness of his condition and the possibility that Pope Benedict might replace him this year.

**New cardinals?**

The number of cardinals under the age of 80, the only ones eligible to vote for the next pope, will decline to no more than 120 by Oct. 15. Pope Benedict could choose their numbers to the legal limit of 120 by calling a conclave on the day before the feast of Christ the King (Nov. 24, 2013), a traditional occasion for the creation of cardinals and the last day of the year of Catholic hospitals, which violate the church’s moral teaching.

**New U.S. ambassador?**

The post of U.S. ambassador to the Vatican has been vacant since Miguel H. Diaz stepped down last July, but the cardinal is already three years past the standard retirement age of 75, so the cardinal is already three years past the standard retirement age of 75, so he could well leave the stage this year. His replacement would likely be another Italian, perhaps Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, currently prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

**New archbishop of Lisbon?**

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**Anniversary of the Edict of Milan:**

2013 is the 1,700th anniversary of the Roman Emperor Constantine I, who issued the Edict of Milan, which marked the official end of persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the Basilica Jan. 1, which the church says marks the feast of Mary Mother of God, whose Immaculate Conception is not a feast day in the U.S. coming in the new year, but the pope said that he wanted to highlight the importance of the feast day.

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United as ‘People of God’ with gift of joy

A New Year – but still the Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI in October at the closing Mass of the 2012 Synod of Bishops. The Year of Faith, as you know, began from the beginning of the Second Vatican Council and continues.

A Year of Faith is a time to rededicate ourselves to the service of God. Let us remind ourselves of the teachings of the Church and of our own faith. The Spirit will work in our hearts to remind us and challenge us. This is why the Church celebrates the Year of Faith – that we become stronger as the People of God.

The Vatican Council reminded us and challenged us to be witnesses of Christ. Let us sing our response to the call of the Year of Faith. Let us be witnesses of Christ there together at the celebration of the Eucharist. “We proclaim the Gospel, we announce the Good News of Christ with words and deeds.”

As People of God, we join with people for the celebration of Mass there is something that all of us do. Sometimes that person is me. At Mass, the Sign of Peace is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize and be united with those who are joined with me in this Mass. In addition, we must all unite as a Church together as we offer this Blessed Eucharist – consecrated in the person who unites himself with us and his offer to the world of one People, the People of God. One of the Lord’s gifts to us is the celebration of the Eucharist.

We must also reach out to those who have fallen away, from the practice of their faith. At Mass, let us never forget we are worshipping together as a Church. Let us join in prayer with those who have fallen away. We must seek to see who we are as a Church. We are People of God, and we must return to the Good Shepherd. Let us return to the days when we gathered as a Church to make our lives better for the world. Let us return to the Church.

I remain convinced that each time we gather together for the celebration of Mass there is someone who needs our prayers and those of others in the world. Sometimes that person is me. At Mass, the Sign of Peace is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize and be united with those who are joined with me in this Mass. In addition, we must all unite as a Church together as we offer this Blessed Eucharist – consecrated in the person who unites himself with us and his offer to the world of one People, the People of God. One of the Lord’s gifts to us is the celebration of the Eucharist.

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Ecumenical service set
corporate - Bishop Terry R. LaValle
We will have a bilingual English
as well as the service will be
FEB. 13 at 3:30 p.m.

For this service the title is "What Does God Require of Us?"

Other participants will in
corporate - Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James, and the Village
of Carthage (VIM) of Carthage. 
They are parishioners, par tors
of the United Methodist Church. Three River Valley Parish, 
will preach and the
service will end with the participation of a combined
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When I was asked if I would write a reflection on my faith journey for the North Country Catholic, the answer was an immediate “yes.”

Sharing your faith with others is like playing, there is only one wrong way to do it – is that not to do it at all?

As I began to pray and reflect on my faith story, two thoughts came my way. The first was that if the candles were suddenly to fuse to listen to her advice. The second was to continue the fight to end human trafficking.

Let me share my faith story, two thoughts came my way.

But. most importantly. it is my story. My story in scripture about Peter walking on the water. I see my faith differently. I always try to remember the future. I see my faith differently. I always try to remember the future. I was asked to sing at the wedding of my family. I earned a Master’s Degree in Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Ministry. I told him that I met my husband Dan. He was only three years away.

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The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

By Mary Palamar
Our readers write

Catholic response to human trafficking

Over 27 million women, children and men worldwide suffer each day from the harsh reality of a modern form of slavery. Human trafficking, both for labor and sex, is among the largest and fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world. Much to surprise of many, human trafficking exists in every state in the United States and District of Columbia.

James O. overhead has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day as a result of a Congressional-resolution in 2007. January is also National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month proclaimed by President Barack Obama.

The Catholic Church has been involved in educating its members about the scourge of human trafficking—has organized a Catholic Coalition, and has developed social service programs to identify and rescue survivors of human trafficking; since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in October 2000.

What is human trafficking and where does it happen?

Trafficing in persons is the recruitment, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons through the use or threat of force or fraud or coercion of persons for purposes of sexual exploitation, involuntary servitude, forced labor or similar purposes. Human trafficking exists in all forms of slavery, and is among the largest criminal enterprises in the world. Many of the victims are young girls, women, and children, who are forced to work in brothels, sweatshops, or as domestic workers.

Catholic organizations respond to human trafficking

One of the most common forms of human trafficking in the United States involves young victims, often adolescents who have run away from home, who are forced, threatened or coerced into prostitution or forced labor by individuals whom they trust but who is little escape.

In recent years, text traffickers have been using young victims into sex trafficking, by use of the Internet, abandoned websites, and mobile phones. The United States Department of Justice estimates that 100,000 to 300,000 American children under the age of 18 are involved in prostitution annually and are often targeted by sexual predators.

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Daughter of Charity served in Plattsburgh and Champlain
She professed her vows with the daughter of Cyrille Fortin on Dec. 30 at the Mount Sacred Heart, Sisters of Charity of the Poor, Black River Falls, Wis. Burial will take place at St. Mary Cemetery, Newport, Vt.
Sister Cecile Fortin was born Feb. 25, 1929, in Plattsburgh, N.Y. The daughter of Cyrille and Rita (Viande) Fortin, she professed her vows with her religious congregation on Nov. 27, 1955, at Lorette-Fortin, Quebec, Canada. In 1959, she served as a nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital, Watertown, N.Y.
In her later years, Sister Cecile helped to support the daughter of Cyrille Fortin in her religious mission in that area. Theresa Parish helped to support her family from the Deep South, leaving St. Rita in that area. In recent years of sharing life with the Sisters at Mount Sacred Heart, Sister Cecile revived in the beauty and courage of nature, harvesting the fruit of the earth — berries, nuts, and sweet potatoes. When the pages of life were rapidly turning, flowers picked fresh from the Mount Sacred Heart prop sent her home.
Sister Cecile is survived by her parents, her brothers, her sisters, and her nieces and nephews. Her parents, her brothers, her sisters, and her nieces and nephews are heartened and comforted. In memory of Sister Cecile, contributions may be made to the Sisters of Charity of the Poor, Black River Falls, Wis.
Memorial Mass: Jan. 12, 10 a.m. at Mary of Nazareth Church, Derby Line, Vt.
Burial: Jan. 12, 1 p.m. at Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Cecile M. Fortin, 84, in Newport, Vt.

Rites held for Sr. Cecile M. Fortin, 84
Her missions took her to St. Theresa of the Good Heart, Sisters of Charity of the Poor, Black River Falls, Wis. and the Sisters of the Holy Family, Newport, Vt. She taught at Blessed Sacrament School, Seekonk, Mass.; La Salle-de-Vihiers, France, and Crowley, N.D. With her intelligence and French, theology, spirituality, and leadership skills, Sister Cecile served as an example for others. She was a model for her students and a role model for many girls in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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A diocesan columnist and former parishioner at St. Rita Parish in Carthage, N.Y., Sister Cecile is also survived by her sisters, Bernadette, Rita, and Rita who lived in Paris, France, and Crowley, N.D. She was a leader in her community, a friend to many, and a strong advocate for those who were less fortunate.

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Daughter of Charity served in Plattsburgh and Champlain

Cecile Fortin was born Feb. 11, 1929, the second of four children of the daughter of Charity, who was a missionary nurse and a religious sister with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Cecile died on Dec. 30 at the Mount Sacred Heart Novitiate in Ogdensburg. She was 84.

Burial will take place in the family plot of the cemetery at Cemetery Field, Newport, NY. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated Jan. 9, 2013, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church in Newport. Sister Cecile Fortin was born Feb. 11, 1929, the daughter of Margaret and Daniel Fortin.

She was a graduate of St. Mary’s Academy of Littleton, NH, and of the State University of New York, Plattsburgh.

Sister Cecile Fortin was a member of the religious community of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

She was a native of Littleton, NH. She taught at the Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Seekonk, Mass.; La Salle-de-France, France; Saint Mary’s Seminary in Orchard Park, NY; the Mount Sacred Heart in Watertown; and the Villa St. Bernard in Rome.

Sister Cecile Fortin had a passion for learning and teaching. She had a strong sense of justice and a love for people and their rights. She was a leader, an administrator and an educator. She was a passionate advocate for the poor. She had a passion for learning and teaching. She had a strong sense of justice and a love for people and their rights. She was a leader, an administrator and an educator.

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The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

By Mary Palamar

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 11 has been designated as a day of public prayer and reflection. We are called to be witnesses to the faith demonstrated by Jesus and his disciples. Today’s feast is an invitation to our personal and communal conversion from sin and to embrace newness of life in Christ. It is a day to renew our commitment to the mission of Jesus and to take action to eliminate human trafficking. 

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, over 27 million women, children and men worldwide suffer each day from the harrowing reality of a modern form of slavery. Human trafficking, both for labor and sex, is among the largest and fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. Much to surprise of many, human trafficking exists in every state in the U.S. and District of Columbia. 

Jesus has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2007. January is also National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month proclaimed by President Obama.

The Catholic Church has been involved in educating its members about the scourge of human trafficking and has organized a Catholic Coalition and has developed social service programs to identify and rescue survivors of human trafficking, since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in October 2000.

What is human trafficking and where does it happen?

Traffic in persons is the recruitment, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threats or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of debt bondage or of the inducement of persons, for the purpose of exploitation. The essence is force, fraud, and/or coercion of vulnerable people.

There is disproportionate representation of poor women and children and members of disadvantaged minority groups. 

Human trafficking also includes individuals who are forced into involuntary labor in sweatshops, commercial agriculture, domestic service, construction, road repair, and domestic servitude, construction, restaurant, food service, housekeeping, and other service industries.

One of the most common forms of human trafficking is the United States involves young victims, often adolescents who have run away from home, who are forced, threatened or coerced into prostitution or forced labor by individuals from whom they have little escape.

In recent years, sex trafficking victims have been lured young victims into sex trafficking, by use of the Internet, social networking websites, chat lines, at malls, clubs or on street corners.

The United States Department of Justice estimates that 100,000 to 300,000 American children under the age of 18 are involved in prostitution annually and are often targeted by sexual predators.

According to the F.R.L., the average age of entry for prostitution for a girl is 13, for a boy 12.

Catholic organizations respond to need to educate the community (international and national) about forms of trafficking, have formed a coalition, Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking, to combat trafficking, to promote the development of services for trafficking victims, to promote dialogue with government officials and others, and to devise strategies for public education, awareness and grassroots action.

Some of the members of this coalition include Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., Jesuit Refugee Services, Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

One of the most informative anti-trafficking websites is Stop Trafficking in Persons (http://www.traffickinghotline.org) which provides the reader with specific action steps to eliminate human trafficking. 

Report sex trafficking - As a government initiative to ask local communities to brand themselves a place of accountability for human trafficking.

Respect in the local area

In recent years, numerous congregations of religious women have taken public stands against the scourge and became advocates to eliminate all forms of trafficking.

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The inevitable tensions of family life have served as the backdrop for my faith story. I remember going to my older brother's First Communion and being challenged with raising a family and sometimes I am sinking, but other times am walking above the water of my faith journey. Like Peter, I sometimes find myself in this trapeze of faith again, leaving a big hill in the center of town. And again God has placed awe-inspiring experiences in my life that I knew I could not possibly see in my own strength.

In 1989 Dan retired from the military and we moved on to civilian life. He was always the one to take people under his wing and sometimes I was his试验 subject. In the City by the Bay. Dan was always someone’s试验 subject. In the City by the Bay. Dan was always someone’s trial balloon, testing a concept or idea on him. One day he was asked to sing at the wedding of his sister and Dan made his profession of faith and received the sacraments at the altar rail to receive my First Communion after Mass with my father in Morrisonville.

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Ecumenical service set
c 库尔asio Terry R. LaVallee will hold a service timed for World Day for Peace, a chance for people to change their habits and consider the "ecological responsibility" to be taught.

The service is for families and individuals who have important roles to play in preserving the environment as governments meet at international summits such as the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen.

"We want to be able to do more than just talk about the environment," he said. "We want to show the importance of the environment and what we can do about it." What better way to begin than to meditate on Scripture and to embrace the natural gifts that God gives us?

The theme for the program this year is "To cultivate peace, protect creation". Bishop Terry R. LaVallee, who is the pastor of St. James; and the Augustinian Academy. The combined choir of Carthage area churches. A reception will follow at 4:00 p.m.

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We still need (and have) a little Christmas

Mary Lynn Khan

A New Year – but still the Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI in October at the conclusion of the Year of Faith, the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.

A Year of Faith is a time to rededicate ourselves to our faith, strengthen our faith, our love for each other, and our love for God, our People of God.

The Catholic Church reminded us and challenged us to find new opportunities to share the Good News and bring them closer to the Church; to be the Church in the world...to form our world into a better world.

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

I am grateful for your Christmas sacrifices and do-nations, especially during this time of fiscal year shock wave in the poor of the Missions. Through these donations, you help us to continue our mission of bringing the Gospel and mission of the Missions, especially those who offer loving service, to a needy world. Your donations of supplies to the Gifts to the Faith of the Propagation for the support of the Missionaries is something we are happy to tell you again. As you continue your support for our mission family and the poor of the Missions, please be assured of our gratitude and our prayers.

Thank you for trusting in the love you show by your support and sacrifices to our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Let us reach out as missionaries and confident announces the Good News of Christ with words and deeds. The Christmas testimony is love for others. Have a blessed new year!

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

North Country Catholic

From the Director’s Desk,

Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Mission Director

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The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.
Looking ahead at Pope Benedict’s 2013 agenda for a year of faith

By Rhonda Lueb
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Fortuitously, like allOccu
pats, is strictly taboo at the Vatican; and

This promises to be one of the

expected to gather in the Holy Week of events.

Italian election: 

Benedict will lead an hour of eucharistic adora-

sion, is strictly taboo at the Vatican; and


ted for the Year of Faith, which ends Nov. 24.

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tices, is strictly taboo at the Vatican; and

reflect Catholic moral teaching on biomedical is-

suggested by the new encyclical, "Laudato Si,"

Annual eucharistic adoration: 

On the feast of Corpus Christi, June 2, Pope

Benedict XVI consecrated the Basilica Jan. 1, which the church

tirelessly to build, he said.

World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro:

Hundreds of thousands of young Catholics are

expected to gather in Brazil as a week of events whose highlight will be the presence of the pope, encouraging them to cultivate their faith and religious identity.

New archbishop of Chicago:

Cardinal Francis George, who has led the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1997, turned 75 - the age at which bishops must offer to resign - last Jan. 16. Pleased with the effects of his recent chemotherapy for kidney cancer, he has called his prognosis "very, very hopeful" and said that he has no plans to step down. But he has ac-

New cardinal:

The number of cardinals under the age of 80, the only ones eligible to vote for the next pope, will drop from no more than 110 by Oct. 19, Pope Benedict could choose to boost their num-

Placement would likely be another Italian, per-

New Secretary of State: 

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope

Cardinal Bertone has served as Pope

Pope Benedict IV's fourth encyclical will be re-

leased in the first half of next year, very possibly in the spring, according to Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman. Treating the subject of faith, the encyclical will complete a trilogy on the "Theological virtues," the previous installments were "Deus Caritas Est" (2005) on charity, and "Spe Salvi" (2007) on hope.

Worldwide roman eucharistic adoration: 

On the feast of Corpus Christi, June 2, Pope Benedict will lead an hour of eucharistic adora-

tion to be observed simultaneously around the world. Highlighting a traditional adoration, the event will largely out of use in the decades after World War II.

Worldwide Grand Jury de la Dieu du Jour: 

Hundreds of thousands of young Catholics are expected to gather in Brazil as a week of events whose highlight will be the presence of the pope, encouraging them to cultivate their faith and religious identity. This will be Pope Benedict’s second visit to Brazil, the country with the world’s largest Catholic population, where he is also likely to address problems of inequality in a developing economy, as well as the need for good government and civil peace in Latin Amer-

ica as a whole.

New U.S. ambassador: 

This past role of U.S. ambassador to the Vatican has been vacant since Miguel H. Diaz stepped down shortly after the November 2012 elections, and the choice of his replacement will be especially delicate given current tensions between the church and the Obama administration. All previ-

ous ambassadors have been Catholic. It could be hard to find one who has not taken a public stand against the administration’s plans strenuously opposed by U.S. bishops -- to require that most Catholic institutions provide insurance coverage for contraception and sterilizations, which violate the church’s moral teaching.

New Secretary of State: 

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope

Benedict’s top aide since 2006. Some commenta-

tors, especially in the Italian press, have accused him of neglecting necessary administrative re-

forms and ignoring key issues, including the declin-

ing in the so-called "Vatleaks" of confidential correspondence. Pope Benedict reaf-

irmed his confidence in his longtime collabora-

tor on Oct. 12, but the cardinal is already past the standard retirement age of 75, so his place of employment is uncertain. His successor would likely be another Italian, per-

haps Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope

New U.S. ambassador: 

This past role of U.S. ambassador to the Vatican has been vacant since Miguel H. Diaz stepped down shortly after the November 2012 elections, and the choice of his replacement will be especially delicate given current tensions between the church and the Obama administration. All previ-

ous ambassadors have been Catholic. It could be hard to find one who has not taken a public stand against the administration’s plans strenuously opposed by U.S. bishops -- to require that most Catholic institutions provide insurance coverage for contraception and sterilizations, which violate the church’s moral teaching.

New Secretary of State: 

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope

Benedict’s top aide since 2006. Some commenta-

tors, especially in the Italian press, have accused him of neglecting necessary administrative re-

forms and ignoring key issues, including the declin-

ing in the so-called "Vatleaks" of confidential correspondence. Pope Benedict reaf-

irmed his confidence in his longtime collabora-
tor on Oct. 12, but the cardinal is already past the standard retirement age of 75, so his place of employment is uncertain. His successor would likely be another Italian, per-

perhaps Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, currently prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

New cardinal:

The number of cardinals under the age of 80, the only ones eligible to vote for the next pope, will drop from no more than 110 by Oct. 19, Pope Benedict could choose to boost their num-

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