What is a Priest?

Priests are mystery men. They come in assorted sizes, ages, weights and collars. They are found everywhere -speeding along, perspiring over, walking by, kneeling on, praying over, laughing with, teaching about, pardoning for, and playing baseball with. Little children run to them; teenagers marvel at them; aged folk turn to them; lay people treasure them; non-Catholics stare over at them; and Mary watches over them.

A priest is Prudence in a T-shirt; Fortitude with a brevity in his hand; Justice on a ball diamond; and Temperance at any party. He is Faith with a blueprint; Hope with a sense of humor; and Charity with a golf club in hand.

A priest may be anything from a contemplative monk in a monastery to a magazine editor on Wall Street, from a labor mediator to a TV personality, from a student to a professor. Formerly known as the boy-around-the-corner, he's a member of each family, yet belongs to none. He penetrates secrets, shares sorrows, heals wounds. He has the trust of a child, the kindness of a best friend, the sternness of a top-sergeant, the daring of a tight-rope walker, the authority of an encyclopedia, the versatility of a commando, and the salesmanship of a Fuller-Brush man.

A priest is a humble creature - a mystifying worker at all professions. His hours are the longest; his salary the smallest; his boss the best! He likes good pastors, the smiles of children, a good sermon, a home-cooked meal, and the name “Father.”

A priest is all things to all men in the sight of God. He may be misquoted, mistaken and misunderstood, but he’ll always forgive – because he’s a mediator; a peacemaker; a go-between heaven and earth. It’s no wonder God loves him. He’s a man standing in an altar clothed in holy clothes, who while being aware of his own nothingness speaks to God for us and to us for God. And although his greatest act is to offer sacrifice, his most consoling one is to say to me, “Go in peace – Your sins are forgiven.”

Words of Father Thomas E. Langer
found in the sacristy of one of the churches in the Diocese

Dear Fathers, Thank you for saying yes to Christ’s Call, “Follow Me.”

Vocations Office
Father Bryan Stitt
www.myvocation.net

Pope: we need confession

With baptism, Christians are cleansed of sin, but the sacrament doesn’t wash away human weakness nor the obligation to ask forgiveness when they make mistakes, Pope Francis said. Baptism is “God’s powerful intervention in our lives to save us. This saving intervention of God doesn’t remove our human nature and weaknesses; we are all weak and we are all sinners. And baptism doesn’t remove our responsibility to ask forgiveness every time we err,” the pope said Nov. 13 during his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines and for those who died Nov. 11 when a shell hit a school bus in Damascus, Syria.

“This must never happen! Let us pray with insistence,” the pope said. The “real battle” that need to be fought in the world, he said, are not wars for power, but battles “for life, never for death.”

In his main audience talk, continuing a Year of Faith series about the creed, Pope Francis reflected on the affirmation, “I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.”

Appreciation

for priests in the diocese

The North Country Catholic presents its annual Priest Appreciation issue with special messages from parishioners and friend and profiles on two priests.

Father John M. (Mickey) Demo talked to reporter Shawn Ryan during the first weeks in his new home. He’s now the pastor in Dannemora and Redford.

Father Mark McDonald, Watertown native and superior general for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, sat down with NCC reporter Deacon Kevin Mastelon.

Year of Faith Holy Hour

Each month Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Liberty to be held Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. across diocese
Full story page 3

St. Mary’s School students in grades 5-8’s Time Capsule was celebrated All Souls Day by dressing as saints after researching and participating in a “Saints that Dazzle” program at school. Pictured are Cory Lender, as Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas Woods as Damien of Molokai, and Shannon Jordan as Edith Stein.

PICTURE IT! Winners of Year of Faith photography contest... p. 11
We are aware and open to the needs of our people in the North Country as well as to service the developing lands. They walk through daily tasks and events both planned and not, with care and forgiveness.

Priests are not the only people, however, who break the bread and encourage hospitality giving way to each other. They follow their faith and dedication of these priests… and so priests have always been part of this community.

The heart of a priest is a vessel of compassion, the heart of Christ crucified himself – so that he is zealous to all that he does. He challenges us all to serve our brothers and sisters – to use our gifts and talents to make our community a better place. So listen – please join me in welcoming our priests to this parish – let them know how much you appreciate your minis

They have many friends at Madonna House. The heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel. "I need to emphasize that this message is not only for priests. It's for everyone who knows how important they are."

The seminarians in Developing Lands belong to a "mission club" praying for people in the world. They are aware and open to the needs of our people in the North Country as well as to service the developing lands. They walk through daily tasks and events both planned and not, with care and forgiveness.

They are aware and open to the needs of our people in the North Country as well as to service the developing lands. They walk through daily tasks and events both planned and not, with care and forgiveness.

More people to appreciate!

Join me in thanking all our priests
Bishop LaValley to confer Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross Dec. 8

Fourteen receive papal honors

Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that a religious sister and 13 lay persons have been awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross by Pope Francis.

Bishop LaValley will confer the cross on the recipients at a special Mass celebrated at St. Mary’s Cathedral Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.

In announcing the awards, Bishop LaValley said, "It is fitting that we recognize the Pope’s anxious desire to honor those generous men and women in this country and abroad who have been truly built up the Church in God and His Church. It is our intention to open the doors of our own Church to the Papal Cross. The recipients of the Papal Cross are: Catherine Spen- able of Lake Placid, Dr. John T. Middleton, of Plattsburgh, Mary Ann Lopchick, of Chateaugay, Catherine Donney of Ogdensburg, Elizabeth Harrington of Watertown, Mary Resto of Massena, Patricia Stalnacke of Watertown, Roger DuBar of Tupper Lake, Tom Colburn of Lake Pleasant, Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa, Tiburcio Di Spiezio of Ogdensburg, Leo Grosz of Malone, Bill Cameron of Plattsburgh, Joseph A. Provoncha of North Hudson, and Patrick H. Bevis of Plattsburgh.

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WITHIN THE RUSSIAN DIAPHRAGM

The recipients will receive 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Features: May be pre-ordered starting this fall at the Church office calling 518-629-4800

HOLIDAY FAIR
Wisconsin/1147 of Bishop’s Hall is in holding its 89th annual Holiday Fair on Dec. 23.

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Parish Hall
Features: Crafts, baked goods, raffles

BENEFIT FOR DOWNTOWN FAMILY CHURCH
Crafters – sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the American Revolution.

Time: Dec. 8 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Convent

Father John King is an amused lay reader who reads from the pews at the Church.

SMIRK OPEN SHOP
Crafters – sponsored by Sacred Heart Convent and Ogdensburg Women’s Club.

Time: Nov. 30 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Convent

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Meet the recipients of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici

Catherine Sponable

Catherine Sponable is a devoted parishioner of St. Joseph Cathedral in Lake Placid, New York. Miss Sponable was born in New York City and she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Manhattan School of Music and the Master of Music degree from New York University.

Catherine has given up her career as a science teacher to care for her parents. She has been a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lake Placid since 1971, and has been active in the parish since that time. She is a member of the Bishop's Heritage Circle. Catherine exerts her talent for caring for others in her role as a parish volunteer. She has served as a member of the Bishop's Heritage Circle. She has been active in the parish since that time. She is a member of the Bishop's Heritage Circle. She has been active in the parish since that time.

Catherine has also been very generous with her time in support of her parish. Since 1971, Catherine has served as a volunteer at the parish office, setting up the financial

Mary Lepkowski

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Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King sets a tone of celebration, a time of hope, and a reminder that wars will end and all nations will succumb to His rule before the Last Judgment. With this feast, the Church marks the end of the Church year.

It’s not about pomp and pageantry; it’s about the reality of a heavenly king who has issued a firm invitation to eternal joy if we but give Him our hearts. It’s a reminder that earthly monarchs may “mess up” and cause our world to whither, but in reality, God is still in charge of this earth’s final outcome.

As the wonderful ancient hymn declares, “Christ conquer, Christ rules, Christ is sovereign over all.”

One of the best statements of our faith, and most consoling supports for our hope is found in today’s second reading which urges us to “give thanks to the Father….for He has delivered us from the powers of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption (and) the forgiveness of sins…and, in Him, all things hold together.”

The Gospel narrates the details of the horrible insults hurled at Jesus by his enemies as He hung helpless on the Cross. They came from the Romans who saw Him as a threat to imperial power. They came from Jewish religious leaders who feared that He would replace their authority.

Their taunts and jeers have been repeated endlessly down the centuries by all who have refused Him the obedience of their minds and hearts.

The bishops of the United States were urged recently by Pope Francis through his Apostolic Nuncio to be true Shepherds in their dioceses, welcoming all to Christ’s kingdom on earth through an attitude of encouragement, hope, and mercy. As true disciples, all of us must do the same for our brothers and sisters who so long for a world at peace.

We thank you, God…

For the priests who share their wisdom in the pages of the North Country Catholic.
Dan Demo - Father John “Mickey” Demo quietly celebrated his 25 anniversary as a priest this past fall. Now ensconced in a new parish, he’s ready to bring his calming, team-like approach to St. Joseph’s Parish in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford.

“I think the bishop’s plan is to have me here for several years,” he said recently... surely welcome news to parishioners of those two parishes.

Father Demo describes his style of leadership as a “we” approach, choosing to guide by example, from within a group. This team approach, he says, is instilled in him through a strong upbringing in competitive sports.

In high school, growing up in Brasher Falls, Father Demo was a three-sport athlete, playing football, hockey and baseball. He attended LeMoyne College after he graduated, where he focused his attention on baseball. His love of sports, especially baseball and football, is still apparent today. He follows mostly New York teams, even though he attended seminary 20 minutes from Boston’s Fenway Park, but is also a big supporter of Notre Dame football. For hockey though, he follows the Montreal Canadiens.

Father Demo knew quite early that he was leaning towards a life in the priesthood. He was an altar-server from a young age, but kept that ministry through high school, when many other youth leave the altar.

He credits the interaction with several of the priests of the diocese with showing him the human side of the priesthood, and making the goal of becoming a priest seem more attainable. He notes especially the guidance and friendship of Fathers Louis Gardner, Harry Snow, Mike Gaffney and Don Manfred.

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For someone whose only contact with a priest is Sunday Mass, you don’t see the human side of the priest as you would if you have a friendship,” he said. “You have the idea of ‘wow,’ what he is involved in is pretty good stuff. There’s that whole other side, the human side.”

Father sees the relationship of the priest to the people of the parish as the most significant part of his ministry. It’s the spontaneity of dealing with the various types of situations that occur on a daily basis that keeps him on his toes and that makes him enjoy being a priest.

“You don’t know from one day to the next what you might be involved in,” he said. “You’re the most enjoyable aspect of being a priest is the different types of situations that occur week to week.”

That, and the actual celebration of the Mass, are highlights for Father Demo.

Though he has only been ‘on the mountain’ (Dannemora) and ‘in the holler’ (Redford) for less than a month, appreciation for Father Demo is quickly turning from simple appreciation of the fact that he is there, to appreciation for him as a priest, and as a leader of the two parishes.
Bishop Navagh hears a prediction during a visit to Sacred Heart School:

‘We’re going to make a priest out of this one’

Bishop Mark McDonald’s life as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest has taken him from a farm near Watertown to an office near the Vatican.

Bishop Navagh listens to a prediction during a visit to Sacred Heart School: 'We’re going to make a priest out of this one.'

Monsignor of the Sacred Heart Father Mark McDonald, Watertown native, is working his second year at the super-power global AIDS office. During a recent visit with family in Clayton he reflected on growth of his vocation with North Country Catholic.

Doubt struck a priest out of this one.'

"Believers need a community to pray in and with and for. They need the community to pray in and with and for. They need the community to pray in and with and for." - Bishop Navagh

"People seem to think they can travel this journey alone." - It is not just in the Church, it is not just in the Church, it is not just in the Church, it is not just in the Church, it is not just in the Church, it is not just in the Church.

Father Norm Poupore. Thank you for many years of serving our Church & a belated Happy 90th Birthday.

North Country Catholic

May the grace of Jesus keep you always.

Temperatures of the John B. Replogle

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North Country Catholic

May the grace of Jesus keep you always.
Rites held for Sr. Mary Larkin

N O V . 2 0 , 2 0 1 5

In Memoriam — A Memorial Mass for Ursuline Sister Mary Larkin, 81, was celebrated at the Ursuline Province Center Nov. 4. She died Oct. 21 at Cabratory Hospital.

Sister Mary was born in Mayville, N.Y., in 1934, and entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1951. She was retired from teaching, Sister Mary worked to assist and benefit certain social total associate both in New York and in other areas.

For the Diocese of Ogdens-

Church, Brasher Falls, from 1960 to 1964. In 1994, Father Lauer, Sister Mary was a volunteer chaplain at Phelp's Memorial Hospital.

She is predeceased by her parents, Catherine and Vincent Larkin. She is survived by a niece and a nephew, Michael Larkin, and her sister, Kathleen Larkin. Sister Mary is survived by her parents, Catherine and Vincent Larkin. Sister Mary is survived by her parents, Catherine and Vincent Larkin. Sister Mary is survived by her parents, Catherine and Vincent Larkin.

Donations may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund, Ursuline Province Center, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Bishop’s Schedule

No. 27—9 a.m., Eucharistic Congress at the Spirit Holding in Ogdensburg

No. 28—8 a.m., Visit to Trinity Catholic School in Massena, followed by Mass at noon

5:30 p.m., Evening Prayer at the St. John’s Retreat Center in Malone from 6 to 7:30

No. 29—11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

1 p.m., Basilar and Holy House for Life, Marriage and Liberty at St. Mary’s Cathedral

No. 30—5:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Mass for the Special Religious Education Program at St. Kevin in Hinsdale.
Meet the recipients

continued from page 4

Roger and Colleen Snyder

Roger and Colleen Snyder are parishioners of St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh, New York. The couple was married in 1948, at the Lake Ann Church in Lake Placid, New York. The couple was married in 1948, at the Lake Ann Church in Lake Placid, New York. Their love and commitment to the parish and to the community is evident in their work and dedication.

Roger serves as a deacon and a faithful witness to the liturgical environment, and as an Evangelization team member. He has been an active member of the parish Confirmation Program. He is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Joseph is also a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

James D. Carroll

James D. Carroll is a parishioner at St. Joseph’s Church in Plattsburgh, New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Champlain College in Plattsburgh. He serves on the Cemetery Committee, and he has been involved with the Altar Rosary Society, Regina Coeli, and the parish Liturgical Environment Committee. He has been a member of the parish Pastoral Council.

Your Brother Knights & their families

K of C Council 7364, Adams, NY

Your Family Patrick Ryan

Thank you for your service to our Church, Our Parish & our Country.

Congratulations on 30 years of Priesthood.

From the Catholic Community of Marysville, Hammond and Rossie

Thank you, Father Jay!

See more news articles at www.northcountycatholic.org

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Vol. 20, 2013

DIOCESAN LIFE

12

13

20
Nearly 300 people, family and friends of the Sacred Heart Foundation and the region’s Missionaries of the Sacred Heart gathered Sept. 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn to celebrate the 47th year of the Foundation’s existence and four decades of dinners. The event celebrated the Foundation’s awards of 44 scholarships totaling $72,000 in 2013 to seminarians studying to become Missionaries of the Sacred Heart priests and brothers.

The theme, “Locally Connected to the World,” is evidenced by the region’s benefitting from the generosity of the Foundation’s supporters. This year’s scholarships support students in the United States, Colombia, Brazil, Cameroon, Fiji, India, and Indonesia.

The evening opened with the Foundation’s Annual meeting chaired by Foundation President, Nancy McCabe. Deacon Kevin Mastellon, Deacon Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown and a member of the Foundation Board, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening’s program.

Father Joseph Morgan, Vicar General of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, offered the invocation. Following the dinner, Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father E. Michael Camilli, shared his thoughts on Renewed Missionary Energy in the Year of Faith. His remarks are available on the Foundation web site, www.sacredheartfoundation.com

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Raymond Desbois, provincial superior, closed the evening with benediction.

Winners of Year of Faith photo contest honored at Nov. 8 reception

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented certificates to the winners of the diocesan Year of Faith photography contest “Picture it... Catholicism,” at a reception held Nov. 8 at the Church of the Visitation parish center. The program was organized by Carol Gonthier of Norfolk and Donna Smith, Hogansburg, Year of Faith committee members.

Eighty photographs were submitted from 29 entrants. They were judged for content/theology/catechetical objective, adherence to Catholic teachings, photographic technique and creativity.

The judges were Anna Callarella, Jack and Linda Kelby and Jackie Siddon. The winners were:

Elementary - Color, not manipulated
1st: Meaghan Pierce, St. Raphael’s, Heuvelton
2nd: RJ Wolfe, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Junior Senior High School - Color, not manipulated
1st: Maureen Pierce, St. Raphael’s, Heuvelton
2nd: Carter Pierce, St. Raphael’s, Heuvelton
3rd: Alexis Michael, St. Raphael’s, Heuvelton

College - Color, not manipulated
1st and 2nd: Emily Gonthier, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Adult - Color, not manipulated
1st: Gayle Frank, St. Mary’s, Clayton
2nd: Teresa Clemmo, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk
3rd: Charlie Robinson, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Adult - Black & White, not manipulated
1st, 2nd and 3rd: Father Andrew Amyot, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Adult - Color, computer manipulated
1st: Kathleen Wolfe, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Our appreciation for all that you do for our Catholic community.

St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
St. Lawrence Church, North Lawrence

We offer prayers and gratitude for ALL of our wonderful priests. May God richly bless you for your generous and joyful witness.

Love the Pierce family
Nearly 300 people, family and friends of the Sacred Heart Foundation and the region’s Missionaries of the Sacred Heart gathered Sept. 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn to celebrate the 47th year of the Foundation’s existence and four decades of dinners. The event celebrated the Foundation’s awards of 44 scholarships totaling $72,000 in 2013 to seminarrians studying to become Missionaries of the Sacred Heart priests and brothers.

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We offer prayers and gratitude for ALL of our wonderful priests. May God richly bless you for your generous and joyful witness.

Love the Pierce family

Thank You
Fr. Giroux for all that you do for our Catholic Community.

St. Patrick’s Church, Boonville
St. Lawrence Church, North Lawrence

PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
Bishop LaValley is pictured with some of the “Picture it... Catholicism” winners. In front is Roger Wolfe; back, Emily Gonthier, Kathleen Wolfe, Bishop LaValley, Carter Pierce and Alexis Michael.

PHOTO/DESIGN: Bchen

Space in the News:

Deacon Kevin MacInnis, Deacon Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick Church in Watertown and a member of the Board, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening’s program.
Leo and Theresa Giroux are parishioners of St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh, New York. This couple was married on June 8, 1946, at St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy, New York. The couple had four daughters and six sons. Leo and Theresa Giroux owned and operated Giroux Dairy and Poultry Farm. Additionally, Leo served as Town Justice for the Town of Plattsburgh. Leo and Theresa have been active in St. Peter’s Church and St. Joseph’s Church in Plattsburgh. Leo also was Parish Treasurer and a member of the parish’s Charist, Lector, organist, and teacher in the parish’s Liturgical Environment Committee. He currently serves on the Cemetery Committee, and was chairman of the Parish Confirmation Program. He has been a member of the parish’s Parish Council for over thirty years, and currently serves on the Cemetery Committee, and Liturgical Environment Committee. Leo served as parish trustee from 1999 through 2002. Leo was also a member of the Church Renovation Committee for his parish.

James D. Carroll serves as a layman at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh, New York. He was a member of the Sunday School and a Business Administration teacher at Champlain College in Plattsburgh.

James serves in a lay, communal way. He is a remarkable man of God and neighbor, and finds joy in sharing his gifts and talents with others.

A devout man of prayer, James lives out his faith and lovingly reaches out to others in need. James’ love for the Church is matched only by his devoted and humble service to his parish. James is married to the former Gale Lapham, and the couple has four daughters.

Father Patrick Ryan, Thank you for your service to our Church, our Parish & our Country.

Congratulations on 30 years of Priesthood.

Your Brother Knights & their families
K of C Council 7364, Adams, NY

Thank you, Father Jay!
**Rites held for Sr. Mary Larkin**

**Cardinal Dolan urges bishops to make religious freedom a priority**

**Highlights of U.S. bishops' annual general assembly**

**DIOCESAN LIFE**

**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**

**WORLD/ITALY**
**Caritas leader: typhoon devastation 'unimaginable'**

By Debra Souto

Catholic News Service

Nov. 20, 2013

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS, coordinator of the global Catholic relief network, has declared the devastation wrought by Typhoon Haiyan 'unimaginable' in the Philippines.

"This is beyond our capacity," Father Gariguez, head of Caritas in the Philippines, said Jesuit Father Edwin Villamor, said on Nov.12, while local relief began immediately after the typhoon.

"I came with my three children and a companion," said the 15-year-old boy, carrying his 6-year-old daughter. "And my other child, she died because the water went up so high... she was seven years old and was drowned because there are no coffins there," Father Villamor said. "We're coming to Manila because none of the food packs being distributed had made their way here. The typhoon destroyed everything, the husband was living in destitution."

Father Raymond Moran, a priest of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, said, "I had a chance to shake his hand. Father Gariguez never told anyone I felt happy while I was in grade school."

"We live in a country that is really very much a Catholic country. People are very much involved in Catholicism," he said. "I was so glad to see them."

"People seem to think they can travel anywhere," he said. "It isn't just in the Church. It is in society in general. We have lost touch with our neighbors and neighborhood communities."

"Believers need a community to pray in with and to witness to the faith they share," he said.

"Our other concern is clerical," he said. "Being a priest in not for profit is very difficult. Being a priest in for profit is very easy. People lecture, preach, do this and do that," he said. "We need more focus on mission."
Father Demo moves to Dannemora/Redford during his silver jubilee year

New pastor prepares to lead with team approach

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

DANNEMORA — Father John "Mickey" Demo quietly celebrated his 25 anniversary as a priest this past fall. Now ensconced in a new parish, he’s ready to bring his calming, team-like approach to St. Joseph’s Parish in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford.

"I think the bishop’s plan is to have me here for several years," he said recently... surely welcome news to parishioners of those two parishes.

Father Demo describes his style of leadership as a "we" approach, choosing to guide by example, from within a group. This team approach, he says, was instilled in him by his parents, but was also nurtured by a strong upbringing in competitive sports.

In high school, growing up in Brasher Falls, Father Demo was a three-sport athlete, playing football, hockey and baseball. He attended Le Moyne College after he graduated, where he focused his attention on baseball. His love of sports, especially baseball and football, is still apparent today. He follows mostly New York teams, even though he attended seminary 20 minutes from Boston’s Fenway Park, but is also a big supporter of Notre Dame football. For hockey though, he follows the Montreal Canadiens.

Father Demo knew quite early that he was leaning towards a life in the priesthood. He was an altar-server from a young age, but kept that ministry through high school, when many other youth leave the altar.

He credits the interaction with several of the priests of the diocese with showing him the human side of the priesthood, and making the goal of becoming a priest seem more attainable. He notes especially the guidance and friendship of Fathers Louis Gardner, Harry Snow, Mike Gaffney and Don Manfred.

"For someone whose only contact with a priest is Sunday Mass, you don’t see the human side of the priest as you would if you have a friendship," he said. "You have the idea of ‘wow,’ what he is involved in is pretty good stuff. There’s that whole other side, the human side.”

Father sees the relationship of the priest to the people of the parish as the most significant part of his ministry. It’s the spontaneity of dealing with the various types of situations that occur on a daily basis that keeps him on his toes and that makes him enjoy being a priest.

"You don’t know from one day to the next what you might be involved in," he said. "One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a priest is the different types of situations that occur week to week.”

That, and the actual celebration of the Mass, are highlights for Father Demo.

"I love being a priest. Though he has only been ‘on the mountain’ (Dannemora) and ‘in the holler’ (Redford) for less than a month, appreciation for Father Demo is quickly turning from simple appreciation of the fact that he is there, to appreciation for him as a priest, and as a leader of the two parishes.”

November 23-24, 2013
Black and Indian Mission Special Collection to be held in addition at your parish
Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King sets a tone of celebration, a time of hope, and a reminder that wars will end and all nations will succumb to His rule before the Last Judgment. With this feast, the Church marks the end of the Church year. It’s not about pomp and pageantry; it’s about the reality of a heavenly king who has issued a firm invitation to eternal joy if we but give Him our hearts. One of the best statements of our faith, and most consoling supports for our hope is found in today’s second reading which urges us to “give thanks to the Father…for He has delivered us from the powers of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption (and) the forgiveness of sins…and, in Him, all things hold together”. He tells us keep our eyes fixed on the Kingdom He has promised to those who cling to Him in faith and obedience to His laws.

In the first reading, we see the origins of the Kingdom of David who was chosen by the northern tribes for his outstanding qualities of leadership and ability to unify the Israelites. He was the shepherd king, the caring and forgiving king, who prepared the way for the Messiah-King, Jesus, the Son of David and the Son of God. His Kingdom is a kingdom of Peace and Love, a Kingdom of Justice and Truth.

In appreciation for your service to our parishes and communities
We thank you for all you do.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Diocese of Ogdensburg

We thank you, God…
For the priests who share their wisdom in the pages of the North Country Catholic

The Gospel narrates in detail the horrible insults hurled at Jesus by his enemies as He hung helpless on the Cross. They came from the Romans who saw Him as a threat to imperial power. They came from Jewish religious leaders who feared that He would replace their authority.

As true disciples, all of us must do the same for our brothers and sisters who so long for a world at peace.
Meet the recipients of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

Catherine Sponable is a devout Catholic and has always served the Church in a humble and unassuming way. She was devoted to her parents and looked after them in her illness and old age. Since moving from New York City to Lake Placid in 1971, Catherine has been extremely supportive in every way. St. Agiheart Parish and St. Agiheart School in Placid, New York. Catherine has been an active member of parish and diocesan organizations over the years. She has received a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. She has been a strong proponent of the Church, assists in organizing events at the Church in a humble and unassuming way. She has a deep devotion of the Divine Mercy and prays daily and volunteers at Our Blessed Mother, St. Mary.

Catherine Sponable is a parishioner of St. Hedwig Church in Ogdensburg, New York. She is a daily communicant at the Church, and serves as a member of the St. Anthony’s Church in Watertown, New York. After graduating from Mercy Nursing Academy in Watertown, New York. Mary graduated from Mercy Nursing School in Ogdensburg. Catherine remains active as a parishioner of St. Mary, mother of the Church in Ogdensburg, and lives a life of virtue. Her service to the parish has included singing in the choir, working with the Altar Rosary Society, and bringing the Eucharist to the parish. Catherine is a devout Catholic, regularly attending the Eucharistic celebration and taking part in Eucharistic Adoration. Patricia has been active in the Knights of Columbus, and lives a life of virtue. Her service to the parish has included singing in the choir, working with the Altar Rosary Society, and bringing the Eucharist to the parish. She has a deep devotion of the Divine Mercy and prays daily and volunteers at Our Blessed Mother, St. Mary. Mary is the widow of Nelson Besio and has four children. She is a woman of prayer and service in her parish. Mary has been faithful in her visitation of those in nursing homes and has served as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister and catechist to the parish. Patricia has been faithful in her visitation of those in nursing homes and has served as a member of the Sacred Heart Foundation in Watertown, New York. Patricia is a faithful Catholic, regularly attending the Eucharistic celebration and taking part in Eucharistic Adoration.

“About Time,” a romantic comedy, written and directed by Richard Curtis, is a wish fulfillment fantasy about changing your destiny at will, to win the love of your life. On his 21st birthday, a young man (Benedict Cumberbatch) is given a rather unusual power by his father (Bill Nighy): the knowledge that the men in the family can travel back in time. He uses this special gift to land a girlfriend (Rachel McAdams), marry, and have a happy, perfect life. Unlike 1993’s “Groundhog Day,” where the hero betters himself as well as the world around him, “About Time” is about finding love and a more narrow view of the manipulation of the future for selfish motives, coupled with disappointments for the role of the past, which may leave the viewer feeling empty rather than satisfied.

Implied premarital sexual activity, brief nudity, several vulgar gestures, some sacrilegious humor and sexual innuendo, much profanity and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is L – limited audience, films whose problematic or disturbing content adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Patricia Stabins is a parishioner at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown, New York. She is a parishioner of St. Peter’s Church in Lowville, New York. Acclaims, she and her husband, and young mothers as they faced the challenges and cleaning up with her time in support of her parish. Catherine has been an active member of parish and diocesan organizations over the years. She has received a Bachelor of Science degree from Hardin College, and a Ph.D. degree in counseling from Florida State University. Catherine has been an example of courage to help them give birth and raise their babies. In 1992, Elizabeth co-founded Liferight, a group focusing on the Church’s Pro-life message to the public. In 1992, Elizabeth co-founded Liferight, a group focusing on the Church’s Pro-life message to the public. In 1992, Elizabeth co-founded Liferight, a group focusing on the Church’s Pro-life message to the public. Elizabeth has been an active advocate for the Pro-life Ministry of the Church and other parish organizations over the years. She has provided resources and encouragement to others. Elizabeth has been a faithful advocate for the Pro-life Ministry of the Church and other parish organizations over the years. She has provided resources and encouragement to others. Elizabeth has been a faithful advocate for the Pro-life Ministry of the Church and other parish organizations over the years. She has provided resources and encouragement to others. Elizabeth has been a faithful advocate for the Pro-life Ministry of the Church and other parish organizations over the years. She has provided resources and encouragement to others. Elizabeth has been a faithful advocate for the Pro-life Ministry of the Church and other parish organizations over the years. She has provided resources and encouragement to others.
Year of Faith Holy Hour set

Catholics from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg had an opportunity to participate in a Eucharistic Holy Hour during the Year of Faith on Sunday, Dec. 1 at St. Mary’s Church in Canton. The hour was held to celebrate the blessings of the cross of Christ the King. 

Bishop LaValley has directed that a Holy Hour be held each Sunday throughout the Year of Faith. Each Hour will contain the Holy Hour prayer, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Dec. 8 vesper service.

The prayer service is designed to help individuals to truly build up the Church in prayer, to demonstrate their love of God and His Church. It is the highest form of prayer for the soul and was bestowed on the Church by Jesus Christ in person. Each Hour will involve the recitation of the Holy Hour prayer and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Hour is to be held at St. Mary’s Church each Sunday at 3 p.m. outside of regular Mass times. A candlelight vigil to honor the Church of the Immaculate Conception was held on the 40th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception on Nov. 21.

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More people to appreciate!

The best laid plans sometimes go awry... and sometimes that's just fine.

You'll see it all, page after page of the paper. But, last Friday night, a big announcement hit the news today. 

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

We in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are blessed to have our priests. They are a group of exemplary men who proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, serve the People of God and lead the faithful in their faith journey.

For one year:

- North Country Catholic
- Paper is printed each Thursday prior to the publication date
- USPS rate: 0039-3400

We invite our readers to join us in thanking our priests and our diocese for their service to our community.

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies, also known as the Pontifical Mission Societies, are a group of organizations founded by Pope Pius XI in 1928 with the aim of supporting missionaries and missionary work.

Join me in thanking all our priests.

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

They really ‘do good on earth’

From the Diocesan Director, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Mission Director

They are aware and open to the needs of people in the North Country as well as service to the developing lands. They walk through daily tasks and events both planned and not, with care and forgiveness.

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73-5536-0326

Bishop Terry

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What is a Priest?

Priests are mystery men. They come in assorted sizes, ages, weights and collars. They are found everywhere - speeding along, perspiring over, walking by, kneeling on, praying over, laughing with, teaching about, pardoning for, and playing baseball with. Little children run to them; teenagers marvel at them; aged folk turn to them; lay people treasure them; non-Catholics stare over at them; and Mary watches over them.

A priest is Prudence in a T-shirt; Fortitude with a breviary in his hand; Justice on a ball diamond; and Temperance at any party. He is Faith with a blueprint; Hope with a sense of humor; and Charity with a golf club in hand.

A priest may be anything from a contemplative monk in a monastery to a magazine editor on Wall Street, from a labor mediator to a TV personality, from a student to a professor. Formerly known as the boy-around-the-corner, he's a member of each family, yet belongs to none. He penetrates secrets, shares sorrows, heals wounds. He has the trust of a child, the kindness of a best friend, the sternness of a top-sergeant, the daring of a tight-rope walker, the authority of an encyclopedia, the versatility of a commando, and the salesmanship of a Fuller-Brush man.

A priest is a humble creature - a mystifying worker at all professions. His hours are the longest; his salary the smallest; his boss the best! He likes good pastors, the smiles of children, a good sermon, a home-cooked meal, and the name “Father.”

A priest is all things to all men in the sight of God. He may be misquoted, mistaken and misunderstood, but he’ll always forgive – because he’s a mediator; an peacemaker; a go-between heaven and earth. It’s no wonder God loves him. He’s a man standing in an altar clothed in every clothes, who while being aware of his own nothingness speaks to God for us and to us for God. And although his greatest act is to offer sacrifice, his most consoling one is to say to me, “Go in peace – Your sins are forgiven.”

Words of Father Thomas E. Langer
found in the sacristry of one of the churches in the Diocese

Dear Fathers, Thank you for saying yes to Christ’s Call, “Follow Me.”

Vocations Office
Father Bryan Steel
www.myvocation.net

Appreciation for priests in the diocese

The North Country Catholic presents its annual Priest Appreciation issue with special messages from parishioners and friend and profiles on two priests.

Father John M. (Mickey) Demo talked to reporter Shawn Ryan during the first weeks in his new home. He’s now the pastor in Dannemora and Redford.

Father John M. (Mickey) Demo talked to reporter Shawn Ryan during the first weeks in his new home. He’s now the pastor in Dannemora and Redford.

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Mark McDonald, Watertown native and superior general for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, sat down with NCC reporter Deacon Kevin Mastellon.

Year of Faith Holy Hour

Each Sunday Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Liberty to be held
Nov. 24, 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church

Pope: we need confession

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - With baptism, Christians are cleansed of sin, but the sacrament doesn’t wash away human weakness nor the obligation to ask forgiveness when they make mistakes, Pope Francis said.

Baptism is “God’s powerful intervention in our lives to save us. This saving intervention of God doesn’t remove our human nature and weaknesses; we are all weak and we are all sinners. And baptism doesn’t remove our responsibility to ask forgiveness every time we err,” the pope said Nov. 13 during his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines and for those who died Nov. 11 when a shell hit a school bus in Damascus, Syria.

“This must never happen! Let us pray with insistence,” the pope said. The “real battles” that need to be fought in the world, he said, are not wars for power, but battles “for life, never for death.”

In his main audience talk, continuing a Year of Faith series about the creed, Pope Francis reflected on the affirmation, “I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.”

THE SAINTS COME MARCHIN’ IN

St. Mary’s School students in grades 5-6 at St. Mary’s celebrate All Saints Day by dressing as saints after researching and paroling in a “Peacemakers” program at school. Pictured are Casey Leonard, as Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas Moore as Bunyan of melancholy, and Shannon Jordan as Edith Stein.

PICTURE IT: Winners of Year of Faith photography contest... p. 11