

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**
Sr. Maureen Sweeney
looks back on 50 years
as an SSJ | PAGE 3

Preparing for Christmas
one papal homily at
a time | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 29

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 10, 2014

Pope: ignoring God leads to violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- It is the complete disregard for God, not his glorification, that leads to violence in this world, Pope Francis said.

That is why people of faith, particularly Christians and Muslims, must work together for peace, and governments must guarantee full religious

freedom for their citizens and religious communities, he said Dec. 3 at his weekly general audience.

Just a few thousand people - huddled under umbrellas and plastic ponchos - gathered in St. Peter's Square for a rainy Wednesday papal audience.

The pope dedicated his general audience talk to a few of the highlights and hopes from his trip to Turkey Nov. 28-30.

The importance of religious freedom, he said, was the focus of the first day of the trip when he met with government authorities of

the Muslim-majority nation with a constitution affirming the secular nature of the state.

With government leaders, he said, "we talked about violence and how it is precisely forgetting about God, not his glorification, that generates violence."

Religious Retirement Appeal

The annual Religious Retirement collection "Share in the Care" will take place in parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg this weekend.

Bishop LaValley encourages generosity to this appeal, writing that this Year of *Consecrated Life* is a "grace-filled time for the Church in the North Country to express our gratitude to the consecrated women and men who have educated our young, cared for our sick, provided pastoral care to our parishioners and Worked for justice for the oppressed."

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 7-10

Young Catholic Voice

The truth about 'Jesus Camp' -
"Guggenheim has left its
mark on my life"
FULL STORY, PAGE 16

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Artwork by Gillian Boulé, a sixth grader at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh was chosen for the cover of Bishop LaValley's 2014 Christmas card. The bishop selected Jillian's design from among those submitted by children in Catholic schools and faith formation programs from across the diocese. Jillian, the daughter of Michael and Christine Boulé, is shown above with her pastor, Msgr. Dennis Duprey of St. Peter's; her art teacher, Juliet Dubay and principal St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Hermann. A photo of the front of the card is published on page 3.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Share special greetings with your favorite priests, p. 4-5

POPE AND PATRIARCH

Sign joint declaration



CNS PHOTO/CNS PHOTO/GREGORZ GALAZKA, POOL

Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, considered first among equals by Orthodox bishops, sign a joint declaration at the patriarchal Church of St. George in Istanbul Nov. 30. The declaration highlighted violence against Christians in the region. "We cannot resign ourselves to a Middle East without Christians," the leaders wrote, specifically noting the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. "Many of our brothers and sisters are being persecuted and have been forced violently from their homes," the declaration said. "Tragically, all this is met by the indifference of many." The statement described an "ecumenism of suffering," according to which the "sharing of daily sufferings can become an effective instrument of unity."

**NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC**

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**
President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ
Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/
General Manager



Published 45 issues per year:
Weekly except every other week beginning the end of May through August and skipping one week in December by the Diocese of

Ogdensburg.
622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountrycatholic.org

Entered at the Post Office:
Ogdensburg, N.Y.
13669 and additional mailing offices as Periodical Postage.

Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Reasons for joy on Gaudete Sunday

As we look ahead to our joyful Advent Sunday, Gaudete, we have plenty of reasons to rejoice.

First of all, we are thrilled to welcome Father Muench back to his regular place on this page.

We are so grateful that he's strong enough to write for us and hope that this is the case for many, many years to come.

We're also happy to present the last – but certainly not



Mary Lou Kilian

least – story of our 2014 religious jubilarians.

Sister Maureen Sweeney, still an Irish lass, has given 50 years of service as a Sister of St. Joseph in every corner of the North Country.

Like most of the rest of this year's jubilarians, Sister Maureen continues in active ministry.

With any other "career" these women could have retired years ago but I don't know think anyone

is surprised that they are still working hard – in classrooms and parishes – to bring God into our lives.

I think it's safe to say that most of us took our sisters for granted when they taught in our classrooms for pennies. And we take them for granted now as they work through their 60's, 70's and 80's.

This Gaudete Sunday offers us an opportunity to give back, just a little, to the religious women and men who have given their very lives to God for us.

The annual Religious Retire-

ment Collection – Share in the Care – will be taken up in all our parishes this weekend. As we begin this Year of Consecrated Life, a little concrete recognition of consecrated life, i.e., a generous contribution to the collection would be in order.

As Bishop LaValley points out, that while many continue in some form of ministry, others are frail and need assistance. "This is a fitting occasion for us to express our gratitude for these faith filled women and men," he said.

Amen!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Advent: the patient is waiting patiently

Advent – patient watching – patience.

Personally, as I go through these days of rehabilitation, I receive this Advent message from everyone I talk with, from family and friends, from doctors and nurses. "Be patient and good things will happen."

During the Advent season, the Church of today looks back to the Hebrew community before Jesus. Those people were holding on to a promise, a promise that soon there would be a Messiah, a Savior, who would bring God's peace and forgiveness, happiness and love, to a needy world.

Living out this promise demanded years of patience.

For the faithful people of Israel, it was constantly patience. For the great prophets of the Hebrew people patience was not easy. It often resulted in their frustration. They wrote and prayed "Come, Lord – come and save your people."

As we remember and celebrate Advent, we use the songs and words of the psalms and prophets, especially the Prophet Isaiah.

The psalms are those wonderful songs of the Old Testament; constantly they plead with God to come. Psalm 85: "Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation. I will hear what God proclaims;

'Father Bill Says'
tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

the Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land."

So, my personal companions during these days of patience are those generation of people who patiently waited – without losing faith and confidence that God would hear their prayers.

This year, Advent has truly become a time of patient-waiting for me as I go through this time of healing.

Each year, during Advent, the Church points me to Isaiah, His is the Advent message that is truly familiar to all of us. It is a most powerful message of faith and confidence in the Lord, a message of patience.

Isaiah tells that this Savior, this Messiah, will transform our world because he will come with gentleness and patience. "Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to

the nations. He will not cry out or raise his voice, nor make his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break – and a dimly burning wick he will not extinguish; he will faithfully bring forth justice."

So, my model and my example is our Lord and Savior – whom Isaiah looked forward to – Jesus who would come in peace and love, bringing his message to our world, gently and patiently.

Jesus would accept our humanity – even the suffering and a death for us – and he accepted it all so patiently. I must walk with Jesus, walk in

Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

New Subscription Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address: _____

Eighth in a series of autobiographies of 2014 religious jubilarians

Sister Maureen Sweeney: SSJ for 50 years

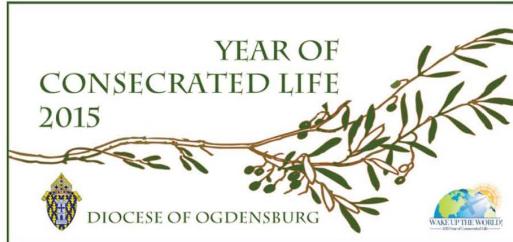
I am a native of County Donegal, Ireland, the oldest of four children to the late Edward and Ellen Sweeney. I have two sisters and a brother.

I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph September 7, 1963. I received the habit on June 24, 1964 and made final vows August 29, 1969.

In the Ogdensburg Diocesan Catholic Schools, I taught in Sacred Heart School in Watertown, St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, St. Joseph's School in Dannemora, St. Agnes School in Lake Placid, Holy Name School in AuSable Forks, St. Patrick's in Watertown and Holy Family in Malone.

I was assigned as Superior of our Motherhouse for six years and was involved in the General Administration of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

My ministry at the Mother-



house, Teaching Ministry and Pastoral Ministry each brought its own joy and blessings in my life.

I thank God for my family who taught me the importance of praying, as I was growing up and for supporting me in my vocation.

I am very grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph who provided the opportunity to study and receive a Bachelor's degree from Chestnut Hill College, Pennsylvania

and a Master's degree from Duquesne University in Pennsylvania.

My education and religious life helped me to appreciate the hard work and sincerity that I witnessed working with people whom I have served in my ministry.

These fifty years have been grace-filled with many blessings and opportunities to see God working in my life.

Sister Maureen Sweeney, SSJ



Sister Maureen Sweeney, celebrating 50 years of religious life, was honored by St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena, where she currently serves as pastoral associate, for her jubilee. She is shown above with pastor Father Mark Reilly.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley's 2014 Christmas card, designed by Jillian Boule, a student at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh, carries the theme "God Holds Us With Love."

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

#Pontifex

1273 BIG BROOK ROAD
INDIAN LAKE, NY 12842
FITTERERBOOKBINDING.COM
518-648-6494
FITTERER@FRONTIERNET.NET

Jack &
Taff Fitterer
HAND BOOKBINDING
& RESTORATION

RESTORING FAMILY BIBLIES &
PARISH RECORDS SINCE 1983

MOP MALONE OFFICE PRODUCTS
Dean Lamica
Sales Representative
333 West Main St., Malone
1-800-894-6626
518-483-6600

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

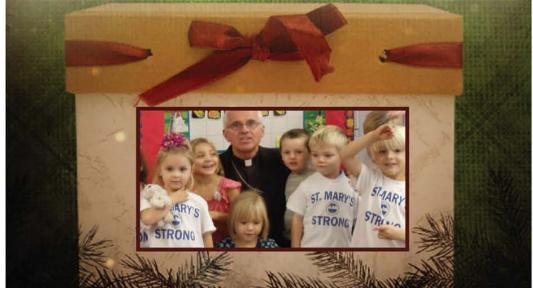

Find us on Facebook!

Thank You!

With the celebration of Thanksgiving comes the thought of all those people for whom we are so thankful in our lives. This year in particular, the staff, students and families of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga would like to share our appreciation for all who have helped us through the terrible fire that destroyed our Catholic school on September 5, 2014. Because of so many from far and wide who have reached out to help us in our time of need, we have continued to provide the education that our families have chosen for their children with more layers of caring and support than ever before. Each of you who have helped in some way has become part of the fabric that now makes up our school. We have learned that our school is not just a building, but rather, it is a community of people who provide an education in so many different ways.

Thank you, one and all, for everything that you have done and continue to do for St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, as we move forward to rebuild our school. The entire roof and structural steel replacement is soon to begin, so our needs continue as we get ready for reconstruction. We want you to know how thankful we are, and how much we appreciate every detail of attention that has been given to our every need thus far. We could never have gone on without these many gifts.

May God bless you and yours.
Sister Sharon and the Staff and Families of St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga





....with the priests of our diocese

**Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff
V.F.**
St. Mary's Church
521 James Street
Clayton, NY 13624

Rev. Alan J. Lamica
P.O. Box 38
North Bangor, NY 12966

Rev. Robert O. Lamitie
1836 Walden Pond Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

Rev. Victor E. Lamore
PO Box 846
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Rev. Kris C. Lauzon
The CC of Holy Name &
St. Matthew
PO Box 719
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

Rev. Paul F. Ledermann
53-885 Avenida Mendoza
LaQuinta, CA 92253

Rev. Clyde A. Lewis
St. Patrick's Church
PO Box 217
Rouses Point, NY 12979

Rev. Christopher J. Looby
St. Mary's Church
1347 State Route 11
Brushton, NY 12916

Rev. John J. Looby V.F.
CC of Burke and
Chateaugay
PO Box 908
Chateaugay, NY 12920

Rev. Douglas J. Lucia
St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

Rev. Shane M. Lynch
St. Bartholomew's Church
PO Box 236
Old Forge, NY 13420

**Rev. Donald J. Manfred
VF**
Church of Sacred Heart and
St. Lawrence
PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Rev. George F. Maroun
St. James Minor Church
327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619

Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 382
Constableville, NY 13325

Msgr. C. John McAvoy
51 Willow Way Apt. 19
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

**Msgr. Robert J.
McCarthy**
Vianney Hall
1425 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Kevin D. McEwan
St. Mary's Church
22 Father Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Rev. J. Roger McGuinness
St. Joseph's Church
PO Box 224
West Chazy, NY 12992

Rev. Bernard D. Menard
c/o Rev. James Seymour
PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Gilbert B. Menard
104 Bea's Way Apt. 118
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Raymond J. Moreau
The CC of St. Philip of
Jesus and St. Joseph
P.O. Box 607
Willsboro, NY 12996

**Rev. Joseph A. Morgan
VG**
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. William G. Muench
PO Box 664
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

Rev. Patrick W. Mundy
St. Peter's Church
114 Cornelia Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Msgr. John R. Murphy
Church of the Visitation
PO Box 637
Norfolk, NY 13667

Rev. Steven M. Murray
Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien
St. Raphael's Church
PO Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

Rev. Patrick J. O'Reilly
27 Saint Bernard St
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Anthony Osuji
Kateri Hall
PO Box 429
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Rev. Edward E. Papp
St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Terrence Patterson
18 Flow Drive
Potsdam, NY 13676

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant
16 Glen Drive Apt. 4
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Sony G. Pulickal V.F.
PO Box 214
Speculator, NY 12164

Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan
St. Bernard's Church
27 St. Bernard Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. William G. Reamer
Our Lady of Victory
Church
4919 S. Catherine Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Mark R. Reilly
St. Mary & St. Joseph
Church
PO Box 609
Massena, NY 13662

Msgr. Peter R. Riani
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Donald A. Robinson
St. Anthony's Church
850 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Stephen Rocker
St. James Church
164 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Rev. Joseph N. Sestito
100 Van Tassal Lane
Rome, NY 13440

Rev. James W. Seymour
The CC of Morristown,
Hammond, and Rossie
PO Box 216
Morristown, NY 13664

Rev. Scott R. Seymour
The RCC of St. Alexander
and St. Joseph
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Alan D. Shnab
St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

Rev. F. James Shurtliff
Notre Dame Church
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Msgr. Harry K. Snow
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 187
Waddington, NY 13694

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt
St. Andre Bessette Parish
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Richard S. Sturtz
Notre Dame Church
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Carl Subler
10785 A Chapel Drive
Fort Drum, NY 13602

**Rev. Jonas Rafael
Tandayu MSC**
Our Lady of the Sacred
Heart Church
320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Justin Thomas
St. André Bessette Parish
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Howard J. Venette
St. Francis of Assisi Church
PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

**Rev. Raymond J.
Wertman**
2292 Costa Rican Drive
Apt. 56
Clearwater, FL 33763

Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Leo A. Wiley
Church of the Holy Family
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. John R. Yonkovig
V.F.**
St. Agnes Church
169 Hillcrest Avenue
Lake Placid, NY 12946



St. Mary's reconstruction gets a boost from Knights

TICONDEROGA — When students return to St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga next fall, it will be with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus.

Knights from around New York State have contributed \$16,475 to rebuild the school, to date. The latest donation, \$5,000, came from the Ticonderoga St. Isaac Jogues Council 333.

The gift was presented to St. Joseph Sister Sharon Dalton, school principal, and Father Kevin McEwan, pastor, following the Knights' annual Memorial Mass and dinner Nov. 23.

"This has been a challenging time," Father McEwan said at the dinner, "but the Knights of Columbus and so many people have been very generous."

"Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for all you do to support us," he said, "not just as a result of our fire, but throughout the year."

St. Mary's School was heavily damaged by a suspicious fire Sept. 5, forcing classes to be relocated to the basement of St. Mary's Church and the First United Methodist Church.

While the school was insured, there will be costs not covered by insurance, Father McEwan said. Work has started to clean up the fire site with plans to repair the building in time for classes next fall.

The Ticonderoga Knights raised \$5,000 for the school through a members-only raffle.

"The St. Mary's fire has been a unifying force that has brought our brotherhood together," Mike Edson, Ti grand knight, said. "We're pleased we can make this donation to the school."

Besides the \$5,000 from the Ticonderoga Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's School has received \$5,000 from the New York State Knights of Columbus and \$6,475 from individual councils in the region.

Making donations were



Knights of Columbus from around New York State have contributed \$16,475 to rebuild St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga which was heavily damaged by fire in September. The latest donation, \$5,000, came from the Ticonderoga St. Isaac Jogues Council 333. The gift was presented to St. Joseph Sister Sharon Dalton, school principal, and Father Kevin McEwan, parish pastor, by Ti Grand Knight Mike Edson following the Knights' annual Memorial Mass and dinner Nov. 23.

Knights from Plattsburgh, Massena, Keeseville, Canton, Old Forge, Malone, Port Henry Adams, Morrisville, Peru, Saranac Lake, Indian Lake, Bloomingdale, Champlain, Tupper Lake, Waddington and Winooski, Vt.

Frank McCabe chaired the Ticonderoga raffle, with assistance from Dick Liddell and Les Bilow.

"We did this within the confines of our own club," McCabe said of the \$5,000 donation from Ticonderoga Knights. "We set a goal to raise \$5,000 and we did it. It was a good venture."

There were nine winners in the Ti raffle. Chris Connery, Tom LaPointe, Mike Graney, Chris Blanchard and Joe Liddell each won \$100. Wendy Michalak and Tony DiFebbo won \$500. Robert Palandrani Sr. won \$1,000 and Dominick Viscardi claimed the \$2,500 top prize.

The St. Isaac Jogues Council 333 has 259 members and a long history. The local Knights of Columbus formed April 24, 1898, with 42 mem-

bers.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's organization dedicated to the core principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

The Ticonderoga council has dedicated thousands of hours and monetary gifts to St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's School and the community.

Its emphasis on youth citizenship has included sponsorship of local Little League teams, the Knights of Columbus free throw competition, the Distinguished Young Woman and the Year program and high school athletes and athletic teams.

As a community service the Knights host many social events each year, including the Irishman of the Year dinner, a Valentine's Day event and many fund-raising dinners and events for local groups and individuals in need.

The Knights of Columbus also host private functions such as graduation, wedding and anniversary parties and receptions.

Bishop's Schedule

Nov 30 – Dec. 11 – Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Dec. 12 – 4:30 p.m., Deanery Clergy Advent Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 15 – 2:30 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Spratt Building in Ogdensburg followed by dinner at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Dec. 16 – 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadham Hall in Ogdensburg.

7 p.m., Advent Penance Service at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Environmental Stewardship

The family needs a home . . ."

"The family needs a home . . . for the human family, this home is the earth." (Pope Benedict XVI.) It is from this sacred earth that our Lord Jesus took flesh in the womb of Mary; it is from this same earth that we took flesh in our mother's womb.

Simple actions this Advent can help protect the sacredness of God's creation and all its inhabitants.

When purchasing gifts this Christmas, consider buying local foods and crafts that support our local people while reducing transportation costs.

Consider eating one meatless meal during the week during Advent, or less meat at a meal, reducing the environmental impact on the earth. Remember that even in Isaiah's prophecy of the new Kingdom, . . . the lions shall eat hay like the oxen!" (Is. 11:8)

Contact Cuomo's Office regarding fracking in NYS, urging him to consider the environmental impact on the health of the people, our fresh water and every aspect of the environment upon which all generations now and in the future depend upon, before he makes the decision whether or not to allow fracking in NYS.

Contact info.518-474-8390 or go to www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen men who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Dec. 10 – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

Dec. 11 – George Montreuil, 1914;

Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr.

George Henry Brisson, PA, 1969

Dec. 12 – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843;

Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian

P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

Dec. 15 – Rev. Leon P. Cochard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010

Dec. 16 – Rev. J.F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world. E-mail cward@diogdensburg.org to sign up today.

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!

www.twitter.com/Pontifex

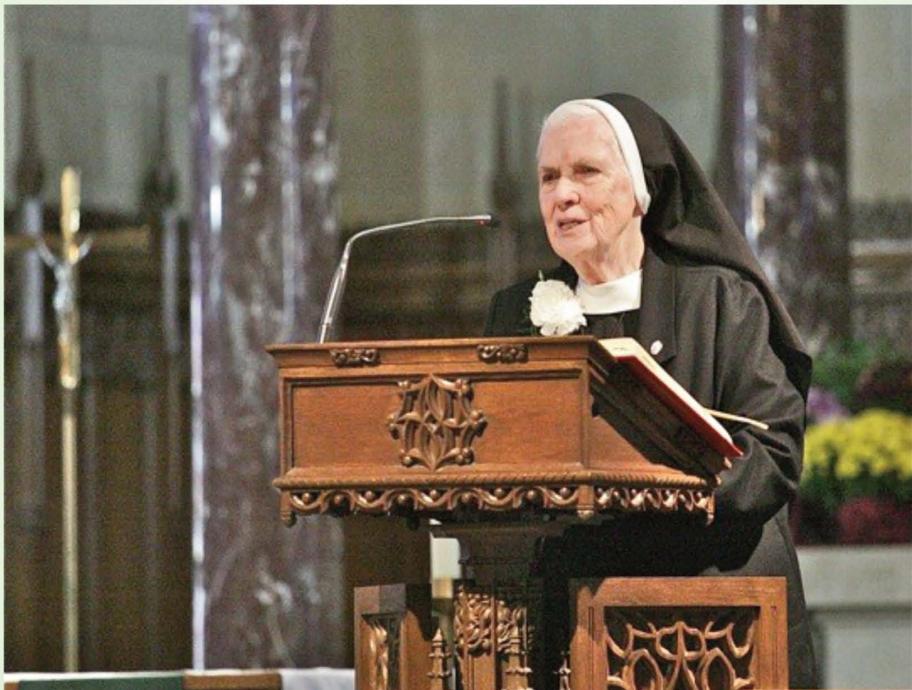


RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION 2014

Share In The Care

December 13th and 14th

Please give to those . . .



who have given a lifetime.

Grateful remembrance of the past (Year of Consecrated Life) Embracing the future with hope.



December 7, 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As you know, the Church has designated this as the *Year of Consecrated Life*. Pope Francis tells us, "Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on its journey." We celebrate their generous response to God's call, giving their lives of selfless love in dedicated service to God's people. What a grace-filled time for the Church in the North Country to express our gratitude to the consecrated women and men who have educated our young, cared for our sick, provided pastoral care to our parishioners, and worked for justice for the oppressed.

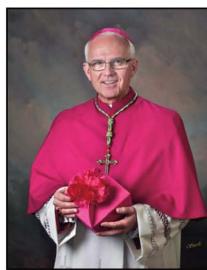
Next weekend, all of our parishes will be conducting the *Retirement Fund for Religious* collection. This annual appeal benefits some 35,000 senior consecrated Religious sisters and brothers and Religious order priests. This appeal provides you and me an opportunity to support them in this phase of their journeys. While many continue in some form of ministry, others are frail and need assistance. This is a fitting occasion for us to express our gratitude to these faith-filled women and men.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed in having fourteen religious congregations represented in our local Church. Last year, we distributed the results of our Collection to these congregations and eighteen other congregations who have served in our Diocese in the past. Most of our older Religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Today a majority of the religious communities struggle to provide necessary medications, nursing care and basic services for their older members. Your generosity helps to fill the gap.

In addition to our continued prayers, next week let us offer our beloved consecrated Religious a generous contribution to this important annual Appeal. Thanking you for whatever donation you are able to make, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Orders Serving in the Diocese

- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
- Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
- Mid-Atlantic Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Servants of Mary
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of St. Joseph
- Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province

Celebration of Jubilee and Opening Event of Year of Consecrated Life October 12, 2014



We are grateful to all fourteen religious congregations presently serving in our Diocese, and they are also grateful for the assistance given by you to help support their aging religious.

*Grateful remembrance of the past
 (Year of Consecrated Life)
 Embracing the future with hope.*



Signing of Pledge of St. Francis by Bishop LaValley with Council for Consecrated Life, September 20, 2014.

*"Religious men and women are prophets.
 They are those who have chosen a following of Jesus that imitates His life in obedience to the Father, poverty, community life and chastity."*

Pope Francis



Sister Catherine Cummings, RSM, far left, and a team of parish nurses bring hope into the lives of the sick among us with their commitment to mercy care.



Mission of Hope, directed by Sister Deborah Blow, OP, at right, extends our diocesan presence into Nicaragua. Sister Debbie and Sister Stephanie Frenette, OP, provide many of our Catholic laymen with missionary opportunities.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why We Ask You to Help ...

Skyrocketing Costs

- There are more than 35,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2013, the average annual cost for their care was \$39,400 per person.
- For each of the last five years, the total cost to support women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.

Insufficient Income

- By 2024, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one.
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$5,123.43—roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

How much was received and distributed from the 2013 Diocesan Collection?

The Diocese of Ogdensburg distributed \$111,802 among the religious congregations who served in our Diocese.

**"I WANT TO SAY ONE WORD TO YOU AND THIS WORD IS JOY.
WHEREVER CONSECRATED PEOPLE ARE, THERE IS ALWAYS JOY!"**

POPE FRANCIS

WE JOY IN OUR NEWEST MEMBERS IN OUR DIOCESE



Pictured far left is Sister Mary Catherine Pham, Novice, and left of Bishop LaValley is Sister Linh Therese Nguyen, APB, newly professed, who are featured here with members of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood who celebrated their fiftieth year of foundation in Watertown.



The newest Congregation in our Diocese is the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. Pictured clockwise from top are Sisters Maria Angelica Rebello, SCC, Jaquiline Mary Sellappan, SCC, Rosy Soosairaj, SCC, and Maria Flavia D'Costa, SCC. All four sisters are actively engaged in ministries in Watertown.



Pictured left to right next to Bishop LaValley is newly professed Sister Suanne Johnson, SSJ, and Sisters Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ and Constance Sylver, SSJ. Sister Suanne is teaching at Augustinian Academy in Carthage.

Grateful for all the support you have given us throughout the years.

Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

- OR -

send your donation directly to:

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

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

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican to release findings of investigation of U.S. women religious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The final report of a five-year, Vatican-ordered study of communities of women religious in the United States will be released by the Vatican Dec. 16. The top two officials of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and three leaders of women's congregations were to take part in the presentation, according to Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, head of Canada's Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation and assistant to the Vatican spokesman. Although it was too early for the Vatican press office to announce the event, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service that a news conference was "foreseen" on that date. The final report of the findings of the apostolic visitation also was expected to be made available online, Father Rosica told the Detroit Free Press Dec. 2 during a visit to Detroit. According to the priest, who has assisted the Vatican press office during major events including the recent extraordinary Synod of Bishops, the officials expected to take part in the Vatican news conference were: Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the congregation for religious; Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, congregation secretary; Mother Mary Clare Millea, superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the apostolic visitor appointed by the Vatican; Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, superior general of the Sisters of Life and chairperson of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious; and Sister Sharon Holland, vice president of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Some see unity vision reigned by pope, patriarch's gestures in Turkey

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) -- After watching firsthand as Pope Francis bowed his head for a blessing from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during the pope's Nov. 28-30 trip to Turkey, an American-born Orthodox priest felt a joyful disbelief. "I couldn't sleep that night," said Orthodox Father Emmanuel Lemelson, an American priest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate who was part of the official Orthodox delegation during the papal visit to Turkey. Father Lemelson, who holds a bachelor's degree in theology and religious studies from the Jesuit-run Seattle University and master's of divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, told Catholic News Service that, as a young man, he fostered a vision that Catholics and Orthodox Christians would soon be reunited. "Suddenly that vision has been reigned. I believe that Pope Francis is truly a great leader and has shown great humility, and that he is not afraid," Father Lemelson said, adding that he thought the ecumenical meeting in Turkey was a sign of greater things to come, of more meetings and of moving things forward in the right direction. The Catholic and Orthodox churches split in 1054 over differences on several matters, including the primacy of the papacy. The two churches have grown closer together in recent decades, but there are long-running tensions in Russia and Ukraine, especially between Orthodox faithful and Eastern Catholics, along with some internal resistance to ecumenical dialogue, especially among the Orthodox.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - As Advent got underway, Pope Francis included in his morning Mass homilies specific graces Catholics should pray for as they prepare for Christmas.

In the chapel of his residence Dec. 2, Pope Francis ended his homily by telling the small congregation, "Let us ask the Lord during this Advent time to draw us closer, closer to his mystery and do so on the path that he wants us to take: the path of humility, the path of meekness, the path of poverty, the path of recognizing we are sinners."

Preaching two days later, he said, "Let us ask the Lord to help us be based firmly on the rock that he is; our hope is in him. We are all sinners, we are weak, but if we put our hope in him we can move forward."

With highlights from his morning Mass homilies available online and on Vatican Radio, millions of people use Pope Francis' homilies as a guide through the church's liturgical year.

The first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30 this year, marks the beginning of a new year of Mass readings, a full calendar of seasons and feast days.

While every celebration of Mass is a commemoration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the church's liturgical calendar is designed to help Catholics focus on specific events as they progress through the year and through time.

Beginning a new church year with the Advent preparation for Christmas, he said in 2013, "we rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey: the church, with her vocation and mission, and all humanity, peoples, civilizations, cultures, all on a journey across the paths of time."

When people grow weary and feel the weight of sinfulness or struggle to keep moving forward with hope in the new life Christ brings, Pope Francis wants them to realize how strongly the Scripture readings for Advent Masses emphasize God's love, tenderness and forgiveness. In fact, the pope wants people to know that the strength to recognize their sins and ask God's mercy comes from knowing that God will welcome them back with open arms.

"The Lord, the great God, is not afraid of tenderness. He is tenderness, he is born a baby, he makes himself small," the pope insisted during a Mass one Advent day last year.

A desperate search for perfect gifts may be part of many people's Advent days, but Pope Francis thinks it might be even

VATICAN LETTER

Preparing for Christmas one papal homily at a time



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING
A girl holds baby Jesus figurines for Pope Francis to bless during his Angelus delivered from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 15, 2013. While the days leading to Christmas are filled with shopping and other holiday preparations, the pope recommended that people also find time for silence so they can listen to God.

tougher to find the perfect Advent atmosphere: a bit of silence. It is good during this season to listen to God, who speaks quietly, tenderly, like a mother or father, the pope stressed in another Advent homily in 2013. "When a child has a bad dream and wakes up crying, Dad goes and says: 'Don't be afraid, don't be scared. I'm here.' The Lord speaks this way too."

That, said the pope, "is the music of the language of the Lord, and we, in preparation for Christmas, ought to hear it." While Christmas usually "seems to be a very noisy holiday," he was confident "it would do us good to have a little silence and to hear these words of love, these words of such nearness, these words of tenderness."

In Advent, and throughout the year, Pope Francis' homilies are a lens for examining and understanding the key themes of his pontificate, particularly God's mercy, human sinfulness, the evils of gossip and corruption, and the humility required of Christians.

In his short homilies -- usually three to five minutes long -- he uses catchy, down-to-earth phrases. For example, recently he coined the term "ecclesiastical micro-climate" to describe the temptation of Catholics to treat the church as a private club.

As Advent drew to a close in 2013, Pope Francis asked Catholics to imagine themselves as Mary. During Advent's final week, "the church is like Mary: She is awaiting a birth," Pope Francis said. Like Mary, believers should say of Jesus and mean with all their hearts: "Come! I want to see your face."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Entering into the hearts of Mary and Joseph

Today we reach the midpoint of Advent. It's a joy-filled celebration, both in the readings and in the rose color of the vestments the celebrant wears today.

In the second reading, we hear "Rejoice! Again I say to you 'rejoice'! 'Why?', we ask.

The reason for joy is the same as that of the early Christians. They held to their firm belief that Jesus Christ has paid the price for their sins, and that he would bring them to glory in the life of the heaven.

Yet we can be left emotionally unmoved at this teaching. A false "holiday" spirit has robbed Jesus of His own birthday.

So we need to spiritually

enter into the hearts of Mary and Joseph as they excitedly await the child's arrival.

St. Paul knew that the early Christians would be tested, so he exhorts them (and us) to "pray without ceasing" and "give thanks always".

Above all, he warns them in today's second reading, "Don't quench the Spirit". In this way they will be "preserved blameless in spirit, soul, and body...for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." For many, Christ came quickly as their faith led them to martyrdom. But they never lost their joyful spirit.

Today's Gospel continues the preaching of John the

Baptist. How carefully he makes clear to the Pharisees that he is not the Christ, nor the light, but a voice testifying to the light that has come into the world.

Fear and doubt thrive in darkness. Just as turning on a light in dark room can take fear away from a child, so the light that increases in us each day of Advent can shrink our fears and bolster our hopes.

When the light intensifies to the radiance of faith's assurance, then we know joy.

The only legitimate fear we're allowed to cling to is the fear of not appreciating enough what the coming of the Christ Child into the world really means.

His first coming 2000 years ago was truly an earthshaking event. Nothing would ever be the same again. Sin and darkness fled

DEC. 14

Third Sunday of Advent
READINGS
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

when the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. That is part of our joy.

The other half is our faith that the reason He came was to redeem us from our sins. There is the full meaning of the light and joy of the season. Only when we close our eyes and choose to live without His Light and refuse to repent of our sins and hang on to the darkness, do we conclude that Christmas is only for children!

When John in prison

sends emissaries to Jesus to ask if He is really the Messiah, Jesus sends back the answer that He is already fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (first reading). He tells John that the blind now see, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News preached to them! John must have been filled with joy, even in prison.

In these troubled times, we must be guided by Our Holy Father. He has just returned from Turkey where he begged the leaders of Islam, all Christian Churches, and Judaism to raise their voices against radical misreading and action in the name of God, and to unite in the power of authentic morality and faith.

May the world listen to His voice and act on it!

OUR READERS WRITE

Feeding the hungry

I read the November 19 article "Feeding the Hungry." It was very good. I was surprised to learn that 40% of food waste is food that is rotting in farmers' fields—blemished food that won't sell in

stores. Surely, our farmers and other groups, especially Church groups, could come up with a solution that helps farmers and those in need?! Apparently it is being done in some areas already.

However, I must urge great caution for those who think that genetically modified foods (GMO'S) are the answer. GMO's are being sold because of the myth of overpopulation and famine. I know that the proponents of GMO's claim they benefit the farmer and the

consumer, but there is a lot of information out there that contradicts those assertions. And, scientific data is lacking, as well as long-term data. GMO's seem to be more about a company controlling food production and less about feeding the hungry.

There is a potential for planetary disaster with GMO's. Besides decimating soil, superweeds and resistant pests are now spreading across farmland. I have also read articles discussing the toxic ef-

fects of GMO's on multiple body organs, thus increasing diseases among humans and increasing the cost of health care.

Basically, GMO's are the taking of genes from one species and splicing or mixing them with the genes of another species. That's a problem right there. Science will go wherever it can for it doesn't always care about the ethics involved. And, proponents use the persuasive tactic of "for our children" to get people on board.

Another very big problem about GMO's is that the farmer has to buy the seed each year from Monsanto, the major company that produces GMO's and the herbicides. GMO's do not decrease pesticide use as promised.

A few years ago there was a story about subsistence farmers in India who

were committing suicide because they couldn't afford to buy Monsanto's seed every year. This is absurd!

So, please, listen to Christopher Thompson from St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas and be very careful about using faith principles to support GMO use.

SINCERELY,
BONNIE PLUMERI FRANZ
OGDENSBURG

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

is on
FACEBOOK




- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

JOB OPENING

The Advancement Director works to enhance the financial resources that serve the current and long-term needs of Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central School. The Director plays an integral role in articulating the mission of Seton by developing relationships with benefactors while assisting with student enrollment and coordinating marketing efforts. A Bachelor's degree and experience in fundraising is required. Commitment to the mission of Catholic education is required. Excellent written, oral and computer communication skills are essential. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Seton Catholic Central School,

206 New York Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12903
or email to crussell@setoncatholic.net.

Applications are currently being reviewed.

A copy of the job description is available at www.setoncatholic.net and www.setonacademy.net



AT THE MOVIES

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

Cosmology and metaphysics, both challenging enough as academic topics, don't blend well into an autobiographical film. That's the lesson of "The Theory of Everything" (Focus).

With a script by Andrew McCarten - based on the memoir "Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen" by Jane Hawking, ex-wife of famed physicist Stephen Hawking - director James Marsh's drama is, for its first hour, an impressive period piece set in 1963 Cambridge University.

After that, the story shows the hazards of having to tiptoe decorously around messy domestic complications when all those involved are still very much alive.

Sensitive and deeply religious, poetry student Jane (Felicity Jones) and Hawking (Eddie Redmayne) meet at a

campus dance. They are, in the romantic comedy style, perfectly mismatched.

He's working on his doctorate, and tells her that his cosmological specialty, the study of the origins of the universe, is "a kind of religion for intelligent thinkers." Hawking adds that he has "a slight problem with the whole celestial dictator premise."

Love finds its way nevertheless. But just as both their romance and his academic career are blossoming, the blight of Stephen's motor-neuron disease - an offshoot of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease - takes hold. Doctors give him just two years to live.

He stubbornly overcomes that prognosis, although at a steep price for Jane, who endures his physical deterioration and the stress of raising their two young children. Discussions of religious faith, or the presence of God in the workings of

the universe, disappear altogether.

She's feeling trapped and unhappy when her mother, Beryl (Emily Watson), suggests she join a church choir. Jonathan (Charlie Cox), the choir director, is handsome, sensitive and helpful. So much so, that he becomes both au pair for the kids and a volunteer attendant serving Stephen's needs, which include being taken to the toilet.

So yes, we see where all this is headed - or perhaps we infer it would be the better phrase. There's the occasional gesture, sometimes a line or an exchange of glances, and meanwhile, Stephen keeps smiling through. One senses the input of platoons of lawyers in these portrayals.

Jane and Stephen never really have a falling-out. They simply grow apart as his fame speeds up, along with the pace of his lecture tours.

By the time of the 1988



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS FEATURES

Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne star in a scene from "The Theory of Everything."

publication of his immensely popular "A Brief History of Time", Stephen has taken up with his nurse Elaine (Maxine Peake), an earthy type who recognizes he's still a sexual being and happily delivers his monthly Penthouse magazine.

Hawking himself, of late, has embraced atheism. But any sense of a spiritual journey, whether positive or negative, is not to be found

in this movie. Instead, this depiction of them only allows Hawking and Jane to be completely human and occasionally flawed.

The film contains fleeting references to marital infidelity and pornography and some sexual banter. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

YOUNG CATHOLICS SHARE TIME AND TALENT TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED



Students from South Lewis High School raised funds to help out the Port Leyden Food Pantry. The South Lewis Service Organization and Student Council members sold tickets for two Thanksgiving Raffle baskets which consisted of a full meal for the holiday. The group raised over \$300 for the food pantry. Felicia Birgenheier is shown with her students presenting the donation to Donna Pfendler, Food Pantry Coordinator. From left are Nathan DeSantis, Taylor Eaton, Leif Ostrum, Patti Ann Strait, Morgan Austin, Mrs. Birgenheier and Mrs. Pfendler.



The third annual Musical Mission, a multi-denominational "Musical Celebration of God's Love," was held Nov. 14 at Holy Family Church in Watertown. All of the entertainment was provided by local musicians - including Ryan Grant, a parishioner of Holy Family, shown above - who gave time and talent to benefit Urban Mission. A donation for the Urban Mission was asked from those attending.

ADIRONDACK**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS, CAROLS**

Lake Placid - The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE) will perform a Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Date: Dec. 28

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story along with community readers and congregational singing in the tradition of King's College, Cambridge. NAVE, under the musical direction of Andrew M. Benware, is a mixed chamber choir of professional and amateur singers that perform choral music from a variety of periods and styles in four to eight parts.

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

Contact: drew.benware@gmail.com

CLINTON**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Mooers Forks - St. Ann's is holding a Parish Christmas Festival

Date: Dec. 14

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Pavilion

Features: Live nativity, bonfire, hot chocolate and cookies.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

Date: Jan. 4

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY NAVE

Plattsburgh - The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE) will perform a Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Date: Dec. 27

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story along with community readers and congregational singing in the tradition of King's College, Cambridge. NAVE, under the musical direction of Andrew M. Benware, is a mixed chamber choir of professional and amateur singers that perform choral music from a variety of periods and styles in four to eight parts.

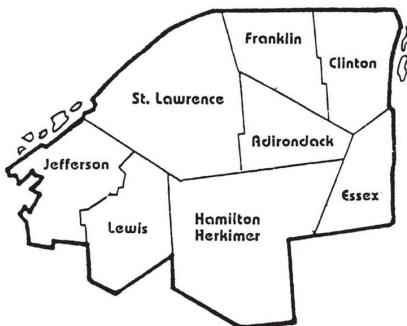
Cost: \$10 suggested donation

Contact: drew.benware@gmail.com

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh - Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adora



The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese"

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

ion Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email
Sjohnsadadoration@aol.com

HAMILTON-HERKIMER**ST. JAMES CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Lake Pleasant - St. James' annual Christmas party to be held.

Date: Dec. 12

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Lake Pleasant Fire Hall

Cost: Covered dish and \$10

Features: share the Christmas Joy, Peace and Love with your church family. Grab Bag gift (optional).

JEFFERSON**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

Watertown - An ecumenical bereavement meeting will be held.

Date: Dec. 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Speaker: Derek Mattarn, Bereavement Spiritual Coordinator and Counselor at Hospice of Jefferson County.

Topic: "Coping with Grief".

DECEMBER ULTREYA

Watertown - Cursillo Community celebrating December Ultreya.

Date: Dec 18

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Chapel of St. Patrick's Church

Features: Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

ADVENT RETREAT

Adams - The Ladies of St. Cecilia are sponsoring an Advent Women's Day of Reflection.

Date: Dec. 13

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Cecilia's Church

Features: Fr. Martin Cline will speak on the theme: 'God so Loved the World.' Lunch of bread and soup will be served.

Contact: Please RSVP by Dec. 7 Call Judy Johnson @ 777-1801.

HOLY HOURS

Adams/Henderson - Holy Hours to be held.

Schedule: First Wed. at St. Cecilia 6:30 p.m.: Jan. 7; Feb. 4; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by pot luck) Dec. 15; Jan. 19; Feb. 16; March 16; Thursday at Queen of Heaven 5:30 p.m.: Nov. 20; Dec. 18; Jan. 22

Features: adoration following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Wed.

ADVENT MYSTERY PLAYERS

The Advent schedule for the IHC Mystery Players has been announced.

Dec. 14 - 7:30 at St. James Church in Carthage

Dec. 21 - 7:15 at Holy Family Church in Watertown.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown - Holy Hour for vocations to be held.

Date: Mon.-Fri.

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

Features: Eucharistic Adoration & per-

sonal prayer

Contact: 315-782-2468

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Lifelight of Watertown, a pro-life education organization, meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville - Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Dec. 18

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, and Benediction.

LEWIS**INTERNATIONAL CRÈCHES**

Houseville - An international exhibit of Christmas Crèches-Nativities Will be on display, free and open to the public

Place: St. Hedwig's Church.

Schedule: The display may be seen on the following Sundays: Dec. 14, 21, 28 and Jan. 4 (2015). The display may be viewed after the 11 a.m. Mass or from 1 p.m. to 3 on the above dates, or by appointment.

Contact: 348-6260.

POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER

Houseville - The Polish Christmas Wafer, Oplatek, is available from St. Hedwig's Church.

Cost: \$3 per package plus postage.

Features: Oplatek, is part of a Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the Vigil of Christmas (Wigilia). After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to share the oplatek, which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The oplatek is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness while wishing God's Blessing on each other this Holy Night.

Contact: 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Potsdam - Festival of Lessons and Carols to be held.

Date: Dec. 14

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Dr. Lonel Woods from the Crane

School of Music will be music director for the event, leading the Choir of St. Mary's & guest organists & choirs of Potsdam Churches.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk - Knights of Columbus Council 11544 will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Dec. 14

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs

Menu: Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, home fries, toast. Made to order omelets are available for a small additional charge.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

Date: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 1:30 p.m.

LATIN MASS

Potsdam - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Celebrant: Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Massena - Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Convent

Contact: 315-769-3137

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES**SILENT RETREAT**

Syracuse - A silent directed retreat to be held.

Date: Jan. 2 at 6 p.m. to Jan. 4, 12 p.m.

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$250

Contact: spiritualrenewalcenter.com; Phone: 315-472-6546; Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

St. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Christ's light shines on the North Country

From the Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

As the season of Advent prepares us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we have seen racial tension, disease, terrorism at work, continued war and a problematic economy. As we reflect upon this, we come to realize what millions of people in developing countries have endured for their lifetime.

Candles of all sizes in traditional Christmas colors are familiar decorations. We become mesmerized by their flickering flames. Candles remind us of the warmth and the love the Christmas Season brings into our lives. People caring for each other in special ways are a familiar sight throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg which is truly letting Christ's light shine through generosity.

There is light in the darkness in the third world countries because of missionaries. Yes, missionaries like yourselves let the light of Christ shine in the lives of people in the missions as they receive your generous donations.

On behalf of missionaries and the people they serve who benefit from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association and the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I thank you for your support in bringing Christ's light into the darkness of the suffering poor in mission lands.

Yet, there is so much yet to do. There is still unthinkable suffering. We always need your help and we pray for the strength and courage to do God's work. Again, thank you for your generous support.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.



OBITUARIES

Constance Shnob, 83

PERU – A Mass of Christian Burial for Constance Rose "Connie" Shnob, 83, mother of Father Alan Shnob, was held Dec. 5 at St. Augustine's Church where her son serves as pastor.

She died Nov. 30, 2014, at the UVMC Health Network of CVPH. Embalming will be in the Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum in Ellenburg Depot.

Mrs. Shnob was born in Plattsburgh, August 27, 1931, the daughter of the late Leo and Lyonette (Hebert) LaBarge. She grew up in Woods Falls and attended Mooers Central School. She married Paul E. Shnob, Oct. 1, 1949, at St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks by Msgr. A. M. Gilbert. Mr. Shnob predeceased her April 23, 1996.

She began her work career at the Slipper Factory in Mooers at the age of 16. She also worked at Ayerst Laboratories in Rouses Point and at Scott's IGA in Ellenburg Depot. She worked for E. F. Drown at Whispering Maples Mausoleum and Drownwood Forest Pet Cemetery. After she retired, she then went to work at Bariactrics in Champlain with her sister, Rita.

She retired again at 77 years old but continued to remain active. For many years, she along with her husband Paul and nephew Alfred, produced maple syrup.

Mrs. Shnob was a lifelong member of St. Ann's Church in Mooers Forks and served on the Pastoral Council as Parish Trustee. For many years, she laundered the altar linens.

At the time of her death, she was a member of St. Augustine's Parish in Peru

where she laundered altar linens, and assisted at the Applefest by baking pies and cakes. She also volunteered at Roger's House Thrift Store with her sister, Rita.

In addition to Father Shnob, she is survived by her daughter, Carol A. Schnob of Morrisonville; sister, Rita Cody of Mooers Forks; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Mother Cabrini Shrine at St. Augustine's Parish.

Chasm Falls – Sheila F. (Breen) Reynolds, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2014 at St. Helen's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton – Donald J. Natali, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Keeseeville – Clifford J. "Joe" Busha, 68; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2014 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Placid – Robert "Bob" L. Thompson, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2014 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

LaFargeville – Gerald A. Orvis, Sr., 91; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2014 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Malone – Paul F. Bennor, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2014 at Notre Dame

Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Vlema M. (Blair) Mills, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2014 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Raymond F. Sweeney, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville – Gerald R. Farrell, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2014 at All Saints Church.

Morrisonville – Donald G. Bond, 80; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2014 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Whispering Maples

Norfolk – Philena C. (Brean) Shyne, 95; Funeral Dec. 4, 2014 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Lawrence – John F. Youmell, 78; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Karen D. Rupert, 46; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2014 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery, Eel Weir.

Peru – Wesley E. "Big Wes" Mischler, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2014 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Potsdam – Yvonne (Wells) Hughes, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2014 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.



Attention Snowbirds going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

For a New or Used Car
MORT BACKUS & SONS
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
Phone **315-393-5899**

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.
Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

The truth behind 'Jesus Camp'

By Samantha Bashaw
Student, Seton Catholic Central, Plattsburgh

I have been going to Camp Guggenheim for seven years. Most people at our school may not even consider its original name of Guggenheim, but instead refer to it as "Jesus Camp," a perfectly acceptable term in my opinion. However, there have been some common myths circulating about this place, and questions as to why, over decades, hundreds of people from all across the country travel to Saranac Lake to experience something they can't get anywhere else.

Yes, you go to Mass every day. Yes, you have confession during the week. Yes, you sing songs out of canticles. Yes you have all these so called "boring" things of the Church, but at Guggenheim you see what they really mean. You aren't in an echo filled, gray stone church, but at a place where it is acceptable to wear sweatpants to Mass.

You are surrounded by teenagers who love Jesus with a passion, which you may not have known existed.

On Wednesdays (you can even wear pink if you want to), the Reconciliation service is done with such power and emotion that you walk away from the priest a different person.

I have had a personal experience with confession at Guggenheim that left me wanting to be a part of God more than ever, realizing where in my life I was missing Him.

The songs at Guggenheim are unlike any standard "church" song you have heard before. We are encouraged to sing until we can literally sing



Samantha Bashaw of Plattsburgh, right, writes about her experiences at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake. She is shown above with three friends during Leadership Weekend held at Guggenheim in October. From left are Maddy Slater of Colton, Nathalie Munn, Saranac Lake; and Abigail St. Louis, Peru.

no more, praising God with the harmony we make together, knowing that singing is really praying twice.

Now while Guggenheim is centered around God and Jesus (who is awesome, by the way), it's not everything the camp ensures. Major mountain hikes, daily swims in the lake, canoeing to

mini islands, "Olympics", a bonfire, volleyball tournaments, and even a full blown, fist pounding dance are all incorporated in the real Guggenheim experience. I've made friends there that could easily last a lifetime. I've been more myself to complete strangers there than I have with some people I've known for years. It is my home, my safe haven, my ideal vacation spot, and I could not imagine a life without it.

Guggenheim has made me into the person I am today, and I don't know if I could ever express in words to you how much this place means to me and how it is so much more than some strict Catholic camp where we listen to scripture readings all day, because it is nothing like that.

My faith has gone from somewhat there, to an indescribable love for God and for my faith that words can't embody. It comes from within ourselves, where we humans can not physically or even emotionally reach, but where God can reach alone.

To some of you I might sound crazy. How could something that is so out of this world have such an effect on you? Do you even know He really exists? Does He even care about you? The answers are simple, but not so simple for the individual mind to discover on its own, and that is why a place like Guggenheim exists. Where "crazy" is the norm and Jesus isn't a topic that is avoided.

Guggenheim has left its mark on my life, one of late nights eating Twizzlers and drinking soda, of scary stories that I still have to cover my ears to (even if I know what the ending will be), and especially of the love God has for me, and yes, even for you.



Subscribe to the North Country Catholic today!

Subscribe online at www.northcountrycatholic.org
or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe today!
Options to receive the NCC in your mailbox or in your e-mail.

Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 304, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

 NEW Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards
 NEW Baptism, Wedding & Sacramental Gifts, Statues
 NEW Memorial, Candles, Icons, Music, DVDs, Recovery
 NEW Willow Tree Products, Seasonal, Maple Syrup & More!
Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!

Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 (518) 561-5083 www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com
 Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

The North Country Catholic Makes A Great Gift!

Enter a one year subscription for a member of the family or for a friend as a gift from you. We'll send a special gift card to the recipient.

Gift Recipient Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift Giver Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- New Subscription Renewal
 Inside Diocese \$27 enclosed
 Outside Diocese \$30 enclosed
Clip and Mail Check to:
 North Country Catholic
 PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY
 13669

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU BEWARE PROFESSIONAL USE

Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com

MKT ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800