Warns about ‘pagan Christians’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- People who go to church on Sundays, but spend the rest of the week cultivating their attachment to money, power and pride are “pagan Christians,” Pope Francis said.

When St. Paul wrote his Letter to the Philippians, the Christian community was composed of two groups, real Christians and those who were “enemies of the cross of Christ,” the pope said Nov. 7 during his homily at Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives. “Both groups were in the church together, they went to Sunday Mass, praised the Lord and called themselves Christians,” he said, according to Vatican Radio. But some of them were “worldly Christians, Christians in name only, with two or three Christian characteristics, but nothing more. Pagan Christians!” Today, the pope said, “there are many of these. And we, too, must be careful not to slip” into being Christians in name only. Being half-hearted Christians, “accustomed to mediocrity” is a danger for all, he said.

Annual report of diocesan Foundation

Report includes methods of giving, mission of Foundation, message from Bishop LaValley, financial position and a list of more than 40 endowments established through the Foundation.

Creating culture of vocations

Marika Donders reflects on the ‘hidden vocation:’ the vocation of a single person

OPEN OUR HEARTS: Bishop’s Fund supports deacon formation... p. 6
Continuing our November focus on creating a culture of vocations (the first priority of the diocesan pastoral vision), this week’s North Country Catholic features a reflection on a “hidden vocation.”

That’s how a single woman describes the vocation to single life.

Marika Donders, who serves the diocese as director of evangelization, writes about the discernment process which led her past marriage and consecrated life to an understanding that, for the sake of the kingdom, she was called to be single.

When we hear the word “vocation,” we usually think of the priesthood or religious life but, as Marika writes, “each of us, including those of us who are single, have a vocation to holiness and to a relationship with Jesus.”

For single people, she says, “there is a freedom and availability to go where and when needed to be present as a catalyst within the Body of Christ.”

What a blessing that is for the rest of us.

Our diocese has always been enriched by extraordinarily single men and women who have shared their time, talent and treasure in Catholic parishes and schools across the North Country.

With my nearly forty decades of professional life in this diocese, I can look back at the work of Caritas Award winners like Mary Dicks and Mary Morgan and Guggenheim directors RoseAnn Hickey and Michelle Watkins as well as some amazing religious educators, scout leaders and liturgical musicians.

And our diocese continues to be blessed by the generosity of Sally Rusaw, former librarian at Mater Dei College, who is spending her retirement years in the Chancery office maintaining diocesan archives.

The people in our corner of God’s Kingdom can thank God every day that the pursuit of holiness by these singular singles brings blessings to us all.

Consider the messages of November

Let’s talk about November, the month of the Faithful Departed.

The month begins with two important feast days – All Saints Day and All Souls Day. We remember our personal saints and we pray that we will one day be with them, be saints ourselves. We also pray for all of our deceased loved ones. In addition, November will be filled with many memorial services to celebrate the lives of deceased loved ones and deceased members of various groups.

November becomes more meaningful when we renew our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our life and our own death one day become more understandable only when our faith is new and stronger. We begin by again recalling the Incarnation. Jesus, the Son of God, became one of us, became human in every way. Jesus lived among us and left a message – a way of life. This is a very startling thing. Our human race is sacred, is blessed because Jesus was once one of us.

Jesus accepted our humanity completely. He lived for us and he died for us. He came to prove to us God’s great love for us. He did this by dying on the cross, dying for us. St. Paul teaches us: “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.”

Consider this – the value of our life and death is so important to God that Jesus died for us even when we were sinners, for many even before they found Jesus.

Jesus rose to new life. He was crucified and three days later he rose to new life. November is about Resurrection. November is an Easter. Jesus found new life. His message for us is that we – all of us – will one day find resurrection, new life with the Lord.

The message of November is that our resurrection begins for us now. We acquire a foretaste here on earth; we will experience this resurrection fully in the Kingdom. We can and must live now like resurrected people.

It should be obvious to all – in the way we live, in our very eyes – that we are aware that we have new life in the Lord. This means that we must daily strengthen our faith in Jesus. Faith in Jesus changes who we are. Faith gives us a life that must become new for we are experiencing new life with the Lord. This gives confidence, the confidence to do the right thing and the strength to make a difference. So, as followers of Jesus, the Jesus who rose for the dead, the Jesus who leads us to our resurrection, we are called to make our lives good and strong, to do all we can to make our world better as we live the life of resurrection now.

Finally, November is about recognizing that God truly wants us to come to eternal salvation. God has a destiny for all – the destiny of salvation. God loves us intensely, passionately. God cares about us and wants salvation for us all. No one is eliminated – Jesus died for us all – Jesus calls us all to resurrection. We are all chosen.

So, this message of November is the very same message of the recent Synod on the Family at the Vatican. The Synod tells us that all are welcome, all are welcome in our Church in our destiny with God. If we believe in these messages that are also the message of November, then we are certain that our Church is a welcoming Church, we are a welcoming people.

This is our road to sanctity. I also want to share something from Father Flor McCarthy, SD8: our real goal is not to strive for happiness but for goodness. If we strive for goodness, happiness will follow. There are good people who act with loneliness and a feeling of sadness for having left undone what they ought to have done. This is the sadness we all feel at times – the sadness of not being a saint.

UPCOMING ISSUES

In the coming weeks, the North Country Catholic will feature:
• Vocation reflections for marriage, the diaconate and consecrated life.
• Annual diocesan financial report.
• Information on ways to support the care for retired religious and retired priests who have served the North Country Church.
• Advent features on prayer.
Catholic Daughters court celebrates 90th anniversary

By Tina Bigelow
Regent, Court St. Joan of Arc, Willsboro

WILLSBORO — The Catholic Daughters Court St. Joan of Arc #867 of Willsboro celebrated its 90th anniversary Oct. 23 as Bishop Terry LaValley celebrated Mass at St. Philip of Jesus Church with the court members.

The bishop was joined on the altar by Father Ray Moreau, pastor; Father Vinny Flynn, Father Mickey Demo, Father Bill Reamer, and Deacon Paul White as well as altar servers Regan and Mallory Arnold and Robbie and Alceson Drollette.

Parish member Sara Spring displayed her artwork in the altar decorations while choir members Herb Longware, Pat Nelson, Shirley Estus, Delia Singleton, organist Mary Sue Arnold and guitarists Robin Blanchard and Sue Bruno enhanced the Mass with their music.

Catholic Daughter Janice Sayward made a cake to celebrate the 90th anniversary of her court, St. Joan of Arc #867 of Willsboro.

Words of inspiration and encouragement were delivered by New York State Treasurer and Diocesan Supervisor Emma Lou Smith and District Deputy Christa Reyell.

Color Guards District Deputy Anna Lucia, Mary King, Bertha Pombrio, and Nancy Clancy of Ct. Mother Admirable #592 of Dannemora led the procession and Court St. Monica #2598 of Peru and Court Kateri and Andre #2663 of Morrisville gathered in unity and charity with Court St. Joan of Arc #867 as a corporate communion of Catholic Daughters.

Parish members from St. Philip of Jesus/ St. Joseph’s of Willsboro/Essex, St. Elizabeth’s of Elizabethtown and St. Philip of Neri of Westport joined in on this special celebration.

A reception catered by Connie Randall and Father Ray followed the Mass featuring a cake made by Catholic Daughter member Janice Sayward.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the annual Catholic Charities Caritas Award Oct. 26 to Edward Martin of Willsboro who accepted on behalf of his wife Penny. Mrs. Martin died March 4, 2014 after a life devoted to the Catholic Church and, in particular, the Catholic Daughters of America. In addition to her work with the Willsboro Court St. Joan of Arc, she served as the New York State Regent for the CDA. The Caritas Award has been presented each year since 1978 for “devoted and unselfish service to the people of the North Country, exemplifying the spirit and ideals that Catholic Charities embodies in its mission, ideals of service and social action, of justice and charity.”

St. Mary’s Parish—Canton

Is seeking a part-time Pastoral Associate for Parish Life. Parish life ministries at St. Mary’s serves two purposes: (1) care of parishioners in need, and (2) parish community building and spiritual growth. The Pastoral Associate is responsible for continually reviewing and assessing the parish’s present ministries and current programs designed to build community. The position requires good interpersonal and organizational skills and the ability to encourage and recruit parish volunteers. To inquire or apply, please contact: Rev. Douglas J. Lucia, Pastor at 315-386-2543 or frdoug@twcny.rr.com

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Photo by Pat Hendrick
I knew quite early on that marriage was not my vocation. In college, I received two marriage proposals. The first time I thought “no, I am not ready.” With the second proposal I had an inkling thought that “no, this is not for me.”

I have intentionally chosen to remain single, grappling with a call that many don’t even know exists. There is a freedom and availability to go where and when needed to be present as a catalyst within the Body of Christ.

When college friends started to get married, I assisted with music for their weddings and was happy to be able to lend my voice to the celebrations. I appreciated the beauty of the Sacrament and loved watching my friends make that commitment of self-gift to each other.

Mutual friends who watched the bride and groom get married would ooh and ahh over this or that element of the wedding and make notes as to which of these they would incorporate into their weddings when the time came. My reaction was different. Experiencing my friends’ marriages made me realize that yes, this is beautiful, but no, this is not my calling.

So I started to explore: If not marriage, then what?
I had prayed for vocations to the consecrated life, and started to discern if this was where God might be calling me. After many visits to religious communities, I didn’t seem to belong with any of them. Then I met the Daughters of St. Paul. Here was a community whose charism of evangelization through media made sense to me.

On my first visit to their Charleston, SC convent I thought: a Catholic book store with a Blessed Sacrament chapel… what more could anyone want? I spent four years in formation with the community. It was a beautiful time of learning about myself, making life-long friendships, deepening faith and spirituality AND of struggling with my vocation. Although the charism and the spirituality of the community fit, community life was not where God was calling me.

It was time to move on. But move on to what?

I trusted God had a plan. I had never considered single life a vocation and needed to let go of my preconceived ideas. To me it was a state of life from where you move on to where God calls you. Single life struck me as temporary and the “vocation to the single life” as presented in vocation talks seemed like an afterthought.

Rather than a positive exposition of single life as a vocation based on Scripture and Tradition, the argument was more that since there are these single people in the church, they must be called to the single life.

After leaving the Daughters of St. Paul, I entered a program of study for an MA in Ministry. It was a way to connect with others who were deeply interested in serving the Church as laity. While studying John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, I came to appreciate and understand of the vocation to the single life.

John Paul II’s teaching did not support the idea of vocation to the single life as such. A person may choose to remain single for very noble purposes, but when the Spirit so moves, there is nothing that would prevent him from following another path, another vocation. So how can single life be a true permanent vocation? It wasn’t the same as Marriage, Consecrated Life or Priesthood, each of which is a way to completely and reciprocally give oneself to another for the sake of the kingdom. Yet each of us, including those of us who are single, have a vocation to holiness and to a relationship with Jesus. John Paul II wrote that “no one is without a family in this world: the Church is a family and home for everyone, especially those who ‘labor and are heavy laden.’

But what of those, like myself, who are single by choice and have discerned a call to remain single in the world for the sake of the kingdom? The option that exists goes back to the beginning of the Church. As Thomas Dubay wrote in his book And You Are Christ’s: “In the history of the Catholic Church, the first manner in which women pledged their chastity to Christ was in private consecration.” This form of life is also supported by a Church Document of Pope Pius XII in his document on Consecrated Virginity: “...it also flourishes among many who are lay people in the full sense: men and women who are not constituted in a public state of perfection, and yet by private promise or vow completely abstain from marriage and sexual pleasures, in order to live in the Church, more freely and more closely.”

And so I have intentionally chosen to remain single, grappling with a call that many don’t even know exists. There is a freedom and availability to go where and when needed to be present as a catalyst within the Body of Christ.

In the center of my favorite prayer, the Anima Christi, there is the line: “Within your wounds, hide me.” Hide me in your wounds not for my own safety or that I may be hidden from toil or danger, but rather: I see your wounds. Hide me in your wounds that I may be a healing balm.

Mother Mary Francis in her book on the Anima Christi says it best: “We look at the crucifix and see him there with the open wounds in his nailed hands, in his bleeding feet, with his open side. And do we not feel: I have to do something. Hide me in those wounds. Bring me into them to soothe the wounds of your mystical body which is the Church. Let me be a healing soothing agent. Make me small enough, a little poor one like Saint Francis, who can be fitted into the wounds of Jesus.”

It is a radical option, to live a life hidden in Christ, yet out in the open, and as all vocations, a life of trust in the infinite love of Christ.
The annual Superintendent’s Conference Day, held Oct. 10 in Lake Placid, opened with a Mass featuring Bishop Terry R. LaValley as principal celebrant. After the liturgy, the bishop presented certificates to teachers who have completed significant years of service. Above, Bradley Barton receives a certificate of recognition for 15 years of service at IHC Jr./Sr High School in Watertown.

St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, welcomes the Catholic school teachers and administrators.

Mark Lukert of Texas, an educator, consultant and author, was the keynote speaker for the day. His topic was “Being an Educator: It’s All about Relationships.”

Jamie Burns from St. Mary’s in Canton and Karlene Gonyo from St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga are shown at the Missionary Childhood Association booth collecting supplies for their school’s mission program.

A group of new teachers prepare to take part in the entrance procession for the Mass.

Mark Lukert, an educator, consultant and author, was the keynote speaker for the day. His topic was “Being an Educator: It’s All about Relationships.”

Jamie Burns from St. Mary’s in Canton and Karlene Gonyo from St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga are shown at the Missionary Childhood Association booth collecting supplies for their school’s mission program.

Karen Reynolds, teacher at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh; Catherine Russell, principal at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh; and Jen Campbell, assistant DRE of St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh; served as musicians for the liturgy.
Bishop’s Fund supports deacon formation program

By Deacon John White
Director, Permanent Deacon Formation

The Acts of the Apostles (Chapter 6: 1 – 7) tells of the need for assistants to the bishops and priests in the very early days of the Church. The rapidly increasing community of believers required more support and assistance than the original disciples were able to provide while maintaining their roles as evangelizers and teachers of the faith.

As a result, the community was asked to put forward the names of seven faith-filled men to take on the duties of physical and material support; allowing the Apostles to focus their energies on the ministry of Christ’s Word.

Two thousand years later, our Church feels a similar need for men to work in close consort with our bishop and priests to meet the needs of our own ever-changing communities of faith. Just as in those early days, ordained deacons are called to serve in the ministries of word, sacrament and charity.

Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg preside at baptisms, weddings and funerals, in addition to other liturgical services as their pastors deem appropriate. Deacons serve on the altar at Mass, proclaiming the Gospel, assisting the priest-celebrant and many preach on a regular schedule. Deacons serve in many additional roles including prison and hospital chaplains, representatives to various community and diocesan boards; catechists in faith formation programs for our young and not-so-young people; as staff in various diocesan departments; and many others. Deacons also serve some of our parishes as parish life coordinators, and serve on many parish committees.

The ability of men to serve our Church in the above-mentioned roles does not just happen on a whim. The men are called to discern their vocation to such service over the course of several years. Most, if not all, complete the two-year Formation for Ministry program offered by the diocese before even applying to the Deacon Formation program. Their discernment continues through an additional four-year program of study, mentorship, spiritual direction and prayer, before they are request ordination by the diocesan bishop.

Participants in the program complete more than 1000 hours of study between their coursework online through the University of Notre Dame and their monthly weekend sessions at Wadwhams Hall. This coursework includes spirituality, scripture, morality and ethics, sacraments, liturgy, public speaking and homiletics, human development, pastoral counseling, social justice, canon law, catechesis and more.

As may be easily imagined, such a course of formation, while balancing the responsibilities to family, career and community requires a high level of commitment; and a great deal of support from their families and their parishes. Part of this commitment includes the purchase of required texts for various courses, monthly travel to and from Wadwhams Hall, and the time and effort required to complete the program.

A portion of the total formation cost is defrayed by each man’s parish as well, yet the contribution of the participant and parish together meets about one-third of the total cost of preparing that man for Ordination. The remaining two-thirds of the cost is made possible through the generosity of our North Country community of Faith in the form of donations to the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal.

Permanent Deacons are and will continue to be a valued and valuable asset to our Diocese. Let’s “Open Our Hearts” to support their formation as generously as they open their hearts to God’s call.
Building A Bridge For The Future

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

622 Washington Street
Ogdensburg
Scott Lalone, Executive Director
315-393-2920 (Ext. 1330)

2013-2014 Annual Report
Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As you know, the faithful across the Diocese of Ogdensburg are addressing our recently established Priorities and Goals. During the next five years, our faith journey looks to Create a Culture of Vocations, Strengthen Faith Formation in Family Life, and Build Parishes with Living Stones. As we “Open our Hearts” to these Priorities and Goals, we provide for the future needs of our parishes, schools, ministries and Missionary Projects of the Diocese.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y. also has an important role to play in supporting our charitable, spiritual, and educational works as we accomplish these goals. In 2007, in order to “Build a Bridge for the Future,” the Foundation was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow. Since that time, forty-three endowments have been created, as you see in this report. Please take a moment to review the information provided, as well as our mission statement, indicating what the Foundation is, how it works, and the several methods of giving.

I am pleased to present you this 2014 Annual Report. I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for their willingness to provide proper financial oversight, ensure legal ethical integrity and effective organizational planning for the Foundation. I am, also, very grateful to those who have had the foresight in contributing generously to the Foundation to benefit the future work of the Church. These gifts are an important ongoing source of revenue for building up the Church in the North Country.

If you have not already, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those dear to your heart. We are blessed to have Mr. Scott Lalone serving as Executive Director of the Foundation as well as directing the Diocesan Development Office. Please contact him, should you desire further information about planned giving.

Wishing God’s blessing to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
FOUNDATION OFFICE
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg
Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x330)

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2013

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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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</table>

| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | $5,518,812 | $4,793,925 |
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

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

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

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

Methods of Giving

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<th>Benefit to Church</th>
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<td>Perpetual income</td>
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<td>schools and organizations in diocese</td>
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<td>Wills &amp; Bequests</td>
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<td>Vacation Home</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of gifts</td>
<td>of revenue</td>
<td>permanent legacy of your faith</td>
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Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment – Support of Priests’ Disabilities
Catholic Charities Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment – Corporate purposes
Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment – Corporate purposes
St. Joseph’s Home Foundation Endowment – Corporate purposes
Catherine Aurelia Endowment – Bishop’s Charities and Religious Works
Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment – Support of the Diocesan Archives
Building For Tomorrow Endowment – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
Education of Seminarians Endowment – Funding to the annual operating budget
Faylene LeRoux Endowment – Support of Catholic Education
Formation For Ministry Endowment – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget
Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center
Leona Schlafly Endowment – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Reverend James Meehan Endowment – Special care of priests
St. Mary’s Cathedral Endowment – Support of general operations
Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment – General operating needs of St. Anthony’s, Watertown
Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds
Spratt Memorial Endowment – Support capital needs
St. Alexander’s Catholic Education Endowment – Support of Catholic education at parish
Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment – Masses at St. Andrew’s Church, Sackets Harbor
St. Augustine’s Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Augustine’s at Peru.
Margaret Brothers Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
Victor West Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church, Rouses Point
St. Mary’s Champlain NY Endowment – Support of St. Mary’s Academy and St. Mary’s Church
Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment – Support of disabled priests
Good Samaritan Endowment – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment – Promote Catholic education
Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment – Education of Seminarians
William Cornish Endowment – St. Henry’s Church, EWTN, Diocese
Donald J. Grant Endowment – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
St. Lawrence Church Endowment – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence
St. Patrick’s Church Shamrock Endowment – General purposes of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls
Queen of Heaven Church – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church
Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family – Catholic Education
ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril’s and St. Francis Xavier
Special Care of Priests Endowment – Funding for annual operating budget
Alice Austin Mass Endowment – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
St. Francis of Assisi Endowment – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
William L. Patnode Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment – Education of Seminarians
Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)
Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)
Look to his history to understand 'pope of surprises,' cardinal says

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Francis is clearly “a pope of surprises,” German Cardinal Walter Kasper said in an address in Washington Nov. 6, and those who would try to understand the pontiff, he added, should remember his Argentine roots and how they influence his theology and his world view.

The president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Cardinal Kasper was at The Catholic University of America to accept the Johannes Quasten Medal for Excellence in Scholarship and Leadership in Religious Studies.

In a 45-minute address about the pope’s ecclesiology and ecumenical vision to a crowded hall that included many seminarians, Cardinal Kasper said that Pope Francis has, “succeeded in a short time in brightening up the gloomy atmosphere that had settled like mildew on the church.”

Moreover, he acknowledged, every pope has his “proponents and his enemies.” Pope Francis has his own detractors, the cardinal said. Those who do not trust his new style or new enthusiasm and may “decide to sit this papacy out.”

“What for some is the beginning of a new spring, is for others a temporary cold spell,” he said.

Cardinal Kasper said Pope Francis “is the first pope to have grown up in a multicultural megalopolis in the southern hemisphere.” That shaped him with some European influences, but he also was strongly affected by Argentine culture, including its films and music.

The cardinal compared the theological influences on Pope Francis with those of his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict comes from the best European theological traditions, seeking to put the doctrine of the faith into practice.

“Pope Francis works differently,” Cardinal Kasper said, and not necessarily in the way in which he is sometimes portrayed. “He’s not a Franciscan in disguise, he’s a longিবtough and they mean. That means, according to the cardinal, that he begins with a concrete situation and seeks to assess it according to the rules for discernment drawn from the Ignatian spiritual exercises, before arriving at a concrete action or position.

That method corresponds to the approach of St. John XXIII during the Second Vatican Council, he said, “reading the signs of the times.”

Understanding Argentina’s variant of liberation theology also is instructive for those who wish to understand Pope Francis, he said.

The same “see, judge, act” approach of the Jesuits describes Argentine liberation theology, Cardinal Kasper said.

While in other places in Latin America, the approach focused on the social and political conditions that led to societal inequality, sometimes in a Marxist manner, “Argentinian liberation theology is a theology of the people and their culture.”

It proceeds from a historical and cultural analysis of popular culture, in which people are unified by shared conscience, he said. “It does not want to instruct people, but listen to their wisdom.”

Cardinal Kasper said the pope is a deeply spiritual man who is convinced that the light of the Gospel is the only thing that can help people fully understand and interpret reality.

For Pope Francis, he said, “faith is a light, but not like a lighthouse which expels all dark, but a lighted torch which guides our steps into the night.”

That light helps to understand how Pope Francis operates, from a basis of the Gospel as an instrument of joy and of reform.

Pope Francis stands in a great tradition,” Cardinal Kasper said. “He does not represent a liberal tradition, but a traditional position, as in going back to the Gospels as the source and strength of renewal for the church.

He does not represent a traditionalist or a progressive scheme,” he said, “but builds a bridge back to the origins. He has constructed a bridge to the future.”

Pope Francis doesn’t intend to revolutionize faith and morality, as “he wants to lead faith and morality back to their original center,” to the heart of the Gospels, the cardinal said.

Particularly through his constant message of the need for mercy, Pope Francis emphasizes,” the cardinal said. “St. Thomas Aquinas said, ‘God is not bound by our views of justice,’ but only to God’s own desires. God allows himself to be moved by the needs and sympathies of man.”

“For him, a new beginning and a new chance are always possible. It’s impossible that any human being can fall into a hole from which there is no way out.”

Cardinal Kasper said another message of Pope Francis is that it is important that the church not be so self-centered.

“A self-centered person is sick,” Cardinal Kasper said. “A self-centered church is a sick church.” Pope Francis wants to leave behind the self-centered, self-pitying church immersed in its own suffering, he added.
How well are we using our gifts from God?

Many of you will remember the song from the musical Godspell, “We plough the fields and scatter.”

The refrain goes like this: “All good gifts around us, Are sent from heav’n above, So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love. I really want to thank you, Lord!”

Stephen Schwartz really “lifted it” from an old German hymn. But how appropriate for this Sunday’s readings which really warn us to use well the gifts God has given us, for the time is short before God will demand an accounting from us.

In the Gospel story about the king who goes on a long journey, then comes back suddenly, Jesus invites the Apostles to reflect on their own lives in terms of the “talents” they have each received. It’s clear that he has given them to each in accordance with their own abilities.

In the story, two of the servants promptly go out and double their value, while one, out of fear and timidity, just buries his one talent without any attempt to use it well.

The moral is obvious: if we don’t use God’s gifts and share them, we will be punished at the end of our lives.

Why must we be so industrious and generous with God’s gifts?

Because, as followers of Jesus, we cannot just live for our own selfish enjoyment, for we are “children of the light” meant to spread the Good News, and help others to also live in the light. It’s clear from St. Paul’s preaching to the Thessalonians the no one knows just when the world will end, but the Lord’s second coming is inevitable, and it will come suddenly, without warning.

It’s a good Sunday to ask ourselves, “If the Lord should come today, how ready am I to “turn in my chips” and give an accounting of my life?” Will the Lord be pleased with how I have increased the gifts of light and grace He has given me? How generous have I been in sharing my light?

Carrying our cross: what does Jesus mean?

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
NCC columnist

Among Jesus’ many teachings we find this, rather harsh-sounding, invitation: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

I suspect that each of us has a gut-sense of what this means and what it will cost us; but, I suspect too that many of us misunderstand that Jesus is asking here and struggle unhealthily with this invitation. What, concretely, does Jesus mean by this?

To answer that, I would like to lean on some insights offered by James Martin in his book, Jesus, A Pilgrimage. He suggests that taking up our cross daily and giving up life in order to find deeper life means six interpenetrating things:

- First, it means accepting that suffering is a part of our lives. Accepting our cross and giving up our lives means that, at some point, we have to make peace with the unalterable fact that frustration, disappointment, pain, misfortune, illness, unfairness, sadness, and death are a part of our lives and they must ultimately be accepted without bitterness. As long as we nurse the notion that pain in our lives is something we need not accept, we will habitually find ourselves bitter - bitter for not having accepted the cross.

- Second, taking up our cross and giving up our lives, means that we may not, in our suffering, pass on any bitterness to those around us. We have a strong inclination, almost as part of our natural instincts, to make others suffer when we are suffering: If I’m unhappy, I will make sure that others around me are unhappy too! This does not mean, as Martin points out, that we cannot not share our pain with others. But there’s a healthy way of doing this, where our sharing leaves others free, as opposed to an unhealthy kind of sharing which subtly tries to make others unhappy because we are unhappy.

Taking up our cross daily and giving up life in order to find deeper life means six interpenetrating things:

There’s a difference between healthily groaning under the weight of our pain and unhealthily whining in self-pity and bitterness under that weight. The cross gives us permission to do the former, but not the latter. Jesus groaned under the weight of his cross, but no self-pity, whining, or bitterness issued forth from his lips or his beaten body.

- Third, walking in the footsteps of Jesus as he carries his cross means that we must accept some other deaths before our physical death, that we are invited to let some parts of ourselves die. When Jesus invites us to die in order to find life, he is not, first of all, talking about physical death. If we live in adulthood, there are a myriad of other deaths that we must undergo before we die physically. Maturity and Christian discipleship are about perennially naming our deaths, claiming our births, mourning our losses, letting go of what’s died, and receiving new spirit for the new life that we are now living. These are the stages of the paschal mystery, and the stages of growing up. There are daily deaths.

- Fourth, it means that we must wait for the resurrection, that here in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished. The book of Proverbs tells us that sometimes in the midst of pain the best we can do is put our mouths to the dust and wait. Any real understanding of the cross agrees.

So much of life and discipleship is about waiting, waiting in frustration, inside injustice, inside pain, in longing, battling bitterness, as we wait for something or someone to come and change our situation. We spend about 98% of our lives waiting for fulfillment, in small and big ways. Jesus’ invitation to us to follow him implies waiting, accepting to live inside an unfinished symphony.

- Fifth, carrying our cross daily means accepting that God’s gift to us is often not what we expect. God always answers our prayers but, often times, by giving us what we really need rather than what we think we need. The Resurrection, says James Martin, does not come when we expect it and rarely fits our notion of how a resurrection should happen. To carry your cross is to be open to surprise.

- Finally, taking up your cross and being willing to give up your life means living in a faith that believes that nothing is impossible for God. As James Martin puts it, this means accepting that God is greater than the human imagination. Indeed, whenever we succumb to the notion that God cannot offer us a way out of our pain into some kind of newness, it’s precisely because we have reduced God down to the size of our own limited imagination. It’s only possible to accept our cross, to live in trust, and to not grow bitter inside pain if we believe in possibilities beyond what we can imagine, namely, if we believe in the Resurrection.

We can take up our cross when we begin to believe in the Resurrection...

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
Parents be warned: Your kids will want a robot for Christmas.

If so, blame "Big Hero 6" (Disney), the latest 3-D animated adventure from the studio that brought you last year's cuddly must-have sensation, Olaf the snowman from "Frozen."

This time, it's Baymax (voice of Scott Adsit), an inflatable vinyl robot designed by a college student, Tadashi (voice of Daniel Henney), to be a "Personal Health Care Companion."

In other words, Baymax is to serve as both nurse and nanny for Tadashi's troublesome younger brother, Hiro (voice of Ryan Potter).

Unlike Mary Poppins, Baymax is short on words and discipline. Instead, this distant cousin of the Marshmallow Man offers warm, squishy hugs and a playful demeanor -- and steals the movie.

Unfortunately, the rest of "Big Hero 6" is less inventive and follows a familiar playbook. That's not especially surprising given that the film is loosely based on a Marvel Comics series.

The setting is the city of "San Fransokyo," a mash-up of San Francisco and Tokyo: think cable cars and cherry blossoms. Tadashi and Hiro are orphans (a Disney standard), raised by their sassy Aunt Cass (voice of Maya Rudolph). They share a passion for robotics.

After Tadashi dies in a lab explosion under mysterious circumstances, Hiro uncovers an evil conspiracy (naturally), and sets out to find the bad guys.

Of course, Hiro needs backup. So Baymax gets a high-tech makeover, which turns him into a version of Iron Man. And an assortment of Tadashi's college buddies are recruited for the adventure: cyclist GoGo Tomago (voice of Jamie Chung), beatnik Wasabi (voice of Damon Wayans Jr.), chemistry whiz Honey Lemon (voice of Genesis Rodriguez), and monster-loving Fred (voice of T.J. Miller).

Superhero feats are not in their nature, however. "We're nerds," Wasabi protests.

"No, you can be anyone you want," Hiro insists. With distinctive costumes and high-tech weapons, the sextet - rounded out by Baymax - is christened "Big Hero 6."

Directors Don Hall ("Winnie the Pooh") and Chris Williams ("Bolt") ramp up the action as "Big Hero 6" morphs into a version of "Revenge of the Nerds." The film's Marvel provenance is evident in noisy smash-bang sequences which may be too intense for younger viewers.

Parents will appreciate the movie's calmer moments which offer good lessons in friendship, self-sacrifice, and resisting temptation. Preceding "Big Hero 6" is "Feast," a charming animated short directed by Patrick Osborne. It offers a dog's-eye view of life, love, and the pursuit of happiness, one meal at a time. "Feast" is acceptable for all ages.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.
Cursillo
Overnight accommodations available.
Christmas turkey dinner is set
for Betty Buffett at (518) 536-6640.
To contact, Kathleen at 518-523-3771 or
at info@stagneselementary.com

CLINTON

CHRISTMAS DINNER
Plattsburgh - Annual Seton Catholic
Christmas turkey dinner is set
Date: Dec. 7
Time: Noon to 6 p.m.
Cost: Adults, $9; Seniors (55+), $7; Children 5-12, $6; under 5, free; Take-outs, $9
Features: Adults bringing toy or food item will receive $1 off meal. Event will include: Basket Raffle; 50/50 drawings; Bake Sale and Holiday Wreath Sale;

BUS FOR LIFE
Plattsburgh - Time to sign up for the 2015 Lake Champlain Bus for Life.
Schedule: Meet at St. Peter’s Church in
Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for the Jan. 22
Rally and March at noon on National Mall; Meet at St. Peter’s Church in D.C. at 4:45pm for the trip home.
Cost: $25
Contact: Karen Smith at 518-566-6229
or Betty Buffet at (518) 536-6640. To sign up for a seat on the bus or to make a donation—please mail your check to St. Peter’s Church 114 Cornelia Street

QUILTING CLASSES
Ellenburg Center – Quilting classes to be held.
Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks
Cost: $25 per class
Classes: Disappearing Pinwheel class:
Nov. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donna Hastings,
guest instructor.
Contact: Email the lost sheepquiltshop@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253.
Overnight accommodations available.

Eucharistic Adoration
Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration Chapel, downstairs

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m
Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email
Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION
Keesville - There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.
Time: 1 p.m. to 4
Place: Immaculate Conception Church

HEALING MINISTRY
Morrisonville - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander’s and St. Joseph’s holds
Living Waters Healing Ministry
Date: First Thursday each month
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Alexander’s Church
Features: Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

FRANKLIN

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE
Bombay – Local Christian churches to hold an Ecumenical Prayer Service.
Date: Nov. 23
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s Church
Features: Bring a non-perishable food
item for local food pantries.

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR
St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held.
Date: First Saturday of each month.
Time: immediately following the 4:30
anticipated Mass.
Place: St. Ann’s Church
Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of
the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, private mediation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions, and refreshments are provided in the Church Hall.
Contact: 518-836-9656

LATINS MASS
Constantia - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant.
Mass will also be celebrated every first Saturday at 9 a.m.
Place: St. Francis of Assisi Church.

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

HOLY HOURS
Adams/Henderson – Holy Hours to be held.
Schedule: First Wednesday at St. Cecilia
6:30 p.m.; Dec. 3; Jan. 7; Feb. 4; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by potluck) 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.

MUSICAL MISSION
Watertown - An interfaith musical presentation in eight “acts” to benefit the Watertown Urban Mission to be held.
Date: Nov. 14
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Holy Family Church
Features: A free-will offering will be accepted. Refreshments. Call rectory 782-2468 for info.

BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM
Watertown - An ecumenical bereavement program will be held.
Date: Nov. 17
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Heathside Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
Speaker: Derek Mattarn, Bereavement Spiritual Coordinator and Counselor at Hospice of Jefferson County.

NOVEMBER ULTREYA
Watertown - Cursillo Community celebrating November Ultreya
Date: Nov. 20
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.
Contact: Anne, ams2962@gmail.com or Pat, planning5010@twcny.rr.com

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown – The Altar Rosary Society of St. Anthony’s Parish will be having a spaghetti supper.
Date: Nov. 20
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Anthony’s Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4; under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $.75 each
Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

MEN OF FAITH
Carthage – An Advent mini retreat for men who wish to further their love and understanding of the Catholic faith will be held, sponsored by K of C #291
Date: Dec. 6
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12
Place: St. James Church.
Features: Guest speaker Father Mark Reilly. Mass at 9:30 will be followed by fellowship and refreshments.

CONSERVING ENERGY WORKSHOP
Watertown - Conserving Energy as a Way of Living Our Faith” Workshop will be held, sponsored by the Watertown Faith and Ecology group.
Date: Nov. 15
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon
Place: Heathside Hospitality Center at Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
Features: The Program focuses on low-cost & no-cost measures that can be used to reduce energy consumption in homes & churches. Presenter will be Jerry K. Loch, D.Min. who has worked in the field of energy efficiency for more than ten years and has practiced extensively in Christian Ethics.

LIFERIGHT MEETING
Watertown – Lifesight of Watertown, a pro-life educational organization, meets the first Wednesday of the Month.
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: 312 Sherman St.
Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

HOLIDAY BANQUET
Lowville – St. Peter’s Rosary Altar Society
will hold their Holiday Banquet.
Date: Nov. 12
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: Lewis Co. Memorial VFW
Cost: $10.50
Features: A turkey dinner will be served.
Members are asked to bring a monetary donation for the “Homeless Christmas Tree” program at social services.
Contact: Betty Davis at 376-6731

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.
Date: Nov. 20
Time: 3 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Peter’s Church
Features: To Thank God for and To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to worship The Exposition, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Silent Adoration. The Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and The Benediction.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
Seton Academy supports MCA

Each year, the students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh collect redeemable bottles and cans for the Missionary Childhood Association. This is always coordinated with World Mission Sunday (Oct. 19) and is one way of making the students and their families aware of their global responsibilities to help those in need.

The Missionary Childhood Association, formerly MCA, an arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, is unique to other organizations that assist children in the Developing World in that its primary aim is to encourage children to share their faith with children in the Developing World through their prayers, personal sacrifices and financial offerings. Contributions to MCA are allocated to mission dioceses throughout the world according to need. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that aid is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive enough support. MCA funds are distributed to help children in 110 countries throughout the world.

Each school year, students in the Diocese of Ogdensburg both in Catholic schools and in catechetical programs through the parishes participate in the MCA program overseen by the Diocesan Mission Office. We salute Seton Academy for their efforts and their tireless support of MCA each school year.

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

OBITUARIES

**Dr. Martin Becker, 96**

**Eric, Penn.** A Mass of Christian Burial for Dr. Martin Joseph Becker, 96, was held Nov. 6 at St. Andrew Church. He died Nov. 1 after a brief illness; burial was in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Champlain.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date in Ogdensburg where Dr. Becker worked for many years as chairman of the history department at Wadham’s Hall Seminary-College.

Dr. Becker was born in New York, NY, Aug. 24, 1918. He was the only child of Russian immigrant parents, and was raised in Brooklyn. He attended public and private schools in New York, and graduated from the City College of New York.

As a young scholar searching for a faith, he converted from Judaism to Christianity, and then to Catholicism. He eventually earned a Master’s Degree in Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University and then a PhD in History from Fordham University.

Dr. Becker married Jeanne Filion of Champlain in 1959; she died in 2003.

He is survived by his daughter, Julia Bongiovanni and her husband John, of Erie; his sons, Ted Becker and his wife Laura, of Haverhill, Mass., and Peter Becker and his wife, Laura, of Austin, TX; and six grandchildren: Noah and Marni Bongiovanni of Erie, Katherine and Allison Becker of Haverhill, and Isabel and Martin Becker, of Austin.

Memorial donations may be made to Villa Maria Elementary School, 2551 W. 8th St., Erie, PA 16505 or St. Mary’s Church, 86 Church St., Champlain, NY 12919.

**Altona** - Marie M. (Dame) Mitchell, 99; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2014 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Burke** - David Dupuis, 77; Memorial Services Nov. 2, 2014 at St. George’s Church.

**Constable** - William W. Crawford, 66; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2014 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Chateaugay.

**Dennemora** - Hugh R. Martin, Sr., 72; Funeral Nov. 1, 2014 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Hogansburg** - Cecelia Katherine (Thompson) Square, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2014 at St. Regis Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Louisville** - Elma Jane (Brainard) Lafford, 90; Funeral Nov. 6, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lyons Mountain** - Robert V. Cox, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2014 at St. Bernard’s Church.

**Morrisonville** - Sidney J. Vorce, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2014 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial at St. Peter’s Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

**Ogdensburg** - Ann E. (Williams) Johnson, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2014 at St. Joseph’s Nursing Home; burial at Calvary Cemetery, Norwood.

**Ogdensburg** - Sheryl J. Putnam, 52; Funeral Services Nov. 1, 2014 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Peru** - Jennifer S. (Ebersole) Chauvin, 33; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2014 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** - Gary E. Provost Sr., 63; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2014 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Potsdam** - Mary Ann (Varney) Fuller, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2014 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Colton.

**Potsdam** - Mary J. (Queor) Fuller, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2014 at the Seymour Funeral Home; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** - Walter L. Osier, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2014 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Ticonderoga.

**Watertown** - Jean Marie (Fitzgerald) Doldo, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2014 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** - Joseph W. Gosies, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2014 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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Fourth in a series of biographies of the 2014 religious jubilarians

Sister Mary Eamon Lyng: SSJ for 50 years

All glory, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of my vocation as a Sister of St. Joseph for 50 years! The call to become a Sister came long ago with the love of my parents for God and for each other. They nurtured my faith beginning with the sacrament of Baptism, followed by First Communion and Penance as well as by family prayer, and the gift of Catholic education. I graduated from Holy Family School and Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) where I was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Daily Mass became a way of life for me during my high school days.

It was these opportunities and experiences that nurtured my desire to grow in God's love and to be of service to God and to the Sisters of St. Joseph. During my high school years, she was the face of the children that energized me as I taught in the Catholic schools across the diocese from the shores of Lake Champlain, to the Adirondack Mountains, to the tip of the Canadian border, and to the shores of the St. Lawrence River. I learned from the children simplicity and creativity. The ministry of being teacher and principal in the Catholic Schools broadened my vision to help children become who God intended them to be.

After 34 Years of Catholic school teaching, I moved to the Diocesan Office in 2000 to become the Formation Director for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Department of Education. In 2006, as Director of Evangelization, I facilitated workshops and retreats for the people of the parishes across the diocese.

I was asked to leave the diocesan family in 2012 to serve the Sisters at the Motherhouse. This was to become a ministry of love, compassion, and care to the Sisters who shaped and formed me in my early years of education. Now, it was my turn to return all that had been given to me back to them through love and service.

Little did I know that in 2013 God would have another plan for me, to serve Him and the Sisters as their servant-leader. God's ways and thoughts are certainly not my ways and thoughts.

It is with great gratitude to God that I continue to thank Him for all the graces and blessings bestowed upon me as I continue to serve Him, the Sisters, the People of God in the North Country, and reach out to the “dear neighbor” whom we serve in our ministries.

## Around

### ST. LAWRENCE

**ADVENT RETREAT**

Morristown – Advent Retreat to be held.
- **Date:** Dec. 6
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Place:** Cedarhaven
- **Cost:** $25
- **Features:** St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald will present on the theme: “Nurturing a ‘Mary’ Heart in a ‘Martha’ World!” Retreat will explore ways of developing a contemplative heart amidst our everyday activities. Option for extended retreat time until Sunday, 10 a.m. (includes lodging, dinner, breakfast with option for individual direction) for an additional offering $40.
- **Contact:** 315-659-2 or srbethss@ymail.com

**PRAYER OF EXAMEN**

Massena – The Ignatian “Prayer of Examen” program will be presented by Father Jack Dowms.

### Year of Consecrated Life

**DIocese of Ogdensburg**

**Year of Consecrated Life 2015**

**Program**

- **St. Mary’s is holding a Trivia Night**
  - **Date:** Nov. 12
  - **Time:** 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.
  - **Place:** Jessie Carey Room, Sacred Heart Convent
  - **Features:** There will be five sessions at both times with two presentations of each session. The Ignatian method of meditation engages our thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desires.
  - **Contact:** Please register by Nov. 10 by calling 315-384-4143

**K OF C BRUNCH**

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.
- **Date:** Nov. 12
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Place:** Visitation Parish Center
- **Cost:** Adults, $7; Children under 12, $4; Under 5, Free; Family, $18; Take-outs available

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

Brasher Falls – The Brasher Falls Knights of Columbus will hold a Trivia Night
- **Date:** Nov. 15
- **Time:** 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
- **Place:** Knights Hall
- **Features:** Jim Grow and his family will emcee. The cost of the event is $100 per team with a maximum of five players per team. Prepay by Nov. 12 to receive a team with a maximum of five players per team.

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

Ogdensburg – St. Mary’s is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.
- **Date:** Thursday before the First Friday 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.

### NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

**LATIN MASS**

Potsdam – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday.
- **Date:** Nov. 13
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m.
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Church
- **Celebrant:** Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION**

Massena – Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Eucharistic Adoration every Friday.
- **Date:** Nov. 13
- **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.
- **Date:** Nov. 13
- **Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent
- **Contact:** 315-769-3137

### NEIGHBORING dioceses

**BIBLICAL PROGRAM**

Syracuse – A special presentation on Book of Job to be held.
- **Date:** Nov. 13
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Place:** Spiritual Renewal Center, 1342 Lancaster Avenue in Syracuse.
- **Features:** This presentation will explore biblical knowledge and wisdom from the Book of Job and how believers can better cope with the pain and suffering of human life. Dr. Joseph Kelly will give this presentation. He is recently retired after teaching religious studies courses at St. Bernard’s Seminary and Nazareth College for 37 years.
- **Contact:** Register online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com/events or contact the center at 472-6546 or mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com