‘Everyday holiness’ builds Kingdom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While weak humans may want spectacular signs of God at work, Pope Francis said, most often God’s kingdom is growing in quiet, hidden ways, for example in a family that struggles financially, but is rich in love and cares for one another.

"The kingdom of God is silent," growing like a seed underground, the pope said Nov. 13. "The Holy Spirit makes it grow, (but) with our openness, on the ground that we must prepare," he said, according to Vatican Radio.

"Think of the perseverance of many Christians who struggle to raise their family, men and women who look after their children, care for the grandparents and arrive at the end of the month with only 50 cents. But they pray," the pope said. "The kingdom of God is there, hidden in that holiness of everyday life."

Jesus repeatedly tells the disciples that the kingdom of God is not far off, he said. Rather "it’s near. This is one of its characteristics. It’s near our daily lives."

In the day’s Gospel reading, Lk 17:20-25, the Pharisees ask Jesus when the kingdom of God will come, and Jesus replies, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, ‘Look, here it is,’ or, ‘There it is.’ For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

A culture of vocations

Two vocations - marriage and the diaconate - are explored by two married men

The census:
Find Your Home in Christ

Parishes are taking first steps in conducting a diocesan-wide census, a goal cited as part of the pastoral vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 26

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 19, 2014

A SALUTE TO SCOUTS

BISHOPS’ MEETING

Bishop LaValley shares reaction

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, gives his address Nov. 10, the first day of the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. He reminded his fellow bishops that their role is to accompany the family of the church through their fears and concerns. Bishop LaValley offers his thoughts about the gathering in his Follow Me column. This week’s NCC also features a report about actions taken at the meeting.

FULL STORIES, PAGE 3, 11

OPEN OUR HEARTS: Bishop’s Fund supports priests’ continuing ed., p. 6
Thank you, God, for our Living Stones

This week, we continue our November focus on vocations, stressing again that we are all called to holiness.

In this issue, we’re pleased to present our new family life director, Steve Tartaglia, as he writes about his vocation to marriage as well as Deacon Larry Ambue who has completed his first year of living two vocations, as a married man and a permanent deacon.

These two men certainly contribute to the “culture of vocations” toward which our diocese is striving as part of our newly adopted pastoral vision.

As an added vocational bonus, we offer one more profile of a consecrated religious woman and a few more ‘thank you’ to priests of the diocese.

And speaking of priests, we have a take a minute to ask for prayers for an important member of the NCC family, Father William Muench who underwent open heart surgery last week and we’re happy to hear is recovering just as he should.

So, I am so intensely grateful for all the good gifts of our Lord Jesus – who died for us on the cross and rose again to new life. Jesus continues to give himself to us in the Blessed Eucharist in an act of gratitude for all peoples.

You may remember that the very word “Eucharist” means thanksgiving. Eucharist is a Greek word still heard of on the streets of Athens as some-o-nce offers thanks to another: “thank you” – Eucharistia.

This year Thanksgiving will be a very different experience for me. I am writing about this as an opportunity for me to express my gratitude and love to so many. I am putting my very being in the hands of doctors and nurses as I am about to undergo bypass surgery.

Like many Americans, I think I can take care of myself – completely. I love to be of help to others, to parishioners and friends when they are in need or going through health crises. I have personally escaped anything serious. And now along comes this situation and I must depend on others. I must place my trust completely in my doctors.

I must admit that all of this is a real surprise; the last thing I would think of would be heart problems. I have walked with many through this heart surgery and often said to myself “this will not happen to me.” Well – surprise – surprise.

Now, so many of my family, friends and parishioners have begun turning to me and promising prayers and support. I have promised and offered prayers and celebrated Masses for so many in need in the past. Now, all of a sudden, I am the one who is being prayed for.

I know in faith that these prayers truly make a difference. I suspect I have mentioned to you about reading an article in some sort of psychology magazine in which an author, a psychologist, considered how valuable it was in any sort of health need to have many praying and remembering the person in need. That is so interesting. We people of faith are certain that it is good and important but this was a secular psychologist.

I must admit that even now as I am getting ready for surgery, I feel so much support in the concern and prayers of so many. It is a rather loving spirit. It certainly removes so much of the stress and anxiety.

So, I am so intensely grateful to so many who have been so caring, taking a moment to remember me. It is a rather curious feeling. I am not alone as I sit here in this hospital room. In so many places, so many wonderful friends and families who are part of my life as a priest are taking a moment to pray for me, to support me, to say to me that they are willing to take some of my fear on themselves. I will not walk into that OR alone tomorrow, I will have the Lord and a whole band of loved ones.

So I am filled with gratitude today. Oh, I am a little worried – I was just reading a description of all that will happen and all that I must do during the recovery and it sounds rather complicated but I have such great support.

I am writing this a week or so before you will receive this however, I am remembering so many in gratitude for their prayers and concern and love. I must admit that I am also taking some time praying for my doctor and his helpers, the other doctors and nurses. Their dedication and care is very special; it is truly TLC. I am developing a deep respect for all physicians and health care people.

With God’s grace, when you read this you will also know that all went well for me. I will keep you informed. This will be a special Thanksgiving Day this year.

Looking towards a special Thanksgiving

Again, a little more about November. Besides the wonderful feasts of All Saints and All Souls, we have the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Each November we pause to celebrate a very basic Christian quality – being thankful.

Every time Holy Mass is celebrated, there is an act of gratitude - gratitude to Our Lord Jesus who died for us on the cross and rose again to new life. Jesus continues to give himself to us in the Blessed Eucharist in an act of gratitude for all peoples.

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According to a Saturday morning report from his brother, Father William Muench’s surgery was a complete success and his doctor is pleased with his progress. Cards and letters may be sent to Fr. William Muench, 5645 Randall Road, Dewitt, NY, 13214.
Building parishes with living stones

As you know, one of our Diocesan Priorities is Building Parishes with Living Stones. Relying on God’s Spirit, we seek to make our parishes outward-looking families of faith. Parishes are more than obligatory sacramental fueling stations. What happens inside the sacred walls must inform what we do outside of them...

Through our own faith-filled lives, we seek to point out the way to Christ and keep hope alive for others.

Last week, I joined Bishops from all across the country for the annual plenary assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, MD. As we addressed one agenda item after another, it became clear to me that our diocesan priority, Building Parishes with Living Stones, is a priority well beyond our diocesan borders.

At the sessions, we received reports about our Catholic Church’s outreach of humanitarian care and peace-making efforts to peoples around the world. For instance, we learned of the love and support offered by Catholic Relief Services in Syria, Ukraine, and East Africa.

We heard about the tremendous assistance that the Church is giving to those suffering from the Ebola disease and were told of the great help we offered to those who suffered through last year’s devastating typhoon in the Philippines.

Our contributions to such national and special appeals make such a difference in the lives of so many. Although more sensational “news” seems to grab the headlines along with some of the media’s spin and comment, I was reminded last weekend of our Church’s ongoing global efforts to practice what we preach.

We know that, although the scale is much reduced, such generous pastoral outreach is common within our own diocese, as well.

Respecting the Gospel values of respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life, and charity and justice for every person, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been responding to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities for the last ninety-seven years. In addition to its counseling services, Catholic Charities’ outreach services include: adoption, community & Parish services, financial assistance, long-term Ombudsman Program, Parenting Classes, Maternity Services, Offender Accountability Groups, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Seaway House, among so many others.

Check out their website for more information at: www.cathcharities.org.

Some of our parishes manage soup kitchens, outreach centers and clothing stores. Local St. Vincent de Paul stores, parish and local community food pantries and organizations such as the Catholic Relief Services of the Americas, Knights of Columbus and Women’s Auxiliaries, to name just a few, help to build up local parishes with Living Stones.

In his Motu Proprio, “On the Service of Charity,” Pope Benedict XVI wrote: “The service of charity is a constitutive element of the Church’s mission and an indispensable expression of her very being...all the faithful have the right and duty to devote themselves personally to living the new commandment that Christ left us” (Benedict XVI, On the Service of Charity, Intro.)

Parishes are more than obligatory sacramental fueling stations. What happens inside the sacred walls must inform what we do outside of them.

As we gear up for another season of consumer frenzy, we might consider how we might respond to our personal duty of charity.

How can I make my faith come alive? For every ten dollars I spend giving gifts to loved ones, I might consider giving one dollar to someone in need or to an institution that serves the needy.

Many of those who receive material gifts from us have problems finding enough places to put them all. For every hour I spend at the movies or watching a football game, I might consider spending some time visiting a neighbor or family member who is in the nursing home, is homeless or hospitalized.

Such outward-looking charity transforms us. The movement from self-absorption to other-centeredness is the mark of spiritual growth.

Many of us will join our parish or other organizations in preparing Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets to give to others. We are grateful for such assistance. Real spiritual growth is evidenced when such a good charitable gesture becomes not only a seasonal activity but a life-long attitude of looking for ways to extend ourselves to others in need.

Such charity gives substance to our personal relationship with Jesus.

Pope Francis wrote, “The planet belongs to all mankind and is meant for all mankind; the mere fact that some people are born in places with fewer resources or less development does not justify the fact that they are born with less dignity.” (Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 190)

As our worship in Church motivates even greater attentiveness to the respect due every person, we are becoming living stones that breathe care and hope into the lives of other children of God.

Thank you for making this a priority in your life and for setting your own personal goal in helping to build your parish with Living Stones.

Combined collection to be taken up Nov. 22-23

By Sister Donna Franklin
Diocesan director, Catholic Charities

The parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg will take up the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions combined collection on the weekend of Nov. 23.

Each year 25% of the funds from the CCHD collection remain in the diocese for local projects with two grants awarded to local agencies.

Over the years some of the local organizations that have received grants are: St. Peter’s (Plattsburgh) Soup Kitchen and Charity Fund, St. Alexander’s, (Morrisonville) startup funds for their parish Soup Kitchen, Watertown Urban Mission Bridges Program and the Ticonderoga Backpack Program.

This year’s theme for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Working on the Margins, highlights Pope Francis’ concept of Church.

He invites us to be a church that opens its arms in welcome to all of our brothers and sisters living on the margins.

For the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions

Working to end poverty presents a challenge and a goal for every Catholic who believes in mercy and justice. You can help to raise individuals and groups out of poverty through your financial gift to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The collection for the Black and Indian Missions provides essential resources for our brothers and sisters from these communities.

An annual grant funds religious education and evangelization programs throughout the United States.

Pope Francis provides us with an example of a life lived for others. His teachings focus us on our call to community. Your support of the Combined Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions builds community, expresses the compassion of our loving God and opens the door to a life lived with dignity for all those who need a “hand up”.

Further information is available from Catholic Charities at (315) 393-2255.
By Father Jay Seymour
Pastor, Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie

One of our diocesan goals related to Building Parishes with Living Stones is to conduct a diocesan-wide census of all households to find their home in Christ. This is something other religious sects may do, not Catholics. At least, this is what some may have argued in our minds as an excuse in order to escape volunteering.

The volunteer training helped to alleviate much of the anxiety. It was made clear that we were not pushing anything but were simply reaching out to our Catholic brothers and sisters, listening to their concerns and inviting them back to church if they happen to have drifted away.

Most parishes will be undertaking the census in the Spring or Summer of 2015 but the Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie has already begun. Having Sister Shirley Anne as our resident pastoral associate was certainly an advantage in helping us to get started. The first recommendation of our Parish Council was to conduct it in phases, two weeks in October of this year and two weeks in July 2015 when we could connect with our summer parishioners.

As might be expected, on first hearing of the census there was some anxiety on the part of parishioners. It seemed to be asking us to move out of our comfort zone going door to door to visit people we didn’t know or perhaps people we did know who were not even Catholic. This is something other religious sects may do, not Catholics. At least, this is what some may have argued in our minds as an excuse in order to escape volunteering.

The volunteer training helped to alleviate much of the anxiety. It was made clear that we were not pushing anything but were simply reaching out to our Catholic brothers and sisters, listening to their concerns and inviting them back to church if they happen to have drifted away.

If it happened to be a non-Catholic household being visited, we were just offering a friendly greeting reminding them that we were neighbors and that our church wanted to work together with them to help better their local community.

The census also had the practical purpose of updating our church records giving us a more accurate picture of the Catholic population within our parish boundaries.

Although there may have been some initial apprehension, volunteers in our parish are reporting mostly positive experiences. A once reluctant but now enthusiastic volunteer, after some meaningful sharing in one visit with some inactive Catholics, commented that maybe the Bishop intended this census to be more for ourselves and our own spiritual development than for those being visited. Actually, it is not either or. We both benefit.

The Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie is already seeing some of the fruits of the census visits with new faces showing up at church. The on-going challenge is to have them keep coming by making them feel welcome and thanking them for enhancing our celebration with their presence.

We have something very special in the Catholic Church and we need to witness to that fact not only with our liturgies but with our lives so that people will be attracted to the faith we profess understanding that our true home is indeed in Christ.

Editor's note
Father Seymour, pastor and episcopal vicar for clergy also serves as the point person for the implementation of the Building Parishes with Living Stones diocesan priority.
Parishioners of Notre Dame Parish in Ogdensburg extended their arms forward to join in a special blessing Deacon Mark Lalonde gave Father F. James Shurtleff as part of Notre Dame’s Priesthood Sunday celebration Oct. 25. This year also marks Father Shurtleff’s 15th anniversary as pastor of Notre Dame parish.

**A Blessing for Priesthood Sunday**

**We appreciate our priests**

The parishioners of Holy Family Church in Watertown love and appreciate our pastor, Father Steve Murray!

We thank you for all you do for us and the greater community! God bless you!

**Fr. Kevin McEwan**
Thank you for your support!
Sister Sharon & St. Mary’s School,
Ticonderoga Staff and Students

**We are St. Mary’s Strong!**
OPEN OUR HEARTS

Bishop’s Fund supports continuing ed. of priests

By Father Kris Lauzon
Chair, Committee for Continuing Education of Clergy

Anyone who has traveled across this beautiful Diocese of Ogdensburg can easily see that we have been greatly blessed by our God. The natural settings of the Adirondack Mountains, the Champlain and St. Lawrence Valleys and even the Tug Hill Plateau inspire us to be in awe of the God who created and sustains us.

However the truly attentive person also knows that God’s greatest creation is not, mountains, rivers, plants or animals but the human person. Created in the image and likeness of God we are called not only to be in awe of His creation but to freely offer God our praise and worship.

Bishop LaValley, in presenting the Diocesan Vision for the future reminds us to build a “culture of holiness” with “living stones”.

Unlike among the precious “living stones” of the North Country are our priests. Men who have answered God’s call to holiness not only to praise and worship Him but, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders they are called to devote their lives to serving God in the north country enabling others to know, love and serve the Lord.

Our priests serve the Church in many roles as leaders of Divine Worship, intercessors, instruments of healing, teachers, confessors and yes, even business managers. They deliver food to the hungry in body and spirit, set priorities in using parish resources, encourage the despairing and bring hope through the proclamation of the Gospel.

All of these are important responsibilities and the priest seeks to undertake them with the compassion of Christ, keeping focused on the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls, helping us to be “Christ-fed and Hope-filled.”

The Committee for the Continuing Education of Priests is charged with helping our priests to keep focused on God’s will by providing opportunities for ongoing faith formation,

North Country Catholic has gone green

Here is what one subscriber has to say:

“What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don’t have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can’t sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks.”

To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

Bishop’s Schedule

Nov. 20 – 11:00 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at St. Patrick’s Church in Chateaugay.
Nov. 21 – 10:00 a.m., School Mass at St. Bernard’s Church and Visit to St. Bernard’s School in Saranac Lake.
Nov. 22 – 10:30 a.m., Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Mary’s Cathedral 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral.
Nov. 23 – 9:00 a.m., Family Catechesis Presentation: Call to Holiness & Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.
Nov. 25 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral 5:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner for the Special Religious Education Program at IHC Intermediate School in Watertown.

Environmental Stewardship

Do You Know How To Eat an Elephant?

The answer to that question is... one bite at a time!

When I am overwhelmed at times with the pollution and environmental havoc that our ways of living are having on the quality of air and water, I need to remember this answer.

Rather than feeling helpless and depressed, I need to find one thing that I CAN do... the one bite at a time.

For example:

“When paying my electric bill, I can choose renewable sources of energy i.e. solar or wind that have less negative impact on the environment.

“Since plastic requires petroleum to manufacture it, I can invest in reusable containers for food that reduces the need for plastic bags and wrap.

I can make it a habit to take reusable bags, when I go shopping. I need to find one thing that I can make.

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The call to marriage

By Steve Tartaglia
Diocesan director, Family Life ministry

When I was in college I believed God was preparing me for something special, but I didn’t know what. I wanted to get married, but didn’t feel ready for the responsibility and wasn’t convinced I would find the right person for me.

I used to play a game in which I would see a young woman and pretend to have a conversation with God in my mind. I would say “Is that the one?” and He would reply in my voice “If I told you that was the one would you believe me?” I would say “Yes” and He would reply “That’s not the one.”

This went on and on until I met Christina.

The moment I saw her the first time I instantly heard a voice that wasn’t my voice coming from inside me somewhere, as if I heard it from the inside out, in my mind and heart at the same time, but not with my ears. And the voice said...“That’s the one.”

I was surprised because she was a virtual stranger to me. I didn’t know anything about her. I had never before or after heard that message about anyone else and it came with such clarity. I went home and wrote about the experience in my journal. Years later, when I was describing the story to a friend, he said it reminded him of the story of Samuel identifying David from among all of his brothers, and this was significant for me because I had chosen Samuel as my Confirmation name.

We began to spend time together as friends, getting to know each other. Clearly neither of us were developmentally ready for marriage. Ironically, we both believed we might have a calling to a religious vocation. Discerning a vocation to the priesthood meant going off to the seminary, so I did, and it was the best decision of my life.

While in seminary formation I had a regular routine that included exercise, prayer, study, spiritual direction, and mentoring. I was surrounded by other men that were all pursuing the same goal, the discernment of God’s call in their lives.

I continued to journal and kept a pretty decent record of those six years. When I reread my journal I didn’t know what to make of the experience with Christina and, conflicted, I would often just think I was mistaken.

I continued on in the seminary until God made it clear that priesthood was not what He was calling me to. I left seminary and reconnected with Christina. A few years later we married each other.

I share this story for two reasons. First, I want you to know that all vocations need to be discerned carefully. Discernment is a process of looking, thinking, praying, talking to others, getting guidance from trustworthy mentors and making the best decision you can. A religious vocation takes at least six years of discernment. Ironically, the discernment process for getting married tends to be much hasty.

Second, I want you to know that God does talk to us all the time. God calls each of us in a way that is very personal. Sometimes it might be difficult to describe to another person just exactly how God talks to us because what is so personally convincing to us might not really have the same effect on someone else.

In order to hear God, we need to be paying attention, and I think a big part of paying attention involves turning away from things that lead us away from God.

Another essential part is the necessity of faith. Faith means that you believe in something that you can’t see at the time.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Permanent deacon lives out two vocations

By Deacon Larry Ambeau
Parish of St. Cecilia and Queen of Heaven Churches in Adams and Henderson

Just who is a permanent deacon and what does he do? A permanent deacon becomes a member of the clergy when ordained by a bishop. Through the imposition of hands and the prayer of consecration, the permanent deacon is constituted a sacred minister and a member of the hierarchy: bishop-priest-deacon.

His ordination calls him to share in the mission of Christ.

Pope John Paul II cites in Lumen Gentium, 29: “For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity to the people of God.”

I was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Bishop LaValley Oct. 5, 2013. That day was one of the most important days of my life because it was the day I began a second vocation. It is the vocation in the diaconate.

You see I am very fortunate to have two vocations: marriage and diaconate. Thirty-nine years ago I married a wonderful young woman, Vickie, and we started our family together. Our family has grown to three children, who are all married, and six grandchildren: three boys and three girls.

God called me to serve my own family and to serve the rest of His family. The other family I serve in addition is the people of the Parish of St. Cecilia and Queen of Heaven Churches in Adams and Henderson where I have been assigned as their deacon. I serve with the newly named pastor, Father Martin Cline.

As I reflect back on my ordination weekend last year two things stand out.

One is a gift I received from one of my classmates in deacon formation. He gave me a towel to remind me of my responsibility to service to my family, my fellow deacons and the rest of Christ’s flock just as Jesus did when he washed the feet of his apostles at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday night. I have that towel near my computer where I can see it daily to remind me of my commitment.

The second thing that made a great impression on me was that on the day after ordination I had the privilege of baptizing one of my grandsons at my first Mass as a deacon.

I cannot describe the feeling I had of not only celebrating my first Eucharist as deacon with two of my favorite priests - Fathers Patrick Rattigan and Leo Wiley - but also of being allowed to welcome my grandson, Logan Kotary into Christ’s fold through baptism.

Wow what an experience!

Recently I received the faculty to preach homilies. Through the guidance of Deacon Kevin Mastellon and Msgr. Paul Whitmore I wrote and delivered several homilies at the Monastery of the Precious Blood and St. Andrew’s Church in Sackets Harbor in preparation for receiving the faculty.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Bishop presents religious emblems to Catholic scouts


At Holy Family School, Bishop LaValley blessed the religious emblems and awarded them with Father Stitt as Cory L. Haynes, Diocesan Chairman of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting announced the recipients:

Spirit Alive
Alexandra Mesick, Sacred Heart of Jesus of Chazy

Light of Christ
Aiden Gold, St. James Church of Carthage
Logan Gold, St. James Church of Carthage
Nathaniel Higgins, St. Paul's Church of Black River
Hector Lopez, St. James Church of Carthage
Hayden Tolbert, St. Michael's Church
Patrick Tucker, St. Michael's Church

Parvuli Dei
Tristan Hellijas, Notre Dame Church of the St. Andre Parish of Malone
Giovanni Di Nola, St. James Church of Carthage
Danny Carlin, St. Michael's Church

Bishop LaValley presents the Bronze Pelican Adult Religious Emblem to Cory Haynes of St. Regis Falls as Father Bryan Stitt, chaplain of the Ogdensburg Catholic Committee on Scouting looks on. Haynes is chair of the committee.

Church
Aiden Gold, St. James Church of Carthage
Terrance Higgins, St. Paul's Church of Black River
Timothy Hill, St. Michael's Church
Matthew Leeds, St. James Church of Carthage
Hayden Tolbert, St. Michael's Church
Patrick Tucker, St. Michael's Church

Ad Altare Dei
Troy Bulris, St. Joseph's Church of West Chazy
Andrew Rivera, St. Joseph's Church of Dannemora

Pope Pius XII
Rafael Rivera IV, St. Joseph's Church of Dannemora

Bronze Pelican Adult Religious Emblem
Cory Haynes, St. Ann's Church of St. Regis Falls

St. George Adult Religious Emblem
Randy Besio, St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Church of Massena

At the retreat
During the scout retreat which preceded the Mass, scouts participated in a game of curling with an Olympic Coach, explored options to consider for their own vocation, earned a commemorative patch for learning about St. Isaac Jogues, created a personal first aid kit for an outing, and helped with service projects at Holy Family School.

Information about the Catholic Scouting emblem programs, the summertime Mountain Top Mass, the Annual Retreat, and the Bishop's Scout Mass is available at www.rcdony.org/scouting.html.

Marriage

I remember, toward the end of my time in seminary, meditating on Psalm 37:4, “Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” I asked my friend who had just been ordained if he was happy. He said that the day of his ordination was the happiest day of his life. He meant it and it was apparent.

I didn’t experience that for myself until the day I married my best friend. Then came the days that each of my five children were born. Then there were first teeth, first steps, first words, first days of school and “I love you Daddy.”

Each of these happy milestones confirmed my vocation and made me want to be a better, holier man.

God called me to marriage and family life and for this I cannot thank Him enough. How does God talk to you and what is He asking you to do and to become?
The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.
Feeding the hungry

Challenges identified in feeding the 1 billion chronically hungry people in the world

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, MINN. (CNS) -- With projections putting the planet's population at 9 billion by 2050, the question of how to feed them is taking on ever-greater importance.

"It's a problem of poverty, it's a problem of entitlement, it's a problem of inequality. It's also a problem of waste," said Fred Kirschenmann, a distinguished fellow at the Leopold Center for Iowa State University. But at the "Faith, Food & the Environment" symposium Nov. 5-7 in St. Paul, held at the University of St. Thomas and sponsored by more than a dozen Catholic and agricultural organizations, some speakers suggested the question may need to be asked differently.

"It's the wrong question," said Kirschenmann, a distinguished fellow at the Leopold Center of Iowa State University, giving people a moral justification to continue doing more of what they've been doing.

Kirschenmann said enough food is being grown today to feed 10 billion people, yet 1 billion people remain chronically hungry. "It's a problem of poverty, it's a problem of entitlement, it's a problem of inequality," he said. "It's also a problem of waste."

Estimates put the amount of waste at 40 percent of all food grown. "If you're throwing away 40 percent of what is produced, is it optimal to produce 20 percent more?" asked Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, chief of staff to Ghanaiian Cardinal Peter Turkson, head of the Pontifical Institute for Peace and Justice, one of the symposium's sponsors.

The waste rate doesn't come from people sliding uneaten food from their plates into a wastebasket or garbage disposal. The major of that wasted food, he said, is left rotting in farmers' fields because they know the buyers of their crops do not want any blemished merchandise.

Kirschenmann said a French supermarket chain addressed the problem by stocking blemished produce and selling it at 30 percent off the prices asked for their unblemished counterparts. The tactic was so successful, he added, "you know what the problem is now? Supply."

Calvin DeWitt, a professor at the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, took a different perspective. He said the problem is not how much food is grown, but who grows the food.

Most people living in developing countries, he argued, are subsistence farmers, They often grow enough to feed their family and to sell some at a nearby market.

Their way of life, he said, and existence, is threatened by such variables as bad weather and war, turning a hardscrabble life into one that could result in uprooting themselves from their land and seek refuge in big cities, if not other countries.

Hauling freighters full of wheat and other staples across oceans is not going to solve the problem DeWitt said, it will require a concerted effort to reach those farmers and their plots in advances made in farming.

Those advances may include genetically modified organisms. Some nations have refused to allow them, and some consumers in developed countries reject them. But some GMO crops may benefit the farmer with more, and more healthful crops. How to apply faith principles for GMO use? "It's an interesting question -- which is my way of saying I don't know," said Christopher Thompson, academic dean of the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas. "You have to be careful about wild experiments."

But the planet's ability to feed itself may be at stake, according to Kirschenmann. Early humans, he said, were not food producers but "food collectors," hunting, killing and eating prey for their subsistence.

In the past 10,000 or so years, humans have engaged in a process of what Kirschenmann called "slash and burn" farming. This process accelerated in the last century or so through using water, petrochemicals and minerals to make the land more productive. While it has resulted in increased yields, the planet runs the risk of exhausting its resources. The Ogallala aquifer under Nebraska, said the Rev. Clifford Canku, a Presbyterian minister, member of the Dakota Indians, and a retired professor of Dakota studies at North Dakota State University. The aquifer's water reserves were built up over millions of years. But at the pace the water is now being used up, it will run dry in about 50 years, he predicted.

Thinning topsoil runs the same risk. However, National Farmers Union president Roger Johnson, said the planting of "cover crops" after the harvest of a cash crop can restore the soil's health, cutting pesticide use by 70 percent, and increasing rainfall retention. The soil under cash crops has been degraded to the point where it can absorb about only a half-inch of rainfall, he said. But after a few cycles of planting cover crops, the same soil can retain eight inches of rain.

That doesn't take into account the old agrarian practice of letting land lay fallow through crop rotation practices to keep it strong. Kirschenmann said that, even when farmers ignore these practices, "nature absorbs the density of any species. If one method fails, she will try another."

Another, and less comfortable way of looking at the question is by asking how many people the planet can sustain. Kirschenmann said, "We have to look at what the carrying capacity of the human species is," he said. "I haven't heard anyone say, 'Oh, 9 billion or 10 billion people is all right,' adding he knows that ethicists and theologians have not wanted to deal with this issue.

Kirschenmann himself said he did not know what a sustainable number might be, tossing about the numbers 5 billion and 3 billion. But neither he nor anyone else at the symposium suggested how the planet might get down to a lower number.
Bishops OK liturgy items, endorse sainthood cause, hold elections at assembly

Baltimore (CNS) - Though there were no actions on the U.S. bishops' agenda in Baltimore dealing with immigration, poverty and other public policy issues, the president of their conference said Nov. 11 that he hopes to meet with President Barack Obama and House and Senate leaders soon on several topics.

In a brief comment during the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said he had heard from many of his brother bishops about those issues and hopes convening with the politicians will supplement the work that committees and USCCB staff are doing.

He told Catholic News Service that he intends to pursue a meeting with the president and congressional leaders as soon as December.

In other action on the second public day of the Nov. 10-13 meeting, the bishops:
- Approved several liturgical items, including a revised translation of the ritual book used whenever a new church is built or when a new altar is made; the first official English translation of the ritual book "Exorcism and Related Supplications"; and a supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours that is an English translation of the prayers used for feast days of saints who have been added to the general calendar since 1984.
- Voted to proceed with a revision of a section of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Services dealing with partnerships.
- Endorsed the sainthood cause of Father Paul Watson, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement in 1899, and in his day a leading advocate of Christian unity.
- Approved a 2015 budget of just under $189.5 million.

Archbishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, gave a presentation on the newly revised "Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States.

As the number of priests and pastoral ministers from other countries increases in the United States, he said the resource provides information for dioceses, eparchies and religious communities to prepare international ministers for their service and help the communities that receive them.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle, USCCB secretary and chairman of the Committee on Priorities and Plans, told the bishops that activities revolving around four key goals of the USCCB is an indication that "the conference planning process is working quite well."

The current four goals, or priorities, are faith formation and sacramental practice; strengthening marriage and family life; the life and dignity of the human person; and religious liberty.

The bishops also heard a report on the work of various committees - pro-life, domestic justice, international justice, evangelization and religious liberty - which together are trying to pinpoint what Catholics in the pew are thinking.

One of the major findings from the study that Catholics want to find out more about their faith - has prompted plans for a 2017 convocation in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 4.

Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, invited the bishops to a 2015 Laity Ecclesiastical Ministry Summit. The June 7, 2015, event will mark the 10th anniversary of the bishops' statement "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord." It will be held just prior to the USCCB spring general assembly in St. Louis.

In elections, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans won the secretary-elect spot. The committee chairmen-elect are: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, pro-life activities; Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, communications; Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, cultural diversity; Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit, doctrine; Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, national collections. Each will assume their offices next November for a three-year term.

The meeting included reports on the recently concluded extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family; Catholic education and an outreach to Hispanic students in underserved communities; the progress of planning for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia; the status of the 2013-16 USCCB strategic plan, "The New Evangelization: Faith, Worship, Witness"; the 2015 Fortnight of Freedom; and the defense of marriage.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the committee - extended for another three years - planned to focus more on teaching and expanding networks with Catholic lay groups and interfaith and ecumenical partners. He said threats to religious liberty remain a great concern.

"The challenges to religious liberty with regard to the redefinition of marriage grow daily," said Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, in his report.
Christ the King marks end of Church year

Today is the last Sunday of the Church year, the Feast of Christ our King.

The readings sum up what we need to remember the most about living as a Catholic Christian, and how God (who is also our judge), will measure our success of failure in living with God for all eternally.

First, how does God like to think of Himself?

Of all His titles, He wants to be known as a "shepherd" who guides and lead us all to His kingdom. The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, reveals God's displeasure with the ancient leaders of Israel. "I myself will look after and tend my sheep."

Tenderly He will watch out for our every need - "twenty-four seven!" I will rescue them from everywhere where they were scattered when it was cloudy or dark," He says.

Further, this perfect shepherd will seek out the lost, the injured, and the sick.

No wonder our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, is so upset with clergy and laypeople, who think of their own comfort first and neglect to care for beggars and the crippled and the needy. He's upset when we don't think of them as equals, and as our brothers and sisters.

What a King we have! How lovable and just!

The second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians shows us how we are promised resurrection and a share in the treasures of heaven through the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. We could have no richer inheritance.

In the Gospel, we have all the guidelines spelled out for our "final exam".

Jesus will say to us, "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you ... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..."

It all seems so simple. Anyone can share what they have, or take time out to visit a sick and lonely relative or acquaintance. If we welcome a stranger, then they can easily become our friend. All we have to do is to recognize Christ in everyone we meet.

What really great readings these are. How worthy they are to ponder over, to memorize and practice each day.

If we do, we are promised Heaven in the company of the King Himself!

Like the end of the Church year, it's the end of one journey and the beginning of the next!

Physician-assisted suicide: confronting fears

The prospect of a very attractive, recently-married young woman with a terminal illness facing excruciating pain and suffering as she dies is enough to move anyone.

The life and death of 29-year-old Brittany Maynard recently captured enormous media attention when she declared she was moving to Oregon to commit suicide after having been informed by her doctors that she had an aggressive form of brain cancer and likely had only six months to live.

She brought her life to a close on Nov. 1st, a date she had selected ahead of time, by taking a lethal dose of barbiturates prescribed by her doctor.

In the public discussions that have ensued, some have ventured to argue that suicide under such desperate circumstances would, in fact, be justifiable.

A recent on-line article from Time magazine observed that few fault those who were trapped on the top floors of the Twin Towers on 9/11 when they jumped to their deaths below as the flames surged around them.

Similarly, the article suggests that those who face the prospect of a difficult, pain-racked death from a terminal disease should be able to take their own life through physician-assisted suicide without fault or blame.

For those jumping out of the Twin Towers, however, we recognize a horrific situation of desperation, and even the possibility of a kind of mental breakdown in those final panic-stricken moments. Their agonizing choice to hurl themselves out of the building to their deaths below would be, objectively speaking, a suicidal act, and would not represent a morally good choice, but their moral culpability would almost certainly be diminished, if not eliminated, by the harrowing circumstances in which they found themselves, driven by raw terror more than by anything else.

Clearly, grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of suffering can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide.

Yet in the face of a terminal medical diagnosis, it is not reasonable to let our fears dictate our choices; instead it behooves us to confront and resolve those fears without yielding to panic and without allowing unpleasant future scenarios to loom large in our imagination.

Brittany Maynard not only greatly feared a difficult death for herself, but also argued that protecting her family from pain and suffering was an important consideration in her decision to carry out physician-assisted suicide: "I probably would have suffered in hospice care for weeks or even months. And my family would have had to watch that. I did not want this nightmare scenario for my family."

Yet even with very noble intentions and a loving concern for our family, we can unwittingly become overzealous in our desire to "protect" them from suffering.

Brittany's desire to protect her family and friends from pain by committing suicide also led her to cross over critical moral boundaries such that she deprived her family and friends of the chance to love her through her sickness.

Suicide in any form runs contrary to our duty to love - to love ourselves and to love our neighbor - because it unjustly breaks important ties of solidarity we have with family, friends and others to whom we continue to have obligations.

It is always violent to eliminate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. We effectively give up on the Creator and all he has created. We refuse the help of our neighbor, the love of a family member, or even the beauty of another sun-drenched day to lighten our affliction.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
**INTERSTELLAR**

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

As befits a sprawling space epic, "Interstellar" (Paramount) aims high. While its ambitions are admirable, and its visuals dazzling, the film's roughly three-hour running time tries patience.

Director and co-writer (with his brother Jonathan) Christopher Nolan charts the exploits of a crew of astronauts who use a wormhole to speed their travel to distant planets. Their critical goal is to find a habitable refuge for the entire human race, which is facing worldwide starvation back on a dystopian, dustbowl-plagued version of Earth.

Leading the mission is former test pilot and engineer-turned-unwilling-farmer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey). With society's need to cultivate crops having displaced interest in advancing technology, Cooper, a widower, has been forced to pursue an agricultural lifestyle on the farmstead he shares with his cranky father-in-law Donald (John Lithgow), his placid teen son. Tom (Timothee Chalamet), and his precocious, adoring daughter, Murph (Mackenzie Foy).

So when an unusual turn of events results in the opportunity for Cooper to command a space expedition, he essentially jumps at the chance, despite the fact that the prospect of his prolonged absence is nothing short of crushing to Murph.

Cooper is joined on the journey by astrophysicist Romilly (David Gyasi) and science officer Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway). The latter's father (Michael Caine) - a renowned professor who was once Cooper's mentor - conceived the rescue program and is its overall supervisor.

"Interstellar" has most of its values in good order as it weighs familial ties against the sacrifices necessary to advance the common welfare and ponders the place of love within a worldview shaped by quantum mechanics and Darwinian evolution. But both the film's implicit message about the dire consequences of overpopulation and a subplot involving frozen embryos call for moral discernment.

Cinematically, unnatural situations resulting from the relativity of time and other environmental factors create a distance from ordinary reality that blunts the impact of the movie's human element. In this respect, "Interstellar" stands in contrast to Nolan's masterful 2010 mind-bender "Inception."

In that earlier picture, different strands of events simultaneously unfolding within varied chronologies made for suspense and excitement. Here the playful feel of "Inception" is absent, as too is the driving sense of urgency.

The film contains ethical issues, some bloodless violence, occasional crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III - adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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**EVEN A BISHOP CAN BE TEMPTED!**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

Even as our lives wind down, we have a calling to be good stewards of the gift of life. Hospice and palliative care, along with careful pain management, can lighten our burdens during the dying process. The mutual support of family and friends enables us, and them, to grow in unexpected ways.

By respecting and working through the dying process, we can encounter deep and unanticipated graces. We may recognize the need to ask for and receive forgiveness from others and from God. We may become aware of God's presence and receive a strengthened faith.

We gain peace in our dying days and hours by accepting our mortality and our situation, journeying down the road that still opens ahead of us, even as it becomes shorter, living it with the same tenacity and generosity we did when the road was yet longer.

Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

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**PHYSICIAN**

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**M I N I M U M  R E V I E W**

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**PHOTO SUPPLIED**

Bishop Terry R. LaValley was a guest at the Sept. 28 harvest dinner at Sacred Heart in Chazy. He’s shown above with sixth grade workers in the “Sinners' Den” goodie pantry, Celine Juneau, Macy Hosler and Sydney Hampton.
GREAT SKITTLE BAKE SALE

Adirondack

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR/CRAFT FAIR**
Lake Placid — The Annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft fair to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 6

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Vendor space is available $45 -$55 per space. There are toys, gifts, crafts, wreaths, trees, holiday plants, baked goods, raffle and silent auction.

**Contact:** Kathleen at 518-523-3771 or at info@stageselemay.org

**CLINTON**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

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

**Date:** Dec. 7

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

**Place:** St. Joseph’s Parish Hall

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Plattsburgh — Annual Seton Catholic Christmas turkey dinner is set

**Date:** Dec. 7

**Time:** Noon to 6 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, $5; 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 on Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for the Jan. 22 March For Life. Arrive in Washington, D.C. early Jan. 22; Free Time in the morning, 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 Buffett at (518) 536-6640. To sign up for the bus or make a donation, mail your check to St. Peter’s Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Note on the memo line: “Bus for Life.”

**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 thelosthareeplungshop@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 johnsadoration@ol.com

**HEALING MINISTRY**

Morrisville — 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

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**Contact:** Call 518-561-5083 or email johnsadoration@ol.com

**BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION**

Keeseville — There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

**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

**Contact:** 518-566-9656

**LATINS MASS**

Constable — A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. Joseph’s Church

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, The Rosary, and Benediction.

**Contact:** Kathleen at 518-523-3771 or at info@stageselemay.org

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

Watertown — Spaghetti Supper to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 20

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** Chapel of St. Patrick’s Church

**Features:** We will gather for prayer, discussion, fellowship, and refreshments.

**Contact:** Please sign up by Nov. 20 by calling the parish office at 376-6624

**JEFFERSON**

**CHRISTMAS TEA**

North Bangor — St. Augustine’s Parish will hold their annual Christmas Tea.

**Date:** Dec. 7

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** Luncheon with homemade soups, sandwiches, and beverages; crafts, baked goods; Cake Walk; Chinese Auction; Raffles and Visit from Santa

**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.

**NOVEMBER ULCRTEA**

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, pfanning5010@twcnyrr.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, $5.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $7.50 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 to be held, sponsored by K of C #921

**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.

**Contact:** Please RSVP by Dec. 3 by calling 315-788-8480

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**

Watertown — Lifерight 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

**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 & personal prayer

**Contact:** 315-782-2468

**CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE**
A sign of thanks this Thanksgiving

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

I am very grateful for your generous World Mission Sunday offering for the support of the Church’s missionary work. Your assistance is a blessing to those who serve in mission dioceses.

With your help you are “building His Church,” when a priest in Africa reaches out with the healing heart of our Lord to victims of famine and war.

With your help you are “building His Church,” when a catechist in Asia is able to uplift the poor with the “Good News” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With your help you are “building His Church,” when religious Sisters throughout the Missions teach children, care for the orphan, and offer the suffering the love and compassion of our Lord. Your help, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is “building our Church” in the Missions year after year. Please know that I am most grateful for your generosity and prayerful support.

While World Mission Sunday is celebrated only once a year, I hope that in the months ahead you will continue to remember the missionary work of the Church, especially in your prayers. I hope also that you will also continue to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, as you are able.

Thanking you again for your enthusiasm and generous participation in this year’s celebration of World Mission Sunday.

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Read Bishop LaValley’s columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!
Sister Annunciata Collins, principal of Augustinian Academy, Carthage, has been a Sister of St. Joseph for 50 years.

A native of Watertown, she is the daughter of the late John and Rosemary Collins and a sister to David Collins who died in 1958 and to F. Hugh and Mary Ellen Collins of Gaithersburg, MD. She has two nieces, Megan and Bernadette.

Sister is a graduate of Holy Family School and Immaculate Heart Academy, Watertown. Having been taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, she knew that they were the community with whom she wished to pursue consecrated life.

“They seemed so joyful and pleased to be doing what they were doing... teaching my classmates and me,” Sister Annunciata said. “They challenged us to do our best and they were willing to help us when we needed extra help.

“Our teachers worked hard but they had time for fun, too,” she said. “They had fun with us and with each other.”

Sister Annunciata began religious life on September 7, 1963, received the habit on June 24, 1964 and made final vows on August 28, 1969.

She received her BA in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from SUNY Potsdam and an MA in Biblical Studies from Providence College in Providence, RI. She completed studies at Fordham University and SUNY Plattsburgh for NYS certification in school administration and supervision.

Sister Annunciata has served in St. John’s School in Morristown, St. Joseph’s School in Massena, Holy Name School in Tupper Lake, Holy Family School in Watertown (where she later returned as Principal), Holy Name School, AuSable Forks (where she also served as principal), Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown.

Sister Annunciata also served as pastoral associate in St. Cecilia’s Parish in Adams, on the Leadership Council and as the Major Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown.

At present she serves as principal of Augustinian Academy in Carthage. She is also a member of the Diocesan Council of Consecrated Life and of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Sister says it is a joy to be a sister. She can’t believe how fast the years have gone by and how many students and families she has known. Sister is grateful to all who have helped and encouraged her.

Sister Annunciata recommends that persons considering religious life not be afraid to ask God to guide them and help them to choose the path which will lead them to become their best selves.

“Don’t hesitate to talk to a trusted adult, visit the motherhouse and a local convent,” she said. “Consider where you can best serve God and his people.”

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**Fifth in a series of biographies of the 2014 jubilarians**

**Sister Annunciata Collins: SSJ for 50 years**

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**St. Lawrence**

**HOLY HOUR FOR Vocations**

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

**NOVENA FOR MILITARY**

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Chapel

**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

**EUCHARISTIC 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

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**Advent Evening of Renewal**

Syracuse – Advent Evening of Renewal: Our Radiant Life in Christ.

Date: Dec 3

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Speaker: Jim Krisher

Features: Advent is the season when we ponder the mystery of Christ’s coming into human history. Attendees will leave with a renewed awareness of God’s love and the astonishingly good news of God’s designs for humanity. The evening will include guided meditation and refreshments.

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

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**Around**

**ST. LAWRENCE**

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

**NOVENA FOR MILITARY**

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

**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

**EUCHARISTIC 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

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