The honor of keeping promises

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Bring honor back to keeping one’s promises, which must be made in full freedom and kept by making sacrifices, Pope Francis said.

The beauty of love and promises is that they are carried out in freedom, he said during his weekly general audience Oct. 21 in St. Peter's Square.

"Without freedom there can be no friendship, without freedom there is no love, without freedom there is no marriage."

He asked that the Synod of Bishops on the family "renew in the whole church the meaning of the indisputable value of the indissoluble marriage and healthy families, based on the mutual love between a man and woman and divine grace."

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the promise of love and fidelity made between a husband and wife.

"The identity of the family is founded on promise," Pope Francis continued, which can be seen in the loving care families provide one another in sickness and in health, and by accepting each other's limitations and helping each other realize their full potential.

Catholic school teachers gather in LP

Catholic school teachers and administrator from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid Oct. 16 for the first day of Celebrate Christ.

Keynote speaker for the day was Dr. JoAnn Paradise, a national catechetical consultant for Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division. She spoke on the theme "Crossing the Threshold to Intentional Discipleship."

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass which opened the day.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Consecrated Life honored

Two more religious jubilarians share the story of their lives; another Sister makes first vows

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

A MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Mary’s Parish in Ticonderoga Oct. 23, in gratitude for the newly constructed school. Above, kindergartners, Sophia Slattery and Aurora Eggleson are shown presenting the offertory gifts to the bishop while eighth grade server Nicholas Lender and pastor Father Kevin McEwan look on. St. Mary's School was seriously damaged in a fire in September, 2014.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FOR YEAR OF MERCY: Bishop to lead Holy Year pilgrimage to Italy... p. 5
Pilgrimage: ‘impetus to conversion’

In just a couple of weeks the much anticipated Holy Year of Mercy will be upon us.

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to begin a celebration of a year which he hopes will be a “true moment of encounter with the mercy of God” for all believers.

When he announced the Holy Year, the pope encouraged Catholics to make a pilgrimage during the year, whether to Rome or any other holy place:

“May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion,” he wrote, “[where] we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.”

That’s the reason that Bishop LaValley agreed to serve as the spiritual leader for a pilgrimage to Rome and other holy sites in Italy next April.

The bishop understands that the Vatican and Assisi, in particular, hold a distinctive place in the hearts of Catholics.

During the Holy Year, the trip will have special significance since the pilgrims will obtain the jubilee indulgence as we make our way through the Holy Doors of each of the four papal basilicas in Rome: St. Peter’s in the Vatican, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Registrations for the trip have been coming in steadily. At this point, one bus has been filled and we are well on our way to adding a second.

If you’ve always wanted to travel to Italy, visit the treasures of the Vatican, walk in the footsteps of saints and pray in historic European churches, 2016 is the year to do it.

All the details for the trip can be found on the North Country Catholic website, www.northcountrycatholic.org, or you can give Christine a call at 315-608-7556 and she can send a brochure in the mail.

As Bishop LaValley writes, “this Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy promises to be a time for prayer, an increase of faith and a whole lot of enjoyment for all the pilgrims.” We’d love to have you with us!

Finding the key to happiness: gratitude

Last Sunday, as I was driving down to Syracuse for supper with the family, I searched around the radio dial and came upon an edition of the TED Radio program, as they were playing a talk given by Brother David Steindl-Rast. His talk was entitled, “Want to be Happy? Be Grateful” and it was terrific. I had to hear the talk again when I could truly concentrate on it so I went to Brother David’s website, A Network for Grateful Living (www.gratefulness.org) the next day.

Brother David, Benedictine monk, joined the Benedictine Monastery of Mount Savior in Elmira, N.Y. early in his life. I have known of him for a while though his many books.

This particular message was so truly special that I decided to share some of his ideas with you. (By the way, I have gotten to know Brother David’s nephew, David Rast, who lives with his wife in Vergennes, Vermont.) Brother David begins his talk by simply reminding us that one of things all of us have in common is the desire to be happy. He then goes on to define happiness for us in this way, “happiness means the experience of something that is valuable to us and is freely given.”

There are so many ways that we all experience this. Thinking about this right now, I experienced such a moment of happiness today when I received an email from someone who thanked me for being such an understanding priest. That was special.

Brother David urges us to live grateful, recognizing that every moment in life is filled with the gift of new opportunities, magnificent opportunities to make our part of the world a better place.

At this moment, I call to mind some of the opportunities I discovered today – and in that way brought happiness to others – and actually to myself also.

Every moment is an opportunity given to us to recognize the happiness we have experienced, the gift within every gift. So, we should be grateful for all that is ours and live in that gratitude.

Each of us knows only too well that life does also bring some things that are difficult: a challenge we must rise to meet. But challenges, despite being sad or difficult, still bring a gift – for example, the gift of patience. These challenges are a time to stand for another possibility, another opportunity. When we fail – as too often happens – we do get another opportunity, another moment to become grateful.

Brother David incorporates these ideas into a simple, yet very effective method. I know this from my own experience. His method is STOP – LOOK – GO.

Brother David reminds us that we just don’t stop enough, really stop in this far too busy world. We need moments of silence when we can honestly, free ourselves for time to be grateful. We must build up stop signs into our life.

These are the times when we truly recognize the gifts that have been ours today. So, once we STOP, we have the opportunity to LOOK. This is a time to open our signs and discover the richness that is given to us.

Then we open our hearts seeking the opportunities to GO, to do something special, to make our lives even better, to make a difference, to help others, to help us discover happiness.

This is about revolutionizing our lives, our part of the world. Discovering who we really are is the root of our gratefulness. This revolution is our time to eliminate fear from our lives. A grateful person is not fearful. Those who are free from fear are not violent people. In this way, we form for ourselves a grateful world. This produces a time to enjoy the differences among peoples and a time to enjoy ourselves. This is happiness.

One of Brother David’s books is a book of “Blessings.” Here is one of the blessings from this book:

“Source of all Blessings, you bless us with warning voices – poets, prophets, thinkers, who dare to speak against the unrest of accepted norms, to question, at the risk of their good standing, their careers, even their lives. My I have ears to hear these lonely voices of Common Sense, so often merely drowned out by the din of public opinion, and to heed them, take their message to heart, weigh it, and let it change my life.”

Brother David is such a prophet. He longs to make us a happier, more grateful people. May we become grateful people who bring happiness to our part of this world.
At Celebrate Christ - Day One for Catholic School Teachers and Administrators

Teachers urged to ‘bring kids closer to God’

By Kelly Donnelly
Teacher, Seton Catholic, Plattsburgh

LAKE PLACID - Faculty from schools of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at the Crowne Point Hotel Oct. 16 for the annual Superintendent’s Day, which was the first day of Celebrate Christ.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the opening Mass which was followed by an address by keynote speaker, Dr. Jo Ann Paradise.

Dr. Paradise has a background working in Catholic education at the primary and secondary levels and is currently the National Catechetical Consultant for Our Sunday Visitor. Her vast experience, in both education and theology, were clearly drawn from during her presentations.

In the morning session, Dr. Paradise focused on the significance of baptism and how understanding one’s identity through baptism influences all other aspects of one’s life (with a strong focus on the connection to the vocation of marriage).

From an educational perspective, Dr. Paradise gave examples of how teachers are called to bring students closer to God and help guide them to an understanding of their baptismal identity.

In the afternoon session, she expanded upon these ideas, with a greater emphasis on practical implementation of ways that we can help our students and families in their formation as disciples in the new evangelization.

Dr. Paradise pointed out that many of our students are learning ideals of love, identity, and marriage from the culture, which is often at odds with the reality of God’s plan for our lives. In order to educate students and help them grasp these realities, she highlighted the importance of retaining God’s purpose for our lives brings joy.

Furthermore, she gave several concrete examples of activities to do with students at a variety of grade levels to help illustrate God’s call for our lives and build a culture of vocations.

In both the morning and afternoon sessions, Dr. Paradise’s passion, experience, and knowledge were evident.

At one point, she stated that “the reason our buildings stand is to bring kids closer to God” and, through her presentations, we were given more information and ideas to carry out this mission.

The Celebrate Christ program also included recognition of service for several of the teachers. Karen Reynolds of Seton Academy, Plattsburgh has completed 25 years as a teacher in the diocese while four teachers were honored for 15 years: Loralee Marsh, Trinity Catholic, Massena; and Cindy Miles, Ann Chestnut and Catherine Leggue, all of St. Mary’s School in Canton.

In addition, Diana Jones of Augustinian Academy in Carthage was recognized as Teacher of the Year and 36 teachers received Growth in Faith Certificates.

The Celebrate Christ program was organized by the diocesan department of Education led by Msgr. Robert H. Aurcoin and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of schools and director of faith formation.
At Celebrate Christ - Day Two for Parish Religious Educators

Engaging in a hope-filled future

By Marika Donders
Diocesan director of evangelization

LAKE PLACID- I left the house early on a chilly October Saturday morning to participate in the second day of Celebrate Christ, a semi-annual event in Lake Placid hosted by the Diocesan Department of Education. The first day is for Catholic School educators, the second day for those who work in parish Faith Formation. Walking into the Crowne Plaza for the conference, I was struck by the warmth generated by the excitement of catechists reconnecting with colleagues from around the diocese. If nothing else were to occur at this conference other than celebrating our catechists and giving them the opportunity to share and network, the conference would have been a success.

But so much more happened.

Day starts with Mass
The day started with a celebration of Mass by Bishop LaValley. In his homily, he connected the role of the catechist with the ongoing envisioning process.

The catechists have a pivotal role in strengthening the faith formation in families as they continue their own lifelong faith formation.

The Bishop reminded us that personal witness makes for an effective catechist. We have to “walk the talk” and he pointed to the example of Pope Francis.

He pointed out in a particular way that the Holy Father pays attention to and notices people, especially those on the margins, and then he does something about it. He touches them, blesses them, and builds a homeless shelter in the Vatican.

This intentionality in noticing people is something we need to teach, so that we should not remain indifferent to our neighbors in need. We cannot do this on our own. It flows from a personal relationship with Jesus and what God has done for us. We are Christ Fed, Christ Led and hope-filled and this hope must overflow to our neighbor.

Sharing the Life of Faith Award
At the conclusion of Mass, the “Sharing the Light of Faith Award” was given to a surprised St. Joseph Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer for her ongoing efforts in faith formation of those with intellectual disabilities in Watertown.

Then Catechetical Leader Certificates were awarded to those who had completed the requirements, and Growth in Faith Certificates which were handed out to Catechists who had completed 21 and 51 hours of continuing education.

Vision and strategies
The day continued with two presentations by Mr. John Roberto who spoke on Vision and Strategies for 21st Century Faith Formation. The president of LifeLong Faith Associates, based in Naugatuck, Connecticut, Mr. Roberto spoke to the catechists about engaging in a hope-filled future even as we encounter four major challenges in our time.

The first challenge, he said, is diversity in American society, especially in Generational identities. Most parishes now have five generations in their midst from the Building Generation born before the 1960s, to the boomers, to the GenX-ers to the Millennials and now the iGeneration.

The parish of today is like a big Thanksgiving Day dinner with all the generations present, he said. The diversity also includes changes in family structures with massive changes in marriage patterns from previous generations.

Digital technologies is a second challenge which will necessitate a reshaping of faith formation. With the availability of mobile technologies, we cannot expect that we continue to deliver faith formation content the same way that we have been since the beginnings of CCD in the 16th Century, Mr. Robert said.

Religious affiliations
The third challenge proposed by Mr. Roberto is the changes in religious affiliation, belief and practices of Americans.

This includes the rise of those who claim no religious affiliations which does not mean that they have no faith. Many of us are familiar with spiritual but not religious phenomenon.

The fourth challenge is that faith in the past relied on an intergenerationality at home. Faith was passed down from generation to generation, often from grandparents to grandchildren. The sense of Domestic Church has practically disappeared.

As an example, Mr. Roberto spoke of his grandmother’s home, where “the walls were Catholic, the air you breathed was Catholic.”

These days, he said, the Church and faith get a smaller and smaller slice of people’s lives.

Room for hope
But we should have hope, Mr. Roberto said. These challenges simply mean that we should not remain indifferent to our neighbors in need.

We need to move from a provider centered model of faith formation, where we expect everyone to come to the church for classes and workshops and move to a person centered model, where we reach people where they are.

Faith formation is to be thought of as a journey, a holistic process that includes head, heart and hands, building on personal relationships.

Digital learning
Following lunch, the second part of Mr. Roberto’s presentation focused on the digitally enabled faith formation deliveries.

This is not to replace traditional catechesis in the parish, he said but rather to expand it to those who can’t or won’t come to our parish campuses.

It means that we will have to invite more people to use their gifts, but technology can assist in reconnecting the generations and home lives to church life, Mr. Roberto said.

Just as the printing press led the Church to change faith formation to be presented through catechisms and books, our modern digital communication technologies allow us to move beyond the classroom education and extend and deepen people’s experience and participation in Church events to the home and daily life beyond the Church walls.

Mr. Roberto reminded the group that changes like this will not happen overnight, and will not happen without involvement of many people willing to share their gifts and talents, but we can begin to take small steps to build a new ecosystem in which the faith can be integrated in the life of the family to help build up the domestic Church once again.

By John Roberto


Certificates were awarded to those who had completed the requirements, and growth in Faith Certificates which were handed out to Catechists who had completed 21 and 51 hours of continuing education.

The presentation focused on the digital learning environment.

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Bishop's Fund supports family life ministry

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan director, family life ministry

Attending the World Meeting of Families was amazing and has given me tremendous hope.

About 600 people from our diocese participated in the various events. 200 attended the Papal Mass in New York. 200 attended the Papal Mass in Philadelphia. 100 college age students were there for the Festival of Families and Papal Mass.

The feedback from the travelers was all positive.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Bishop's Fund because the Bishop's Fund subsidized most of these trips and made possible what was a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience for those who participated.

Family life director looks back on his experiences as a diocesan representative to World Meeting of Families

The theme of the World Meeting of Families was "Love is Our Mission - The Family Fully Alive." Fortunately, some of the keynote addresses and breakout sessions are available as podcasts on iradiophilly.com.

The speakers were extensive and their topics, diverse. Each brought out different facets of the theme.

Bishop Robert Barron, the opening keynote speaker, said that God created us in his image in order to share himself with us. We have the responsibility to praise and worship God and to share the love that is God with everyone else.

Bishop Barron said that when we replace the true worship of God with the pursuit of false gods we wound ourselves in the process.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines developed the theme further saying that we are all wounded in some way and that family is the home for the wounded heart. It is a place where those who are wounded can come to be loved and healed.

The conference addressed two wounds that are among the most prominent in the culture today: divorce and same-sex marriage.

Rose Sweet, known for ministry to divorced families, said that the key to helping divorced people is to have them keep religion in their relationships because selfishness is most often at the root of divorce.

The Church counters selfishness with its message of unselfish, sacrificial love and the self-gift that is emphasized in the Theology of the Body.

Addressing the issue of same-sex marriage, Dr. Douglas Farrow explained the roots of the problem as society’s acceptance of Relativism and its willingness to live in illusion rather than reality.

He said that how we define marriage matters because marriage is meant to reflect God's love, which is full, free, faithful and fruitful.

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Bishop LaValley to lead Holy Year of Mercy

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Call 315-608-7556 or Visit our website www.northcountrycatholic.org for more information
Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Professor Robert George and Mr. Sherif Girgis spoke on the recent Supreme Court decision which redefined marriage, explaining why it was such a poor decision and had no basis in the Constitution.

Mr. Ron Belgau and his mother, Mrs. Beverly Belgau, gave personal testimony about trying to be chaste and faithful to the gospel while struggling with same-sex attraction.

Professor Helen Alvare said that family is at the center of social justice.

Love must not just be words known for writing and teaching on sexual issues, illustrated this in her

breakout session in which she described the experience of caring for her beloved aged mother suffering with Alzheimer’s. The variety of people that attended was remarkable: entire families, the youngest to the oldest, from all over the world. Attendees encountered a steady stream of famous people within our Church: Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Frank Pavone, Jason and Crystalina Evert, Johnette Benkovic, to name but a few.

There were countless religious, deacons, priests, bishops, cardinals, and, of course, Pope Francis on Saturday and Sunday!

Repeatedly we heard that everyone belongs to a family and that all vocations spring from the domestic church. Not everyone is called to marriage, but family is where people learn to respond to God’s call in their lives, no matter what vocation or ministries God is calling them to.

Rest in Peace

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

- Nov. 3 — Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904

GO GREEN!

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The 2015 Bishop’s Fund Appeal

www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal
Sr. Judith Baumert, SSJ
60 year jubilarian

I am Sister Judith Baumert (Sandra) born in Gouverneur to Francis Xavier and Mary Gertrude Baumert. My best friends growing up were my two sisters, Sally and Shirley. We moved to Antwerp when I was in grade school and I graduated from Antwerp High School (Indian River Central) School in June, 1954 and entered the novitiate of Sisters of St. Joseph that September.

Education was my major in college. Later I went on to receive a Masters Degree in Religious Studies and did further studies at Fordham University and Boston College.

Teaching and administrative ministries have been in St. Joseph’s School, Danshemora, Mater Dei College, Ogdensburg, St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s Schools, Massena, Bishop Smith School, Malone, St. Mary’s School, Ticonderoga, Holy Family and St. Patrick’s Schools, Watertown, and Pastoral Associate at St. Paul’s in Black River.

Later, I was Director of Formation for Ministry Program in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for several years. I also served on the Diocese Council of Consecrated Life.

At present my ministry is with Urban Mission and The Summit in Watertown, as well as assisting at the SSJ Motherhouse.

My greatest pleasure, and sometimes my greatest stress, is being a life-long YANKEE fan.

I thank God for my many beautiful experiences in ministry to the young people in our schools as well as in the Formation for Ministry Program. I thank God too, for the many times of prayer, joy, laughter, and sorrow with my family, friends, and community.

Sr. Mary Carolyn Madden, RSM
70 year jubilarian

I was born in Saranac Lake, daughter of Francis and Lillian (Colburn) Madden. I have a living sister Eileen, and two deceased sisters, Helen and Elizabeth. I also have a deceased brother, Thomas.

My elementary education was at St. Bernard’s that September. Education was my major in college. Later I went on to receive a B.S. at Fordham University and an M.S. in Public Relations, Drug Education, and Administration/Supervision at State University in Plattsburgh.

I taught in the Archdiocese of New York at O.L.V. Tarrytown, St. Margaret Mary’s in the Bronx, Transfiguration Westclay, Tarrytown, St. Cecilia’s in Tarrytown, and was principal at Cmdr. JJ Shea, NY.

I came to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and taught at St. John’s Academy, Plattsburgh, St. Patrick’s, Rouses Point, St. Bernard’s Saranac Lake, and St. Agnes, Lake Placid. I later became Director of Arts in Education at CMDA, North Country Community College.

Presently, I volunteer at Uihlein Health Center and High Peaks Hospice in Lake Placid and Saranac Lake.

I thank God for my seventy years as a Sister of Mercy. I pray the Lord will allow me to serve Him, and His people for many more years. I rejoice celebrate and give thanks for this jubilee year.

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(315-393-2920) or slalone@redony.org

PHOTO BY DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON
Sister Mary Catherine Pham professed first vows as a Sister Adorer of the Precious Blood at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley Sept. 19, at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown. Shown, in front, are Precious Blood Sisters Martha Emery, Marilyn McGillan and Mary Catherine, Bishop LaValley, Father John Tran, Sisters Linh Therese and Rose Mary Rossi. In back are Sister Mary Catherine’s family members, Tom, Anh, Elvis, Huong Pham and Yen Vu.
SCHOOL DAYS...SCHOOL DAYS

FACES OF FAITH

Of Catholic kids in the North Country

Bishop LaValley welcomed homeschool families from across the diocese to his home Sept. 17. The children and their parents joined him for Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral and then gathered for a picnic lunch at the Bishop’s House.

PHOTO BY LINDA ROSS

Bishop LaValley accepts a gift from Josh Tylinda and Principal Marianne Jadlos, on behalf of the students, faculty and staff at Holy Family School in Malone. The gift was salsa and marinara sauce made with tomatoes and peppers from the school garden.

The second graders at IHC Primary in Watertown were able to watch as caterpillars went into chrysalises and came out as butterflies. This butterfly did not want to let go of Keenan Corbin’s finger when it should have been flying away.

Katie Richards and Grace Brink, sixth graders at Augustinian Academy in Carthage display the fruits (and vegetables) of their labors in their school garden.
Canonizing four saints, pope urges people to serve others with joy

By Carol Glotz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis called on people to replace their thirst for power with the joy of quiet and humble service, as he proclaimed four new saints, including the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux.

All of Christ’s disciples, especially its pastors, are called to model themselves after Jesus and “suppress our instinctive desire to exercise power over others, and instead exercise the virtue of humility.”

The pope said the new saints - a Spanish religious woman, an Italian priest and the first married couple with children to be canonized together - “unfailingly served their brothers and sisters with outstanding humility and charity in imitation of the divine master.”

On World Mission Sunday Oct. 18 in St. Peter’s Square, during the Synod of Bishops on the family, the pope created the following new saints:

- Louis Martin (1823-1894) and Marie Zelie Guerin Martin (1831-1877), the French parents of St. Therese of Lisieux. They had nine children; four died in infancy and five entered religious life. During their 19-year marriage, the couple was known to attend Mass daily, pray and fast, respect the Sabbath, visit the elderly and the sick, and welcome the poor into their home.

- Italian Father Vincenzo Grossi (1845-1917), founder of the Institute of the Daughters of the Oratory.

- Spanish Sister Maria of the Immaculate Conception (1926-1998), a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Company of the Cross.

Some 65,000 people attended the Mass, including the more than 300 cardinals, bishops and others taking part in the Oct. 4-25 synod on the family.

New saints include parents of St. Therese Lisieux, first married couple with children to be canonized together

While the pope’s homily pointed to the new saints as inspiring examples of joyful servants who completely trusted in God, he dedicated the bulk of his reflection on the day’s readings and the Christian meaning of authority and hierarchy.

He said the prophet Isaiah said the servant of the Lord “is not someone of illustrious lineage; he is despised, shunned by all, a man of sorrows. He does not do great things or make memorable speeches; instead he fulfills God’s plan through his humble, quiet presence and his suffering.”

It was Jesus’ life and attitude of profound service that “were the cause of our salvation and the reconciliation of mankind with God,” the pope said.

Jesus invites everyone to follow him on this same path of love and service, he said, and to “reject the worldly temptation of seeking first place and commanding others.”

“Faced with people who seek power and success, the disciples are called to do the opposite,” the pope said.

Those who exercise “genuine authority” in the church and the Christian community are those who serve others and “lack real prestige.” Jesus calls people “to pass from the thirst for power to the joy of quiet service,” the pope said.

Jesus’ teaching and example clearly show there is “no compatibility between a worldly understanding of power and the humble service, which must characterize authority.”

“Ambition and careerism are incompatible with Christian discipleship; honor, success, fame and worldly triumphs are incompatible with the logic of Christ crucified.”

Because Jesus fully shares in the human condition, with the exception of sin, he can empathize with human weaknesses, the pope said.

“The fact that he is without sin does not prevent him from understanding sinners.”

“Jesus exercises a true priesthood of mercy and compassion” by loving and accepting God’s children; by sharing in their weakness; by offering them “the grace which heals and restores”; and by accompanying them “with infinite tenderness amid their tribulations,” he said.

Through baptism, all Christians must share in this ministry by opening one’s heart to God in order to receive his love and charity, which is to be received not only “for ourselves, but also for others.”

Pope Francis again praised the new saints before reciting the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square and called for their intercession.

He asked families to entrust their joys, dreams and difficulties to Sts. Louis and Marie Guerin Martin; he asked that the example of St. Grossi be an inspiration for people dedicated to offering young people a Christian education; and he prayed that St. Maria of the Immaculate Conception “help us live in solidarity and in closeness with those most in need.”
CATHOLIC WORLD
AT A GLANCE

Pope: Christians must adapt to change by staying true to Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God made people free so they can fearlessly adapt to the changing times while remaining true to Christ, Pope Francis said in his morning homily. "Times change and we Christians have to continuously change. We have to change firm in faith in Jesus Christ, firm in the truth of the Gospel," he said at Mass celebrated in the chapel of his residence Oct. 23. God’s gift of freedom means people must not be afraid to use it. Otherwise, they risk just going along with the crowd or doing nothing, he said. People shouldn’t bend to external influence and pressure with excuses like:’’They told me ... I heard ... People say ... I read ... That way we are on the safe side. But what is the truth? What is the message the Lord wants to give me with this sign of the times?’’ God wants people to observe and evaluate what changes are unfolding in the world, the pope said, and to change with them without letting go of Christ. It’s not easy to know what God wants when there is so much outside influence, he said, which is why silence and prayer are essential.

Vatican spokesman says claims pope has tumor ‘entirely unfounded’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said an Italian newspaper’s claims about the pope’s health were “entirely unfounded.” After checking with the pope himself and other sources, Father Lombardi told reporters “the pope enjoys good health” and that the unsubstantiated news report was “a serious act of irresponsibility, absolutely unjustifiable and unacceptable.” The “Quotidiano Nazionale” reported Oct. 21 that an unnamed nurse at a clinic in Pisa told the pope that the pope visited the clinic several months ago and that tests revealed a “small dark spot” -- “a small brain tumor.” The paper reported that the anonymous source said the condition could be taken care of without surgery and that the specialist following the case was Dr. Takanori Fukushima, a neurosurgeon who teaches at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina and travels to clinics in Japan and Pisa. However, the doctor denied the reports in a written statement later in the day.

Pope to visit Africa Nov. 25-30; including Central African Republic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Despite continued instability and outbreaks of violence in the Central African Republic, the Vatican announced Pope Francis will spend about 33 hours in the country during a Nov. 25-30 visit to Africa. Releasing the schedule for the trip, the Vatican said that while the pope is in the Central African Republic Nov. 29-30, he will visit a refugee camp, hold a meeting with evangelical Christians and visit a mosque in Bangui, the nation’s capital. The country has known little peace or development in its 55 years of independence. In March 2013, a rebel movement, Seleka, led by Arab-speaking Islamists, suspended the nation’s constitution. French and African peacekeepers were deployed in January 2014 and the rebels were driven out of the capital.

The National Reconciliation Forum, convened by the country’s transitional parliament in May, has been trying to bring Seleka and its Christian-dominated rival, Anti-Balaka, into talks and preparations for elections that originally were scheduled for Oct. 18. The vote, however, was postponed after violence broke out again in late September. Kenya is the first stop on Pope Francis’ first visit to Africa as pope; there, too, he will meet with ecumenical and interreligious leaders, but he also will visit the Kangemi slum on the outskirts of Nairobi.

VATICAN LETTER

The deeper synod question: How should church relate to the wider world?

By Cindy Woodren
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Members of the Synod of Bishops on the family agree that Catholic families are the beating heart and busy hands of the church, but the tensions in the synod hall demonstrate that what they don’t agree on is a vision of the church and its primary attitude to the world.

As the Catholic Church marked the 50th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council - the last session was held Sept. 14-Dec. 8, 1965 - debates within the synod indicated that reflections on the council have shifted from differences over the meaning of individual council documents and moved on to its general vision of the structure of the church and the relationship of the church to the world.

“The discussion is about the future of the church,” German Cardinal Reinhard Marx told a group of reporters Oct. 20. Some synod members seem to view the church as “a castle to be defended, surrounded by enemies. That I can’t understand,” he said. “The church is a sacrament in the midst of people,” reaching out, challenging, bringing healing.

The synod highlighted the fact that the family is at the very heart of the church: “The family is where the faith is lived and passed on and where the Christian community most strongly impacts and is impacted by the surrounding society.”

As pastors, members of the synod were wrestling, for example, with the questions of Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried and with how best to respect the dignity of homosexual persons while defending marriage as a union of one man and one woman for life.

But none of the bishops thought the questions ended there.

A church living in the midst of the people obviously is challenged by the variety of cultures those people represent. Maintaining unity while responding to diversity and even learning from it has been a task the Christian community has struggled with from the beginning, and not always successfully. The dangers are real.

From the beginning of the synod, members discussed the possibility that in a truly universal church, some pastoral approaches to particularly important questions could be tailored to local situations.

Members of the synod’s German-speaking small group said outreach to the divorced and civilly remarried was one of those situations. But English Group A, which had Australian Cardinal George Pell as its moderator and U.S. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz as its recording secretary, said leaving a matter that touches on the indissolubility of marriage up to individual bishops’ conferences “would risk harm to the unity of the Catholic Church, the understanding of her sacramental order and the visible witness of the life of the faithful.”

English Group D, led by Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia as secretary, reported that in their group, “One bishop said that the issue of admitting divorced and remarried persons without an annulment to Communion was such a vital matter of doctrinal substance that it could only be handled at an ecumenical council and not at a synod.”

Australian Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, who has become a must-read blogger during the synod, wrote Oct. 22, “For me personally, one real fruit of the synod has been a deeper and richer understanding of synodality in the life of the church,” particularly the way Pope Francis explained it in a speech Oct. 17 as a style of “journeying together” with everyone - the pope, bishops, priests and laity - listening to, teaching and learning from each other.

“The pope spoke of synodality as a permanent feature of the life of the whole church rather than as an occasional feature of episcopal life --and went on to set episcopal collegiality and the Petrine ministry within this context,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“This struck me as a deep and simple articulation of the vision of the church found in the teaching of Vatican II, and it made sense to me for the pope to say that this is where God is leading the church as we launch into the third millennium.”

Pope Francis insisted in that speech Oct. 17 that “it is not advisable for the pope to take the place of local bishops in the discernment of every issue which arises in their territory. In this sense, I am conscious of the need to promote a sound ‘decentralization.’”

However, he did make it clear that, in the end, he is the pope and has the responsibility “to speak as ‘pastor and teacher of all Christians,’ not on the basis of his personal convictions but as the supreme witness” to the faith of the church and as “the guarantor of the obedience and the conformity of the church to the will of God, to the Gospel of Christ and to the tradition of the church.”
SCIENTIFIC REFLECTIONS

In celebration of the ‘Church victorious’

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, the Church’s “Hall of Fame.” They are the men and women who “hung in” despite all sorts of obstacles, to faithfully believing in God and His Son, Jesus. They are the ones we truly “hung in,” ”who were truly ‘hung in’” by God’s grace and mercy. Every time we say the words of the First Letter of John is also meant to encourage us: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.” Then he assures us that someday we will see God face and face as He really is. Again, these words spur us on to persevere in our own struggles.

The mystery of male-female complementarity

In the words of Pope John Paul II, “The personal and bodily complementarity of man and woman, along with the duality of a mysterious mutual attraction,” reminds us, again in the words of the Pope, how “femininity finds itself, in a sense, in the presence of masculinity, while masculinity is confirmed through femininity.”

In recent times, nevertheless, the importance of the bodily and spiritual complementarity of man and woman has come to be diminished and even negated in the minds of many, largely due to the diffusion of contraception. This way of intentionally impeding our own procreativity has effectively diminished and even undermined our ability to perceive the inner order and interpersonal meaning of our own sexuality. Pope John Paul II once described the root truth about human sexuality as that “characteristic of man — male and female — which permits them, when they become one flesh,” to submit at the same time their whole humanity to the blessing of fertility.

The routine promotion of contraceptive sexual relations across all strata of society has effectively collapsed the mystery of sexuality into the trivial pursuit of mutually-agreed-upon pleasurable sensations. It has managed to reconstruct that sexuality into, basically, stocks of mutual auto-eroticism. Men and women, neutered and neutralized by various surgeons, pharmaceuticals, or other devices, no longer really need each other in their complementarity sexual roles, with homosexual genital activity claiming the status of just another variant of the same game. This depleted vision of our sexuality strips out the beautiful mystery at its core and diminishes our human dignity. Human sexuality clearly touches deep human chords, including the reality of our solitude.

In the depths of the human heart is found a desire for completion through the total spousal gift of oneself to another, a gift that profoundly contributes to alleviating our primordial sense of human solitude. Both Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis have noted how the deeper mystery of communion that we seek through intimacy is connected to this desire to overcome solitude. We are ultimately intended for communion, so our experiences of human solitude draw us into relationship, and beckon us to an encounter with the other. Yet the union of friendship that arises between two men, for example, or between two women, while clearly important in helping to overcome solitude, can be predicated only on non-genital forms of sharing if their friendship is to be authentic, fruitful and spiritually efficacious.

Genital sexual activity between members of the same sex fails to communicate objectively either the gift of life or the gift of self. Such activity countermands authentic intimacy by collapsing into a form of consensual bodily exploitation, contradicting the very design and meaning of the body in its nature as masculine or feminine. It represents, in fact, the lifeless antithesis of nuptial fruitfulness and faithfulness.

The beauty and meaning of every sexual encounter in marriage, then, is rooted not only in faithful and exclusive love, but also in the radical counterintimacy of spouses manifested in the
GOOSEBUMPS

As ideas for Halloween-themed movies go, a big-screen version of the blockbuster children’s book series “Goosebumps” (Columbia) is better than many. Not only do author R.L. Stine’s numerous volumes have what might conservatively be called a proven commercial track record - 400 million fright fans can’t be wrong - they also trade in the more innocent aspects of the genre.

Thus no oversexed teens were harmed in the making of this movie. No summer campers had their lakeside idylls ruined by a slit throat; nobody had a blood-soaked nightmare on Elm or any other street.

What we're offered instead is a mildly scary adventure that serves as an overview of Stine’s prolific works, rather than an adaptation of any one of them, and that wittily incorporates the writer himself into the story via an amusingly self-deprecating portrayal by Jack Black.

The plot is built on the conceit that the monsters Stine has created over the past 23 years -- a vast menagerie of them by now - are not only vivid but real. Though each is safely confined in the bound and locked manuscript of the tome that contains his story, the danger of any one of them escaping has forced Stine and his teen daughter, Hannah (Odeya Rush) to live a reclusive life marked by frequent relocations.

Their latest home base, a small town in Delaware, seems a safe enough refuge until transplanted New Yorker Zach Cooper (Dylan Minnette) moves in next door. Much against his will, Gotham-loving Zach has been forced to take up residence in the sticks because his mom, Gail (Amy Ryan), has found a job as the assistant principal in the local high school.

Though he expects to be incurably bored in this new setting, Zach quickly finds two consoling diversions. The first is friendship with his awkward but irresistible classmate, Champ (Ryan Lee). The other is love at first sight with Hannah.

Stine, needless to say, does his petulant best to squelch the young pair's puppy-style romance. But his aggressive behavior backfires when Zach jumps to the conclusion that her weird dad is somehow a danger to Hannah, and decides to do a little trespassing to investigate.

In the course of his peaceful home invasion, during which he gets reluctant backup from Champ, Zach inadvertently releases one of Stine’s ghouls. Soon they’re all breaking free and wreaking havoc -- with Slappy (voiced by Black), the creepy ventriloquist’s dummy who serves as both Stine’s alter ego and his nemesis, leading their campaign of gore-free destruction.

The remainder of the running time is devoted to the struggles of Stine and his trio of youthful companions to unite their efforts and re-capture their malevolent adversaries. Watching them do so will make pleasant viewing for most family members.

Still, director Rob Letterman’s cheerful bit of gothic fluff isn’t for everyone. Small fry may be overly unsettled by the marauding array of creatures.

Parents, meanwhile, may find themselves annoyed by the inclusion of some fleeting dialogue between Zach and Champ that acknowledges -- albeit very distantly -- the existence of same-sex dating. The real intent is, of course, for the duo to team up in pursuit of female companionship. But the underlying humor of their momentary misunderstanding is very much of the “not-that-there’s-anything-wrong-with-that” variety.

The film contains frequent peril, tense situations and an implicit reference to homosexuality. 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.

Mystery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

abiding mystery of their mutual procreativity.

Pope Francis, speaking at the 2015 Synod of Bishops and addressing the theme of The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World, reiterated this divine design over human sexuality when he stressed: “This is God’s dream for his beloved creation: to see it fulfilled in the loving union between a man and a woman, rejoicing in their shared journey, fruitful in their mutual gift of self.”

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
THE NORTH COUNTY CATHOLIC

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ADIRONDACK

“FRIENDS OF RACHEL”
Tupper Lake — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks and the Tupper Lake Aging in Place Task Force invite people of all ages to join them for a complimentary luncheon and presentation by “Friends of Rachel,” a Tupper Lake Central School Student Organization working to motivate and equip students to start and sustain acts of kindness.

Date: Nov. 4
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: The Wild Center, free admission
Features: Enjoy the museum exhibits, the Student Presentation, good food and conversation with friends and family.
Contact: Sheila Schneck, Mercy Care Office Manager, at sschneck@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5583.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Lake Placid — St. Agnes Elementary School to have a Christmas Bazaar.

Place: St. Agnes Elementary School
Cost: Free
Features: Available.
Contact: Kathleen Murphy at info@stagneslp.org or at 518-523-3771.

SPARKLE INTO THE NEW YEAR

Christmas Craft Show
Rouses Point — 19th Annual St. Patrick’s Christmas Craft Show to be held.

Date: Dec. 2
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Patrick’s Church Hall
Features: Proceeds to benefit Annual Children’s Christmas Party. Bake Sale will also be held.
Contact: stpatstwcnyr.com or 297-7361.

TURKEY DINNER
Plattsburgh — St. Peter’s Church will hold its annual harvest dinner and craft fair.

Date: Nov. 1
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Place: Seton Academy
Cost: Adults $10; Children $4.00, under 5 Free
Features: Roast turkey and the trimmings. Take-outs available.

HARVEST DINNER
Morrisville — The RCC of St. Alexander’s and St. Joseph’s will have their annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 8
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HEALING MINISTRY
Morrisville — The Catholic Community of St. Alexander’s and St. will have Living Waters Healing Ministry.

Date: Dec. 3
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Alexander’s Church
Features: Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

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

Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Immaculate Conception Church

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: 518-561-5083 or e-mail sjohnsadoration@aol.com

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to hold First Saturday Devotion.

Date: Nov. 7
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Features: Mass, rosary
Contact: RSVP for lunch to olaprayertownhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

SATURDAY DEVOTION
St. Regis Falls — First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann’s Church
Contact: 518-856-9656

St. Peter’s Church will hold a Silent Auction.

Available.
Contact: Sheila Schneck, Mercy Care Office Manager, at sschneck@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5583.

Private and equip students to start and sustain acts of kindness.

Available.

Features: Enjoy the museum exhibits, the Student Presentation, good food and conversation with friends and family.
Contact: Sheila Schneck, Mercy Care Office Manager, at sschneck@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5583.

Features: Proceeds to benefit Annual Children’s Christmas Party. Bake Sale will also be held.
Contact: stpatstwcnyr.com or 297-7361.

Place: St. Agnes Elementary School
Cost: Free
Features: Available.
Contact: Kathleen Murphy at info@stagneslp.org or at 518-523-3771.

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Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann’s Church
Contact: 518-856-9656

CRAFT FAIR VENDORS
Watertown — Immaculate Heart Central Home & School Club will be holding a craft fair and is in need of vendors.

Date: Nov. 14
Cost: $25 per table
Contact: ICHCASC@gmail.com for an application, or contact Lori Hickman at (518)250-6008; Applications can also be picked up at either IHC Primary school on Winthrop Street or Intermediate school on South Massey Street in Watertown.

LIFERIGHT MEETING
Watertown — Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.
Place: 670 Arsenal Street.
Features: The office has a variety of pro-life videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.
Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

HOLY HOUR FOR Vocations
Watertown — Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Mon.-Fri.
Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Place: Holy Family Church
Contact: 315-782-2468

PEACEFUL PRAYER FOR LIFE
Watertown — Join us for a peaceful, prayerful witness of prayer and hymns for the Sanctity of human life.

Date: Every day through October including Sundays.
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Place: Planned Parenthood office

ROAST BEEF DINNER
Harrisville — Annual Roast Beef dinner to served.

Date: Oct. 29
Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Francis Solanus Church
Cost: Adults $10; Children 12-5, $5; under 5, Free

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Housesville — Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of November will be held.

Date: Nov. 1
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.. Contact 348-6419
OCT. 28, 2015

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2020, Fax 315-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

World Mission Sunday: a word of thanks & gratitude

By Sister Mary Ellen Brett
Diocesan mission director

I am very grateful for your generous World Mission Sunday offerings for the support of the Church’s missionary work. Your generous missionary spirit means so much to those who serve in mission dioceses and to me personally as well. We are very optimistic that this year’s collection will top that of last year’s and we could not have done this without your help.

With your help, a priest in Africa reaches out with the healing heart of our Lord to child soldiers. With your help, a catechist in India is able to uplift the poor with the love of Our Lord.

Your generous missionary spirit means so much to those who serve in mission dioceses and to me personally as well. We offer our prayers for the support of the Church’s missionary work, especially in the Missions year after year.

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Faith
Sacks Harbor – Marion R. (Thibault) Collin, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 13, 2015 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Lakeside cemetery.


Watertown – Andrew W. Clement, 80; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2015 at Cleveland Funeral Home.

Willsboro – Ethel A. (Cushing) Bridge, 91; Funeral services Oct. 16, 2015 at St. Philip’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html

Support And Pray For Vocations

For a New or Used Car Mort Backus & Sons On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd. 315-393-5899
Stepping Over To Lake Placid

Stepping Stones is the newly formed youth group from the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond, Norfolk and Raymondville. While on an outing to Lake Placid, Msgr. John Murphy, pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville, offered a prayer service on respecting life, while Father John Yonkovig, pastor in Lake Placid, gave a tour of St. Agnes, sharing the purpose and resources behind the recent renovations of the church.

CONFERENCE ON ASSISTED SUICIDE

Loudonville — A conference on assisted suicide will be held in the Diocese of Albany.

Date: Nov. 7
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Pius X Church Parish Hall
Cost: $10, which includes lunch and all materials.

Features: The NYS Catholic Conference will hold a training conference on how to help stop doctor-assisted suicide. Will feature inspirational speakers, educational information and a welcome by Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger.

Contact: Register online at www.nyscatholic.org/reg or by calling (518) 434-6195.