Papal message for dads

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When their lives are all work and no play, men turn their children into "orphans" who lack a father to guide them, show them love and teach them values, Pope Francis said.

"They are orphans in a family because their fathers are often absent, also physically, from home, but above all because when they are home they don't act like fathers, they don't dialogue with their children, they don't fulfill their role as educators, they don't give their children, by way of their example and their words, those principles, values and rules of life that they need like bread," he said.

At his general audience Jan. 28, the pope continued a series of talks on the family by focusing on the role of the father.

Speaking to some 7,000 people gathered in the Paul VI audience hall, Pope Francis said that in the past, fathers were sometimes too authoritarian, treating their children like "servants" and not helping them take responsibility for forging their own way in life.

"However, as often happens, we have gone from one extreme to another," the pope said.

"The problem today does not seem to be so much the overbearing presence of fathers as much as it is rather their absence, their hiding" from their responsibility as parents, he said.

Human trafficking

IN CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Five priests and a deacon were on hand for the Jan. 26 Mass at Holy Family School in Malone, opening Catholic Schools Week. In front are servers Stephen Dwyer, Briegh Nelson and Angela Dwyer. In back are Fathers Howard J. Venette, Constable; Father Joseph W. Giroux, Malone; Deacon Brian T. Dwyer, Chateaugay; Father Justine Thomas, Malone; Father John J. Looby, Chateaugay and Father Garvin J. Demarais, Plattsburgh.

Lay Ministry Sunday: Feb 15 is kick-off for next Formation program... p. 6
Salvation is for all God’s people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christ showed that the way to draw close to God is not by putting down other people and creating an exclusive club, but by embracing and encouraging others to love and do good works, Pope Francis said.

Christians can end up "privatizing" the faith when they believe "salvation is for me and my little group, not for the entire people of God," the pope said Jan. 29 during the homily at his early morning Mass.

"This is a very big mistake: it is what we call and see as 'ecclesial elites.' When these little groups are created among the people of God," he said, "they think they are good Christians, and perhaps they have good intentions, but they are little groups that have privatized salvation."

The pope’s homily focused on a reading from Hebrews 10:19-25, talking about Christ’s one sacrifice for all and about persevering in faith. The reading explains how Jesus' sacrifice opened "a new and living way" that allows Christians to enter God's presence.

Each person’s personal encounter with Christ -- the experience that "the Lord looked at me, gave his life for me, opened this door, this new way for me" -- might lead some people to forget that Jesus also saved each person as "a people, as a church," the pope said.

"The Lord saves us as a people," he said, which is what the reading underlines when it talks about the need "to rouse one another to love and good works" and not "stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but to encourage one another."

Encouraging each other in holiness recognizes that "salvation isn't just for me. If I understand salvation in this way, I am wrong. I'm on the wrong path. The privatization of salvation is the wrong way," he said.

Sometimes "when we are in a meeting -- at the parish, with a group -- we judge others," he said, and "there is a kind of contempt for the others. And this is not the door, the new and living way that the Lord opened."

By "scorning others, deserting the whole community, deserting the people of God," these Christians "have privatized salvation," thinking it is exclusive to their inner circle of "elites," he said.

But "God saves us as a people, not as elites that we, with our way of understanding the faith, have created."

Instead, the three elements of Jesus' "new and living way" are: having "faith in Jesus who purifies us," having unwavering hope in his promise and looking outward to encourage one another to be loving and charitable, he said.

FROM THE HOLY FATHER

A Pastor’s Perspective

Profound influence of Thomas Merton

Thomas Merton would have turned 100 years old this year if he were still alive.

I hope that you remember Thomas Merton. I write often about him – his writings have had a profound influence on me. Merton was a Trappist monk who is well known because of his many books and writings on the spiritual life and contemplative prayer.

I was in high school when I first discovered Thomas Merton. Someone encouraged me to read, “The Seven Story Mountain,” the first book Merton published, in 1959. This was shortly after he had entered the monastery in 1951.

Many were quite surprised that this book, about his young life, his entrance into the Catholic Church, and his entrance into the monastery, would become a best seller. However, such it was – every one was reading it.

Merton wrote many books over the years as well as articles and essays. They are still good reading, pertinent to most everyone’s life despite the fact that Merton died in 1969. He also was a letter writer and carried on an extensive correspondence from the monastery. His letters that have been published fill several volumes.

I was quite taken by Merton way back in high school so I began investigating the Trappist Order and the life of a monk.

I remember talking my father into driving me out to visit the Abbey of the Genesee, a Trappist Monastery near Rochester.

I remember writing my high school senior term paper on the Trappist’s and Thomas Merton. Miss Conklin was very surprised.

I want to share with you a few ideas that Merton wrote about.

To begin with, Merton often wrote about God’s great love for us all. He writes this, “To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name.” I have preached often on God’s love for us all. Merton sees that that means that we consider our whole existence is love. Our love gives us an identity, a true identity; Love must be so much of who we are that love is my name.

Merton writes a great deal about love and what love means. This monk was not isolated from the reality and importance of relationships mean life.

He writes, “The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves and not to trust them to fit our own image.”

Am I open in my relationships – letting those who are close to me to be themselves? Merton often wrote about his vocation as a monk which leads me to understand my own vocation. I am certain that his writings had quite an influence on my own vocation.

Merton often wrote about his vocation as a monk which leads me to understand my own vocation. I am certain that his writings had quite an influence on my own vocation. Merton writes this, "Discovering vocation does not mean striving toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original self-given me at birth by God." Even at this age, I continue to try to understand my own vocation. I have thought about why I became a priest over the years. I have tried to make sense of it so that I could share it with others, in hopes that they might consider entering the priesthood or religious life.

In this quote, Merton adds to the discussion of some important ideas. Vocation is not some sort of call from a God who far away – an impersonal God off in space somewhere. Rather it demands an understanding of how truly blessed a person is, helping him or her to see, “the treasure of their true self” a self that is already possessed.

That call that is vocation is God leading individuals to discover who they are – who they were born to be – a self-given person at birth by God.

Thus, Merton adds, “A man knows when he has found his vocation when he stops thinking about how to live and begins to live.”
Communities to open their doors to visitors Feb. 8

WATERTOWN — Four religious communities in Watertown will join congregations around the world with open houses Sunday as part of the observance of the Year of Consecrated Life.

The Congregations of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, 668 Thompson St.; the Sisters of the Cross, 866 Arsenal St.; the Sisters of the Precious Blood, 400 Pratt St. and the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St. will hold open houses in each of their community houses from 1 p.m. to 4.

All are invited to visit each of the communities to learn more about the history, the mission and work of the religious men and women in their Congregations.

Opportunities for a tour through each community house will be offered. Refreshments will also be available at each place.

“Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the Consecrated Life, said St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph. “We look forward to your visit with us.”

In response to Pope Francis

Dominican Sister Marie Bernadette Thompson, council coordinator of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, announced the open houses during an Oct. 1 press conference at the Washington headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB.)

“I am excited to announce to you this unique opportunity that will be taking place on February 8, 2015,” she said. “In response to Pope Francis’ announcement of this special year of Consecrated Life, religious houses around the country will be opening our doors for everyone to come and meet their ‘brothers and sisters’ as we welcome all to come and see our religious life.

“This event will be open to all: families, the young and the old, parishioners and those who are not part of our church, friends and neighbors,” she said.

“Have you ever wondered what a brother or sister does all day?” Sister Marie Bernadette said. “What would make a young man or woman give up their family, their home, or their career and dedicate their life to God? "On February 8 at the Open House Day you will be able to find out the answers to all of these questions and learn more about the lives of those who have promised to follow Christ through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience throughout history, both the saints who were inspired first to follow the call, and the men and women who continue to follow in their footsteps today,” she said.

Participants of RCIA look ahead to Rite of Election

OGDENSBURG — Participants of The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are gearing up for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion to be held March 11 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Many parishes recently celebrated the Rite of Acceptance of Catechumens (those not yet baptized and want to join the Catholic Church) and Candidates (those baptized but never having celebrated the other sacraments of initiation).

These individuals have been discerning and learning more deeply about Christian teachings and are looking forward to celebrating the sacraments of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

During the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion the catechumens will be presented to the Assembly.

They will be invited to enroll their names with their sponsors (Godparents) as witness in the Book of the Elect.

At that time Bishop Terry LaValley will declare them members of the elected for Baptism to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the Easter Vigil in April on Saturday evening April 4 in their individual parishes.

“Please keep these people in your prayers,” said Julia LaShomb of Massena, a member of the Catechumenate Committee of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“There are many areas in your parish where the RCIA team could use your help,” she said, “Ask your pastor what you can do.”
What is human trafficking and where is it happening?

Modern day slavery

By Sister Bethany Fitzgerald
Contributing writer

WATERTOWN - More than 50 people from the North Country gathered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Jan. 25 to pray, to learn and to take action to help eradicate modern day slavery.

The afternoon began with a Prayer to End Human Trafficking recalling the life and courage of St. Josephine Bakhita.

This was followed by the words of Pope Francis from 2015 World Day of Peace “No Longer Slaves, But Brothers and Sisters:"

“I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far, including the highest levels of civil institutions, who witness the scourge of contemporary slavery, not to become accomplices to this evil, not to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity,” Pope Francis said. Instead, may we have the courage to touch the suffering flesh of Christ, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls “the least of my brothers and sisters.”

Three contemporary stories of people caught in the web of human trafficking were shared: one was a woman, another a American teenager and another a family of farm and construction workers.

Two presenters - Agents Juan Adames and Timothy Losito from Homeland Security Investigation Outreach Program (in lieu of David Bugg our original speaker who was unable to come) - offered an informative, thought provoking and challenging presentation on the reality and the world wide networking involved in human trafficking.

Sadly, they said, most of the supplier countries for sex and labor trafficking are located in the poorer, developing countries while the receivers of these trafficked victims are in the more developed countries, including the U.S. and Canada. And, yes, human trafficking is happening right here in the U.S. and in our North Country, the agents said.

Education on this reality and what to look for in a potential trafficking situation along with knowledge of whom to call are valuable tools to assist law enforcement agencies to free the victims.

One answer to the question “What can I do”, was presented by Geneva Virkler, from the Agape Shop located on 136 Court St. in Watertown. She shared how purchasing fair trade products that promise a fair price for their produce (not to be confused with free trade) i.e. coffee, chocolate, tea, etc. can help families be more self-sufficient and less vulnerable to the false promises of traffickers to provide a better life for their children.

She mentioned one way we can assist liberated victims is to purchase items made by them. This small store has many beautiful items produced by 10,000 Villages as well as fair trade products. To check out how many slaves are working for Americans, see: www.slaveryfootprint.org and www.goodguide.com.

What positive actions are happening around us?

In the U.S., January 11 was designed as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Last year on the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of slavery, President Obama declared January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This year Pope Francis invited several world religious leaders to sign a declaration to work toward the eradication of human trafficking by 2020.

On February 8, St. Josephine Bakhita’s feast day, he is calling for a world day of prayer to end this modern day slavery of our brothers and sisters.
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ARE OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
NCC columnist

Human trafficking has always sounded like a far-away problem to me. Sure, I knew it existed, but I’ve always imagined it to be a scandal in other countries like India, China, Thailand, and Malaysia. That way I’ve been able to compartmentalize it and label it a later time problem. We’ve got plenty of our own problems here at home without worrying about problems abroad, I reasoned.

But a few weeks ago the Albany County Sheriff – yes, that Albany, the capital city of New York State – announced a sweep of four massage parlors and 10 arrests, the results of a human trafficking investigation on the streets of Albany. The unlicensed “spas” have been shuttered, but the really sad part is that nine of the 10 people seized are women who were brought to the Capital Region for the express purpose of being exploited as prostitutes.

Terrified to speak up, fearful for their lives and their families, they are victims of sex trafficking. Right here at home.

Traumatically, New York is a hub for human trafficking. Vulnerable women and children, and even men, are bought and sold, raped and threatened, abused and enslaved on a daily basis, for someone else’s benefit.

Pope Francis has said that trafficking “is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the Body of Christ… a crime against humanity.”

It is, in fact, modern-day slavery, and the Holy Father has asked all of us to take action to fight it.

What can we do?
• First, we can pray. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated February 8 as a National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking. It is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a woman who lived through the anguish of being kidnapped and sold into slavery.

Take some time to pray for the victims of trafficking here in New York State, that they will be open to receiving help and will be healed physically, spiritually and emotionally. Pray for them daily and offer a special intention for them at Mass.
• Second, we can raise awareness.

Learn more about human trafficking at www.usccb.org/stopslavery. The US Bishops’ Conference has put together a wealth of information on the subject; it opened my eyes to the breadth of the problem.

At the end of the day, this is an issue of human life and human dignity, and all of us who are pro-life must help stop the scourge.

Then tell your friends and family members about this close-to-home crime and urge them to take action too.
• Third, we can advocate.

While our state has made some headway in fighting trafficking, much more can be done.

Tell your State Senator and Assembly representative that you support the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (S.7/A.506). This bill would stiffen penalties for traffickers, facilitate their prosecution, and improve the referral of services to victims. Unfortunately, it has been one part of a 10-part “Women’s Equality Act” that includes a dangerous abortion expansion provision. Now that it has been separated out from that package, it needs to be passed and enacted.

Go to www.nyscatholic.org to send a note of support to your representatives.

The Catholic Church as an institution has done a fabulous job in providing shelter, health care and healing services to trafficking victims. Now we as individuals have to step up.

We cannot look the other way and pretend human trafficking doesn’t affect us.

We are the Body of Christ, and these are our sisters and brothers, many of whom live in our very own communities. Their degradation is our degradation; their torture is our torture.

At the end of the day, this is an issue of human life and human dignity, and all of us who are pro-life must help stop the scourge.

WASHINGTON—The feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, February 8, has been designated as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

Last year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration designated such date as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking.

In the year that followed, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General at the Vatican, announced that the 2015 event will also be observed internationally.

St. Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and taken to Italy. Once Josephine demanded her freedom, she entered the religious life with the Canossian sisters and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

The day is intended to raise awareness and to encourage reflection on the violence and injustice that affect the numerous victims of trafficking. The observance is being promoted for all dioceses, parishes and church groups.

Pope Francis highlights in Evangelii Gaudium that human trafficking affects everyone. “How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry: ‘Where is your brother?’” (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. The issue involves everyone,” Pope Francis wrote.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled that the focus will now be international. Our brothers and sisters around the world want to prevent human trafficking as much as we do. It’s awe-inspiring to think that Catholics from so many different countries will gather together on the same day to pray for the same cause,” said Ambassador Johnny Young, executive director of USCCB Migration and Refugee Services.

Bishop Martin Holley, auxiliary bishop of Washington, will hold a special Mass on Feb. 8 at noon, for the victims and survivors of human trafficking at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Catholics who do not live near Washington are encouraged to host or attend prayer services or awareness-raising events in their own communities and parishes.

More information is available at www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm

USCCB’s Anti-Trafficking Program advocates for better protection for victims of human trafficking, provides training and technical assistance to service providers and educates the public on the prevalence of human trafficking.

In 2013, USCCB launched the Amistad Movement to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities.

Feb. 8: Day of prayer against human trafficking

WASHINGTON—The feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, February 8, has been designated as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

Last year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration designated such date as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking.

In the year that followed, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General at the Vatican, announced that the 2015 event will also be observed internationally.

St. Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and taken to Italy. Once Josephine demanded her freedom, she entered the religious life with the Canossian sisters and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

The day is intended to raise awareness and to encourage reflection on the violence and injustice that affect the numerous victims of trafficking. The observance is being promoted for all dioceses, parishes and church groups.

Pope Francis highlights in Evangelii Gaudium that human trafficking affects everyone. “How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry: ‘Where is your brother?’” (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. The issue involves everyone,” Pope Francis wrote.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled that the focus will now be international. Our brothers and sisters around the world want to prevent human trafficking as much as we do. It’s awe-inspiring to think that Catholics from so many different countries will gather together on the same day to pray for the same cause,” said Ambassador Johnny Young, executive director of USCCB Migration and Refugee Services.

Bishop Martin Holley, auxiliary bishop of Washington, will hold a special Mass on Feb. 8 at noon, for the victims and survivors of human trafficking at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Catholics who do not live near Washington are encouraged to host or attend prayer services or awareness-raising events in their own communities and parishes.

More information is available at www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm

USCCB’s Anti-Trafficking Program advocates for better protection for victims of human trafficking, provides training and technical assistance to service providers and educates the public on the prevalence of human trafficking.

In 2013, USCCB launched the Amistad Movement to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities.
Lay Ministry Sunday to be observed on Feb. 15

By Deacon Patrick Donahue
Program coordinator, Formation for Ministry

Bishop LaValley has designated Feb. 15th as Lay Ministry Sunday in parishes across the diocese.

The annual celebration of lay ministry gives parishioners the opportunity to celebrate with the nearly 1000 commissioned lay ministers who serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as well as to keep in special prayer 80 candidates who are preparing to become commissioned this summer.

Lay Ministry Sunday also serves as the official “kick-off” for the next Formation for Ministry campaign. This is a challenge to those in the pews who are being called to serve in a more active role in the life and the mission of the church.

Bishop LaValley said, “By virtue of our baptism, each of us has the responsibility of proclaiming what our God has done for us... The Church is so enriched through the ministry that our commissioned lay ministers offer to their local parishes.”

The Formation for Ministry program is instrumental in helping the diocese to meet the goal of creating parishers with “living stones.” The need for well-trained commissioned lay ministers in our Church has never been greater.

Since its inception by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana in 1990, the program has created parish ministry opportunities for many of the faithful in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The two-year program includes coursework in theology and ministry as well as participating in required retreats and workshops that foster formation in personal spirituality and discipleship.

Following successful completion of the program, candidates become commissioned into ministry. The commissioning liturgy is presided over by the Bishop and is held at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Sites for the next Formation of Ministry program have already been selected and include St. Mary’s in Clayton, St. Martin’s in Port Leyden and St Augustine’s in Peru. Prospective candidates should first meet and discuss their interest with their pastors. Application forms will be available in all parishes after February 15th.

Bishop LaValley said, “This is an excellent means of gaining personal knowledge of our faith and of preparing to participate more fully in the faith life of the parish family. We must, no matter our age, learn more about our faith. “Let us pray that more women and men will step forward and enjoy learning about the richness of our Catholic faith and commit to fuller participation in their parish through their enrollment in the Formation for Ministry Program,” he said.

Those interested in learning more about the Formation for Ministry program should contact Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, Program Coordinator, 315-393-2920 ext. 1412, or by emailing pdonahue@rcdony.org or visiting the website www.rcdony.org/formation.

Bishop’s Schedule
- Feb. 4 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Feb. 6 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
- Feb. 7 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Feb. 8 – 11 a.m., Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph’s Motherhouse in Watertown
- Feb. 9 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
- Feb. 10 – 12, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offices in Washington, D.C.

Environmental Stewardship

Why Do I Do What I Do?
By Eunice Trombly, West Chazy
Member of Faith and Ecology Group:

While attending an environmental meeting at a friend’s home a few years ago, I was impressed that she used small terry cloth towels in place of paper napkins. I said to her, “I know you look out for our environment but really, cloth napkins? They’re a hassle to wash and of course you’re using extra soap, water, etc.”

She just said: “Oh, no problem, I just throw them in with my regular wash.”

Since then, the motto: “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose!” has become my motto as well. Using washable napkins is just one small way in which I can reduce my use of paper products. I’ve even adjusted some of my habits while camping in the summer.

Looking for many small, doable ways to reduce consumerism and eliminate my “throw-away” habit, such as not using paper products when reusable will work just as well, is certainly one way I can respect this wonderful planet of ours. I may even save a little money while consuming fewer trees and reducing my landfill contribution. HOWEVER, I have to use a non-recyclable throw-away product, paper is much preferable than Styrofoam which does not break down in land-fills.

Another preferable alternative is paper products from 100% recycled paper such as what Marcal Small Steps produces. More information regarding this product can be found on line.

At least for me, having a mind-set with those 4 R’s is not a bad attitude to cultivate and does not demand a whole lot of time, effort, or money to live by - while trying to set an example for my four grandchildren who have already inherited this planet we live on. I have a dear friend who never buys paper towels for cleaning purposes. She only uses rags made from clothing no longer useable. I am not at that point of never using paper toweling but I am using considerably less than I use to. I’m still learning.

It just takes a certain mind-set and a love for all of God’s creation.
A fire at SMA: the aftermath

By Shan Moore
Staff writer

CHAMPLAIN - Can St. Mary's Academy be saved one more time?

The former school here suffered tremendous damage in a fire on Jan. 16 that destroyed the original stone part of the building and an addition including the gymnasium built in the 1940s.

The long structure that contains classrooms — built in the 1960s — was saved by the firefighting effort and a set of fire doors.

"They held," Clinton County Emergency Services Director Eric Day said. "Apparently, the steel doors were cherry red."

Future unknown

Father Clyde Lewis, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, said an engineering study will help determine the fate of the remaining structure.

"We do not know at this time if it is salvageable," he said last week.

The school, which closed at the end of the 2012 school year, had then served as a parish center, where Christian formation classes took place, Boy Scouts held meetings, a wellness clinic was held.

"The gym was the most popular site (in the building)," the priest said.

"I played in that gym," he added, remembering basketball games there when he was a student at St. John's Academy in Plattsburgh.

Cause unknown

Mr. Day said the cause of the fire remained under investigation by state fire investigators.

The destruction was massive, he said, and it was too dangerous to enter the shell of the wrecked structure afterwards to search for clues so they are relying on numerous interviews to gather information.

Perhaps they will never know what sparked the conflagration?

"I think that's very possible," Mr. Day said.

Happy memories

Celine Paquette, who graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1956 and later authored a book to mark the school's 90th anniversary, was on her way home from Plattsburgh when a friend called to tell her the place was burning.

"I immediately got on Facebook," she said.

That's what many past students, staff and members of the parish did, and photos and videos there captured the drama of the huge fire battled by more than 200 firefighters.

Ruth Justice, nee Barcomb, got word at her home in West Virginia via text.

She was among the first students from St. Patrick's School in Rouses Point to enter eighth grade at St. Mary's in 1957.

"That class started the trend of St. Pat's graduates going to SMA," she said. "It also created a space problem for SMA; solved when the addition was built to house the high-school grades and the science lab (in the 1960s)."

The eighth-graders from Rouses Point were welcomed with open arms, Mrs. Justice recalled, "not like outsiders."

"The nuns, classmates, the school itself, left many indelible, happy memories," she said.

Love the nuns

"We were an extremely close class," she said, "and we kept in touch with everyone."

Reunions about every five years were attended by most of the students, she said, even with some living at points around the globe.

"SMA instilled in us a continuation of our religious beliefs which had started at St. Patrick's," Mrs. Justice said. "The nuns also taught us so much about the everyday trials of life we would face and gave us a basis for which to face them."

Mrs. Paquette, who spoke only French when she started school at St. Mary's Academy, has similar memories.

"I went to school there for 12 years," she said. "I just loved the nuns; I always loved school."

And she received an excellent education, she said.

For many years, the Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus filled every position at the school, from band director to principal.

Mrs. Paquette's graduation coincided with the 50th anniversary of the school.

And she still has a copy of her valedictory address.

Mrs. Paquette didn't go to the Village of Champlain to watch her school burn; she viewed the aftermath instead the next morning.

"It's always been there, like an icon, up on the hill," she lamented.

But she will help keep it alive with a major exhibit this summer at her Samuel de Champlain History Center in the village.

She invites the loan of historic photographs and artifacts from the school to include at the event and knows it will be well attended.

"People are showing such an interest," she said.

Fought off closure

Grades seven through 12 at St. Mary's Academy closed in 1969.

A preschool was eventually added that helped it continue operating.

And its location on the border of Quebec brought students who whose parents wanted them to learn English. The proximity of Vermont also filled seats at the school.

Closure loomed large in the first decade of the 21st century, though enthusiastic staff, parents and parishioners staved it off through fundraisers and student recruitment.

In spring 2011, school supporters had just weeks to come up with $80,000 or shut its doors for good.

The children celebrated the success of that effort with a release of helium balloons into the sky. Sadly, the following June brought an end to the academy.

Parish center needed

The options now, Father Lewis said, based on the engineer's findings, would be to repair the surviving structure or build a new one.

Religious ed classes have moved for now to the church — not an ideal situation, he said, but workable for now.

For that purpose and others, including the annual St. Mary's Bazaar fundraiser, St. Mary's needs a parish center, he said.

And if the whole building has to be razed, he said, it will not be forgotten.

"We'll have to put some kind of monument up there," he said. "It would be a remembrance."

Editor's note

• Learn how to loan photos and items for the St. Mary's Academy exhibit by calling Mrs. Paquette at 298-1609.
• Go to Home Town Cable Network at hometowncablenetwork.com to view programs on the fire at St. Mary's Academy, the fire aftermath and other shows recorded before the school closed.
At the March for Life

#savethebabies #whywemarch #weareblessed

By Colleen Miner
Diocesan director, Respect Life Ministry

Three Youth Buses for Life departed the North Country on the evening of Jan. 21 traveling through the night, arriving in Washington, DC, in the morning to participate in the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center.

While this year’s pilgrimage shirts state #savethebabies #whywemarch, an additional hashtag emerged by the end of the pilgrimage #weareblessed.

Yes #whywemarch is to #savethebabies through education and to raise awareness by our presence in our nation’s capital (a small group who finished the March early were able to meet the newly elected youngest congresswoman, Elise Stefanik at her office) but as the days progressed, it became evident that #weareblessed.

We made our way to and from DC safely and received reservations to the Smithsonian National Holocaust Memorial Museum. Each received a passport story of a Holocaust victim and was greeted by a museum worker before boarding an elevator where we watched a brief movie clip on our way to the third floor.

As the tour began, all were silent as the first images of the Holocaust were displayed on huge poster-sized photos. A student whispered that his great-grandfather was in Dachau Concentration Camp. He survived but never spoke about it to anyone.

Similarly, most don’t talk about abortion — it’s a hidden holocaust.

Later that evening, members of The Culture Project (www.restoreculture.com) spoke to the students about human dignity.

Saturday morning, despite a winter weather advisory, we visited many monuments including The Korean War, Lincoln, Vietnam and WWI Memorials.

The trip home brought perhaps the greatest blessing, hearing student reflections on the pilgrimage. One student shared the hope that someday there would be an abortion memorial museum.

This was a group of deep thinkers - so much so that one of the bus drivers, after hearing the student testimonies for years, felt moved to share his story. He said that if abortion was legal in the 1950s, he would probably not be here. Only his aunt knew about his mother’s pregnancy. When she began to show, she traveled from the Catskills to NYC to live with her sister. After he was born, he was in foster care for 11 months until his mother put him up for adoption. He was blessed to be adopted into a family who had already adopted a baby from Italy. He urged students to promote adoption.

Saturday evening, Father Higman celebrated Mass for the Eastern Youth Bus. In his homily, he changed the words of the first reading (Jonah 3:1-5,10) to read:

The word of the Lord came to the Youth (Jonah) saying: "Set out for the great city of DC (Ninevah) and announce to it the message that I will tell you."

So the youth made ready and went to Washington, according to the Lord’s bidding. Now Washington D.C., is enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. The youth began the journey through the city and had gone but a single day’s walk (March for Life)...

So while we embarked on the pilgrimage to #savethebabies, we were reminded that #weareblessed and are called by the Lord to pass along that blessing to others.

(Thank you to all who generously donate to the Respect Life collection, which makes the Youth Buses for Life pilgrimage possible.)
ON THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE DECISION

MARCHING FOR LIFE

Young people from all across the diocese show their commitment to end abortion on demand in the United States.

Seth Conklin, front, a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown is shown with IHC students Emma Renzi, Michael Bamann, Inigo Benavides, Elena Alteni, Skylar Short and Jasmeet Aujla.

Carol Gonthier, religious education director in Norfolk stands at the Lincoln Memorial with girls from Norfolk and Massena: Cayla Hinkley, Briana Hinkley, Mary Jane Bock and Kaitlyn Vaughn.

Abigail, Sara and Allison St. Louis made the trip to Washington D.C. from St. Alexander’s Parish in Morrisonville.

Grace Leader, Mary Kate Wainwright, Emily Bush, and Jackie Ward from St. James Parish in Gouverneur stand up for life.
Just as Mary gave the world Jesus, women hand on faith, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Why is it that mostly women are the ones who hand down the faith generation after generation, Pope Francis asked.

"Quite simply because it was a woman who brought us Jesus. It's the path Jesus chose. He wanted to have a mother" and chose to come to the world through Mary, the pope said Jan. 26 during Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

The pope's homily focused on the day's reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (1:1-8) in which the apostle highlights Timothy's "sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice."

"It's one thing to hand down the faith and another thing to teach things about the faith. Faith is a gift. Faith cannot be studied," he said.

"Yes, you study the contents of the faith to understand it better, but you never come to faith by studying."

"Faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit, it is a present that goes beyond any kind of training," he said, according to Vatican Radio.

Handing on the faith is "the beautiful work of mothers and grandmothers," or sometimes it comes from an aunt or a domestic helper, the pope said. "We need to reflect on whether women today are aware of this obligation to transmit the faith."

Once a person receives the faith, he said, they also must recognize the need to safeguard it, protect it from becoming weak and "empty pagan chitchat" or "meaningless worldly small talk."

If people are not vigilant in living out their faith concretely every day, "the faith weakens, it gets watered down, it ends up being a cult of power and love," he said.

People should not be ashamed of their faith, hiding it, letting it become "wishy-washy" or not "living it with total commitment," he said.

Cowardice hurts the faith because it doesn't let the faith "grow, go forward, become great."

Echoing St. Paul, the pope said God did not give believers cowardice or embarrassment, but "a spirit of power, love and prudence" or self-control.

Prudence is "knowing that we cannot do everything we want," he said; it means seeking ways to share the faith with care.

"Let us ask the Lord for the grace to have a sincere faith, a faith that does not compromise according to whatever opportunities crop up. A faith that I seek to rekindle every day or at least that I ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle it and that way offer great fruit."
Polls reveal declining support for abortion in U.S.
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A Jan. 21 report from the National Right to Life Committee and new poll results show that abortion is increasingly unpopular in the United States, but also that the number of abortions performed in the United States is at its lowest point since 1975. The day after the State of the Union address, the right-to-life organization held a news conference on its second annual "The State of Abortion in the United States" report. The report showed that the number abortions in the United States, currently at 1.06 million per year, is at its lowest point since 1975, when the number was 1.03 million and is also down from the 1.6 million high seen in 1990. A new Knights of Columbus-Mariar poll shows 84 percent of Americans want significant restrictions on abortion and would limit it to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy. At the National Right to Life news conference, Carol Tobias, the organization’s president, was asked about President Barack Obama’s claim in the State of the Union address that the drop is a result of actions taken by his administration. Tobias believes that the decline in the abortion rate is rather the result of pro-life activism in public discourse and popular culture because “yes, the numbers are going down, but the rates and ratios are also going down, and that’s due to the pro-life movement keeping this issue alive in the public debate.”

Cruel and unusual punishment? Court to weigh in on lethal injections
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When the Supreme Court weighs in on the constitutionality of the lethal-injection executions in Oklahoma this year, its ruling will not likely be a tipping point in eliminating capital punishment in the U.S., but some experts say it could be the beginning of the end of this practice.

The campaign’s mission statement states that it intends to do this through “increasing the risk to perpetrators and diminishing their profits. Through cooperation between the U.S. government, private sector, and civil society, we will press for increased prosecutions and more robust criminal asset forfeiture proceedings, targeting the enablers and participants in this criminal enterprise.”

According to numbers from Human Rights First, there are an estimated 20.9 million victims of worldwide human trafficking today and the industry itself generates $150 billion every year.

“The campaign is not a hundred-yard dash; it’s a marathon,” said Kruklak in his opening statement. He is a former Marine commandant and currently president of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama.

The Catholic Church has put a spotlight on the global human trafficking crisis by declaring the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

Present at the gathering with Kurlak were Elisa Massimino, president of Human Rights First; former Congressman Daniel Lungren, R-California; Francine Della Badia, president of North American Retail, Coach Inc.; Mark Lagon, president of Freedom House; as well as several others from all areas of public life.

Human trafficking is “a many-headed problem” said Massimino in discussing how the campaign’s “particular approach” seeks to address the problem from several different angles such as public awareness, private sector engagement and criminal prosecution.

The groups focus on financial disruption versus simple awareness, prosecution or victim care alone is important because “even if you prosecute and arrest all the perpetrators, others will take their place” unless the risk versus reward ratio is altered, according to Birmingham Mayor William Bell.

A large focus of the discussion was on the implications of human trafficking for the private sector.

"Legitimate businesses have not only a moral imperative in this fight, but also a compelling practical interest," said Lagon. “Several businesses stand to have their brands damaged as well as to be at risk for legal liabilities... so corporations need to develop best practices in supply chain management” to ensure that their products are “not tainted by slavery.”

According to Lagon, “the idea that a corporation’s moral and practical business interests are somehow divorced” from one another is nothing but a “false dichotomy.”

“Most businesses want to do the right thing; businesses are run by human beings,” said Della Badia, agreeing with Lagon. In a “world of transparency” where business practices can rarely escape the scrutiny of a cursory Internet search, she said, “companies want to develop best practices and demonstrate integrity through such things as employee engagement, because ‘it can help companies be more aware and implement better business models.’”

Laurel Bellows, former president of the American Bar Association, told Catholic News Service that “the ABA has been very active” in the fight against human trafficking and she believes that “the removal of the profit motive in human trafficking is the most effective way to move perpetrators out of practice.”

“What makes this crime different than most others,” Bellows added, “is that for most other crimes, the victims are visible and at some point, the nature of modern-day slavery hardens its victims,” thereby making transition and recovery difficult for many affected by the practice.

The Catholic Church has put a spotlight on the global human trafficking crisis by declaring the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. It will take place Feb. 8, the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave who eventually was freed and became a Canossian nun.
Exploring the mystery of human suffering

The Book of Job is one of the most popular stories in all of world literature. It deals with the mystery of human suffering. Why does God allow suffering?

The whole book contains 42 chapters. Today's first reading gives us only three verses from chapter 7 - a passage in which Job, in the midst of intense, undeserved suffering, speaks as any modern person might speak when in near-despair. To really understand why this work has satisfied the questions of millions of readers through the centuries, I strongly urge you to take up your Bible and read at least chaps one and two for background.

In chapter four and following, the "preaching" of his three friends - Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, as well as the young Elihu - can be tedious (they are trying to convince Job that he must have sinned terribly in his past).

But when God eventually comes on the scene in chap. 38, He says, "Who is this obscuring my designs with his empty-headed words?...Brace yourself like a fighter. Now it is my turn to ask questions! Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me, since you are so well-informed!"

Then Job, thoroughly humbled, says to God, "My words have been frivolous: what can I reply? I had better lay my finger on my lips. I have spoken once...I will not speak again...I will add nothing!"

Job learns in this story that our sufferings are not the result of our sins. Rather, we suffer so that the works of God may be shown forth in us.

Suffering is still a mystery, but our trust in God's goodness and obedient acceptance of God's designs will bring us joyful salvation in God's heaven.

The second reading from Corinthians gives us the example of St. Paul who endured daily trials because he felt the compulsion of love, urging him to preach the Gospel until his last breath.

His mission involved great suffering.

In the Gospel, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law, enjoys her cooking, then works far into the night healing all in the village who came in crowds.

His love for the Father then sends him into many more towns and villages. Such mission must have involved great physical exhaustion for Jesus, as well as the deep suffering he experienced from rejection from the religious leaders.

How about the suffering we endure? So much of it seems unfair and unjust. Only deep love for Jesus, who suffered so unjustly for our salvation can help us endure our Cross.

The example of Job, and St. Paul, and Jesus can help us so much.

OUR READERS WRITE

Shockwaves...
the widespread fallout from abortion

When most people think of abortion, it is often as a contentious social/political issue or a closely guarded secret that is best left alone, in the past.

We may struggle at times with the moral dilemma of abortion - but we tend to think of it as a private and personal decision...none of our business, right?

But the truth is...many of us have been impacted by the abortion of an unborn child.

You may be a Father or Mother who was part of an abortion decision...or felt powerless to stop it.

You are a Grandparent who tried to prevent the death of your grandchild...or were active in encouraging your son or daughter to have an abortion.

You may have lost a sibling to abortion...and if you were born since 1973 you escaped the fate of millions of your generation because you were a "wanted child."

Perhaps you are an ultrasonic technician who reveals the child in the womb to a pregnant mother, hoping she will choose life...and she still decides to abort her unborn child.

Some of you may have been active accessories in the child's death. You drove your friend to the abortion clinic or paid for your sister's abortion.

You knew a young couple was considering an abortion, and told them they were doing the right thing...or you said nothing.

You are a health care professional, counselor, teacher or minister that was in some direct way part of an abortion decision/procedure.

In the year 2015, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign will take an in-depth look at how the Shockwaves of Abortion impact society.

Each month we will focus on a special target group that has been directly impacted by abortion loss, with helpful information, resources, and most importantly abortion-recovery programs.

NANCY BELZILE WILLISBRO SILENT NO MORE AWARENESS - NEW YORK
BLACK OR WHITE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Large-scale issues of race and addiction are examined in microcosm in writer-director Mike Binder’s fact-based drama “Black or White” (Relativity).

Though its avoidance of stereotypes and easy answers is admirable, the film provides only modest entertainment for those grown-up viewers able to appreciate its moral shadings.

After a car accident suddenly leaves him a widower, prosperous white lawyer Elliott Anderson (Kevin Costner), a narcotics-dependent ne’er-do-well, finds it difficult to compensate for the absence of his nurturing wife, with whom he had raised Eloise since the girl’s mother, their daughter, died in childbirth.

Additionally, Elliott’s newly developed reliance on alcohol, which he uses to excess to assuage his grief, raises fundamental questions about his fitness as a solo guardian.

In response, Eloise’s paternal grandmother, Rowena Jeffers (Octavia Spencer), steps in to try the matter. A successful entrepreneur in South Central Los Angeles, Rowena is also motivated by her concern that Eloise’s life in one of the city’s upscale suburbs has isolated the child from her black heritage.

Since Elliott blames Eloise’s dad, Reggie (Andre Holland), a narcotics-dependent stand-in for drinking while drunk -- whereas Reggie’s crack smoking inevitably lands him in prison?

Yet, though “Black or White” makes for an intelligent interlude, it fails to register a lasting impact. Perhaps that’s because its generally appealing characters are primarily deployed not as engaging individuals but as stand-ins for recognizable social groups and tendencies.

The film contains brief bloodless violence, a drug theme, incidental affirmation of a same-sex marriage, mature references, several uses of profanity, at least one rough term and frequent 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.

ALSO PLAYING

Sam Lerner, Jonny Weston, Allen Evangelista and Virginia Gardner star in a scene from the movie “Project Almanac.” 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.
**Stop Human Trafficking**

Lake Placid – Catholic Daughters to present a presentation on anti-trafficking prevention and identification.

**Date:** Feb. 8, the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron of slaves and National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking.

**Time:** after the 10 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Speaker:** Court Dr. Tom Dooley will present a PowerPoint based on that developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services - Anti-trafficking Program entitled Anti-Trafficking Prevention and Identification in Your Community.

**Features:** Brochures containing additional information and source materials will be available.

---

**Pancake Breakfast**

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

**Date:** March 1

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

**Place:** St. Joseph’s Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, $7; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, free

---

**Quilting Classes**

Ellenburg Center - Upcoming Quilt Classes at The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop.

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks

**Schedule:** Home on the Range Quilt Class – Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create a fun and easy quilt. Cost $25.

---

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday day, 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 Sjphsandoration@aol.com

---

**Hamiton-Herkimer Pancake Breakfast**

Wells – St. Ann’s Altar & Rosary Society is holding a St. Valentine’s Day Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** Feb. 14

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Place:** Wells Meal site, located directly behind the Wells Community Hall.

**Cost:** $6.00 per person/$4.50 children 12 and under and under 3 free.

**Features:** Blueberry pancakes, or plain, sausage. Gluten free available. Raffle tickets on sale for an afghan and prayer shawl, crafted and donated by Evelyn Stephens, with the drawing May 31.

---

**Newark Adoration**

Mary’s Catholic Church will hold an adoration @a ol.com

**Date:** March 1

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. John’s Holy Family

**Contact:** 518-856-9656

---

**Hamiton-Herkimer**

**Spaghetti Dinner**

Evans Mills – The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be having a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 7

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Parish Center

**Features:** Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, Italian bread, cookies.

---

**Holy Hours**

Adams/Henderson – Holy Hours to be held.

**Schedule:** First Wed. at St. Cecilia 6:30 p.m.; Feb. 4; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by potluck) Feb. 16; March 16;

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

---

**First Saturday Rosary**

Messena – First Saturday rosary devotion to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 7
The Maryknolls: Partners in Mission

From the director's desk
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Diocesan Mission Director

Once again, the Maryknolls Fathers and Brothers were active participants in the Missionary Cooperation Appeal in the summer of 2014. Their representatives spoke passionately of their work in the Mal- one Catholic Parishes, Lake Pleasant, Wells, Lyon Mountain and Ellenburg.

The generous parishioners there opened their hearts, minds and wallets and supported the cause of these wonderful, blessed people known who work tirelessly around the globe spreading the word of Jesus and making the lives of the people their better each day.

Earlier this winter, I heard from Father Robert Jalbert, MM, the Director of Mission Education and Promotions for the Maryknolls. He wanted to thank the Diocese of Ogdensburg for their generosity and blessings once again.

He also wanted to let me know and to further convey to our Diocese where their funds go and what they do. I thought I would share with you and excerpt from his letter to me.

“This money will help Fr. John Barth’s project in South Sudan. He helps in the care, treatment and rehabilitation for the blind in Southern Sudan, and in the building of the Buluk Eye Hospital in Juba, Sudan.

Fr. Barth, like so many of our missionaries, are doing wonderful work.

We are indebted to our people at home for the generous support we receive to carry out mission efforts overseas, under the direction of the local indigenous dioceses.....

On behalf of the Maryknolls, I extend our grateful thanks ...to our “Partners in Mission” in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. May God richly bless you and them for your generosity....

Concrete examples of our love and generosity making a difference and showing how our help here, can help those in need over there.

May God Bless you all!

Please remember the Society for the Propagation of the Faith* when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioodensburg.org/missionoffice

OBDITUARIES

Elizabeth Bernhard
OGDENSBURG – A Mass of Christian Burial for Elizabeth “Betty” J. Bernhard, 82, was held at Jan. 29 at Notre Dame Church with Father F. James Shurtleff officiating.

She died Jan. 25 at her home; burial was in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Surviving are her three daughters, Pattie (Leonard) Rascou of N. Fort Myers, FL, “Margie” (John) Compo of Hammond and Laurie (David) Demers of Ogdensburg; a sister, Lucille (William) Grome of Syracuse; a brother, Philip (Ester) Bernhard of Harrisville; grandchildren Jessica (Damien) Hayes of Heuvelton, Alex Demers (Alexander Tavares) of PA and Kyle Demers of Ogdensburg; great-granddaughters Shay Brenno and June Demers along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was born Dec. 1, 1932, in Ogdensburg, a daughter of the late Philip and Blanche (Lincoln) Bernhard. An Air Force veteran, she worked for many years for the Department of Justice Border Patrol.

After her retirement in 1989, Ms. Bernard turned her attention to ministry in the Catholic Church. She served as pastoral associate at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg for 14 years after seven years of employment for the Ogdensburg office of Catholic Charities.

A Third Order Associate of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, she was a member of the advisory board of the GNSH in Yardley, PA. She was a commissioned lay minister and served as a member of the Formation for Ministry advisory board for the diocese.

Ms. Bernard was a member of the board of directors of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg, serving as a representative of the Grey Nuns. She was also past president of the Altar & Rosary Society at Notre Dame Church and St. Vincent DePaul volunteer; chaplain and member of the K of C Ladies Auxiliary; Notre Dame School Board Member and Past President; Selective Service Draft Board 15 years, Ogdensburg Catholic School Board; physical education teacher at Notre Dame School during lunch hours for nine years; and past member of St. Joseph’s Nursing Home Board of Directors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Notre Dame Heritage Fund, 125 Ford Avenue, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or Hospice and Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley, US Hwy 11, Potsdam, NY 13676. Condolences can also be shared online at www.foxandmurrayfuneral-home.com.

Altona – Verno H. Boulrice, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2015 at Holy Angels Church.

Cadyville – Marion A. (St. Louis) Christon, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – George G. Ashcraft, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Carthage – Dorothy E. (Barrett) Craig, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2015 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in the Swinburne Cemetery, Deer River.

Chateaugay – Edward James Savaire, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Clayton – Hilda “Nan” (Cheever) Reinman, 95; Funeral Services at St. Mary’s Church.

Crogan – Peggy V Geiger, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2015 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Glensfield – Francis G. Buckingham, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Elizabeth A. (Beach) Bradford, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Mary “Alice” (LaMay) Nicholas, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at the French Funeral Home.

Keeseville – Richard W. Santor, Sr., 87; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2015 at immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Alex S. Pleaske, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Malone – Harold “Ted” Barkman, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Patrick Carrigan, 53; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – George F. “Pete” Peterson, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Madeline (Marion) LaCombe, 92; Funeral Jan. 30, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Juliette P. (Roy) Maceau, 95; Funeral Services at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morristown – Kay Ann (Wells) Montroy, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at St. John’s Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

North Bangor – Germaine M. (Desrosiers) Richer, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2015 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Dale J. Lalonde, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2015 at Fray Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Christiane “Chrispy” (Savaria) Meier, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2015 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Dennis A. Bechard, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh – Howard C. LaPointe, 88; Funeral Jan. 31, 2015 at St. John’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Thomas M. Welch, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2015 at St. John’s Church.

Port Leyden – Rita Schoff Markham, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at St. Martin’s Church; burial in Turin Cemetery.

Raymondville – Dominic Germano, 23; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2015 at St. Raymond’s Church; burial in Raymondville Cemetery.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
By Cori Fugere Urban
Catholic News Service

BURLINGTON, VT. (CNS) — The former auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was installed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Burlington during a joyful celebration of the Mass Jan. 29.

"To my new friends in Vermont I say, 'I am your brother, Christopher,'" Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said to one of many rounds of applause during the nearly two-hour celebration at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington.

The name means bearer of Christ, and that is what he wants to be for them.

He addressed the challenge faced in Vermont and elsewhere of declining membership in the church and a cultural trend away from revealed religion to a personal spirituality at best or no belief at worst.

Pointing out that Jesus did not stay in the synagogue, Bishop Coyne said that his voice did not simply ring out from a place of worship like a bell stationary in a church steeple, calling people to come to him; he went out to them. He went out to spread the good news of the kingdom of God and the offer of eternal salvation.

"My brothers and sisters, I challenge myself and you to follow the Lord's lead to 'go out.' We are no longer the church of the establishment in which if we just open our doors and ring the bells people will come. That is not happening," he said.

"In fact, we are opening our doors and people are not coming. They are leaving," he continued. "We have to change the paradigm from that of the church of the establishment to that of a missionary church, one that has to go out and engage the wider community in our ongoing acts of Christian mercy and in our words and conversation."

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley presided over the installation and said the bishop could count on his friendship and prayers as he embarked on his new ministry in Jesus' name.

Msgr. Angelo Accattino, first counselor at the apostolic nunciature in Washington, read the apostolic mandate by which Pope Francis appointed Bishop Coyne to be bishop of Burlington, which covers the state of Vermont.

When Bishop Coyne accepted the mandate, he was handed a crosier, a sign of his office, it belonged to the first bishop of Burlington, Bishop Louis de Goesbriand.

He succeeds Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, who was installed last January as the ninth bishop of Rochester, New York.

A native of Woburn, Massachusetts, which is in the Archdiocese of Boston, Bishop Coyne was a professor of sacred liturgy and homiletics at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, from 1994-2003 and adjunct faculty from 2003-2006.

He was director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of Boston from 2000-2002 and secretary for communications/principal spokesman for the archdiocese from 2002-2005.

When he was named to lead the Burlington Diocese in December, Bishop Coyne had been auxiliary bishop of Indianapolis since January 2011.

He was apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from September 2011 to December 2012, after Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein retired early for health reasons and until Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin was named to head the archdiocese.

Bishop Coyne is chairman-elect of the communications committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; he will succeed Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City in November 2015 and serve a three-year term as chairman.

He also is a member of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, a subcommittee on lay ecclesial ministry and the subcommittee for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

Father Timothy Naples, a pastor, said the bishop will "definitely be a good influence for reaching out in new ways and using more technology."

He said because today's technology makes it possible to reach out to more people, he hopes Bishop Coyne can encourage all parishes and all Catholics to use it more, but added that not everyone can be reached by social media so more traditional means are still necessary.

The bishop began using social media when he was a parish priest, finding it a successful way to communicate.

"If you're going to engage people and get the message out," digital media is an effective tool, he said at a press conference before the Mass of Installation.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Redford — Francis J. "Bud" Butler, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2015 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Josephine (Parillo) Gowett, 91; Funeral Services at St. Mary's Church.

Watertown — Theresa J. (Bocciolatt) Capone, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Katherine E. "Gini" (Burns) Heatherington, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Janice M. Major, 81; Funeral Services at Holy Family Church.

Watertown — Frank J. Pepe, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westville — Richard Norman Bunnell, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2015 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Brushton.

Willboro — Mary (White) Feltt, 86; Funeral Jan. 28, 2015 at St. Philip’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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

GO GREEN!
Receive the VO in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world, E-mail eward@diooglesburg.org to sign up today.

CNS PHOTO/CORI FUGERE URBAN, VERMONT CATHOLIC MAGAZINE
Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, the new head of the Diocese of Burlington, VT., greets two priests during his Jan. 29 installation Mass at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington.

FEB. 4, 2015