Pope: New saints risked all to follow Jesus

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Carrying Pope Paul VI's pastoral staff and wearing the blood-stained belt of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, Pope Francis formally recognized them, and five others, as saints of the Catholic Church.

Thousands of pilgrims from the new saints' home countries — Italy, El Salvador, Spain and Germany — were joined by tens of thousands of others Oct. 14 in St. Peter's Square to celebrate the universal recognition of the holiness of men and women they already knew were saints.

Each of the new saints lived lives marked by pain and criticism — including from within the church — but all of them dedicated themselves with passionate love to following Jesus and caring for the weak and the poor, Pope Francis said in his homily.

The new saints are: Paul VI, who led the last sessions of the Second Vatican Council and its initial implementation; Romero, who defended the poor, called for justice and was assassinated in 1980; Vincenzo Romano, an Italian priest who died in 1831; Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, a Spanish nun who ministered in Mexico and Bolivia and died in 1943; Catherine Kasper, the 19th-century German founder of a religious order; Francesco Spinelli, a 19th-century priest and founder of a religious order; and Nunzio Sulprizio, a layman who died in Naples in 1836 at the age of 19.

"All these saints, in different contexts," put the Gospel "into practice in their lives, without lukewarmness, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind," Pope Francis said in his homily.

World Mission Sunday

I am a mission: In the message addressed to all Christians, the Pope reminds all that "we are not in this world by our own choice," and hence there is "an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist."

Each one of us, he says, is called to reflect on the fact that "I am a mission on this Earth," which is why we are here in this world.

Learn more in Bishop LaValley's Follow Me column, found on Page 4.

No newspaper next week

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no North Country Catholic the week of October 24. We will resume our normal printing schedule the week of October 31.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley blesses candles to be used as parishioners at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Keeseville celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. The feast day celebration included Mass, a Living Rosary, and a meal. Learn more in Bishop LaValley's Follow Me column, found on Page 4.
Pope: Contempt for life is seen in evil

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Procuring an abortion is wrong, inhumane and like hiring a hit man “to fix a problem,” Pope Francis said.

It is a contradiction to allow for killing a human life in a mother’s womb “in the name of protecting other rights,” he said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 10.

“How can an act that suppresses the innocent and defenseless budding life be therapeutic, civilized or simply humane?” he asked the more than 26,000 people present.

“Is it right to snuff out a human life to solve a problem?” he asked, until the crowd shouted loudly, “No.”

“Is it right to hire a hit man to solve a problem? No, you can’t. It’s not right to take out a human being, a small one, too, in order to fix a problem. It is like hiring a professional killer,” he said.

The pope took a brief break from the Oct. 3-28 Synod of Bishops on young people to attend the morning general audience and continue his series of talks on the Ten Commandments.

He reflected on the Fifth Commandment, “You shall not kill,” as being like a wall of defense, protecting the most fundamental value in human relationships -- the value of life.

“One can say that all the evil done in the world can be boiled down to this: contempt for life,” the pope said. “Life is attacked by wars, by organizations that exploit people” and creation, by “the throwaway culture,” by systems that subjugate human lives to the calculated advantage of others, all while a “scandalous” number of people live in disgraceful conditions.

“This is contempt for life, that is, to kill in some way,” he added.

Violence and refusing life are rooted in fear, he said.

“Welcoming another challenge one’s own selfish individualism,” he said, pointing to the example of when a mother and father discover their unborn child will be born with disabilities.

These parents “need true closeness, true solidarity to face reality and overcome understandable fears. Instead, they often receive hasty advice to terminate the pregnancy,” he said, adding that the phrase, “terminate the pregnancy” means to directly take someone out.

“A sick child is like every person in need on earth,” like the elderly who need care, like the poor who can barely make a living, he said.

They are all treated as if they were a problem, he said, but in fact, they are “a gift of God that can pull me out of my egocentrism and help me grow in love.”

“Vulnerable lives show us the exit, the road to save us” from a selfish existence and to discover “the joy of love,” he said, adding a word of thanks to Italian volunteers, saying they had the strongest dedication he has ever seen.

Looking for the surprises God gives us

Today, I would like to share a bit with you about Jesus’ call for us to be childlike. Jesus makes it clear that the way to the Kingdom of God is being childlike. “Amen, I say to you whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Each year as I come to this Gospel reading, I think long and pray over my homily: what does Jesus mean when he says childlike. I have come up with various ideas over the years. For example, dependence on God like a child is dependent on a parent, or other such ideas. This year, the idea I came up with was “surprise.” Curiously, this idea came to mind at the last minute. I thought of “surprise” as I was going over the Church for Mass. In fact, I changed my whole prepared homily. I was surprised that I thought of “surprise.”

I know that every day is filled with “surprises” for young children. Each day brings so much newness to these children. Children learn quickly how recognize the “surprises” that invade each new day.

Our God is a God of “Surprises.” In faith, I believe that God brings to all of us many wonderful “surprises” each day. Jesus gives each one of us opportunities and challenges to do something special for God and for others. These are usually “surprises” for us.

I have noticed that while children are often surprised by life’s events, many of the rest of us seem to miss God’s “surprises.” We are trying to be a bit too mature, and sometimes we are a bit bored with life.

I am certain that, like you, I enjoy totally watching a child in a store – especially a toy store – being surprised by this or that toy. Then as they move on, they continually are surprised by the next one – one surprise after another.

In faith, I believe that God fills our lives, fills each and every one of us, with a call, a challenge to make a difference. As a rule, these calls of our God come to us as surprises.

The biggest surprise for most of us is that God needs us. God trusts us and brings into our lives many opportunities to bring God’s love and peace and forgiveness to those who are in need. I hope that you have recognized this experience. I hope you have experienced such surprises from God – challenges that call you to do something or say something important to someone who truly needs us.

I hope you have had many days when you looked back on a day and been surprised because you did something or said something that was the right thing at the right time. The Lord trusts each and every one of us, so he stays with us, he walks with us. He constantly surprises us to do something important – something spectaculard.

One of the reasons that we gather each week for prayer and Eucharist is to seek God’s love and wisdom so that each day we will be open to the Lord’s challenges, the Lord’s surprises.

We must come to realize how blessed we are by the Lord that we have the ability – with the Lord’s help – to do almost miraculous things every day of our lives. The surprise is that the Holy Spirit gives us such power. Don’t miss those surprises.

One more thing with the Lord: we will have the power to meet the difficult things of life, the painful things of life, those unpleasant surprises.

Keep faith in our loving Lord.
We are a mission people

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The weekend of October 20-21 our diocesan family joins Catholics across the globe in celebrating World Mission Sunday. We join our sisters and brothers around the world who will gather at the Lord’s Table to celebrate our common vocation as missionaries.

In his message for this year’s celebration, Pope Francis tells us that “life is a mission” and he reminds us that “each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world.” (Evangelii Gaudium, 273)

I invite all of us to see World Mission Sunday as a special moment to live out the mission we share as God’s children, the mission to bring the Gospel to the whole world.

I encourage you to be a “voice for mission” through your prayers and through the help that you are able to offer in support of the priests, deacons, consecrated religious and lay pastoral leaders who work tirelessly, proclaiming the Gospel, building the Church, and serving the poor in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe.

The prayers and material aid generously given to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday, the Pope tells us, continue to support the “preaching of the Gospel to every nation,” thus “contributing to the human and cultural growth of all those who thirst for knowledge of the truth.”

“Mission revitalizes faith,” St. Pope John Paul II wrote in Redemptoris Missio (#2).

May your commitment to the Lord’s continuing mission renew your faith and be a blessing in your life.

God bless you for responding generously to today’s special appeal for the missions.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

STANDING FOR LIFE

Christina Carlson and her son Jesse, parishioners of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, participate in Life Chain. This year, Life Chains were held in five locations around the diocese.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the
NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION ISSUE

Join the North Country Catholic in honoring the special priests in your life.

The NCC will be honoring our priests in the Oct. 31 issue of the paper.

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

$20 - a 1 column X 2 inch ad with a short message (e.g., Father Smith, we appreciate your service, from the Jones Family)

$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

$135 - Quarter page ad

$250 - Half page ad

$475 - Full page ad

If you have a specific budget that is not listed we can design an ad based on that.

If you would like your ad in color please add $25 (The North Country Catholic provides design services)

Must be returned to the NCC by Oct. 22, 2018

YES! I would like to honor a priest in the North Country Catholic

NAME __________________________________________

ADDRESS _______________________________________

CITY __________________ STATE ____ ZIP _______

Ad Size: $20 Special Message only ______ $40 2x2
$135 Quarter Page ______ $250 Half Page
$475 Full Page ______ $25 Extra for color

Message as it will appear in the ad (please print)

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______________________________________________________________________________

Mail checks payable to: North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317
Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life

As you know, one of our Diocesan Pastoral Priorities is to Strengthen Faith Formation in Family Life. In my summer pastoral visits, I participated in several events that spoke powerfully of our local efforts to address this important need. For instance, recently I was privileged to join Father Gilbert Menard and Father Kris Lauzon and his parishioners at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Keeseville. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. This year, the parish honored their patroness with a special event on that day when I filled the Church.

Following Mass, many children and young adults joined parents and grandparents to participate in the Living Rosary. The participants lined up around the interior of the Church as, one by one, the youngsters would pray a prayer of the Rosary. If necessary, the little, shy, participant would be aided by a parent or grandparent in the prayer. Youngsters were learning prayers and praying with loved ones and with the parish family of faith, including priests, catechists, altar servers, the Altar Rosary Society and the Knights of Columbus. This was truly hope-filled evidence of the parish as a school of prayer.

This year, on the day in which the Church has marked as Respect Life Sunday, pregnant moms, folks in a wheelchair, the young and not-so-young, the healthy and the not-so-healthy came together to celebrate life and their love of Christ and His Mystical Body, the Church. After prayers were concluded in the Church, everyone enjoyed a scrumptious meal. It was a wonderfully inspiring occasion for me to witness firsthand the Strengthening of Faith Formation in Family Life. (Those chocolate chip cookies tasted mighty fine on my way back home!)

By the time of the publication of this article, a second important event will have taken place at the other end of the Diocese at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

On Saturday, October 13th, a family event was scheduled to be held: “The Catholic Family: God’s Answer for Our Time.” This special occasion was another opportunity for us to focus on this important Pastoral Priority.

Johnnette Benkovic Williams, Founder of Women of Grace, joined Presenters Thomas Sullivan and Sue Brinkman help us, teens and adults, strengthen faith formation in family life.

Let us all continue our efforts to address the Diocesan Pastoral Priorities that we established in 2014: Creating a Culture of Vocations; Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life; and Building Parishes with Living Stones. It’s clear to me, determined to renew faith, nurture hope, and discover love, our parishes are energized and truly blessed.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!
Nurses go to Puerto Rico, provide care, prayer

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing Writer

WATERTOWN — Joyce Wilder and Karen Axenfeld are friends. They are both Registered Nurses. Joyce is a Certified Nurse Midwife who practices her profession at Carthage Area Hospital. Karen is a Registered Nurse at Samaritan Medical Center. They were out to dinner one night, catching up on things, when Karen received a text message. It was a message that would alter whatever plans they thought they had for September 2018. Joyce Wilder called it “Divine intervention.”

The text was from Dr. Sylvia Reimer, a retired physician in Watertown. She and her physician husband Marvin, also retired, would be organizing a team for a medical mission trip to Puerto Rico, specifically to the island of Vieques. The purpose of the mission was to bring basic medical care to the residents of the island still suffering from Hurricane Maria. Would she, Karen, like to go? Karen said “yes” and Joyce, without as much as a second thought said, “tell Sylvia to count me in too.”

And so their journey was set; “something I have always wanted to do,” Wilder said.

Vieques lies 7 miles off the east coast of Puerto Rico and is considered one of the territory’s municipalities. A travel brochure describes it this way:

Isla de Vieques is one of the last destinations that truly remains like the Caribbean of the past; quiet, lush, uncrowded, with unmatched natural beauty. As you explore the island, you’ll pass elegant Fino horses roaming free. In Vieques there are no traffic lights, driving in Vieques is a pleasurable experience, narrow roads lead to breathtaking scenic spots, charming colorful towns, and beaches naturally landscaped free of development. Be warned, once you step foot on the beaches of Vieques, you’ll be spoiled for life.

Hurricane Maria changed much of that in September 2017. The wild horses still roam free in the streets and countryside but the rest of the idyllic scene is still in recovery.

“The people there are recovering; they are slowly rebuilding their homes and their beautiful beaches are once again being used by tourists,” the nurses wrote for their sponsor agency, the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Their article appears in an online newsletter.

Joyce Wilder is a Commissioned Lay Minister and active parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown. Karen Axenfeld is from Adams Center and is an active parishioner of St. Cecilia’s and Queen of Heaven parishes in Adams and Henderson respectively.

The rebuilding of Vieques is taking place but the people have a long way to go. “Diabetes and hypertension are prevalent among the people. Some of them have had the ability to get proper medications, but they do not understand the seriousness of their disease or the importance of compliance with their medications, diet and activity” the nurses wrote.

The team saw 87 patients during the week they were on Vieques in a clinic. There are no medical records, no histories for doctors to refer to. All were destroyed in Maria. So the team started collecting simple medical information about the patients they saw and established the beginning of a medical record for each patient.

“The home visits were what moved our hearts the most. Some of them knew we were coming, so they took the time to tidy their home and put on nice clothing. It was reassuring to see that many of them were being well taken care of by family members and a home health aide who volunteers her time to care for 104 patients.”

“There were a few individuals that needed so much more than what we could provide in a week. They were the ones we all prayed for at our evening devotions, as well as privately.”

The death toll from Maria in Puerto Rico alone is estimated to have been just short of three thousand. The economic impact is thought to be in the hundred billion dollar range.

The team Dr. Reimer organized numbered twelve. In addition to the four from the Upstate New York Conference, eight came from the Oneonta area. On Vieque, the mission team was housed and staffed a medical clinic at the United Methodist Church in Esperanza. Some members of the team also had the opportunity to work on home reconstruction alongside a team from the Midwest.

“Many of the residents suffer from the hurricane experience. They have post traumatic stress,” Wilder said. “The diabetes and hypertension are epidemic,” she said. “The major problem is a lack of education about their illnesses. There’s no education about using a glucometer, there’s no education about diet, there’s no education about taking their medication. Hopefully the next team will bring educational material with them; that is what we have recommended.”

It was a unique experience for the group. Joyce Wilder would like to return to Vieques at some point. One team member asked her translator what the people need most. “For you to keep coming, to keep loving on us,” she responded.

One year after Maria, the people of Vieques are still putting the pieces together.
Environmental Stewardship

What would happen if…?

As we observe Respect Life month, we are encouraged to pray, to learn and advocate for the life of the unborn child.

We ask the question: how can we work together to protect this precious gift of God made in His own image with a unique role in our world today?

Through the tireless efforts of so many people to raise our consciousness, we are learning ways to reach out to those in need as well as being educated in legislation that affects the life of the unborn.

Pope Francis tells us that we need to ask another urgent question: What is happening to the ‘home’ that we are bringing this precious child into?

After a birth the great joy of any parent and family is to bring the child home and introduce this precious gift of God to the place where life will be nurtured.

Pope Francis reminds us that our home is more than four walls and one’s family; it is the magnificence of the natural world upon which this child will depend for the rest of his/her life.

God has designed our planet as a place of beauty and fullness, without want. What have we done to it?

There is no question that technological advances, especially in the last two hundred years, have made our lives much more comfortable.

At least those of us in the developed world reap the benefits of these conveniences. But at what cost?

Two tasks emerge: How can we become more aware of what is happening to our ‘common home?’ and How can we become messengers of hope to the child in the womb by the way we are taking care of their future home?

Bishop’s Public Schedule

October 17-18 – Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society Pilgrimage to Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY
October 19 – 9 a.m. – Superintendent’s Day at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Lake Placid
October 20 – 10:30 a.m. – Council of Deacons Meeting at St. Mary’s Cathedral
October 21 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass at the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk followed by Confirmation Destination
October 22 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
October 23 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s Residence
6:30 p.m. – It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future reception at the Parish Social Hall at St. Peter’s Parish in Massena
October 24 – Noon – Retirement Luncheon for Jack Carter the Insurance Risk Manager of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
5 p.m. – Caritas Dinner at the Gran View in Ogdensburg
October 25 – 9 a.m. – Prayer Service and school visit at St. Bernard’s School in Saranac Lake
October 26 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass and a school visit at St. James School in Gouverneur
October 28 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg
Noon – Harvest Dinner at the Knights of Columbus in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

October 17 – Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanase Marion, O.M.I., 1935
October 20 – Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978
October 21 – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979
October 23 – Rev. Discordes Forget, O.M.I., 1916

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com

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

Malone Catholic Charities moving to new location

MALONE—On Monday, Nov. 5, Malone Catholic Charities (MCC) will open the doors to its new office at 6 Cedar Street (corner of Raymond and Cedar Streets, blue house attached to the former Fleury’s Flooring).

The office entrance will be on the Cedar Street side.

MCC will continue its usual schedule of Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. through 4 p.m.

The agency’s telephone (518) 483-1460 and fax number (518) 483-8210 will remain the same.

For many years the MCC office has been located at 57 Rennie Street, a property owned by St. Andre Bessette Parish; a relocation was necessary due to the changing needs of the parish community and MCC’s need for additional space.

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry will remain in its current location at 57 Rennie Street under the management of the parish.

MCC will continue the vital services currently offered, including Baby and Maternity World, Diaper Supply Program, Personal Hygiene Closet, Parenting Education, Case Management and the distribution of gently used household goods and furniture.

MCC staff is excited that the new, larger office space will provide opportunities to expand programs to youth and seniors, as well as other community services.

Malone Catholic Charities will be closed Oct. 28 to Nov. 3 to accommodate the move.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org
• Read local stories and commentaries
• Search archived papers
• View diocesan events and much more

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World Mission Sunday 2018

Diocese of Ogdensburg
Mission Office
2017 Annual Report

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<td>Individual Donations</td>
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**Totals** | $59,442.97 | $55,866.97 | $68,222.54 |

*Totals are subject to change at all times.

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2017 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2017) and Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2017 is calculated using the dates of Jul. 2017-Dec. 2017. The Diocese is split in half between Mission Coop and Missionary Projects for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeals. These totals do not reflect any 2018 payments that were received in the Mission Office after January 1, 2018 for the purpose of our annual financial review/audit. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.
World Mission Sunday 2018

Pope Francis’s theme is “Together with young people, let us bring the Gospel to all”

I am a mission: In the message addressed to all Christians, the Pope reminds all that “we are not in this world by our own choice,” and hence there is “an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist.” Each one of us, he says, is called to reflect on the fact that “I am a mission on this Earth,” which is why we are here in this world. Pope Francis says, “every man and woman is a mission.” “To be attracted and to be sent are two movements” of the heart that “hold out promise for our future and give direction to our lives.”

Gift of self: Pope Francis urges young people not to be afraid of Christ and his Church, and says, “it is where “we find the treasure that fills life with joy.” Further, he says that through faith you can find the sure foundation of dreams and the strength to realize them. “For those who stand by Jesus,” the Pope continues, “evil is an incentive to ever greater love,” because “from the cross of Jesus we learn the divine logic of self-sacrifice as a proclamation of the Gospel for the life of the world.

Transmitting faith: All Christians by virtue of their Baptism have received the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. Young people are part of a great stream of witnesses, by which their elders full of wisdom and experience become a witness and encouragement to the younger Catholics. This way, he says, the mission of the Church bridges the generations by bringing about unity.

Infectious love: Pope Francis emphasizes that “...the heart of the Church’s mission is the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfillment in life. The spread of the faith “by attraction”, he says, calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. This generates encounter, witness and proclamation even in “extreme peripheries” which are indifferent and hostile and to the ends of the earth in ‘missio ad gentes’.

The Holy Father emphasizes that young people find missionary volunteer work and do so indeed in order to serve the “least” of our brothers and sisters, promote human dignity and witness the joy of being Christian. The Pontifical Mission Societies provides for human and cultural growth of so many populations. Pope Francis says that, “those who are helped in their personal needs can in turn bear witness to the Gospel in the circumstances of their daily lives.” And the Pontiff reminds us that “No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are...” God Bless you all on this World Mission Sunday 2018.
All funds raised through schools are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION**

*September 1, 2017 - August 30, 2018 (School Year)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANTON - St. Mary’s School</td>
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<td>CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy</td>
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<td>GOUGERNEUR - St. James School</td>
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<td>MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School</td>
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<td>PLATTSBURGH - Seton Academy Elem School</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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* Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2018 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.

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**Religious Education Program**

**Gifts to the Missionary Childhood Association**

*September 1, 2017 – August 30, 2018 (School Year)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph's Church – Dannemora</td>
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<td>St. Anthony's Church – Watertown</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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* These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.

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A group of students at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid, NY pose with their MCA prayer cards and Sr. Cindy Sullivan, BVM and MCA promoter.

A group of students at St. Agnes School in Canton, NY show off their poster and meeting their fundraising goal for the 2017-18 school year.
Dear Director:

I’d like to share my blessings with the poor for the sake of the Gospel, so I’m enclosing a sacrifice for the missions. Please pray for my intentions:

Enclosed is my sacrifice in the amount of $______________

Name ___________________________ Address ___________________________ City ___________ State ___________ Zip ___________

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith • Diocese of Ogdensburg
622 Washington St • PO Box 369 • Ogdensburg, NY 13669
Tel: (315)-393-2920 • Fax 1-866-314-7296
website: www.rcdony.org/mission-office
Email: mryan@rcdony.org
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
Molly M. Ryan, Secretary, Bookkeeper
Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your will.
Jesus came as a servant, as do missionaries

Our readings on this Mission Sunday convey a clear message about service. Jesus came to this earth as a servant. Six hundred years before, Isaiah had foretold that one day, God would send a suffering servant to give His life for the salvation of all humankind. He would be a light for all nations. He would be a “missionary servant.”

In the recent visit of Pope Francis to Cuba and the United States, we saw Christ’s Vicar as a missionary servant in word and in action. The earnestness of His message and the welcoming smile of His body language spoke volumes to us. He urged all of us to become evangelists, welcoming all into Christ’s Church.

In the Gospel, Jesus tries to prepare the disciples for His suffering and death. They had other ideas, though, and even as Jesus was predicting what would happen soon, they were not listening.

In Mark’s Gospel, the two “sons of thunder,” James and John, make a bid for a power position in Jesus’ new kingdom. They’re over-eager and too confident as they ask the Master for the choice seats next to His throne! Jesus doesn’t get angry with them.

After Jesus assures them that seating arrangements will be made by God the Father, He quietly asks them if they’re prepared to drink the bitter cup. He is about to drink. James and John must have looked at each other in some embarrassment and confusion before they reply, “We can!”

Now the other disciples are angry and resentful at James and John’s attempt to pull one over on them. Obviously, they’re looking for power and prestige just as much as the two brothers.

Sadly, Jesus realizes that none of them understand, so He emphatically and clearly sets the rules for Christian discipleship. There is to be no “lording” it over one another! Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Pope Francis, the chief apostle in today’s Church, urges us on this Mission Sunday to pray and give financial support for our missionaries at home and abroad who are bringing many to faith through the example of their lives of sacrifice and service.

In many countries of Africa and the Middle East, the dangers of slaughter of Christians, destroying their churches, and attacks on priests and sisters bring fear daily.

What better way for us to make redemptive the sins of bishops and priests than to increase our prayers and sacrifices for the Missions this year!

Pope accepts resignation from Cardinal Wuerl

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl as archbishop of Washington but did not name a successor.

When the pope’s decision was announced Oct. 12, the Archdiocese of Washington released a letter from Pope Francis to the cardinal, making clear his support for Cardinal Wuerl’s ministry and leadership, but also praising the cardinal for putting the good of the church first.

“You have sufficient elements to justify your actions and distinguish between what it means to cover up crimes or not to deal with problems, and to commit some mistakes,” the pope wrote. “However, your nobility has led you not to choose this way of defense. Of this, I am proud and thank you.”

The archdiocese also announced the pope has named Cardinal Wuerl as apostolic administrator to oversee the archdiocese until a successor is named.

Cardinal Wuerl had been facing pressure to resign after an Aug. 14 grand jury report detailing sexual abuse claims in six Pennsylvania dioceses painted a mixed picture of how he handled some of the cases when he was bishop in Pittsburgh from 1988 until 2006.

The 77-year-old cardinal, the sixth archbishop of Washington, had submitted his resignation, as is mandatory, to the pope when he turned 75, but it had not been accepted until now.

After his resignation was announced Oct. 12, Cardinal Wuerl said in a statement: “Once again for any past errors in judgment, I apologize and ask for pardon. My resignation is one way to express my great and abiding love for you, the people of the church of Washington.”

The cardinal also thanked Pope Francis for what he had expressed in his letter, saying, “I am profoundly grateful for his devoted commitment to the well-being of the archdiocese of Washington and also deeply touched by his gracious words of understanding.”

In early September, Cardinal Wuerl told priests of the archdiocese that he would meet with Pope Francis and ask him to accept his resignation “so that this archdiocesan church we all love can move forward” and can experience “a new beginning.”

The Vatican announced that the pope accepted his resignation came more than two months after the announcement that Pope Francis accepted the resignation of retired Washington Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick from the College of Cardinals. Archbishop McCarrick faces credible allegations of sexual abuse, including two that involved minors; Pope Francis ordered him to maintain “a life of prayer and penance” while awaiting a trial or other canonical process on the charges.

Cardinal Wuerl has said until the Archdiocese of New York began investigating the claims that Archbishop McCarrick abused a minor, he was never informed of such accusations or even the rumors of Archbishop McCarrick’s sexual harassment of seminarians.

In a letter Aug. 30 to the priests of the archdiocese, Cardinal Wuerl apologized for not being as close to his priests as he could or should have been in the wake of all the abuse-related scandals.

Cardinal Wuerl asked the priests “for prayers for me, for forgiveness for my errors in judgment, for my inadequacies and also for your acceptance of my contrition for any suffering I have caused, as well as the grace to find, with you, ways of healing, ways of offering fruitful guidance in this darkness.”

“Would you please,” he told the priests, “let the faithful you serve know of my love, my commitment to do whatever is necessary right what is wrong and my sincere solidarity with you and them.”

Cardinal Wuerl has been archbishop of Washington for the past 12 years. He earlier served as an auxiliary bishop of Seattle from 1986 until 1988, when he was named bishop of Pittsburgh, where he served for 18 years.
NEW YORK (CNS) – The third remake of that sturdy warhorse "A Star Is Born" (Warner Bros.) pays occasional homage to its forebears, particularly the 1954 version starring Judy Garland and James Mason, which only serves to indicate that its formulaic "stand by your man" story is somewhat tattered and dog-eared.

The core narrative remains: In show business, for every fresh young talent's happy ascent to fame and fortune, there's always someone older on a rapid and usually alcoholic downward slide.

The pothos increases exponentially when this involves a couple in a romantic relationship.

This scenario had a greater impact decades ago when a woman more successful than her husband was interpreted as outside the natural order. Then the plot had a more deeply tragic dimension and milked considerable soap-opera anguish.

Now -- meh. Trips to rehab, confessional TV interviews and adroit publicists smooth out all but the most hardcore addicts, even as the vultures from TMZ lurk to trumpet the first death announcement online.

The ascending talent here is Lady Gaga, who plays Ally, a spunky waitress with a particular talent for songwriting, who has been rebuffed by the pop music industry because the gatekeepers, while praising her ability, think her nose is too large and will be a distraction.

Bradley Cooper, who also directed from a screenplay he co-wrote with Eric Roth and Will Fetters, is Jackson Maine, a gravel-voiced country rocker more devoted to the bottle than his performances and with clear depressive tendencies.

He encounters Ally in the bar where she's singing and he's drinking, detects her talent and ambition, and their personal chemistry is immediate before she notices that his booze consumption is more than recreational.

When he pulls her out onstage to sing during one of his concerts, her success is assured.

Ally has a father, Lorenzo (Andrew Dice Clay), who was once convinced he could be the next Frank Sinatra. Jackson's half-brother, Bobby (Sam Elliott), knows that Jackson stole his singing style. But these embittered story threads get pushed to the margins as the plot hews closely to the old formula, leading to Ally's solo stardom as Jackson is overcome by demons new and old.

Fans of Lady Gaga will find much to enjoy in her performances, and the songs are appealing. The rest of the movie is overcome by recurring close-ups of Cooper's grizzled features, a lack of suspense and reflections on how all any musical artist has to offer the world is an interpretation of just 12 notes.

The film contains a suicide, implied premarital sexual activity, fleeting upper female nudity, occasional drug use, a couple of profanities and frequent rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Also showing: Venom

NEW YORK (CNS) – While investigating an evil billionaire (Riz Ahmed) who has been secretly experimenting with fusing human beings and aliens into a composite life form, a reporter (Tom Hardy) accidentally undergoes the transformation, which endows him with superpowers but also leaves him unable, at times, to control his own actions.

He gets help from his sympathetic ex-live-in-girlfriend (Michelle Williams) and her new beau (Reid Scott), a physician.

But the extraterrestrial of the title has a battle to fight with others of his kind here on Earth so expelling him from the journalist's body proves challenging.

This Marvel Comics-based bit of nonsense from director Ruben Fleischer has some amusing dialogue between Hardy's character and the fearsome occupant of his body, and the mayhem the creatures wreak, though sometimes described in gruesome ways, is virtually bloodless.

That's about all that can be said in the picture's favor, though. Forgettable fare for the undemanding and, perhaps, Marvel movie completists.

Much stylized violence with minimal gore, cohabitation, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, a milder oath, at least one rough term, frequent crude and occasional crass language, brief mature wordplay.

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.
CLINTON

CRAFT SHOW
Moore's - Ladies of St. Ann's to have a craft show.
Date: Oct. 20
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Moores Fire Station
Features: Craft and non-craft vendors, hot lunches, baked goods, and raffle prizes. Proceeds support the Moores Food Pantry. Donations for the food pantry accepted.
Contact: (518) 236-6016.

HARVEST DINNER
Chazy - Sacred Heart to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner.
Date: Oct. 21
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Features: Dinner .
Place: St. Peter's Upper Room
Cost: Adults, $10; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, $10
Contact: Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920, Ext. 1413 or email jgrizzuto@rcdn.org.

FISHERS CLUB
Plattsburgh – The Lakesiders Fishers Club to have their fall discernment meeting.
Date: Oct. 21; Nov. 4 & 18; Dec. 2
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Upper Room
Features: Discernment, Evening Prayer and Dinner for high school juniors and seniors.
Contact: Father Venette (hvenette@gmail.com) or Father Lucia (dlucia@rcdn.org).

HARVEST DINNER
Altona - Holy Angels to have Harvest Dinner.
Date: Oct. 28
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: Holy Angels Church Hall
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 6-12, $6; under 5, Free
Features: Dinner .
Contact: Father Venette (hvenette@gmail.com) or Father Lucia (dlucia@rcdn.org).

FALL CRAFT FESTIVAL
Chazy - Fabulous Fall Festival to be held.
Date: Nov 10
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Features: Great craft festival with over 25 craft vendors from New York, Vermont. Hot lunches, baked goods, silent auction, in addition to hundreds of handicraft items. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping.
Contact: For more info, contact Noreen Barcomb at sacredheart@westelcom.com or 518-846-7650.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Plattsburgh – Confirmation Retreat to be held.
Date: Nov. 17
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: Seton Catholic School
Cost: $25
Features: Presented through NET Ministries.
Contact: Register early through your parish religious education office.

FRANKLIN

HARVEST DINNER
North Bangor — St. Augustine's Parish will be hosting a Harvest Dinner.
Date: Oct. 28
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $10; Seniors, $9; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available
Features: Dinner .
Contact: Alex Novak at 315-568-3398 or reception@marysclayton.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Watertown — Adult Faith Formation about the Eucharist to be held.
Date: Oct. 22 & 29; Nov. 5, 12 & 19
Time: After Noon Mass
Place: St. Patrick's Chapel
Cost: $10 for Workbooks
Features: The Eucharist, Discovering the Mass in the Bible with Dr. Brant Pitre.
Contact: Pre-registration required. Registration form available at www.catholicwatertown.org.

HARVEST HAM DINNER
Black River — Harvest Ham Dinner to be held.
Date: Oct. 12
Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: St. Paul's Church
Cost: Adults, $9; Seniors 65+ $8; Youths 5-12, $4; Families, $25
Features: Free to be held.
Contact: Call Rectory at 315-773-5672 for more information.

JEFFERSON

PEACEFUL PRAYER
Watertown - Pro-life representatives of Watertown's four Catholic parishes will be praying in front of Planned Parenthood on Stone Street every day including weekends, during the month of October.
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Features: Join us in this peaceful, prayerful witness to the sanctity of all human life.

STOP BULLYING
Clayton - Facts, effects and prevention of bullying presentation to be held.

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER
Evans Mills — Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held by Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus.
Date: Nov. 3
Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $7; Seniors, $6; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, $10
Features: Dinner .
Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-568-3398 or reception@marysclayton.org.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown — St. Anthony's ChurchAltar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.
Date: Oct. 18
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Features: All (families & individuals) are invited to attend this free presentation. Come and be informed about this growing epidemic in our communities.
Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-568-3398 or reception@marysclayton.org.

ST. LAWRENCE

CLMA DINNER
Norfolk — The Annual Dinner hosted by the Commissioned Lay Minister Association to be held.
Date: Oct. 24
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Place: Church of the Visitation
Cost: $12 per person
Features: Spouses welcome. Mass, dinner and guest speaker Father Bryan Stitt will be speaking on Understanding Peoples' Temperaments as a Catholic in the 21st Century.
Contact: For more information or to register call Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920, Ext. 1413 or email jgrizzuto@rcdn.org.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR
Star Lake — Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale to be held.
Date: Nov. 3
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hubert's Church
Features: Handicraft items, gift baskets, raffles and silent auctions.

BAZAAR
Massena — St. Peter's Parish to have a Bazaar.
Date: Nov. 10
Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Social Hall
Features: Take-out Cabbage Roll sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Turkey Dinner after the 4 p.m. Mass. Pokers, Skilos, Pull tabs, 50-50, quiet raffle, Ticket Central, turkey raffles, religious items, kids’ games, Country Store and Fancy Good booths, Cake Walk wheel game. Concession stand all day! Big Ticket Drawing at 6 p.m. First prize $2500 and three $100 winners. Tickets are now on sale at Masses, both Steward's stores and Mountain Mart.

Continued on Page 15
World Mission Sunday 2018

This year World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 21, 2018. World Mission Sunday is celebrated every October. We are reminded through Pope Francis’s message that if we reflect on being called to the life of a missionary, that is the reason why we are here.

As you have heard from Bishop Terry R. LaValley, we are all invited to see and participate in the celebration of World Mission Sunday—a moment to live out the mission we are called upon while bringing the “Good News” of Jesus to the whole world.

In playing our part, we renew our own vocation as missionaries. We are called upon as missionaries by virtue of our baptism.

On this World Mission Sunday Sunday, the Catholics of the world, will gather at the Eucharist, and will “celebrate the hope that saves” through prayer and participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The generous offerings received on World Mission Sunday provide financial support for the mission dioceses and communities who await the “Good News” of Jesus as their saving hope.

In these dioceses, new churches are being built, children are receiving education, and the sick are being cared for at new hospitals and clinics.

To reiterate the mission at hand, “I am a Mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this World.”

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, in this world that is so divided, we need to rejoice in our unity as children of God.

If we can reflect on this alone, our faith can remain ever young.

Please, if you can, find yourself able to give generously to the World Mission Sunday collection and sacrifice both in prayer and resources for this once a year wonderful cause.

God Bless!

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

OBITUARIES

TUPPER LAKE – Sister Rhea Bean; Funeral arrangements are in care of the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home in Saranac Lake. A memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at Elderwood of Placid in Lake Placid with the Rev. Art LaBaff. A reception will follow. Following the reception, burial will take place in St. Alphonsus Cemetery in Tupper Lake.

Brasher Falls – Rita Jean (Hudson) O’Connor, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Lisbon – Louise (Jordan) Sanderson, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2018 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in Morley Cemetery.

Louisville – Jane Francis “O’Brien” Smith, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2018 at St. Lawrence Church.

Malone – Lawrence F. Spinnere, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Norene Fiacco Ashley, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

North Lawrence – Susan E. (Ryan) Irwin, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 15, 2018 at St. Lawrence Church.

Ogdensburg – James M. McDonald, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 16, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru – Blanche M. (Perry) Cookingham, 58; Funeral Services Oct. 9, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Thomas J. Cronin, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2018 at St. John’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Gerald J. Garrand, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.


Ticonderoga – George P. Denton, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 13, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – Pasquale S. Finn, 69; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2018 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.

Around the diocese

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DIOCESAN EVENTS

CARITAS DINNER

Ogdensburg – The Annual Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner to be held.

Date: Oct. 24

Time: 5 p.m. cash bar; 5:30 p.m. Entertainment; 6 p.m. Dinner

Place: GranView Restaurant

Cost: $45

Features: 2018 Caritas Award Recipient is Sister Donna M. Franklin and 2018 Legacy Award Recipient is Ms. Ciara LeRoy, Malone. All proceeds from the CARITAS Dinner will be used to provide financial assistance and counseling to individuals and families in need.

Contact: 315-393-2255 by Oct. 16 to make reservations.

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

Youth Lay Ministers and Catechists, receive your Youth Ministry Certification from the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Schedule: Nov. 3, at St. James Minor Community Room in Carthage; Nov. 10 at St. Agnes Elementary School in Lake Placid

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Features: This is a free training

Contact: To register and/or learn more about the course offerings, please contact: Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry tsemerraro@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

YOU MUST BECOME FIRE

There will be four Evenings of Prayer and Reflection in celebration of National Vocation Awareness Week: Nov. 4-10, 2018.

Schedule: Nov. 4 - St. Peter’s Church, Lowville; Nov. 5 - St. Mary’s Church, Clayton; Nov. 6 - St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh; Nov. 13 - St. Mary’s Church, Ticonderoga.

Each evening’s schedule will be: 5 p.m. Discernment Hour; 6 p.m. Pizza & Wings; 6:30 p.m. Panel Discussion; 7:15 p.m. Video - “Is God Calling You?”; 7:30 p.m. Closing Prayer & Sending Forth

Contact: Anyone interested in knowing more about Vocations or how they can help to promote Vocations are invited. Please RSVP by emailing: dlucia@rcdony.org or crussell@rcdony.org or phone: 315-393-2920 to indicate which evening/site you will be attending.

YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

High school pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Date: Jan. 17 – 19, 2019

Cost: $150 (includes transportation, hotel, meals and shirt).

Features: Pick up locations across the diocese.

Contact: Registrations open Oct. 1 at rcdony.org/prolife. For more info please contact the Respect Life Office 518-524-0774.

DOVS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

D.O.V.S. (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) are dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Funds raised through the membership campaign help us to raise awareness for vocations in our Diocese.

Cost: Annual dues are $50 per year or $75 per married couple.

Contact: Any questions please call Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Anne Miller at 315-353-2950 or email Connie at connierandall47@yahoo.com
End of an era: Educator retires after 45 years

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

WATERTOWN – Annette Connolly started her career in Catholic education more than 45 years ago as a part-time teacher at St. Anthony’s School. While she retired from her position as vice principal at Immaculate Heart Central’s Intermediate School on Sept. 30, she has no intentions of stepping completely away from the students, staff and building she loves.

“When I started, I told my husband I wouldn’t go to teaching full-time until both of our two daughters were in school full-time,” Connolly said, noting she taught fourth grade students in the morning, while the school principal taught classes in the afternoon.

Teaching in the small school her daughters attended, Connolly had both of her daughters in class.

“The girls adapted quite well, even though they weren’t thrilled with it,” she said. “My first year teaching full-time, my oldest daughter was in my class. I was Mrs. Connolly during the day, mom at 2:30 when the school day ended.”

Connolly taught fourth grade for 13 years before moving on to teach teaching seventh and eighth grades.

“I wouldn’t move to the higher grades until my girls were out of school,” she said. “I didn’t want to make them have me as their teacher two times. That would’ve been a lot.”

Connolly became principal of St. Anthony’s in 1994. For the first two years, she was a “teaching principal.”

“I taught class for most of the day, and a wonderful teacher came in and taught English. Then I had that hour to work in the office. I had a wonderful secretary who could answer questions and give me a list of people I needed to contact when I came into the office.”

With the merger of the Catholic primary schools, Connolly assumed her current role as vice principal at the IHC Intermediate School in 2004.

Whether it was at St. Anthony’s or IHC, Connolly said Catholic education was always home to her. She first became acquainted with St. Anthony’s shortly after moving to the area with her husband, who was in the military for 26 years.

Her daughters first attended school in Carthage when the family “decided they needed a bit more than academics.”

“We found St. Anthony’s, and it was home,” Connolly said.

She had other career opportunities, but she said they never felt like a fit.

“I had a friend who taught at South Jeffer-

son,” Connolly said. “They had an opening in fourth grade, and she wanted me to apply. I told her, ‘you don’t want me. By the time I looked at a child and said, ‘would Jesus want you to do that,’ I’d be out the front door. This was home.”

Connolly said she has taken great joy from the relationships she’s developed while working in Catholic education.

“I’ve enjoyed the kids and the parents,” she said. “You never know the impact you have until years later. I had one student at St. Anthony’s, and years later, she sent me a note and said she was going to be a teacher because of me.”

She also inspired her family. One daughter and two granddaughters went on to pursue teaching careers.

“It’s really a legacy she’s leaving behind,” said Kari Conklin, IHC Elementary vice principal. “She’s been such a fabulous spiritual leader and a wealth of knowledge. I wouldn’t have made it in my position without her.”

“I’m looking forward to (substitute teaching) and doing a little traveling with my husband, who has waited patiently for me to retire,” she said. “But I’m going to miss everything about this. I told Kari (Conklin) to wean me off slowly. I’ve enjoyed every moment of this, including the bumps in the road. We have wonderful, supporting staff, great parents and the kids are awesome. Last year, as we ended the school year, was thinking ‘this is my last closing mass and last sixth grade graduation.’ Then I thought, ‘No. I’ll still be involved. It will always be home.”