

Faith and football

For Pittsburgh Steeler, faith is more than a pre-game prayer, page 2.



FaithLife

Back to school

Part 2 of our back to school roundup of what's new at Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 1, 2006

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Francis of Assisi



St. Bruno

- Oct. 2 Guardian Angels
- Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi
- Oct. 6 St. Bruno, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
- Oct. 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- Oct. 9 St. Denis and his companions, St. John Leonardi
- Oct. 14 St. Callistus I
- Oct. 28 St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions
- Oct. 29 Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
- Oct. 30 St. Jerome

Confirmation schedule

St. Mark Parish, Emporium – Sunday, Oct. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

12th annual rosary march – Oct. 1 at 2:30 p.m.

The 12th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Erie Diocese's Blue Army chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima, is scheduled for Sun., Oct. 1.

The march will begin at 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, 10th and Sassafas streets in Erie. Those joining the march are asked to gather outside the cathedral at 2 p.m. For those unable to participate in the walk, the rosary will be prayed inside the cathedral while the march is taking place.



WHY CATHOLIC?

The next session of *Why Catholic?* begins the week of Oct. 8.

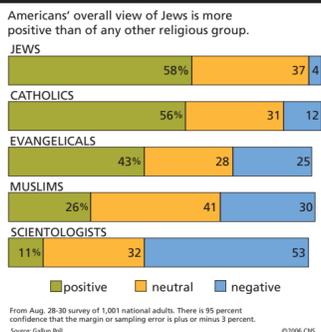
Why Catholic? is a four-year program that focuses on Scripture related to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Small faith-sharing groups will meet once a week during two six-week sessions each year.

It's not too late!

If you would like to sign up to participate in this session of *Why Catholic?*, contact your parish office.

If your parish is not conducting the *Why Catholic?* program and you would like to be part of a small faith-sharing group, contact Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, diocesan director of community formation and lay ministry training, at 814.824.1217 or e-mail NFischer@ErieRCD.org.

Image Factor



Respect Life Sunday focuses on dignity of all life

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Every human being has been created, loved and redeemed by God.

That divine thought is an invitation by the U.S. bishops to respect all human life and the theme of Respect Life Sunday, observed today (Oct. 1) in parishes across the United States.

"No matter what state of life we're in, all individuals have been created in the likeness of God and are loved by him," said Erin Landini, director of Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life Office for the Erie Diocese. "That to me is pivotal in understanding the broader picture of respect life."

The mission of her office is to assist parishes in promoting the social teaching of the church and meeting the social welfare needs of

Pro-life spokeswoman protests FDA approval of 'Plan B' without prescription

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced that it has approved Barr Pharmaceuticals' "Plan B" for distribution without a prescription to women age 18 and older.

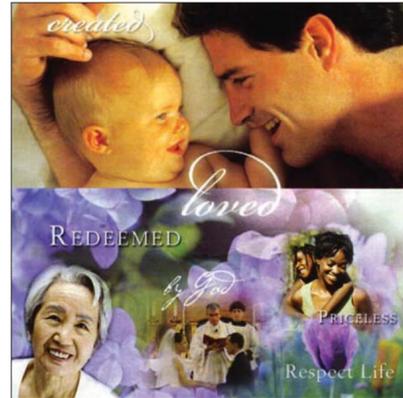
Deirdre McQuade, director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, objected to the approval.

"We find the FDA's unprecedented decision to make Plan

B available without a prescription completely unacceptable," McQuade said in a statement.

"Women deserve quality health care, but over-the-counter (OTC) use of this potentially abortifacient drug will compromise informed consent and follow-up care when necessary."

Plan B is a powerful dose of the artificial hormone Levonorgestrel—40 times the amount found in comparable prescription-only birth control pills. Making the more potent dosage available to women upon request



among others.

"What is key is respecting and reverencing the dignity of every human life," Landini said. "And that is seeing the beauty of God's design in the infant but also witnessing the face of Christ in the most vulnerable."

For more information on Respect Life issues, visit the U.S. bishops' site on the Web at www.usccb.org and click on "Life Issues."



Controversy over remarks overshadows

Catholic News Service

Pope's trip to Germany

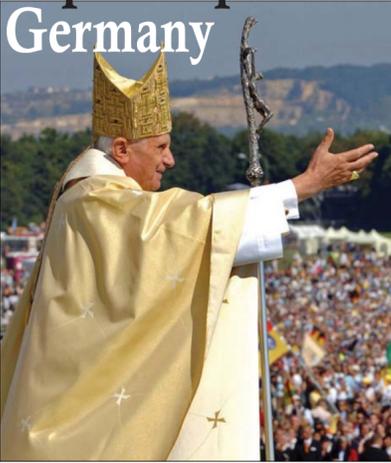
The controversy over remarks made by Pope Benedict XVI during a scholarly lecture has taken the focus off all other aspects of the pope's recent visit to Germany.

The pope's quotation of remarks critical of Islam made by 14th-century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus in his Sept. 12 academic address at the University of Regensburg soon dominated the headlines.

In his talk, the pope's main theme was how reason and faith must be reconciled in the West, but he introduced it by quoting a medieval emperor on the errors of Islam and jihad, or holy war.

The Vatican said Pope Benedict XVI was not presenting an in-depth assessment of the concept of jihad or Muslim thinking about holy war when he spoke to academics in Germany. In a statement issued late Sept. 14, a few hours after the pope's return to Rome from his trip to Germany, Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, reacted to critical statements by some Muslim representatives.

Father Lombardi said it was very important to the pope that there be a "clear and radical refusal of religious motivation of violence." But he said it was certainly not the pope's intention to "offend the sensibilities of Muslim believers." Father Lombardi noted that, on the contrary, the pope's Sept. 12 talk was primarily about the religious shortcomings of the West and that the pope had spoken at length about the reluctance of other cultures to accept a Western "exclusion



Clockwise, Pope Benedict XVI waves to pilgrims after a Mass held on Islinger Field near Regensburg, Germany, Sept. 12; Kashmiri activists belonging to the Muslim League shout slogans during a protest against Pope Benedict XVI in Srinagar, capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, Sept. 15; Pope Benedict XVI waves to pilgrims as he travels in his popemobile during his visit to Munich, Germany, Sept. 10.



of the divine."

Strong reaction to Pope Benedict XVI's reference to a historical criticism of Islam continued around the world after the pope said Sept. 17 that he was "deeply sorry for the reactions" to his address. While parts of the world saw protests and attacks on churches, Catholic and Muslim leaders issued statements attempting to put the situation into perspective. Indonesian Islamic leaders say they hope fellow Muslims will think clearly and forgive the pope.

The pope said he was "deeply sorry" that Muslims were offended by his reference

to a historical criticism of Islam, which he said does not reflect his own opinion. The pope's remarks to pilgrims at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo Sept. 17 were his first public reaction to a wave of Muslim indignation over a university lecture he delivered in Germany. "I am deeply sorry for the reactions in some countries to a few passages of my address at the University of Regensburg, which were considered offensive to the sensibility of Muslims," the pope said. "These in fact were a quotation from a medieval text, which do not in any way express my personal thought," he said.

Several Muslim leaders reacted positively to the pope's comments, which were carried live on some Arab TV networks. Other Islamic groups said a fuller apology was needed.

Christian Palestinians tried to downplay the significance of Muslim attacks on seven Christian churches in the West Bank and Gaza in protest of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks on Islam in Germany.

Police, fearing attacks by Muslims angry about the pope's recent comments, have increased patrols around hundreds of London Catholic churches.

In order to help calm the waters roiled by controversy over Pope Benedict XVI's Sept. 12 remarks on Islam, the Vatican called on its extensive network of papal representatives around the world. While the Vatican and the pope were issuing clarifications about the papal address, dozens of nuncios and bishops in the Middle East and elsewhere were busy speaking to Muslim representatives and the local press, trying to correct any misunderstandings about the pope's speech or intent.

Pope Benedict XVI again See POPE, page 3

Stewardship Days set for Oct. 24-25

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Rather than thinking of stewardship as just giving money or tithing, true stewardship is giving and sharing of one's blessing in the form of time and talent.

For the second straight year, the Erie Diocese is promoting stewardship as a way of holiness and spirituality that can strengthen parish life during Diocesan Stewardship Days, Oct. 24-25.

Father Michael Jacques, SSE, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, will be the keynote speaker. He will offer his reflections on the spirituality of stewardship and how this way of life is countercultural.

Other speakers include Joe Cavanaugh, who will explain how to create an environ-



for engaging parishioners, and Vern and Teresa Strecker, who will focus on stewardship in a small parish.

The theme for this year's Stewardship Days, "Spiritual Renewal—Preparing the Soil, Sowing the Seeds," is taken from the parable of the sower.

"If you are going to sow the seeds of stewardship, you first need to prepare your soil," said Joseph Hoag, director of the diocese's Office of Ste-

wardship, which is sponsoring the two-day program. "A good stewardship parish makes an effort to understand what the parish is like and implements a plan. If parishioners are feeling actively engaged, then the seeds of stewardship will sprout."

There will be several opportunities to participate in the Stewardship Days. Everyone is encouraged to attend the See STEWARDSHIP, page 3

Diocesan Stewardship Days schedule

- | Tues., Oct. 24 | Wed., Oct. 25 |
|--|---|
| Day session: St. Tobias Parish, Brockway (8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.) | Day session: St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie (8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.) |
| Evening session: Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys (6:30-8:30 p.m.) | Evening session: St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie (6:30-8:30 p.m.) |

Cost is \$15 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Deadline for registration is Oct. 16. For a full schedule and online registration form, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

Logo contest spotlights teens as stewards

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Catholic teenagers are invited to interpret the theme of time, talent and treasure in a stewardship logo contest. Entries must be received by Nov. 30. The logo can be entered in English or Spanish and should convey the true meaning of teens being good and prayerful stewards for Jesus Christ. Six monetary prizes, three for each language, will be awarded to a Catholic organization of the winner's choice. First place receives \$500, second place \$250, and third \$100. Logos must portray time, talent, treasure, prayer and Scripture and will be judged on overall impact, effectiveness in conveying the theme, originality and artistic merit. For more information, visit the Diocese of Charleston at <http://www.catholic-dc.org>

U.S.

Speaker: 'culture of poverty' sweeping U.S.



MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — A new "culture of poverty" is sweeping the United States at a "phenomenal and frightening" rate, a speaker told Catholic Charities workers at the Catholic Charities USA annual gathering, held in Minneapolis Sept. 14-17. Generational poverty, in which two or more generations of a family have lived in poverty, is becoming an epidemic in this country, said Allison Boisvert, justice and charity minister at Pax Christi Parish in Eden Prairie. Social workers need to understand this new culture of poverty if they are to be effective advocates for those they serve, declared Boisvert, who herself emerged from generational poverty and worked for Catholic Charities for 22 years. "There is a language of the poor, a psychology of the poor, a worldview of the poor," Boisvert said. "Everything about them, from the condition of their teeth to the way in which they love, is suffused and permeated by the fact of their poverty."

Church leaders join pleas for action to save Darfur population

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As people around the world joined peace rallies, concerts, prayer vigils and even a "yogathon" to press for action to bring peace to Darfur in Sudan, the head of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee and others pleaded for more efforts to "end the killings, rape and wanton destruction." Events in dozens of cities drew tens of thousands of people on or around Sept. 17, which was designated by peace groups as Global Day for Darfur. Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., the committee head, said despite hopeful signs of a peace agreement in the spring conflict has been mounting among rebel groups, the Sudanese military and its proxy militias, known as the Janjaweed. The offensive "has trapped innocent and defenseless civilians in the middle of the fighting," Bishop Wenski wrote in a statement released Sept. 15 in Washington. And with the deteriorating situation, it has become "a deadly challenge" to deliver humanitarian aid to the 2.5 million people who have fled their homes and another million who are at risk of starvation, he said. A dozen aid workers have been killed since June.

WORLD

Many praise CRS for decades of work in India

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A government official, the successor of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and others have praised Catholic Relief Services for six decades of work in India. The U.S. Catholic bishops' international relief and development agency deserves to be congratulated for its work among the victims of disasters

in India, said Manabendra Mukherjee, a minister in the state of West Bengal. Mukherjee and others spoke at an early September function marking 60 years of service by CRS in India, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The anniversary was held in Calcutta, the state capital. He applauded CRS in particular for its ability to network with other nongovernmental organizations and local governments. Sister Nirmala Joshi, who succeeded Mother Teresa as head of the Missionaries of Charity, said CRS was the first organization to support Mother Teresa in the 1950s with food for the sick, children and elderly.

PEOPLE

Pope to visit Austria, Czech Republic in 2007, says church official

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Czech bishops' spokesman said Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Czech Republic and Austria in September 2007. The pope will travel to Austria Sept. 8, 2007, for the 850th anniversary of the Marian sanctuary of Mariazell and agreed to stop in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic — a country widely viewed as Europe's least religious country, said Martin Horalek, spokesman for the Czech bishops' conference. "At a time when our church's position has suffered, leaving it weak in numbers, this will be a great opportunity to rebuild the Catholic faith here," Horalek said Sept. 20. Pope Benedict agreed to the Czech stop while meeting in Germany with Archbishop Diego Causero, nuncio to the Czech Republic. An itinerary will be discussed Oct. 9 when the bishops' conference meets, Horalek said.

For Pittsburgh Steeler, faith is more than a pre-game prayer

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Troy Polamalu is not an NFL superstar who happens to be a man of faith. Just the opposite; in his heart, he is simply "a Christian with a passion for Jesus." Football, Polamalu said, "gives me confirmation of how I can carry out my faith. It's my way to glorify God." And while he views his team's 2006 Super Bowl win as "really beautiful and a blessing," Polamalu notes that "success in football doesn't matter. Success in anything doesn't matter. As Mother Teresa said, 'God calls us not to be successful but to be faithful.' My prayer is that I would glorify God no matter what, and not have success be the definition of it."



"Knowing Troy and how he carries himself, he brings light to the team," offensive lineman Alan Faneca told the *Pittsburgh Catholic*. "Everybody respects that." Polamalu exudes a gentle, humble spirit, said Father David Bonnar, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in the Pittsburgh suburb of Penn Hills, who has celebrated Mass for 10 years before home games with Steelers players and coaches.

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By the Way...

Two new principals were named shortly before the start of the 2006-07 school year.

Kathleen Keys has been named the new principal of **Sacred Heart School** in Erie. Keys has taught at Sacred Heart for 21 years and at St. Paul. She has previously taught in the Erie School District and in West Virginia. She is an alumnus of Holy Rosary Grade School, Villa Maria High School and Villa Maria College.



Jason Koshinski

Alice Connelly has been named the new principal of **Msgr. Geno Monti School** in Farrell. Connelly has taught at Msgr. Geno Monti School and Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage. She has worked in administration in the Harrisburg and Philadelphia school districts for more than 30 years. She is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Sharon, where she taught religious education and confirmation classes.

The **16th annual Catholic Charismatic Conference** will be held Oct. 6-7 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. The featured speaker is Aggie Neck, who is currently chairman of the National Service Committee. Aggie is in full-time ministry at Servant House, a Catholic charismatic house of prayer in Marksville, La., where she serves as co-director.

The conference begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. and ends with a healing service. Saturday's schedule, which begins at 9 a.m., includes a Mass celebrated by Father David Poulson, praise and worship, talks given by Neck and a commissioning. Contact the Word of Life Center for reservations at 814.824.1286. The cost for the conference is \$35.

A growing trend at parishes in our diocese is the **blessing of pets**. A popular day to hold pet blessing services is Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which is Wednesday. St. Francis is known for his love of animals.

Less than two years before Sydney hosts **World Youth Day 2008**, organizers say its mammoth scale will exceed the capacity of any venue, including the stadium built for the 2000 Olympics. Early estimates have around 500,000 people attending the final open-air Mass celebrated by the pope, making it the largest gathering in the history of Australia.

The reservation deadline for the diocesan-sponsored trip to World Youth Day 2008 is Oct. 15. The group is limited to 36 students who will be between ages 16-20 as of July 11, 2008.

Contact Gail Mayer at 814.824.1220 or e-mail gemayer@eriercd.org for a complete brochure with a detailed itinerary or more information. For more information on the events in Sydney, visit www.wyd2008.org.

The second annual **Worldwide Day of Prayer** will be held next Sunday, Oct. 8. The goal for this year's Day of Prayer, sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, is to say 1 billion (yes, one billion) prayers on this one day for the sanctity of life, an end to abortion and for peace.

Catholics are asked to say at least one rosary, more if possible, and people of other faiths are asked to pray for at least 20 minutes.

John Kostrubanic, president of the Erie Diocesan Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima, said this year's goal of 1 billion prayers is realistic because the event will be televised to more than 100 million households around the world from the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

The event will also be televised live at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on EWTN from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The diocesan division is asking that you send in your pledge of prayers so that they will be counted toward the 1 billion. Send them locally to: World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, Erie Diocesan Division, Box 311, Fairview PA 16415-0311 or e-mail your prayer pledge to waoff@pngusa.net. Pledge cards will also be available today (Oct. 1) at the 12th annual rosary march at St. Peter Cathedral. The march begins at 2:30 p.m.

Jason Koshinski is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1171.

Newer priests are older, more culturally diverse, study finds

By Jerry FiltEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — According to a new study, the current generation of recently ordained priests is older and more culturally diverse than 15 years earlier.

The major theological influence on newer priests' lives was Pope John Paul II. German Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, who easily ranked at the top in a similar survey 15 years earlier, dropped to a distant tie for third in the new survey.

The study, *Experiences of Priests Ordained Five to Nine Years*, was written by sociologist Dean R. Hoge of The Catholic University of America's Life Cycle Institute and published in September by the seminary department of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Hoge's findings were based on a 2005 survey to which 1,000 U.S. priests ordained between 1996 and 2000 responded. Many of the questions replicated a similar study Hoge conducted in 1990 with 1,500 priests ordained between 1981 and 1985.

The new 182-page study includes numerous comparisons with the 1990 findings and commentaries on the findings by six experts in seminary formation and church leadership.

Hoge found that in the 15 years since his earlier study the average age of priests ordained five to nine years had increased more than seven years — from 34.1 years to 42.6 for diocesan priests and from 36.8 years to 44.2 for priests in religious or-



Photo by Jason Koshinski

Priests process into St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, during diocesan priesthood ordinations in 2006.

ders. Reflecting the growing priest shortage, 54 percent of the diocesan priests surveyed in 2005 were already pastors of parishes — more than double the 23 percent who had already become pastors in the 1990 study. Of diocesan priests who were pastors in the 2005 study, more than three-fourths had been given their first pastorate within the first five years after ordination, and more than one-third were already responsible for two or more parishes.

"Seminary education should prepare men to become pastors in a short time," the study said. More than half the diocesan

priests surveyed and two-thirds of the religious priests said they could converse in at least one language besides English. Forty percent of diocesan priests and

55 percent of religious priests said they could speak Spanish. Italian and French came in second and third among foreign languages spoken.

One-sixth of the diocesan priests and one-fourth of those in religious orders said they were born outside the United States. About half of those born abroad came from Vietnam, Mexico or the Philippines.

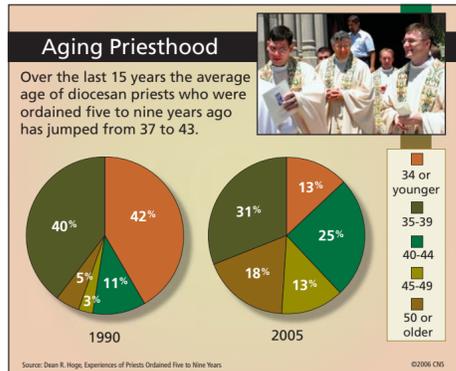
About one-third of those studied came from Irish or Germanic ethnic background, but the group showed greater racial and ethnic diversity than was found in the 1990 study.

Reflecting the changing nature of seminary formation, in 1990 more than half the priests surveyed said they had been in a college seminary program; in 2005 only about one-third had entered the seminary in their college years. Of those surveyed in 2005, just under half had participated in a post-college pre-theology program before they began their theological studies; in the 1990 study only about one-fifth had done so.

The 1990 study did not ask about Internet use. In the 2005 study, the two Internet sites ranked most useful for ministry were the official Web sites of the Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops — www.vatican.va and www.usccb.org. Ranked third was www.ewtn.com, the Web site of the Eternal Word Television Network.

In both studies, recently or-

dated priests most frequently cited *America*, a New York-based national Catholic magazine, as one of the periodicals that had the most influence on them. In the 1990 study the next four, in order, were *National Catholic Reporter*, *The Priest*, *Origins* and *Church*. In the 2005 study the next four were *The Priest*, *National Catholic Register*, *First Things* and *Origins*.



Source: Dean R. Hoge, *Experiences of Priests Ordained Five to Nine Years*. ©2006 CNS

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-Romans 1:11-12

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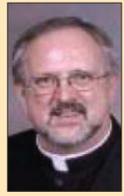
Stewardship Days set for Oct. 24-25

STEWARDSHIP from page 1

full-day sessions at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway (Oct. 24) and at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie (Oct. 25). One of the sessions from each day program will be repeated each evening for those unable to attend during the workday. Evening sessions will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in St. Marys on Oct. 24 and St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie on Oct. 25.

Who should attend Stewardship Days? All priests, deacons, school principals, directors of religious education, parish/pastoral and finance council members, stewardship committee members, youth ministers, members of small faith sharing communities/Why Catholic? groups and parishioners are invited to attend.

Father Jacques became pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in 1984. Through his leadership and pastoring skills, St. Peter Claver has grown to be the largest African-American parish in Louisiana, serving more than 2,400 families. Father Jacques has established his parish as one of the mainstays of All Congregational Together, an interfaith organization dedicated to revitalizing the quality of life in inner-city New



Father Michael Jacques, keynote speaker



Joe Cavanaugh



Vern and Teresa Strecker

Orleans.

Cavanaugh is an associate partner with The Gallup Organization's Faith Practice. His mission is to implement client engagements that achieve continuous improvement in business outcomes. In his role, Cavanaugh consults with faith organizations to achieve their goals, purpose and mission, leading to improved workplace conditions, reduced turnover, highly engaged staff, increased parishioner engagement and improved, sustainable growth and spiritual health.

Vern and Teresa Strecker will discuss the story of their home parish of

St. Andrew in southeast Kansas and the unique challenges of stewardship in a small parish. St. Andrew consists of 350 families and is in the rural community of Independence with a population of approximately 9,000. St. Andrew Catholic School (pre-school through grade 8) has an enrollment of 160 and an annual budget of \$463,000. The Streckers have been members of St. Andrew for 40 years. St. Andrew became a stewardship parish in 1997, and the couple served on that committee during the first five years. They are currently members of the Diocese of Wichita Stewardship Committee.

Remarks overshadow pope's trip

POPE from page 1

expressed regret that his remarks on Islam had been misunderstood and emphasized his "profound respect" for Muslims.

At his weekly general audience Sept. 21, where he reviewed his recent trip to Germany, the pope turned his attention to his academic address at the University of Regensburg and the wave of Muslim indignation that followed.

The pope said his citation of the words of a medieval emperor, which sound "incomprehensibly brusque" in today's world, was "unfortunately misunderstood." The attentive reader, he said, would have known that he was not agreeing with the polemical criticism of Islam expressed by the emperor.

"In no way did I wish to make my own the words of the medieval emperor. I wished to explain that not religion and violence, but religion and reason, go together," the pope said. His words were greeted by strong applause in St. Peter's Square, where several thousand pilgrims had gathered.

The pope noted that during his trip he had underlined the need for all peo-

For the text of Pope Benedict XVI's talk at the University of Regensburg, Germany, Sept. 12, visit the Diocese of Erie at www.ErieRCD.org.



ple to respect what is sacred to religious cultures — something that reflected his esteem for the followers of other religions, "in particular Muslims," he said.

"I hope that my profound respect for world religions and for Muslims, who worship the one God and with whom we promote peace, liberty, social justice and moral values for the benefit of all humanity, is clear," he said.

Briefly

Catholic Charities Center in St. Marys announces new programs

The Catholic Charities Center in St. Marys has announced new programs for the 2006-07 school year.

The center is now offering an after-school program for children in grades 1-5 after school until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The program is designed to assist with daily homework or projects. There is no fee for this program.

A computer literacy program offers seven sessions on several subjects including very basic computers, basic computing, introduction to the Internet, e-mail, very basic word processing, filing fundamentals and computer security and digital photography. Sessions are \$5 each or \$30 for all seven paid in full.

The back-to-work program for women includes sessions in resume preparation, applications and interview techniques.

The Catholic Charities Center is located at St. Joseph Monastery, adjacent to St. Marys Catholic Middle School and St. Mary Parish in St. Marys.

Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services has provided a variety of programs and services to the St. Marys area free or of minimal costs. These services include crisis pregnancy counseling; community referrals; Women In Need (WIN), a free diaper and formula program; development of an adoption or parenting plan; parenting classes and individual and family or marital counseling; Rainbows program for children experiencing loss from death, divorce or separation; and the divorced and separated support group.

For more information on these programs, contact Sister Damian Fleischman, OSB, Catholic Charities Center project coordinator, at 814.781.6206.

Villa Maria Center offers monthly Coffee and Contemplation program

VILLA MARIA — Villa Maria Retreat Center will offer another program in its ongoing series of morning prayer seminars. "Harvesting Our Holiness" will be held Oct. 3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Villa Maria Community Center in Villa Maria, Pa.

Sister Rose Anne Hanlon, HM, of the Villa Maria retreat team, will lead the group in the exploration of the harvesting of the spiritual life. Sister Rose Anne is a licensed counselor and experienced in parish ministry.

The seminar is part of the center's Coffee and Contemplation program, a monthly series which runs from September to May.

This series offered by the Villa Maria Retreat Center focuses on a variety of spiritual and holistic topics which includes time for reflection and discussion. Program participants are welcome to stay for lunch but advanced registration is required in either case. Cost to attend program is \$5. Cost to attend program and lunch is \$11.75. Advanced registration is required.

To find out more information or to obtain a registration form, call 724.964.8920, ext. 3241 or visit <http://villamaria.tripod.com>.

People in the News

Jane Zawacki named assistant director of SSJ associates

ERIE — The Sisters of St. Joseph have named SSJ associate Jane Zawacki as assistant director of the SSJ associates. Zawacki succeeds SSJ associate Charene Kellerman who served in that capacity since 2001.

Zawacki will assist Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, who serves as associate director. Her duties will include responsibilities in the ongoing development of the associate membership and planning of and attendance at various meetings and events throughout the year. Zawacki will also assist in budget planning and attend the SSJ federation meeting and the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) meeting.

Zawacki taught at St. Leo School, Ridgway, and Sacred Heart in Erie. She is currently a computer teacher/technology coordinator at Villa Maria Elementary. She is a eucharistic minister at Sacred Heart and has served on its pastoral council.

She has served on the SSJ associate advisory and communications committees. She had three relatives who were Sisters of St. Joseph: Sisters Margaret Arcelia Proesel, and Judith and Anita James Gausman, all deceased.

SSJ associates are Christian women and men who choose to come together to share the nature and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph to further the reign of God. Associate candidates are required to complete a year of preparation and instruction about the charism, history, spirit and spirituality of the sisters before they are welcomed into the program and asked to make their commitment. Associate commitments are renewed annually. Currently there are 235 SSJ associates in northwestern Pennsylvania.



Jane Zawacki

Erie Diocese goes Back to School

Editor's note: The following submissions are Part 2 of our back to school roundup focusing on what's new at Catholic schools throughout the Erie Diocese for 2006-07.

St. Boniface School, Erie

St. Boniface School in Erie is introducing a school-wide health and wellness program, "Pumping Hearts and Snacking Smarts," which will involve educating all students and parents about the importance of daily exercise and good nutrition. All classes will be involved in planning physical activities and preparing healthy snacks throughout the school year.

A school-wide service project involves collecting aluminum cans during the school year. Money earned from this endeavor will be donated to a designated charitable organization.

St. Boniface School celebrates its third year providing a very successful multi-age educational experience to all students enrolled.

St. John-Holy Rosary School, Erie

New to St. John/Holy Rosary-Eastside Catholic School in Erie this year is the school's Hooked on Books program for grades 2 and 3 and accelerated independent study offered to students in grades 7 and 8 who have scored at a post-high school (PHS) level in their Stanford 10s achievement tests.



Second graders are eager to answer questions in Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti's class the first week of school.

The school has also started to implement a new wellness policy, which includes nutritional guidelines, benefiting the health, wellness, and safety of students. St. John/Holy Rosary is also able to provide three sessions of preschool for ages 3 and 4: morning, all-day or afternoon.

Mercyhurst Prep, Erie

Mercyhurst Preparatory School (MPS) has some exciting new electives this year that are enticing teens and teachers to pursue new interests. Some of them include flight school, design online, sign language, guitar, social dancing and gerontology. MPS also has a cultural connection with Mercyhurst College with two assemblies offered this fall: the East Village Opera Company and Niyaz. The school year is off to a strong start with a large freshman class and nine foreign exchange students.

DuBois Central Catholic

The DuBois Area Catholic School (DCC) system opened the school year with a stable enrollment along with some additions to the learning environment of students. DCC has gone wireless, with more teachers using lap top computers and with more LCD projectors now available for classroom instruction.

A new language lab, the addition of a math coordinator, the introduction of e-books and the continued effort to expand cross-curricular and thematic units all make for an enriching educational experience at DuBois Central Catholic, according to Kathleen Kunkle, chief administrative officer.

Such programs as the Rosetta Stone Language Lab, new electives in the middle school's on-going enrichment series, biography day and "It's the Write Time," the elementary level's school-wide weekly-writing hour, have each generated much enthusiasm among the faculty and students.

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St. Boniface School, Kersey

A walking club is being initiated in conjunction with the wellness program at St. Boniface School in Kersey. When students arrive daily, they will unpack their bags and begin walking a mile or more until the final bell rings. They have the choice of walking during recess, also. "Hit Your Feet 4 Fitness" has gained popularity, especially since the students receive a small plastic foot for every two miles that they walk. Announcements of students walking the highest number of miles are made weekly.



St. Boniface School has constructed a Fitness Center so that students can improve balance, body strength and develop their lower body cores.

Parents will be asked to help with this venture so that everyone is involved in the program in order to create healthier students who will become more aware of the importance of physical activity in their lives. Pictured are the fifth grade students beginning the first of many miles they will walk throughout the year.

Erie DAWN, a non-profit agency providing transitional housing to homeless women and children, is planning a fundraiser:

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December 1st - 3rd at Villa Center

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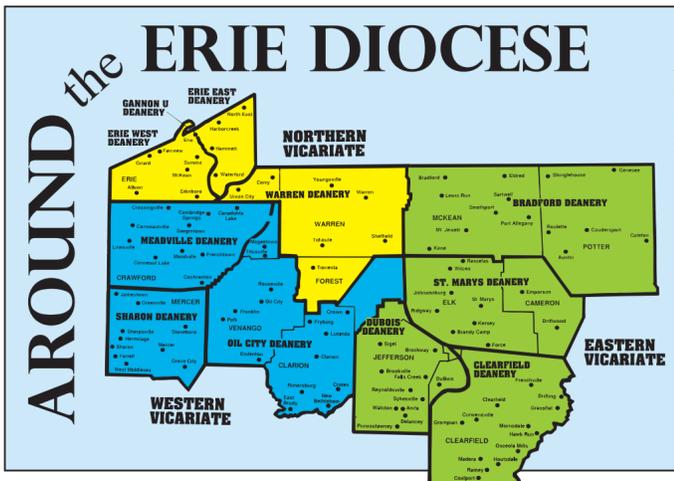
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Sisters of St. Joseph welcome 19 new associate members

ERIE – The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania welcomed 19 persons into associate membership on Sept. 10 during a special liturgy held in the chapel of the Villa Maria Community Living Center on West Ridge Road in Erie.

The liturgy was celebrated by Father Dennis Martin, who is also an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The new associates were received by Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSJ, president of the congregation, Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, director of the associate program and Charlene Kellerman, associate director. A reception followed the liturgy.

Associates welcomed into membership are: Betty Chess, Nicholas Connelly, Irene Danko, Madeline DeBonis, Brenda Desser, Mary Gable, Doty Hanna, Carol Hermann, Rita Lyle, Patricia Mayer, Dorothy Paszko, Ruth Ann Plutino, Patricia Quiros, Ruby Schaaf, Lucille



Front, left to right: Rita Lyle, Carol Hermann, Brenda Desser and Mary Gable. Back, left to right: John Skuce, Ruby Schaaf, Patricia Mayer, Jan Staszewski and Betsy Jane Weist.

Sitzler, John Skuce, Jan Staszewski, Toni Stebell and Betsy Jane Weist.

SSJ associates are Christian women and men who choose to come together to share the nature and spirit of the Sisters

of St. Joseph to further the reign of God. Associate candidates are required to complete a year of preparation and instruction about the charism, history, spirit and spirituality of the sisters before they are welcomed into the program and asked to make their commitment. Associate commitments are then renewed annually.

“Associate members are a gift to our congregation and to the church,” said Sister Ricarda Vincent. “They enrich us through the deepening of their spiritual lives and their ability to share with the sisters in living out our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God.” The practice of associate membership dates back to the founding of the congregation in France in the seventeenth century.

Currently, there are 235 SSJ associates and 135 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.



Front, left to right: Patricia Quiros, Lucille Sitzler, Ruth Ann Plutino and Irene Danko. Back, left to right: Doty Hanna, Madeline DeBonis, Toni Stebell, Dorothy Paszko, Batty Chess and Nick Connelly.

STAR Foundation receives donation from PNC Bank



PNC Bank recently made a donation to the STAR Foundation for its Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. These funds are used to provide financial assistance to students attending Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese—both K-12 and pre-Kindergarten. PNC has

been a benefactor of the STAR Foundation since its inception in 2001.

For the current 2006-07 school year, more than 900 students in the diocese are receiving tuition assistance grants as the result of contributions which were made to the STAR Foundation by corporations like PNC.

From left to right, diocesan chief financial officer Dave Murphy and Bishop Donald Trautman are presented with a check by Marlene Mosco, regional president of PNC Bank, and Colleen Gildea, assistant vice president of PNC Bank.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors event in Grove City



OLP Playhouse members Drew Riggs, Dave Bello and Sue Hansen perform the second act from *The Jeweler's Shop*, a play written by Pope John Paul II.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsored a mini-convention at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Grove City on Sat., Sept. 23. Married couples from both the Diocese of Erie

and the Diocese of Pittsburgh attended the day-long event, which included presentations by Mark and Joyce Kulyk, couple and small-group sharings, as well as Mass at Church of the



Mark and Joyce Kulyk talk to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter group.

Beloved Disciple. The event also included a dramatic reading of *The Jeweler's Shop*—a play by Karol Wojtyla, who of course went on to become Pope John Paul II.

Directed by Heidi Arnold and produced by Mary Ann Muller, *The Jeweler's Shop* was presented by members of the OLP Playhouse, an outreach of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

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