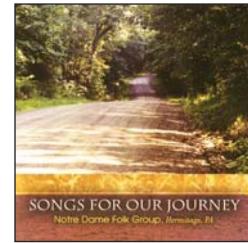


## Songs for Our Journey

Notre Dame folk group releases new CD, page 3.



# FaithLife

[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

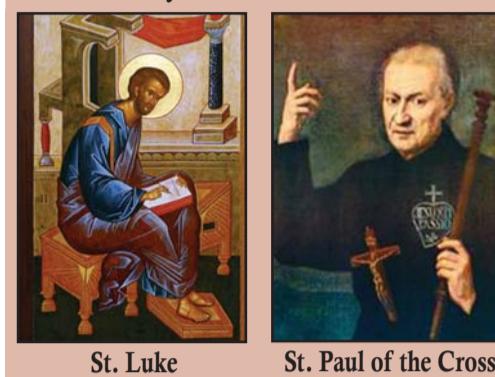
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 15, 2006

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



- Oct. 16 St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- Oct. 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch
- Oct. 18 St. Luke
- Oct. 19 Ss. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and their companions
- Oct. 20 St. Paul of the Cross
- Oct. 23 St. John of Capistrano
- Oct. 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret
- Oct. 28 Ss. Simon and Jude

### Confirmation schedule

#### St. Bonaventure, Grampian – Monday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.

Confirmation classes include St. Bonaventure, Grampian and St. Timothy, Curwensville.

#### Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Sunday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m.

### World Mission Sunday – Oct. 22

World Mission Sunday, organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.



For more information or to read Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Mission Sunday, visit [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

World Mission Sunday, celebrated annually on the next-to-last Sunday in October, is "an important day in the life of the church because it teaches

how to give: as an offering made to God, in the eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world." (*Redemptoris Missio 81*)

### 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 for Diocesan Stewardship Days Oct. 24-25.

Father Jacques will offer his reflections on the spirituality of stewardship and how this way of life is countercultural. Joe Cavanaugh will explain how to create an environment for engaging parishioners. Vern and Teresa Strecker will focus on stewardship in a small parish.

Cost for the day sessions is \$15 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Evening sessions are \$5. For a full schedule and online registration form, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). For more information, contact Joseph Hoag, director of stewardship and development, at 1.800.374.3723 ext. 192, in Erie at 824.1192 or e-mail [JHoag@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JHoag@ErieRCD.org).

Tues., Oct. 24	Wed., Oct. 25
Day session:	Day session:
St. Tobias Parish, Brockway (8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.)	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.)

## Clergy appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL, Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

**Msgr. Daniel K. Arnold**, appointed chaplain assistant, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, with residence and sacramental ministry at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, and sacramental ministry at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Harborcreek. Effective Sept. 29, 2006.

**Father Mark A. Nowak**, appointed parochial administrator of St. Philip Parish, Linesville. Effective Oct. 19, 2006.

## Police officers blessed, honored at Blue Mass

By Jason Koshinskie  
*FaithLife* editor

RIDGWAY — On Sept. 29, the feast of the archangels, the St. Marys Deanery and portions of the Eastern Vicariate of the Erie Diocese honored police and law enforcement officers in the area with a Blue Mass at St. Leo Parish in Ridgway.

The Blue Mass—referring to the uniforms worn by many public safety and law enforcement agencies—began on Sept. 29, 1934, the feast of St. Michael, patron of police officers, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where officers attended Mass in their blue uniforms. This was the first Blue Mass known to be held in the St. Marys area in recent times.

Officers, both active and retired, along with their families and students from St. Leo School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools, filled the

church. Law enforcement departments represented included the Pennsylvania State Police, police departments from St. Marys, Johnsonburg, Kane and Ridgway, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Campus Police and the Elk County Sheriff's Department.

The Mass was organized by Father Ted Marconi, pastor of St. Leo; Father Eric Vogt, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in St. Marys; and Sgt. Phil Hoh of the St. Marys Police Department and president of the Fraternal Order of Police for Elk, Cameron, McKean and Potter counties. Father Marconi serves as chaplain to the state police, and Father Vogt is chaplain to the St. Marys Police Department. Father Marconi said the Mass was held to pray for God's blessing for those who work in law enforcement.

"I thought the idea of a Blue Mass was really good because these people are



Photos courtesy of Frank Quattrone/www.quattronephotography.com

Above, officers kneel for a blessing during the Blue Mass at St. Leo Parish, Ridgway, Sept. 29.

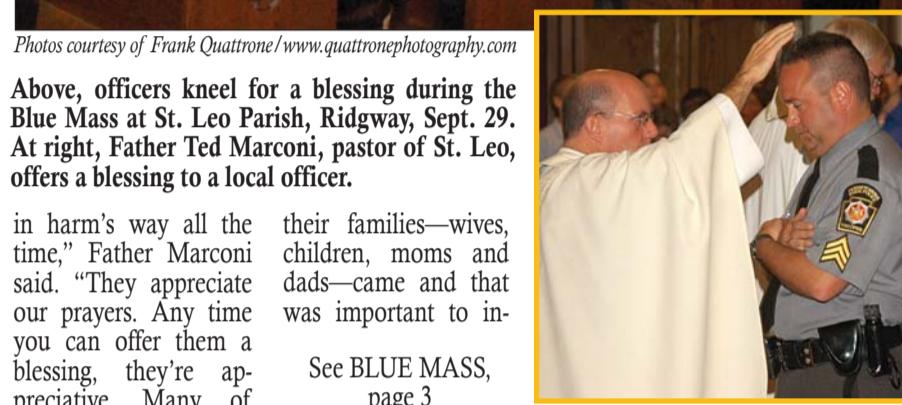
At right, Father Ted Marconi, pastor of St. Leo, offers a blessing to a local officer.

in harm's way all the time," Father Marconi said. "They appreciate our prayers. Any time you can offer them a blessing, they're appreciative. Many of

See BLUE MASS, page 3

## Paws for a blessing

St. Francis blessing of pets in *Around the Diocese*, page 4.



## House of Prayer celebrates 35 years of ministry

By Jason Koshinskie  
*FaithLife* editor

ERIE — Not much separates the gray exterior of the House of Prayer from the rest of its neighbors in downtown Erie except for the hand-painted sign near the front door.

But inside the simple house at 159 W. Fourth St. is a source of spiritual refreshment in the middle of all the hustle and bustle.

The House of Prayer is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, providing a praying presence in the city since 1971.

The moderate-size house provides ample space for liturgy, small group meetings, programs and prayer. Weekly offerings include Scripture study, centering prayer sessions and Saturday morning Mass. Other programs include seminars on prayer and spirituality, directed prayer days, workshops on centering prayer, days of reflection and opportunities for private retreats and spiritual direction.

Typically, 25 to 40 people attend the weekly Saturday morning liturgy, celebrated by a local priest. The attic

has been renovated and converted into a small chapel with a tabernacle containing the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The house also offers three guest rooms for overnight retreats and days of reflection.

"I think what has happened over the years, people have grown in a greater hunger for contemplative prayer and trying to find ways of deepening their relationship with God," said Sister Rita Panciera, RSM, director of the House of Prayer. "We just try to provide prayer experiences for people."

People's response to those prayer experiences is what initially kept the house open. It originally opened in June 1971, along with one in Conneaut Lake, as a six-week summer retreat experience for religious sisters in ministry. But the idea caught on with lay people and interest grew in keeping one of the houses open.

"People asked us not to close the house," said Sister Rita, who has been involved

with the house's ministry since the beginning. "And here we are 35 years later."

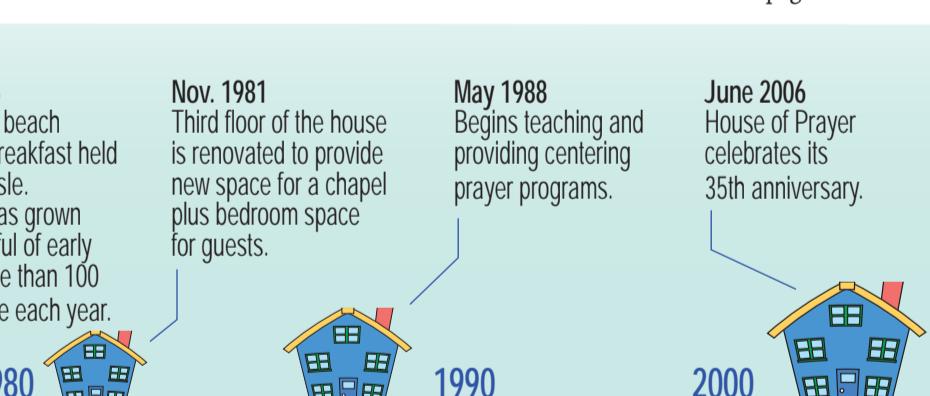
Across the street from Antler's bar, the House of Prayer is also nestled in the heart of the Gannon University student community.

But Sister Rita doesn't mind the contrast of traffic noise with the house's ministry since the beginning. "And here we are 35 years later."

and college students with the quiet of centering prayer. "It's nice to be in the midst of life," she said. "It's really wonderful because that's where most of life takes place, right in the middle of things. God is everywhere. God is in the midst of every person. We couldn't exist without God."

The house is also the residence of Sister Rita, who is trained in the Ignatian exercises and centering prayer. She also serves as a spiritual director to many who frequent the House of Prayer.

See HOUSE OF PRAYER, page 3



### Senior high youth rally Nov. 19

HERMITAGE — The annual senior high youth rally, titled "We Believe," will take place on Sun., Nov. 19 at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The program will include entertaining and inspiring keynote presenters from APEX Ministries, music ministry provided by Who Do You Say I Am, prayer and worship. Join youth from around the Erie Diocese for a fun-filled day.

Students are asked to return registration and release forms to parish youth leaders by Oct. 30. Forms can be obtained by visiting [www.ErieRCD.org/youth.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/youth.asp) or through their parish office.

Contact Linda Lecce at 1.800.374.3723, in Erie at 824.1218 or e-mail [LLeccce@ErieRCD.org](mailto:LLeccce@ErieRCD.org), for any questions regarding registration or rally details.

The cost for each youth and young adult leader is \$25. This fee includes presentations, lunch and T-shirt.



### Fatima message focus of annual rosary march

By Jason Koshinskie  
*FaithLife* editor

ERIE — More than 150 people marched through the streets of downtown Erie on Oct. 1 during the 12th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Erie Diocese's Blue Army chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

Beginning at St. Peter Cathedral, marchers processed through downtown with banners, a large wooden rosary and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

"Our purpose is to draw attention to Our Lady of Fatima's call to pray the rosary," said John Walsh, vice president of the Blue Army.

After praying the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries, marchers processed into the cathedral for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, consecration to the



Dressed as the pilgrim children of Fatima, Maria Rose, Matthew Widomski and Rachel Rose pose while lining up for the 12th annual Blue Army rosary march Oct. 1.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Father Jerry Priscaro of St. Paul Parish, Erie, was the investiture of the brown scapular and benediction. Father Jerry Priscaro of St. Paul Parish, Erie, was the guest homilist.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**U.S.**

### Speaker calls growth in number of lay parish ministers a revolution

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A revolution has occurred in parish ministry in the past generation, a panelist said Sept. 20 at a conference on "The Catholic Church in America: 2006," held at The Catholic University of America in Washington. David DeLambo, associate director for pastoral planning for the Cleveland Diocese, noted that most Catholics remember a time when parish ministers were nearly all priests, but today there are 30,632 lay parish ministers in paid positions, which he said exceeds and by some accounts might even be double the number of priests in parish ministry. Two-thirds of parishes across the spectrum of Catholic life in the United States, from cities to suburbs to small towns, now employ lay parish ministers, he said. "It is hard to fathom just how much parish ministry changed in the span of one generation," DeLambo said. "Lay parish ministers are now a common and accepted presence in parishes across the country. This, indeed, is a development of revolutionary proportions."

### Advice for parish Web addresses: Keep them simple, identifiable

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Our Lady of Hope in Dundalk had the perfect Web address: [www.ourladyofhope.com](http://www.ourladyofhope.com). But when they failed to renew it, a Virginia health center swooped in to secure the unprotected domain name. The parish has found itself searching for a new home, said Lucille Knach, business manager for the parish. Not all parishes are so unlucky. Father Joseph O'Meara, pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Brooklyn, secured the Web address for his parish and school, [www.stroseparish.org](http://www.stroseparish.org), four years before they even had a site. "I chose it because it matched the parish perfectly," said Father O'Meara. When it comes to choosing a Web address, Tim Rodgers, director of information technology operations for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, recommends choosing one that is easily identifiable with the parish and makes sense without being too long. Correlation with the parish is a huge factor as well, he said.

### Week of prayer, fasting part of Respect Life Month events

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of Catholic and other Christian organizations have mobilized a grass-roots effort worldwide to pray and fast for life in October, which is Respect Life Month. Respect Life Sunday Oct. 1 was the first day of the 14th annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting to promote a culture of life. The observance, which actually was to last until Oct. 10, included prayer rallies and life chains, which ask people to line up by an abortion clinic to pray for an end to abortion. In announcing the observance, the coalition asked people to participate as individuals, families and parishes by fasting, attending daily Mass and taking part in Holy Hours, going to confession and reciting the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. "The goals of the week are: the conversion of nations, an end to abortion and to build a culture of life," said the announcement.

### Catholic, Muslim students learn from each other

DEARBORN, Mich. (CNS) — A visit paid by Catholic schoolchildren to a Dearborn mosque and the cooperative spirit between a Catholic school and a neighboring Muslim school in the Minneapolis area illustrate that the two faiths have a good relationship, said local leaders. In Dearborn, about a hundred local Catholic schoolchildren visited a mosque Sept. 21 to learn about the beliefs and practice of Islam. The Michigan students visited the Islamic Center of America, the largest mosque in America. It was a coincidence the visit came at a time of strain between Catholics and Muslims over Pope Benedict XVI's comments on Islam in a speech he gave in Germany. In Fridley, Minn., near Minneapolis, Totino-Grace Catholic High School and Al-Amal Muslim School have enjoyed a good rapport for more than a decade.

### At Red Mass, faith called 'cornerstone of American experience'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Addressing a congregation that included many government leaders, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said Oct. 1 at the annual Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral that



Wearing head scarves and leggings to comply with Muslim modesty, students from St. Paul Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., prepare to enter the Islamic Center of America in late September in Dearborn, Mich. It is the largest mosque in America.

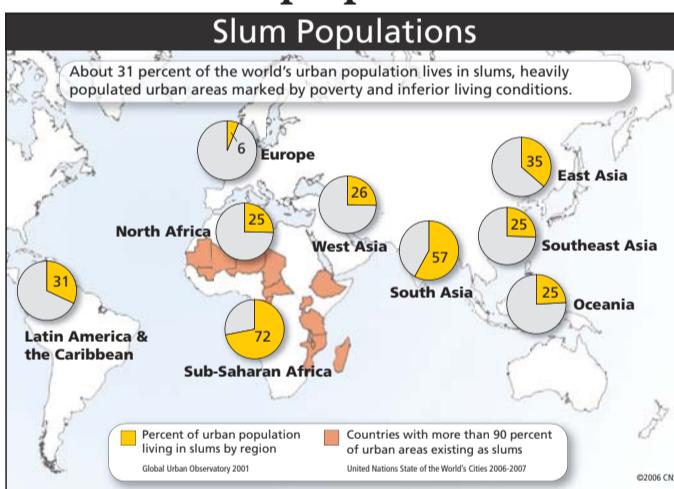
religious faith forms part of the foundation of the American experience and has an important role to play in public life. "Religious faith has long been a cornerstone of the American experience," the archbishop said at the Mass, traditionally held on the day before the Supreme Court opens its session. The Mass invokes God's blessings and guidance on the administration of law. Archbishop Wuerl noted how faith helped shape both the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. He said George Washington's farewell address "reminds us that we simply cannot expect national prosperity without morality, and morality cannot be sustained without religious principles."

### WORLD

### Vatican says Archbishop Milingo, four others incur excommunication

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent ordinations made without papal approval have placed Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo and the four prelates he ordained under automatic excommunication, the Vatican said. Starting with his "attempted marriage" in 2001 until his Sept. 24 ordinations of four bishops in Washington, Archbishop Milingo's actions have led him to "a condition of irregularity and progressive breach in communion with the church," said a written statement by the Vatican press office. Various church officials tried "in vain" to contact the retired archbishop of Lusaka, Zambia, and "discourage him from continuing acts that provoke scandal," the Sept. 26 press statement said. It said that despite the "patient vigilance" shown by the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI in hoping the retired archbishop would return to full communion with the church, the archbishop's Sept. 24 ordinations "have dashed such hopes." Because of the unapproved ordinations, "both Archbishop Milingo and the four ordained men are under a 'latae sententiae' excommunication, according to Canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law," the statement said. A bishop who consecrates a bishop without a pontifical mandate and the person who receives the consecration from him automatically incur the penalty of excommunication.

### Pope calls for 'dignified living conditions' for people in slums



CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for "dignified living conditions" for people living in slums and ghettos. After praying the noonday Angelus Oct. 1, the pope reminded pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, that Oct. 2 marked World Habitat Day. The United Nations established the day to highlight the importance of city management and an individual's right to adequate shelter. This year's theme was "Cities: Magnets of Hope." The pope said that dealing with the rapid growth of cities and the increase of people moving into urban areas "represents one of the most serious problems that humanity of the 21st century is called to face." He encouraged all those who work on urban management to help ensure that "people living in degraded neighborhoods be guaranteed dignified living conditions, the fulfillment of their basic needs and the possibility of achieving their dreams," especially concerning family life and "peaceful coexistence" in society.

### New secretary of state reiterates Vatican's international priorities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's new secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, told diplomats that aiding the world's poor,

Erie DAWN, a non-profit agency providing transitional housing to homeless women and children, is planning a fundraiser.  
**No Room at the Inn**  
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A public event of nativities from different art mediums and cultures. Feel the essence of the Holy Family this Christmas Season!  
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Please call Betty at 814-453-5921 or e-mail [betty@eriedawn.org](mailto:betty@eriedawn.org).  
Overnight security and monitors during exhibit hours will be provided.

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*CNS photo*

Chief Justice John Roberts speaks with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, right, and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, center, after the Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington Oct. 1. The annual Mass is celebrated traditionally the Sunday before the new Supreme Court session begins.

"It is important that we resume this celebration in which we can pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice and for all in the legal profession and public service," Bishop Trautman said in a letter to members of the area's St. Thomas More Society. "I am hopeful that it will again become an annual observance."

## By the Way...

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a Red Mass for those in the legal profession and elected government officials on Oct. 30 at 5:30 p.m. at Gannon University's Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel. It has been a few years since the diocese last celebrated this special Mass for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, elected government officials and professors and students of the law.



Jason Koshinskie

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Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg, chaplain to the St. Thomas More Society in previous years, will be the guest of honor and speaker at the reception following the Red Mass. Before his appointment to the Diocese of Greensburg, Bishop Brandt was chancellor of the Erie Diocese and vice president of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Sister Mary Arnold Tann, SSJ, has announced her retirement as associate vicar for education and 24 years in ministry with the Erie Diocese's Office of Education.

Sister Mary Arnold has served as associate vicar for education since 2003. She previously served as the diocesan superintendent of schools from 1990 to 2003, as well as director of teacher personnel.

"In spending 54 years in Catholic education, every day was a joy and a delight," Sister Mary Arnold, who began teaching in 1952, said of her years of ministry. "I enjoyed every day of my life in Catholic education. Many wonderful people have enriched my life to bring me where I am today."

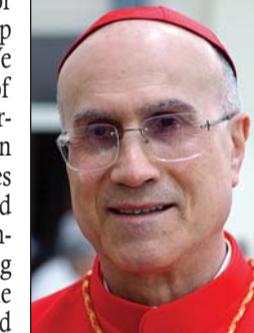
She was principal of Our Lady of Peace School, Blessed Sacrament School and the former St. Ann School. She taught at St. Bernard, Bradford; Our Lady of Peace, Erie; Villa Maria Elementary, Erie; Blessed Sacrament, Erie; and St. Ann, Erie.

"I wish to thank Sister Mary Arnold for her many years of devoted service, and I commend her for her work," said Bishop Trautman.

While she is unsure of any immediate plans, Sister Mary Arnold hinted that "I'll be involved in some kind of ministry in the future."

Bishop Trautman will attend the 100th anniversary Mass of St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh Oct. 22 at 3 p.m. The cathedral of our neighboring Diocese of Pittsburgh has undergone renovations in anticipation of its centennial. In January, the diocese announced the beginning of an \$8.5 million campaign to accomplish this restoration and renovation work.

Jason Koshinskie is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at [JKoshinskie@erieCD.org](mailto:JKoshinskie@erieCD.org) or 814.824.1171.

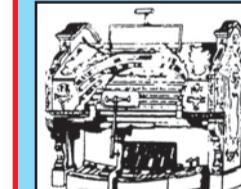


Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone

preventing war and cultivating respect for human rights remain the Vatican's top priorities in the international arena. "We need a universal engagement in favor of the planet's most dispossessed, the poorest ones, the people who often search in vain for a means to support themselves and their family," Cardinal Bertone said Sept. 29. "The dignity, freedom and unconditional respect of every human being in his fundamental rights, in particular the right of conscience and religion, should be among our primary concerns," he said. Cardinal Bertone, who took over as secretary of state in mid-September, spoke in his first encounter with the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See.

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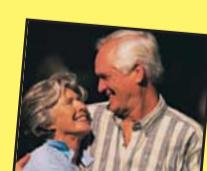


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General Information: (814) 824-1160

Fax: (814) 824-1170

E-Mail: [FaithLife@erieCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@erieCD.org)

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## Briefly

### Mgr. Peterson to mark anniversary of consecration to Jesus through Mary

ERIE — In December, Msgr. James Peterson will celebrate his 60th year of making a total consecration to Jesus through Mary according to St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

"Father Pete" will celebrate a Mass of consecration on Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at St. Patrick Parish in Erie at 7 p.m. The consecration consists of 33 days of prayer in anticipation of the Mass, which will begin on Nov. 5.

"In seminary, I was very interested in the writings of St. Louis Marie de Montfort," Msgr. Peterson said. "His writing, in a very simple way, led to the consecration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and proposed it as a new bond of loyalty to Mary. But also, it's a powerful motivating force in understanding the purity of intention in the way we live and the choices we make."

Father Pete said he renews his consecration each year.

The church grants a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, to those on the day of completing the act of total consecration and each time it is renewed.

Anyone interested in making the total consecration to Jesus through Mary according to St. Louis Marie de Montfort should call Donna Arson in Erie at 814.835.6768 for a free book consisting of 33 days of prayer.

### Grants aid St. Gregory teachers in attending conference

NORTH EAST — For the third year in a row, teachers from St. Gregory School in North East attended the Midwest Conference on Differentiated Instruction, held this year in Indianapolis in July.

More than 120 different sessions tailored to meet the needs, experience and interests of attending teachers were presented, along with hands-on action labs where teachers could create products and plans to implement in their classrooms.

"We got the chance to see a lot of techniques that are used in schools across the country for multi-age classrooms," principal Mark Eagan said.

In St. Gregory's multi-age classroom approach, students are grouped in levels 1 through 4 rather than grades 1 through 8. This is the third year of the multi-age approach at St. Gregory.

"It has been an absolute success," Eagan said. "The kids understand that they're in levels, not grades. They step right into it."

Attending the conference this year were Val Crofoot, Ann Shaffer, Lori Helffrich, Margie Kubiaik and Eagan.

Religious Education Endowment Fund (REEF) and Krug Foundation grants helped make the trip to the conference possible, Eagan said, deferring nearly the entire cost of the trip.

### Cathedral presents organ concert

ERIE — St. Peter Cathedral will present an organ concert Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. performed by Allan Slovensky.

Slovensky served as organist and choirmaster at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church in Warren for 33 years and held a faculty appointment and the post of college organist at the University of Pittsburgh's Bradford campus for 25 years.

While at Trinity, he developed a community chamber music series. At Bradford, he founded the College-Community Choir, which performed several times annually with members of the Buffalo Philharmonic.

He has performed many times as organist, harpsichordist and choral director in the tri-state region.



Msgr. James Peterson

## Notre Dame Folk Group releases new CD

By Jason Koshinskie  
*FaithLife* editor

HERMITAGE — In traveling down the road in our relationship with Christ, the Notre Dame Folk Group is providing songs for the journey.

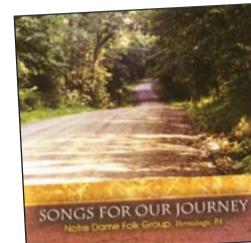
*Songs For Our Journey* is the newest CD from the folk group at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. It is the group's fifth release of collected music.

The latest disc includes perennial favorites "Be Not Afraid" and "On Eagle's Wing's" along with 13 newer selections.

"Every time someone would come to purchase a CD, they'd say, 'Which one has 'On Eagle's Wings' on it?'" said Gretchen Wagner, music and liturgy coordinator at Notre Dame and a singer in the group. "We decided to include it on the new CD."

The remaining tracks contain contemporary praise songs such as "He is Exalted," "Wonderful, Merciful Savior," "On That Holy Mountain" and "How Can I Keep From Singing."

Soloist Greg Hansley does a cover of the hit "I Can Only Imagine" by MercyMe. "Holy



*Songs For Our Journey*  
is the latest CD release  
from the Notre Dame  
Folk Group.

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All of the

collections, recorded locally at Mud-Hut Studios in Sharon, have been themed. *Sing! A Jubilee of Praise* was released in 2000 to coincide with the church's jubilee year. *A Celebration of Thanksgiving - Music for the Feast* (2004). A total of 75 different songs are included on the five collections.

The group include *For the Glory of God* (1998), *Sing! A Jubilee of Praise* (2000), *A Gift of Song* (2002) and *A Celebration of Thanksgiving - Music for the Feast* (2004). A total of 75 different songs are included on the five collections.

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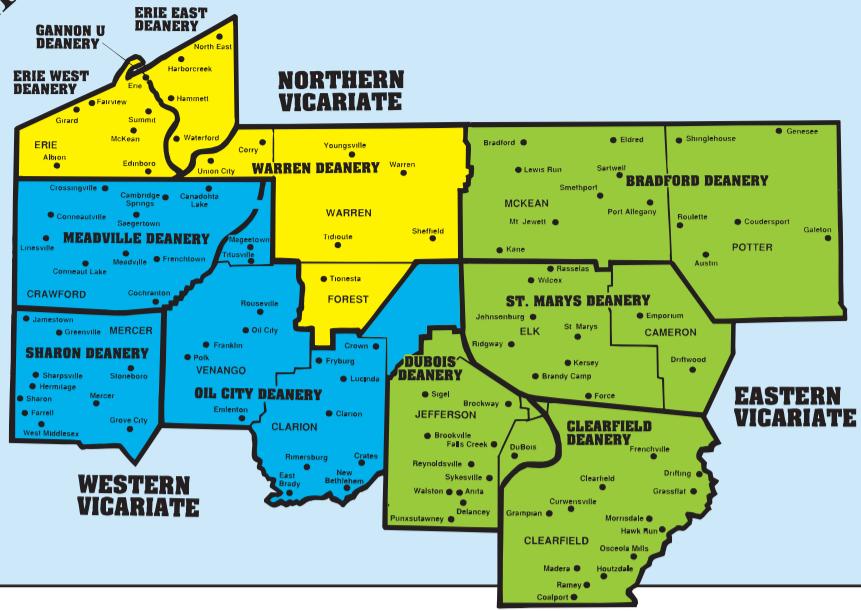
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# AROUND the ERIE DIOCESE



## Holy Family School, Erie

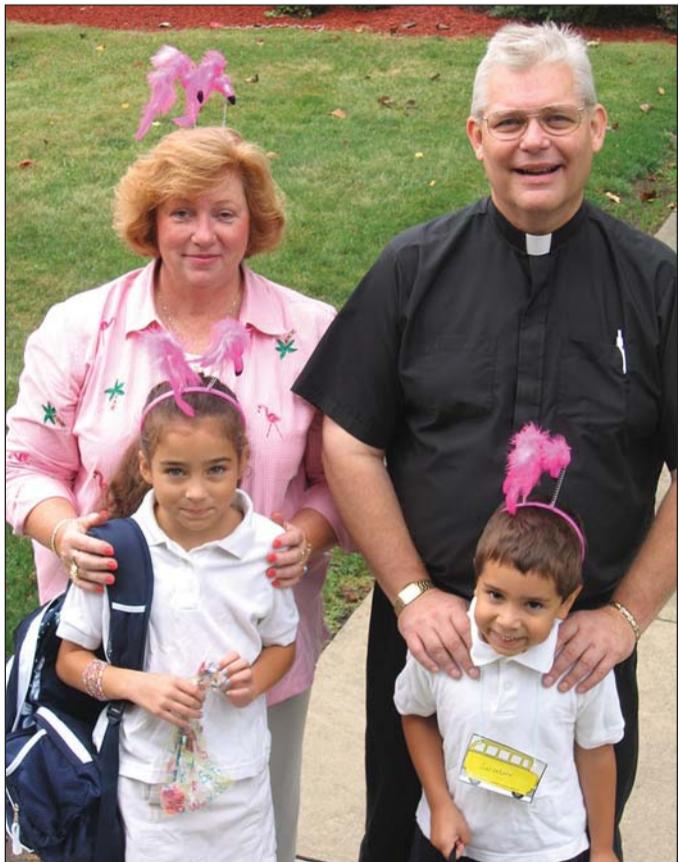


## St. Francis of Assisi Parish holds blessing of pets



CLEARFIELD — St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield held a blessing of pets on Oct. 1 in conjunction with the feast day of its patron saint. The feast of St. Francis is Oct. 4. Msgr. Henry Krebs, Father Joseph Campbell and Deacon Gene Miller were the celebrants of the pet blessing. Parishioners line up with their family pets for a blessing.

## Immaculate Conception School, Clarion



Principal Donna Gaydash and Father Monty Sayers greet students on their first day at Immaculate Conception School.

CLARION — The theme at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion this year is *We're in the Pink*. "It means we're happy and bright and things are going well," Principal Donna Gaydash said. "We also have a new pastor, Father Monty Sayers, so we're tickled with him." As they entered the school on the first day, students were greeted by Gaydash handing out pink flamingo headbands along with bags of flamingo-themed supplies. Plans call for construction on a new school playground to begin shortly with an eye toward completion in spring.

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## Parish correspondents

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

## E-mail your parish news

Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to *FaithLife*.  
**FaithLife@ErieRCD.org**

## St. Joseph Parish, Force, marks 100th anniversary of church



Father Thomas Tyler, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Force, blesses a time capsule during an outdoor prayer service. Top left, Nathan (left) and Jacob Damon (right) ride on a float sponsored by St. Joseph Parish in the annual Bennetts Valley Labor Day Parade Sept. 4. The float honored the church's centennial celebration.

FORCE — St. Joseph Parish in Force celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of its church the weekend of Sept. 15-17. Events began Friday with evening prayer followed by a tureen dinner and entertainment. The Saturday dinner dance was attended by 115 couples.

Adding to the festive atmosphere of the events were collections of items from the church's history displayed throughout the weekend in the social hall. Items displayed included old vestments and liturgical books, prayer books, photos and relics. Approximately 350 people attended the Sunday anniversary Mass with Bishop Donald Trautman,

which was followed by a reception.

The celebration concluded with evening prayer and burial of a time capsule on Sunday. The newly installed church chimes played for the first time during evening prayer. The first-ever parish pictorial directory was also made available.

## St. Francis Grade School celebrates International Peace Day



CLEARFIELD — St. Francis Grade School in Clearfield celebrated International Peace Day on Sept. 21 with each student placing a peace pinwheel at the base of the school's flagpole. With their classmates, students formed the shape of a dove in front of the school.

Joining with countries from around the world, they spent one minute in silence praying for peace and then sang "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

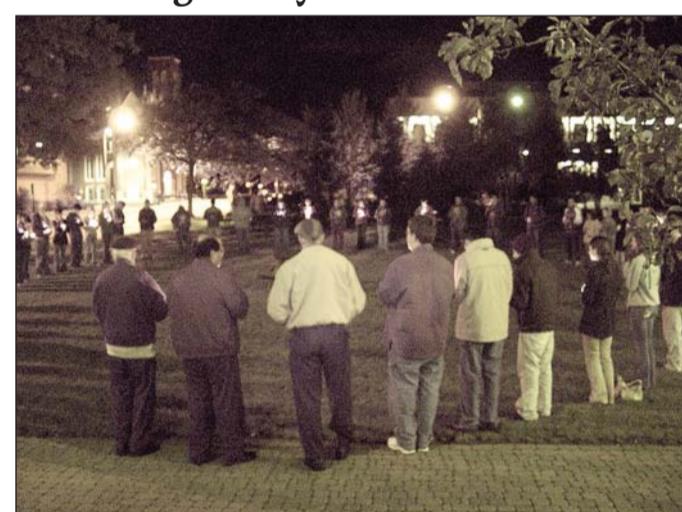
## Gannon students form living rosary



ERIE — Tyler Bandura of Manorville, Pa., left, and David Renne of Punxsutawney, Pa., both sophomores and seminarians attending Gannon University, were among approximately 50 students, priests and sisters who took part in a living rosary sponsored by the university's Students for Life on October 5.

Using e-mails, posters and word-of-mouth, the organization invited people to gather for prayer as a positive way to begin their year-long activities.

The event was organized by Patrick Wiler, a senior at Gannon and



first-year seminarian as well as president of Students for Life. Said Grace Kretschmann, a senior elementary education major from the Zelienople area, "I came out to support the group and what they stand for."

## Villa Maria Girls' Basketball Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, November 5, 2006

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Villa Maria Academy's cafeteria, 2403 West 8th St.

\$6/person, \$5/senior, \$25/family (limit 5)

\*Take Out & Delivery Available\*

\*Theme Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, 50/50\*

\*Tickets at the door\*

Benefits Villa Maria Girls' Basketball Program

For Advance Tickets, call 814-833-8763

Escape Colder Weather And  
Join Your Spiritual Director Fr. Page Polk

## Hawaii Cruise

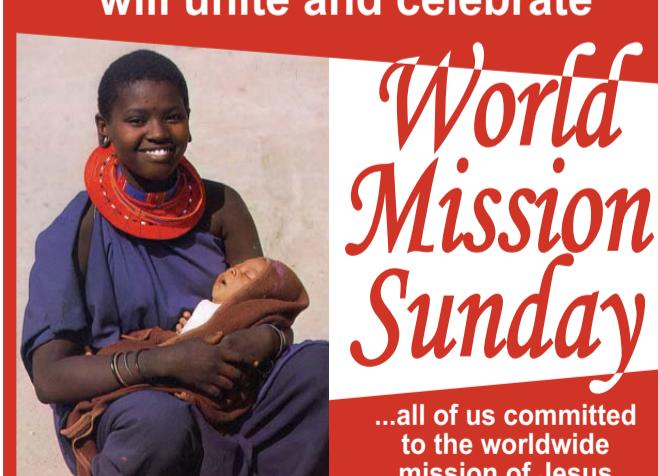
15-Day Vacation Departs March 21, 2007

Escape colder weather back home and travel with other Roman Catholics including you! YMT Chaplain Father Page Polk. Depart March 21, 2007 and be met by "your man" at the Honolulu airport on this 15-day vacation including an 11-day cruise on NCL's *Norwegian Wind* with three hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. In Hawaii visit Kauai, Maui, and on the "Big Island" both Hilo and Kona. As a bonus you'll also spend a day on exotic Fanning Island; see what the South Pacific was like over 100 years ago! Complete prices start from only \$2298 (per person/double occupancy) and includes an aloha flower-lei greeting, airport / hotel / ship transfers, the 11-day cruise, three nights hotels, baggage handling, round trip airfare from Erie, and all taxes. This will be Father Polk's second trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Director of the Chaplain Corp in the Archdiocese of Galveston, Texas. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and most days on ship. \$300 deposits now due. Family & friends welcome. For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Polk's letter call 7 days a week:

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World Mission Sunday is a day for all Catholics  
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### The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Mrs. Pat Marshall, Director  
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telephone: 814-824-1231  
e-mail: pmmarshall@erieRCD.org