

Tajci shares spiritual journey
Eric, Warren concerts well received, page 3.



FaithLife

'Save the Steeple' at St. Charles
New Bethlehem parishioners hold fundraiser, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 17, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Paul of the Cross



St. John of Capistrano

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

Confirmations

St. Mark, Emporium – Sunday, Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Sunday, Oct. 24 at 11 a.m.

Pope canonizes six new saints – Oct. 17

Pope Benedict XVI will canonize six new saints on Sunday, Oct. 17 at the Vatican. They include:

- Blessed Mary MacKillop, who will become Australia's first saint, founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.
- Blessed Andre Bessette, who founded St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal.
- Blessed Camilla Battista Varano, a mystic who had to overcome her father's initial objections in order to enter the convent of the Poor Clares.
- Blessed Stanislaw Soltys, who devoted his life to caring for the poor in his native Krakow.
- Blessed Juana Josefa Cipitria Barriola of Spain founded the Daughters of Jesus.
- Blessed Giulia Salzano, who founded the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to continue her work, which already had expanded to offering religious education to children of all ages, to their mothers and to regular laborers at a time when religious instruction was limited to sacramental preparation or the private education of those who could afford it.

Clergy appointments

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



Msgr. Casimir Bogniak, appointed parochial administrator of St. Raphael Parish, Eldred, and its mission church of St. Mary, Sartwell, and St. Theresa Parish, Shinglehouse. Effective November 8, 2010.

Father Chris Hamlett, appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Fryburg, for a term of six years. Effective November 8, 2010.

Father David Poulson, appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Cambridge Springs, for a term of six years. Effective November 8, 2010.

Appointed for membership on the Clergy Continuing Education and Formation Committee for a term of four years is Father Ross Miceli; Reappointed for terms of four years are Msgr. Richard Siefer as director and Msgr. Andrew Karg, Father Mark O'Hern and Father Michael Kesicki as members; Continuing as members are Deacon Joe Lucia, Father John Malthaner, Father Brian Vossler, Father Tom Whitman and Msgr. Max Karg.

Sisters establish Rural House of Mercy

Based in Reynoldsville, ministry will serve Jefferson County, DuBois Deanery

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

REYNOLDSVILLE – Two Sisters of Mercy are bringing a permanent presence of women religious to Jefferson County.

Sister Margaret Park, RSM, and Sister Trish Tyler, RSM, have established a Rural House of Mercy at the rectory at St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville. It is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy; two other teams of sisters already operate a Catholic Rural Ministry in the Diocese of Erie, which is sponsored by Catholic Charities.

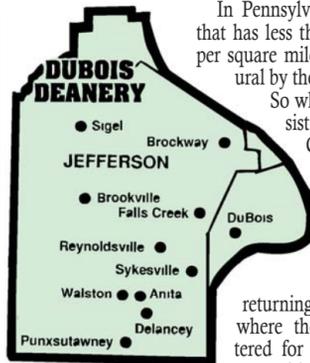
In 1999, Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, and Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB, started the first Catholic Rural Ministry in the diocese in McKean and Potter



Sister Margaret Park, RSM



Sister Trish Tyler, RSM



In Pennsylvania, any area that has less than 274 people per square mile is considered rural by the state.

So what brought the sisters to Jefferson County and the diocese's DuBois Deanery? Simply, the Sisters of Mercy were returning to an area where they had ministered for years—a rural area with a friendly and simple culture.

DuBois Hospital was operated by the Sisters of Mercy since the early 1900s. In 1985, it joined with Maple Avenue Hospital to form DuBois Regional Medical Center in 1985. The last remaining Sister of Mercy working at the

center retired in July. The sisters will meet with hospital officials later this month before we discovered that the other one was feeling this way, that God was leading us to something but we didn't know quite where."

Sisters of Mercy had also staffed many schools in the area and continued to do mission work.

But most recently there were no sisters in Jefferson County. Now there are two.

"Both of us were praying," said Sister Margaret. "We each felt that God was leading us, first individually before we discovered that the other one was feeling this way, that God was leading us to something but we didn't know quite where."

After meeting with their religious community, local priests and diocesan officials,

See RURAL, page 2

Respecting life

Church marks October as Respect Life Month

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife

October traditionally has been designated as Respect Life Month in the church, an annual observance that focuses attention on the sanctity of human life at every stage and the responsibility that Catholics share to protect and defend it.

In a message marking Respect Life Month in October, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities called on U.S. Catholics to join Pope Benedict XVI in a worldwide vigil "for all nascent human life" on the Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston also encouraged Catholics to demonstrate their commitment to life "through a loving concern for the good of others" and to work to ensure that health care reform, in its implementation, "is not misused to promote abortion or to trample on rights of conscience."

"With each passing year, the need for personal and public witness grounded in God's boundless love for each and every human being grows more urgent," he said.

The cardinal cited three particular risks in today's society -- abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and "a renewed campaign for legalizing physician-assisted suicide."

"Instead of addressing (seriously ill) patients' real problems by providing love, support and relief of suffering, this agenda urges us to eliminate the patient as though he or she is the problem," Cardinal DiNardo said. "While critics want to portray the church's witness as a narrow and negative ideology, it is just the opposite: a positive vision of the dignity of each and every human being without exception, each loved equally by God and so equally deserving of our love and our nation's respect."



Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, distributes Communion to students during an all-school pro-life Mass Oct. 6 at DuBois Central Catholic. A sign at DuBois Central Catholic promotes the pro-life message.

He urged every Catholic to become "a voice for

the child in the womb, and for the embryonic human being at risk of becoming a mere object of research, and for the neglected sick and elderly."

"The loss of even one child and the pain experienced..."

See RESPECT LIFE, page 3

Election Day is Nov. 2

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference interviews statewide candidates



As part of an effort to educate citizens about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues.

All four statewide candidates (U.S. senator and Pennsylvania governor) also participated in interviews about their views with PCC staff. The transcripts of the interviews and election resources are available on the PCC Web site and are for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

Visit www.pacatholic.org and click on 2010 General Election Resources under "Featured."

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

Candidates for U.S. Senate



Pat Toomey, Republican



Joe Sestak, Democrat

Candidates for Pennsylvania Governor



Tom Corbett, Republican



Dan Onorato, Democrat

World Mission Sunday

Sharing the Gospel helps build a better world, says Mission Sunday message

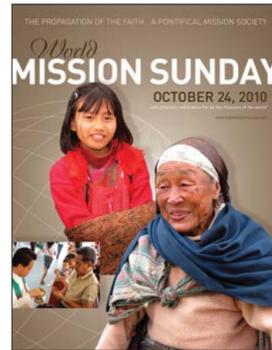
Christians committed to building a world where all people recognize they are brothers and sisters need to share the good news of salvation in Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The fundamental law of human perfection and, consequently, the transformation of the world, is the new commandment of love" taught by Jesus Christ, the pope said in his message for World Mission Sunday 2010.

The annual observance will be marked Oct. 24 at the Vatican and in most countries. In the Diocese of Erie, World Mission Sunday will be observed Oct. 17.

A special collection will aid more than 1,150 young churches in the developing world through the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Bishop Donald Trautman said in a letter to parishioners throughout the diocese.

Through this collection, churches in missionary lands and the pon-



tifical missionary societies fund the training of priests and catechists and the education of children.

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for Catholics of the world to unite at Mass to recommit ourselves to our baptismal vocation to be missionaries, Bishop Traut-

See WORLD MISSION, page 3

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IN THE U.S.

Stem-cell scientists challenged to justify research involving embryos

As more than 1,200 business, academic and government leaders from 25 countries gathered in Detroit for the World Stem Cell Summit, Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit said research that destroys human embryos "deserves our scrutiny and scorn." In an opinion piece published Oct. 3 by the *Detroit Free Press*, the archbishop said embryonic stem-cell research violates the principles on which the United States was founded and Michigan's fetal protection law. The Oct. 4-6 summit, organized by the Genetics Policy Institute, brought together scientists, patients, advocates, business executives, investors, educators, policymakers, government officials and ethicists. Archbishop Vigneron was not a participant in the meeting. In the article headlined "Even in petri dish, life merits protection," Archbishop Vigneron said, "I started out as an embryo. So did you and everyone else who shares this planet with us. And there is great significance to this irrefutable fact beyond the shared experience." The archbishop said research using umbilical-cord blood cells and adult stem cells "is to be saluted and supported" and has resulted in "a growing number of cures and treatments." But he said those doing embryonic stem-cell research would agree "that it is imperative to preserve an embryo because it is a living cell."



Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron

tive committee is holding public hearings on euthanasia. Though many Canadians outside of Quebec were reassured earlier this year by the resounding defeat of a Bloc Quebecois pro-euthanasia and assisted suicide private member's bill, Somerville said pro-euthanasia forces regroup after each defeat, noting pro-euthanasia campaigns are happening worldwide.

Synod opens with call for religious freedom for all in Middle East

In the face of tension and violence, Middle East Christians must work to defend freedom, democracy, peace and the human rights of each and every individual, said leaders of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. "We must emerge from a logic in defense of the rights of Christians only, and engage in the defense of the rights of all," said the introduction to the synod prepared and read by Coptic Patriarch Antonios Naguib of Alexandria, Egypt, the synod's recording secretary, and by Maronite Archbishop Joseph Soueif of Cyprus, synod special secretary. The introductory report introduced the topics for discussion at the synod during its first working session Oct. 11. The synod is not designed to solve political or social problems, the report said. But the report also acknowledged that the everyday life of Catholics in the region obviously is impacted by the political and social realities that can make their lives difficult and that have inspired their works of charity, education and health care for centuries.



Participants pray during the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East.

Book-length interview with pope to be released Nov. 23

"Light of the World," a book-length interview with Pope Benedict XVI will be released Nov.

23 in the world's major languages, including English, the head of the Vatican publishing house said. Addressing journalists Oct. 7 at the Frankfurt Book Fair, Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, the director of the Vatican publishing house, said the text of the book based on interviews conducted in July by the journalist Peter Seewald had already been assigned to 12 publishing houses from around the world. In the United States, the book will be published by Ignatius Press, which also published the two book-length interviews Seewald conducted with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he became pope.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Pope asks young people to learn from beatified Focolarina

Blessed Chiara Badano, an Italian who died of bone cancer just before her 19th birthday, witnessed to the world the fact that God's love is stronger than suffering and death, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Only Love with a capital L gives true happiness," and that's what Blessed Badano showed her family, her friends and her fellow members of the Focolare Movement, the pope said Sept. 26 during his midday Angelus address. At Rome's Shrine of Divine Love Sept. 25, Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, presided over the beatification of the young Italian who died in 1990. Pope Benedict said young people can find in Blessed Badano "an example of Christian consistency," because she was certain of God's love and trusted in that love even as she was dying.



Young people celebrate the beatification of Blessed Chiara Badano, seen in an image at right, during an event at the Vatican Sept. 25.

By the Way...

Starting in Lent 2011, the Diocese of Erie will begin a Catholics Come Home campaign welcoming those who are on a journey into the faith or returning to the Catholic Church. Catholics Come Home is an apostolate that aims to inspire, educate and evangelize inactive Catholics and others and invites them to live a deeper faith.



Jason Koshinski

For more information on Catholics Come Home in our diocese, visit www.ErieRCD.org/cch.asp. You'll be hearing about it in the future weeks and months. It's a great opportunity to step up in the role we all have to share our faith.

Have you thanked your priest lately? Parishioners are invited to join in the celebration of World Priest Day and Priesthood Sunday on Oct. 31. The purpose of the events, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter and Serra Club, respectively, are to affirm our priests and thank them for their ministry.

For ideas on how to celebrate, visit www.wpd.wmme.org and www.priestsunday.org.

Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese, will be honored by Bishop Donald Trautman, family members, friends and colleagues during a Mass on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 4 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The Mass will mark the occasion of Msgr. Smith's 40th anniversary of ordination and 35th anniversary of service in the Chancery Office. In his 35 years with the Chancery, Msgr. Smith has worked directly under Bishop Alfred Watson, Bishop Michael Murphy and Bishop Trautman.

"Vatican Splendors: A Journey Through Faith and Art," one of the largest collections of Vatican art and historical items ever shown in the United States, arrived at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh Oct. 2 and will run through early January.

The exhibit of about 200 rare paintings, frescoes and artifacts covers 10,000 square feet and illustrates 2,000 years of history and culture. Andy Masich, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh history center, said that, as the Smithsonian Institution's home in Pittsburgh, the facility "is honored to bring this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition to western Pennsylvania. Visitors will experience one of the world's greatest collections, including some pieces that have never been seen outside of the Vatican walls," he said.

The exhibit also features artifacts and historical documents from local diocesan history in Pittsburgh.

For information on the exhibit or tickets, visit www.vatican Splendors.com and www.heinzhistorycenter.org. Group discounts are available.

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

AROUND THE WORLD

Ethicist: Pro-euthanasia forces see Quebec as way into North America

International campaigners see Quebec as a vulnerable beachhead for legalizing euthanasia in Canada, then the rest of North America, said a prominent Canadian ethicist. Margaret Somerville, founding director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at Montreal's McGill University, said she and others are keeping an eye on Quebec, where a legisla-

Rural House of Mercy will serve Jefferson County, DuBois Deanery

RURAL, from page 1

Sister Margaret said they tried to discern where God was leading them.

"Where everyone kind of came together was, 'Go to Jefferson County because there is need there,'" she said.

The sisters set up shop at the Reynoldsville rectory in late August. Father Richard Allen, pastor of St. Mary in Reynoldsville and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Sykesville, resides in Sykesville, and St. Mary only uses a portion of the rectory for office space.

The first step in establishing their ministry has involved shaking hands and using their ears.

"It's a ministry of presence, so we're doing a lot of listening," Sister Margaret said. "We've been out trying to meet people whenever we can."

In going to meetings and parish events, visiting the Jefferson County commissioners or just saying hello to folks on the street, they're already getting a feel of what the needs might be.

"We're making connections with a lot of different people," Sister Trish said. "Every day there are just more and more possibilities that keep coming up."

While getting familiar with the area and discerning their ministry, the sisters have an idea of how they'd like to be present to people. They said they expect to work with the rural pastors and visit religious education programs, minister to the elderly through nursing homes, visit the homebound, hospice work and simply pray with people.

"We want to be careful not to duplicate services that are already here but complement

"It's a ministry of presence, so we're doing a lot of listening."

— Sister Margaret Park,
Rural House of Mercy

them," Sister Margaret said.

They have already helped with the beginning of a community garden project in Brookville and want to connect with sustainable farmers in the area. The sisters also hope to start a small sustainable garden in their backyard.

"I've done some work in sustainability in our community, which is one of the reasons I'm interested in connecting with it in this new ministry," Sister Margaret said. "It really is one of the works of mercy—feed the hungry. When you're talking about sustainable

living, it's very much has to do with feeding people and keeping the water that they drink pure."

Sister Trish, who has served her religious community as a member of the vocation team, said she's looking forward to being a presence of the Mercy sisters in the community.

"When we look at our history, so many of our sisters came from this area," she said. "That's exciting to me to be able to show people who and what a sister is."

They said the people they've met have been very welcoming.

Rural House of Mercy
St. Mary Parish rectory
607 E. Main St.,
Reynoldsville, Pa. 15851
E-mail: ruralhouseofmercy@yahoo.com

are looking forward to working with Sister Margaret and Sister Trish. I already met the sisters at one of our Saturday evening liturgies at Ss. Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney, and their enthusiasm and excitement about the task ahead is very evident in their faces. I'm sure the people of Jefferson County will welcome the opportunity to work with them."

Mary Maxwell, director of Catholic Charities, said the sisters involved in rural ministry are very connected to the parishes and deaneries they cover.

"They're very much a part of the communities in which they serve. Their role is a very pastoral one. The need is out there. The people love their sisters. These women have a very personalized way of going about and addressing the needs of the people."

"Rural ministry has been a part of the diocese for a long time now and the addition of two sisters to Jefferson County is a welcomed apostolate," said Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, pastor of Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney and its mission churches of St. Joseph in Anita, St. Adrian in Delancy and St. Anthony of Padua in Walston. He is also dean of the DuBois Deanery.

"All the priests of the deanery

FaithLife

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Briefly

Novena to St. Jude

ERIE — St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie will hold a novena to St. Jude Oct. 20-28.

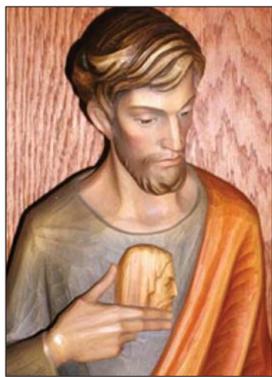
The opening prayer service begins on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. with evening prayer, Benediction, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and silent prayer.

Morning Adoration will be held in the chapel after 8 a.m. Mass and conclude with midday prayer at noon on Oct. 21-23 and 25-27 (Thursday through Friday and Monday through Wednesday).

A basket for prayer intentions will be available weekdays in the chapel and on weekend in the church.

The feast of St. Jude is Thursday, Oct. 28. The Our Lady's Christian School Mass is at 9:15 a.m. and the novena closing Mass is at 7 p.m.

St. Jude is located at 2801 W. Sixth St. in Erie.



St. Jude

Regional ministry day in Hermitage

HERMITAGE — All are welcome to attend "Through Him the Body Grows," a regional ministry conference sponsored by the parishes of Notre Dame in Hermitage and St. Joseph in Sharon.

The conference will be held Saturday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Notre Dame Church and School campus. After starting with 9 a.m. Mass, keynote speaker Father Ted Marconi, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, will kick off the faith renewal day with his talk, "Enthusiasm in Ministry: Being Renewed to do the Work of the Church."

The remainder of the morning will offer two half-hour breakout sessions featuring presenters from throughout the Diocese of Erie. Interested in hearing about Scripture? Music in liturgy? Upcoming changes to the Roman Missal? Prayer? Saints? Chose a session with 11 knowledgeable speakers including: Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, Diocese of Erie Director of Community Formation; Sister Charlotte Zalot, OSB; Sister Dorothy Stoner, OSB; Father Steve Schreiber, the Diocese of Erie Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Father Jason Glover; and Father Glenn Whitman, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Sharon.

To receive a brochure or to register, call the Notre Dame Church office at 724.981.5566. Registration may be limited. The registration fee is \$10 with an optional lunch for \$2. For further information or questions, contact Kathy Higgins at 724.704.7654.

Reflection Day for Women in Smethport

SMETHPORT — The sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry will sponsor a Reflection Day for Women on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 307 Franklin St. in Smethport.

The theme for the reflection day will be "Waiting as Fulfillment: Reflections on the Liturgical Season of Advent." The day will include presentations, conversation, reflection and prayer.

Reservations are due Wednesday, Nov. 3. An offering of \$15 includes lunch and the book, "The Liturgical Year."

For more information and registration, call Margaret French at 814.945.6245 or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814.544.8017 or e-mail crm@zitomedia.net.

Mercy Center of the Arts celebrates 40th anniversary

ERIE — Celebrate the Mercy Center of the Arts' 40th anniversary with "A Night of the Arts" on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 7-10 p.m. at the Ambassador Conference and Banquet Center in Erie.

The evening serves as a major fundraiser for the center and offers music and ballet performances, both a live and silent auction of original artwork including a painting by Sister Joachim, jewelry donated by Dahlkemper Jewelry Connection and other gift items.

Tickets are on sale at \$50 each and can be reserved by calling 814.824.2915 through Oct. 22.

St. Cecilia Sing at Our Lady of Peace

ERIE — All Erie area liturgical musicians are invited to participate in the 2010 St. Cecilia Sing on Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

Please RSVP to Brian at brian.kuzmin@olp.org by Oct. 15. Music groups are welcome to prepare two presentation pieces to share with their fellow musicians.

This event is sponsored by the Erie Deanery Music Group.

Church marks October as Respect Life Month

RESPECT LIFE, from page 1

rienced by the child's mother and father in the aftermath of abortion should impel us to redouble our efforts to end legal abortion, and to ensure that every pregnant woman has whatever help she needs to turn away from this heartbreaking choice," he said.

Parishes, schools and religious education programs throughout the Diocese of Erie have developed their own programs and ways to observe Respect Life month.

Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education, celebrated an all-school pro-life Mass on Oct. 6 at DuBois Area Catholic School.

"We're taking time out to pray, celebrate Mass together and in a special way to unite our intentions around the pro-life message of our faith and of our church," Father Rouch said in his homily.

He said the Mass was an opportunity for the school community to reaffirm its belief in the goodness and sacredness of all

human life.

"But it's also to give us a charge to renew our opposition—respectful but persistent opposition—to any threats out in our world against life," he said. "Some people, unfortunately, think that when human life becomes unproductive or inconvenient, it can be set aside, and it loses its dignity."

As Catholic Christians, he said, we don't believe that and Christ has taught us otherwise.

"We're here to remind each other, to announce to the world and to pray to almighty God for the unborn child, for the severely handicapped, the very sick, the infirm and elderly—all of them deserve to be respected in appropriate ways."

Confirmation students from St. Mark Parish in Emporium participated in Cameron County's annual Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3.

The Life Chain is a national and Canadian ecumenical prayer service through which people bring attention to recognizing the dignity of all human life.



Confirmation students from St. Mark Parish in Emporium pray and hold signs during Cameron County's Life Chain event Oct. 3.

Annually, on the first Sunday in October, Life Chain invites the churches in each city and town across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for 90 minutes, while holding a pro-life sign message.

In 2009, more than 1,450 cities and towns held Life Chains in

more than 1,700 locations.

Bishop Donald Trautman will be the main celebrant of a Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for Respect Life Month, Saturday, Oct. 30 at 5 p.m.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

Tajci shares spiritual journey at Erie, Warren concerts

By Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife

Fans both old and new filled St. George Church in Erie and Holy Redeemer Church in Warren when Tatjana Cameron, known as Tajci (TY-chee), appeared earlier this month to perform her "I Do Believe" and "Let it Be: Mary's Story" concerts in the Diocese of Erie. They were not disappointed.

A pop sensation in her native Yugoslavia, Tajci now weaves her songs in and out of stories about her life and spiritual journey. She is by turns dramatic, serious and humorous, using a very down-to-earth, authentic style.

After the opening hymns at the St. George concert, she recounted the story of winning an American-Idol-like contest in Eastern Europe, telling the crowd that the song she sang was very deep.

"The words were, 'Let's go crazy, your lips are like choco-

late and I like that!'" she said, lightening the mood. When she won the contest, Tajci had already begun to experience God in her life. She believes she won, in part, because people could see a deep love radiating from within.

After two years at the pinnacle of pop in central Europe, Tajci gave away her fortune and moved to the United States to study musical theatre in anonymity. A struggling actress, she ended up living in the guest house of a Carmelite convent, literally singing for her rent; but it was there she met her husband, Matthew. Together, they discerned a new direction and while they raise their three young boys, Tajci is traveling the country, performing in churches and getting by on the free will of-



Tajci performed concerts at St. George in Erie and Holy Redeemer in Warren Oct. 3 and 4, respectively.

ferings she receives.

"I'm a performing artist but I don't feel I can just take a gig," she said in an interview after her concert in Erie. "It has to make sense in my life, and this has been a beautiful time, just perfect! As a mother, these performances even

give me a time for meditation."

Tajci expects to expand into more secular venues at a later point in her life, but for now she is in no hurry.

"I feel so fulfilled," she said. "I enjoy the deep connection with my audiences, it's a tremendous experience. The loneliness I knew is gone. Now I look at my children and I know my role is to inspire them to work hard and to empower them to believe that with God everything is possible."

Tajci was invited to the Diocese of Erie by local members of Worldwide Marriage Encounter under the direction of Jim and Betty Dalessandro and John and Mary Beth Zdarko, who were deeply moved by her performance at the organization's national conference in Atlantic City in June.

For more information on Tajci, visit www.idobelieve.com.

Sharing the Gospel helps build a better world, says message

WORLD MISSION, from page 1

man said.

"It celebrates our unity as a human family and provides an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of local priests, religious and lay catechists among the suffering and poor of the missions," he said.

In his message for the day, the pope focused on how faith in Christ must lead Christians to build strong faith communities, which become signs for the world

that it is possible for people of different races and cultures to live and thrive together.

The fact that World Mission Sunday is held in October, the month the church dedicates to the rosary, is a further reminder of God's love for the world, a love that took flesh because Mary said yes to God's plan, the pope wrote.

To be missionaries today and respond to people's need for hope and their desire to live in a new way means "to become champions of the newness of life made

up of authentic relationships in communities founded on the Gospel," he said.

The world needs God's love, which people encounter in Christ, he said.

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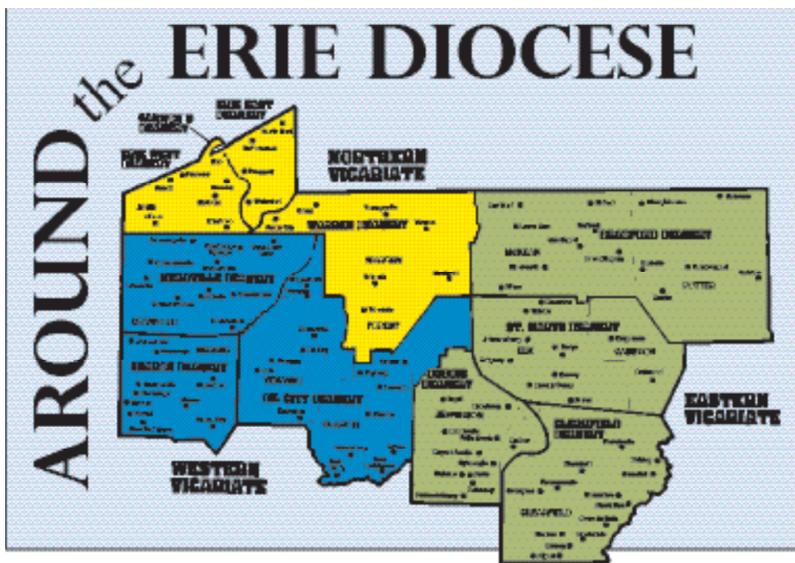


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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy **photo tips** on a wallet-size card.



'Save the Steeple' at St. Charles

NEW BETHLEHEM – St. Charles Parish in New Bethlehem is in the process of restoring the church steeple. With a cost of more than \$140,000, fund raisers have been extremely important to accomplishing the goal.

After a successful New Year's Eve party, plans were made for a "Save the Steeple" pig roast, which was held Aug. 28. The event raised \$12,000 toward the steeple restoration.

"We were absolutely floored with what we raised," said Linda Clinger, a St. Charles parishioner who is chairing this year's steeple committee along with her husband, Michael. "The weather cooperated and we just had an amazing day."

Many parishioners volunteered their time, talents and funds to help make the event a success. Among the food, entertainment and game offerings were several side raffles in addition to the monetary prizes. The horseshoe tournament, in memory of parishioner Gerald Brocius, presented trophies to the first-, second- and third-place winners. Local businesses donated prizes for the Chinese



Work on restoring the steeple of St. Charles Church in New Bethlehem has already begun.

auction and sponsored T-shirts. Tickets were donated in memory of parishioner Rose Daugherty from her family. Coupled with the funds from the New Year's Eve party, parishioners have already raised

\$20,000.

Plans are currently underway for New Year's Eve and the second annual pig roast.

Facebook users can follow the steeple renovations by searching "Save the Steeple."

Team building at St. Francis School

CLEARFIELD – Middle school students at St. Francis School in Clearfield began the school year with a number of team-building activities. Students were divided into groups, and each group prepared a poster, developed a group name and made up a cheer.

Pictured are Cheer Group members Shaina McBride, Maggie Sopic, Jake Hollenbaugh, Haylee Stuckey, Abby Guarino and Lee Smith participating in a water balloon toss.



American Honey Queen visits St. Peter Cathedral School

ERIE – Lisa Schluttenhofer, the 2010 American Honey Queen, recently visited the second and fourth graders at St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie.

She spoke to the students about how honeybee pollination creates the building blocks of food supply. She also shared information about the many uses for helpful and wholesome honey.

Schluttenhofer is a junior at Purdue University majoring in agricultural communication.



Pig roast volunteers wore "I Helped Save the Steeple" T-shirts at their event this summer.

16th annual rosary march makes way through Erie

ERIE – The 16th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's World Apostolate of Fatima, made its way through the streets of downtown Erie on Oct. 10.

Beginning at St. Peter Cathedral, marchers processed with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, banners with the Fatima message and a large wooden rosary carried by several children.

"We want our rosary march to draw attention to Our Lady of Fatima's message to pray the rosary," said John Walsh with the diocese World Apostolate chapter.

The procession extended through the downtown area before returning to the cathedral for the praying of the Divine Mercy chaplet and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The guest homilist was Father Raymond Gramata, pastor of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville.



The march concluded with enthrone-ment of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At left, Sanibel Stravinsky, 9, dressed as Lucia, one of the shepherd children of Fatima, for this year's rosary march.

Msgr. Robert Malene, pastor of Good Shepherd, presented Miller with a plaque dedicating the parish's Faith Formation Center youth room in her name in honor of her years of service to the stu-

Good Shepherd religious education coordinator retires after 33 years

WEST MIDDLESEX – After working more than 33 years in the religious education program at Church of the Good Shepherd in West Middlesex, Judy Miller has retired. The parish held a reception for her on Aug. 28.

Miller taught for 17 years and served as the religious education coordinator for 16 years.

Joe Streett, director of religious education for the Diocese of Erie, thanked Miller for her years of service and presented her with a certificate from Bishop Donald Trautman.

Msgr. Robert Malene, pastor of Good Shepherd, presented Miller with a plaque dedicating the parish's Faith Formation Center youth room in her name in honor of her years of service to the stu-



Pictured from left to right are: Joe Streett; Karen Streett, the diocese's director of media re-

sources; Rose DeMarco, the new religious education facilitator at Good Shepherd; Judy Miller; and Msgr. Robert Malene.

Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival Sunday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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