

Supporting fair trade

Artisan Market Fair at St. Basil the Great in Coalport, page 3.



FaithLife

The House That Faith Built

Erie area churches partner with Habitat for Humanity, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 18, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Paul of the Cross

St. Anthony Mary Claret

- Oct. 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch
- Oct. 18 World Mission Sunday
- Oct. 19 St. John de Brebeuf, St. Isaac Jogues & companions
- Oct. 20 St. Paul of the Cross
- Oct. 23 St. John of Capistrano
- Oct. 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret
- Oct. 28 St. Simon & St. Jude
- Nov. 1 All Saints Day

Confirmations

St. Mark, Emporium – Saturday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Sunday, Oct. 25 at 11 a.m.

World Mission Sunday – Oct. 18

Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics to give generously this year to the church's missionary agencies, saying that young church communities need the funding at a time of economic crisis. The pope made the comments in his message for World Mission Sunday, observed Oct. 18.

The pope said missionary zeal has always been a sign of church vitality. He asked all Catholics to pray for an increase in missionary passion and to support missionaries who work on the front lines of evangelization, often under hostile conditions. "I mention especially the local churches and the men and women missionaries who bear witness to and spread the kingdom of God in situations of persecution, subjected to forms of oppression ranging from social discrimination to prison, torture and death," he said.

The complete text of the pope's message is available online at www.vatican.va.



All Souls Day Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery – Nov. 2

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass on Monday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. at Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel, 5711 W. Lake Road in Erie for the commemoration of All Souls Day.



Clergy appointments

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

Father William Sutherland, appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, for a term of six years. Effective October 26, 2009.



Illuminating the Word of God

Saint John's Bible exhibit coming to Mount St. Benedict

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Bible is the most reproduced book in the world. There's a copy in every hotel room nightstand.

The Saint John's Bible, however, is one of a kind. Rather than just printed text, it unfurls the Scriptures by reaching out to the senses through calligraphy and artwork.

From Oct. 25 through Nov. 25, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and Mount St. Benedict will host an exhibit of the Saint John's Bible and its pages along with a number of guest speakers who will focus on the Bible and art.

In 1998, the Benedictine

monks of St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., initiated the project. They commissioned master calligrapher Donald Jackson, senior scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Crown Office, to lead a team of calligraphers and artists from all over the world.

The Saint John's Bible is being called the Sistine Chapel of calligraphy. It is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible penned with ancient methods since the invention of the printing press, according to its creators.

The finished Bible will contain some 160 illuminations woven into text covering 1,100 pages of calksin vellum sheets. The huge manuscripts will be bound into seven volumes that measure two feet tall and, when open, three feet wide.

When the project is completed, there will be one original Saint John's Bible, made up of seven volumes: Gospels and Acts, Psalms, Pentateuch, Historical Books, Prophets, Wisdom Literature and Letters and Revelation. Six of the

volumes are now complete. Once finished, the original manuscript will reside at a special museum on the St. John's University campus.

The exhibit at Mount St. Benedict will feature a set of 25 giclee prints. Each panel depicts a story from either the Old Testament or New Testament.

Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, said having the Saint John's Bible exhibit displayed in the religious community's home is a natural fit.

"There is a great tradition between monasticism and art, and I think St. John's was working off of that tradition," Sister Christine said. "We wanted to make our monastery here a place of reflection for prayer, beauty and art, and this was an opportunity for that."

The exhibit opens Sunday, Oct. 25 with monastic vespers at 3 p.m. followed by a 3:30 p.m. lecture by Sister Mary Irene Nowell, OSB, titled "Visio Divina." Sister Mary Irene, from Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kan., has personal experience on the Saint John's project. She serves on the committee on illuminations and text.



Seven vertical slices represent the days of creation in a work of art by artistic director and master calligrapher Donald Jackson for The Saint John's Bible. An exhibit of 25 prints will be on display at Mount St. Benedict in Erie Oct. 25-Nov. 25.

The committee interpreted the texts chosen for illumination and sent local, national and worldwide associations to Jackson and his team. For example, many plants and greenery depicted are from the Minnesota area. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11,

2001 and the fall of the World Trade Center towers in New York are referenced. Other modern themes are woven into the illuminations, which are then sent back to the committee for approval. Once approved, they are put on vellum.

"My area of expertise is the Old Testament; art is not my area," Sister Mary Irene said. "But for me to explain

See BIBLE EXHIBIT, page 3

St. Martin Center celebrates 40 years of lending a helping hand

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife

There's a story about the late Msgr. Vincent Enright that tells you all you need to know about St. Martin Center.

One day a man came to St. Martin Center in need of a pair of shoes. Msgr. Enright went in search of a pair, but none could be found. He came back a few minutes later and handed the man a pair. Only after the man had left did people notice that the priest was now barefoot.

The social service agency, located at 1701 Parade St. in Erie, is celebrating its 40th anniversary—40 years of new beginnings and showing people that they can have a better life.

St. Martin Center was established in 1952 by Msgr. Enright. It was incorporated in 1969 as a non-profit social service organization that assists individuals and families with both emergency and long-term services. The center is an affiliate agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie and is partially funded by Catholic Charities



St. Martin Center, located at 1701 Parade St. in Erie, serves more than 21,000 families and individuals each year with an array of emergency and long-term social services. It is an affiliate of Catholic Charities.

and the United Way of Erie County. The center is named after St. Martin de Porres, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor. He fed them, provided them with money, estab-

lished orphanages and took on the most menial tasks.

Today, St. Martin Center serves more than 21,000 families and individuals each year with food, clothing, household items, housing programs, emergency financial assistance and more. The center and its 51 full-time employees operate by the motto of guiding people toward a path of self-reliance.

"I think that St. Martin Center is a Godsend for thousands of individuals for whom I've had the privilege of seeing receive assistance," said Cheryl Kobel, who serves as St. Martin Center's executive director. She'll begin her 30th year at the center in February. "It's the last in a line of a series of referrals for individuals. When they come to us, generally speaking, no one has been able to help them. It's hard for them."

She said she's proud of her staff for treating everyone they encounter with the respect they deserve and, in working with them, help clients

See ST. MARTIN CENTER, page 2

St. Martin Center timeline

1952	1968	1969	1975	1988	1990	1998	2002
Property is acquired for a community center and recreation area overseen by Father Vincent Enright	Father Enright starts a social service program directed by Sister Benita Repasky, SSJ	St. Martin Center becomes incorporated	St. Martin Center acquires the three-story building on the South East corner of 17th and Parade streets in Erie	The Shining Star Program provides Christmas gifts to approximately 500 children. In 2008, the program provided gifts for 1,800 children.	The first Super Cupboard class is taught. It teaches lower income families how to cook healthy, inexpensive meals.	The housing department offers pre- and post-purchase counseling, predatory lending and fair housing information and more	Day care moves into a state of the art facility at the newly named Lovell Place. It provides for up to 123 children

Bishops see mixed results on health care reform in Senate committee

From staff and wire reports

Sounding many of the same themes, bishops around the country are urging Catholics to contact their local legislators about the need for health care reform and the importance of keeping abortion out of any final plan.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is stressing the need for a health care system that is accessible and affordable for all; that covers everyone from conception to natural death; that does not erode current federal policy against funding abortions; that preserves freedom of conscience for providers and institutions; and that controls costs and applies them equitably among payers.

"Catholics have been a leading proponent of health care reform for many years in America," Most Rev. Donald Trautman, Bishop of Erie, said. "If a final health care reform bill does not have respect for life at all stages of development, respect for the consciences of health care providers and does not have afford-



ability and inclusion of legal immigrants, the bishops will have to oppose it. Therefore we pray that critical shortcomings in the current proposals will be remedied."

In the latest developments as of press time, the Senate Finance Committee made some progress toward

See HEALTH CARE, page 2

Catholics urged to unite voice

The U.S. bishops are urging Catholics to contact their local legislators, asking them to support three main principals regarding health care reform:

- Support health care reform that covers all people and protects the life, dignity and health of all
- Support a fair and just health care reform bill that excludes mandated coverage for abortion and upholds longstanding laws that restrict abortion funding and protect conscience rights
- Support effective measures to safeguard the health of legal immigrants, their children and all of society

Legislators serving the people of the Diocese of Erie:

To e-mail legislators directly, visit their Web sites below and click on the contact links.

U.S. Senate

Robert P. Casey
303 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202.224.6324
Toll free: 866.802.2833
Fax: 202.228.0604
www.casey.senate.gov

Arlen Specter
714 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202.224.4254
www.specter.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

Kathy Dahlkemper (3rd District)
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202.225.5406
Fax: 202.225.3103
www.dahlkemper.house.gov

Jason Altmire (4th District)
332 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202.225.2666
Fax: 202.226.2274
www.altmire.house.gov

Glenn Thompson (5th District)
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202.225.5125
www.thompson.house.gov



IN THE U.S.

National leaders of the Catholic Church and Lutheran World Federation gathered in Chicago Oct. 1 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. It was an evening to honor a historic moment and took place in a historic church, Old St. Patrick Church, the oldest church and oldest public building in the city. Chicago Cardinal Francis George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, co-attended at the vespers service with Bishop Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The USCCB and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America co-sponsored the event. The declaration said the Catholic and Lutheran churches' consensus on basic truths means that the doctrine of justification — how people are made just in the eyes of God and saved by Jesus Christ — is not a church-dividing issue for Catholics and Lutherans even though differences between them remain in language, theological elaboration and emphasis surrounding those basic truths. The World Methodist Council affirmed the declaration in 2006.

AROUND THE WORLD

Spain's Catholic bishops are urging church members to protest abortion legislation that would allow girls as young as 16 to terminate pregnancies without parental consent. "This law is a step backward, as far as defending the right to life of those who are to be born is concerned. It means a greater abandonment of pregnant mothers and irreparable damage to the common good," the bishops' Permanent Commission said in an Oct. 1 statement. "The lay faithful are rightly responding to the challenge posed, with great moral and social transcendence, by using their right to a peaceful demonstration in order to express their opposition," the bishops said. The statement was issued amid preparations for a massive protest Oct. 15 in Madrid against the planned liberalizing of abortion laws, the changes were initiated by Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. The bishops' statement said they considered the rally, which organizers hope will attract more than 1 million people, "justified and appropriate."

Welcoming the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI outlined wide areas of potential cooperation with the administration of President Barack Obama, but drew a sharp line on the issues of abortion and the rights of conscience. The pope called for "a clear discernment with regard to issues touching the protection of human dignity and respect for the inalienable right to life from the moment of conception to natural death, as well as the protection of the right to conscientious objection on the part of health care workers, and indeed all citizens." He made the remarks at a ceremony Oct. 2 to accept the credentials of Miguel Diaz, named in May by Obama as the ninth U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. The pope's comments on the right to life touched on a current debate in the United States over provisions of health care reform and how they would affect abortion policies.



Pope Benedict XVI receives the credentials of the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Diaz.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

A German Catholic brother who once told his conferees not to go see Adolf Hitler has been moved one step closer to sainthood. Brother Eustachius Kugler, a member of the Brothers of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, was beatified Oct. 4 at a Mass in Regensburg. In the late 1920s, Brother Eustachius was responsible for the construction of a large hospital for the Hospitaller order. The hospital was situated among large factories that produced war planes. During Allied bombings of Regensburg in World War II, Brother Eustachius did not go to air raid shelters, but remained in the hospital chapel, praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The hospital was not hit by bombs. In 1938, when Hitler visited Regensburg, Brother Eustachius told his brothers not to go see the "Führer," or leader. Referring to the Blessed Sacrament, he said, "Our Führer is in the tabernacle."



Brother Eustachius Kugler

Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in early June next year. During the trip, the pope will deliver to church leaders from the Middle East a summary of topics to be discussed at the October 2010 special Synod of Bishops on the Middle East. The pope is expected to be in Cyprus June 4-6, stay in the capital, Nicosia, and make a brief visit to Paphos where St. Paul preached. Pope Benedict will be the first pope in modern times to visit the Mediterranean island. The trip is the third papal foreign visit announced for 2010. Pope Benedict will travel to Malta in April and plans to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in May where he will preside over ceremonies May 13, the date of the first apparition of Mary to three shepherd children in 1917. He is also expected to visit Great Britain, perhaps in the fall.



Jason Koshinski

The Saint John's Bible exhibit Oct. 25 through Nov. 25 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie should be a popular draw. Groups already scheduled for educational programs or special tours include oblates of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, St. Benedict Academy alumnae, Serra Club of Erie, Erie Deaneys musicians, students from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, permanent deacons and their spouses, residents of Benetwood Apartments, Brevelier Village and East Lake Woods St. Joseph Parish in Oil City, St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Hamburg, N.Y., school principals and teachers from the Erie Diocese and the three Catholic parishes in Meadville.

The art exhibit seems like a natural fit for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress, said some of the religious community's initiatives such as the Neighborhood Art House in inner-city Erie show that beauty should be a part of the core of life and not just an add-on or luxury. "The community is ready to share our love of art and our seeking of beauty with the public," she said. "It's one of our ways of giving back to people who have been very generous to us."

The Stingers of Marion Center won the 24th annual Father Gregory Leopold 8th grade girls' basketball tournament, which was held Oct. 9-10.

DuBois Central Catholic hosts the tournament each fall in memory of the late Father Gregory Leopold, a teacher and avid supporter of student athletics at DuBois Central prior to his death in an automobile accident in 1984.

Other teams in the tournament included the host Lady Cardinals of DuBois Central Catholic, St. Francis of Clearfield, St. Stephen of Oil City, the Rams of Johnstown, the Lady Tide of Curwensville, the Lady Knights of Franklin and the Little Indians of Indiana.

The tournament is organized and sponsored by the Cardinal Athletic Association, with the support of the DuBois Catholic Middle School 8th grade parents. Chairing this year's tournament was Karen Schaffer.

In This Year for Priests as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring World Priest Day on Sunday, Oct. 25, which coincides with the Serra Club's Priesthood Sunday. The mission and purpose of the day is to celebrate and affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the church via the sacrament of holy orders. It is an opportunity for Catholic parishioners to thank, affirm and share their love and support for priests.

Visit wpd.wvme.org and www.priestsunday.org on the Web for ideas to celebrate this unique occasion. Tell your parish priest how much you care about him!

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

Bishops see mixed results on health care reform in Senate committee

HEALTH CARE, from page 1

a more affordable health care reform plan but failed to address concerns about abortion, conscience rights and the health of immigrants, officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said after the committee finished its work on its proposal Oct. 2.

The committee rejected amendments that would have written into the bill the longstanding ban on federal subsidies for benefits packages that cover abortions, with rare exceptions, and would have forbidden federal agencies and state and local governments receiving federal funds under the bill, to discriminate against health care providers that decline to perform, refer for or pay for abortions.

"The bill remains deeply flawed on these issues and must be corrected," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. "These problems must be corrected on the House and Senate floor."

In a Sept. 30 letter, bishops representing three USCCB com-

mittees called on senators to insist that any final health reform bill exclude mandated coverage of abortion, protect conscience rights, safeguard the health of immigrants and protect "the life, dignity and health of all." They also said affordability should be a major consideration, so that health reform would be "truly universal and genuinely affordable."

In their letter, the bishops said none of the health reform proposals considered in committee, including the Baucus bill, has "met President (Barack) Obama's challenge of barring use of federal dollars for abortion and maintaining current conscience laws."

"These deficiencies must be corrected," they added.

In his Sept. 9 address to a joint session of Congress on health care reform, Obama said, "Under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place."

On immigrants, the bishops' letter suggested several "effective ways to safeguard the health of

immigrants, their children and all of society," including:

- An adequate safety net for those who remain uncovered.
- Elimination of the five-year waiting period before legal immigrants can enroll in Medicaid.
- An end to barriers, such as waiting periods to obtain subsidies, when immigrants seek to obtain private health insurance.
- Health coverage of pregnant women giving birth to U.S. citizen children, no matter what the women's legal status.

On the issue of affordability, the USCCB letter said the debate over health care reforms "must begin with the principle that decent health care is not a privilege, but a right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person."

Health coverage should not be dependent on an individual's "stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live or where they were born," the bishops said.

But for lower-income families,

"significant premiums and cost-sharing charges can serve as barriers to obtaining coverage or seeing a doctor," they added.

The Baucus bill received specific criticism on affordability from the bishops, who said it could require families living just above the federal poverty line to pay up to 25 percent of their income for out-of-pocket health care costs.

In their letter, the bishops reminded senators that "health care choices are not just political, technical or economic, but also moral."

"This legislation is about life and death, who can take their children to the doctor and who cannot, who can afford decent health care coverage and who are left to fend for themselves," they added. "Health care reform especially needs to protect those at the beginning of life and at its end, the most vulnerable and the voiceless."

For more information on the U.S. bishops and health care reform, visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

St. Martin Center celebrates 40 years

ST. MARTIN CENTER, from page 1

become part of the process of their own solution.

"We have really progressed to not just reacting to a problem presented but being proactive in helping educate and alleviate the reason people need to come for help," Kobel said.

Usually the ideas for new programs come from the request of someone in the community. The center's Super Cupboard class teaches healthy shopping and food budgeting because clients said their food doesn't last an entire month. Its housing program came about because of fair housing issues and landlord-tenant complaints.

"We're trying to help people become more self sustaining so they don't have to become so dependent on other sources," Kobel said.

Going through the St. Martin Center's mail can be a thankful time. Staff members will routinely find notes and cards, some

St. Martin Center

40th anniversary celebration

Saturday, Oct. 24

Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center
7792 Peach St. in Erie
Cash bar begins at 6 p.m.
Dinner and presentation at 7 p.m.
Tickets are \$50
With emcee Brady Louis
Music by
The Jeff Gibbens Trio

with a five-dollar bill, thanking them that they were able to remain in their home or keep the heat on.

"Our success is bittersweet because for us to continue means people still need help," Kobel said. "But the tide is turning, which is a good thing. And I'm ok with that."

FaithLife
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General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

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Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

Sunday, October 18: Noon to 6 pm
Parish cafeteria, 2401 W. 38th St.

Our Lady of Peace Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children \$4
Includes: spaghetti w/ meatballs, bread, salad, drink and dessert—all served to you by our youth.

All proceeds benefit Parish Youth Ministries and Confirmation Programs

Theme baskets, 50/50 and Catholic Jewelry
Come and support the tradition, prayer and mission of Our Lady of Peace Youth Ministry.

Fall Festival

Mount Calvary R.C. Church, 2022 E. Lake Rd.
November 15th, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

- Serving dinner (sauerkraut and pork and all the trimmings) from 11:00 am until sold out. Adults: \$8.00; Under 12: \$4.00
- Music, games of chance, main award, bake sale and our famous theme baskets. Ample parking.

For more information, call 814.454.0061

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Novena to St. Jude Patron of Desperate Causes "Source of Strength - Source of Hope"	Daily Mass 7 AM and 8 AM Chapel
Opening Prayer Service - Chapel Monday October 19 at 6:30 PM Evening Prayer - Adoration Basket of Hope for Prayer Intentions	Closing Mass Tues. October 27 6:30 PM Main Church

Parish missions

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Nov. 1-3

Brother Mickey McGrath, an oblate of St. Francis de Sales, will be the presenter at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on Nov. 1, 2 and 3. Brother McGrath is the author and illustrator of nine award-winning books and a popular presenter at conferences, parishes and retreat centers throughout the United States speaking on art and religious faith.

His presentations will take place in the church, located at 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. The theme is "Journey with Mary and the Saints."

The three magi going through security at the airport? St. Agatha running in a race for the cure of breast cancer? St. Anthony searching for his car keys? Mary wearing a quilt from the underground railroad? St. Brigid with a pin? Brother Mickey's paintings and stories will help you rediscover the saints as you've never seen them before.



Briefly

Novena to St. Jude

ERIE – "Source of Strength – Source of Hope," a novena to St. Jude, will take place at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. Sixth St., in Erie. An opening prayer service will begin on Monday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Daily Mass will be 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. in the chapel. Closing Mass will be on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the church.



Taizé prayer



ERIE – Ecumenical Christian Taizé

Prayer Around the Cross takes place every third Friday of each month from September through April—except for December, when it will be the second Friday. Prayer begins at 7 p.m. at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. The gatherings include Scripture reading, chanting and silence. For more information, contact Sister Rita Panciera, RSM, at the House of Prayer in Erie at 814.456.1802.

Gannon University's fall open house

Nov. 8

ERIE – All prospective students and their families are welcome to attend Gannon University's fall open house Sunday, Nov. 8. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. in the lobby of the Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St. in Erie.

Students and their families will be able to tour the campus, meet with faculty, staff and athletic coaches and attend presentations on academic programs as well as admissions and financial aid.

Scholarship contests will be offered in a number of academic disciplines: English, foreign languages, biology, chemistry, engineering and education.

Advance registration is not required, although students may register online at www.gannon.edu.

For more information or to register by phone, call 1.800.GANNON.U (1.800.426.6668) or 814.871.7240.



Afternoon of sacred music in Franklin

Nov. 1

FRANKLIN – On Sunday, Nov. 1, the solemnity of All Saints, the St. Patrick Parish senior choir in Franklin, under the direction of Ron Himes, and the combined music ministries of the Oil City Catholic community, under the direction of Susie Dreick, will join their voices in musical praise of God to present an afternoon of sacred music. The concert begins at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, 949 Liberty St. in Franklin.

This is the fifth anniversary of the concert, which was inspired by the Association of National Pastor Musicians' St. Cecilia Sing, a tribute to the patron saint of musicians, in 2005.

Music for the concert will range from the African-American spiritual to the traditional Latin music of the church.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit Catholic Rural Ministries of the Oil City Diocese.



Artisan Market Fair in Coalport

Oct. 24-25

COALPORT – St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport is sponsoring an Artisans Market Fair in the parish hall on the weekend of Oct. 24-25 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

In cooperation with Work of Human Hands (Catholic Relief Services and SERRV), St. Basil will become missionaries without leaving Coalport.

Available will be high-quality, hand-made crafts and specialty food items from small-scale artisans and farmers overseas as part of Work of Human Hands' mission to promote human dignity and self-sufficiency. Products come from developing regions such as Ghana, Rwanda, Philippines, India, Peru, West Bank and Kenya.

Shoppers receive a unique, one-of-a-kind product while the workers get a fair price and hope for a better life. Select from baskets, wooden bowls, mugs, tea pots, vases, coffee, teas, chocolates, wooden puzzle boxes, holiday decor, jewelry, handbags, silk scarves, religious items and more.



The Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for parishes to bring the values of the Catholic faith to bear in the marketplace, and to make consumer choices that help lift people around the world out of poverty.

Proceeds from the fair will benefit the small-scale artisan and farmer groups in economically developing regions worldwide.

Saint John's Bible exhibit coming to Mount St. Benedict

BIBLE EXHIBIT
from page 1

what a text means and see how the artist could interpret that was really an eye opening experience. I think it is a wonderful expression of both of what the biblical text means and also how it relates to us in the 21st century."

In her exhibit-opening lecture, she will discuss how looking at the illuminations in conjunction with the text can open up for viewers how God is working in the world today.

"You might think you know what these texts say from the daily reading or the Gospels, but this work opens up new insights," she said.

The Saint John's Bible is meant to reflect the time in which it was created, so in the next 500 years or millennium people will be able to gain some insight into how the world viewed the Scriptures in the early 21st century, Sister Mary Irene said.

Jackson himself has asked the question most people might pose: In this day and age of computers and laser-jet printers, why use a quill pen and gold leaf?

"I mean it's a crazy idea to turn the clock back 500 years," he said.

But he added that the tools of the old medieval scribes "enable you to write the words of God from the heart."

The project has been published



(CNS photo)

Master calligrapher Donald Jackson looks over an edition of The Saint John's Bible. Jackson and a team of scribes spent 10 years creating the illustrated Bible using quills and handmade inks on calfskin vellum.

in volumes the size of a coffee table book by Liturgical Press and are available through booksellers. Five of the seven volumes have been published.

And by creating such a hefty, richly illustrated book whose pages look and even feel special, the reader is being told to "slow down, set this volume down carefully" and meditate over each and every word, it is not something to flip through casually, Jackson said.

The Saint John's Bible

Oct. 25-Nov. 25
at Mount St. Benedict
6101 E. Lake Road in Erie
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Groups are welcome. In addition to offering a guided tour of the prints scheduled throughout the day, the monastery will sponsor, by appointment, a variety of educational opportunities related to the exhibit. For more information, contact Sister Irene Spacht, OSB, at 814.899.0614 Ext. 2507 or e-mail sispacht@aol.com or Sister Dorothy Stoner, OSB, at 814.899.0614 Ext. 2511 or e-mail formation@mistbenedict.org.

Lectures:

"Visio Divina" by Sister Mary Irene Nowell, OSB, of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, Kan.
Sunday, Oct. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

"The Bible: Word and Art" by Matt Clark of the Erie Diocese's Office of Worship and graduate of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.
Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

For more information on the Saint John's Bible, visit www.saintjohnsbible.org.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

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THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION PROVIDES
RESOURCES ACROSS THE DIOCESE

"The generosity began with people giving to the 2001-03 Capital Campaign and continues today from people all across this vast diocese," says Catholic Foundation President, Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey. In addition to new endowment funds begun by individuals, St. Martin Center and the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement have also established endowment funds with this responsive non-profit, 501(c) 3.

Many parishioners and clergy are unaware that The Catholic Foundation's diocesan endowments – Clergy Health and Welfare, Evangelization, Catholic Education and Catholic Charities are already funding hundreds of grants annually. In 2008-09, the Foundation distributed more than a quarter of a million dollars to benefit parish life, programs and services across the diocese. The needs are extensive and diverse. A few examples are retired elderly priests in need of medical care beyond their ability to pay, diocesan-wide computer technology upgrades for religious education coordinators and additional counseling outreach to help families cope with job loss.

How do endowments work and how can one become a donor? An endowment is a permanent fund with a certain percentage of the fund providing income to assist with needs, annually. Distributions are not determined solely by current investment income, but rather by a percentage of a fund's blended market value over a three-year period. A board, comprised primarily of lay people from throughout the diocese, lends expertise to Foundation governance.

According to Dr. McCloskey, "Planned giving happens in many ways. The most common is through a will bequest. However, other estate tools might work as well or better for a donor. Together, we look at what is best." Some people donate during their lifetime to an existing diocesan endowment or they establish their own permanent endowment fund.

Captain Clare Baldauf is an excellent example of the difference one donor can make. A bequest in her will is funding The Clare Baldauf Catholic Charities Endowment Fund for Unmet Needs. According to Catholic Charities Executive Director, Mary Maxwell, "It will help our organization address unmet needs now and forever."

Parishioners are able to establish an endowment fund for their parish, Catholic school or favorite ministry. To do this, a number of helpful resources are found on the Foundation's Web site. **The Catholic Foundation is sponsoring a luncheon seminar, Estate Planning at Any Age, on November 19th at noon in the St. Mark Catholic Center Dining Room, Atty. Colleen Stumpf will provide information on wills and power of attorney. Reservations for this noontime luncheon seminar may be made at 814.824.1286. There is limited seating.**

To learn more about The Catholic Foundation, visit the TCF Web site at www.TCFRCFD.org or call 814.824.1286.

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



Oil City commissions catechists

OIL CITY - At the opening session of religious education classes for the Oil City area parishes, the catechists were blessed and commissioned in the presence of the children by Msgr. John Swoger and Father Matt Ruyechan. Pictured is Msgr. Swoger blessing catechists Mary Kay Johnston, David Guth, Katherine Guth, Julia Goreczny, Marcy Amero, Melissa Persing and Helen Marie Burchanowski.



YPWC volunteers, supporters honor jubilarians

FRENCHVILLE - Past volunteers and supporters of Young People Who Care and Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville gathered Oct. 3 to celebrate Sister Therese Dush, CA, and her 60th anniversary of religious life with a 2 p.m. Mass. Sister Ruth Ann Madera, CA, also celebrated her 25th year of religious life. Both are members of the Community of Anawim.

Father John Jacquell, Father Philip Billotte and Msgr. Robert Malene concelebrated the Mass, while Father Jerry Simmons preached in the prayer center. Guests dined on a roast beef dinner afterward, while stories and memories of the foundation of Young People Who Care and entry into religious life were shared.

Sister Therese and Sister Ruth Ann serve as the directors of Young People Who Care, Inc. and Marian House, respectively.



Sister Therese Dush, CA, and Sister Ruth Ann Madera, CA.

'The House That Faith Built'

ERIE - In celebration of Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity's 20th anniversary and its Christian roots, 400 volunteers from the local faith community built a house in 21 days, from June 1-21, at 1266 E. 23rd St. in Erie. "The House That Faith Built" is the 48th house built by Greater Erie Area Habitat.

Habitat provides housing with a mortgage that includes no interest.

St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie had several volunteers on a number of days. Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie helped provide lunch for volunteers, as well.

More than 400 volunteers from 11 area churches participated in the ecumenical project. The new homeowners, Monty-wic Kuol and Sophia Deng Arop and family, left Sudan in 1999 for political reasons.

"It's a great feeling to see so many folks give of their valuable time to come and help," Arop said.

The couple's four children at-



Above, some of the volunteers from St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community; (from left to right) Bob Johnson, Father Larry Richards, Bob Heinlein, Trish Johnson and Edith Benson. Inset, Monty-wic Kuol Arop puts in 'sweat equity' on his family's Habitat for Humanity house.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi marked with pet blessings



Above, owners and their pets at St. Francis of Assisi in Clearfield. At left, Deacon John Mang blesses Slippy the snake while a student from Our Lady of Peace School in Erie looks on.

On or near the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, parishes and schools throughout the Erie Diocese held pet blessing services for four-legged friends, winged friends and even friends with no legs.

At St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield, the line for the blessing began at the church and over-

flowed into the parking lot. Msgr. Desmond McGee, Msgr. Henry Krebs, Father John Chaplin and Deacon Eugene Miller blessed dogs, cats, birds, guinea pigs, mice and lizards. The outdoor sound system for the blessing service was provided by Pat Moore, and the music was led by Rita McConnell.

At Our Lady of Peace School in Erie, students and staff members, along with their pets, filled the gymnasium for a blessing service. Father Bill Barzon, Deacon John Mang and Deacon Tony Allaruzzo presided.

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