

Feast of St. Cecilia

Parishes to host music celebrations to honor saint, page 3.



FaithLife

A bountiful harvest

Faith magazine highlights Catholic Rural Ministry, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

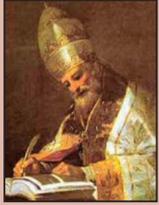
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 29, 2006

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Leo the Great



St. Martin de Porres

Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres
Nov. 4 St. Charles Borromeo
Nov. 5 St. Elizabeth
Nov. 10 St. Leo the Great
Nov. 11 St. Martin of Tours

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.

All Saints Day – Nov. 1 (Holy Day of obligation)

The solemnity of the feast of All Saints, celebrated Nov. 1, was instituted to honor all saints and martyrs, known and unknown.



All Souls Day – Nov. 2

The annual Erie Diocesan Cemeteries All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Nov. 2 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery chapel, 5711 West Lake Road, Erie, by Bishop Donald Trautman.



150th and 130th anniversary Mass for St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth parishes, Corry – Nov. 4

CORRY — The Catholic community of Corry will mark 150 years of Catholic presence in the area with a 5 p.m. anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman on Nov. 4 at St. Thomas Parish. The Mass marks the 150th anniversary of St. Thomas and the 130th anniversary of St. Elizabeth Parish. Following the Mass, a dinner and reception will be held at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.

125th anniversary Mass for St. Brigid Parish, Meadville – Nov. 5

MEADVILLE — St. Brigid Parish in Meadville will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its church with a 3 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman on Sun., Nov. 5. A dinner and reception will follow at Seton Catholic School with a performance by the Rince Na Tiarna Irish dancers.

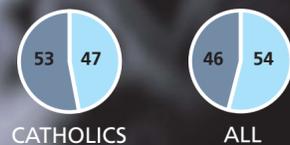
Mass for deceased religious – Nov. 8

ERIE — Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a 7:30 p.m. Mass on Wed., Nov. 8 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie for deceased religious.

Do Ghosts Exist?

About half of all American adults, including Catholics, believe in haunting spirits.

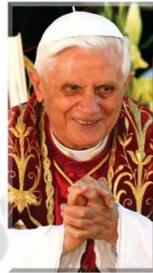
probably/absolutely
 probably not/absolutely not



Source: Baylor Religion Survey, 2005

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Papal Honors



Pope bestows papal honors on 62 in Erie Diocese

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed papal honors on 62 individuals in the Diocese of Erie for their dedication and service to the Catholic Church, Bishop Donald Trautman announced last week.

Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia, will confer the honors at a 7 p.m. Mass on Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral.

The honorees include 36 lay people, 15 women religious and one priest.

"Papal honors is a recognition of the wonderful work that is being done in the diocese to build up the Lord's kingdom," said Bishop Trautman. "And in honoring these lay people, sisters and one priest, we are honoring many more. We're honoring their ministries, their vocations and what they do at the parish level."

While the diocese simply cannot honor everyone, Bishop Trautman said the honorees are representatives of many ministries in each vicariate of the diocese. He cited the examples of honoring sisters in each religious community who have been identified with Catholic education and lay people who have been hands-on in their parishes assisting the pastor and teaching religious education, in some cases for 30 years.

"Through them we are honoring all of the people associated with them in their ministries," he said.

The recognition of papal honors is given in the name of Pope Benedict XVI on the recommendation of Bishop Trautman. A bishop may nominate candidates to the pope at any time he wishes. The last papal honors were given in the Erie Diocese in 2000 when 45 people were honored.

Bishop Trautman asked pastors throughout the diocese to recommend people who have provided exemplary service. "I received many such suggestions," Bishop Trautman said.

He said he also spoke to the diocesan priests' council and executive cabinet members, vicars and other groups in search of nominees who have distinguished themselves.

"When those names came in, we did a bit of our own research," Bishop Trautman said. "We wanted to make sure that the geography of the diocese was well represented, each vicariate and each form of ministry."

Msgr. Robert Smith, who serves as vicar general, has been named the Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary, which is the highest rank of monsignor. That distinction in the Erie Diocese has been vacant since Msgr. John Slater died in 2004.

"It would be proper for each dio-

Honorees

The following list includes individuals in the Erie Diocese who will receive papal honors Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral.

Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary
Msgr. Robert J. Smith

Knights of St. Gregory the Great
Norman F. Allgeier
Dr. Walter P. Beh
Peter J. Buchheit
Dr. Frank J. Episcopo
James E. Feeney
Dr. Antoine M. Garibaldi
Attny. Alfred H. Lander
Dr. John S. Lehrian
John M. Ogorchock
Attny. Norman H. Stark

Ladies of St. Gregory the Great
Agnes E. Allgeier
Milissa Bauer
Jo Ann Beh
Joan K. Feeney
Frances A. Froess
Carol J. Garibaldi
Nedra Dwyer Lehrian
M. Aloyse Ogorchock
Marie A. Stark
Barbara A. Varischetti

Knights of Pope St. Sylvester
John W. Anderson
Steven A. Brazinski
Timothy J. Broderick
Timothy J. Crotty
D. Edward Chaplin
Donald W. Fleming
Joseph J. Maljovec
J. William Pustelak
Dr. William B. Trice

Ladies of Pope St. Sylvester
Evelyn F. Anderson
Kathleen M. Crotty
M. Joyce Maljovec
Audrey L. Pustelak
Mildred M. Trice

Papal Cross
Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ
Sister Ann Jeanne Chisholm, CDS
Sister Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ
Sister Rita Marie Hettish, RSM
Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ
Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB
Sister Rita Kartavich, RSM
Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
Sister Miriam Mashank, OSB
Sister Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM
Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ
Sister Mary Louis Oslick, RSM
Sister M. Agnes Pisarchik, OLC
Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB
Sister Laura Vallimont, OSB
Deacon Ralph A. DeCecco
Janet M. DeCecco

Benemerenti Medal
Gusty J. Arrigo
Mary Margaret Hajduk
Rita C. Karing
John R. Kerle
Kathleen H. Kunkle
Josie A. Osiecki
Carl A. Slomski
Frances Sok
Jennie A. Songer
Martha A. Tylwalk

cese to have one of the monsignors designated to be a protonotary apostolic," Bishop Trautman said. "I selected Msgr. Smith because of his long-term service to the diocese and because of his position as vicar general. I thought he would be the outstanding choice to have that high honor."

Msgr. Smith is the only priest who will receive a papal honor at the Nov. 20 ceremony. There are many priests who are worthy of papal honors, Bishop Trautman said, but the final

decision is left to the Vatican. According to new regulations from the Holy See governing papal honors that came out in 2001, no more than 10 percent of the priests in a diocese may be designated monsignors. The Erie Diocese currently exceeds the allotted number.

Other honors to be conferred Nov. 20 include Knights and Ladies of St. Gregory the Great, given to lay men and women who have made

See PAPAL HONORS, page 3

St. Luke pastor, deacon evangelize through radio show

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

"Here on AM 1400 WJET and from high atop the good ship *Magnify*, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Monsignor Tom Snyderwine, and you're on the *Magnify* beacon."

Local talk radio listeners will recognize the familiar phrase that the articulate, radio-friendly voice of Msgr. Tom Snyderwine, pastor of St. Luke Parish in Erie, uses to open his long-running show, *Magnify*.

Msgr. Snyderwine and Deacon Jerry Sobrowski, also of St. Luke Parish, are the team behind this local show, which is also available

as a podcast on the Internet. This month, the host and producer duo are celebrating five years of *Magnify* on the airwaves in its current format.

Originally debuting on the first Sunday of 1991, Msgr. Snyderwine was on the air live every Sunday night from 6 to 7 on W L K K 1400 until Sept. 1998. After a broadcasting sabbatical, Msgr. Tom approached Deacon Jerry about reviving *Magnify*, only this time in a prerecorded format.

"I thought it would be a good ministry for the diocese," Deacon Jerry said. "The underlying philosophy of the hour-long show is current affairs from a Christian



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Msgr. Tom Snyderwine and Deacon Jerry Sobrowski prepare to record a news segment of *Magnify*, which airs weekly on WJET-AM 1400.

perspective, Msgr. Tom said. "All along, I've always felt that this was an opportunity for me as a priest to help shape the way people are

thinking about what's going on in life," Msgr. Snyderwine said. "I guess it's also way to say evangelization."

The format of the pro-

gram is divided into three parts. The first segment is news talk where Msgr. Tom will discuss and dissect stories on religious or social justice issues that have been glossed over by mainstream media. A recent broadcast highlighted news items including Islamic scholars writing to Pope Benedict in a friendly way, Canadian bishops discussing politicians receiving Holy Communion, U.S. bishops upcoming vote on language about how contraception hurts couples and society at large and a story from Youngstown, Ohio, about churches becoming rallying points for people to take back the streets.

The second part of the program is the Liturgy of the Word, which is taken from one of the previous weekend

See MAGNIFY, page 3

Pope canonizes four, says being a saint is not for the weak, fearful

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Presiding over the second canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI honored two women and two men who demonstrated that becoming a saint is not for the weak and fearful.

"The saint is that man, that woman who, responding with joy and generosity to the call of Christ, leaves everything to follow him," the pope said at the Oct. 15 canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Political persecution, poverty, suspicion and even opposition from church leaders were not uncommon in the lives of the four new saints: Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo

Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini; and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Even in the midst of "trials and persecutions," the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus "truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life."

"The saints had the humility and courage to respond 'yes' to Jesus Christ and renounced everything to be his friends," he said. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, who had cancer surgery in July, and Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, were the main concelebrants at the papal Mass. Five other U.S. bishops from Indiana and Illinois concelebrated the Mass, which was attended by some 125 Sisters of Providence, dozens

New Saints

MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN
French foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.
1798-1856
feast - Oct. 3
A pioneer for Catholic education in Indiana, she and her companion sisters overcame harsh conditions in pursuing their ministry in America. Quote: "What a strength the soul draws from prayer! In the midst of a storm, how sweet is the calm it finds in the heart of Jesus."

BISHOP RAFAEL GUIZAR VALENCIA
Bishop of Vera Cruz, Mexico
1878-1938
feast - June 6
Dedicated to helping the poor and sick, and a well-liked preacher, St. Rafael faced many obstacles during the government's persecution of Catholics. He once offered to give himself up to his oppressors in return for the freedom of worship.

SISTER ROSA VENERINI
Italian foundress of the Venerini Sisters
1656-1728
feast - May 7
She opened the first public school for girls in Italy and dedicated her ministry to the education and formation of women. Quote: "I feel so nailed to the will of God that nothing else matters."

FATHER FILIPPO SMALDONE
Italian founder of the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart
1848-1923
feast - June 4
His priestly ministry was dedicated to the poor in southern Italy, especially those with hearing impairments.

of students from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and 45 pilgrims from the newly renamed St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville, Ind.

Philip McCord, the facilities manager at the college, joined two Sisters of Providence in bringing offertory gifts to the pope during the Mass. The healing of McCord's right eye after prayers to the community's foundress was accepted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

In his homily, the pope said, "With great trust in divine providence, Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord had

See SAINTS, page 3

U.S.

Churches grapple with what tax code allows regarding election issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With another election looming, politicians, religious leaders, candidates and the Internal Revenue Service are again contemplating a perennial American political question: Where is the line that divides the appropriate and inappropriate interplay of religion and politics? As politicians try to reach voters by tapping into religious organizations, the efforts raise red flags with the IRS, which is wary of tax-exempt organizations that may be endorsing candidates and political parties. Meanwhile, priests, ministers and rabbis seek to guide their congregations in how to apply the lessons of faith to politics, while steering clear of sometimes confusing IRS regulations for tax-exempt charities, lest they find themselves subject to lengthy investigations, legal challenges and costly fines.



Archbishop says cost cutting, strategic planning aim of USCCB changes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The purpose in restructuring the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and downsizing its staff is not just to cut costs but to help it plan better and work better, said Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M. As USCCB secretary, Archbishop Sheehan heads the bishops' Committee on Priorities and Plans, which is overseeing the reorganization. The committee's proposals are to be debated and voted on when the bishops meet in Baltimore in mid-November. The goal of the reorganization is "not just the cost-saving thing, but to implement strategic planning. It's about strategic planning," the archbishop said. He said the recommendations of the USCCB Task Force on Activities and Resources, overwhelmingly approved by the bishops in 2004, set the framework for the reorganization. At the core of those recommendations, he said, was "reorganizing the conference in such a way that the focus is on priorities — what are the top priorities that the bishops want to work on — and to set the priorities for five years at a time."

Historic snowstorm in Buffalo damages more than half of parishes

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — Cleanup is under way after a historic snowstorm damaged more than half of the parishes and missions in the Diocese of Buffalo. "In many of our communities, every tree was damaged, with many crashing to the ground, the result of two feet of heavy, wet snow falling on trees that still have their leaves," said Kevin Keenan, director of communications in the diocese, in a news release. He estimated that 150 of the 260 parishes and nine missions in the diocese had sustained either tree or property damage. The diocesan insurance department was processing claims from those parishes. Following the Oct. 12-13 storms, which set a record as the two snowiest October days Buffalo has had, Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Buffalo waived the Sunday Mass obligation for Catholics living in the storm area. Weekend Masses were canceled in many parishes. Many Catholic elementary and high schools closed Oct. 13 and were expected to remain closed until Oct. 23.



A car is covered with a downed tree and snow Oct. 14, two days after a sudden winter storm hit Buffalo, N.Y. Winter.

Church musicians' group asks Catholics what makes them sing in church

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — The National Association of Pastoral Musicians has started an online survey asking Catholics what prompts them to sing in church. The online survey, available at the organization's Web site, www.npm.org, lists a baker's dozen of possible motivations to sing at Mass plus the ubiquitous "other (please specify)." Among the choices given are "something I can sing by heart," "familiar melody," "easy to sing," "enthusiasm of the congregation," "leadership of cantor or director," "contemporary song" and "traditional song." Survey respondents can choose more than one. Votes will be taken through Dec. 31. The results will be available in early 2007 both on the organization's Web site and in its membership journal, Pastoral Music.

WORLD

'New political culture' needed to spur African growth, says Vatican

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — For development to take place in Africa, "a new political culture" is needed which stresses international cooperation, a Vatican diplomat told the U.N. General Assembly. "A decisive condition for bringing peace to the world is an acknowledgment of the interdependence between wealthy and poor countries, so that development will be understood as a task common to us all," said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's observer at U.N. headquarters in New York. The archbishop spoke Oct. 12 in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a program to stimulate greater efforts to eradicate poverty on the continent. The program stresses greater international aid for Africa along with greater cooperation between African governments and the private sector to foment economic growth. Without greater international cooperation, development "may undergo a process of regression even in zones marked by progress until now," said the archbishop.

Doctor says Catholics who won't perform abortions face pressure

ROME (CNS) — Catholic obstetricians who respect the dignity of motherhood and the life of the unborn risk disappearing in societies where abortion is legal, said the head of an international group of Catholic obstetricians and gynecologists. Obstetricians who oppose having to perform abortions as part of their training or in their practice at public or private health care facilities sometimes face "a sort of medical totalitarianism" and feel tremendous pressure to "do it this way or not at all," said Dr. Robert Walley, founder and executive director of MaterCare International. Walley and some 60 other obstetricians from 14 countries were in Rome Oct. 11-15 as part of the fourth MaterCare International workshop for Catholic women's health specialists. Part of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, MaterCare was founded in 1995 to "serve the culture of life" wherever mothers and their children are neglected or abandoned, said the British-born doctor. This year's workshop looked at ways to protect and promote the dignity of motherhood and practice of obstetrics.

Vatican confirms trip to Turkey, despite some Muslims' misgivings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican officially confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI will travel to Turkey at the end of November, despite misgivings among many Muslims over recent papal remarks on Islam. The pope's Nov. 28-Dec. 1 trip, his first to a predominantly Muslim country, will include stops in Ankara, Ephesus and Istanbul, the Vatican said Oct. 16. The pope will travel at the invitation of the Turkish government and the Orthodox Church's Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. In Ankara, the capital, he is expected to meet with political leaders Nov. 28. The following day he is expected to say Mass in Ephesus, an important early center of Christianity in western Turkey. The pope will meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul in the evening of Nov. 29 and participate in an Orthodox liturgy Nov. 30. On Dec. 1, he is expected to celebrate Mass for Catholics in the city before returning to Rome.

PEOPLE

Pope Benedict tells Poles he still trusts Pope John Paul's guidance

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the 28th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI told Polish Catholics that he, like many of them, continues to trust in the guidance of the late pope. "I was able to spend more than two decades at his side, enjoying his benevolence and friendship," said Pope Benedict, former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and "today I can continue his work under his protective gaze from the house of the Father." Pope Benedict's message was broadcast on Polish television Oct. 16, the anniversary of Pope John Paul's 1978 election. The pope told the Polish people that Pope John Paul loved his homeland, which for him was a "mother who gave him life in the faith and who raised him in love for Christ and his brothers and sisters."

Cartoon, documentary recount Pope John Paul II's life, teachings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Piccolo and Fiona, two doves who narrate a new cartoon about Pope John Paul II, are much better behaved than their real-life counterparts. In a 30-minute documentary accompanying the cartoon, Vatican television footage shows some real doves flying, but most of the winged symbols of peace refuse to soar away on cue, and one even perches on the head of Pope John Paul. The cartoon, "John Paul II: The Friend of All Humanity," and the accompanying documentary, "John Paul II by John Paul II," were presented to reporters at an Oct. 17 Vatican press conference. Spanish cartoonist J.L. Lopez-Guardia, who often draws under the name Cavin Cooper, developed both projects in consultation with the Vatican Television Center. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of Vatican TV, said he tried to suggest other names for the animated doves, but Lopez-Guardia drew the creatures and was certain he knew their names. The films have been completed in Spanish, English and Italian. Lopez-Guardia said, and he hopes the DVDs will be on sale before Christmas.



Screen capture by Rich Papalia

A cartoon film, developed in consultation with the Vatican Television Center, aims to teach children about the life of Pope John Paul II. The trailers of the cartoon and the accompanying documentary can be viewed at www.ErieRCD.org

By the Way...

Bishop Michael Murphy, who turned 91 on July 1, has been busy sending out thank-yous for all the birthday greetings he received. Father David Findlay, pastor of St. Brigid in Meadville, recently shared some comments from our retired bishop in the parish bulletin. Bishop Murphy still has a wonderful command of words.



Jason Koshinski

"I continue to be blessed with good health, better than average mobility, a hearty appetite, continuing participation in liturgy, theatre, moderate travel, lively conversation, amusing but harmless gossip, reminiscing and alibis," Bishop Murphy wrote.

The annual Caritas Award dinner will be held Nov. 3 beginning with a 5:30 p.m. Mass at **Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish** in Punxsutawney. This year's recipient is **Jean Roberts**, who will be honored for her commitment to the values of Catholic Charities.

Congratulations to the **St. George School football team** on winning the Erie Parochial League football championship. The Lancers got a 24-8 victory over Our Lady's Christian School in the title game Oct. 18 at Veterans Stadium. St. George, which also includes players from St. James School, finished the season unblemished with an 8-0 record.

The **18th annual Bread Box Awards** held at the **Second Harvest Food Bank** on Oct. 11 recognized several hundred individuals and organizations for raising \$182,720 and 308,603 pounds of food during the past year to help those in need.

Gannon University took second place among colleges and technical schools and **Cathedral Prep** took second place among area high schools.

Second Harvest obtains food and grocery products and supplies them to member agencies, who distribute it to people within the food bank's 11-county service area. During 2005, Second Harvest distributed 6.7 million pounds of food.

The **Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement** has openings for its short course in Christianity weekend Nov. 16-19 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek. Men interested in attending may visit www.ericursillo.org or call 814.456.2948.

If you have ever talked to someone who has made a Cursillo, you know they have found it to be a valuable renewal.

Father Daniel Mahan will lead the prayer and exercises of the **St. Andrew parish mission** in Erie Nov. 4-7. Father Mahan, author of *More than Silver or Gold: Homilies of a Stewardship Priest*, was the keynote speaker during last year's Diocesan Stewardship Days. He will speak about conversion reconciliation, repentance, commitment and mission as a challenge to make these elements a part of truly living the Catholic way of life.

The mission is also open to people from other parishes. For more information, call 814.454.2486.

In one of his recent e-mail updates, **Tim Broderick** of **People for Life** shared the story of a young woman in her mid-20s who changed her mind on getting an abortion. One Saturday morning, she stopped in the Alternative Choices for Women offices on the third floor of the Professional Building in downtown Erie. She stayed only a moment to chat with two volunteers, but she said she had already made up her mind. She left, heading down the hall toward American Women's Services for her appointment.

About 10 minutes later, the young woman came back. She said, "I changed my mind, and it's because of you!"

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

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Pope bestows papal honors on 62 in Erie Diocese

PAPAL HONORS from page 1
outstanding contributions to the church and community; Knights and Ladies of Pope St. Sylvester, given to lay men and women in recognition of some service rendered to the church; the Papal Cross (pro Ecclesia et Pontifice), which is bestowed on lay persons, clergy and religious who have given service to the church; and Benemerenti Medal, which is awarded for distinguished service.

Bishop Trautman will preach and assist Cardinal Rigali, who will confer the papal honors. It will be Cardinal Rigali's first official visit to the Diocese of Erie since he was named archbishop of Philadelphia in 2003.



Cardinal Justin Rigali

"I have asked him as a cardinal of the church to present the awards, which come from the Holy Father," Bishop Trautman said. "I think that is most appropriate."

SSJs host 10th annual Spirit of Courage Awards

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

There's something about hearing how someone has overcome tremendous adversity in their lives that lifts up the spirit.

"It's very meaningful," said Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ. "It certainly lets an individual know that what you are facing may not be near what some people have to go through. It gives you a chance to thank God for the graces in your life and thank him for these people because they have shown you what can be done."

That's what happened at the 10th annual SSJ Spirit of Courage Awards, held Oct. 10 at the



Sister Margaret Ann Hardner

Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie. Honorees Michael Adamus, Charles Locke, Cheryl Meyer and Kayla

Withers shared their personal stories, leaving the capacity audience with a sense of inspiration.

The Spirit of Courage Awards, formerly the Courage to Come Back, is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania. In 10 years, the awards have honored 50 people with extraordinary stories.

"A lot of times people get recognized because they're important or they've done something extraordinary," said Sister Margaret Ann, who has been involved with the awards since its inception. "We realize the people we recognize have done things that are very extraordinary."

Along with the four honorees, Sister Margaret Ann also re-

ceived recognition for her guidance over the awards for the past 10 years.

"I was overwhelmed because it's not anything I did," Sister Margaret Ann said. Over the years, there have been hundreds of people who have worked on committees and helped with these awards. It wasn't possible for me to do anything without all these wonderful people."

Sister Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ, and WSEE-TV morning news anchor Raychel Vendetti emceed the evening.

An evening highlight included a vocal performance by honoree Kayla Withers and Brandon Vogt, who sang a tribute to past honorees.

Briefly

Parishes to host St. Cecilia music celebrations

To honor the feast of St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians (Nov. 22), parish choirs and deaconry groups throughout the diocese will hold a variety of musical celebrations on several dates. The events are part of an effort sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) and are free and open to the public.

- Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish, Oil City. The event will feature the choirs of St. Joseph and St. Stephen parishes in Oil City and St. Patrick Parish in Franklin. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit area food pantries.
- Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Gannon University, Erie.
- Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-2p.m. at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City.
- Nov. 18, 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake.
- Nov. 19, 3 p.m. vespers at St. Mary Parish in St. Marys.
- Nov. 26, 2 p.m. organ recital by Jamie Dean at St. Gregory Parish in North East.



St. Cecilia

Reflection day for women Nov. 4 in Smethport

SMETHPORT — A reflection day for women, sponsored by Catholic Rural Ministry, will be held Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center in Smethport.

The program, titled "Dancing with Others—Hope for the Future," will be presented by Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowsky, OSB.

For more information and registration, call Margaret French at 814.945.6245 or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814.544.8017 or e-mail cm@zitomedia.net. A donation of \$15 includes lunch and material.

MAGNIFY from page 1

liturgies celebrated by Msgr. Tom at St. Luke.

The third portion of the program is the focus theme, which includes an interview conducted by Msgr. Tom with a guest, typically an author, but not always.

Recent guests and discussions have included: Tarek Saab, a star on NBC's *The Apprentice*, about rediscovering the ancient ideal of Christian manhood in the modern age; Erie School Director and former mayoral assistant Gary Horton on the subject of empowering minorities so that they have an invested interest in what's happening and will take steps to prevent vandalism and even terrorism; a talk with Attorney Thomas Rezanka about the pros and cons of the church guiding the faithful through political elections; and a discussion with Dr. Charles Whitfield, M.D., and his wife Barbara, on the power of humility in choosing peace over conflict in relationships.

"We work very hard to ensure that this is a very listenable piece for 60 minutes," Msgr. Snyderwine said. "We don't want to give anyone reason to turn the dial. We always want to make sure our show is inspiring, informative and bright."

"We do a little bit of everything," Deacon Jerry said. "We look at current events, so Monsignor gets to talk a bit about what's happening in the world and offer some commentary. After the news talk, then you get the Liturgy of the Word. I refer to the show almost as an hour-long

prayer."

The hours the duo puts in weekly for the project are long and tedious, but the efforts are noticeable when listening to the show.

After poring through newswire stories and preparing a script, Msgr. Tom records the news talk segment of *Magnify* on disc right in his rectory office. After preparing a set of questions, he does the same for his interview guest.

"It's a win-win deal," he said. "I get a guest and they get to promote their book."

Deacon Jerry records the liturgy from one of the weekend Masses on disc. Along with the Mass, he gathers Msgr. Tom's recorded segments and takes them home where he produces and mixes the show on his computer. He connects the show's three parts with background music before taking the final product to the radio station.

Magnify, which Msgr. Tom financially maintains with a pool of sponsors, has received quite a bit of local feedback. "I still get one new person each week that says, 'I listen to you every Sunday night,'" he said. Now through podcasts on its Web site, the program has received comments from listeners throughout the U.S. to China.

"It's a lot of fun to do," Deacon Jerry said, who was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2004. "I really enjoy it. I think (Msgr. Tom) does an excellent job. I've found it a joy to work with him."

Through assisting at Mass and working together on the show,

St. Luke pastor, deacon evangelize through radio show

Deacon Jerry said he and Msgr. Tom have a close relationship. He credits Msgr. Tom for helping nurture his vocation.

Msgr. Tom is also quick to compliment his deacon.

"He's the real brightness of it," he said. "He has a great talent for putting everything into a

very bright and listenable package."

Along with *Magnify's* signature opening, Msgr. Snyderwine always ends the program in a familiar way.

"Until next time, be good to each other, do what's right and get to church if you can."

Faith highlights Catholic Rural Ministry

Just as farmers across the diocese bring in the last fruits and vegetables of the season, *Faith* magazine presents a cover story about a different kind of harvest, one taking place in the rural mountain towns of McKean and Potter counties. The Nov./Dec. issue, scheduled to arrive in homes Nov. 7, includes a cover story on the work of Sister Phyllis Schleicher and Sister Mary William Hoffman, both Benedictine Sisters of Erie, who accepted the challenge of bringing a permanent, compassionate presence of women religious to that region through an initiative known as Catholic Rural Ministry.

Bishop Donald Trautman reflects on his experiences giving a retreat in Fairbanks, Alaska this summer and Father Jerry Simmons helps readers focus on embracing the longing and anticipation of the Advent season. The



Cover of the upcoming November/December issue of Faith magazine.

magazine has also created a free set of ornaments readers can download to create their own Jesse trees.

All registered Catholic households in the Erie Diocese receive *Faith* magazine, free of charge, on a bi-monthly basis. If you are not receiving a copy, please contact Brenda Williams, circulation manager, at 814.824.1160.

People in the News

Sisters of Mercy welcome candidate

ERIE — Jennifer Wilson, a native of Akron, Ohio, was formally accepted in Erie Sept. 30 as a candidate for the emerging New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community of the Sisters of Mercy.

Wilson, who will be with the Regional Community of Erie, is pictured with Sisters Lisa Mary McCartney, left, Erie vice president, and Bernadette Bell, president.



Pope canonizes four, says being a saint is not for the weak, fearful

SAINTS from page 1

called her to do. By the time of her death in 1856, the sisters were running schools and orphanages throughout the state of Indiana.

Speaking in French, St. Mother Theodore's native tongue, the pope said that in the Eucharist, in prayer and in her "infinite trust in divine providence," she found the "strength and audacity" to carry out her mission.

The pilgrims who came to St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass included dozens of young people from the United States.

Meggie Gallina, 16, entered the ninth grade in 2004 at Blessed Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville.

Standing outside a Rome church Oct. 14 holding one side of a huge banner with the school's new name — St. Theodore Guerin High School — Gallina said her trip to Rome was "surreal."

"It is rare enough to get to go to a canonization, but to go to the canonization of your school's patron is amazing," she said.

From the school's first semester, she said, students learned about St. Mother Theodore, her call to leave France and trip to Indiana in 1840.

"She was an amazing woman," Gallina said. "She relied so much on God, on providence. She came to a country, not speaking the language, and built



CNS photo

Tapestries hanging from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica show four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican Oct. 15.

schools, opened pharmacies, built hospitals — all of this was the work of one woman."

The students of the college St. Mother Theodore founded in Indiana felt the same pride.

Frannie Schalasky, a senior at "the Woods," said the students learn about the new saint from

lege.

During his homily, Pope Benedict praised St. Rafael for his dedication to the poor and his commitment to preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments despite being forced to flee the Mexican government's persecution of Catholics in the 1920s and 1930s.

Members of the Knights of Columbus participated in the Mass in recognition of St. Rafael's membership in the Catholic fraternal organization.

St. Peter's Square also was filled with Italian pilgrims celebrating the canonization of St. Filippo, who lived from 1848 to 1923, and dedicated himself to ministry to the hearing-impaired, founding the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart to assist them; and St. Rosa, the 17th-century foundress of an order, now known as the Venerini Sisters, to educate young women.

Two Missouri Priests Host...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 10, 2007, join your Spiritual Directors Father Bob Dorhauer, Father Jerry Nienhaus, and other Roman Catholics on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington); the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Zuiderdam.

Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested islands and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.

After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1848 (per person, double occupancy). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights in quality hotels, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Add \$600 round trip airfare from Erie.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, Reservations, Brochure, and Letter from Fathers Bob and Jerry Call 7 Days a Week:
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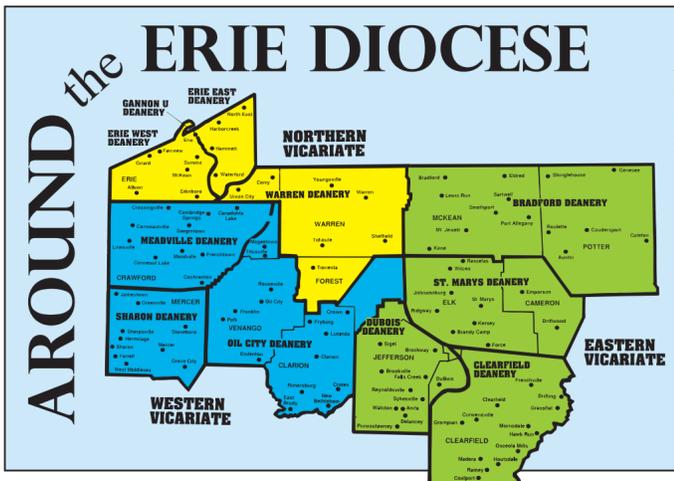
- Foreign Language
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Engineering Design
- English
- Education

Please follow the "Open House" link off www.gannon.edu, then select "Scholarship Contest" for more information.

- Catholic mass at 11 a.m. in Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel (corner of 5th and Peach)
- Meet faculty, coaches and student life staff
- Campus and downtown Erie tours
- Admissions and financial aid presentations

For more information or to make reservations, call Gannon University's Office of Admissions at (814) 871-7240, or visit www.gannon.edu.

GANNON UNIVERSITY



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

Secular Franciscans take part in retreat

VILLA MARIA – The Secular Franciscans of the Erie Diocese attended a retreat Sept. 15-17 at Villa Maria Retreat Center led by Father Richard Trezza, OFM, from Holy Name Province in New York City.

Father Trezza spoke about taking up the "little crosses" of everyday life. "As we accept who we are and die to self, we are accepting our crosses," he said. He also spoke at length on the sacrament of reconciliation and made it available to retreatants.

Secular Franciscans are an apostolic order within the Catholic Church and can be married or single. There are approximately 100 members in the Erie Diocese. For more information about Secular Franciscans or to find a fraternity, call 1.800.FRANCIS.



Pictured are Secular Franciscans making a recent retreat at Villa Maria Retreat Center. Front row, left to right: Divie Youngberg, Mary Lou Kreider and Traci Chuey. Back row, left to right: Nancy Mattson, Catherine Chamberlain, Kathy Barton, Vickie Snyder, Barbara Repasy, Mary Dutches, Chris Zurawski and Martha Lauffer.

WWME hosts reception for World Day for Priests

ERIE – Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the Serra Club of Erie hosted a World Priest Day reception Oct. 3 at the Sweeny family lodge in Waterford.

About 50 priests and members of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the Serra Club attended the event. It was the fourth annual gathering by the groups to honor the priests of the Erie Diocese.

Efforts of previous years included sending out specially wrapped candy bars to every priest in the diocese with a label saying "We Love Our Priests."

"We really value our priests and this is a way for us to show them our appreciation," said Kathy Dahlkemper, who along with her husband Dan chaired the event. The Dahlkempers are also a presenting team for Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

During the gathering, lay people offered a blessing for the priests.

"It's important for them to know that they are appreciated by our people," Dahlkemper said.



From left to right, Bishop Donald Trautman, Msgr. John Carter, Father Richard Toohey, Father Nicholas Rouch and Father Mark O'Hern visit during the World Priest Day reception Oct. 3.



Msgr. John Carter (center) poses with Betty Dalessandro and Carl Schrock of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Partnership of Women Religious receives state grant

ERIE – The Partnership of Women Religious (POWR) recently received a \$50,000 grant from the State Department of Economic Development, which will be used for a project called "Connecting People and Resources for Positive Change." The grant will provide funds for intensive case management and expenses related to getting and keeping clients in their housing within the POWR network.

POWR is a collaborative effort of the Benedictine Sisters, Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph and their outreach agencies in Erie that address the needs of the homeless, economically challenged and other marginalized persons. POWR advocates and promotes collaborative services to systemically address ongoing needs among the agencies.



Pictured left to right, State Senator Jane Earl presents a check to Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Sister Bernadette Bell, RSM; and Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSJ.

Senator Jane Earl presents a check to Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Sister Bernadette Bell, RSM; and Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSJ.

St. Boniface celebrates 50th anniversary of school

KERSEY – St. Boniface School in Kersey recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its elementary school building. Students celebrated by reliving the '50s with a sock hop, hopscotch, bubble gum blowing contests and hula-hoop contests.

The school and church welcomed alumni and parishioners for homecoming festivities which included a chicken barbecue hosted by the Fox Township Firemen, music by Romey Secco and Friends, a trip down memory lane with old photos and yearbooks, a special Mass for living and deceased alumni and a cake and ice cream reception. Joan Verba and Marilyn Secco planned the event. Janet Dellaquila, the kindergarten teacher, made a banner for the



church. About 120 people attended the celebration.

St. Boniface School was built in 1956 and initially began as a \$200,000 construction project designed by Leon Hufnagel of Clarion. The school was con-

structed by Cartenson's, a firm from Clearfield.

Pictured from left to right are Michaela Cashmer, Amanda Geci and Abigail Adamski participating in the hula hoop contest.

Mercy Day at St. George School

ERIE – Sister Mary Louis Oslick, RSM, who retired in June after 37 years of teaching first-graders at St. George School, Erie, spends a moment with students Nicholas Kneidinger and Jessica Damico. Sister Mary Louis was among 15 Sisters of Mercy who attended the annual Mercy Day Mass at St. George Church Sept. 29. A reception followed the Mass. Sisters of Mercy taught at the school from the time it began in 1954 until 2006.



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 Resumes will be accepted until November 30, 2006 and should be sent to:
 Sister Mark Plescher, CSA
 Diocesan Education Office
 126A Logan Blvd.
 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
 email: smark@dioceseaj.org

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)
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