

'Little People, Big World' star to be guest speaker at event, page 3.



Students hit spiritual refresh button at F5 youth rally, page 4.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Francis of Assisi St. Hedwig

- Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi
- Oct. 6 St. Bruno, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
- Oct. 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- Oct. 9 St. Denis and companions, St. John Leonardi
- Oct. 14 St. Callistus I
- Oct. 15 St. Teresa of Jesus
- Oct. 16 St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Confirmations

St. Titus, Titusville — Sunday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Anthony, Tionesta; St. John, Tidioute; St. Titus, Titusville; and St. Walburga, Titusville.

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

October is Respect Life Month

Respect Life Month is an annual observance that brings attention to the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. Each October, Catholics around the diocese — and around the nation — gather for activities and events that support and defend life at every stage.

Bishop 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.

16th annual rosary march — Oct. 10

The 16th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Erie Diocese's World Apostolate of Fatima, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 10. All are invited to gather at St. Peter Cathedral, West 10th and Sassafras streets in Erie, at 2 p.m. to begin a walk through downtown.

The rosary procession will extend through the downtown area before returning to the cathedral. For those unable to participate in the march, the rosary will also be prayed in the cathedral.

The guest homilist is Father Raymond Gramata, pastor of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville.

Canonization of Blesseds Mary MacKillop, Andre Bessette, four others — Oct. 17

Pope Benedict XVI will canonize six new saints Oct. 17, including Blessed Mary MacKillop, who will be Australia's first saint, and the Canadian Blessed Andre Bessette, who will be the first saint of the Holy Cross Brothers.

Blessed MacKillop founded of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Blessed Bessette founded St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal and was known for his intense piety, famed for miraculous cures and praised for his dedication to building the shrine to honor St. Joseph.

The others to be canonized Oct. 17 are:

- Blessed Stanislaw Soltyś Kazimierz, a Polish-born member of the Canons Regular of the Lateran, was famous as a preacher and confessor.

- Blessed Juana Josefa Cipitria Barriola of Spain founded the Daughters of Jesus.

- Blessed Giulia Salzano was the Italian founder of the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

- Blessed Camilla Battista Varano, an Italian Poor Clare.



Blessed Mary MacKillop



Blessed Andre Bessette

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In Britain, despite protests, pope gets a fair hearing

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

LONDON — In terms of his primary objectives — preaching the Gospel to his flock and defending the influence of religion in society — Pope Benedict XVI can look at his four-day visit to Great Britain as a major success.

The big question going into the Sept. 16-19 visit was whether the German pope would be given a fair hearing in a country where skepticism about religion runs high. The answer was a resounding "yes." Not only did the pope speak his mind, but he also received unprecedented gavel-to-gavel coverage in the British media.

Papal events were broadcast live, and every newspaper devoted several pages each day to the pope's words, which focused largely on the right of the church to have its voice heard in the public square. Some newspapers even published full texts of his major speeches and sermons — something that rarely happens on papal trips.



CNS photos

Crowd greets Pope Benedict XVI outside St. Peter's Residence for the elderly in London Sept. 18. The pope was on a four-day visit to Scotland and England.

Pope Benedict XVI arrives at Cofton Park in Birmingham, England, to celebrate Mass and the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman Sept. 19. Papal events in the United Kingdom drew both support and protests as the pontiff stuck to his primary objectives for the visit — preaching the Gospel and defending the influence of religion in society.

The flip side of such interest was that the pope's critics also had their day in the limelight. Thousands of protesters took

to the streets in peaceful but vehement dissent on issues ranging from AIDS and condoms to the church's record

on sex abuse.

Vatican officials said they accepted this as a part of public debate in Britain.

"We expected this. We know there are groups that

See BRITAIN, page 2



Recognizing many Good Turns



Scout executive Duane Havard (left) and French Creek Council District Chairman Charles Will (right) present Bishop Donald Trautman with the Boy Scouts' Erie County Distinguished Citizen Award.

Boy Scouts honor Bishop Trautman with Distinguished Citizen Award

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — While the Boy Scouts of America has changed with the times, its core values are timeless and have been part of Scouting life and tradition for 100 years.

Those values, according to its law, say a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,

friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

The French Creek Council of the Boy Scouts of America recognized those same values in Bishop Donald Trautman. The council honored Bishop Trautman as the 2010 recipient of its Erie County Distinguished Citizen Award during a dinner and ceremony Sept. 16 at the Bel-Aire Clarion Ho-

tel and Conference Center in Erie.

"These words that are associated with Scouting are best translated by being lived," said Father Tom Brooks, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie and longtime Scouting enthusiast. "True Scouts and Scouters try to incorporate them into their lives and practical circumstances each and every day."

As a church, Scouting family and a community of friends, we learn best from those who lead and mentor us, Father Brooks said.



"Jesus measures greatness only in terms of service, in terms of help, concern and care for others. And this is the basic definition of a true Scout."

— Bishop Donald Trautman

"Tonight we are privileged to celebrate one such great leader, great not just because of his position in the church, his education or eloquence but great because he indeed practices what he preaches," he said. "Bishop Trautman is truly a model for all of us who subscribe to the philosophy that actions speak louder than words."

The French Creek Council presents the Distinguished Citizen Award annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the educational, economic and cultural betterment of Pennsylvania. The award is represented by a statuette of "The Boy Scout" by Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie.

In thanking the French Creek Council for the award, Bishop Trautman

also acknowledged the many priests, Scout leaders, volunteers and parents who devote their time and energy to the diocesan Scouting program.

"We live in a great country built on the virtues and values we see enshrined in Scouting," he said. Through Scouting, young boys grow into manhood with a sense of responsibility, reverence and respect for others. They develop new skills and they explore new worlds. But most of all, they learn the meaning of helping others.

"Jesus measures greatness only in terms of service, in terms of help, concern and care for others. And this is the basic definition of a true Scout."

In presenting the bishop,

See BOY SCOUTS, page 3

Child Protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Diocese of Erie and its Office for Protection of Children and Youth were found to be in full compliance of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children during its most recent audit.

For the seventh time in seven years, the diocese has been found fully compliant with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse.

The diocese established its Office of Protection of Children and Youth in 2004, the same year the bishops' charter went into effect. The charter calls for annual audits to ensure that dioceses across the nation are in compliance

with the charter's provisions.

This year's audit, conducted by the independent Gavin Group under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, covered inservicing and safe environment practices from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. On-site audits are conducted every three years, with dioceses conducting a self-audit and filing a report the other years; this year's audit included an on-site visit.

To prepare for the on-site visit, the Office for Protection of Children and Youth conducted its own internal audit by visiting every parish and school in the diocese.

"We tried to impress upon them that this was the diocese checking to see how records are being kept and to ask if they need any assistance," said Karen Streett, coordinator for

the Office for Protection of Children and Youth.

Streett said diocesan personnel who made the visits came away pleased with what they saw. She added that training both children and adults properly regarding safe practices could help protect youth in other aspects of their lives.

"The parishes and schools know that the main reason we keep doing this is for the kids and that not all cases of abuse come from the church," she said. "Not only are we concerned about abuse in the church but any abuse, period."

During the August visit, auditors visited a representative sampling of parishes and schools, including: Our Lady, Queen of the Ameri-

See AUDIT, page 3

Child Protection

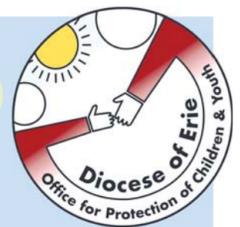
By the numbers:

Data from this year's Child Protection audit showed a total of 25,445 children, youth and adults inserviced on the Diocese of Erie's safe environment practices. The inservicing took place from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. As part of the inservice process, all adults have had background checks completed and cleared.

Inservices were conducted with:

- 21,052 children and youth
- 176 priests
- 64 deacons
- 19 candidates for ordination
- 792 educators (teachers, principals)
- 876 parish and school employees
- 2,466 parish and school volunteers

Source: Office for Protection of Children and Youth





IN THE U.S.

Poverty on the rise

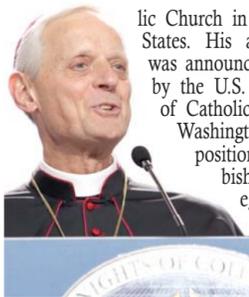
Catholic organizations expressed dismay over the Sept. 16 announcement from the U.S. Census Bureau that the number of Americans living in poverty in 2009 rose to 43.6 million, or 14.3 percent of the population. The Catholic Health Association, Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Social Justice Lobby Network issued statements concerning the data that reflect the highest poverty rate since 1984. The 2009 data contrasts with 2008 statistics that showed 39.8 million people — 13.2 percent of all Americans — lived in poverty. The bureau also reported that a record number of Americans — about 50.7 million — carried no health insurance. The number of uninsured is the highest since the Census Bureau began compiling such data in 1987.

Opposition to federally funded embryonic stem-cell research

A new public opinion poll released Sept. 16 shows that 47 percent of Americans oppose federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, while 38 percent support such funding. The poll, conducted by International Communications Research in Media, Pa., surveyed a random sample of 1,006 adults Sept. 8-14. It was commissioned by the U.S. bishops' pro-life secretariat. Survey respondents were informed that stem cells also can be obtained from adults, placentas, live births and other means that do no harm to the donor. They also were told that scientists disagree on whether stem cells from embryos or from such alternative sources may end up being most successful in treating diseases. Fifty-seven percent of respondents said they favor funding only the research avenues that do not harm the donor, while only 21 percent favored funding all stem-cell research, including research that involves killing embryos. The same day the poll results were issued the U.S. Senate held a hearing on whether federal money should fund embryonic stem-cell research.

Archbishop to guide Anglicans

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has named Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington to guide the incorporation of Anglican groups into the Catho-



Archbishop Donald Wuerl

lic Church in the United States. His appointment was announced Sept. 23 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. In this position, the archbishop is a delegate of the congregation and heads the U.S. bishops' ad hoc committee charged with assisting the Vatican congregation in implementing the apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum Coetibus" ("Groups of Anglicans"), which provides for creating personal ordinariates for Anglicans who want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. A personal ordinariate is a canonical structure similar to a diocese that covers the area of a bishops' conference. It allows Anglicans to join the church while retaining their distinctive patrimony and liturgical practices. The constitution was issued by Pope Benedict XVI last November.

AROUND THE WORLD

Hope at Middle East synod

Catholic Church leaders, anticipating the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, view it as an opportunity to call attention to the problems facing Christians in the region. The synod, to be held at the Vatican Oct. 10-24, will focus on "communion and witness." Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk, Iraq, who had asked the pope in January 2008 to convene such a synod, said the meeting "is an opportunity to revise the whole situation for Christians in the Middle East." He said it is a pastoral and practical synod, and not a dogmatic one. Archbishop Sako stressed that because there are so many crucial issues to tackle — liturgical reform; formation of clergy and other religious; dialogue among the churches; and particularly the political status of Christians — he hopes this synod will be highly productive. Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad said the synod represents "a big grace for the Middle East. We need

it because our faithful are leaving their countries," he said. "If we have peace and security, our people would not leave." The Middle East has many Catholic rites, and there is some division among them, Bishop Warduni said, "but like the first Christians, we must have one spirit and one heart, as when the Holy Spirit descended upon them."



Catholics celebrate the Easter Vigil at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City in April this year.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

German martyr beatified

A martyred German priest who died at the Nazi concentration camp of Dachau was praised for his courage and faith in God during a beatification Mass in Munster, Germany. Blessed Gerhard Hirschfelder's bravery in denouncing the Nazi regime was not a sign of "recklessness," but of "the power of faith," German Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne said in his homily Sept. 19. Even during his arrest and imprisonment, the young priest found strength by rejoicing in the Lord, the cardinal said, and his closeness to Christ "filled him with humble confidence" and hope. Born in 1907 in Glatz, Germany, Blessed Hirschfelder was ordained a priest in 1932, the year before Adolf Hitler came to power. Although Nazi authorities denounced him as an opponent to the regime, Blessed Hirschfelder continued to criticize the dictatorship in his homilies. He was arrested in 1941 and sent to Dachau, where he died of hunger and illness in 1942 at the age of 35.



Blessed Gerhard Hirschfelder

By the Way...

After serving as episcopal moderator of the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference for 25 years, Bishop Donald Trautman is getting a reprieve. Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas has been named as his successor as episcopal moderator.



Jason Koshinski

"It has been an honor and privilege to see firsthand the work of faith-filled professionals strengthening the church in fiscal management," Bishop Trautman said in a message to the organization made up of financial leaders of dioceses in the United States and Canada.

Bishop Farrell, who also chairs the USCCB Committee on National Collections, assumed the episcopal moderator's duties at the conclusion of the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference's Sept. 26-29 convention in New Orleans.

Speaking of Bishop Trautman, he will speak on the spiritual aspects of retirement during an upcoming retreat. "Ready to Retire: Decision Making, Preserving & Sustaining Vitality into Retirement" will be presented on Oct. 19-21 at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow. The event will include presentations on estate planning and elder law by attorneys Susan and Elizabeth Burkett. For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org or www.olmstedmanor.org and go under the "Events" link.

Nine young men in high school spent time in silence, prayer and brotherhood during Testify, a silent vocations discernment retreat, Sept. 10-12 at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry Township. A retreat for girls considering religious life will be held Dec. 3-5. Register now at www.onthevine.us, as space is limited.

Venango Catholic High School in Oil City has launched a new Web site, www.venangocatholic.org. The site features a live Twitter feed, a link to the school's Facebook page, a sports calendar and an alumni area with announcements, news and photos.

The creation of the site was aided by two grants, one through the Education Endowment Fund of the diocesan Catholic Foundation and another through the Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT (eBizITPA).

The newly renamed Mercy Hilltop Center, formerly the Mercy Center on Aging, celebrated its new name during an Autumn Splendor event Oct. 1. Phil Fatica, Erie County councilman, served as toastmaster for the evening. Artist/illustrator Bryan Toy did caricatures of guests on request. In addition, Connie Shoop presented a 45-minute ballroom dance exhibition with some of her students, including eight-year-old Owen Falkenhagen and seven-year-old Claire Razanauskas who stole the show dancing a Fox Trot. The evening ended with dancing to the music of DJ George Wisniewski.

The Mercy Hilltop Center, located at 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie next to the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, is Pennsylvania's first accredited senior center and offers a number of services.

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

In Britain, despite protests, pope gets a fair hearing

BRITAIN, from page 1

have differences with the Catholic Church, and they have a right to express it. But in general, the attitude of British society and the faithful has been positive," Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters.

Not surprisingly, the image of the 83-year-old pontiff seemed to soften during his stay. Many people, Catholics and non-Catholics, often react to sound bites and headlines in forming opinions about Pope Benedict. When he comes to visit, they get a firsthand look and a double dose of content — something that usually works in the pope's favor.

What also impressed the British was the pope's patient and gentle manner, which contrasted with the frequently strident tone of his critics. The pope has "a shyness that attracts," a commentator said.

"A guest who took the time to charm his guests" read one newspaper headline after the pope lingered with schoolchildren in a London suburb, listening to their testimonials and posing for pictures. His smile seemed genuine, and why not? He was looking out at a sea of banners and posters that offered friendship in language like, "We (heart) U Papa."

Pope Benedict came to Britain as a teacher, and his lesson plan was clear from the beginning.

In a meeting Sept. 16 with Queen Elizabeth II and about 400 civic and cultural leaders in Edinburgh, Scotland, he warned against "aggressive" forms of secularism that risk undermining traditional religious values.

His words came across as reasonable and respectful largely because he drew examples of Christian

cultural contributions from British history — the selfless service of Florence Nightingale, for example, or the missionary David Livingstone's efforts to stop the slave trade. And when describing "atheist extremism," he said the most sobering example was the Nazi regime, striking a chord with Britons as they commemorated the 70th anniversary of massive Nazi air strikes against the country.

In Glasgow, he donned a Tartan scarf and listened to bagpipe bands, then told Catholics it was not enough to live their faith privately; they should defend the church's teachings in the public square, he said.

"There are some who now seek to exclude religious belief from public discourse, to privatize it or even to paint it as a threat to equality and liberty. Yet religion is in fact a guarantee of authentic liberty and respect," he said at a Mass with more than 80,000 people.

The pope's words were clearly aimed at critics such as Richard Dawkins, the popular British author who has championed atheism and who considers religion a destructive force in society. But the pope's most eloquent answer to high-profile atheists came in his meeting Sept. 17 in London with some 4,000 young Catholic students, when he described belief in God as a "friendship" that can fill one's life with love of virtue.

"We need to have the courage to place our deepest hopes in God alone, not in money, in a career, in worldly success or in our relationships with others,

but in God. Only he can satisfy the deepest needs of our hearts," he said.

The keynote address of the papal visit came in Westminster Hall later that day, where the pope laid out his vision of how religious belief can help shape the moral and ethical life of a society. He warned against an effort to marginalize religion, and he pointed to an example that resonated with many: the campaign by some groups to ban public celebration of Christmas.

In his meetings with Anglicans, the pope deliberately steered clear of ecumenical differences and instead underlined the common task of fighting for the voice of religion in public affairs. In ecumenical terms, he made his biggest impact simply by his historic presence in two places never before visited by a pope: Lambeth Palace, where he met with Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, and Westminster Abbey, where he joined an Anglican prayer service that a Vatican aide later described as liturgically "wonderful."

The beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman in Birmingham Sept. 19 was the central religious event of the visit. The pope held up Blessed Newman as an inspiration in two significant ways: in the wider culture, for his vision of religion's "vital" role in society; and in the church, for his vision of Catholic laity who know their faith well and can defend it articulately.

Great Britain

About seven in every 10 citizens profess Christianity. The majority are Protestant believers.

Population ... 59.4 million
Catholics 9%
Parishes 2,977
Priests 5,225



Source: Vatican's Central Office for Church Statistics ©2010 CNS

FaithLife

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St. Mary of Grace Church Annual Columbus Day Spaghetti Dinner

Social Center, 1085 Water St., Meadville
Sunday Oct. 10, 2010, 11:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Pasta dinner includes homemade Italian sauce, meatballs, salad, beverage and dessert.
Cost: \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10
Dine in or take out. Unique gift baskets, used book sale and bake sale (homemade cannoli available for purchase).

EXCITING RAFFLES! CASH DRAWING! MONEY TREE!
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mgr.

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OR
\$25,000 CASH

"Harvesting The Seeds Of Faith"
October 3-7, 2010
A Parish Mission Experience at St. Jude the Apostle Parish presented by Fr. John McGowan, C.S.S.R. & Fr. Patrick Woods, C.S.S.R.

7:00 pm Mission Presentations
Sunday, October 3 - Faith In Our Loving Creator God
Monday, October 4 - Faith In Our Forgiving Savior
Tuesday, October 5 - Our Faith Response
Wednesday, October 6 - Faith In Our Risen Savior
Thursday, October 7 - Mission Mass, Mary As The Model of Faith

2801 West 6th Street, Erie / 833-0927 for more details

Briefly

'Little People, Big World' star to be guest speaker at SSJ Spirit of Courage

ERIE – Amy Roloff of The Learning Channel's "Little People, Big World" will be the featured guest speaker at the Sisters of St. Joseph 14th annual SSJ Spirit of Courage event on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie.

For more than 200 episodes, the Roloff family, including parents Matt and Amy, both little people, and their children Jeremy, Zach, Molly, and Jacob have welcomed viewers to share their daily lives from their pumpkin farm in Oregon. The show just began its final season.

The SSJ Spirit of Courage event honors individuals who have shown remarkable courage in overcoming challenges or adversity. The event is also an opportunity to create awareness of the many ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph that assist people in their courageous journeys. This year's honorees include Kim Fabrizio, Pat Fronzaglia, Leroy Hammond, Nell Hardy and Misty Siegel.

For more information on the SSJ Spirit of Courage, visit www.ssjerie.org, or to make reservations for the dinner (\$35 per person), contact Kristina Huber at 814.836.4202.



Amy Roloff

Theologian to speak at Mercyhurst College

ERIE – An eminent theologian will visit Mercyhurst College in Erie in October to deliver the inaugural lecture sponsored by the college's new Center for Mercy and Catholic Studies.

Terrence Tilley, Ph.D., will address "The Liberal Arts, the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the Search for Truth" on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in Walker Recital Hall of the Hirt Academic Center. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Notre Dame Glee Club to perform in Sharon

SHARON – The University of Notre Dame Glee Club, one of the of the most renowned all-male choruses in the United States, under the direction of Daniel Stowe, will present a varied program of music at St. Joseph Parish, 79 Case Ave. in Sharon on Monday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Founded in 1915, the 60-voice ensemble has a wide-ranging concert repertory encompassing art music from the Renaissance to the 21st century as well as spirituals, folk and popular music and songs of Notre Dame. They will be visiting Sharon as part of their fall tour.

Tickets for this event are \$10 for adults \$5 for students 18 and under and can be purchased at the parish. For more information, call 724.981.3232.

This event is part of St. Joseph's year-long 150th anniversary celebration.

Conference on disabilities in St. Marys

ST. MARYS – "Who I Am: Discovering the Value in disABILITY" will be held Sunday, Oct. 24 from 1-4:30 p.m. at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School's gymnasium (next to Queen of the World Parish), 134 Queens Road, St. Marys.

A panel of speakers will make presentations and answer questions. The Stereotype Busters will entertain with skits that teach the dos and don'ts of interacting with people with disabilities.

Jill Hrinda-Patter is president of Mission Empower and is an individual with significant disabilities. Through education, advocacy and empowerment, she works to promote a community where everyone with and without disabilities learns, plays, works and worships together.

After saying no to medical advice to have an abortion, Marilyn Keyes and her family celebrate the miracle of life through her eight-year-old daughter who lives with a chronic hidden disability. Marilyn's testimony bravely demonstrates how her family has conquered the fear of death by embracing the gift of life.

Although living each day without arms and legs, Craig Dietz does not allow his challenges to define who he is as a person. This powerful testimony will teach the value of all life and challenge all people to reach their individual potential.

This program is sponsored by The Peal Center and Catholic Charities' Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries.

The school is totally accessible, and sign interpretation will be provided.

For more information, contact Jackie Johnson at 814.824.1257 or e-mail JJJohnson@ErieRCD.org.

Organ concert in Grove City

GROVE CITY – Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City will host an organ concert at the church, located at 1310 S. Center St. Ext., Grove City, on Friday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. Performing will be parish organist Lesa Reed and guest organists Jeffrey Abbott of Pittsburgh and Father Cyprian Constantine, OSB, of St. Vincent Archabbey and Seminary in Latrobe.

There is no admission fee, but there will be a donation taken up for the new parish music scholarship program, which intends to offer grants for parish students to learn to play the organ.

For more information, contact Lesa Reed at 724.458.7771 or visit www.beloved-disciple.com.

Boy Scouts honor Bishop Trautman with Distinguished Citizen Award

BOY SCOUTS, from page 1

Father Brooks said he has been tireless in his support of the Scouting movement and what it represents—including recruiting efforts at St. Mark Catholic Center, religious award celebrations for Cubs and Daisies through adult volunteers, unit anniversary Masses, recognition of Eagle Scouts and maintaining a diocesan Boys and Girls Scouts office.

"These are just a few of the ways in which the bishop has helped promote what is the largest organized youth ministry in the world," he said.

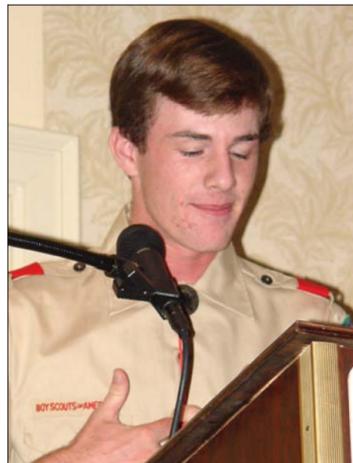
Prior to the award presentation, Joseph Caufield, an Eagle Scout and seminarian from St. George Parish in Erie, gave a reflection from a Scout's perspective.

"As I look back on my Scouting career, what I most remember are the great times I had with my fellow Scouts, both on campouts and in our weekly meetings," Caufield said.

He said he had a difficult time his first few months in Scouts. And after his first summer, he wanted to quit. His parents didn't want him to drop out on a whim.

"They encouraged me to tough it out, and after a talk with my scoutmaster, I decided to stay," Caufield said. "I am so glad I did. Not only did I get to enjoy scouting for many more years, but I learned a very important lesson: Don't quit something just because it's hard."

He recalled learning to swim during his first summer camp and the effort that went into his Eagle Scout project, which included building several bird and bat boxes and making educational signs



to accompany them. The project took 18 months and approximately 140 man hours.

"At such a formative time in every man's life, I can't think of any national program that equips young men for success like the BSA," he said. "I am both grateful for, and proud of my career, and I'd do it all over again if I had the chance."

The Catholic Church and the Scouting program have had a partnership since shortly after Scouting's inception in 1910, said Duane Havard, Scouting executive for the French Creek Council, noting that the church is the third largest sponsoring organization of Scouting units in the United States. Each diocese has a



Each year, Bishop Donald Trautman presents religious scouting awards at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie to Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies throughout the 13-county diocese.

Did You Know?

There are more than **330,000** Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers in more than **9,600** packs, troops and crews in U.S. Catholic churches.

— Source: Boy Scouts of America

Catholic committee on Scouting assigned to improve the delivery and execution of the program, Havard said, with one-third of Catholic parishes in the U.S. sponsoring Scouting units.

Table sponsors for the dinner raised \$7,000 for the French Creek Council, which consists of Scouting programs in seven counties in northwestern Pennsylvania.

"Tonight, the real winner is the Scouting movement," Bishop Trautman said. "Let us put the spotlight on all our young Scouts and all that they do for our community. They have such great potential. May Scouting help to develop their God given gifts and talents. May Scouting make them strong and secure in their faith and lead them in service to others."

Child Protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

AUDIT, from page 1

cas Parish, Conneaut Lake; St. Agatha, St. Brigid and St. Mary of Grace parishes, Seton Catholic School and Meadville Area Catholic Youth Ministry, all in Meadville; St. Peter Cathedral Parish and School, Erie; and St. George Parish and School, Erie.

"We need to give credit to the pastors, principals and religious education leaders who have

done a wonderful job in conducting the inservicing and keeping records," Streett said. "This isn't an easy process, and there's a lot of paperwork. If people in the parishes and schools didn't do the work, then we wouldn't have passed the audit."

Auditors look for a number of things, said Msgr. Robert Smith, director of the Office for Protection of Children and Youth. They include allegations brought to the attention of the diocese during the

year, the diocese's response and questions related to safe environment programs including background evaluations and training programs.

Msgr. Smith, who also serves as vicar general of the diocese, deals with the victim side of abuse. He said it is important for victims to know that when they call action is taken.

Any allegations go to Dr. Robert Nelsen, the diocese's victim assistance coordinator, who is

in private practice and a faculty member at Gannon University's Psychology Department. All allegations that come to the diocese are also reported to the Erie County district attorney, Msgr. Smith said.

"One of the main parts of the bishops' charter focuses on trying to help victims heal," he said. "We take every allegation seriously. No allegation goes without some response from the diocese."

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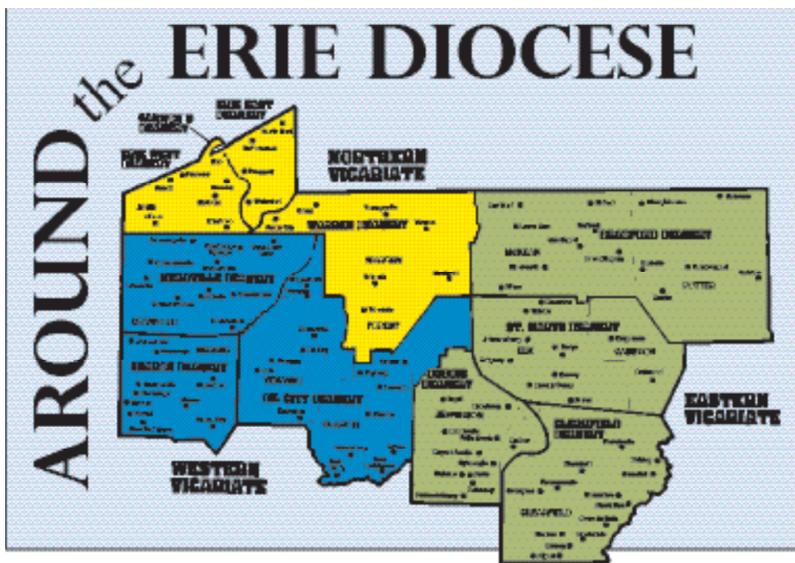
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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy **photo tips** on a wallet-size card.



Students hit spiritual refresh button at F5 youth rally

ERIE – Two-hundred youth recently hit the F5 button, not on their computer keyboards but on their spiritual lives.

The students, most of whom came from youth groups at St. Andrew, Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament parishes in Erie, gathered at St. Andrew on Sept. 11 for the F5 youth rally.

The theme for the rally, "Refresh my Heart in Christ," was taken from Philemon 1:20. The F5 function key on a standard computer keyboard is commonly used as a refresh key in many Web browsers and other applications.

Geared toward youth in grades 7-12, the rally served as a chance to spiritually rewind at the beginning of the school years, said Jesse Spanogle, who serves as youth minister for the three parishes.

"Sometimes we just need to take a step back and look at where we're going," Spanogle said. "This was an opportunity for them to spiritually refresh and renew themselves for the school year ahead."

The day included music from praise and rock bands interspersed with talks from a number of speakers including several priests, along with skits and dramas, confession and Mass.

One skit focused on the challenges youth face today, with the idea that not everything that pulls at us is necessarily bad but there are choices to make. At the beginning, a girl sat on a couch and standing at both ends were a girl and boy, representing angel and devil figures, respectively. Different people started coming into her life. A group of friends asked her to go to Bible study with another group wanting her to go to the beach. The groups pulled at her, asking questions back and forth—donate to the homeless or spend money, go to church or go to a party.



Lily Holder of St. Andrew Parish and a freshman at Central Tech High School in Erie writes on the Love Wall at the F5 youth rally Sept. 11. Students were encouraged to write what they love on the wall. Items on the wall ranged from "Jesus," "My friends and family," "Father Ross (Miceli)" and "Grandma" to "Justin Bieber."



Father Ross Miceli, center, welcomes the youth to the closing Mass at the F5 rally Sept. 11 at the former St. Andrew School.

In the end, the girl on the couch said, "I'm just too exhausted." The devil figure then uttered the skit's signature line: "I don't have to do anything. I own the middle."

"Is it OK to be lukewarm or do you want to be on fire for your faith?" Spanogle asked the audience. "Not all of these activities are bad, but they can take up a lot of our time."

During a talk, Father Michael Polinek compared the Christian life to being on a rollercoaster. On

a trip to Darien Lake as a youth, Father Polinek said there was one particular rollercoaster he wasn't too thrilled about trying. But after seeing all of his friends ride it and how much fun they had, he tried it, still with a bit of trepidation.

"There were parts that were a little scary, but it was pretty fun," he said. "I'm glad I went on. The Christian life can be fast and scary at times, but we're all in it together. We have to trust God, and he won't let us down."

Franklin Knights of Columbus name Drayers 'Family of the Year'

FRANKLIN – The Dan and Debra Drayer family was recently recognized by the Knights of Columbus Council 1020 of Franklin as its "Family of the Year" at a dinner at the council hall.

The honor, awarded annually by the council, acknowledges a local family for its involvement in both church and community.

Dan Drayer has been an active member of the Franklin Knights of Columbus for 42 years. Both Dan and Debbie serve as eucharistic ministers at St. Patrick Parish in Franklin where Debbie volunteers as coordinator for the parish Community Food Pantry. Dan also helps with their scheduled monthly food distribution which serves up to 135 families.

Dan and Debbie were both involved with Marriage Encounter in the community, and Dan also served on the pastoral council at the parish. Recently Dan and Debbie accompanied Sister Claire Marie Beichner and Sister Marian Wehler of Catholic Rural Ministries on a trip to the Mission of Friendship in Merida, Mexico, and a visit to a diocesan sister parish.



Members of the Drayer family posed together at the Knights of Columbus Council 1020 "Family of the Year" dinner. Pictured from left to right are: Floyd O'Neil, grand knight; son, Jonathan holding grandson, Damon; Debbie's mother, Kathy Berry; son-in-law Dell and daughter Mary with Levi and Jade; daughter Tina and granddaughters Hannah and Sarah; daughter-in-law Erica; Debbie and Dan Drayer.

Just as they came to Mass with their four children when they were younger, Dan and Debbie come to Mass with some of their eight grandchildren. During last year's Light Up the Night parade, which featured the council's entry, "Keep Christ in Christmas," Dan and Debbie rode with some

of their grandchildren in the parade.

Daughter, Tina is an RN at Butler Hospital; son, Jon works for Drayer Electric; daughter, Andrea is at Eastern Kentucky finishing her master's; and daughter, Mary is employed at Larson Text in Erie.

Mercyhurst Prep welcomes 37 international students

ERIE – In September, Mercyhurst Prep welcomed 37 full time international students from 12 different countries including China, Mexico, Korea, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, India, Poland, Taiwan, Uganda, Rwanda and Pakistan.

The students will become part of the school's International Baccalaureate program.

The school made the announcement during a news conference Sept. 20. Officials said the program mirrors the school's mission by educating students from all religious and ethnic backgrounds while promoting service to the local and global communities.

"As an International Baccalaureate school, we believe that part of our mission is to promote intercultural understanding and respect and to develop internationally minded people so that we can help to create a better, more peaceful world," said Kathryn Donovan, Mercyhurst Prep's International Baccalaureate coordinator and teacher. "What a wonderful way to help us facilitate this



August as the director of the International Program, teaches two IB classes: English as a Second Language (ESL) and Educational/Cultural Competency.

mission."

The IB program is a continuation of the school's encouragement of a global initiative, which has traditionally included students traveling to a foreign country. Departmental abroad trips are scheduled annually. The Katie Sherriff Scholarship is offered to a student traveling out of the country in the summer, as well. Students have also attended the Mahindra United World College in India and the United World College Atlantic College-Wales.

Sister Michele Marie Schroeck, RSM, who began her ministry at Mercyhurst Prep in

Sister Michele described the international endeavor as a "win-win" situation.

"It greatly enriches the educational, cultural and social lives of our students as well as the lives of the students from other countries," she said.

The students will earn degrees from Mercyhurst Prep.

Catholic Charities' disability and deaf ministries sponsors fellowship day

GIRARD – Catholic Charities' Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries recently sponsored a day of "Faith, Fun and Fellowship" at WLD Ranch in Girard. Participants rode and groomed horses, went swimming, took part in archery, went on a hay ride, had a cook out and ended with a prayer service.

Pictured is Matt Johnson riding one of the horses at the ranch while Kathy Bachmaier looks on.



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