

Getting the red hat

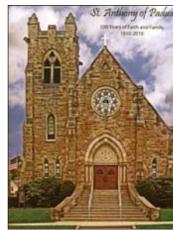
Pope names 24 new cardinals including two from United States, page 2.



FaithLife

'100 Years of Faith and Family'

St. Anthony of Padua in Cambridge Springs celebrates anniversary, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 31, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Charles Borromeo



St. Martin de Porres

Nov. 1	All Saints
Nov. 2	All Souls (commemoration of all the faithful departed)
Nov. 3	St. Martin de Porres
Nov. 4	St. Charles Borromeo
Nov. 9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
Nov. 10	St. Leo the Great
Nov. 11	St. Martin of Tours
Nov. 12	St. Josaphat
Nov. 13	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Confirmations

St. Callistus, Kane — Sunday, Nov. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

All Saints – Nov. 1

Nov. 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints (All Saints Day), a feast for the multitude of saints who have lived on earth and are now in heaven. It was instituted to honor all saints and martyrs, known and unknown. Normally a Holy Day of Obligation, that distinction is left off this year because the feast falls on a Monday. However, the faithful are encouraged to attend Mass.



All Souls – Nov. 2

Nov. 2 is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), a time for special prayers for those who have died and are being cleansed of their sins in purgatory.



Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel, 5711 West Lake Road in Erie in commemoration of All Souls Day, sponsored by Erie Diocesan Cemeteries.

Pope Benedict XVI visits Spain – Nov. 6-7

During his November visit to the pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona, Spain, Pope Benedict XVI plans to preside over the consecration of Barcelona's still unfinished yet most famous church, La Sagrada Familia.

The pope is also scheduled to meet with Spanish bishops, the king and queen of Spain, and the prince and princess of Asturias during the Nov. 6-7 visit.

He will visit the northern Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela, which became an important pilgrim destination in the Middle Ages. Tradition holds that the remains of the apostle St. James the Greater are buried there.

The pope's visit coincides with the Santiago de Compostela Holy Year, which occurs every time St. James' feast day, July 25, falls on a Sunday.

In Barcelona, he will preside over the consecration of La Sagrada Familia, the unfinished masterpiece by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi. Construction of the church began in 1882 and it is expected to be completed by 2025.

Mass for deceased religious – Nov. 9

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a 7 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, for deceased religious, priests, deacons and Serrans.

CORRECTION: In our election coverage in the Oct. 17 issue of *FaithLife*, the photos of Joe Sestak, the Democratic candidate for U.S. senate, and Tom Corbett, the Republican candidate for Pennsylvania governor, were inadvertently switched for each other. *FaithLife* regrets the error.

CATHOLICS COME HOME



A screen shot of a Catholics Come Home TV spot shows a priest greeting a family at church. The commercials, which will air on TV stations and cable outlets throughout the Diocese of Erie beginning in Lent 2011, invite inactive Catholics back to the church.

New diocesan-wide evangelization effort invites inactive Catholics back to church

light of Christ to the world for people who are seeking answers," said Tom Peterson, the president and founder of Catholics Come Home, which is based in Georgia. "The program shows how important it is to invite people to church. It's a good catalyst for other things."

While Catholics Come Home invites inactive Catholics back to the faith, Peterson said it has helped active Catholics go deeper in the faith and piqued the interests of atheists and agnostics into wanting to know more.

The early results, Peterson said, are verging on miraculous. In a little more than two

years, Catholics Come Home has brought 200,000 people back to the church and increased Mass attendance by an average of 10 percent in the handful of dioceses that have used the campaign.

"It has the potential of re-Christianizing our society and even catechizing the world," Peterson said.

In the Diocese of Erie, Catholics Come Home will be one of the largest evangelization efforts since *Renew and Why Catholic?*

"We've been looking for the right thing," said Father

See CATHOLICS COME HOME, page 3

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Two out of three Catholics don't attend Mass and don't practice their faith.

Catholics Come Home aims to welcome them back to church.

Beginning in Lent 2011, the Diocese of Erie will introduce Catholics Come Home, a com-

prehensive evangelization effort that uses promotional TV spots as well as parish-based programs to welcome returning Catholics.

"It's critical for us to be the

A life dedicated to unity, God's Work

The Spiritual Family The Work, diocese celebrate 100 years of Mother Julia Verhaeghe

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – At a young age, Mother Julia Verhaeghe, FSO, was filled with a burning desire to build up unity within the church. The foundress of The Spiritual Family The Work once said, "I have not founded anything. Since Christ founded the church, everything has been founded."

Local members of The Spiritual Family the Work, the community that Mother Julia began in 1938, along with the faithful of the Diocese of Erie, recently came together to give thanks for her life and spirituality.

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Julia at St. Mark Seminary Chapel in Erie Oct. 16.

In attendance were Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, and Sister Josephine Vuodi, FSO, the two sisters who represent the community in the Diocese of Erie; Father Peter Willi, FSO, international superior of the

priests' community of The Spiritual Family The Work; Sister Christine Felder, FSO, regional superior; priests, deacons, women religious, lay men and women and friends.

The Spiritual Family The Work, also referred to as The Work of Christ, was founded by Mother Julia in 1938. The spiritual family consists of a priests' community, to which belong priests, deacons, brothers and seminarians, and a sisters' community. They come from many different countries and are represented throughout the world. The sisters in the diocese represent



Mother Julia Verhaeghe, FSO

See MOTHER JULIA, page 3

Mass of thanksgiving for miners' rescue in Chile



Rescued Chilean miner Alex Vega, center, arrives with family members at the San Jose mine in Copiapo, Chile, Oct. 17. Some of the 33 miners rescued after 69 days trapped underground returned to the copper and gold mine for a Mass of thanksgiving.

CNS photo

New saints

Pope canonizes six, calls them 'shining examples' of holiness

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed six new saints, including an Australian nun and a Canadian brother, calling them "shining examples" of holiness and the power of prayer.

Thousands of pilgrims from Australia applauded and waved their national flags after the pope pronounced the formula of canonization Oct. 17 in St. Peter's Square for Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop, who educated poor children in the Australian outback in the late 19th century. She became the country's first saint.

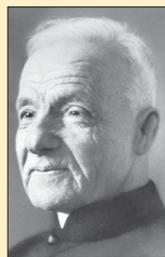
In his homily, Pope Benedict said St. Mary, 1842-1909, was a model of "zeal, perseverance and prayer" as she dedicated herself to the education of the poor in the difficult territory of rural Australia, inspiring other women to join her in the country's first community of religious women.

"She attended to the needs of each young person entrusted to her, without regard for station or wealth, providing both intellectual and spiritual formation," he said. Her feast day is celebrated Aug. 8.

Canadians cheered the canonization of Blessed Andre Bessette, 1845-1937, a doorman known for his devotional practices and his healing touch. He became known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal."

The pope said St. Andre "showed boundless charity and did everything to soothe the despair of those who confided in him." Although he had little instruction, he "understood what was essential to the faith" and had an intense prayer life, the pope said.

"For him, everything spoke of God and his presence," the pope said. Thanks to this simplicity, St. Andre led many people to God, he



St. Andre Bessette



St. Mary MacKillop

added.

St. Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart," the pope said. "May the example of Brother Andre inspire Canadian Christian life!"

Relics of the six saints were brought to the altar during the two-hour liturgy. Tapestry portraits of the newly canonized hung from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica behind the altar, and many pilgrims carried their own personal pictures of the saints.

The others canonized were:

■ St. Camilla Battista Varano, 1458-1524, the illegitimate daughter of an Italian nobleman, had to overcome her father's initial objections to enter the convent of the Poor Clares. Known for her mystical experiences during prayer, she died in an outbreak of the plague.

■ St. Stanislaw Soltys, 1433-1489, who devoted his life to caring for the poor in his native Krakow, Poland. Famed as a preacher and confessor, he was known as the "Apostle of the Eucharist" for his taking Communion to the sick and lonely.

■ St. Giulia Salzano, 1846-1929, taught catechism to schoolchildren near Naples, Italy, and later founded the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to continue her work, which offered religious education to children of all ages, to their mothers and to



Australian seminarian Daniel McCaughan waves his nation's flag prior to the canonization of Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop in St. Peter's Square Oct. 17. St. MacKillop, who educated poor children in the Australian outback in the late 19th century, was one of six new saints proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. She is Australia's first saint.

CNS photo



Lay missionaries from the Pilgrims of St. Michael near Montreal, Quebec, wait to enter St. Peter's Square to attend the canonization of Blessed Andre Bessette and five others at the Vatican Oct. 17. St. Bessette, 1845-1937, was a Holy Cross brother and doorman known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal."

CNS photo

regular laborers.

■ St. Juana Cipitria Barriola, 1845-1912, was a champion of education for girls and young women in her native Spain. Known in some countries as Mother Candida Maria de Jesus, she founded the

Daughters of Jesus with five other young women. She ran a special school on Sundays for girls who were employed as domestics, because Sunday was their only day off.

See NEW SAINTS, page 2



IN THE U.S.

■ Growing divide seen in political worldviews of Catholic constituencies

As in other recent election years, Catholic voting behavior is likely to resemble the voting of the population at large, but there is a growing divide in the political worldviews of various Catholic constituencies. That was the conclusion reached by a panel of pollsters and academics convened by the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at The Catholic University of America, which found increasing divergence in the views of older and younger voters and Hispanic and white Catholics. Up for grabs this year are all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, 37 seats in the U.S. Senate, 37 governorships and the seats in 88 chambers of state legislatures — 42 states have two chambers, and four are one-chamber states. Voters in the 2010 midterm election — across all religious groups and even among those not affiliated with any religion — are showing significantly less support for Democratic candidates than they did in 2008 for President Barack Obama, said Robert Jones, CEO and founder of the Public Religion Research Institute.



AROUND THE WORLD

■ Pope names 24 new cardinals

Pope Benedict XVI named 24 new cardinals, including two from the United States: Archbishop Raymond Burke, head of the Vatican's highest tribunal, the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, and Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington. The pope announced the names at the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 20 and said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 20. The new cardinals come from 13 countries on five continents and their number included 10 Italians. The November ceremony will mark the third time Pope Benedict has created cardinals since his election in

April 2005. After the consistory, he will have appointed about 40 percent of the cardinals currently under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. The elevation of Cardinals-designate Burke and Wuerl will bring the number of U.S. cardinals to 18. Of that number, 13 are voting-age — matching a historically high number for the United States.



■ Catholic aid groups respond after typhoon strikes northern Philippines

Catholic aid agencies worked to provide shelter and emergency relief to hundreds of people forced to flee their homes after the strongest typhoon in four years battered the northern Philippines. "We appeal to kind-hearted people, organizations and institutions to share donations for the victims," said Sister Perpetua Bulawan, coordinator of Caritas Filipinas Foundation, the church's relief and rehabilitation program in Manila. She spoke Oct. 19, a day after Typhoon Megi hit. She said the program had appealed to Caritas Internationalis partners around the world for assistance as well. Churches in northern Luzon prepared to assist people who lost their homes after the storm made landfall in Isabela province. The storm left at least 13 people dead and nine injured. Crops throughout the region were destroyed by the storm's 140-mile-per-hour winds. The Philippine government's Department of Social Welfare and Development welcomed more than 8,000 people forced from their homes in 57 villages across seven northern provinces.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Mildred Jefferson, pro-life leader and surgeon, dies in Cambridge at 84**
Dr. Mildred Jefferson, a leader in the pro-life movement for decades who was also the first African-American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, died Oct. 15 at

her home in Cambridge, Mass. She was 84. Among the groups praising Jefferson's pro-life work over the years were the Massachusetts Catholic Conference and the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. Gerald D'Avolio, executive director of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, said Jefferson's role in the pro-life movement "demonstrated the movement's breadth and depth — she was a pioneer in breaking barriers in the medical field and she was a dedicated physician who defended the dignity of the human person with intelligence and verve. Her respect for the Catholic Church and her willingness to provide compelling legislative testimony over the years in alliance with the Massachusetts Catholic Conference will always be remembered and appreciated," he added.



Dr. Mildred Jefferson

■ American priest who co-founded Missionary of Charity Fathers dies

Father Joseph Langford, who co-founded the Missionary of Charity Fathers with Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in 1984, died early Oct. 14 of a heart attack. He was 59. Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, a member of the order serving at the order's motherhouse in Tijuana, said Father Langford's sudden death came as a surprise. The order was founded to provide priestly service to the poorest of the poor, spiritual assistance to the Missionaries of Charity and to spread Mother Teresa's spirituality and mission. Originally based in the South Bronx in New York, the order moved its motherhouse to Tijuana, Mexico, in 1988. A native of Toledo, Ohio, Father Langford was ordained a priest of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in 1978 in Rome. He was inspired to join in Mother Teresa's work after reading about her ministry in Malcolm Muggeridge's "Something Beautiful for God."

Pope canonizes six, calls them 'shining examples' of holiness

NEW SAINTS, from page 1

In his homily, the pope said the new saints exemplified the effectiveness of prayer as an expression of faith.

"Sometimes we get tired of praying, we have the impression that prayer is not very useful in life, that it is not terribly effective. So we are tempted to dedicate ourselves to activity, to using all human means to achieve our aims, and without turning to God," he said.

The canonization brought some 8,000 Australian pilgrims to Rome, where Australian flags waved in abundance during the papal liturgy.

Peter Haynes, a 26-year-old Australian living in England, came to Rome for the Mass. He studied St. Mary in primary school and was impressed by the fact that "she started from nothing and made something out of it. And her legacy continues today. That's something."

St. Mary, the oldest of eight children of Scottish immigrants to Australia, began at the age of 24 to work with a priest to provide free education to the rural poor of the country. Three years later,

there were 60 sisters working in schools, orphanages and women's shelters.

The nuns were also committed to following poor farmworkers, miners and other laborers into remote areas of the country to educate their children.

Local church officials, however, disapproved of the sisters living in tiny, isolated communities — sometimes only two to a hut — frequently cut off from the sacraments in the remote Australian outback. St. Mary was even briefly excommunicated by the local bishops, who disbanded her order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. But within a few months, the bishop lifted his censure, and a church commission cleared the sisters of all wrongdoing.

In 1901, she suffered a stroke during a trip to New Zealand, and her health declined until her death in 1909.

Canadians in the square spoke warmly of St. Andre; some of the pilgrims even had personal connections to him.

Diane Guillemette of Montreal said that when her mother was 16 years old "she had a problem with her ear and she went to Brother



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates the canonization Mass for six new saints in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 17. Among those canonized were St. Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, and Canadian St. Andre Bessette.

Andre and he healed her." Guillemette called St. Andre "an example of patience, humility and love of work."

One of 12 children, St. Andre suffered from a chronic stomach ailment that kept him out of school. His father and mother died when he was young.

When he entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1870, his childhood parish priest, Father Andre Provencal, sent a letter to the novice master saying, "I am

sending a saint to your congregation."

St. Andre served as the doorman of Notre Dame College, the community's school in Montreal, for 40 years. His devotion to St. Joseph and his reputation for healing attracted thousands of people, and he began to be known as a miracle worker. When he died at the age of 91, a million people came to pay homage to him, and many remain dedicated to his memory today. His feast day is Jan. 6.

New agency to promote 'new evangelization'

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI unveiled a new Vatican agency to promote "new evangelization" and assigned it the task of combating the "de-Christianization" of countries that were first evangelized centuries ago.

In an apostolic letter released Oct. 12, the pope warned of a progressive detachment from religious faith, especially in countries marked by scientific and economic progress. The new council, he said, will encourage a clearer understanding of the faith and help "remake the Christian fabric of human society."

One of the specific tasks of the agency, called the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, will be to favor the use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the pope said.

In his apostolic letter, which was released only in Italian and Latin, the pope identified a variety of factors in the weakening of religious faith in the West: advances

in science and technology; the widening of individual freedom and lifestyle choices; profound economic changes; the mixing of cultures and ethnic groups brought about by migration; and the growing interdependence among peoples.

While such changes have brought about benefits for many people, they have often been accompanied by "a worrisome loss of the sense of the sacred," he said.

This erosion of religious values has led to a questioning of fundamental truths that once formed the basis of human society, such as "faith in God the creator, the revelation of Jesus Christ as the unique savior and the shared understanding of such fundamental experiences of man as living, dying and living in a family," he said.

He said the new pontifical council will address these expressions of religious indifference, which he said today were more worrisome than "declared atheism."

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Briefly

Let's Get Real Rally in Greenville

GREENVILLE – The Diocese of Erie's Youth and Young Adult Ministry will sponsor the "Let's Get Real Rally—Real Answers to Real Questions" on Saturday, Nov. 20 at St. Michael Parish in Greenville.

The rally for senior high youth will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and includes Mass and a number of keynote presentations including:

- "Is sex a four-letter word?" with Father Christopher Singer
- "What's up with marriage?" with Mr. and Mrs. Greg Schlueter
- "I'm a teenage Catholic. Is that OK?" with Jerry Stumpf
- "Can God forgive me?" with Father Larry Richards
- "Is Christ worth my time?" with Abby Schaaf

To register, contact your parish youth leader. For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

Cathedral Prep, Villa Maria Academy present 'Curtains'

ERIE – Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy will present the regional premiere of "Curtains," the musical comedy whodunit, in the H. David Bowes Auditorium at Cathedral Prep, 225 W. Ninth St. in Erie.

It will run Nov. 4-6 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and are available at the door.



'Once on This Island' at Mercyhurst Prep

ERIE – Mercyhurst Prep's Performing Arts Department will present its fall musical, "Once on This Island." The musical, based on the novel "My Love, My Love," by Rosa Guy, is the retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's The Little Mermaid with elements of Romeo & Juliet.

Dates for the play are Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students.

The school is located at 538 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. For additional information, call 814.824.2063.



Grand Gala at DACS

DUBOIS – The Development Committee of the DuBois Area Catholic School will host a Grand Gala on Saturday, Nov. 6 at DuBois Central Catholic. The event will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. in the school chapel. The evening promises a fine Italian dining experience complete with "The Sounds of Sinatra" by entertainer Nick Fiasco. The cost is \$30 per person. Proceeds will benefit the school.

Also being chanced off is a trip for four to Disney World.

For more details, visit the school's Web site at www.duboiscatholic.com. For reservation information, call Sharon Varischetti at 814.372.3882.

Formation session on new Roman Missal

Leaders of all parish groups and committees are invited to a formation session on the Roman Missal sponsored by the Office of Worship. The session is intended to provide foundational information to prepare leaders to assist pastors in implementing the new Roman Missal. Sessions are as follows:

- Tues., Nov. 30: St. Mark Center, Erie - Northern Vicariate
- Thurs., Dec. 2: St. Joseph Parish, Force - Eastern Vicariate
- Thurs., Dec. 9: Good Shepherd Parish, West Middlesex - Western Vicariate

A light supper will be offered at 5 p.m. The presentation runs from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. approximately.

Representatives of leadership groups such as pastoral council, liturgy committee, music ministry, religious education, stewardship, etc. are encouraged to attend. The session will cover history, review of changes, resources and plans for implementing the new Roman Missal. Registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact the Office of Worship at 814.824.1274.



New diocesan-wide evangelization effort invites inactive Catholics back to church

CATHOLICS COME HOME, from page 1

Tom Whitman, pastor of All Saints Parish in Waterford and a member of the diocese's Presbyteral Council.

The council chose Catholics Come Home because of its high

"The statistics show good results," he said. "Wherever they've done it, it seems to be successful. The quality of their production is quite good and the commercials are reaching people. Hopefully it has the same effect here."

The commercials detail the good works of the Catholic

spots. "We are young and old, rich and poor, men and women, sinners and saints."

The two-minute ad highlights the vital part the Catholic Church has played throughout history, establishing hospitals, orphanages and schools in addition to its role in science, marriage, family life, Scripture and sacraments.

"If you've been away from the Catholic Church, we invite you to take another look," the announcer says toward the end. "We are Catholic; welcome home."

Another two-minute ad shows men and women alone watching the best and the worst scenes from their lives play back before them on an old movie reel.

One ad features snippets of testimonials about why Catholics left the church and what they found upon their return.

Peterson has dozens more like it ready to go. Beginning next year, he said he hopes to make them national.

"If other denominations are using TV, why can't we?" Peterson asks. "The reason they do it is because it's effective."

Father Mark O'Hern, pastor of St. Brigid Parish in Meadville and a member of the Presbyteral Council, said he likes the poten-

tial the campaign offers.

"There are a large number of Catholics who have fallen away for various reasons," Father O'Hern said. "To reach them, we have to sometimes go outside the normal channels, and the TV ads will be effective at reaching those individuals. It's an opportunity for us to put our best foot forward and not to treat people who come in like strangers."

Parishes in the diocese have the option of taking up a collection for the Catholics Come Home campaign on either the weekend of Nov. 6-7 or Nov. 13-14.

With God's blessing and the help of good Catholics, Peterson said Catholics Come Home can be successful in the diocese.

"We hear the stories of people who have come back and we just praise God for the wonderful blessings he's given us with this evangelization," he said. "It seems like all of us have a loved one, a friend or neighbor that we can invite and welcome home. We show up, show love and so far great things have happened. Souls grow closer to Christ and come back to his Catholic family."

For more information on Catholics Come Home, visit www.ErieRCD.org and www.catholiccomehome.org.



Using vintage re-created scenes and compelling personal testimony, the Catholics Come Home TV spots aired in Phoenix in 2008. An estimated 92,000 inactive Catholics have come back to the church in the Diocese of Phoenix in large part because of the campaign. Different spots have since been shown in a handful of dioceses throughout the United States.

quality and effectiveness, he said.

Father Whitman said the campaign not only looks to bring back those who have fallen away from the faith but also encourages people who want to know more and become more active.

Church throughout history. They also offer real-life testimonials of local fallen-away Catholics explaining what turned them away and what drew them back.

"Our family is made up of every race," begins the longest of the

The Spiritual Family The Work, diocese celebrate 100 years of Mother Julia Verhaeghe

MOTHER JULIA, from page 1

The Work's first community in the United States outside of New York.

"We come to the Lord's table with joy and great thanksgiving," Bishop Trautman said in his homily. "We celebrate the 100th birthday of a holy woman, a faith-filled woman, a humble instrument of God who accomplished a great work for God."

Mother Julia was born in Belgium on Nov. 11, 1910. When she was a young girl, she frequently reflected on the letters of St. Paul.

"So moved by the inspired Word, she had a deep spiritual experience," Bishop Trautman said. "God touched her soul and gave her keen insights into the spiritual life. She truly met the risen Jesus in the Scriptures."

Mother Julia felt drawn to give herself entirely to God and came to understand that God had entrusted a special mission to her: to be an instrument for a new charism for the church, that of The Spiritual Family The Work.

Without financial resources and living in a country struggling to recover from a world war, she prayed without losing heart.

"This woman of faith persisted in seeking God," Bishop Trautman said. "She persisted in witnessing to Gospel values. She persisted in reaching out to help others. She persisted in focusing on strengthening the church."

Throughout her life, Mother Julia had serious health problems and was often bed-ridden. She died on Aug. 29, 1997 in the Thalbach convent in Bregenz, Austria, and is buried there. But her spirituality lives on in The Work.

"God has called The Work into being that it may meet the interior needs of the people of God," Father Willi said. "Therefore he has given the charism in which adoration and unity are center to its mission. From adoration and unity come rich blessings."

Those blessings made their way to the diocese in 2007 in the form of Sister Kathleen and Sister Josephine. But the idea was planted much earlier. Sister Kathleen was asked by her superiors to study



Father Peter Willi, FSO, (right), international superior of the priests' community of The Spiritual Family The Work, prays during the Eucharistic Prayer at the Mass of thanksgiving for Mother Julia Verhaeghe, while Bishop Donald Trautman and Deacon Robert Ball look on.



Sister Christine Felder, Sister Josephine Vuodi and Sister Kathleen Dietz of The Spiritual Family The Work wore their community's choir robes for the Mass of thanksgiving for Mother Julia Verhaeghe Oct. 16 at St. Mark Seminary Chapel. The robes, which are worn for solemn liturgies, are an outward sign that they have consecrated their lives completely to God.

for her licentiate doctorate in theology in Rome. During that time, she met Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education, who was also studying in Rome. And a connection was made.

"Many bridges for the church have been built in Rome," Father Willi said.

The Erie sisters reside at Julia House, 608 Walnut St., which is near Gannon University's downtown campus.

Sister Kathleen, a native of Vermont, entered the community in Austria before moving to Rome. She serves at Gannon University as a part-time faculty member of the Theology Department where she teaches courses on sacred Scripture and theology of moral

responsibility.

She describes her call as "a late vocation." She entered the community "as soon as you could," Mother Julia told her. "I felt that it was really a confirmation of my vocation coming when it did," Sister Kathleen said.

Sister Josephine is from Germany and joined The Work in Austria. She did her novitiate in Rome and has served in the Holy Land and England before coming to the United States. She is a pastoral minister at St. George Parish in Erie where she directs the RCIA program and assists the outreach group that visits shut-ins and those who are alone and makes hospital visits to parishioners. She's also available for spiri-

tual direction.

At St. George School, she started the Gospel for Kids program where she visits classrooms and discusses the Gospel appropriate for each grade level.

"I want them to meet Jesus as a friend," Sister Josephine said.

She recalls her encounters with Mother Julia as inspiring and inviting.

"She really radiated God's presence and love," she said. "I felt invited to explore more what it means to be a consecrated woman."

Both Sister Kathleen and Sister Josephine say they try to live out the hallmark of their community—unity—in their daily lives, whether they are teaching or in the very ordinary tasks of secretarial work or taking care of the house.

"That's what I think sustains all our members, wherever we are," Sister Kathleen said. "Especially at prayer and at Mass, we are united with our brothers and sisters."

"We try to live it as other houses live it—in spiritual unity," Sister Josephine adds. "We live in the same spirituality which is given to us, which is unity. We can do that by serving God. Wherever I am, I know I am representing the spirit of the community."

Mother Julia lived to see a spiritual family of sisters, priests and brothers grow up around her.

"How proud she would be of her sisters in the Erie Diocese," Bishop Trautman said. "In a short time, they have won the hearts of so many in the diocese. We thank and praise God for the Erie community of The Spiritual Family The Work. With the Lord's help, Sister Kathleen and Sister Josephine have accomplished already a great work for the Lord. They represent the very best in religious life, and we thank God for them."

Visit The Spiritual Family The Work online at www.thework-fso.org. More information on Mother Julia and the beginning of The Spiritual Family The Work can be found in the book, "She Loved the Church." Copies are available through The Work at theworkerie@catholic.org.

The quotable Mother Julia

Here are a few quotes from Mother Julia Verhaeghe, FSO, foundress of The Spiritual Family The Work, that give a glimpse into her spirituality.

"Unity is built up through the virtuous efforts of each person. This is not possible without sacrifice, prayer and love."

"Do not be afraid of living according to the spirit of Christ and of bearing witness to his holy name."

"Persevere! Even when we think that we can do no more, we must nevertheless persevere! God has a plan for each one of us."

"Our lives should be filled with reverence for God's majesty and mercy."

"Where there is love, service is easy."

"In his heart, the Lord has prepared a place for you. You know the way and the means to get there."

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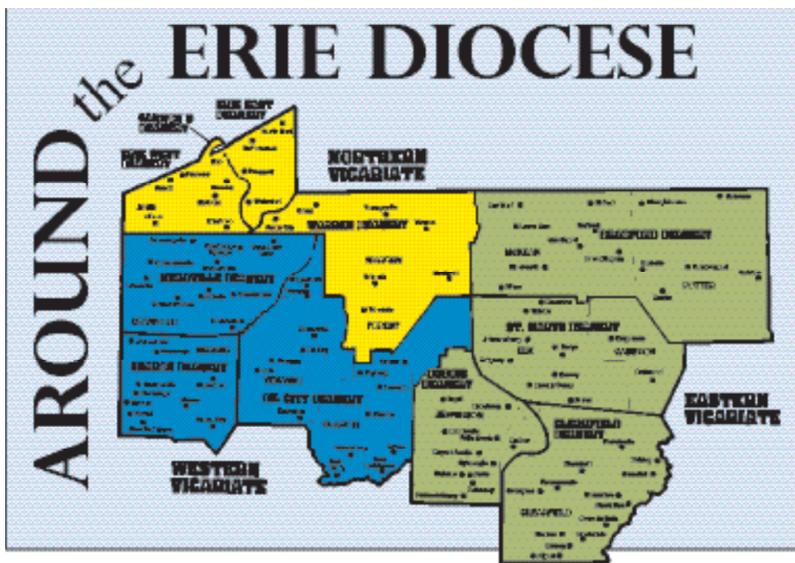
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AROUND the

ERIE DIOCESE

Sisters of St. Joseph welcome new associates

ERIE – The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania recently welcomed 22 people into associate membership during a Mass held in the chapel of the Sisters' Community Living Center on West Ridge Road in Millcreek. The liturgy was celebrated by Father Dennis Martin, who is also an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The new Associates were received by Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ and Moira Sullivan, SSJ, members of the Congregation Leadership Team; and Linda Kuhn, SSJA and Peggy Rusnak, SSJA, co-directors of the SSJ Associate Program. A reception followed the liturgy.



New SSJ Associates, left to right: (front row) Carol Hoffman, Mary Dennis, Christine Partin, Kathy Anysz, Diana Boller, (back row) Tom Hoffman, Dan Partin, Al Hannibal, Rosemary Oehmler, Mary Beth Smogorzewski and Margo Keefer.

SSJ Associates are Christian women and men who choose to come together to share the nature and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph to further the reign of God. Associate candidates are required to complete a year of preparation and instruction about the charisma, history, spirit and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph before they are welcomed into the program and asked to make their commitment which is renewed annually.

"Associate members are a gift to our congregation and to the church," said Peggy Rusnak, Associate co-director of the SSJ Associates. "They enrich us through the deepening of their spiritual lives and their ability to share with the sisters in living out our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God."

The practice of associate membership dates back to the founding of the congregation in France in the 17th century.

Currently, there are 252 SSJ Associates and 124 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.



New SSJ Associates, left to right: (front row) Rosalie Miller, Christine Laythe, Elaine Hirsch, Joy Sherred, Lorna Waddell, (back row) Lisa Austin, Joe Laythe, Louis Cox, Tony Bruno, Tish Hosick and Rebecca Hower.

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St. Michael kicks off Sister Parish Program with retreat

EMLENTON — St. Michael Parish in Emlenton held a retreat Oct. 9 to kick-off its Sister Parish Program. Parishioners of all ages gathered to write letters and learn more about the culture of the people of Divina Misericordia (Divine Mercy) in Mérida, Yucatán, México.



Parishioners gathered Oct. 9 at St. Michael in Emlenton to begin an exchange with its sister parish of Divina Misericordia (Divine Mercy) in Mérida, Yucatán, México.

Msgr. Jan Olowin, pastor of St. Michael, Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministry and Pam Gent, parish faith formation director, coordinated the retreat. Cindy and Dean Collins and Dan and Debby Drayer, family sponsors of the mission, spoke of their experiences visiting Mérida and working with families there.

The Mission of Friendship is a cooperative relationship between the Diocese of Erie and the Diocese of Yucatán, through Catholic Charities, which began in 1971. Currently there are 20 parishes in the diocese involved with the mission's Sister Parish Program.

The mission focuses on promoting community between the two cultures by establishing Sister Parish programs between two individual churches. These churches then exchange letters and visits to get to know one another. The mission also provides many community services such as medical clinics, shelters and day care for children and tutoring.

Many families choose to sponsor a specific family in their sister

parish. Sponsors provide prayer, emotional and financial support for their families. They communicate on a regular basis and sometimes travel to visit the families.



Both Msgr. Olowin and Sister Marian have worked in missions in México and Africa. Msgr. Olowin was also instrumental in establishing the diocesan Mission Office.

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St. Anthony of Padua in Cambridge Springs celebrates '100 Years of Faith and Family'

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS— St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs is marking its 100th anniversary in 2010 with a year-long celebration. Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated an anniversary Mass on Sept. 19 to begin the festivities.

"We're filled with wonderful folks of very deep faith," said Msgr. Lawrence Speice, the long-time pastor of St. Anthony, who will retire from active ministry this year. Father David Poulson has been named the new pastor, effective Nov. 8.

"We had more than 300 people here for the anniversary Mass," Msgr. Speice said. "It was grand."

The theme for the anniversary years is "100 Years of Faith and Family." Along with the anniversary Mass, the parish has already held a fall harvest dinner and a program on the history of the church windows.

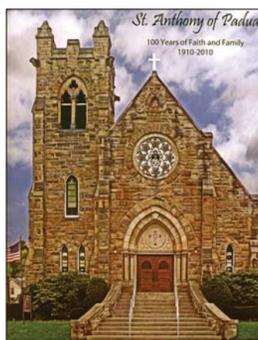
Other events and activities throughout the year will include:

several keynote speakers, parish caroling and Christmas party, a cash giveaway and game night, a St. Valentine's family fun day, a seder meal during Lent, may crowning and religious education party. In addition there will be Benediction and anointing on the feast of St. Anthony, a chicken barbecue and parish festival, a parish picnic, parish day at Waldameer Park and a golf outing. A social dinner and church rededication ceremony will close the year.

In its earliest days, Cambridge Springs was famous for its curative waters. One of the many Catholic visitors included Bishop Richard Phelan of Pittsburgh, who came for relief from rheumatism.

"People flocked here for those springs," Msgr. Speice said. "And we have a beautiful church because of it."

In 1899, the faith community was meeting in an old storefront before purchasing a former Methodist church. Until 1906, it was a mission church of St. Brigid Parish



St. Anthony of Padua, Cambridge Springs

in Meadville. Then-Father John Mark Gannon was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Anthony. With only 26 families, Father Gannon guided the construction of the present church with the financial aid of the many visitors.

During Father Stephen Dobosiewicz's tenure as pastor, the parish built a social center, which is site for religious education

classes and parish social functions.

When Msgr. Speice arrived as pastor in 2000, he promised he would remain at the parish for a decade. His parishioners are grateful that he was able to keep his word. During his pastorate, the parish has renovated the church and parish center, as well as built a day chapel and enclosed ramp. But the hallmark has been the construction of a gathering space.

"Saturday nights and Sunday mornings are wonderful," Msgr. Speice said. "It's changed the whole complexion of the parish. It's helped bring us closer as a community."

Two of the parish's key ministries include Metanoia, a presence to the inmates at SCI Cambridge Springs, and the Cambridge Springs Ministerium, which brings together the local Christian churches and sponsors the Advent and Lenten prayer and soup luncheons each year.

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