

New saints

Pope canonizes five new saints as models of Christian love, page 2.



Feast days



St. Charles Borromeo Pope Leo the Great

- Nov. 1 All Saints
- Nov. 2 All Souls
- Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres
- Nov. 4 St. Charles Borromeo
- Nov. 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
- Nov. 10 Pope Leo the Great
- Nov. 11 St. Martin of Tours
- Nov. 12 St. Josephat
- Nov. 13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

Confirmations

St. Callistus, Kane – Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Elizabeth, Smethport; St. Joseph, Mount Jewett; and St. Callistus, Kane.

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

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



100th anniversary of St. Mary of Grace, Meadville – Nov. 5

St. Mary of Grace Parish in Meadville will celebrate its centennial anniversary Mass on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. with Bishop Donald Trautman presiding. A reception will follow Mass in the parish center.



135th anniversary of St. Bartholomew, Sharsville – Nov. 7

St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharsville will celebrate its 135th anniversary with a Mass on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m. with Bishop Donald Trautman presiding.



Faith magazine features Letters from Home

Just in time for the holidays, Faith magazine brings you a cover story of generosity and inspiration: Letters from Home, featuring the work of Christine Jovenniti, a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Johnstown, who has overseen an army of volunteers sending nearly 400,000 pieces of mail to men and women serving in the military.



Cover of the Nov./Dec. 2009 issue of Faith magazine

Watch for your November/December edition of Faith this month, sent free of charge to households of all parishioners registered in the Erie Diocese. Not receiving yours? Contact Circulation Manager Brenda Williams at 814.824.1168 or bwilliams@ErieRCD.org

FaithLife

Hard as Nails

Youth rallies with Justin Fatica and Hard as Nails Ministry set for Erie, St. Marys, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 1, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

SHARING A PASTOR

At parishes sharing a priest, laity takes active leadership role

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Editor's note: This is part three of a three-part special report on parish mergers and reconfigurations. Part I and Part II were published in the Sept. 6 and Oct. 4 issues of FaithLife, respectively. They can be viewed online at www.ErieRCD.org.

In the future, your parish could resemble St. Basil the Great in Coalport and Holy Trinity in Ramey.

The two faith communities in the Erie Diocese's southeast corner have shared a pastor since 2005.

Led by Father Zab Amar, both parishes are devoted to their faith. Meanwhile, the laity is adjusting to new Mass schedules while increasing their own leadership.

"The people are very much aware that they are now connected by one pastor to another church," said Father Amar, "especially in this area here. Most of the parishes in this area are sharing a pastor."

Father Amar is indeed correct. Of all the parishes in the Clearfield Deanery, only St. Francis of Assisi in Clearfield has its own full-time pastor.

"That's really one ideal way to minister to more than one parish: Awaken in the lay people their obligation as baptized Christians and members of a parish that they have certain rights and obligations to claim their ministry."

While people would like their own priest, their Mass times to remain the same and to chat with their celebrant af-

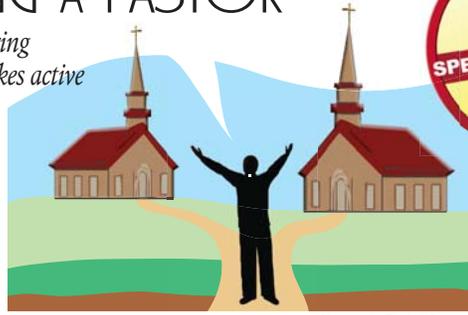


Illustration by Elizabeth Butterfield

ter Sunday Mass, they realize that always can't be the case. They're doing something about it. And they're not alone.

Of the 120 parishes in the Erie Diocese, 40 of them, exactly one-third, share a pastor.

Only parishes, not mission churches, were considered for these statistics (see listing on page 3).

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University estimates that 30 to 40 percent of U.S. Catholic parishes are sharing a priest.

The Official Catholic Directory, also known as the Kenedy Directory, shows more than 3,000 parishes across the country without a resident pastor.

Statistics show this to be an increasing trend, and the model of sharing a pastor has a number of variations: Some keep separate staff while others have only one who shuttles back and forth between the churches. Some combine pastoral councils, and some don't.

With shifting populations and a declining number of clergy, the model has become



a favored or preferred method by bishops to ensure the celebration of the sacraments for their people.

"It's really a big opportunity for the laypeople to not look at themselves as people in the pew but reclaiming their ministry, of working with a pastor," Father Amar said. "Instead of watching what's happening, they're getting involved."

While St. Basil has a 272 to 145 edge over Holy Trinity in the number of registered families, Father Amar calls Holy Trinity a "self help" parish. He said the people there take charge of their liturgies by scheduling who will help serve the appropriate ministries.

"They're beginning to learn and relearn and go help themselves understand the liturgy and the requirement of good liturgy," he said. "They plan it, and inquire to me if it's

See SHARING, page 3

Caring across the centuries

Saint Mary's Home of Erie celebrates 125 years

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The mission began during the post Civil War period when the Sisters of St. Joseph wanted nothing more than to provide the elderly with a place to live. Saint Mary's Home of Erie opened its doors in 1884—a two-story brick building that became home to 15 residents.

Today, that mission has grown exponentially to include two campuses offering medical, psychological and spiritual care for more than 400 seniors.

Saint Mary's Home of

Erie celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 20 with a Mass and reception at the Bayfront Convention Center in downtown Erie.

The Most Rev. Donald Trautman, Bishop of Erie, presided at the Eucharistic liturgy, with Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general; Msgr. Joseph Wardanski, East campus chaplain; Father William Fischer, OSFS, Asbury Ridge campus chaplain; and Father Tom Brooks co-celebrating.

William Minnix Jr., president and CEO of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, was the keynote speaker for



Photo courtesy of Saint Mary's Home of Erie

More than 300 people attended Saint Mary's Home of Erie's 125th anniversary celebration Sept. 24 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. The event included a Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman (above) and reception.

the reception.

Saint Mary's Home is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, but is separately incorporated. Its campuses at Saint Mary's East and Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge provide levels of long-term care—adult day services, independent, assisted and residential living, personal care, nursing care, Alzheimer's assisted living and nursing care

and respite care—in a faith-based atmosphere.

Throughout the years, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the board of trustees and the administration of Saint Mary's Home have gone through many strategic planning processes which have served to elicit the needs of the times and the area, said Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, president and CEO of Saint Mary's. It is a process that is constant

and ongoing, Sister Phyllis said.

"Currently, the needs we are trying to meet are the needs of the baby boomers and their families," she said. "This was a major factor when we decided to enter into a major renovation and addition project for Saint Mary's East. The renovations and addition will redefine nursing

See ST. MARYS, page 3

Flu and the Sign of Peace

What is appropriate?



There is no specific way to exchange the Sign of Peace during Mass. It is important to be sensitive during this time of flu to feel free to choose an alternative gesture to the traditional handshake and not be offended if others

choose to do so. Options include a small bow or a nod of the head, but most importantly, along with the words, "Christ's peace be with you."

—The Chancery

'Be a Man!'

New book by Erie pastor targets, challenges Catholic men

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

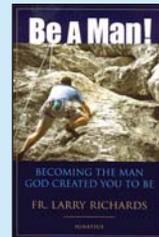
Father Larry Richards has a challenge for all the Catholic men out there.

Be a man!
Father Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, released "Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be" on Sept. 14, the feast of the exaltation of the holy cross. It is published by Ignatius Press.

The idea for the book started a few years ago when publishers began approaching him. They were looking for a book to reach Catholic men because virtually no offerings existed.

"I've always been involved in the men's ministry, so this was right up my alley, so to speak," Father Richards said.

He wrote it two years ago



Be a Man! BECOMING THE MAN GOD CREATED YOU TO BE FR. LARRY RICHARDS

and put the teachings into practice during a men's retreat he preached.

"I wanted it to be very practical," he said. "We came up with some good questions for personal and group reflection."

See BE A MAN, page 3



IN THE U.S.



■ **The U.S. Catholic bishops will debate and vote on a 57-page pastoral letter on marriage at their Nov. 16-19 meeting in Baltimore.** The letter, called "Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan," is another component in the bishops' National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, which began in November 2004. "The vision of married life and love that we have presented in this pastoral letter is meant to be a foundation and reference point for the many works of evangelization, catechesis, pastoral care, education and advocacy carried on in our dioceses, parishes, schools, agencies, movements and programs," says the document's closing section, called a "commitment to ministry." The letter is a collaborative effort between the bishops and pastors, family life directors, educators and pastoral ministers.

■ **More than 250,000 Catholics have been reached through the Catholics Confront Global Poverty initiative,** a joint effort by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services to address the root causes of global poverty through education and advocacy. In less than seven months, the initiative has reached one quarter of its goal to mobilize 1 million Catholics, according to a recent announcement from the USCBB and CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. The initiative

calls on Catholics to learn about and share the stories of those struggling to rise above extreme poverty, to pray for the world's poorest people and to approach policymakers on the issue as advocates for the poor worldwide. Catholics Confront Global Poverty was launched in February 2009 in response to Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 message for the World Day of Peace, titled "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace."

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Pope Benedict XVI has established a special structure for Anglicans who want to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church** while preserving aspects of their Anglican spiritual and liturgical heritage, said U.S. Cardinal William Levada. The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said a new apostolic constitution would establish "personal ordinariates" — similar to dioceses — to oversee the pastoral care of those who want to bring elements of their Anglican identity into the Catholic Church with them. Anglican priests who are married may be ordained Catholic priests, but married Anglican bishops will not be able to function as Catholic bishops in keeping with the long-standing Catholic and Orthodox tradition of ordaining only unmarried clergy as bishops, Cardinal Levada said. The cardinal announced the new arrangement at a press conference Oct. 20 at the Vatican. He said the pope's apostolic constitution and norms for implementing it were undergoing final revisions and would be published in a couple of weeks.

■ **Tens of thousands of people rallied against legislation that would allow girls as young as 16 to have abortions without parental consent** in traditionally Catholic Spain. The nation's Catholic bishops had urged people to participate in the Oct. 17 rally down a major boulevard in Madrid. In late September, the government formally approved the Bill on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy. Among other actions, the legislation would make abortion available on demand in Spain up to 14 weeks into a pregnancy as long as, at least three days before the procedure, the woman receives information

about her rights and about the help she can expect to receive as a mother if she continues her pregnancy. The measure still must be considered by the Spanish parliament. Abortion is currently allowed in Spain for the first 22 weeks of pregnancy, but only in cases of rape, genetic defect or threats to a woman's health.



Young women join a protest against a proposal to change Spain's abortion laws during a march through Madrid Oct. 17. The sign reads "No more punishment to innocent people!"

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **A standing reliquary containing relics of more than a dozen apostles and evangelists will tour the United States** in an effort to educate adults and schoolchildren about the foundations of the Catholic faith. The "Apostles of Our Faith" tour is being organized by the Los Angeles-based International Crusade for Holy Relics USA, which also was responsible for the 2007 "Relics of the Passion" tour in Guam and the recent three-year "Operation Special Intentions" tour of U.S. military bases. Enclosed within the reliquary that will go on tour are relics of St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. Barnabas, St. Matthias, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. John St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. Simon, St. Bartholomew, St. Paul, St. Matthew, St. James the Less and St. James the Greater.



By the Way...

The Sisters of St. Joseph have announced a new, larger location for the 21st annual Thanksgiving dinner they provide. Gannon University will host this year's dinner, which previously took place at the Marketplace Grill in downtown Erie. Meal times and a serving location on campus are still being worked out.

Last year, close to 1,000 meals, including approximately 400 home deliveries, were served. The effort continues to grow and this collaboration with Gannon University will provide a larger space while still offering a convenient, downtown location.

The sisters will still partner with Peter Lyons, owner of Marketplace Grill, and his staff to provide the dinner. It is estimated that since the dinner began, more than 20,000 meals have been served.

The Thanksgiving dinner is possible each year because of the monetary and food contributions from individuals and local companies. Monetary donations help cover the cost of the dinner and provide needed resources to local shelters, food banks and agencies throughout the year. Donations may be sent to the Thanksgiving Dinner Fund, Sisters of St. Joseph, 5031 W. Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506-1249. For more information on this year's dinner, call 814.836.4202.

Bishop Donald Trautman will hold his annual dinner and discussion with college students Nov. 6 at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro with students from Edinboro University. For the past several years, the bishop has traveled to area campuses to meet with young adults. The evenings include prayer, an informal dinner—perhaps pizza—and conversation. Last year, he traveled to Allegheny College in Meadville.

All Souls Day, celebrated Nov. 2, is the commemoration of the faithful departed. At St. Peter Cathedral, the 5:15 p.m. Mass will include vespers, which is sung evening prayer. All are welcome to attend and remember friends and loved ones who have died.

Father Robert Lewis will be the retreat master for a one-day retreat on prayer and St. John of the Cross on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry (near Franklin) beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Call 814.474.2753 for reservations. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per family; lunch will be served for an additional minimal fee.

The retreat is sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Division. The annual meeting for the apostolate will follow the retreat. Anyone interested may attend the meeting.

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



Jason Koshinski

Pope canonizes five new saints as models of Christian love

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Calling them "shining examples" of Christian love, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed five new saints, including Father Damien de Veuster, the 19th-century Belgian missionary who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii before dying of the disease.

At a Mass Oct. 11 overflowing with pilgrims from around the world, the pope also canonized Sister Jeanne Jugan, a French nun whose Little Sisters of the Poor continue to assist the elderly in the United States and more than 30 other countries.

After brief biographies of the five were read aloud, the pope pronounced a solemn decree of canonization and proclaimed them models of holiness for the whole church. Relics of the new saints were placed on the altar as St. Peter's Basilica was filled with a sung "Alleluia."

In his homily, the pope said the newly canonized had typified the Christian vocation of radical conversion and self-sacrifice made



(CNS photo)

Tapestries depicting five new saints hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica as pilgrims arrive for a Mass of canonization led by Pope Benedict XVI inside the basilica at the Vatican Oct. 11. Depicted in the tapestries are St. Rafael Arnaiz Baron, St. Francisco Coll Guitart, St. Zygmunt Felinski, St. Damien de Veuster and St. Jeanne Jugan.

"with no thought of human calculation and advantage."

Thousands of U.S. pilgrims came to Rome for the canonization, including a delegation of leprosy patients and their caregivers from Hawaii, where St. Damien worked and died, and residents from homes for the aged run by Little Sisters of the Poor

across the United States.

St. Damien, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, worked on the island of Hawaii for eight years before volunteering in 1873 to work at a leprosy colony on Molokai, where he served as pastor, doctor and counselor to some 800 patients. In 1884 he contract-

ed leprosy but, refusing to leave the island for treatment, continued to work until the month before his death at age 49 in 1889.

St. Damien has been considered an intercessor for patients with leprosy and, more recently, HIV and AIDS.

In his homily, the pope said that in view of her service to the elderly, St. Jeanne Jugan was "a beacon" for modern societies, which "have still to rediscover the unique place and contribution of this period of life." She was so effective with the aged because she recognized in them the person of Christ, he said.

Born in northern France in 1792, St. Jeanne formed a small prayer community and, in 1839, brought home a sick and blind elderly widow, giving the woman her own bed. Caring for the abandoned elderly became the primary focus of her religious order, and remains so today for the approximately 2,700 Little Sisters of the Poor.

She died in 1879, and today the Little Sisters serve more than 13,000 elderly residents in 202 homes around the world.



Web site promotes life of St. Damien DeVeuster

The Diocese of Honolulu has launched a new Web site highlighting the life and ministry of St. Damien DeVeuster, the leper priest of Molokai, who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii. The site can be found at www.fatherdamien.com. Born in Belgium, he was ordained a priest in Honolulu in 1864.

The other new saints included

■ St. Zygmunt Felinski, a former archbishop of Warsaw, Poland, and founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary. Born in 1822 near Volinia, which today is in Ukraine, he was deported to Russia and, after being freed, worked among the poor farmers of Ukraine and Poland,

founding schools for rural children. He died in 1895, and today the church sees him as an intercessor for all who are persecuted.

■ St. Francisco Coll Guitart, a Spanish Dominican priest who founded the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the 19th century. He was famed for his evangelical preaching, aimed especially at Catholics who had lapsed from the practice of the faith. He made great use of the rosary, initiating the "perpetual rosary" in parts of Spain, in which thousands of people took part. His popular missions continued until his death in 1875 at the age of 62.

■ St. Rafael Arnaiz Baron, a 20th-century Spanish Trappist brother known for his humility and life of prayer. As a student of architecture in the 1930s, he suddenly broke off his training to enter the contemplative life. Soon after he was stricken with a serious form of diabetes. He died in 1938 at age 27, and his prayerful devotion and his spiritual writings led people to describe him as a great mystic.

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Seventh Annual Retreat
Saturday, November 7th, 2009
St. Thomas More House of Prayer, Cranberry, PA

Join Rev. Dr. Robert Lewis and Rev. David Poulson as they lead the retreat. Cost: \$10 per person or \$15 per family. You may bring in a bag lunch or partake in lunch and/or dinner meals that will be served for \$5 and \$8. To reserve a spot, contact John Kostrubanic at 814-474-2753 or e-mail waoff@pngusa.net

Arrival and check-in will take place at 9:30 a.m. Evening prayer will conclude the day at 5:30-5:45 p.m. Dinner will follow.

Sponsored by The World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Division

People in the News

OLCS names Landenberger new principal

ERIE — Our Lady's Christian School in Erie has announced the appointment of Patty Landenberger as principal. She began her duties Oct. 5.

Landenberger, 45, most recently was principal of Bysville Elementary School in Bysville, Ohio, and previously served as principal of St. Joseph School in Randolph, Ohio. She is trained in the Diocese of Cleveland and Cleveland Public Schools, as well as schools in northwest Pennsylvania and Texas. She is a native of Conneautville.

She earned her master's in educational administration, Cleveland State University and her bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She holds principal's licensures in both Pennsylvania and Ohio and teaching certification in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas.

A ministry of St. Andrew, St. Jude the Apostle and St. Julia parishes, Our Lady's Christian School is a Catholic elementary school serving more than 420 students in preschool through eighth grade.



Patty Landenberger

Briefly

Justin Fatica and Hard as Nails Ministry youth rallies & retreats Nov. 1 in Erie, Dec. 13 in St. Marys

"The Awakening," a free event and outreach program intended to transform local communities, will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1 from 2-5 p.m. at Gannon University's Hammernill Center in Erie.

"Ignite the Fire," a youth rally and retreat, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys.

Both programs will be presented by Justin Fatica and Hard as Nails Ministry. Fatica is a Cathedral Prep graduate, popular youth evangelist and nationally known speaker.

"Ignite the Fire" registration materials for parish and youth leaders are available online through the Erie Diocese's Oct. 26 Information Bulletin at www.ErieRCD.org/infohub.htm.



Justin Fatica

Communicating with Compassion to the Sick seminar Nov. 10

ERIE — St. Vincent Health Center in Erie will offer a free seminar, "Communicating with Compassion to the Sick," for families and loved ones, clergy, women religious and parish visitors.

The seminar will be conducted on Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the St. Vincent McGarvey Learning Center, 232 W. 25th St. in Erie.

Are you ever at a loss for words when you call on someone who is ill? Are you seeking to be more comforting when visiting the frail elderly? If so, this event can provide information and insight to be more helpful and supportive to those who need it most.

The event, sponsored by St. Vincent's Pastoral Care Team, is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, call 814.866.4817.

Cathedral Prep presents murder mystery Nov. 5-8

ERIE — "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" will be performed at Cathedral Prep, West 10th and Sassafras streets in Erie, Thursday through Friday, Nov. 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m.

This first production in Prep's \$1.7 million newly renovated auditorium will be directed by Father Michael DeMartinis.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. "Drood," the last play written by Charles Dickens, was incomplete upon his death. Audience members will vote on several aspects of the play, including who turns out to be the murderer and which couple should fall in love.

Come enjoy the musical ... with a different ending each time!



At parishes sharing a priest, laity takes active leadership role

SHARING, from page 1

okay. They do the groundwork. It's a big help. It's wonderful, really."

Parishes that share a pastor can also see a financial benefit. Tom Burk, director of parish financial services for the Erie Diocese, said when a priest has multiple duties such as ministering to several churches or teaching at a secondary school, there is a significant cost savings as the salary and benefits are shared among the assignments.

Just north and up the Clearfield County line, Father Robert Horgas is in charge of the pastoral care of the parishes of Immaculate Conception in Osceola Mills and St. Agnes in Morrisdale. Prior to this assignment, he served the people of Holy Cross in Brandy Camp and St. Bernard in Falls Creek simultaneously.

"It's kind of like juggling each parish," Father Horgas said.

But the sharing of services can be of some help, he said. Dennis Socash serves as the director of religious education of both St. Agnes and its mission church of St. Peter and Paul in Hawk Run. Immaculate Conception has its own religious education program, as the parish is further away.

Some pastoral help will soon be on the way, as well. Socash is also studying in the diocese's permanent diaconate formation program to become a deacon. In a way, Father Horgas said, Socash is getting some on-the-job training for his ministry.

"Each of the congregations maintains its own identity, and the people certainly have taken ownership of various needs," Father Horgas said. "But if people wonder why parishes are sharing a pastor, all you have to do is take a look at the numbers."

In 2007, the Erie Diocese had 214 priests. Just 12 years earlier in 1995, there were 255. In the United States, there were 32,349 diocesan priests in 1995. That number fell to 27,971 in 2007. During that time, the number of Catholics in the U.S. increased from 57.4 mil-

lion to 64.4 million.

Despite a larger ordination class next year for the diocese (five priests are scheduled for ordination), deaths and retirements among priests have left a large gap over the decades.

The numbers have forced a variety of changes for many parishes.

"It certainly has demanded a change in Mass schedules, which most people understand," said Msgr. John Swoger, who oversees two parishes in Oil City, as pastor of St. Joseph and parochial administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Masses at Assumption are on Tuesday and Saturday while St. Joseph has Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during the week and two on Sunday.

"We have to do things like this with the shortage in priests," Msgr. Swoger said. "Assumption would love to have a pastor present full time, but they are grateful to have what they have."

He said the experience of being present to both parishes has been a good one for him personally. He added that he appreciates how parishes such as Assumption like to hold onto their ethnicity. Assumption is traditionally a Polish parish.

Deacon Tim Wren has been a wonderful help to both parishes, Msgr. Swoger said. He has added different devotions and services on his own, including a monthly holy hour at Assumption, which has been well received, particularly among young people.

In regards to sharing a pastor, Msgr. Swoger said, "It's the way things are now, and I would imagine it would be increasing." Just north of Oil City in Titusville, Father Skip Davis serves as pastor to both St. Titus and St. Walburga parishes, as well as the mission church of Immaculate Conception in Magnetown. He has done so since 2005.

"When I came here, there were three operating institutions," Father Davis said. "We started calling ourselves the Catholic Community of Titusville with three campuses. We were celebrating the community aspect. Initially, there was some resistance to that, but they began to like that, actually."

Parishioners began to minister

Parishes sharing a pastor

Of the Diocese of Erie's 120 parishes, 40 parishes currently share a pastor. In a number of cases, the priest may be the pastor of one parish and parochial administrator of another.

The following listing contains the clusters of parishes that share a pastor or administrator:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City St. Joseph, Oil City	Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville St. Mary, Reynoldsville	St. Adalbert, Sharon St. Anthony, Sharon
St. Venantius, Rouseville St. Stephen, Oil City	St. Adrian, Delancy St. Joseph, Anita St. Anthony of Padua, Walston Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Punsuxatway
Holy Trinity, Ramey St. Basil the Great, Coalport	St. Bonaventure, Grampian St. Timothy, Curwensville
Holy Cross, Brandy Camp St. Tobias, Brockway	St. Joseph, DuBois St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg St. Anne, Wilcox	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Smetport St. Joseph, Mount Jewett
Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills St. Agnes, Morrisdale	St. Eulalia, Coudersport St. Gabriel the Archangel, Port Allegany
St. Hedwig, Erie St. Patrick, Erie	St. Philip, Linesville St. Peter, Conneautville
St. Elizabeth, Corry St. Thomas the Apostle, Corry	St. Theresa, Shinglehouse St. Raphael, Eldred
St. Walburga, Titusville St. Titus, Titusville	

at each other's churches and coming to different Masses, Father Davis said.

"They go to whichever Mass happens to work for their schedule best," he said. "It makes no difference to them if it's their home parish."

A visiting priest helps out with Masses on weekends and holy days.

Father Davis said parishioners realize that more and more, parishes sharing a pastor is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

"It's either that or they recognize that the parish could close," he said. "They know."

While the community works

together and keeps separate parishes, Father Davis said it can be tough for people to let go of its individuality.

"When we started talking about community, we looked at Scripture where it says, 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism.' It doesn't say 'one parish.' You can blend those lines," Father Davis said.

He preached about it and acted on it. Within two years, it wasn't just him calling it the Catholic Community of Titusville.

"The people started calling it that," he said. "They see there were part of a larger church than just their own. I'm really proud of them because that's tough for people. It's tough to do that."

Saint Mary's Home of Erie marks 125 years

ST. MARYS, from page 1

care as we know it. It will provide a home-like environment that includes many features to promote privacy, choice and independence for seniors.

More than 300 guests attended the anniversary celebration, including a number of Sisters of St. Joseph, past administrators, benefactors and SSJ Associates.

Other anniversary events included a 125th birthday celebration Sept. 13 at both campuses for residents and family members, an employee luncheon Sept. 21 and an afternoon celebration for all residents Sept. 21.

The Gospel reading for the Mass came from Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

"No text could be more appropriate for this anniversary celebration than the Gospel which we have just heard," Bishop Trautman said in his homily. "Its theme is love — love expressed in compassion, mercy, love expressed in giving, helping, caring for others. Christ's Sermon on the Mount calls us to love, but love expressed not just in words but in action, deeds. This is the story of St. Mary's Home."

New book by Erie pastor targets, challenges Catholic men

BE A MAN, from page 1

Father Richards is clear that his book is set and written in a way to reach men.

"It's written in a straightforward style," he said.

"When I'm preaching to men, I often say church is not about taping through the tulips," Father Richards said. "Jesus didn't tiptoe through the tulips. It took a real man to be who he was. He's the one who showed us how to be a man."

Throughout the book there is a focus on a man from the Old Testament (David) and New Testament (Paul).

In 1 Kings 2:2, King David is dying, and the last words he says to his son Solomon are, "Take courage and be a man."

In 2 Timothy 1:7, St. Paul is talking to his spiritual son Timothy and says, "The spirit that God has given us is no cowardly spirit



Father Larry Richards

but one that makes us strong, loving and wise."

"I take these two men and how they lived their lives and focus on the true man, Jesus Christ, who becomes the pattern of manhood for all of us," Father Richards said.

The book's opening line cuts right to the chase: "You are going to die!" To put things in perspective, he puts the ending first.

"What is it you want God, your family, your wife, your kids, people you work with, what do you want them to say about you when you die?" he said. "You have to be very clear about what you want your life to stand for and start living today to get to that goal."

Here's a glance with some chapters and what they're about:

■ Chapter 2 — Be a Man Who Lives as a Beloved Son. "A man needs to know who he is before God, and he's a beloved son of the Father, just like Christ," Father Richards said.

■ Chapter 3 — Be a Man Who Repents. "To be a man, you have to repent of your sin and surrender daily to the Holy Spirit."

■ Chapter 5 — Be a Man Who is Strong. "What's it mean to be strong? You need to be a man of prayer."

■ Chapter 6 — Be a Man Who is Loving. "The core reality of being a follower of Christ is to follow the commandment, love one another. Do we lay down our life for others?"

■ Chapter 7 — Be a Man Who is Wise. "Every step you take is a step toward God or away from God, not the wisdom of the world. Do we do everything in our power to make it to heaven?"

■ Chapter 9 — Be a Man Who is Holy. "You are called to be a saint. That is not an option."

■ Chapter 10 — Be a Man Who Changes the World. "If you're going to change the world, you've got to have a plan. That's when you get the vision of God in your life rather than your own vision."

Another chapter focuses on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body and how men are called to be men.

"Men aren't better than women; women aren't better than men. But a man needs to be a man," Father Richards said.

At the end of each chapter are three tasks the readers must accomplish followed by three questions for reflection and group discussion.

"It's an in-your-face, challenging kind of style," Father Richards said. I try to challenge men to be the best they can be instead of just going with the flow. Are you growing spiritually? If you're not growing, you're dying. If you're not growing, what's the point?"

In the Year for Priests, he quotes St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests: "This is the glorious duty of man, that you pray and that you love."

"The book can be summed up in that," he said.

"Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be" is available at all booksellers and online.

DEATH NOTICE

Deacon Dalhart Dobbs dies at 78 Served as deacon assistant at St. George, Erie

Deacon Dalhart T. Dobbs Sr., 78, died Monday, Oct. 19, 2009. He was born February 27, 1931 in Washington, Pa., a son of the late Clifford Dobbs Sr. and Jannetta (Euhank) Dobbs.

Deacon Dobbs' early Catholic education began at Immaculate Conception High School, in Washington, where he received his diploma. He received his bachelor of science in education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, his master's in counselor education from Gannon University, his doctorate in educational leadership from Nova University and his master's and certificate of advanced studies from Fredonia SUNY.

He served in the U.S. Air Force and, upon his return, married the former Charlotte Newby and began a professional career as a teacher at



Deacon Dalhart Dobbs

Aca d e m y High School in Erie.

Years later, Dobbs was honored by Erie Mayor Louis Tullio for being Erie's first African-American male teacher. He was an Upward Bound instructor and trainer for Adults in Education and a guid-

ance counselor for minority undergraduates and potential high school dropouts. In addition, he was a university instructor in communication for the disadvantaged at Gannon University.

Dobbs retired from the Erie School District as the director of federal programs and special projects. As former director of the Erie Career Opportunities Program, he gained state and national recognition for his expertise in administering programs and coordinating services.

At the age of 69, he graduated from his theology studies to be ordained a permanent deacon.

He is the recipient of several humanitarian awards. In his com-

munity, Deacon Dobbs served as a member of several boards, committees and organizations, including: board of trustees for Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Book-er T. Washington Center, board of trustees; Martin Luther King Center board of trustees; Gannon University board of trustees; Penn State Behrend Agricultural Board of Trustees; and Bishop of Diocesan Christian Formation and Education Council.

He was ordained a permanent deacon May 4, 1998. He was a member of the Serra Club and the Knights of Columbus in addition to serving as a deacon assistant at his home parish of St. George, Erie.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Charlotte (Newby) Dobbs, many children, grandchildren, brothers, a sister, nieces, nephews and loved ones.

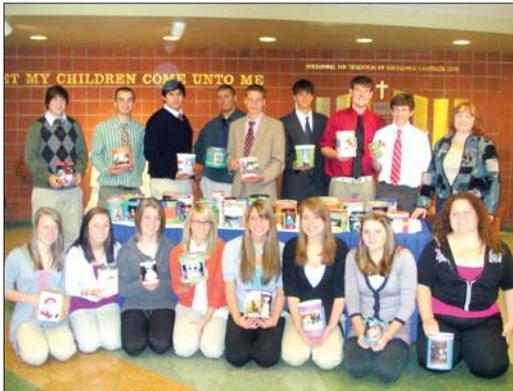


All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



DCC's Pro-Life Week features Beautiful Baby Contest



DUBOIS – As part of Pro-Life Week at DuBois Central Catholic High School, campus ministry sponsored a Beautiful Baby Contest. To enter the contest, students and staff had to decorate a coffee can with their own baby pictures. Staff members used photos of their children or grandchildren. A total of 110 cans were entered and displayed in the school's two main foyers.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Becky Dutra, campus minister. "The number of cans exceeded our expectations." All three DuBois area Catholic schools participated in the contest. All proceeds are being donated to the DuBois office of Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services. In total, \$167, mostly in pennies, was raised. Winners were crowned at the

elementary, middle school and high school levels. Pictured from left to right with their coffee cans are: (front row) Samantha Wright, Kristy Cook, Rachel Wells, Emily Milkis, Kari Kruk, Sarah Boyce, Erin Pease, Taylor Bowers, (back row) Will Gangewere, Dante DeSantis, Kristopher Alvarez, Nick Murray, Andrew Skraba, Alex Welch, Nick Poulos, Vince Pitrone and Becky Dutra.

Mercyhurst Prep celebrates Spirit of Mercy

ERIE – Mercyhurst Prep High School in Erie celebrated its annual Spirit of Mercy liturgy Sept. 24. On that day in 1827, Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, opened her house on Baggot Street in Dublin. Mercy schools and institutions around the world celebrate this "beginning" day.

"This is the liturgy that traditionally opens our school year," said Father Mike Allison, chaplain. "We celebrate our corporate identity as an institution and also distribute Spirit of Mercy Awards."

This year, the awards went to Nancy Zimmerman, the school's community service coordinator, and her daughter, Casey. Seven years ago, they assembled students to serve a hot meal one Sunday a month at the Upper Room men's shelter. The program is still continues today.

Also at the liturgy, the school invited Deacon Kevin Kunik of the Class of 1987 to serve as deacon and preach. Deacon Kunik was ordained a permanent deacon in May and serves as a deacon assistant at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie.



Deacon Kevin Kunik and Father Mike Allison

ECC seniors take on class project during retreat



ST. MARYS – The Class of 2010 from Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys chose Parker Dam State Park as its service project this year. On Sept. 21, students prepared the park for the winter months. Duties involved cleaning buoys, raking leaves, making paths, litter pick-up and clearing trails. The group also enjoyed an afternoon filled

with bonding as a senior class. This involved a scavenger hunt, an inspirational talk from Father Steve Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Erie Diocese, confessions, Mass and adoration with ECC faculty member Father Joseph Campbell and Father Schreiber. The day ended with a catered meal provided by the school.

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