

## USCCB fall meeting preview

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# FaithLife

## Heritage of Hope

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www.ErieRCD.org

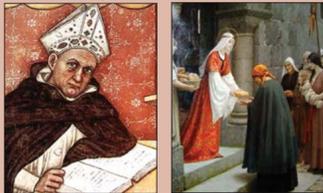
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 12, 2006

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Albert the Great St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Nov. 13	St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
Nov. 15	St. Albert the Great
Nov. 16	St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude
Nov. 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Nov. 18	St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
Nov. 21	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Nov. 22	St. Cecilia
Nov. 23	St. Clement I, St. Columban, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro
Nov. 24	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions
Nov. 25	St. Catherine of Alexandria

### Confirmation schedule

**St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie** – Saturday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m.

**St. Callistus, Kane** – Sunday, Nov. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

### Senior high youth rally – Nov. 19 at Kennedy Catholic High School

The annual senior high school youth rally will be held Sunday, Nov. 19 at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year's rally is themed "We Believe!" and will feature entertaining and inspiring keynote presenters from Apex Ministries, music ministry provided by Who Do You Say I Am, prayer and worship.



### Papal Honors – 7 p.m., Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia will confer Papal Honors on 62 individuals from the Erie Diocese during a 7 p.m. prayer service and ceremony on Monday, Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral. The honorees include 36 lay people, 15 women religious and one priest.

"Papal Honors is a recognition of the wonderful work that is being done in the diocese to build up the Lord's kingdom," Bishop Donald Trautman said. Honors to be bestowed include Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary, Knights and Ladies of St. Gregory the Great, Knight and Ladies of Pope St. Sylvester, the Papal Cross and Benemerenti Medal.



Cardinal Justin Rigali

### Thanksgiving Day – Nov. 23

A thanksgiving prayer by Samuel F. Pugh

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those with no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for what we take for granted,  
Amen.

## Clergy appointments



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

**Father Jerry S. Priscaro**, appointed parochial administrator of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, Port Allegany, and St. Mary Mission, Roulette. Effective Oct. 30, 2006.

**Father Marc Stockton**, appointed regional vocation coordinator for Cameron, Clearfield, Elk and Jefferson counties for a term of three years ending July 1, 2009. Effective Nov. 1, 2006.

# 'An attitude of gratitude'

## Stewardship Days focus on giving of time, treasure, talent to God, church

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

If you have an attitude of gratitude, you have the principle of stewardship, said Father Michael Jacques.

Father Jacques, SSE, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, was the keynote speaker for diocesan Stewardship Days. The speaker sessions, which included both day and evening programs, were held Oct. 24 at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway and Sacred Heart Parish in St. Marys and Oct. 25 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. The events were sponsored by the Erie Diocese's Stewardship Office.

Father Jacques began his talk by saying a Christian steward is one who receives

God's gifts gratefully, who cherishes them and uses them in a responsible, accountable way and shares them with justice and love for all and returns these gifts with an increase to the Lord.

"To be a disciple of Christ, everyone needs to respond to the invitation of 'Come, follow me,'" he said. "Christian stewardship is not an option. This is an obligation that we have as Christian people. To underscore Christian stewardship, it holds every individual accountable to God for the personal care of God's universe. At the time of judgment, God will have the right to ask us, 'What did you do with my people and what did you do with my work?' After all, it's God's work, not ours."

As disciples of Christ,

**"When you become a stewardship parish, you become about service to others. When you become about service to others, you begin to reach out into the community. When you reach out into the community, that's true evangelization. That evangelization is what brings commitment and ownership of a parish."**

— Father Michael Jacques



Photo by Jason Koshinski

Father Michael Jacques, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, was the keynote speaker for diocesan Stewardship Days Oct. 24 and 25.

Catholics need a religious motivation to help keep committed to stewardship, Father Jacques said, and that the concept of stewardship is a faith response we make to carry out the mission of the church. Calling stewardship a personal involvement, he said it's a

commitment of time, treasure and talent and a willingness to trust God above all things.

"Christian stewardship therefore implies everything that you have—every gift, every talent, everything that you possess—it all belongs to God," he said. "All your

talents, all your abilities, all your wealth—we must be accountable for all our gifts because everything is important in God's world."

Stewardship begins with the gift of time, Father Jacques said, and the realization that

See STEWARDSHIP, page 3

# Advocates of justice and truth

## At Red Mass, guidance of Holy Spirit invoked for law practitioners

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Judges and attorneys throughout the Erie Diocese gathered to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice on Oct. 30 at a Red Mass celebrated at Gannon University's Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

The Red Mass, a historical tradition within the Catholic Church, is celebrated annually for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors and students and government officials.

The Mass was sponsored by the Erie Diocese's St. Thomas More Society.

In his homily, Bishop Trautman said priests and lawyers have much in common.

"Every day we see the worst and the best in human beings," he said. "For example, our court system handles tragic cases of human weakness and sin, tragic cases of

brutality and violence. But priests and lawyers also see loving people, kind people, people who step forward to adopt, people who will their assets to help the poor and the marginalized, people who show courage in overcoming personal problems and start new lives."

In the evening's Gospel, attendees heard Jesus tell his disciples he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them always (John 14:15-17).

In calling the Holy Spirit the paraclete, Bishop Trautman said Jesus took the word from the Jewish law court to help his disciples understand its meaning. The word paraclete meant advocate, a person of good standing who had the confidence of the court and would present a case in the best possible light. The advocate would also give personal support to the accused.

"This says what Jesus, one with the Holy Spirit,



Photo by Jason Koshinski

does for us," Bishop Trautman said. "A paraclete is someone who defends and comforts. A paraclete is someone who speaks out for a weak person, someone who comes to the side of a person in need. A paraclete is a helper. That is precisely what the Holy Spirit is for us. The Holy Spirit comes to our side and acts as our personal advocate, our helper. Tonight we honor you who have the God-given vocation

of advocate, practitioner of law. We honor you who are the paracletes, the helpers of those in trouble. We honor attorneys and judges, and all who shape our society by practice of law."

Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg was the guest of honor and speaker at a reception after Mass held in the Yehli Ballroom at Gannon's Waldron Center. His talk focused on secularism. "When God is bleached

out of society, the fundamental moral values that come from religious faith and form the fabric of a just society disappear," Bishop Brandt said. "In a secularized society, freedom is nothing more than the license to pursue one's own brand of individualism. In this environment of complete relativism, tyrannies are easily created by a lack of moral absolutes and stable values which come from religious faith."

# Pope Benedict amends protocol for cleansing Communion vessels

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — At the direction of Pope Benedict XVI, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will no longer be permitted to assist in the purification of the sacred vessels at Masses in the United States.

In an Oct. 23 letter, Bishop William S. Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, asked his fellow bishops to inform all pastors of the change, which was prompted by a letter from Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Bishop Donald Trautman addressed the issue by sending a letter to all priest of the Erie Diocese.

"It is important that we keep in perspective the fact that this new liturgical directive does not change the clear and certain teaching of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy that Holy Communion under both kinds is a fuller sacramental sign of



CNS photo

A photo illustration shows a priest cleaning the Communion vessels.

the Eucharist and reflects the practice of the early Christians, as well as reflecting the words of Scripture: 'Take and eat ... Take and drink,'" Bishop Trautman said in the letter.

The U.S. bishops had asked the Vatican to extend an indult — or church permission — in effect since 2002 allowing extraordinary

ministers of Holy Communion to help cleanse the Communion cups and plates when there were not enough priests or deacons to do so. Bishop Skylstad, who heads the Diocese of Spokane, Wash., said Cardinal Arinze asked Pope Benedict about the matter during a June 9 audience, "and received a response in the negative."

# U.S. bishops' fall meeting preview

## Bishops to take up documents on Communion, contraception, homosexuals & vote on new directory, norms for liturgical music

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops meet this week, they will debate and vote on statements about Catholic teaching on marriage and family planning, who is worthy to receive Communion and the pastoral care of those who are homosexually oriented. They also will decide on a directory on liturgical music.

Also on the agenda are the texts of liturgical readings for Advent, proposals for restructuring and downsizing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a funding proposal for research on the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

For the first time since 1989, the USCCB will hold its fall general assembly outside Washington. The bishops will meet Nov. 13-16 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel overlooking that city's Inner Harbor.

To ensure that the hymns used at Mass are "doctrinally correct" and based on Scripture and liturgical texts, bishops will debate and vote on a new directory for music and the liturgy. Each bishops' conference around the world was directed to draw up such a directory within five years after the 2001 Vatican instruction *Liturgiam Authenticam* (*The Authentic Liturgy*). Within another three years, the bishops'

Committee on the Liturgy is to propose a common repertoire of liturgical songs for all Latin-rite Masses celebrated in the United States.

The directory is intended to serve "not so much as a list of approved and unapproved songs as a process by which bishops might regulate the quality of the text of songs composed for use in the liturgy," said Bishop Donald Trautman, chairman of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, in an introduction to the document.



Photo by CNS

Prior to their fall meeting, U.S. bishops will gather in Baltimore Nov. 12 to celebrate Sunday evening Mass together at the newly restored Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If approved by two-thirds of the bishops, the directory and norms would be sent to the Vatican for its assent.

### Bishops' meeting at a glance

Here is a quick glance at the main items the U.S. Catholic bishops will have on their agenda when they meet in Baltimore Nov. 13-16:

- Concelebrated Mass Nov. 12 at the nation's first Catholic cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, marking the 200th anniversary of its dedication.
- Statement on *Married Love and the Gift of Life*, reaffirming church teaching against contraception.
- Statement on receiving the Eucharist worthily.
- Statement on pastoral ministry to those with a homosexual inclination.
- *Directory for Music and the Liturgy*.
- Reorganization of committees of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- 2007 USCCB budget.
- Reduced 2008 diocesan assessments for USCCB operations.
- Strategic plans and priorities for USCCB for 2008-2011.
- Revision of some Advent readings in the Lectionary for Mass.
- Release of \$335,000 for next phases of national study on causes and context of clergy sexual abuse of minors.
- Election of USCCB secretary and several committee chairmen-elect.

## By the Way...

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania will host their 18th annual Thanksgiving dinner at Marketplace Grill, 319 State St. in Erie, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. The sisters and Marketplace Grill will offer a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings to anyone who is alone, in need or otherwise would not celebrate this holiday.



Jason Koshinski

Congratulations to the Catholic community of Corry and St. Brigid Parish in Meadville on milestone anniversaries this month. The Corry parishes of St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth celebrated their 150th and 130th anniversaries, respectively, with a Mass Nov. 4 at St. Thomas. St. Brigid commemorated 125 years with a Mass Nov. 5. Bishop Donald Trautman presided over both liturgies. Look for photos and coverage of the events in an upcoming issue of *FaithLife*.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer has already begun planning its 50th anniversary in 2007. The planning team met for its first session Nov. 5 in the parish's Gallagher Hall.

Speaking of *FaithLife*, our Dec. 10 issue will be dedicated to coverage of **Papal Honors**, which are being conferred on Monday, Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral. The issue will include a story and photos of the event, bios and photos of the honorees and some background on the medals and honors themselves.

A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at St. Mark Parish in Emporium on Wed., Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. Father John Jacquel will be the celebrant. Prayers for healing will be said after Mass followed by a social in the parish's O'Connell Hall.

U.S. veterans and their family members were invited to visit DuBois Area Catholic Schools on Nov. 9 for a continental breakfast in the cafeteria followed by a special Mass to honor veterans. The school's hallways were decorated in appreciation of the vets' service to our country.

For those interested in viewing a video of this year's **priesthood ordination**, it is now available online. Thanks to Herm Stork and VideoWorks of Erie, this high-quality video and sound lets viewers have a front-row seat at the cathedral for this beautiful ceremony as Fathers James Campbell, Joseph Campbell and Marc Solomon are ordained to the priesthood.

The video clocks in at 1 hour, 57 minutes and requires a high-speed Internet connection. To view the video, click on the link on the Erie Diocese's homepage at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

Jason Koshinski is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at [JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org) or 814.824.1171.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### U.S.

#### Conference seeks to mobilize U.S. Catholics against global poverty

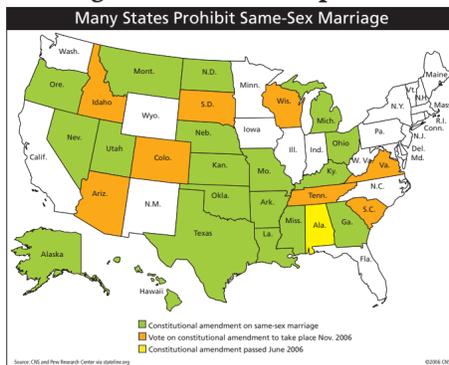
SAN FRANCISCO — In a world where half of the population is poor and more than 1 billion people endure a poverty so harsh that their very survival is at risk daily, the notion of eliminating extreme poverty from the world in this lifetime may seem utopian. But Columbia University professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, author of *The End of Poverty*, said with only a little more help from the United States and other developed nations, the lives of the world's poorest people could be dramatically improved. America and other nations simply need to live up to the development assistance promises they made six years ago, he said in a keynote speech Oct. 27 at the Point 7 Now national conference on global poverty. The event was held Oct. 27-28 at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. The Point 7 Now conference title refers to goals adopted by the nations of the world in September 2000 at the U.N. Millennium Summit, aimed at reducing extreme poverty and improving the lives of those living in the world's poorest countries by the year 2015. Governments of most developed countries agreed to increase their aid to the poorest countries — pledging the equivalent of seven-tenths of 1 percent of their gross domestic product each year for development assistance.

#### Catholic giving rides crest of strong uptick in charitable donations

Rise in Giving		
Select major Catholic charities	2005 donations in millions	percent of increase from previous year
Catholic Charities USA	\$646.19	11.2
Catholic Relief Services	\$342.60	146
Catholic Medical Mission Board	\$193.73	60
Covenant House	\$97.05	27.9
Christian Appalachian Project	\$91.21	8.2
Girls and Boys Town	\$82.18	4.5

WASHINGTON — The concept of "donor fatigue" did not seem to afflict the United States' largest endowments, nonprofits and charitable groups in 2005, with Catholic organizations seemingly benefiting from increased giving as much as most other major philanthropic groups, according to a survey conducted by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. In its annual study of the 400 largest philanthropic organizations, the average increase in private donations was 13.2 percent, but some Catholic organizations eclipsed even that strong showing. Results of the study were published in the *Chronicle's* Oct. 26 issue. Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore registered a whopping 146.3 percent jump in donations, ranking 32nd out of the top 100 organizations with \$342.6 million in contributions. The Catholic Medical Mission Board, based in New York City, took in \$196.74 million in donations, an increase of 60.4 percent. It was ranked 73rd. The other Catholic group in the top 100 — Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Va. — ranked 14th with support amounting to \$646.19 million. Its contributions rose 11.2 percent.

#### N.J. court says same-sex couples have same rights as married couples



TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey's highest court ruled Oct. 25 that same-sex couples are due the same rights and benefits as married couples under the state constitution's equal protection clause. But the State Supreme Court, in its 4-3 decision, deferred to the "democratic process" the question of whether those rights and benefits should be guaranteed by some form of marriage, a civil union like what is in effect in Vermont or some other type of arrangement. Massachusetts currently is the only U.S. state to allow same-sex marriages. Catholic leaders across the country have been active in efforts to limit marriage to the traditional union of one man and one woman. Nineteen states have adopted constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage and another nine were considering such a ban this year.

### WORLD

#### Bishops from Americas discuss threats to life, U.S. border fence



VATICAN CITY — The breakdown of families and threats to human life from abortion to the death penalty are challenges Catholics in the Americas must confront, said a group of bishops meeting at the Vatican. The council of bishops charged with monitoring and promoting follow-up to the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America and to Pope John Paul II's 1999 post-synodal document, *The Church in America*, met at the Vatican in early October. In addition to denouncing threats to human life, council members — from North and South America as well as from the Vatican — also offered a harsh assessment of plans to construct a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. On Oct. 23, Congress sent the bill authorizing construction of 700 miles of fencing to President George W. Bush, who was scheduled to sign the provision Oct. 26. "The wall along the United States-Mexico border will not resolve the problem of the migratory flux between the two countries and will not help establish a coordinated and humanitarian migration policy," the bishops said.

#### Commission looks for balance in English liturgical translations

VATICAN CITY — Work on a new English translation of the Mass continues to seek a balance between a highly formal prayer language and preserving liturgical phrases that have become part of an English speaker's prayer tradition, said Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney. Cardinal Pell chairs the Vox Clara Commission, an international group of bishops who advise the Vatican on English liturgical translations. Vox Clara met Oct. 23-26 at the Vatican to study translations developed by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. Describing many of the texts as "outstanding," Vox Clara members also said they gave the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments an "extensive commentary on certain problems" found in the translations. Cardinal Pell told Catholic News Service Oct. 27: "It is important to be clear that they are small problems. They are not major problems at all."

### PEOPLE

#### New Orleans composer pens Mass honoring Pope John Paul II

WASHINGTON — Jay Weigel had never composed a Mass before. But he has his first Mass under his belt now: *The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great*. Nurturing the Mass from its beginning to the present was an arduous journey, complicated by the fact that Weigel lives in New Orleans and was buffeted by Hurricane Katrina. "The CD was going to get released a year ago. ... And essentially, the recording existed, but a lot of work remained putting on the final touches," he said. "Frankly, when the hurricane hit, we were in the middle of that. ... I wasn't able to get on it (again) until Easter time," said Weigel, who was commissioned by the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans to compose the Mass. *The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great*, which was released Oct. 17, is available on CD online at: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.papalmusic.com](http://www.papalmusic.com), or by phone at 1.800.513.8743. It costs \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.



Composer Jay Weigel

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Consultant

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### FaithLife

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# Heritage of Hope

## Benedictine Sisters of Erie launch \$9 million capital campaign

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

It was not a coincidence that the Benedictine Sisters of Erie chose to announce the public phase of their Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign on the feast of All Saints.

"We need our Benedictine community that's in heaven to bless us and to bless this effort of the capital campaign," said Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

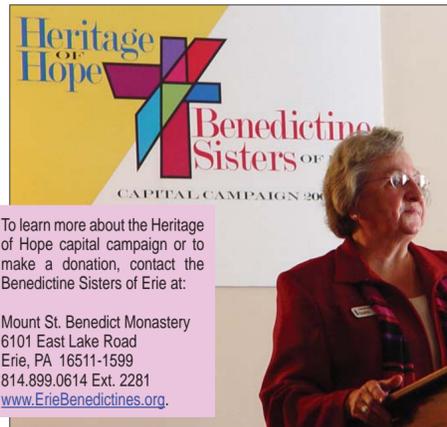
The sisters held a news conference Nov. 1 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery to announce their goal of reaching \$9 million during the capital campaign, which will run through 2008, to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the community.

"In the spirit of our foremoth-

ers, who came to Erie 150 years ago, we the community of sisters, want to look to the future and see not problems but limitless possibilities," Sister Christine said. "We want to leave a legacy—a heritage of hope—to the women who come after us, to the Erie community and especially to the poor with whom we share life."

In outlining the goals of the campaign, Sister Christine said the funds have been earmarked for the renovation of monastery properties, chapel renovation and establishing a ministry fund.

The Benedictine sisters are well on their way toward achieving the \$9 million goal. The quiet phase of the campaign, which started in 2005, has already netted \$5.6 million in pledged donations, representing 63 percent of



Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress

To learn more about the Heritage of Hope capital campaign or to make a donation, contact the Benedictine Sisters of Erie at:

Mount St. Benedict Monastery  
6101 East Lake Road  
Erie, PA 16511-1599  
814.899.0614 Ext. 2281  
[www.ErieBenedictines.org](http://www.ErieBenedictines.org)

the \$9 million goal. When Sister Christine shared with gathered sisters, oblates and friends that the community already has \$4 million of pledges in the bank, they responded with a round of applause.

The capital campaign is the first by the religious community since Mount St. Benedict was built 36 years ago. By renovating the chapel and monastery properties, Sister Christine said the community will be able to continue its ministry with renewed energy while providing a spiritual center for more than 250 oblates, alumnae friends and visitors.

Earlier this year, with plans for the chapel renovation in place, the Benedictine Sisters donated its fixtures, including pews, lights and ceiling fans, to Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Cameron, La., which was severely

damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Renovations began Aug. 1 and are expected to be completed in 10 months. Rededication and blessing of the chapel is scheduled for July 11, the feast of St. Benedict. In the meantime, liturgies and prayer services will be held in the garden room, a multi-purpose space on the monastery's ground level.

By establishing a ministry fund, Sister Christine noted that the sisters will have the flexibility to address current needs in society while providing seed money for new ministries in the years to come. Benedictine ministries help serve the poor and marginalized, many of whom come from the inner-city of Erie.

The ministries are: St. Benedict Education Center; St. Benedict Community Center; the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House;

### Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign

The following is an outline of goals for the Erie Benedictine Sisters' \$9 million Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign:

- Renovation of monastery properties (\$5.5 million)**
  - Repair roof and replace windows
  - Enlarge monastery residential rooms and install shared bathrooms
  - Renovate front entrance for accessibility
  - Monastery assisted living renovation with air conditioning, a call-bell system and wider bedroom doors
  - Renovate ministry buildings and sisters' residences
- Chapel renovation (\$1.5 million)**
  - Interior renovation includes leveling of floor, upgrading HVAC and electrical systems and reconfiguring space in the monastic choir tradition
  - Replace chapel roof and ceiling
  - Create a Blessed Sacrament chapel for contemplative prayer and reflection
  - Incorporate a significant water (baptismal) symbol
- Establishing a ministry fund (\$2 million)**
  - Create a fund to support current and future ministry
  - Provide seed money for new ministry development

Emmaus Ministries Inc., which includes Emmaus Soup Kitchen and Sister Gus' Kids Café; St. Benedict Child Development Center; and Benetwood Apartments.

"It is through the generosity of others that we are able to continue the kind of work that we have," Sister Christine said. "We look forward to the future with great hope. Throughout our history, Erie Benedictines have counted on the friendship and support of our benefactors. We have done nothing alone. You have been with us."

Former Erie mayor Joyce Savocchio said she saw firsthand and up close the work the sisters have done in the Erie commu-

nity. "Every time they came into the office and said, 'Mayor, we have a project,' I was on board immediately," said Savocchio, who along with former Erie County Executive Judy Lynch, will serve as honorary co-chair of the campaign. "Nobody did more with the funds they had than this order in carrying out their projects."

Sitting on the campaign's leadership committee are Jo Clarke; Rick and Sue Clayton; Sister Dane Cook, OSB; Steve and Kathy Danch; Sister Miriam Mashank, OSB; Marco and Betsy Monsalve; Will and Ann O'Neil; Sister Mary Jane Vergotz, OSB; and Sister Christine Vladimiroff.

## People in the News

### Catholic Charities names Emma Lee McCloskey director of development and marketing

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie welcomed Emma Lee McCloskey as its new director of development and marketing on Oct. 17.

"What I'm really looking forward to is bringing forward the very long-term and stellar work that Catholic Charities has done in health care and social and pastoral ministries," McCloskey said.

Her duties include overseeing grant writing and planned giving for Catholic Charities, as well as its special events and publications.

McCloskey worked for Stairways Behavioral Health in Erie for 14 years, serving as director of development and consultant. She has also served as the director of planned giving for Villa Maria Center, Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria Elementary School.

She is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek.



Emma Lee McCloskey

### Sister Ann Amen, SSJ, releases book about her ministry, travels

Sister Ann Amen, SSJ, recently released a book she wrote about her years in ministry and travels throughout the world. *Beyond My Dreams* takes readers through more than 18 countries on three continents where she has lived, traveled and served in various ministries.

Highlights of the book include a trip in Germany to see Theresa Neumann, a woman with stigmata, marks resembling the wounds on the crucified body of Christ. It was an experience Sister Ann claims changed her life and led to her decision to enter religious life. Another highlight was meeting Mother Teresa of Calcutta in Australia. She shares with readers her experience of seeing Pope Paul VI in Rome and Pope John Paul II in Sydney.

Sister Ann retired from ministry in higher education and social welfare in 2000 at the age of 82. Her new book, *Beyond My Dreams*, is available for \$15 by contacting the Sisters of St. Joseph at 814.836.4100.



## Stewardship Days: Giving of time, treasure, talent to God, church

STEWARDSHIP from page 1

none of us owns our own time. In the Catholic Church, he said stewardship means the gift of service and giving because we want to be of service to God.

"Our giving is an opportunity to thank God," he said. "How much do you give? You give until it feels good. Stewardship comes from your heart. Stewardship allows us to have an attitude of gratitude."

He talked about how his parish, which has become the largest African-American parish in Louisiana, has developed a model of stewardship during his tenure as pastor. When he came to St. Peter Claver in 1984, there were 800 registered families with an average Sunday collection of \$1,200. The Sunday before Hurricane Katrina there were 2,500 registered families and the collection was \$21,000.

"How did that happen? Well, stewardship for us has taken 22 years, so chill out," he said. "It takes time. God works in his time, not our time. But he expects us to use all that we have."

The church, located in the heart of New Orleans and 12

blocks from the French Quarter, has become the second-largest contributing parish out of 150 parishes in the archdiocese. Maintaining its own school of more than 300 students, 75 percent of students receive some type of financial aid.

"I find that it's my job to find that financial aid because I believe that Catholic education is the foremost education process of our lives," Father Jacques said. "If the children from the parish aren't in the school, I ask why. If it's because of money, then come on in, because I know the God I believe in makes a way somehow."

In looking at the neighborhood, he found it crumbling by the hour. The parish then started its own community development corporation. They turned a block of old buildings into housing for low-income seniors and a medical clinic.

Before Katrina, the parish had 700 people involved in 110 ministries.

"When you become a stewardship parish, you become about service to others," Father Jacques

said. "When you become about service to others, you begin to reach out into the community. When you reach out into the community, that's true evangelization. That evangelization is what brings commitment and ownership of a parish."

Today, less than 40 percent of his parishioners have returned to the community. Ninety percent have lost their homes, most of whom are currently living in a one- or two-bedroom trailer with as many as 19 other family members. But that hasn't dampened their gratitude. The Sunday collection prior to Father Jacques' visit was \$17,000.

"They have come to understand that the Eucharist is the centering source of their lives," he said. "Doesn't Eucharist mean 'to give thanks?' We have to give thanks to God for what he's given us."

In other sessions, Joe Cavanaugh, an associate partner with The Gallup Organization's Faith Practice, explained how to create an environment for engaging parishioners. Vern and Teresa Strecker spoke about

stewardship in a small parish and shared the story of their home parish of St. Andrew in Independence, Kansas.

"When we put the program together, we wanted to inspire people and also give them some practical ideas on how to implement stewardship in their parishes," said Joseph Hoag, director of the diocesan Stewardship Office, "and we did that. I couldn't have been more pleased with how it was received."

All sessions of Stewardship Days were videotaped and are available through the diocesan Media Resources Library at St. Mark Catholic Center.

A free-will offering taken up during the Stewardship Days sessions raised more than \$1,600, which has been sent to St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans. If you would like to make an offering, send your donation to:

St. Peter Claver Parish  
1923 St. Philip St.  
New Orleans, LA 70116

## Emergency contraception and religious freedom

By Amy L. Beisel  
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

In Harrisburg, a legislative mandate for hospitals to provide emergency contraception (EC) to victims of sexual assault is being considered. This drug treatment is confusing. How does it work? Where does the Catholic Church stand? Why should citizens care?

EC is a high dose of birth control. It prevents pregnancy by delaying ovulation, preventing fertilization, or preventing a fertilized egg from implantation if taken within a few hours of intercourse. Catholic teaching holds that life begins at conception, so if a fertilized egg is prevented from implanting in the womb, it is considered an abortion — the termination of a human life.

No community is untouched by the violence of rape. The church, through Catholic hospitals, has for years given care and treatment to rape victims. Each victim is provided compassionate care and emotional support.

Catholic hospitals are committed to treating victims with that same compassion, sensitivity and respect. Catholic teaching

explains that a woman who has been raped should be able to defend herself from a potential conception and receive treatments to suppress ovulation and prevent fertilization. Because sexual assault is an act of unjust aggression, Pennsylvania's Catholic hospitals may administer emergency contraception when tests confirm that conception has not likely occurred.



Amy L. Beisel

However, if medical tests suggest that conception may have occurred, the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania indicate that no drug should be provided by a Catholic facility that will interfere with the implantation of a newly conceived human life. The loss of an innocent human life is simply not morally defensible.

An amendment to the EC legislation provides a religious exemption which would give freedom to religious health care providers to provide appropriate compassionate care. It would avoid a government requirement which would otherwise trample religious freedom and

conscience. The bill may be considered before the end of the legislative session.

There are many public policy issues like this one which are important to Catholics. Catholic voters are encouraged to educate themselves about these concerns. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) is the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Bishops. To learn more, log on to [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org).

Amy L. Beisel, APR, is communications director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference — the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

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Lock Haven Catholic School (grades K-6) in Lock Haven, PA (Altoona-Johnstown Diocese) is seeking a gifted, dynamic leader for the Principal position. This position will begin with the 2007-08 academic term. Salary is negotiable. Each candidate should be a practicing Catholic; be committed to Catholic education; have elementary school teaching experience; and have an Instructional II certification. Each candidate should also have or be willing to obtain a Master's Degree, a principal administration certificate and a Master Catchiest certificate.

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

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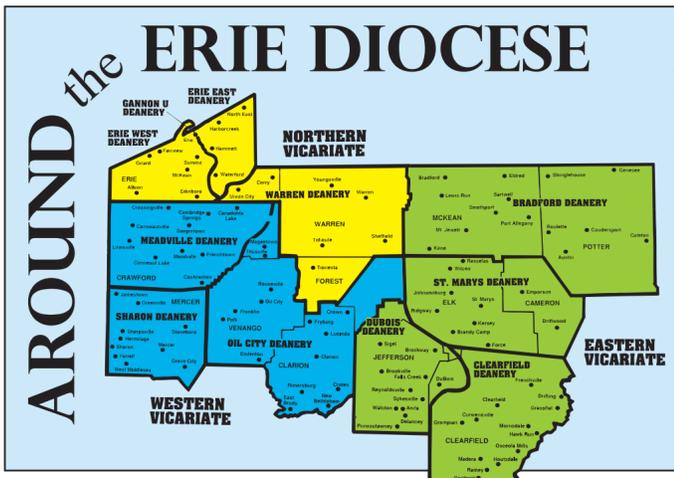
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**FaithLife@ErieRCD.org**

**St. Joseph School float takes prizes in parades**

LUCINDA — The students, families, and faculty of St. Joseph School in Lucinda teamed up to create a float for the Autumn Leaf Festival Parades in Clarion. The float won second place in the ALF Kiddie Parade on Oct. 3 and first place in the community division at the main ALF Parade on Oct. 7.



**Science students in action at DCC**

DUBOIS — DuBois Central Catholic Biology I students (left to right) Nicolis Murray, Dan Sawey and Sean Reilly are adding the final touches to their respective 'cellular confections' as they familiarize themselves with the parts of a cell. According to science chairperson Donna Chollock, this activity provides for a more 'palatable way' to remember the scientific terms.



**Sisters of Mercy welcome new associates**

ERIE — The Sisters of Mercy accepted five women as associates to their ministry during a covenant ceremony at the motherhouse Oct. 1. Signing a formal covenant were Maria Grazioli, Erin Landini, Kathy Pirrello, Janet Reiser and Mary Lou Wiczorek, all of Erie. The associates program is made up of Christian men and women who willingly make a commitment to the Sisters of Mercy to share in the life of the Mercy Community in its mission, many times to those people the sisters may not have the opportunity to reach. Currently there are 43 associates in the Mercy Regional Community of Erie.



New associates (left to right) Janet Reiser, Mary Lou Wiczorek and Erin Landini.

**Sacred Heart School, Erie**

ERIE — Sacred Heart School in Erie held a World Series cereal drive. Nearly 100 boxes of cereal were donated to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. Each student who brought in a box of cereal was permitted to wear a baseball cap on Oct. 25.



Father John Detisch led Sacred Heart students in their kickoff of the school's Wellness Walk Across Pennsylvania. On the first day, the student body accumulated enough miles to make it to the statue of George Washington in Waterford. Students have already "walked" to Edinboro.

**Statue of BVM found at St. Luke, Youngsville**

YOUNGVILLE — A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been resurrected from the basement stairwell of St. Luke Parish in Youngsville. After being lost for years, the statue has been cleaned and now stands out in front of the church greeting visitors.



Father John Neff, parochial administrator at St. Luke, said parishioners are happy to see the statue out of the stairwell and on the church's front porch. "We have had a nice response to the statue and its placement," Father Neff said. "One of the comments was that it looks like the Blessed Mother is welcoming people to her son's house." Eventually the parish plans to get a spotlight to illuminate the statue during the evening.

her son's house." Eventually the parish plans to get a spotlight to illuminate the statue during the evening.

**Knights of Columbus sponsor Blue Mass in Tidioute**

TIDIOUTE — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 9304 from St. John Parish in Tidioute sponsored its third annual Blue Mass on Oct. 15. The Mass, celebrated by St. John pastor Father Thomas Aleksa, honored local police officers, firefighters, game and fish protectors, medical personnel and others who are on call in emergencies. Afterward, a brunch was provided by the knights for the Blue Mass honorees and their families.



Bringing the Blue Mass gifts up to the altar are Pennsylvania State Trooper Raymond Jones and Tidioute Fire Department member Linda Scott.

**Immaculate Conception hosts Grandparents Day celebration**

CLARION — Students in Deb Marchand's second grade class at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion recently hosted a Grandparents Day celebration. As part of the day's festivities, students performed several musical numbers for their honored guests. Pictured are students singing and playing musical instruments led by music teacher Bonnie Champion.



**Cathedral Center students pick harvest for Titusville Food Bank**



Cathedral Center students Daniel Klebanski, left, and Brendan Flanagan, right, pick the harvest at Colt's Blueberry Farm for the Titusville Food Bank.

ERIE — Third grade students at Cathedral Center School in Erie, under the direction of teachers Marilyn Gebhardt and Lois Carvelli, recently picked 124 pounds of food for the Titusville Food Bank. Students picked 25 pounds of corn and 99 pounds of blueberries at Colt's Blueberry Farm. Cathedral Center students have a long tradition of gleaning blueberries for local food banks. Mary Flamini spearheads the project each year for the students.

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