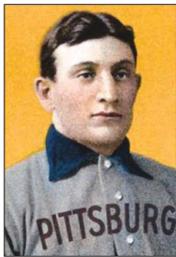


Holy card

Sale of bequeathed baseball card nets Baltimore nuns \$220,000, *By the Way*, page 2.



FaithLife

STAR Foundation

Diocese distributes more than \$1.1 M in tuition grants for 2010-11, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 14, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Elizabeth of Hungary



Christ the King

Nov. 13	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Nov. 15	St. Albert the Great
Nov. 16	St. Gertrude, St. Margaret of Scotland
Nov. 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Nov. 18	Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul in Rome, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
Nov. 21	Christ the King
Nov. 22	St. Cecilia
Nov. 23	St. Clement I, St. Columban, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro
Nov. 24	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day, St. Catherine of Alexandria
Nov. 30	St. Andrew
Dec. 3	St. Francis Xavier
Dec. 4	St. John of Damascus

Confirmations

St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park — Saturday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m.

St. Stephen of Hungary, Erie — Sunday, Nov. 21 at noon

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' general meeting – Nov. 15-18

In Baltimore, the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be devoted primarily to internal matters — the election of new conference leaders, discussion of how their own statements should be produced, budgetary and structural questions and information about how they can better integrate new media into diocesan structures.

Among the topics scheduled to come before the bishops for debate and vote in their public sessions are a proposed agreement on mutual recognition of baptism by the Catholic and four Protestant churches, guidelines on stipends and benefits for retired bishops and revised regulations on USCCB statements and publications.

Pope to create 24 cardinals – Nov. 20

Pope Benedict XVI will formally create 24 new cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 20. The designate-cardinals include two from the United States: Archbishop Raymond Burke, head of the Vatican's highest tribunal, and Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington.

The consistory will leave the College of Cardinals with 203 members, a new record. Of those, 121 will be under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope, one more than a numerical limit of 120 that has often been waived.

Collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development – Nov. 20-21

The annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), which is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, focuses on defending human dignity by fighting poverty.

For 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a 9.6 percent spike in poverty. Overall, there were 43.6 million people in poverty — 14.3 percent of the population.

For 40 years, CCHD has funded community groups that create affordable housing, obtain fair wages and provide job training, as well as organizing projects led by low-income individuals to help people and resolve problems in their communities.

Last year, CCHD awarded more than \$7.8 million to 223 grantees throughout the United States; 648 Catholic parishes, 39 Catholic institutions and 31 religious communities were involved in CCHD-funded groups.

More information on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, including funding practices, is available at www.usccb.org/cchd.

Who I Am—Discovering the Value in disABILITY

St. Marys conference promotes inclusion of people with disabilities into church, community

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Gretchen Meyer remembers a particularly moving conversation she had with her daughter, Mandy.

"We were just talking and she said, 'I wish people would see me first before they see the Down syndrome. I want them to know who I am,'" Meyer recalls. "It was just so profound."

Mandy, who lives independently and has worked as a librarian in the St. Marys School District for 13 years, didn't know it then but she had come up with the theme for an entire conference.

Meyer is a parish advocate at St. Mary Parish in St. Marys. She and several other parish advocates began planning an event to bring awareness to "the appreciation of the value that (people with disabilities) have to offer in their church community, as well as their community."



Cindy Dollinger said one of the reasons she helped organize the "Who I Am" conference in St. Marys was so that her daughter Emily (above), who was born with Down syndrome, can be included as part of the church and community.

"I have an appreciation of all diversities," Meyer said. "I read that years ago and it has always stuck with me."

More than 160 people attended "Who I Am: Discovering the Value in disABILITY," a glimpse into the lives of individuals who live every day with challenges. The conference, held Oct. 24 at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, was sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's Office of Disability and Deaf Ministry. The Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center also offered Act 48 hours for educators.

Disabilities in the US

There are 54 million people in the U.S. living with a disability.

12.4% of women and

11.7% of men have a disability.

in millions

16.1 have cognitive difficulties or mental illness.

10 use a cane, crutches or walker.

3.3 use a wheelchair.

1.8 are visually impaired or blind.

1 are hearing impaired or deaf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

©2010 CNS

use of a wheelchair.

The Stereotype Busters acted out a number of skits showing the dos and don'ts of interacting with people with disabilities. The actors spoke about how the power of words can be used to strengthen or weaken people.

Using the word "handicapped" as an example, they showed how its origin comes from a derogatory meaning. Other hurtful words they pointed out included "retard" and "cripple." The group urged the audience to pay close attention to the words they use when talking about or with someone with a disability.

Marilyn Keyes, a St. Marys resident, spoke about how her family celebrates the miracle of life. During the pregnancy of her daughter, Grace, Keyes and her husband, John, were told that the baby would have significant developmental problems caused by a congenital kidney defect. They were presented with the option of having an abortion. The Keyes said no.

They were also informed that Grace would need a kidney transplant in a few years. Today, Grace is 8 years old and

See CONFERENCE, page 2

At Respect Life Mass, bishop affirms sacredness of life at all stages

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

During the church's celebration of October as Respect Life Month, Bishop Donald Trautman said it was appropriate to reflect on the gift of human life.

"We thank God, our maker, for our existence," Bishop Trautman said. "We thank our father and mother for being instruments of God's love and life to us."

Bishop Trautman celebrated the diocesan Respect Life Mass Oct. 30 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The bishop began his homily by reflecting on Pope Benedict XVI's comments during his Oct. 27 weekly general audience at the Vatican. The pope said he wanted to recognize "the many women who, day after day, enlighten their families with their witness of Christian life."

"We too know these women," Bishop Trautman said. "We have met them in our families, in our schools, in



Bishop Donald Trautman (center) celebrated the diocesan Respect Life Mass Oct. 30 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Also concelebrating were (left to right) Msgr. William Biebel, Father John Miller and Father Bill Barron.

our parishes and here at Eucharist. They show the beauty of marriage lived according to the Gospel. They show love, sacrifice, prayer and good examples."

He then referenced a verse from the first reading in the Book of Wisdom: "For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made." (Wis 11:22-12:2)

"Many in our contemporary culture would say, 'Bishop, we've heard so much about pro-life and so much

about abortion. We're tired of hearing about all this,'" Bishop Trautman said. "But the problem does not go away. We need to re-double our efforts to correct the anti-life, pro-abortion mentality in our society."

He noted that the first disciples of Jesus preached a moral message to a hostile world. The early church faced a pagan culture whose standard was set by a beckoning Roman empire.

"Christ's moral teaching

Worldwide vigil 'for all nascent human life'

Pope Benedict XVI will open the new liturgical year by celebrating a Vigil for All Nascent Human Life at St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday, Nov. 27.

The pope has requested that "all diocesan bishops (and their equivalent) of every particular church preside in analogous celebrations involving the faithful in their respective parishes, religious communities, associations and movements."

In the Diocese of Erie, the faithful will recite a prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of unborn children, after the prayers of the faithful at all Masses during the weekend of Nov. 27-28.

"This unites us with all believers in praying for the protection of human life from conception to natural death," Bishop Donald Trautman said.

had high standards, and it took courage for those first disciples of Jesus to go into the streets and preach a doctrine so contrary to the then-common way of life," he said. "And it took even more courage to live and witness to that doctrine."

"And what happened? The Roman Empire fell. Christianity spread. Converts were made. People actually accepted a high moral code. Light shined in the darkness. And that light gradually overcame the darkness."

Each time the faithful pray the Hail Mary and the words,

"blessed is the fruit of your womb," we affirm human life and the Lord, the maker of all life, the bishop said.

"Each time we pray, we affirm the basic truth of all sex education, the basic truth of medical science—that human life exists in the womb from the very onset of pregnancy," he said. "God calls each person to life with him from the beginning of life in the womb."

"Choose life. Respect life in the womb until natural death. And always rejoice in the words: Blessed is the fruit of your womb."

'Come to the Waters'

Book traces history of the Sisters of St. Joseph

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

When Sister Leonie Shanley and Sister Mary Francis Becker delved into the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, they were both amazed and inspired at what they found.

"In the late 1800s, we had just 35 sisters who ran St. Vincent Hospital, St. Joseph's Home for Children, St. Mary's Home, Villa Maria Academy and a number of diocesan schools," said Sister Leonie.

"That was really a wonderful surprise to us." The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are celebrating their 150th anniversary of ministry in the Diocese of Erie and its 13 counties. The community wanted a commemorative piece on its history. There was never a previous effort to create a book, Sister Leonie said.

"This was an occasion that brought that about," she said.

"Come to the Waters," a book on the Sisters of St. Joseph and their history, was released during a book signing Oct. 15 at the sisters' Community Living Center in Erie. Sister Leonie and Sister Mary Francis were on hand to greet guests and sign copies of their work.

"We were aiming for a small coffee table book and I think we achieved that," Sister Mary Francis said. "People like history. It's an attractive way to present the history of our community. It's our gift to the people and the Diocese of Erie."

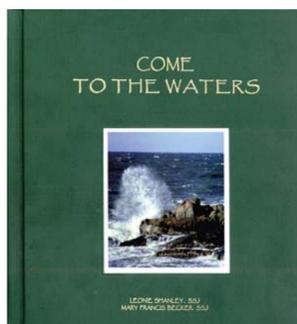
Sister Leonie served as the congregation's superior from 1973 to 1981 and would write the



Sister Leonie Shanley



Sister Mary Francis Becker



See BOOK page 3

Bishop's Commendation for Service Award established in diocese

Nomination forms due by Feb. 1

From staff reports

Bishop Donald Trautman has recently established the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award in recognition of meritorious and generous service to Christ and the church. The award also recognizes those who have advanced the spread of the Gospel in the Diocese of Erie through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

This award specifically recognizes that there are many who, motivated by faith, consistently give of their time and energy and have made a significant contribution to the church in some way, Bishop Trautman said.

"Often, their good works



Bishop's Commendation for Service Award medallion

go unnoticed," he said.

Once nominees are selected, the bishop will solemnly bestow the Commendation for Service Award and impart his episcopal blessing on the awardees at a special prayer

See AWARD page 2



IN THE U.S.

Michigan religious order set to buy Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

A Michigan religious order experiencing rapid growth since its formation in 1997 is planning to buy the 10-year-old Pope John Paul II Cultural Center across the street from The Catholic University of America. The Ann Arbor-based Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist signed a purchase agreement with the Archdiocese of Detroit to buy the 100,000-square-foot center in Washington and use it as a house of study for its members. No purchase price for the 12-acre property was disclosed. The property was valued at \$37.3 million for the 2011 tax year during the most recent real estate appraisal. Its proximity to the well-established Dominican House of Studies and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception makes it an attractive site, said a spokeswoman for the order. Sister Maria Gemma Martek, superior of the motherhouse in Ann Arbor, said the hope is that the center can be developed into a house of studies for sisters.



John Paul II Cultural Center

AROUND THE WORLD

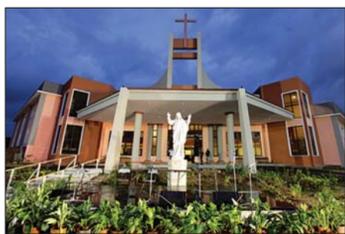
Pope calls on world community to help end savage violence in Iraq

A deadly militant siege of the Syrian Catholic cathedral in Baghdad Oct. 31 claimed the lives of 58 people including two priests. Pope Benedict XVI urged international and national authorities and all people of good will to work together to end the "heinous episodes of violence that continue to ravage the people of the Middle East." Armed militants wearing explosives stormed the cathedral Oct. 31 while

an estimated 100 faithful were celebrating evening Mass. The terrorists first set off a car bomb across the street in front of the Baghdad Stock Exchange. "I pray for the victims of this absurd violence, which is even more savage because it struck defenseless people, gathered in God's house, which is a house of love and reconciliation," Pope Benedict said after praying the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.

Cuba opens first seminary in 50 years

In a ceremony joined by President Raul Castro, Cuba's Catholic bishops inaugurated the San Carlos and San Ambrosio Seminary Nov. 3, the country's first major church-related construction in the half century since the revolution led by Fidel Castro. Joined by Cuba's bishops and representatives of the Vatican and of the Catholic Church in the United States, Mexico, Italy and the Bahamas, Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino noted that the late Pope John Paul II blessed the first stone of the new seminary at a Mass during his January 1998 visit to the island. At that point, then-President Fidel Castro pledged his support for the project, the cardinal said. "That promise has been faithfully completed," he said, adding his thanks to the Castros, "that this work was completed properly with the help of the state."



A statue of Christ is seen outside the new national Catholic seminary on the outskirts of Havana.

Quake opened world's eyes to Haiti's suffering, Caritas leader says

The earthquake that destroyed much of western Haiti Jan. 12 opened the world's eyes to the island people's suffering, giving the Catholic Church a chance to build on that

awareness, said the bishop who heads one of the church's main aid and development programs in the poor Caribbean nation. "Before January 12, many people thought Haiti's situation was normal. People were poor, they didn't have houses, they lived in shantytowns. January 12 forced everyone to look at the situation, because everyone has had the experience of being in tents, with the heat, knowing that they may have nothing," said Bishop Pierre-Andre Dumas of Anse-a-Veau and Miragoane, who leads Caritas Haiti. For Bishop Dumas, reconstruction means more than rebuilding homes, although that is important. It also means ensuring that children attend school and fostering economic development in rural areas. The government must provide guidance, he said, and while international aid agencies can help, Haitians — including the church — should play the leading role.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Romanian bishop's beatification recalls communist-era persecutions

The Oct. 30 beatification of a martyred bishop was an "important reminder" of the church's communist-era persecution and served to boost the country's Christian faith, the head of Romania's Catholic Church said. "We've tried to draw the attention of all Romanians to this great event, which will be marked by the ringing of church bells nationwide," said Archbishop Ioan Robu of Bucharest in advance of the beatification of Bishop Szilard Bogdanffy, the ethnic Hungarian prelate who died at age 42 after being tortured in a communist-run Romanian prison. Archbishop Robu said the honoring of a Latin-rite bishop from Romania's Hungarian minority would focus attention on the fate of Christians from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. "The idea of being faithful to the point of martyrdom is something understandable to everyone which goes beyond matters of identity and belonging," Archbishop Robu said.



Bishop Szilard Bogdanffy

By the Way...

Justin Fatica, an Erie native, Cathedral Prep graduate, author and co-founder of Hard as Nails ministry, returned home recently. Fatica gave class retreats to Cathedral Prep students Nov. 2-4 and spoke at Villa Maria Academy Nov. 5. His new book, "Win it All: The Way to Heaven for Catholic Teens," was released Oct. 1 by Ave Maria Press.



Jason Koshinski

Fatica doesn't beat around the bush. "The goal of winning it all is heaven, plain and simple," he says in the book's introduction. Fatica, who currently lives in Syracuse, N.Y., was the subject of the 2007 HBO documentary "Hard as Nails." He has given numerous retreats throughout the Erie area.

Look for The Catholic Foundation's "Report to the Community" along with your upcoming Dec. 5 issue of *FaithLife* and parish bulletin. Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, foundation president, will detail The Catholic Foundation's work with Catholic ministries, churches and schools over the past three years. More than \$579,000 in grants has been distributed diocesan-wide.

A rare 100-year-old Honus Wagner baseball card bequeathed to the School Sisters of Notre Dame recently sold for \$262,000 in an online auction that closed Nov. 4. The religious congregation will receive \$220,000 from the sale.

The card was left to the sisters' Baltimore-based Atlantic-Midwest province by the brother of one of the congregation's members. The sister died in 1999 and her brother died earlier this year. He left everything he had to the congregation, including the card, which surpassed initial estimates of its auction price by \$162,900.

The card was part of a series called T206 produced by the American Tobacco Company and was discovered in a safety deposit box.

Sister Kathleen Cornell, provincial leader of the sisters' Atlantic-Midwest province, said the money from the auction has not been earmarked for any specific project but will be used to support the congregation's educational ministries in North America and the work of sisters in Latin America and Africa. She called the bequest a "tangible sign of the goodness of people to us."

Doug Walton, managing partner of Walton Sports & Collectibles, won the auction for the card.

About 50 of the T206 Wagner cards, produced between 1909 and 1911, are known to exist.

The next issue of *FaithLife* will be published the weekend of Dec. 4-5. We are skipping one extra week during our bi-weekly publication schedule to align ourselves with the Christmas holiday.

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

St. Marys conference promotes inclusion of people with disabilities into church, community

CONFERENCE, from page 1

has never required an invasive medical procedure.

"We need to value all life," Marilyn said.

Born without arms or legs, Craig Dietz told the audience that he does not allow his challenges to define him as a person. A St. Marys native, Dietz is a motivational speaker, a competitive swimmer who has been featured by ESPN and a practicing attorney. He cites his humor and his ability to laugh at himself as assets that he uses to combat the ups and downs of daily life.

"I've never allowed my disability to limit me as a human being," Dietz said.

Cindy Dollinger, a parish advocate from St. Mary Parish who also helped organize the conference, said one of the goals was to

show a different side of people with disabilities.

"We thought, 'Wouldn't it be nice if people could see that joy and experience a little of that joy and what gifts and talents they have been blessed with,'" Dollinger said.

She calls her 3-year-old daughter, Emily, who was born with Down syndrome, a blessing.

"Gretchen and I, we both appreciate our children very, very much for what they have brought into our lives, which is total and complete joy," she said. "I truly believe Emily is a gift from God who has brought our family closer together."

The audience included a number of families and teachers along with people with disabilities and area parishioners involved in a variety of ministries.

For more information, visit:

www.missionempower.org
www.craigdietzspeaks.com
www.pealcenter.org

To learn more about the Diocese of Erie's Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries, visit www.eriecd.org/charities6.asp or contact Jackie Johnson of Catholic Charities at 814.824.1257, TTY at 814.824.1266 TTY or e-mail JJJohnson@ErieRCD.org.

The reaction they've had to the conference has been positive.

"I've had people come up to me and say they were grateful that we were able to do this," Dollinger said.

One woman reached out to Meyer and told her it was an "eye

opener" that "made such a difference" to her.

"We did this in Respect Life Month," Meyer said. "It's an opening for pro-life, and I think it just opens that door even wider. One coincides with the other."

Bishop's Commendation for Service Award established in diocese

AWARD, from page 1

service in each vicariate.

General considerations for the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award include:

- The award is two-tiered and may be presented as a medallion or a certificate.

- It will be presented in each vicariate in the diocese.

- In general, the award is presented to the laity and may include teens, individuals or entire families.

- The award is not given to parishes or civic organizations.

- It may be presented to those not living in the Diocese of Erie.

- It may be given to Catholics or people of other faiths.

- It may be given posthumously in an exceptional situation.

Nominee names and information will remain confidential.

All are welcome to submit nominations using the forms available on the diocesan Web site at www.ErieRCD.org. Forms must be completed and sent to the nominee's local pastor by Feb. 1, 2011.

Each pastor will review and approve nominations he has received. The list of nominees will be reviewed. Recipients will then be recommended from their respective vicariates.

The bishop will send letters to those who will receive the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award medallion or certificate along with their pastors. A complete listing will be available on the diocesan Web site and published in a future issue of *FaithLife*.

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

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Italy/Switzerland: April 2-14 / April 30-May 2...
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Advent

Advent – a season of joyful waiting

Advent, the season of expectation leading up to the celebration of Christmas, begins Nov. 28. To help enhance this joyful period that prepares us for the commemoration of the Incarnation, the following resources are available:

Advent calendar

An Advent family calendar from Catholic Charities will be available on the diocesan Web site at www.ErieRCD.org beginning Nov. 19. The printable calendar includes a Scripture verse, reflection and activity for every day of the season.



Jesse Tree

Faith magazine has created Jesse Tree ornaments to help reflect on the story of salvation from the creation of the world through the birth of Jesus.

Download a free, printable set of Jesse Tree ornaments at www.ErieRCD.org/jesstree.htm. Each of the 28 ornaments is accompanied by a Scripture verse and explanation of what the symbol represents. The ornaments are available in both small and large sizes for home and parish use.

Briefly

Sisters of St. Joseph to host Thanksgiving dinner at Gannon

ERIE — The 22nd annual Sisters of St. Joseph Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day to anyone who is alone, in need or would otherwise not celebrate the holiday.

The dinner will once again take place at Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St. (entrance on Peach Street). The meal is free and reservations are not required.

Individuals who are homebound due to illness or age can have dinners delivered to them. Arrangements for home delivery can only be made by calling 814.836.4100 on Tuesday, Nov. 23 between 9-11 a.m.

Mercyhurst Prep, Calamari's team up to offer Thanksgiving dinner

ERIE – Mercyhurst Preparatory School and Calamari's Squid Row are teaming up to serve a Thanksgiving dinner to anyone who is in need.

Calamari's, located at 1317 State St. in downtown Erie, will serve a traditional holiday meal from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25.

"We would like to open our doors to not only the homeless but families in need and those folks who just don't have anyone or anywhere to go for the holiday," said Marci Honard, owner of Calamari's.

The restaurant and school are looking for additional volunteers to help prepare the meal, serve, clean tables, make coffee, replenish beverages and wash dishes.

Potential volunteers and donors may contact Marci Honard at Calamari's at 814.459.4276.

Saint Vincent Auxiliary presents annual Festival of Trees

ERIE – The Saint Vincent Auxiliary and Saint Vincent Health Center will present the 26th annual Festival of Trees, a popular five-day holiday extravaganza to be held at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7792 Peach St. in Erie.

The 2010 Festival of Trees will be open to the public Wednesday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 28.

Visitors will be treated to more than 60 professionally decorated Christmas trees, each one designed to showcase the varied talents of many local decorators. There will be entertainment throughout the festival, a vendor boutique featuring unique gifts available for purchase, a special Breakfast with Santa and new this year, Santa's Castle, an eight-room magical place for the little ones. *ErieDAWN* will once again present "No Room at the Inn," a display of 50 Nativity scenes from around the world.

Hours of operation are: Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Nov. 25 from 3 to 8 p.m., Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Nov. 28 from noon to 5 p.m.

General admission to the Festival of Trees is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

For more information on the festival, ticketing or Breakfast with Santa reservations, call 814.452.5359 or visit www.svfestivaloftrees.org.

Diocese distributes \$1.1 M in tuition grants for 2010-11

STAR Foundation board members representative of diocese

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Diocese of Erie will distribute \$1.1 million in tuition grants to students in its 40 schools during the 2010-11 academic year.

The tuition grants are made available through the STAR (Student Tuition Assistance Resource) Foundation.

The STAR Foundation is a non-profit scholarship organization established by the diocese made possible by donations from businesses that participate in Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Since its inception in 2001, the STAR Foundation has distributed nearly \$8 million in financial assistance to students attending Catholic schools in the diocese.

The foundation money goes directly to financial aid for students throughout the diocese, said Charles Banducci, diocesan director of school finance.

"It helps kids who would not otherwise be able to attend a Catholic school," Banducci said.

Even though donations declined this year, Banducci

said the STAR Foundation was able to give out the same amount of money because of a carry-over in funds.

Most of the tuition funds distributed are restricted to particular schools by the companies that make donations. This often serves as an incentive to a local company to assist a local school.

At the same time, diocesan officials often encourage consideration of unrestricted gifts so that some tuition assistance can reach students of greatest needs throughout the diocese.

Several Catholic high schools have their own foundations and consequently do not participate in STAR Foundation grants. To help simplify the application process, families need to fill out only one application form which is used for awards from STAR and the Bishop's Tuition Assistance Program.

The STAR Foundation board for 2010-11 is representative of all areas of the diocese, Banducci said.

"They provide guidance and support to the foundation," he said.

Members include:



Jim Martin, president of Northwest Savings Bank in Erie (right), recently presented a check to Bishop Donald Trautman (center) and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, in the amount of \$94,111 for the STAR Foundation. Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program provides state tax credits to businesses for donations toward education.

- Bishop Donald Trautman, chairman.
- Father Nicholas Rouch, vice chairman and vicar for education.
- David Murphy, treasurer and chief financial officer for the diocese.
- Charles Banducci, director of school finances.
- Christopher Hagerty, director of advancement for Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy, Erie.
- Joseph Hoag, diocesan director of Stewardship and Annual Appeals.
- William Kerins, retired execu-

- tive of Wheatland Tube, Hermitage.
- Marlene Mosco, regional president of PNC Bank, Erie.
- Robert Ordiway, retired executive of Northwest Savings Bank, St. Marys.
- David Osikowicz, owner of Valier Coal Yard/Original Fuels, Punxsutawney.
- Douglas Starr, president of ECCA Payroll and Business Solutions, Erie.
- Sharon Varischetti, director of major gifts, DuBois Area Catholic School.

Book traces history of the Sisters of St. Joseph

BOOK, from page 1

text. Sister Mary Francis, a long-time teacher, has worked as a decorating consultant, artist and an instructor of watercolor and decorative painting. She would coordinate the design of the text and images. The duo was a perfect match from the beginning and worked together for nearly 18 months on the project.

The book's title comes from the community's geographic location.

"Water has rather been a theme of our community because of our closeness to Lake Erie," said Sister Mary Francis. "It has been really part of the inspiration."

All of the photos of water scenes have been contributed by a number of sisters who are amateur photographers.

The book starts at the present and works its way backward tracing the community's history to the beginning of the mid-17th century and the village of Le-Puy-en-Velay in France.

There are quotations on the introduction pages to each chapter from either the community's primitive or present day Consti-

tutions. Sister Mary Francis said the challenge was matching each quote with a fitting picture. In a chapter regarding changing ministries, a lone flower is shown growing out of the cracked pavement.

In the pages outlining the community's jubilee year, sea gulls are shown soaring in one direction over the lake. The pages listing the SSJ Associates include a background mark of drops of water.

"We also tried to include as many photos of sisters as we could," Sister Mary Francis said.

For Sister Leonie, the community's archives served as a treasure trove for research. She pored over documents from the 17th century in France to its founding in the Diocese of Erie.

"The main thing that really stood out for me was that the ministries were broad right from the beginning with very few sisters," she said. "If the bishop requested something, the sisters saw to it."

Mother Agnes Spencer, who founded the local community, was one of the first Sisters of St. Joseph to come to the United

States. Bishop Joshua Young invited Mother Agnes to the diocese in 1860 after she had traveled from Philadelphia to Wheeling, W. Va., to Canadaigua, N.Y., to Buffalo, answering the call of bishops up and down the East Coast.

"She had strong character and tremendous courage," Sister Leonie said.

The history timeline follows the sisters from Corsica to French-

town to Meadville then Erie. As for the book itself, Sister Mary Francis was clear: "I think the Holy Spirit worked in us," she said. "It was a labor of love."

For a copy of "Come to the Waters," contact the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania at 814.836.4100 or visit www.ssje.org. Copies are free but must be picked up.



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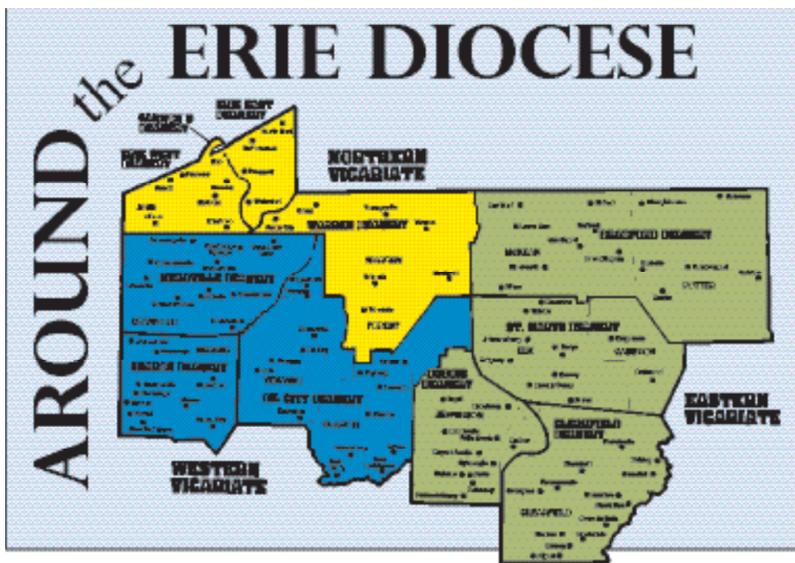
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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



Commitment ceremony held for oblates at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE — Fifteen people made their initial commitment to live as oblates of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie during a ceremony Oct. 30 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

In the setting of Evening Praise, the new oblates promised to seek God through a life based on the Rule of Benedict. Each initiate received a copy of the Rule from Sister Ann Wambach, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

Also, more than 250 people renewed their annual commitment to live as oblates at the ceremony.

Oblates are lay persons, single or married, who seek a deeper experience of God and desire participation in community while entering into a distinct relationship with a Benedictine monastic community. They live in their own families and communities, choose a life based on the Rule of Benedict and make a formal commitment to Benedictine prayer and values.

"The oblates of Mount St. Benedict are truly amazing people," said Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB, who serves as oblate director. "Their witness to the way of life that Benedict sets forth is edifying, exciting and challenging. They continue to seek God in their lives among co-workers, neighbors, family and friends. Be-



Picture left to right are oblate initiates: (seated) Virginia Kraus (Harborcreek), Paul Womack (Chautauqua, N.Y.), Pam Gent (Meadville), Mike Gent (Meadville), (standing) Sister Anne Wambach, prioress, Bev McArthur (Willoughby, Ohio), Therese Ann Larson (Harborcreek), Jessie Johnson (Pittsburgh), Tom LeBeau (Lancaster, N.Y.) and Sister Marilyn Schauble, oblate director. Absent from photo: Missy Brunner (Lima, Ohio), Debra Duckworth (Arvada, Colo.), Mark Friesland (Kingsport, Tenn.), Mary Jo Kochly (Fremont, Calif.), Cathy Manghelli (Lima, Ohio), Maureen Nealon (Sedona, Ariz.) and Hilary West (Queretaro, Mexico).

cause of who they are and how they live Benedictine values, the world is a better place."

Some oblates live in Erie and work or volunteer in Benedictine ministries and visit the monastery frequently. Others live at a distance and travel to Erie for special gatherings, programs and

celebrations. Some are unable to physically come to the monastery and they remain in contact with the oblates and sisters through an online relationship.

Read more about the life of an oblate at Sister Marilyn's blog, "Living the Zeal of Benedict," at www.erieoblates.blogspot.com.

St. Leo School students make pilgrimage to Washington

RIDGWAY — Eighth graders at St. Leo School in Ridgway began their journey to Washington, D.C., Oct. 17. The trip has become an annual tradition for the school's 8th grade class. They spent three days touring, praying and reflecting on the sights and monuments of the nation's capital.

Their host family, Bill and Kirsten Holtz and sons Billy and Henry, once again opened their home for all the students and chaperones.

A highlight of this year's trip included the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Other points of interest included visits to the Basilica of the

Immaculate Conception on the campus of Catholic University of America, the Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the Vietnam Memorial Wall, the World War II monument, the Library of Congress, a bus tour of the city, Arlington Cemetery and riding the Metro.

Father Ted Marconi, former pastor of St. Leo, arranged the trip, Jane Bryndel served as the group's chaperone and Brandy Raubenstrauch supplied the wreath for the Arlington Cemetery visit.



Eighth graders from St. Leo School in Ridgway visit the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Youth Stewardship Day teaches students about their gifts

ERIE — Fifth and sixth grade students from St. George School and Our Lady's Christian School in Erie found out more about the gifts God has given them and how they can share those gifts with others during a Youth Stewardship Day Nov. 3 at St. Mark Catholic Center.

This is the third year for the Youth Stewardship Days, which started as a pilot program in 2008 by the Diocese of Erie's Office of Stewardship and Annual Appeals.

Prior to the Stewardship Day, students utilized Gallup's Strengths Explorer program to find out their top three strengths. Teachers also conducted strengths-finding lessons in advance of the day.

Area high school students from Cathedral Prep, Villa Maria Academy and Mercyhurst Prep were also involved. They com-



pleted Gallup's adult version of the program, Strengths Finder. After receiving a list of their top five strengths, they were trained as facilitators of the program and led the small group activities for

the Stewardship Day. The Strengths Finder assessment is utilized by a number of Fortune 500 companies to help maximize employees' strengths.

St. John-Holy Rosary completes perfect football season

ERIE — The St. John-Holy Rosary Knights defeated Our Lady's Christian Raiders 28-6 for the Parochial League football championship Oct. 27 at Veterans Stadium in Erie. The win capped an undefeated season for the Knights who finished with a 10-0 record.

Our Lady's Christian scored on the first possession of the game when they recovered a fumble in the end zone to go up 6-0. It was the first time St. John-Holy Rosary had trailed all season.

On the ensuing possession, Knights quarterback DeAngelo Malone rushed for a 12-yard touchdown and running back Jake Tarasovitch scored on a two-point conversion to give St. John-Holy Rosary an 8-6 lead. The Knights never looked back.

Malone scored again on the first play of the third quarter, a 65-yard run. Tarasovitch, who led the Knights with 120 yards rushing, scored on runs of 9 yards and 8 yards.

The win gave St. John-Holy



Rosary back-to-back Parochial League titles, the first time the Knights have done so since the 1955-56 seasons.

Our Lady's Christian finished the season with an 8-2 record, with its only losses coming at the hands of St. John-Holy Rosary.

Our Lady's Christian advanced to the championship game by defeating Our Lady of Peace 16-0 in the semifinal. St. John-Holy Ro-

sary beat St. George 22-0 in the other semifinal matchup.

Beloved Disciple students celebrate

All Saints

GROVE CITY — Religious education students from preschool through fifth grade at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City celebrated the solemnity of All Saints by researching and dressing as their favorite saints.

Parents and siblings were invited to join these future saints for a special Family Day class Oct. 31. During class, the families participated in lively games of Saintry Bingo, tested their knowledge in Saints Jeopardy and went on a Saints' Walk dramatized by a number of teens from the high school program.

After class, the children processed into Mass dressed as saints,



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