

Testimony



Poignant moments, some surprises in new film about late pope, page 2.

FaithLife

Teacher of the Year

DCC's Kathleen Kunkle receives recognition from Wal-Mart, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 2, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Martin de Porres



St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

- Nov. 1 All Saints
- Nov. 2 All Souls
- Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres
- Nov. 4 St. Charles Borromeo
- Nov. 10 St. Leo the Great
- Nov. 11 St. Martin of Tours
- Nov. 12 St. Josaphat
- Nov. 13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
- Nov. 15 St. Albert the Great

North American Forum on the Catechumenate - Nov. 6-8

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate will hold an international conference in Cleveland Nov. 6-8. The Forum is a worldwide network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians "dedicated to making a fully implemented Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) a reality for all."



The agenda includes talks on rediscovering the church's identity as an apprenticeship community, exploring the substance of the faith we hand on and experiencing the ancient and new role of liturgical catechesis in making Christians.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, director of community formation and lay minister training for the Erie Diocese at 814.824.1217. For more information on the forum, visit www.naforum.org.

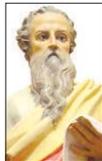
Theology on Tap - Nov. 6

Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life for the Erie Diocese, will explore the teaching of St. Paul and how it relates to serving our neighbors in today's world during a Theology on Tap session Thurs., Nov. 6 at The Brewery in Union Station in downtown Erie beginning at 7 p.m. Check out the complete Theology on Tap schedule at www.ErieRCD.org.



- Diocesan churches with a St. Paul connection
- St. Paul Parish, Erie
 - St. Peter and Paul Mission, Grassflat
 - St. Peter and Paul Mission, Hawk Run
 - St. Peter and Paul Oratory, Petts

In commemoration of the 2000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth, Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated a jubilee year to the apostle that will run until June 29, 2009. For events and resources for the Year of St. Paul in the Erie Diocese, visit www.ErieRCD.org.



Clergy appointments

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

Msgr. Bruce Allison, appointed pastor of St. Julia Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective November 3, 2008.

Father Raymond Hahn, appointed pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective November 3, 2008.

Catholic schools see enrollment challenges for '08-'09

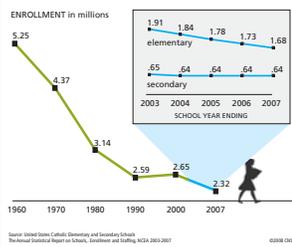
Decline stems from a number of factors, officials say

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Enrollment in the Erie Diocese's Catholic schools fell 5.9 percent for the 2008-09 school year, a decline of 515 total students from 2007-08. For 2007-08, dioceses across Pennsylvania reported an average decline of 6.0 percent (see chart on page 3). With 8,252 students enrolled in Catholic elementary, middle and secondary schools for the current academic year, officials from the diocese's Catholic Schools Office say a number of factors have contributed to the steady decrease in enrollment numbers.

U.S. Catholic School Enrollment

In more recent years, the decrease in student enrollment is seen primarily in elementary schools.



Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education, and Ron Fronzaglia, special assistant to the vicar for education, attribute the decline in students partly to changing demographics and a decline in population in northwestern

Pennsylvania. "We're noting a decline in enrollments in non-public schools throughout Pennsylvania, and certainly our diocesan schools are following that trend," Father Rouch said. "I think we can put forth

Catholic school enrollment in the Erie Diocese

	Elementary and middle schools	Secondary	Total	Percent decline from previous year
2005-06	7,282	2,535	9,817	n/a
2006-07	6,768	2,472	9,240	-5.9%
2007-08	6,188	2,579	8,767	-5.1%
2008-09	5,819	2,433	8,252	-5.9%

Source: Erie Diocese's Office of Education

- Sacred Heart School, Erie, and St. Titus School, Titusville, closed after 2006-07 school year
- St. Andrew School, Erie, closed after 2005-06 school year
- St. Michael School, Fryburg, closed after 2004-05

a number of reasons as to why that is the case."

First, Father Rouch said, parents need to come up with tuition dollars in the midst of a nationwide economic slowdown.

Second, he said there are a number of cultural factors at play.

"There seems to be

less social pressure for Catholic families to enroll their children in Catholic schools than there used to be," he said. "Where that's coming from, that's tough to get at. But enrolling their children in Catholic schools doesn't seem to be a given in as many families as formerly was the case."

See ENROLLMENT, page 3

Vatican prepares three alternative endings for dismissal at Mass

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has prepared three alternative endings for the words of dismissal at Mass, to emphasize the missionary spirit of the liturgy.

Pope Benedict XVI personally chose the three options from suggestions presented to him after a two-year study, Cardinal Francis Arinze told the Synod of Bishops in mid-October.

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, published an interview Oct. 17 with Cardinal Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

He said along with "Ite, missa est," the Latin phrase now translated as "The Mass is ended, go in peace," the new options are:

- "Ite ad Evangelium Domini annuntiantium" (Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord).

- "Ite in pace, glorificando vitam vestram Domini" (Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life).
- "Ite in pace" (Go in peace).

The idea for alternative words at the end of Mass was raised at the 2005 Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist. Many bishops wanted the final words to reflect a more explicit connection between Mass and the church's mission of evangelization in the world.

Cardinal Arinze said the concern was that, for many Catholics, the present words of dismissal sounded like "The Mass is ended, go and rest."

The cardinal said his congregation undertook a wide consultation and came up with 72 different possible alternative phrases. Of these, the congregation chose nine and presented them to the pope, who chose the final three.

The three alternatives were published in October in the latest edition of the Roman Missal, along with

Options for Dismissal

The Vatican has approved three new options for the dismissal at Mass. A priest may choose among these endings:

- 1 "The Mass is ended, go in peace."
 - 2 "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."
 - 3 "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."
 - 4 "Go in peace."
- Eventually, these will replace the current options in English once the new Missal is published.

"Ite, missa est," which has not been abolished, Cardinal Arinze said.

The cardinal said the congregation still was studying another suggestion made during the 2005 synod, that of moving the sign of peace to a different part of the Mass.

In 2005, the pope said the sign of peace had great value, but should be done with "restraint" so that it does not become a distraction during Mass.

He asked for the study on moving the sign of peace from a moment just before Communion to another time in the liturgy.

Cardinal Arinze said that, after consultation, the congregation had written to bishops' conferences asking their preference between leaving the sign of peace where it is now and

See MASS DISMISSAL, page 3

Politics, liturgy, priorities to be focus of bishops' fall meeting

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Meeting less than a week after the election of a new U.S. president, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will discuss "the practical and pastoral implications of political support for abortion."

But the agenda for the Nov. 10-13 USCCB fall general assembly at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel also will focus on a wide range of other issues, including such frequent topics as liturgical translations and priorities for the work of the bishops' conference itself.

The agenda item on politics and abortion was added after comments on abortion by two Catholic politicians — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California and Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware — during separate appearances on "Meet the Press" drew responses from the chairmen of the bishops' doctrine and pro-life committees.

It is unclear whether the bishops' discussion was expected to focus on or result in a document. Some of the discussion also could take place behind closed doors, since only parts of the meeting's first two days are open to the media. The rest of the meeting will be breakout sessions, executive sessions and time for prayer and reflection.

Consideration of several sections of the English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal will take up much of the

meeting. First to come before the bishops will be a 700-page translation of the proper prayers for Sundays and feast days during the liturgical year, which was rejected at the June USCCB meeting in Orlando, Fla., and in subsequent mail balloting.

The rejected translation, in the works for more than two years, was the second of 12 sections of the Roman Missal translation project that will come before the bishops through at least 2010.

The translation had come from the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, known as ICEL, but at the Orlando meeting many bishops expressed frustration that recommendations they had submitted to ICEL to clarify the sentence structure or revise archaic language had been rejected.

The Vatican recently gave its approval to the first section, a translation of the main constant parts of the Mass — the penitential rite, Gloria, creed, eucharistic prayers, eucharistic acclamations, Our Father and other prayers and responses used daily. That section had been approved by the U.S. bishops in June 2006.

Also coming up for a vote are the revised Gradual Psalter for use in the United States and the Order for the Blessing of a Child in the World.

A translation of the eucharistic prayers for Masses with children also had been slated to come before the bishops, but Bishop Arthur Serrettelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship, said in a Sept. 29 letter to his fellow bishops that the Vatican "intends to remove" that section from the Roman Missal and to "publish a separate text at a later time."

"I am withdrawing the action item ...

See U.S. BISHOPS, page 3

Faith offers a prescription for peace

What happens when faith and medicine meet? A surgeon, an internist, a chaplain and a family physician at St. Vincent Health Center in Erie share a conversation on this topic in the Nov/Dec 2008 issue of *Faith* magazine, scheduled to arrive in homes of the Erie Diocese during the first week of November.

Also on tap: a feature on the inaugural season of the Spartans football team at Harborcreek Youth Services; as you might imagine, it's been both a challenge and an inspiration. Father Joe Krupp talks about how to keep a sense of sanity and spirituality during the Christmas season and Father Mark O'Hern, pastor of St. Brigid Parish in Meadville, reveals thoughts about what it's been like to serve as a priest after spending ten years as an engineer.

If you are registered in a parish and do not receive your complimentary copy of *Faith* magazine, contact Brenda Williams, circulation manager, at 814.824.1168 or BWilliams@ErieRCD.org.





IN THE U.S.

■ A new ad hoc committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will work to raise awareness of the "unique beauty of the vocation of marriage" and the many threats it faces today, according to its chairman, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., said Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, USCCB president, asked him to chair the committee, whose work is being funded by the Knights of Columbus. In addition to its educational component, the committee's work will involve public policy advocacy efforts against moves to redefine marriage through legislatures or the courts. Archbishop Kurtz said precise details about the committee's strategies, whether its membership will be expanded and how long its work will continue remain to be determined by its members, who have only held one conference call thus far. The archbishop also chairs the USCCB Subcommittee on Marriage and Family Life.



Archbishop Joseph Kurtz

■ A leading black Catholic bishop called on African-Americans to "defend our community" against an abortion industry that he said is performing abortions on minority women at a disproportionate rate. Auxiliary Bishop Martin Holley of Washington, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on African-American Affairs and serves on their Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was commenting on a report by the New York-based Guttmacher Institute on abortion trends between 1974 and 2004. The report found that although abortion rates for all racial and ethnic groups had declined between 1989 and 2004, the rates now range from 11 per 1,000 non-Hispanic women to 28 per 1,000 Hispanic women and 50 per 1,000 black women. In 2004, 37 percent of all abortions performed in the United States were obtained by black women, 34 percent by

non-Hispanic white women, 22 percent by Hispanic women and 8 percent by women of races other than white or black, the report said.



AROUND THE WORLD

■ A British government agency has told a Catholic adoption agency it cannot change its constitution in order to turn away same-sex couples as potential adopters and foster parents. The Catholic Children's Society of the Archdiocese of Westminster, England, whose president is Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, wanted to change its charitable charter so it could be exempt from the Sexual Orientation Regulations, which take effect Jan. 1. In June the society had applied to the government's Charity Commission, which regulates registered charities in England and Wales, for permission to change its constitution, but was informed in an Oct. 9 letter that its application was unsuccessful.

■ The Vatican bank's assets have not been threatened by the global financial crisis, largely because it has avoided speculative investments, said a top official of the bank. "Our goal of not allowing a loss of capital to the religious institutions that entrust us with their resources remains fully achieved today," said Angelo Caloia. Caloia is president of a supervisory council of the Vatican bank, known officially as the Institute

for the Works of Religion. He pointed out that the bank's exposure is limited because it does not operate as a lending institution, and its investments have always been conservative. In particular, he said, the bank has avoided investing in "derivatives," a type of higher-risk investment that is blamed for causing much of the current crisis. Instead, Caloia said, the Vatican bank has made "clear, simple and ethically based" investments, avoiding speculation and staying away from companies tied to things like exploitation of children or the arms trade.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, encouraged those present at the beatification of the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux to thank God for their own parents. "Receiving life is a wonderful thing. But it is still more admirable for us that our parents should have led us to the church, which alone is capable of forming Christians. No one can become a Christian by himself," the cardinal said at the Oct. 19 beatification Mass for Louis and Marie Zélie Guerin Martin in St. Therese Basilica. Marie Zélie Guerin married Louis Martin, a watchmaker and jeweler, in 1858. She died of cancer in 1877, at the age of 46, after giving birth to nine children. Four of the Martins' children died in infancy. The five who survived all entered religious life.



St. Therese of Lisieux

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Jillian Dunn, a senior at Villa Maria Academy in Erie, is inviting the 29 parishes in the Erie area to join her Journey to the Cross project for Lent 2009. Similar to the Go Fish and Leap Frog art projects in the Erie area, Dunn, with support from the Erie Diocese's Office of Education, is looking for a sponsor at each parish to sponsor cover the \$100 donation for a wooden cross to be painted by the parish or VMA students. The crosses will be placed in front of churches during the Lenten season. All proceeds from the project will benefit youth ministry efforts in the diocese. For more information, contact Dunn at jjdogey@msn.com.

Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City will formally dedicate a new wing at its church—the Beloved Disciple Pastoral Center—on Saturday, Nov. 15. It includes parish offices and a faith formation center. Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the Mass.

The building has nine classrooms, a library dedicated for adult catechesis, eight offices for staff members, two vestibules, a workroom and a kitchenette. There is also an open-air courtyard in the middle of the building space.

The church and worship space, completed in 2006, were the first parts of the parish to relocate to the new property on Route 208 between Grove City and I-79. Plans called for new offices, a religious education complex and social hall to follow.

More than 650 families are members of the parish, which has also become the home parish for students attending Grove City College, according to Father Mark Hoffman, pastor of Beloved Disciple.

The Runnin' Revs are ready to hit the hardwood again. A basketball team of priests, deacons and seminarians—dubbed the Runnin' Revs—with the goal of promoting priestly vocations in the Erie Diocese, is scheduled to play several parochial CYO teams of high school students. Each game will be followed by prayer, a presentation on the priesthood and sharing of vocation stories by the priests themselves. The first game in the series is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel school in Erie at 3 p.m.

Catholic Rural Ministry will be starting a Rainbows program in the diocese's Oil City Deanery for children who are suffering from loss through death, divorce, separation or other painful transition in their family. The ministry is looking for program facilitators age 21 or older who will work with a group of about five children. Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion will host a facilitator training day on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 6-9 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Vickie Ferringer at 814.226.8431.

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

Poignant moments, some surprises in new film about late pope

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II was lightly wounded by a knife-wielding priest in Portugal in 1982, one year after a gunman tried to kill him in St. Peter's Square, according to one of the late pope's closest aides.

The disclosure came in a biographical film screened for the first time at the Vatican on Oct. 16, the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election. Pope Benedict XVI and many of the world's bishops were in attendance.

Titled "Testimony," the film is based on a book of memoirs by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, who was the late pope's personal secretary for 39 years, until the pope's death in 2005.

In the film, Cardinal Dziwisz recalled that the pope went to the Marian sanctuary of Fatima, Portugal, in 1982 to thank Mary for saving his life in the 1981 shooting. During an evening ceremony, a priest carrying a large knife lunged toward the pontiff.

At the time, Vatican officials said the pope was unharmed and was only informed about the incident the next day.

In the film, Cardinal Dziwisz said the pope was in fact able to carry on with the prayer service and the rest of his schedule in Fatima.

"It was only when we returned to his room that I saw blood on his vestments," the cardinal added. He did not elaborate, but other

Vatican sources said the pope may have been superficially wounded in the attack.

The 90-minute film, narrated in English by the actor Michael York but dubbed in Italian for the Vatican screening, used actors to depict scenes from the



pope's life along with historical video footage and still photographs.

Cardinal Dziwisz recounted how he and aides would spirit the pope out of the Vatican on secret outings to the mountains near Rome, sometimes hiding the pontiff behind an opened newspaper in the back of a car.

In one of the most dramatic re-enactments in the film, the pope performs an exorcism on a woman brought to him thrashing and screaming. Cardinal Dziwisz said the woman was possessed, and only when the pope told her he would celebrate a Mass for her did she suddenly become calm.

Some of the film's most poignant moments came when Cardinal Dziwisz revealed simple facts about the pope's day-to-day life in the Vatican: how each morning he read the prayer intentions that had been sent to him and placed on his kneeler, then spent a long time praying for them; how he was upset by

Ex-secretary prays Pope John Paul II will become saint in his lifetime

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — On the eve of the 30th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II, the late pope's longtime secretary prayed the pope would be made a saint in his lifetime.

Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow told reporters Oct. 15 that the world, but especially his city, was "still waiting for a saint."

"This is our great desire, and for that we pray and we hope it will happen during our lifetime," the 69-year-old cardinal said.

The cardinal spoke during a Vatican press conference presenting a new film, "Testimony," that premiered Oct. 16, the anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election. The film is based on the cardinal's book, "A Life With Karol," about Pope John Paul and the cardinal's 39 years as his personal secretary.

Cardinal Dziwisz recalled that day in 1978 when he was standing among the throngs of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square near one of the burials and the name of the new pope was announced.

"When I heard his name, certainly my heart started beating faster, all my nerves" were pulsating during this "psychologically intense moment," he said.

After serving the pope for 12 years when Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was head of the Krakow Archdiocese and then for all 27 years of his papacy, Cardinal Dziwisz said Pope John Paul was like a father to him.

"I helped him for many years," the cardinal said, noting that he now awaits help every time he prays to the late pope for encouragement.

He said he hopes and believes Pope John Paul's sainthood "will happen at the right moment."

"Canonization doesn't create a saint, it is only recognition" that he is a saint, he said.

Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the priest in charge of promoting Pope John Paul's cause, told reporters in Rome Oct. 13 that the cause was proceeding "with seriousness and rigor."

He said Pope Benedict XVI told him many times to "do it quickly, but well, without irregularities."

the fact that homeless people were sleeping on the Vatican's doorstep, and so asked Blessed Mother Teresa to open a charity shelter inside the Vatican; and how he brought Polish traditions to the Vatican, especially at Christmas.

The pope would sing along at least one Christmas song a day for several weeks, beginning Christmas Eve, he said.

For more information on the film, visit www.testimonyfilm.com.



Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz

Synod message says each Catholic should own—and use—Bible

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Devotion to the word of God must lead Catholics to prayer, concrete acts of charity, unity with other Christians and dialogue with all people of good will, said the world Synod of Bishops.

In their final message to the world's Catholics, the 253 members of the synod said each Catholic should have a copy of the Bible, read it and pray with it regularly.

"Everyhome should have its own Bible and safeguard it in a visible and dignified way, to read it and to pray with it," said the synod's message, released Oct. 24.

And like Jesus who came to proclaim hope and salvation, "the Christian has the mission to announce this divine word of hope by sharing with the poor and the suffering, through the witness of faith in the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, and love and peace," the synod said.

"Authentic hearing is obeying and acting. It means making justice and love blossom in life," the message said.

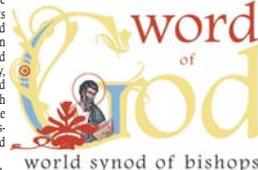
It is not enough to explain the word of God to others, the bishops said, but people must let others see and experience the goodness of God through the good that they do.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture and principal drafter of the message, told reporters that "if the word of God

is love, then one who has read and prayed over the word must incarnate love. It must lead to communion, solidarity and dialogue."

In their message, the bishops explained the various forms the word of God has taken: the spoken word that created the universe and can still be seen in nature; the Bible, the record of the history of salvation written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and Jesus Christ, the word made flesh.

"Therefore, the word of God



precedes and goes beyond the Bible," the synod members said, so true devotion to the word of God excludes a fundamentalist reading of the Scriptures.

Fundamentalism "does not recognize that this word (of God) expresses itself in the Bible according to a human language that must be decoded, studied and understood," said the synod message.

Auxiliary Bishop Santiago Silva Retamalos of Valparaiso, Chile, vice president of the synod's message-drafting committee, told reporters that the Bible's importance flows from the fact that it is "a place of encounter with the Word who is Lord."

"A book cannot listen, a book cannot console, a book cannot

See SYNOD MESSAGE, page 3

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
Volume 4, Issue 20
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Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association.
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie.
Subscription \$10/Year.
For more information, call (814) 824-1161.
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

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Briefly

Feminists for Life president to speak in Clarion

CLARION — Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, will present her renowned speech, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," at Clarion University's Carlson Library on Thurs., Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Foster will discuss 200 years of pro-life feminism. For more information about the lecture, sponsored by Clarion University's Students for Life, contact Dr. Thomas Rourke at 814.226.4872.



Serrin Foster

Reflection day for women

COUDERSPORT — The Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry of the Bradford Diocese will host a Reflection Day for Women on Nov. 15 at St. Eulalia Parish Center, 6 E. Maple St. in Coudersport.

Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB, of the spiritual ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, will present "Advent Waiting—A Time to Glory in Life" based on the book "Sparks of Advent Light" by Sister Joan Chittister, OSB.

There will be time for input, discussion, reflection and prayer. The program begins at 10 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m. with prayer. Donation of \$15 includes lunch and a copy of the book. Contact Margaret French at 814.945.6245 or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814.544.8017 or e-mail cm@zitimedia.net to register by Wednesday, Nov. 12.



Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski

World Apostolate of Fatima retreat

CRANBERRY — The Erie Diocese's World Apostolate of Fatima will sponsor its sixth annual retreat on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry, just outside of Franklin.

Check-in time starts at 8 a.m. Retreat masters Father Robert Lewis and Father David Poulson will run the program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., which includes Mass, confession, lunch and dinner.

The annual diocesan meeting of the World Apostolate of Fatima will be held after the retreat. E. William Sockey III, a trustee who works with the national shrine, will present a talk and video.

Anyone wishing to attend is welcome. Reservations should be made by Nov. 5. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per family living in the same household. Lunch and dinner are available for \$5 and \$8, respectively, or bring a bag lunch. For more information or to make reservations, please call 814.474.2753.



Second annual patriotic rosary in Curwensville

CURWENSVILLE — St. Timothy Parish in Curwensville will sponsor its second annual patriotic rosary to honor all military and veterans, especially World War II veterans, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9 at the church.

All military and veterans are invited to attend (in uniform, if possible), and are asked to arrive at 1:30 p.m.

Please call 814.236.3978, 814.236.1845 or 814.236.0710 with your confirmation. All faiths are welcome.

Mercyhurst Prep presents 'Charlie Brown' musical

ERIE — Mercyhurst Prep High School's Performing Arts Department will present "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" Nov. 13-16.

The musical, based on Charles Schulz's Charlie Brown comic strip, shows glimpses of favorite characters: Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Sally, Linus and Schroeder.

The play will be performed on Nov. 13, 14 and 15 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students. The school is located at 538 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. Call 814.824.2063 for more information.



Catholic schools see decrease in enrollment for '08-09

ENROLLMENT, from page 1

Thirdly, there is the overall decline in northwest Pennsylvania's population.

"That seems to be hitting us pretty hard," Fronzaglia said. "You combine that with the financial straits that many families are experiencing today, and it's a sacrifice for parents to send their children to parochial education."

Principals are reporting that more and more parents are letting their children make a decision at a much earlier age than previous generations on where they want to attend school, Father Rouch said.

"Third and fourth graders are telling their parents where they want to go, and parents are listening to them," he said. "That's what we're hearing from the field."

The Erie Diocese has seven high schools, two middle schools and 31 elementary schools across its 13-county area in northwest Pennsylvania. Conversely, 87 public school districts and five intermediary units service the same 13-county area.

The Erie Diocese isn't alone in experiencing population decline and shifting demographics leading to a decline in school enrollment. Projections from the Pennsylvania Department of Education show an expected 3.5 percent decline in the total number of students in all of the state's public and non-public schools from 2008-09 to 2012-13. Numbers for projected students in K-12 public schools in

Catholic school enrollment in Pennsylvania by diocese

Diocese	2005-06			2006-07			% change Elem. H.S.	2007-08			% change		
	Pre-K	K-8	9-12	Pre-K	K-8	9-12		Pre-K	K-8	9-12		Elem. H.S.	
Allentown	1,082	11,021	3,873	1,012	10,646	3,830	-3.4	-1.1	862	10,261	3,780	-3.6	-1.3
Altoona-Johnstown	663	3,523	1,154	598	3,309	1,086	-6.1	-5.9	634	3,207	1,012	-3.1	-6.8
Erie	1,255	7,282	2,535	1,840	6,768	2,472	-7.1	-2.5	1,154	6,188	2,579	-8.6	-4.3
Greensburg	580	3,134	802	627	2,997	767	-4.4	-4.4	632	2,857	756	-4.7	-1.4
Harrisburg	773	8,891	3,862	754	8,650	3,872	-2.7	+0.3	770	8,297	3,979	-4.1	+2.8
Philadelphia	3,669	67,418	28,540	3,799	67,219	28,443	-0.3	-0.3	3,722	61,655	27,343	-8.3	-3.9
Pittsburgh	3,041	18,188	3,902	3,227	17,092	4,049	-6.0	+3.8	3,500	16,500	4,200	-3.5	+3.7
Scranton	1,202	8,068	2,366	1,179	7,569	2,341	-6.2	-1.1	1,078	6,399	1,861	-15.5	-20.5
Total	12,265	127,525	47,034	13,036	124,250	46,860	-2.6	-0.4	12,352	115,364	45,510	-7.2	-2.9
Total enrollment (statewide K-12)	174,559			171,110			-1.9		160,874			-6.0	

Source: Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Erie County alone show a decline of nearly 17 percent from 2002-03 (12,908 students) to 2016-17 (10,727 projected students).

One of the efforts the diocese has made to stabilize Catholic schools has been establishing a partnership with The Advancement Council, an independent consulting firm that specializes in Catholic school advancement. Last year, seven Advancement Council workshops for faculty members and administrators outlined a comprehensive approach for the sustainability of their schools and their commitment to Catholic education.

"It really was calling our lead-

ers in our individual schools to change their thinking about how to increase enrollment and financial support for their school," Father Rouch said. "This isn't a quick fix, it's a long-term initiative."

Coming out of the workshops, which will continue this year, a number of schools hired advancement directors, a newly created position at many locations.

Advancement Council was also an effort to refocus on the Catholic mission of the schools, Fronzaglia added.

"We want to assure our parents that their sacrifice of tuition pay-

ments is worth it," Father Rouch said. "The Catholic identity of the school has to be upfront, clear, strong, consistent. That's the mission of the school and that's what their children are going to experience, especially at the elementary level. That's got to be one of the values to help keep our parents committed."

Fronzaglia said the diocese is also working with area businesses on increasing the amount of scholarships available through the Pennsylvania Employment Incentive Tax Credit (EITC) Program. Each year, approximately \$1.3 million in tuition assistance is distributed by the diocese from various sources, he said.

Vatican prepares three alternative endings for dismissal at Mass

MASS DISMISSAL, from page 1

moving it to an earlier moment, after the prayer of the faithful.

He said the responses from bishops' conferences were expected to be in by the end of October, and the question would then be presented to the pope for a final decision.

Cardinal Arinze said that in addition to his timing some have suggested that the sign of peace be limited to an exchange between the Massgiver and those in his or her immediate vicinity. He said that in some churches today, the sign of peace is extended to the point that it becomes "almost a jamboree."

Cardinal Arinze said a third suggestion from the 2005 synod, a "eucharistic compendium," also has made progress and is near publication.

He said the compendium would include doctrinal notes on the Mass, as well as prayer texts, passages of papal liturgical teachings, canon law texts and other explanatory materials. He emphasized that the compendium would propose ideas, not impose them.

Cardinal Arinze said a fourth project of the worship congregation, working together with Vatican congregations for doctrine and clergy, was the drawing up of a list of homily themes that correspond to Sunday scriptural readings and to the church's doctrinal teachings.

"This is not a matter of modal homilies, but general indications in which, for each theme, elements are furnished to be able to develop the theme," he said.

Politics, liturgy, priorities to be focus of bishops' fall meeting

U.S. BISHOPS, from page 1

from the agenda of the November 2008 meeting," Bishop Serratelli said, adding that "the texts will be addressed at a later time to be determined" by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., USCCB vice president, will present a report on the work of five task forces focusing on conference priorities — strengthening marriage, faith formation and sacramental practice, the life and dignity of the human person, cultural diversity in the church and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Also scheduled for the November meeting are presentations on the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" and on "Reflections on Covenant and Mission," a 2002 statement of the National Council of Synagogues and the USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs.

In June the bishops directed their Committee on Doctrine to begin revising the ethical guidelines for Catholic health care institutions to reflect recent church documents on medically assisted nutrition and hydration. The documents include a 2004 ad-

dress on the vegetative state by Pope John Paul II to an international congress and a 2007 response by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on questions raised by the USCCB on artificial nutrition and hydration.

The "Reflections on Covenant and Mission" statement, which repudiates "campaigns that target Jews for conversion to Christianity," has drawn criticism from Cardinal Avery Dulles as "ambiguous, if not erroneous, in its treatment" of evangelization, mission and other topics. Others have joined in that criticism in recent months.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, who is beginning the second year of his three-year term as USCCB president, will deliver his presidential address at the gathering and a new USCCB secretary will be elected to succeed Bishop George Murry of Youngstown, Ohio.

Bishop Murry was elected last year to complete the three-year term of Bishop Kicanas when the Tucson bishop was chosen as vice president.

Also to be elected are chairmen-elect of the committees on National Collections, Cultural Diversity in the Church, Doctrine, Pro-Life Activities and Communications.

Synod message

SYNOD MESSAGE from page 2

challenge, but the Lord does," he said.

Documenting the creation of man and woman, their struggles with sin and oppression, God's liberating action and his gift of salvation in Jesus, "the Bible contains the model for the process of liberation," Bishop Silva said.

In Latin America and many other parts of the world, he said, the poor come together to read the Bible, and they are touched by Jesus.

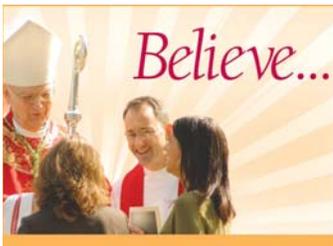
"They come aware of their dignity as men and women. They come to understand better and act on their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ," the bishop said. "And, little by little, the conviction and enthusiasm of being Christian leads them to a new commitment in society, bringing to it the leaven of the values of the kingdom of God."

Synod on the Bible

A synod is a gathering of church leaders that discusses and advises on major church issues. The focus of this Synod of Bishops is the word of God in the life of the church. These are the participants.



- U.S. DELEGATE**
Cardinal Donald E. Dillardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
- Cardinal Francis E. George
Archbishop of Chicago
- Archbishop Basil M. Schmitt
Archbishop of New York
- Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington
- Archbishop George W. Kicanas
Archbishop of Tucson, Ariz.
- Father Glen A. Lewandowski
Father General, Coadjutor
- Father Joseph W. Tobin
Superior General, Redemptorists
- U.S. EXPERTS**
Father Peter Damiano
University of St. Mary of the Lake, Wisconsin
- Monsignor Forrest Sister Sara Butler
St. Joseph's Seminary, Newburg, N.Y.
- Rev. Fr. Stephen Pappas
Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome
- Msgr. Josephine DeWitt
Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
- U.S. OBSERVERS**
Carl A. Anderson
King's of Canada
- Archbishop Mary Clare Milone
Superior General, Assolani of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



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



Sisters of St. Joseph welcome 14 new associates

ERIE — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania welcomed 14 people into associate membership during a special liturgy held in the chapel of the Sisters' Community Living Center on West Ridge Road in Mill Creek. The liturgy was celebrated by Father Dennis Martin, who is also an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The new associates were received by Sister Joyce Lowrey, SSJ, of the congregation leadership team, Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, director of the associate program and Sister Jane Zawacki, SSJ, associate director. A reception followed the liturgy.



Associates welcomed into membership are: (seated) Jeanne Marie Costa, (standing, left to right) Mary Wright, Ted Wright, Phyllis Johnson, Judith Sindlinger, Kathleen Marino, Margaret Rusnak, Debbie Brasili, Mary Kathleen Davis, Christine Opron, Mary Ann Cox, Michelle Brown, Ruth Carney and Walter Brown.

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

"Associate members are a gift to our congregation and to the nature and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph to further the reign of God. Associate candidates are required to complete a year of preparation and instruction about the charism, history, spirit and spirituality of the sisters before they are welcomed into the program and asked to make their commitment. Associate commitments are then renewed annually.

"There are 238 SSJ associates and 124 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

DCC's Kunkle named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

DUBOIS — Kathleen Kunkle, chief administrative officer of DuBois Central Catholic Schools, was recently named Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year for 2008. Representatives from the company's distribution center in Woodland, Pa., surprised Kunkle with a visit, certificate and a check for \$1,000 for the school. The news was announced in front of the middle and high school students after the weekly school Mass in the auditorium. At lunch, Kunkle was honored by the elementary students with a cake in celebration of her award, as well as flowers and balloons from Student Council. Pictured are Kunkle (center) along with Wal-Mart representatives Christopher Hanlon and Sarah Rienzi. Kunkle has been a teacher at DCC for 35 years.



Mercyhurst's Feed the Hungry Club benefits many

ERIE — Mercyhurst Prep High School's Feed the Hungry Club, now in its seventh year, has developed a reputation as a labor of love group. Current students, graduates, past and present teachers and parents are welcome to participate during the second Sunday of every month to cook and serve a meal to the needy.



On these designated Sundays, an average of 20 volunteers gather in the school cafeteria from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to prepare, cook, bake, clean up and deliver a simple but healthy meal to guests in the Upper Room of St. Paul's United Church of Christ on 11th and Peach streets in Erie.

The Sunday meal on Oct. 12 consisted of tortilla lasagna, Spanish rice, macaroni and cheese, fruit salad, corn and black bean relish, homemade cookies and a batch of sandwiches for a later meal. Guests, mostly men but sometimes women and children, total 40 to 100 people.

To raise funds for the club, the group hosts two jeans days at the school during the year and relies on monetary and non-perishable food donations as well as supplies (foil containers, trays, plates, paper towels, etc.).

"The guests call us the Mer-

cyhurst Packers because we wear green, pack up the food and bring it in," said Nancy Zimmerman, club adviser and campus ministry service hour coordinator. Zimmerman directs the club with student co-presidents Andrew Staszewski and Ryan Kubiak.

Contributions to Mercyhurst's Feed the Hungry pantry such as canned fruits and vegetables, rice, macaroni, peanut butter and baking ingredients are always welcome additions. Donations can be brought to the school, located at 538 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

Sacred Heart Parish Days net \$72,000

ERIE — Father John Detisch, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, hands the keys over to William Beyers of Falls Creek, Va., winner of the 2008 Ford Mustang Roush BlackJack Mustang from the Sacred Heart Parish Day raffle. Tickets for the car raffle were sold in all 50 states and four other countries. Proceeds from the parish days netted \$72,000, which included \$60,000 in profit from raffle sales. Beyers decided to keep the car, valued at \$60,000, instead of taking the \$40,000 cash option. The car is a limited edition with only 100 made.



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