

## Advent a time of hope

Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma have brought great suffering to people. Many have lost their homes and their jobs. Some have lost loved ones. In the midst of this pain, God's people have responded with care and compassion to brothers and sisters who are struggling and suffering. The generosity of God's people will enable individuals to begin to build new lives.

The season of Advent marks a new beginning. Advent ushers in a new liturgical year. The word "advent" refers to Jesus' coming. His first advent refers to the coming of Christ in Bethlehem in the form of a servant. He came to the stable in poverty and humility. His second advent refers to the Lord's coming at the end of time. Then he will come in power and glory as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. In between the first historical coming and the second coming of Christ at the end of time, Jesus comes to us sacramentally in and through his church. We live in between these two advents.

Advent is a time of hope. Christian hope is the courage to be in the circumstances where we find ourselves. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we do not face our crises and crosses alone. The risen Lord is more eager to assist us than we are to accept his help.

We may not be the victims of natural disasters but many of us may be struggling with trials, temptations, troubles, tragedies. Advent reminds us to put our trust and confidence in the risen Lord who has conquered all things. The Lord will not allow us to be tried beyond our strength. His grace is sufficient. His grace is abundant. Look at the pressures Christ was under: open hostility, ingratitude for miracles, rejection, friends deserting, betrayal by a kiss of the apostle Judas, the agony of the cross. Christ showed courage under pressure. Christ hoped and trusted in his father. Christ can say to us: *I know what you are going through, I understand, remember you are not alone. I am with you.*

When we read the Scriptures and when we receive the sacraments, we meet Christ — the living, risen Lord — who gives us courage. We may be knocked down, but we are not knocked out. With God's grace we can stand and go on to new life and happiness, but we must turn to the Lord. Advent is a time of preparation, conversion. The four candles of the Advent wreath, one of which is lit every Sunday, symbolize the approach of Christ the Light into a world of darkness.

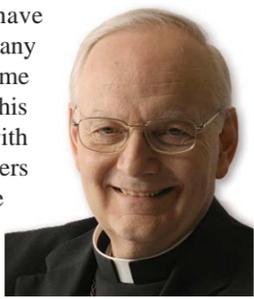
During the four weeks of Advent, the liturgy readies us for the birth of Christ our Savior, leading us to Bethlehem's crib and the newborn Son of God. What does this mean to us who are struggling to live the faith? How does this help us in our daily living?

This new liturgical year tells us we have a new beginning, a new opportunity to meet Christ. The Church's liturgical year is a year of grace. God reaches out to us in the liturgy to teach and sanctify us. We need to embrace Christ in the Scriptures and in the sacraments. We need to love God and let God love us.

The world around us may be falling apart, and the world within us may be tearing us apart, but God is ever faithful to his promises. God will not abandon us. The Lord comes as our rescuer. We have good reason to trust and hope.

*Donald W. Trautman*

**Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L.  
Bishop of Erie**



**Bishop Donald Trautman**

# FaithLife

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie November 20, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

## Katrina funds top \$715,000

*Special collection largest in diocese's history*

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Funds raised in the Erie Diocese for Hurricane Katrina relief have topped \$715,000, making the effort the largest single collection in the diocese's history.

Past collections include hurricane, tsunami and flood relief and response to 9/11.

"I am truly excited and gratified by the extraordinarily generous contribution from our people for the victims of the hurricanes," says Bishop Donald Trautman. "This is the largest collection in the history of the Diocese of Erie. All Catholic people should have a great sense of accomplishment in helping our brothers and sisters in need."

And donations are still coming. Checks from parishes, schools, youth groups and service organizations continue to pass through the office. The collection currently stands at \$715,794.37. That money has been forwarded to Catholic Charities USA.

To date, Catholic Charities USA has allocated more than \$36 million to 58 local Catholic Charities and other Catholic organizations responding to the needs of families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A recent round of funding, approved by Catholic Charities USA's Disaster Response Advisory Committee, included a \$25.6 million grant allocation to Catholic Charities of New Orleans to fund recovery work over the next two to three years.



Schools throughout the Erie Diocese held their own events to help raise funds for Hurricane Katrina relief. Students at St. Boniface School, Erie, raised more than \$750. From left, St. Boniface students Leah Matczak, Elizabeth Johnson and William Snider pose with the school's check to Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities USA has raised a record \$101 million to assist in what will be the network's largest disaster response effort in its history.

Across the nation, more than 80 local Catholic Charities are working to meet the needs of hurricane victims. Relief efforts include:

- providing victims with food, financial aid, clothing, shelter, gas and retail store cards, and household goods;
- helping with medical and prescription needs;
- offering clean-up assistance; helping victims work with FEMA and other groups;
- providing crisis counseling, case management, transportation,

job placement, and temporary and long-term housing.

Coupled with funds raised for the tsunami collection, the total amount raised in 2005 in the Erie Diocese for natural disaster victims and relief nationally and internationally has topped \$1 million. Since January, the diocese has collected \$358,149.90 for tsunami relief in southeast Asia.

"This is truly putting our discipleship into action," Bishop Trautman says. "The response of the Catholic community of the Diocese of Erie has been outstanding. It makes me proud to be the Bishop of this diocese."

*Catholic Charities USA contributed to this story.*

## Brother of Terri Schiavo to speak at pro-life breakfast

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

A week after a Florida judge ruled that his sister's feeding tube could be removed, Bobby Schindler was forced to sit back and watch her die.

The case of Terri Schiavo, Schindler's sister, garnered national and international media attention earlier this year. A lengthy legal battle between Schiavo's husband and her family culminated in a controversy that prompted action by Congress and the White House and put right-to-life issues in the spotlight.

Schiavo's brain was damaged in 1990 after she collapsed and suffered heart failure. She died March 31 at a Pinellas Park, Florida, hospice 13 days after her feeding tube was removed.

Schindler, who served as his family's spokesperson throughout the ordeal, will be the keynote speaker at People for Life's 28th annual pro-life prayer breakfast Jan. 7 at the Avalon Hotel in downtown Erie. In his talk, Schindler will share

personal insights of his family's struggle and how the events have impacted his spiritual life. Schindler and his family are Catholic.

"I think it will clear up a lot of confusion," says Tim Broderick, president of People for Life. "The people that know about the case in hearing it from the mainstream media are a little confused and are only getting part of the puzzle. (The case) involved some difficult decisions regarding the dying process because (Schiavo) wasn't dying."

The relevance of the case, he says, was simply more than tough questions regarding end-of-life issues.

"It was a red flag to a lot of people," Broderick says, "and some people missed the significance of it. It brought disability rights issues to the forefront. It was also a



**Bobby Schindler**

foot in the door for euthanasia."

Bringing in a speaker such as Schindler puts a wider view on People for Life's goals, Broderick says.

"Some people think of People for Life as focusing only on abortion. That simply isn't true," he says. "We want to focus on sanctity of life issues, and we see this as all related."

The prayer breakfast is scheduled close to the Jan. 22, 1973 anniversary date of the Roe versus Wade decision which legalized abortion, Broderick says.

"It's a way to kind of join hands with the churches of the area and bring people together to value life," Broderick says of the annual prayer breakfast. "It's an interfaith event for the entire community. We always receive wonderful support from the diocese and other churches, as well, and we appreciate that. We admire the way people of different faiths want to work together."

The breakfast is also a prelude to the Erie March & Motorcade for Life, also Jan. 7, and the national March for Life in

*28th annual*  
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Washington Jan. 23. The Erie march begins after the prayer breakfast at 12:30 p.m. at 10th and State streets.

"It's a way to remind people of the problem and the magnitude of abortion and Roe versus Wade," Broderick says. "It comes back to our roles as citizens to work toward just laws."

## News Briefs

### U.S.

#### Indiana diocese gears up to aid tornado victims

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (CNS) — Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger of Evansville asked all parishes in the diocese to take up special collections to aid victims of the Nov. 6 tornado that killed at least 23 people and demolished more than 300 homes in southwestern Indiana. The special collections will build up an assistance fund the diocese established the day after the tornado cut a 20-mile swath eastward from northern Kentucky through Evansville to Newburgh. The Diocese of Evansville committed an immediate \$25,000 for direct assistance to victims. Catholic Charities USA committed an additional \$15,000. The diocese includes 70 parishes in 12 counties of southwestern Indiana, including Vanderburgh and Warrick counties, where the tornado struck about 2 a.m. Nov. 6. St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville was among the area hospitals that took in more than 100 people injured in the storm.

#### With fewer priests, Rochester churches cope with change

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — A new world awaits the Catholics of Rochester's southwest side as members of five parishes consolidate under one roof in a pastoral plan approved Oct. 25 by Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester. The five parishes, currently worshipping in four churches, together serve 776 families. That is an average of fewer than 200 per church, well below the diocesan average of about 1,000 families per church. Of the five parishes, which together make up a diocesan planning group, three have been clustered with a shared pastoral leader and staff since 1992, designating themselves as the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward. The other two joined the planning group in the late 1990s. Under the plan Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Augustine churches are to discontinue Masses in the near future and parishioners will begin worshipping at St. Monica Church. Emmanuel Church of the Deaf Parish will move its Masses from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to St. Monica as well. Within the next two years, St. Peter and Paul Church also will close, leaving St. Monica as the planning group's only remaining worship site.

#### Size of Siberian diocese dwarfs church's territory in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — Catholics in Boston or Chicago might be awed at the challenges of the church in the Archdiocese of Anchorage. The archdiocese has only 21 active priests to minister to 32,000 Catholics spread over 140,000 square miles, less than 10 percent of the total population is Catholic, and some priests are forced to become pilots to reach people off the road system. But a bishop from Russia who visited Anchorage in October put the Alaska Archdiocese's difficulties in perspective. Bishop Cyprian Klimowicz's Diocese of St. Joseph, based in the city of Irkutsk in central Siberia, is a slab of geography more than 44 times the size of the Anchorage Archdiocese — it's about 6.25 million square miles. Catholics there are outnumbered by not only Russian Orthodox Christians but also Buddhists, Muslims and shamanists, and for seven decades in the last century all religious activity was banned by the atheistic Soviet regime.

#### Enthusiasm, energy mark closing Mass at Catholic youth conference

ATLANTA (CNS) — Thousands of Catholic teenagers, many wearing T-shirts with slogans such as "Discover Jesus" and "I pray," sprinted through stadium aisles Oct. 29 to claim front-row seats — not for a football game, hockey game or concert, but for Mass. More than 16,500 teens from across the United States gathered at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta to conclude the 2005 National Catholic Youth Conference. The Oct. 27-29 event, packed with guest speakers, workshops and presentations to enrich their faith, allowed young Catholics to experience with their peers the diversity and support of the broader church community. The closing liturgy

really "brought the Mass to life," said Rebecca Schmitt, 16, from the Diocese of Belleville, Ill. "There was so much energy, even in the quiet moments." Youths waved colorful kites on long poles, liturgical dancers filled the air with incense and the conference's youth choir sang "Come Holy Spirit, send down your fire," as more than 120 priests and deacons and 15 bishops, including the main celebrant, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, entered.

### WORLD

#### Israel denies press reports of property exchange with Vatican

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Israeli government denied recent press reports of a property exchange with the Vatican. "It is an idea which was brought up three years ago and rejected, and we don't know why someone is (reviving) it now, but there is nothing to it," said an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokeswoman. According to reports in the Israeli and European press, Israel was to hand over control of the cenacle — also known as the upper room, where tradition maintains the Last Supper was held — to the Vatican. In exchange, Israel would be given control over a 12th-century synagogue in Toledo, Spain, which is currently the Santa Maria la Blanca Church. The building became a church in the 15th century during the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. The reports said the property exchange would be announced during the mid-November meeting between Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Pope Benedict XVI, but Katsav's political adviser, Avi Gornot, denied such an announcement would be made.

#### Podcasting could be important pastoral tool, says magazine

ROME (CNS) — Podcasting, already a popular innovation at Vatican Radio, offers an important new way for pastors to reach contemporary Christians through their digital jukeboxes, an influential Jesuit magazine said. The church should not pass up the opportunity to make liturgies and prayers available via podcast, as well as downloadable sermons by "podpreachers," said the magazine, *La Civiltà Cattolica*, in its Nov. 5 issue. Podcasting allows individuals to download audio or video files from the Internet to their iPod or other digital device, for listening or viewing at a later time. Users can subscribe to podcasts and have episodes delivered automatically to their computer and digital player. The popularity of podcasting has generated a subcategory called "Godcasting," which refers to efforts by churches, preachers and religious media to tap into the digital communications boom.

### PEOPLE

#### Pope calls newly beatified priests, nun 'heroic witnesses'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seven Spanish priests and a nun martyred in 1936 were "heroic witnesses of the faith" and showed the true meaning of priesthood and consecrated life, said Pope Benedict XVI. The pope prayed before the relics of the eight Spaniards Oct. 29 after they were beatified in St. Peter's Basilica during a Mass celebrated by Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The seven priests from the Diocese of Urgell were killed "during the religious persecution in Spain out of fidelity to their priestly ministry," the pope said. The seven beatified were: Fathers Jose Tapias Sirvant, Pascual Araguas, Silestre Arnau Pascuet, Jose Boher Foix, Francisco Castells Brenyu, Pedro Martret Moles and Jose Perot Juanmarti. Sister Maria de los Angeles Ginard Marti was a member of a religious order dedicated to eucharistic adoration; her devotion to Christ helped her "offer her life as a supreme expression of love for Christ," the pope said.

## By the Way...



Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

**Nov. 22 is the feast of St. Cecilia**, patroness of music. Music ministry groups in the diocese will be gathering throughout the month of November to celebrate God's gift of music with liturgies and concerts. Some wonderful celebrations have already taken place while others are still to come. Here are a few:

Meadville deanery musicians gathered for Mass on Nov. 5 at **St. Brigid Parish**, Meadville.

The combined choirs of **St. Patrick Parish** in Franklin and **St. Stephen Parish** and **St. Joseph Parish** of Oil City came together for a service Nov. 7 at St. Patrick church.

Erie area musicians took part in a service Nov. 11 at **St. Patrick Parish**, Erie.

Two concerts will be held Nov. 20. A 4 p.m. concert at St. Gregory Parish, North East, will feature sacred music, choirs and chimes. Area musicians will perform a 7 p.m. concert at St. Joseph Parish, Sharon.

**St. Andrew Parish** in Erie will dedicate a new shrine at the church on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. Bishop Trautman will preside over a vesper service and dedication ceremony. The shrine will feature a statue of St. Andrew.

"We've had a statue of St. Andrew, but he's never had a permanent place as a shrine," says pastor Msgr. Richard Sullivan.

The shrine, located near the front pillars in the sanctuary area, will incorporate wooden arches from the church's former communion railing. Other portions of the railing were used in the construction of the current altar and ambo.

The evening will include a procession with St. Andrew School students and installation of a relic of St. Andrew.

On Dec. 3, Bishop Trautman will celebrate Mass and **candidacy for permanent deacons** at St. Mark Seminary chapel at 11 a.m. Those who will be admitted to candidacy include **Charles Adamczyk** of St. James Parish, Erie; **Robert Ball** of St. George Parish, Erie; **Gerald Beeman** of St. Bernard Parish, Bradford; **Robert Boal** of St. Patrick Parish, Franklin; and **Jeffrey Swanson** of St. Peter Cathedral Parish, Erie.

An Advent family calendar from the Catholic Charities Office is available on the diocesan homepage at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). The printable calendar includes a Scripture verse, reflection and activity for every day of the season. It's an excellent resource for families at home or youth group activity.

A new resume referral service available on the Web at [www.catholicexecutivesonline.com](http://www.catholicexecutivesonline.com) is aimed primarily at bringing God into the workplace. The site targets Catholic executives and up and coming managers who are seeking career paths with companies and organizations that value Christian, ethical, moral employees.

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

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General Information: (814) 824-1160  
Fax: (814) 824-1170

E-Mail: [FaithLife@erieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@erieRCD.org)  
Editorial: (814) 824-1171  
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### Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

**Msgr. John B. Hagerty** of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie, and **Msgr. Ernest J. Daley** of St. Jude Parish, Erie, have been appointed to the position of episcopal delegate for retired priests, effective immediately.

The role of the episcopal delegate for retired priests (delegate for senior clergy) is intended to be an aid to the bishop in exercising his pastoral care for senior clergy.

### Briefly

#### SSJ to hold 17th annual Thanksgiving dinner

The Sisters of St. Joseph and Marketplace Grill are pleased to announce that they are once again offering a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings to anyone who is alone, in need or otherwise would not celebrate the holiday. This is the 17th year for this special Thanksgiving meal.

The meal will be served on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24 at Marketplace Grill, 319 State St., Erie, at 11 a.m. and again at noon. The meal is free and reservations are not required. In addition, individuals who are homebound due to illness or age can have dinners delivered to their homes between 10 a.m. and noon on Thanksgiving Day.

Arrangements for home delivery must be made by calling 814.836.4100 on Nov. 23 between 9-11 a.m.

#### Diocese presents A Christmas Carol

The Education Office of the Diocese of Erie will present an all-community production of the Broadway version of *A Christmas Carol—The Musical* on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. with matinees on Dec. 4 and 11 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, available at the door, are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$6 for students. A special matinee will be performed on Dec. 8 at 1 p.m.

The production will involve more than 100 actors, chorus and orchestra members. All performances will be held in the Cathedral Prep High School Auditorium, 225 W. 9th St., Erie.

#### Meadville parish offers Christmas Catechism

St. Mary of Grace Parish, Meadville, will present *Sister's Christmas Catechism—Mystery of the Magi's Gold* Dec. 3 at the Academy Theatre in Meadville. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$20 for students.

The play, a touring production from New York City, is a follow-up to last year's successful production of *Late Nite Catechism*.

## Mercyhurst Prep partners with LECOM

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Mercyhurst Preparatory High School is teaming up with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) with the goal of training high school students for careers in the medical and health fields.

The educational partnership was announced Nov. 3 at Mercyhurst Prep, where representatives from both schools signed an agreement to develop educational programs that encourage Mercyhurst Prep graduates to pursue programs in the health profession.

The partnership is the first between LECOM and a high school.

"We're very excited about it," says Margaret Aste, principal of Mercyhurst Prep. "We find ourselves aligned with LECOM on a number of fronts. We both believe in educating the entire person and that anything you're teaching is in the whole context of the life experience."

The agreement opens up a number of opportunities for Mercyhurst Prep students, Aste says, including interacting with LECOM staff and benefiting from the college's available technology.

"This is something that is available to our students that we could never give them," she says.

Current MPS students who meet the criteria set forth by Mercyhurst Prep administration will be eligible for scholarship dollars pledged by LECOM. LECOM is pledging \$25,000 over five years to Mercyhurst Prep's student scholar-



Officials from Mercyhurst Prep and LECOM announced their partnership Nov. 3 that encourages students to continue studying in the science field. From left, Sister Mary Ann Bader, RSM (MPS president); Peg Aste (MPS principal); Dr. Silvia Ferretti (Provost/VP and Dean of Academic Affairs – LECOM); Dr. Hershey Bell (Associate Dean for Faculty Development – LECOM and also a current MPS parent); and Dr. Donald Tuttle (Dean of the School of Pharmacy – LECOM).

ship fund for current students and graduates who enroll at LECOM and enter a health profession.

Students who successfully complete the coursework offered by LECOM will qualify for additional scholarships should they return to LECOM to pursue studies toward health-related professions.

Through the partnership, LECOM is looking to expand a pharmacy technician program that introduces high school students to community

pharmacy and opens the door to jobs with local drugstores. The partnership also allows for the return of a summer course that shows students how physicians diagnose patient cases, Aste says.

The agreement with LECOM is more good news for Mercyhurst Prep's science program. The school has already earmarked \$500,000 of its current \$3 million capital campaign for improving the department's facilities.

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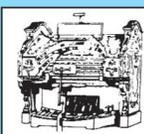
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### The Promise of Advent: Jesus

beginning Sunday, December 4th and continuing through Wednesday, December 7th. Evening services begin at 7:00pm and end at 8:15pm.

The retreat is being conducted by Sister Jean Filzpatrick and Father Stephen Vasek, OMI. There will be activities for children during services and fellowship after each evening's session. Jesus is the promise of Advent, and we encourage you to follow Him in this retreat. Our Blessed Mother Mary brings us to Jesus, and He brings us and the world hope, healing and mercy.

Please join us.

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# St. Greg's, North East gather to *Move the Mountain*

What started out as a parish project at St. Gregory in North East to feed the hungry has evolved into a community event.

On Nov. 5, North East came together to *Move the Mountain*, a project designed to stock the shelves of the community food pantry.

*Move the Mountain* started out as a project at St. Greg's as a way to observe St. Gregory Thaumaturgus' feast day on Nov. 17. Legend has it that St. Gregory moved a mountain in order to protect his people from their enemies.

Right now the enemy is hunger. The food pantry shelves are empty. This is due in large part to the tremendous needs in the South following the hurricanes.



St. Gregory Parish and the North East community gathered Nov. 5 for the annual *Move the Mountain* project. The project netted

14,000 pounds of food and \$4,000 for the local food bank.

However, with the coming of winter and the increase in heating costs, the need is also local.

Every church in North East, along with the Chamber of Commerce, students and

teachers of the North East School District, library, scout troops, volunteer fire companies, volunteers, auxiliaries and businesses gathered to move a mountain of food into the food pantry.

This year, the project netted 14,000 pounds of food and \$4,000 in contributions. The food filled an empty semi-trailer parked on Main Street and was then brought to the local food pantry.

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November 20, 2005

## ADVENT a Time of Hope

by Bishop Trautman

**Katrina funds  
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Special collection largest  
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**Brother of Terri Schiavo  
to speak at pro-life breakfast**