

True North



Teens share their experiences from High School Youth Rally, page 2.

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FaithLife

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

Box city



Warren youth group raises awareness for homelessness, page 4.

November 4, 2012

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Leo the Great



St. Elizabeth of Hungary

- Nov. 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- Nov. 10 St. Leo the Great
- Nov. 12 St. Josaphat
- Nov. 13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
- Nov. 15 St. Albert the Great
- Nov. 16 Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude
- Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Confirmations

St. Callistus, Kane – Sunday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie – Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

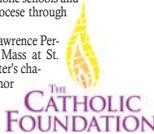
Mass for deceased religious and clergy – Nov. 7

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico will celebrate Mass for the deceased religious and clergy of the Diocese of Erie on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Mercy Motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

The Catholic Foundation Legacy Society evening – Nov. 10

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie will recognize individuals and Catholic organizations making planned and major gifts to benefit people in parishes, Catholic schools and ministries of the diocese through the foundation.

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico will celebrate Mass at St. Mark Catholic Center's chapel at 5 p.m. to honor Legacy Society members and major donors.



USCCB general meeting – Nov. 12-15

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will consider a proposed document, "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily," at its fall general meeting in Baltimore. The document encourages preachers to connect the Sunday homily with people's daily lives.

The homily is intended to establish a 'dialogue' between the sacred biblical text and the Christian life of the hearer," the proposed document says.

The U.S. bishops will also vote for their treasurer-elect and the chairman-elect of five committees as well as elect members of the boards of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

100th anniversary of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, DuBois – Nov. 18

St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois will conclude a year of celebrations for its 100th anniversary with Mass offered by the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico and concelebrated by the Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop emeritus, at noon on Sunday, Nov. 18.

A dinner and dance will follow at the Bellamauro at 2 p.m. Reservations for the dinner are required. The Mass is open to the public.



www.ErieRCD.org
The website of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

- Read the special edition of *FaithLife* on Bishop Persico.
- Watch Bishop Persico's ordination.

Red Mass

Bishop Persico: 'We have an obligation to find and serve the truth'



The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico celebrated a Red Mass Oct. 18 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for those in the legal profession. Pictured (left to right) are Father John Detisch, Msgr. Henry Kriegel, Bishop Persico, Msgr. William Biebel and Father Chris Singer.

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Mass was sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, an organization of Catholic lawyers.

ERIE — On Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico celebrated a Red Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for members of the bar, bench and legal profession.

In his homily, Bishop Persico mentioned two saints whom members of the legal profession can be thankful for and as followers of Jesus whom they can imitate: St. Luke and St. Thomas More.

"Luke helps us to realize what every Christian must confront at some point that authentic faith must be integrated into our lives," Bishop Persico said. "As members of the St. Thomas More Society, you are here because you understand that your faith has a direct impact upon the noble profession that you have embraced."

On Oct. 31, 2000, Pope John Paul II issued an apostolic letter in which he proclaimed St. Thomas More to be the patron saint of lawyers, statesmen and politicians.

St. Thomas More (1478-1535) was an English lawyer who served as Lord Chancellor and counselor to King Henry VIII of England. He opposed Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church and refused to accept him as the head of the Church of England. He was imprisoned for his refusal to take an oath which disparaged the papacy and Henry VIII's marriage to

See RED MASS, page 3

New saints

Pope proclaims seven new saints, including two from North America

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Proclaiming seven new saints — including St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope from North America — Pope Benedict XVI said they are examples to the world of total dedication to Christ and tireless service to others.

In a revised canonization rite Oct. 21, the pope prayed for guidance that the church would not "err in a matter of such importance" as he used his authority to state that the seven are with God in heaven and can intercede for people on earth.

An estimated 80,000 pilgrims from the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Italy, Spain, Germany and Madagascar filled St. Peter's Square for the canonization of the holy women and men who ministered among their people.

The pilgrims applauded the proclamation of the new saints who included: Kateri, an American Indian who was born in the United States and died in Canada in 1680; Mother Marianne, a Sister of St. Francis who traveled from Syracuse, N.Y., to Hawaii to care for people with Hansen's disease and died in Molokai in



St. Kateri Tekakwitha is depicted in this detail view of the oldest known portrait of her painted about 16 years after her death in 1680. It was painted by Jesuit Father Claude Chauchetiere, who personally knew St. Kateri.

St. Marianne Cope is pictured in a colorized black-and-white photo circa 1883.



1918; and Pedro Calungsod, a teen-aged Philippine catechist who was martyred in Guam in 1672.



Banners featuring seven new saints hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 21. An estimated 80,000 pilgrims from all over the world packed St. Peter's Square for the Mass.

The other new saints are: French Jesuit Father Jacques Berthieu, martyred in Madagascar in 1896; Italian Father Giovanni Battista Piamarta, founder of religious orders, who died in 1913; Sister Carmen Salles Barangueras, founder of a Spanish religious order, who died in 1911; and Anna Schaffer, a lay German woman, who died in 1925.

In his homily at Mass following the canonization, Pope Benedict prayed that the example of the new saints would "speak today to the whole church" and that their intercession would strengthen the church

in its mission to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

The pope also spoke about each new saint individually, giving a short biographical outline and highlighting a special characteristic of each for Catholics today.

Pope Benedict called St. Kateri the "protectress of Canada and the first Native American saint," and he entrusted to her "the renewal of the faith in the First Nations and in all of North America."

The daughter of a Mohawk father and Algonquin Christian mother, St. Kateri was "faithful to

See NEW SAINTS, page 3

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Special collection Nov. 17-18 to help fight poverty in diocese, across U.S.

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

There are 600 families registered at St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City, most of which come in once a month for food distribution. Deacon Tim Wren, director of the center, expects that number to go up soon.

"I'm sure we'll be looking at 700 families sometime this winter," Wren said.

Employee layoffs continue to rise in Venango County. Local job furloughs have topped the 500 mark recently with Joy Underground Mining, WS Packaging and PNC Call Center either laying off workers or notifying them that their jobs have been eliminated.

"It's not a pretty picture at all," Wren said. "We really haven't seen the effect of those job losses yet."

But last year's \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development helped St. Elizabeth Center, an emergency assistance center and a Catholic Charities agency, spend more than \$2,000 a month on food that gets distributed on the second

and fourth Wednesdays to registered clients from Oil City, Rouseville, Franklin and nearby areas.

"Any monetary donations, funds from collections or grants we get goes right toward food," Wren said.

Last year, Catholic Charities distributed more than \$76,000 in grants to 13 emergency assistance agencies in the Diocese of Erie. According to the Catholic Charities USA, 46.2 million Americans lived at or below the poverty line in 2010, an increase of more than 2 million from 2009. For a family of four, that line is \$21,834 a year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs across the United States that encourage independence. The annual CCHD collection will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese Nov. 17-18. Nearly half of the funds raised in this special collection stay in the diocese to help people living in poverty right here.



Deacon Tim Wren

Parochial League football championship



ERIE — Blessed Sacrament-Our Lady of Peace won the 2012 Parochial League football championship with a 12-11 victory over St. George in front of 1,500 fans Oct. 24 at Cathedral Prep Events Center's Dollinger Field.

Before the start of the season, Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Peace schools in Erie merged teams because of a potential lack of players from each school. The players that were part of this once fierce football rivalry quickly became a team that played well together. The early season gelling can be attributed to Blessed Sacrament-OLP coach Kevin Schlosser's pizza party on the first day of practice.

Blessed Sacrament-OLP and St. George both finished the season with 6-1-1 records.

Pictured are players from the Blessed Sacrament-Our Lady of Peace football team celebrating on the field after their championship win.

IN THE U.S.

Vatican approves Oct. 22 as U.S. memorial for Blessed John Paul II

A new liturgical memorial — Oct. 22 — has been approved for Blessed John Paul II by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops announced Oct. 19 that the congregation had approved the "optional memorial" for the late pope in the calendar for U.S. dioceses. The U.S. bishops last November approved the date for the memorial, which is the anniversary of his inauguration as pope in 1978. The Vatican congregation's approval was the final step to inclusion of the celebration in the liturgical calendar in the United States.



Blessed John Paul II

Bishop calls U.S. court's rejection of Defense of Marriage Act 'unjust'

The chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' subcommittee on marriage described the decision by a federal appeals court striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act, which says marriage is a legal union of a man and a woman, as "unjust and a great disappointment." "Redefining marriage never upholds the equal dignity of individuals because it contradicts basic human rights," said San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage. He issued a statement Oct. 19 about a 2-1 ruling handed down a day earlier by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, which said the federal marriage law was unconstitutional because it failed to give equal protection to New York spouses in same-sex marriages.

AROUND THE WORLD

Cardinal says converts' top 3 Catholic draws are penance, pope, Mary

Adult converts to Catholicism regularly cite three things about Catholicism that they find attractive: the sacrament of confession, the pope and devotion to Mary, said New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan. "Those three things, guess what, were kind of de-emphasized" after the Second Vatican Council, the cardinal said Oct. 15 during a brief meeting with English-speaking reporters at the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization. In his formal talk to the synod, Cardinal Dolan had said that a renewed appreciation for the sacrament of reconciliation is essential for the church's new evangelization. He told reporters that "it seemed to be a truism after the Second Vatican Council that the council did away with the sacrament of penance, which, of course, is not true." Instead of renewing the sacrament as the council wanted, he said, "we just gave up and we said, 'Well, that ain't going over,' so we stopped trying." The interesting thing, Cardinal Dolan said, is that the sacrament of reconciliation actually is something attractive to many

people, especially the young. "They will often say that the church seems impersonal to them, a little faceless, nameless," he said. "Well, boy, you can't find a more personal sacrament than penance. I mean this is one on one."

Vienna to reduce its parishes by more than 75 percent over 10 years

Austria's Vienna Archdiocese will press ahead with a major reorganization that will include liquidating most of its parishes over 10 years, despite objections from some local Catholics. The archdiocese's 600 parishes will be merged over the next decade into around 150 larger parishes, each served by three to five priests and offering regular Masses. "Our emphasis isn't just on reorganizing the church, but on reintegrating the missionary impulse of the entire Christian community," said Michael Pruller, the archdiocesan spokesman. "Although we can debate how best to achieve it, the plan's main aim isn't open to discussion." Pruller said that falling numbers of clergy and laity had necessitated the changes. He said smaller affiliated communities within the parishes will be run by lay volunteers authorized to conduct the Liturgy of the Word.

PEOPLE

Franciscan martyrs hailed during beatification in Czech Republic

Fourteen Franciscan priests were beatified in the Czech Republic four centuries after they were tortured to death by Protestant forces in a Catholic monastery. Presiding at the Oct. 13 ceremony at historic St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, described the men as "heroic monks" whose actions in the face of violence can serve as an inspiration to modern-day people of faith to overcome evil with good. "Far from living in hatred, these blessed martyrs prayed, worked and acted for good, as penitent witnesses to Christ's love," Cardinal Amato said. The friars, mostly from France, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy, were sent by their order to Protestant-ruled Prague in 1604 to learn the Czech language and rebuild Our Lady of the Snows monastery, which was destroyed in earlier religious wars.

Pope names six new cardinals, including U.S. Archbishop Harvey

Pope Benedict XVI surprised pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Oct. 24 by announcing he would create six new cardinals, including 63-year-old U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, prefect of the papal household, in late November. The pope said he consistory to create the new cardinals, who come from six countries, would take place Nov. 24, the eve of the feast of Christ the King. As is usual, Cardinal-designate Harvey was seated next to the pope during the audience. While he did not visibly react when his name was announced, the new cardinal-designate smiled and had a brief moment with the pope before returning to his normal duties of helping lead important guests up to the pope.



Cardinal-designate James Harvey

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Election Day is Tuesday (Nov. 6). In our last issue, we published a voter's guide from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference that laid out the positions of the presidential candidates, as well as Pennsylvania's statewide and U.S. Senate candidates. In case you missed it, it is available online on the diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org/fathlife.asp. Click on the Oct. 21 issue. In addition, other resources are available on the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference's website at www.pacatholic.org.

It's hard to believe, but the end of this month will mark the one-year anniversary of the new translation of the Roman Missal. The new missal was used for the first time in churches across the nation on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011. Churchgoers adapted to the changes more easily than expected. Now it seems like they have been part of our prayer all along.

The board of directors at St. Martin Center, Inc. in Erie has announced that David Gonzalez has been hired as the center's new chief executive officer. Gonzalez will replace retiring CEO Cheryl Kobel. Gonzalez will start Nov. 2 and transition with Kobel through January 2013. St. Martin Center, an affiliate agency of Catholic Charities, provides emergency and long-term assistance services.

"Vatican II — Fifty Years Later," a Year of Faith regional conference slated for Nov. 10 at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, looks to be quite an interesting event. Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman will be the keynote speaker, with an additional 10 speakers lined up for breakout session topics.

They include: Father Chris Singer, chancellor of the diocese; Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for Education; Father Justin Pino, diocesan archivist; Sister Clare Maria Beichner, SSJ; Sister Mary Ann White, SSJ; Msgr. Cas Bogniak; Father Joseph Campbell; Matt Clark from the Office of Worship; Donna Clark, pastoral minister at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek; and Joe Ranelli from St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpville. To register for this conference, see this issue's "Briefly" section or contact Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage at 724.981.5566.

As the church celebrates the Year of Faith, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth is providing resources for families, including tips for keeping Sundays holy and centered on family, prayers and devotionals for the family and ideas for building the presence of the church in the home. One resource, the Family Prayer for the Year of Faith, is available as a prayer card. For Year of Faith resources, visit www.usccb.org.

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

TRUE NORTH

A recap of the High School Youth Rally

Editor's note: Nearly 500 teenagers from all corners of the Diocese of Erie attended the High School Youth Rally Sept. 30 at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys. The rally's theme was "True North: Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life" from John 6:68. FaithLife asked two teens to write first-person accounts of the rally.

Youth rally a spark to reignite our faithfulness

By Libby Federici
FaithLife

A wise friend of mine once said that Catholic teenagers have the hardest job in the world. I think one of the main things that we as Catholic teenagers easily lose sight of is genuine interest in our faith. Many of us may feel as if we are just going through the motions of Catholicism. We are Catholic perhaps because our parents are Catholic and because that's all we know. We go to church on Sundays because the Bible says so. We stand, kneel, sit, recite prayers, receive Communion and repeat it all again next Sunday.

For me, faith has become so much more than just sitting in church on Sundays. Faith is the flame that has brought me out of the darkness of the world and into the light and the warmth of Jesus Christ, without whom I could accomplish nothing.

One of the many fabulous experiences that I have to thank for this newfound zeal is the annual Catholic High School Youth Rally. I attended the rally a second time this year at Elk

County Catholic High School. As a Catholic teenager especially, the rally is an opportunity to regroup with each other. In the year 2012, it's so easy to feel as if you are the only kid who cares about being Catholic. The youth rally reminds me that I am part of something greater than anything I can imagine. We are one holy, catholic and apostolic church, and we cannot be ignorant of such an institution! We should make it a goal to live out our faith past the boundaries of what is expected of us.

I know that we are all capable of exceeding the world's expectations. The youth rally acts as a spark, and we are all capable of utilizing this spark to reignite our faithfulness. A Bible quote that best sums up what I have written here comes from 1 Timothy 4:12. It reads: "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."



Libby Federici

and to be again enlightened by Father Michael Kesicki was a priceless one. I like to think that we all rekindled the fire of Christ that had possibly been dimmed since our week at CLI this summer. Attending events like the youth rally remind me that I am part of something greater than anything I can imagine. We are one holy, catholic and apostolic church, and we cannot be ignorant of such an institution! We should make it a goal to live out our faith past the boundaries of what is expected of us.

I know that we are all capable of exceeding the world's expectations. The youth rally acts as a spark, and we are all capable of utilizing this spark to reignite our faithfulness. A Bible quote that best sums up what I have written here comes from 1 Timothy 4:12. It reads: "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."

Libby Federici is a 10th grader at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie.

Jesus as our 'True North' puts him at center of our lives

By Sam Whittaker
FaithLife

On the morning of Sept. 30, I did something I normally do not do on a weekend: I woke up at the crack of dawn. My reason for getting up so early that day was the High School Youth Rally at Elk County Catholic High School. I had been waiting with growing anticipation for this event for many days, and now it had finally come.

When I arrived at the rally with quite a few other youth of my parish, we were greeted by an enthusiastic group of people who made us feel very welcome. We then made our way to the central location of the rally, the auditorium. After some quick introductions, brief games and songs, the guest speaker, Cooper Ray, came on stage.

I have heard many phenomenal speakers in my life, but few gave talks as meaningful as Ray. His down-to-earth way of speaking allowed him to get his points and reasons across very easily. He talked about many things, but he mostly centered on the theme of the rally: "True North." He went on to explain

that Jesus is our true north and we try putting many other things in his place, but they will never fit. If we simply focus on Jesus as our true north, we will find true happiness and satisfaction.

While I had heard a message similar to this before, I had never heard it put as well as it was by Cooper Ray. He gave great images and explanations as to why so many people feel unloved, unnoticed and long for more. It is because they do not have Jesus as their true north, as the center of their lives. He also gave suggestions as to how we might make Jesus our true north. He was an excellent speaker.

Along with the sessions we had with Cooper Ray, there were also other activities and workshops. I attended the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) Challenge workshop, which was created for those who had previously made their CLI. The purpose

of the CLI Challenge, which was led by Father Michael Kesicki, was to stir up the flame in our hearts, the flame that I felt and received at CLI this past summer. It was a pleasant time, and I did feel a rekindling in me as Father Kesicki spoke his words of encouragement to us.

Later on in the afternoon I got to experience the great gifts of the Mass and eucharistic adoration. The main celebrant, Father Brandon Kleckner, the newest priest in our diocese, gave a splendid homily and offered a beautiful Mass. This was immediately followed by adoration, which was equally beautiful. As always, these two forms of worship were the highlight of the day.

Once the day had ended, I took some time to reflect on what I had heard and experienced. I realized how truly blessed I was to be able to go to the youth rally, and now I really understood why I should have Jesus as my "True North."

Sam Whittaker is a 15-year-old religious education student at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City.

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Briefly

Bishop Persico's ordination to air again

ERIE - Courtesy of WJET-TV and the Diocese of Erie, Mercyhurst University's Laker TV, Channel 19 on Time Warner Cable in the City of Erie, will rebroadcast the ordination of the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

Professor to discuss religious freedom, HHS mandate and Pope Benedict XVI

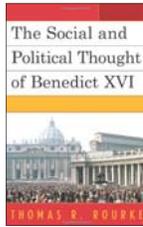
CLARION - Dr. Thomas Rourke, professor and chair of the Political Science and Philosophy Department at Clarion University, will discuss his 2011 book, "The Social and Political Thought of Benedict XVI," with particular reference to current debates concerning religious freedom, including the HHS mandate.

Dr. Rourke's presentation will be held Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Campus Ministry House, 60 Greenville Ave. in Clarion, across from Tippie Gym near the Clarion University campus.

After a brief presentation of Pope Benedict XVI's insights concerning the theme of liberty and summarizing the state of current policies, Dr. Rourke will respond to questions from the audience.

For more information, contact TRourke@clarion.edu.

This event is sponsored by the Newman Club at Clarion University.



'Vatican II - Fifty Years Later,' a Year of Faith ministry conference

HERMITAGE - "Vatican II - Fifty Years Later," a Year of Faith ministry conference, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Kennedy Catholic High School, 2120 Shenango Valley Freeway in Hermitage.

The conference will begin with registration and refreshments at 8:30 a.m. and end with prayer at 12:10 p.m.

Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman will give the keynote address, "Where Were We? Where Are We? Where Are We Going?"

Attendees can choose to participate in two of 10 possible breakout sessions on numerous topics: Catholic social teaching, the new evangelization, parish ministries, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the Diocese of Erie at the Second Vatican Council, the Constitution on Divine Revelation, Catholic education's challenge, Theology of the Body and religious life and Vatican II.

The registration fee is \$15, with an additional \$3 for an optional lunch. To register, contact Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage at 724.981.5566.

This event is sponsored by Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage and St. Joseph Parish in Sharon and hosted by the Shenango Valley Catholic School System.



'Anointed,' a discipleship retreat for high school boys

CRANBERRY - "Anointed" is a retreat for high school boys who want to be disciples of Christ and who are trying to discern God's will in their lives.

The retreat includes three days and two nights at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry. It begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 and ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

The retreat master will be Father Steve Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie. There is no cost. Retreat participants should be recommended by a pastor, director of religious education or teacher and must be registered by Nov. 11.

Visit www.onthevine.us to register or contact Kathleen Peterson in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1218 for more information.

'Testify,' a discipleship retreat for high school girls

CRANBERRY - "Testify" is a retreat for high school girls who are seeking God's will in their lives and who want to grow in holiness.

The retreat includes three days and two nights at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry. It begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30 and ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2.

Presenters include Father Steve Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie; Sister Josephine Vuodi, FSO; Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO; and youth minister Bob Summers.

This is a "mostly silent" retreat and is limited to 12 girls who have been recommended by a pastor, director of religious education or teacher and who have a mature spirituality.

There is no cost. Retreat participants must register by Nov. 19. Visit www.onthevine.us to register or contact Kathleen Peterson in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1218 for more information.

Advent retreat for women

COUDERSPORT - Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman will be the guest speaker at an Advent retreat for women Sunday, Dec. 9 at St. Eulalia Parish, 6 E. Maple St. in Coudersport.

The retreat is from 12:15 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 which includes dinner, a holy hour, confession and Mass. The topic is "New Testament Women: Lessons of Faith and Hope for Contemporary Women."

To register, call 814.274.8646 or 814.642.2847.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
52nd Annual Feather Party
 Saturday, November 17, 2012
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Our Lady of Mount Carmel School - Futures Begin Here!

Bishop Persico: 'We have an obligation to find and serve the truth'

RED MASS, from page 1

Catherine of Aragon. He was tried for treason, convicted of perjury and beheaded.

"Thomas More was executed because he refused to place the demands of the state before the requirements of his conscience and had insisted that there were objective truths that governments could not legitimately seek to override," Bishop Persico said.

"He stands as a towering example to all of us, that we have an obligation to find and serve the truth and to work to protect the lives and fundamental dignity of all human beings including the right to religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Every

age is faced with the struggle confronted by Thomas More as new social conditions emerge. Ours is no exception."

A number of judges, as well as lawyers and legal professionals attended the Red Mass.

"It was nice to meet the new bishop and renew the tradition of the Red Mass," said Atty. Don Fessler, president of the Erie County Bar Association and a partner in the firm of Marnen, Moduszevski, Bordonaro, Wagner & Sinnott, LLC. Fessler is also a member of the St. Thomas More Society. "We haven't had a Red Mass for a few years, coupled with the fact that we have a new bishop, it was nice for all of us to get together."



St. Thomas More

Fessler said a number of Catholic lawyers are in the Erie County Bar Association and several of them attend daily Mass.

"We each go to separate churches and it's nice that we can all attend Mass together," Fessler said.

According to Fessler, the Red Mass was timed with the state of the new session of the state Supreme Court.

"It was not only good from a spiritual perspective, but it was also good for members of the bar to get together with members of the bench and local government," Fessler said. "That's the whole idea."

Following the Red Mass, a dinner was held at Gannon University's Morosky Center where Msgr. Henry Kriegel, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Erie, spoke about the growing problem of escalating violence in the United States.

Pope proclaims seven new saints, including two from North America

NEW SAINTS, from page 1

the traditions of her people," but also faithful to the Christianity she embraced at age 20. "May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are," the pope said.

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, who is of American Indian descent, said, "I think many young people today are embarrassed about embracing the Catholic faith because they live in a secular culture that's hostile toward religious experience."

St. Kateri also "grew up in a place where there was great hostility toward Christianity." Archbishop Chaput said, but she resisted all efforts to turn her away from her faith, "so in some ways she would be a model of fidelity in the face of persecution on religious freedom grounds."

Archbishop Gerald Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec said that the canonization of the first aboriginal of North America is "huge for us." St. Kateri, he said, is an excellent model for young people of "living a simple life, faithful to the Lord in the midst of hostility."

St. Kateri's life and canonization show that "saints don't have to do extraordinary things, they just have to love," Archbishop Lacroix said.

Francine Merasty, 32, a Cree who lives in Pelican Narrows, Sask., said, "Kateri inspires me because she's an aboriginal woman. According to sociologists, aboriginal women are at the lowest (social) strata, and for the church to raise up to the communion of

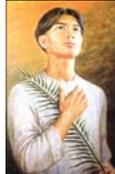
saints an aboriginal woman is so awesome and wonderful."

Jake Finkbonner, the 12-year-old boy from Washington state whose healing was accepted as the miracle needed for St. Kateri's canonization, received Communion from the pope during the Mass. Jake's parents and two little sisters did as well.

Speaking about St. Marianne of Molokai in his homily, Pope Benedict said that at a time when very little could be done to treat people with Hansen's disease, commonly called leprosy, "Marianne Cop showed the highest love, courage and enthusiasm."

"She is a shining example of the tradition of Catholic nursing sisters and of the spirit of her beloved St. Francis," the pope said. Leading a group of Hawaiian pilgrims, including nine patient-residents from Kalaupapa, where St. Marianne ministered, Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva said St. Marianne is "an inspiration for those who care for those most in need, which is what all Christians are called to do. Now, with universal veneration, she can inspire people around the world."

With thousands of Philippine pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict praised St. Pedro, a catechist who accompanied Jesuit



A painting of St. Pedro Calungsod shows him holding a palm frond.



St. Anna Schaffer, who died in 1925, is pictured in an undated photograph.

ample and courageous witness" of St. Pedro would "inspire the dear people of the Philippines to announce the kingdom bravely and to win souls for God."

Pope Benedict also cited St. Anna Schaffer as a model for a very modern convert.

St. Anna was working as a maid to earn the money for the dowry needed to enter a convent when an accident occurred and she "received incurable burns" which kept her bedridden the rest of her life, the pope said. In time, she came to see her pain and suffering as a way to unite herself with Christ through prayer, he said.

"May her apostolate of prayer and suffering, of sacrifice and expiation, be a shining example for believers in her homeland, and may her intercession strengthen the Christian hospice movement in its beneficial activity," the pope said.

the Mariana Islands in 1668. Despite hostility from some of the natives, he "displayed deep faith and charity and continued to catechize his many converts, giving witness to Christ by a life of purity and dedication to the Gospel."

The pope prayed that "the ex-

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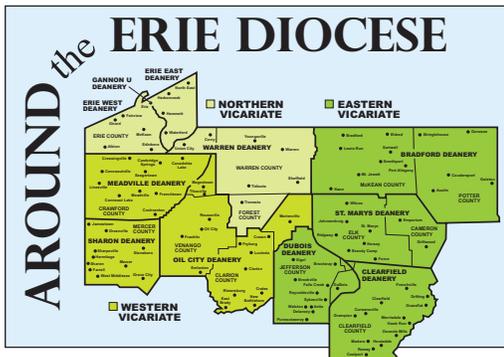
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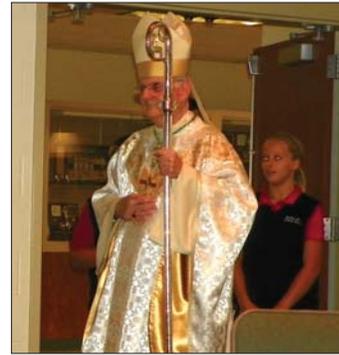
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DuBois Area Catholic School celebrates 10th anniversary

DUBOIS — DuBois Area Catholic School is marking its 10th anniversary. The regional Catholic school, which opened its doors in the fall of 2002, had been part of a long-range plan by Msgr. Henry Krebs and others for a number of years.

The Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop emeritus, recently celebrated an anniversary Mass at the school. Bishop Trautman is pictured entering DuBois Central Catholic's auditorium followed by altar servers Jacob Snyder and Ashley Wruble.

A program of appreciation for campaign donors and a reception followed the liturgy.



Warren youth group's box city raises awareness for homelessness

WARREN — To raise awareness for homelessness, 61 students and nine adults from Holy Redeemer and St. Joseph parishes in Warren spent 17-and-a-half hours living outside Oct. 13-14 (from 4:30 p.m. Saturday until 10 a.m. Sunday) in cardboard boxes and eating at a soup kitchen.

Students from the Cool Catholic Youth Group in Warren created their own box city on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish and solicited monetary pledges for a cause. The event, organized by Betsy Williams, raised \$2,712.31 for A Safe Place, a crisis prevention center in Warren. Terri Allison, coordinator at A Safe Place, also spoke to the group during the event.

On some of the boxes, students wrote statistics that they gathered online. One statistic said that 26 percent of the homeless population in the United States is made up of veterans, with 96 percent



Sarah Casey from Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren crawls out of a cardboard box, which served as her home Oct. 13-14.

of homeless veterans being men and 33 percent of the male homeless population being veterans.

This is the second year that the Cool Catholic Youth Group has conducted this project.

St. Luke, Youngsville, dedicates monument to unborn

YOUNGSVILLE — Members of St. Luke Parish in Youngsville gathered in front of the church Oct. 13 for prayers as a monument to the unborn was dedicated. The church celebrates October as Respect Life Month.

"There's a stone but no tomb," said Father John Neff, pastor of St. Luke. "There's a monument but no body because their bodies were lost by nature or destroyed by man."

Father Neff said it is the hope of the Knights of Columbus, who funded the monument, as well as others that anyone who is contemplating abortion might see the stone and choose life.

On the stone is a Scripture verse from Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew



Pictured (left to right) are Rep. Kathy Rapp, guest speaker; Father John Neff, pastor, and members of the Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Darrell Harlan, Youngsville Council; District Deputy Michael Stec; Past Grand Knight Gene Sanden; and Steve Warner, Warren Council.

you."

Student Eucharistic Day at ECCSS

ST. MARYS — On Oct. 10, Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS) celebrated a Eucharistic Day, a special day of prayer that included Mass and adoration and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Each of the three ECCSS schools (elementary, middle and high schools) observed each aspect of the day at the same time at their own respective locations. Mass was held in the morning and the opening of adoration followed. High school students spent their respective theology classes in adoration, while middle and elementary students also spent 20 minutes of the school day in the true presence of Christ. Benediction was held at the end of the



day as a conclusion to this special day of devotion. Pictured is campus minister Father Ross Miceli kneeling with the Elk County Catholic High School student body as part of benediction. Another Eucharistic Day is being planned for the spring at ECCSS.

Pink Walk at St. Gregory School, North East



NORTH EAST — Students at St. Gregory School in North East recently helped decorate the town pink for October, which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Pattie Stempka, a breast cancer survivor and parishioner at St. Gregory in North East, asked St. Gregory School if it would help make pink ribbons to display throughout downtown. This year, students from every level made approximately 100

ribbons. "We've been doing this for a number of years," said Principal Nancy Pierce. "The kids really enjoy doing it."

On Oct. 19, students made a pink walk through town to see their ribbons displayed by area businesses in their windows. For the walk, students were allowed to dress down in something other than their school uniform. "We had a few girls who wore pink dresses," Pierce said.

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