

Busy pope

Holy Father's 2012 to include synod, international trips, canonizations, page 2.



Catholic Daughters



Card party proceeds benefit Seton Catholic School in Meadville, page 4.

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

January 15, 2012

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Anthony



St. Francis de Sales

Jan. 17	St. Anthony
Jan. 20	St. Fabian, St. Sebastian
Jan. 21	St. Agnes
Jan. 23	St. Vincent
Jan. 24	St. Francis de Sales
Jan. 25	Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Jan. 26	Ss. Timothy and Titus
Jan. 27	St. Angela Merici
Jan. 28	St. Thomas Aquinas

Help Spread the Faith

Communications Collection - Jan. 21-22

Parishes in the Diocese of Erie will take up a special collection Jan. 21-22 to support the publication of *FaithLife* news bulletin and *Faith* magazine, as well as www.ErieRCD.org, the official website of the diocese.

Catholic Schools Week - Jan. 29-Feb. 4



The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners and the community at large.

Clergy appointments

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



Father John Detisch, appointed pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Erie. Effective January 23, 2012.

Father John Fischer, appointed parochial administrator of St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown, and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Cochran. Effective January 9, 2012.

Father Mark Hoffman, appointed pastor of St. Brigid Parish, Meadville. Effective January 23, 2012.

Father Mark O'Hern, appointed pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Erie. Effective January 23, 2012.

Father Thomas More Sikora, OSB, appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary Parish, St. Marys, and pastoral assistant of Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys. Effective January 5, 2012.

Father Dennis Veltri, appointed parochial administrator of St. Peter Parish, Conneautville, and St. Philip Parish, Linesville. Effective January 9, 2012.

POPE BENEDICT XVI has been joined by 18 million people for an audience, Angelus or Mass in the time of his papacy. In 2011...

2.5 MILLION saw Pope Benedict XVI

400,000 people attended the weekly general audiences

500,000 people held tickets to Pope John Paul II's beatification

SPECIAL AUDIENCES DREW 102,000

PAPAL LITURGIES DREW 846,000 TO THE VATICAN



Uncovering the truth about abortion

Lila Rose discusses her investigations at Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE - The pro-life cause in northwest Pennsylvania recently received affirmation for the building up of the culture of life from a young but powerful voice.

Lila Rose, 23, known for her undercover investigative reporting about Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States, was the keynote speaker at People for Life's 34th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Jan. 7 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie. Rose's reports have sparked a national movement to discontinue government funding of Planned Parenthood.

The breakfast was Rose's second visit to Erie in 11 months. She led the Susan B. Anthony List's 2011 bus tour to defund Planned Parenthood. The bus stopped in Erie in March for a rally at the Intermodal Transportation Center.

With more than 550 attending the breakfast, the event was a sellout in advance.

In his opening comments, People for Life director Tim Broderick informed the audience that Erie's abortion facility is officially closed. American Women's Services,

which had office space in the Professional Building on State Street in Erie, stopped performing abortions in 2007. However, the office remained occupied. That changed in December when workers emptied the office of its equipment, Broderick said.

The pro-life prayer breakfast is held each year near the Jan. 22 anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion.

Among the guests at this year's breakfast were several state representatives and delegates on behalf of elected officials who could not attend. Father John Miller, parochial vicar at St. Peter Cathedral in

Erie, gave the invocation and Bishop Donald Trautman gave some closing remarks. Groups recognized included seminarians from St. Mark Seminary, Lakers for Life from Mercyhurst College and Gannon University Students for Life, as well as guests from Grove City, Oil City, Sharon and Youngsville.

Rose, who is from San Jose, Calif., and a convert to the Catholic faith, began her talk by saying the pro-life movement isn't just any old movement.

"I believe that this is the greatest movement that any of us can be a part of because it's a movement that celebrates the greatest gift that we've



Lila Rose, founder of the pro-life group Live Action, which currently focuses on investigating Planned Parenthood programs, was the keynote speaker at People for Life's 34th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Jan. 7 in Erie.

each been given, the greatest of all God's creation—man and woman made in the very image and likeness of God

himself," Rose said. She said she began her program, See LILA ROSE, page 2

Number of abortions on the decline in Pennsylvania

From staff reports

The latest abortion statistics from the Pennsylvania Department of Health show that the total number of abortions declined in the commonwealth in 2010.

The Health Department reports that in 2010, 36,778 abortions were performed in Pennsylvania, a decline of 506 from the previous year's totals.

However, the abortion rate among minorities continues to be disturbing. While African-Americans make up about 12 percent of the population, 42

percent (15,393) of all abortions performed in Pennsylvania in 2010 were performed on African-American women. Hispanic abortions accounted for nearly eight percent of abortions in 2010.

Patients age 19 and under accounted for 16.1 percent or 5,918 of the 2010 abortions performed in Pennsylvania, according to the Department of Health's report. Teenagers age 17 and younger accounted for 5.4 percent or 1,971 of the 2010 abortions. The 2009 percentage for teenagers under 18 was

similar at 6.0. As in previous years, the largest single age group was 20-24, accounting for 12,930 or 35.2 percent of all 2010 abortions.

In other news, Pennsylvania lawmakers passed new abortion center regulations in December. The Pennsylvania House and Senate passed SB 732, a senate bill that will put abortion clinics under the same health and safety guidelines as other outpatient surgical centers. The bill passed in the Senate Dec. 14, 32-18 and by a 151-44 margin in the House Dec. 13.

Pope names 22 new cardinals, including two from U.S.

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI named 22 new cardinals, including two from the United States, and announced a consistory for their formal induction into the College of Cardinals Feb. 18.

Among those named were Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York and Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, who still is administering the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto was the third North American named.

The pope announced the nominations to the faithful in St. Peter's Square at noon Jan. 6, before praying the Angelus.

Cardinal-designate O'Brien, who was in St. Peter's Square when his name was announced, said his priestly life has been "a surprise at every step. I thought being appointed arch-

bishop of Baltimore would be the last surprise, but I was wrong."

He told Catholic News Service that the ministries he had been appointed to, and now his elevation to cardinal, were not things he could "anticipate, navigate or engineer. It's just a matter of being open and in the right place at the right time and good things happen."

In separate statements, the North American cardinals were quick to stress the collective rather than the personal nature of the honor.

"This is not about Timothy Dolan," the New York cardinal-designate said. "This is an honor from the Holy Father to the Archdiocese of New York... It's as if Pope Benedict is putting the red hat on top of the Empire State Building, or the Statue of Liberty, or on home plate at Yankee Stadium."

Cardinal-designate O'Brien said his nomination reflected the "zealous faith" of Catholics in Baltimore, and Cardinal-designate Collins attributed his elevation to the pope's



Cardinal-designate Edwin O'Brien



Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan

"esteem for the role of Canada and of the Archdiocese of Toronto in the universal church."

The latest additions will bring the United States and Canada's share of the College of Cardinals to 22. The U.S., which is home to about 5.5 percent of the world's Catholics, will provide almost 10 percent of the 125 cardinals under the age of 80, who are the only cardinals eligible to vote in a conclave for a future pope.

By contrast, only one of those named, Cardinal-designate Joao Braz de Aviz, comes from the coun-



try with the most Catholics, Brazil. When the cardinals are inducted in February, only seven of the 22 cardinal electors from Latin America will have been appointed by Pope Benedict.

With his latest appointments, Pope Benedict will have named more than 50 percent of the current cardinal electors, with the rest having been named by Blessed John Paul II.

The pope's latest nominations in-

See CARDINALS, page 3

Vatican issues recommendations for celebrating Year of Faith

By Carol Glantz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In an effort to help Catholics have a better and correct understanding of their faith and become authentic witnesses to Christ, the Vatican issued a list of pastoral recommendations for celebrating the upcoming Year of Faith.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a "note" Jan. 7 outlining the aims of the special year and ways bishops, dioceses, parishes and communities can promote "the truth of the faith," the congregation said.

Pope Benedict XVI wanted the Year of Faith, which runs from Oct. 11, 2012, to Nov.

24, 2013, to help the church focus its attention on "Jesus Christ and the beauty of having faith in him," it said.

"The church will be aware of the problems facing the faith" and recognizes that without a revitalization of faith rooted in a personal encounter with Jesus, "when all other reforms will remain ineffective," it said citing the pope's Dec. 22 address to the Roman Curia.

The year is meant to "contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the risen Lord, capable of leading those many people who

are seeking it to the door of faith," the note said.

Critical to renewing one's faith and being a credible witness is having a firm and correct understanding of church teaching, it said.

Because the year's start, Oct. 11, coincides with the anniversaries of the opening of the Second Vatican Council in 1962 and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 1992, it would be an auspicious occasion to make the work of the council and the catechism "more widely and deeply known," it said.

The congregation said the pope "has worked decisively for a correct understanding of the council, rejecting as erro-

neous the so-called "hermeneutics of discontinuity and rupture" and promoting what he himself has termed the "hermeneutic of reform," of renewal in continuity" with the church and tradition.

The catechism "is an integral part of that 'renewal in continuity'" by embracing the old and traditional while expressing it "in a new way, in order to respond to the questions of our times," it said. The note offers pastoral recommendations aimed at aiding "both the encounter with Christ through authentic witnesses to faith and the ever-greater understanding of its contents," it said.

Some recommendations for bishops, dioceses and par-

ishes include ensuring access to better quality catechetical materials that conform to church teaching; promoting Catholic principles and the significance of Vatican II in the mass media; hosting events that bring artists, academics and others together to renew dialogue between faith and reason; offering penitential celebrations; and putting a focus on liturgy, especially the Eucharist, it said.

It also called for Vatican II documents, the catechism and its *Compendium* to be republished in more affordable editions and to distribute the texts digitally and via other "modern technologies."

IN THE U.S.

Former Episcopal bishop to head new U.S. ordinariate for ex-Anglicans

Pope Benedict XVI has established a U.S. ordinariate for former Anglicans who wish to become Catholics and named a married former Episcopal bishop to head it. The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter — functionally equivalent to a diocese, but national in scope — will be based at a parish in Houston. It will be led by Father Jeffrey Steenson, the former Episcopal bishop of the Rio Grande who was ordained a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., in February 2009. The establishment of the ordinariate and the naming of its first leader were announced by the Vatican Jan. 1. More than 100 former Anglican priests have applied to become Catholic priests in the ordinariate and 1,400 individuals from 22 communities have expressed interest in joining.



Father Jeffrey Steenson

Percentage of Americans who are married reaches all-time low, study says

With cohabitation, single-person households and single parenthood on the rise, the percentage of Americans who are currently married has reached an all-time low. A new report from the Pew Research Center analyzing Census Bureau data found that only 51 percent of Americans 18 and over were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent in 1960. Among Hispanics and African-Americans, the decline is even more steep. "If current trends continue, the share of adults who are currently married will drop to below half within a few years," said the report. Fifty-five percent of white Americans were married in 2010, down from 74 percent 50 years earlier. But among Hispanics and blacks, married people are already in the minority. Forty-eight percent of Hispanics and 31 percent of African-Americans were married in 2010, compared with 72 percent and 61 percent, respectively, in 1960.

AROUND THE WORLD

Pope's 2012 to include synod, international trips, canonizations

A trip to Latin America, a Synod of Bishops on new evangelization, the start of the Year of Faith, creation of new cardinals and proclamations of new saints are all on Pope Benedict XVI's calendar for 2012. Of particular interest to the United States, the pope will also continue his meetings with groups of U.S. bishops making their "ad



Pope Benedict XVI

limina" visits to the Vatican during the first half of the year. His talks to the bishops are expected to focus on themes of education, religious freedom and the relationship between culture and religion. The 2012 highlights are only a small part of the pope's day-to-day schedule, which includes hundreds of meetings, speeches, messages and liturgies. The German pope, who turns 85 in April, also pursues a "private" agenda of writing whenever he gets the chance, as he works to complete the latest in his "Jesus of Nazareth" series of books — this one on Jesus' infancy and childhood.

At least 26 church workers killed in 2011

At least 26 Catholic pastoral workers were killed in mission lands or among society's most disadvantaged communities, although they were more often the victims of violent crimes than persecution for their faith, said a Vatican news agency. Each year, Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, publishes a list of pastoral workers who died violently. The 2011 list was released Dec. 30. The agency said that over the course of the year, it registered the deaths of 18 priests, four religious women and four laypeople. Twenty-five church workers were killed in 2010 — a figure down from an unusually high number of 37 workers murdered in 2009. For the third consecutive year, the Americas, particularly Latin America, registered the most murders with the death of 13 priests and two laypeople: seven in Colombia, five in Mexico and one each in Brazil, Paraguay and Nicaragua. Six pastoral workers were killed in Africa, four in Asia and one priest was killed in Europe.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

JPII's childhood Jewish friend dies at 90

Jerzy Kluger, known as Blessed John Paul II's lifelong Jewish friend and one who had a deep impact on the pope's commitment to improved Catholic-Jewish relations, died in Rome Dec. 31 at the age of 90. Kluger and the pope were raised in Wadowice, Poland, and attended elementary school there together. Most of Kluger's family died during the Holocaust, but he managed to survive, eventually settling in Rome. During the Second Vatican Council, when the future pope came to Rome as an auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Poland, he and Kluger were reunited. They maintained their friendship through the years, and Kluger was a frequent guest at the Vatican after the pope was elected in 1978.



Jerzy Kluger

By the Way...

The Catholic Charities Counseling & Adoption Service (CCCAS) Refugee Resettlement Center in Erie recently received 21 large bags of winter clothing thanks to the generosity of the parishioners at St. Mark in Emporium. Deacon Dick Brogdon, Deacon John Brophy and Lisa Ripper, who coordinate the CCCAS refugee program, will use the donations to clothe newly arriving refugees who will experience their first Erie winter.



Jason Koshinski

CCCAS held a successful Warm Clothing Day in November, during which clothing donated from nearly three dozen parishes and schools was distributed to more than 800 refugees.

Once again this year, parishes and schools in the Diocese of Erie will host members of the National Evangelization Team (NET) as they conduct 12 retreats from Jan. 11-26. Based in Minneapolis-St. Paul, NET trains young adults, who offer themselves for a year of service, to provide high energy, Christ-centered retreats to teens and middle school students.

This year, NET will be visiting Holy Cross in Fairview, Our Lady Queen of the Americas in Conneaut Lake, St. Boniface in Erie, St. Callistus in Kane, St. George in Erie, St. Mark in Emporium, Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, Beloved Disciple in Grove City, St. Marys area parishes and St. Joseph in Warren.

Father John Beal, who assisted the diocese's marriage tribunal in 2011, has returned to teaching at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Father Beal, who is one of the preeminent canon lawyers in the United States, lessened his teaching duties to aid the tribunal when Msgr. Mark Barchak, the former judicial vicar, was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Bill Jones, 81, who died Dec. 9. Jones served as the swim coach at Blessed Sacrament in Erie for more than 30 years. After retiring from GTE, Jones became the diocese's grade school athletic director for more than 10 years. He was also a familiar site at Gannon University basketball games at the Hammermill Center where he kept statistics for more than 30 years.

Buses from a number of locations in the diocese will travel to Washington, D.C., Jan. 23 for this year's March for Life. Many youth will participate in the march itself, as well as the annual youth Mass and rally the morning of Jan. 23. The popularity of the event has prompted the Archdiocese of Washington to hold this event in two locations—the Verizon Center and the D.C. Armory.

The crowds in Washington are getting bigger each year with more young people attending. While police haven't given official crowd estimates for any demonstration in the nation's capital since 1995, several news agencies estimated last year's March for Life drew hundreds of thousands.

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

Lila Rose discusses her investigations at Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

LILA ROSE, from page 1

life journey at age 9 when she saw for the first time the image of a child who was aborted at 10 weeks.

"I said a prayer asking God to use someone to do something about this, to do something about abortion, to save lives," Rose recalled.

With no pro-life organization in San Jose at the time, she volunteered at a local pregnancy center. But she said she found herself wanting to do more.

When she was 15, she started Live Action as a pro-life club. Today Live Action has teams that travel nationally to investigate abortion industry practices and advocate for human rights of the unborn through social media.

Stepping onto UCLA's campus as an 18-year-old freshman, Rose said she wanted to bring the message of Live Action to her peers. "I wanted to expose the truth about the abortion industry," she said. "From an early age I realized the power of visual media. If a photo is worth a thousand words then what can a video

To view Live Action's investigative videos of Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry, visit www.liveaction.org or search LiveActionFilms on YouTubeActionFilms.com

say?" She described her first undercover investigation as "very amateur." At 18, she visited a Planned Parenthood clinic in Santa Monica, Calif., just five miles from her dorm. With a camcorder in her purse, she posed as a 15-year-old sexual abuse victim.

Talking to a woman behind the check-in counter, Rose implied that she was pregnant.

"I said, 'I'm 15, he's 23. Is that going to be a problem? What should I do?'" Rose said. "In California, that's a clear case of statutory rape. She's required to immediately report that to the police or child protective services. But instead the woman smiled at me and without missing a beat said, 'Just figure out a birth date that works.' Lie on the paperwork. Say that you're older than you re-

ally are. Nobody needs to know about the abortion. We won't tell anybody."

That same day, Rose said she visited another abortion clinic where the manager, who said she had a child when she was a young woman, counseled her.

"She said if she could do it again, she would not continue with the pregnancy," Rose said. "My son is 16 now. And children cost a lot of money. I had to put off school for a long time. He's still living with me. The economy's pretty bad right now." She said if she could go back in time, she would abort her now 16-year-old son.

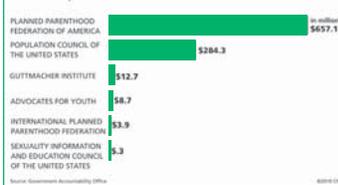
Leaving the second clinic, Rose said she realized that people needed to see what she had recorded.

"How could they not be awakened just a little bit?" she said. "How could they not think that at least something was off here that is just very prestigious, tax-funded reproductive life health care?"

Rose uploaded her first two videos to YouTube. She had 1,000 hits by the end of the first day. After five days, it shot up to

Abortion and Federal Funds

A GAO report shows that organizations performing or promoting abortion received nearly \$1 billion in federal funds between 2002 and 2009.



25,000 views. Soon she received an e-mail from Planned Parenthood threatening legal action if she didn't take the videos down and turn over the tapes.

"I realized Planned Parenthood was afraid of the truth that they couldn't silence," she said.

Within a few days, she got legal support and gave her first national TV interview, which got her videos into the public eye.

"Whatever challenges or disappointments or trials that we

might face in our fight for life in our personal life, God will use for good," Rose said. "That is his love, his mercy. That was one of my first big lessons in learning that God is always faithful."

In the last few years since those first reports, Live Action has started a national movement of investigative work. In an exposé last year, Live Action visited seven clinics to document Planned Parenthood's connection with sexual trafficking.

"We found workers eager to assist in what they thought was the sex trafficking of underage girls," Rose said. "When we started to roll out these videos, Congress picked them up. The House of Representatives, for the first time, voted to defund entirely Planned Parenthood."

In the last year, Planned Parenthood lost \$61 million in funding at the state level, she added.

"It's not going to be a surprise when we find that the ultimate attack on human life—the violent destruction of the human being when they're the weakest, abortion—is connected to all these other attacks on human life, to all these other ways of hurting, disrespecting and devaluing human life, including sexual trafficking," she said.

In the fight for life, Rose said, the struggle, trial or time invested to impact just one life is worth it.

"Because God teaches us that one life is worth it," she said. "Christ teaches us that one life is worth it because he would lay down his life for even just one of us as he has done, as he did for us. One life is worth it."

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Briefly

Conference and healing service in DuBois

DUBOIS - Father Ralph DiOrto, a priest of Worcester, Mass., will present a conference and healing service on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Bellamuro Conference Center near DuBois. The retreat is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and includes a luncheon buffet. Tickets are required. For tickets or information, call Tillie at 814.371.4116, Marie at 814.375.4667, Jeff at 814.541.4913, Ben and Peggy at 814.781.1633 or Bill at 814.371.1765. To learn more about Father Ralph DiOrto, visit his website at www.fatherdiorto.org.

A night of Irish music in Sharon

SHARON - The Sharon Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Sharon Council of the Knights of Columbus will present their annual Night of Irish Music on Jan. 28 in the St. Joseph Parish social hall, East State Street at Case Avenue in Sharon.

The music starts at 7 p.m. Irish foods will be available. This event is free and open to the public. Entertainment will be provided by regional and local Irish musicians and singers including the Youngstown Area Irish Stepdancers and the Veterans Memorial Pipe Band.

For more information, call 724.528.3134 or e-mail Irish-songs@Roadrunner.com.



Celebration of Catholic Education at Gannon University

ERIE - Gannon University will welcome Todd David Whitmore, Ph.D., as the keynote speaker for the university's Thomas J. and Mary H. Loftus Lecture on Catholic Thought and Action.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31 in the Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. Seventh St. in Erie.

Whitmore is associate professor of theology and director of the program in Catholic social tradition at the University of Notre Dame. His lecture at Gannon, "The Coherence of Catholic Social Teaching: A Framework for the Global Economic Crisis," will offer a broad overview of Catholic social teaching and contemporary social issues and concerns.

The lecture will be the focal point of Gannon's "Celebration of Catholic Education at Gannon." Reservations are encouraged, but not required. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 814.871.7334.



Todd Whitmore

Father Donald Cooper

Father Donald Cooper, 75, died Dec. 16, 2011 at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie. Born January 27, 1936 in Erie, he was a son of the late Frank and Ethel Kinter Cooper. He was the nephew of the late Father Cyril Cooper. His home parish was St. John the Baptist, Erie.



Father Donald Cooper

Father Cooper attended St. Mary and St. John the Baptist schools in Erie and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School in 1955. He entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie, attended Gannon University and then graduated from St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore in 1963. He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1963 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Edward McManaman.

Following ordination, Father Cooper was assigned to the faculty of Bradford Central Christian High School while residing at St. Bernard Parish in Bradford. He served as assistant pastor at St. Titus Parish in Titusville from 1964-71 and St. George Parish in Erie from 1971-75.

In 1975, Father Cooper was named pastor of St. Charles Parish in New Bethlehem where he served until 1984. He served as pastor of Mount Calvary Parish, Erie, from 1984-87. He additionally served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Force, from 1989-2002 and Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale and Holy Trinity Parish in Ramey from 2002 until his retirement in 2005.

In addition to his ministerial assignments, Father Cooper served on the Diocesan Budget and Finance Committee, the Diocesan Stewardship Committee, the Presbyteral Council, and the board of directors of Christ the King

DEATH NOTICES

Manor in DuBois. His community involvement included service as president of the St. Joseph Terrace board of directors and president of the board of directors of Full Circle Inc. of Reynoldsville.

He was an active Fourth Degree member of the Siebenbueger Club in Erie.

Father John Buzga

Father John Buzga, 85, died Dec. 31, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas.

Father Buzga was born May 15, 1926 in Van Lear, Ky., a son of the late Joseph and Sophia Olikova. When his family moved to Sharon, they joined St. Ann Parish in Farrell.



Father John Buzga

He attended Prospect Heights Grade School, Sharon, and graduated from Sharon High School in 1940. He served in the Navy during World War II. Following the war he studied at Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio; Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; and at St. Mary's (Ky.) University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Father Buzga entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie in 1954. He studied theology at St. Mary Seminary & University, Baltimore, from 1955-59. He was ordained a priest on May 7, 1959, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Edward McManaman.

Following ordination Father Buzga was appointed parochial vicar of St. Callistus Parish, Kane. From 1962-66 he served on the faculty of Elk County Catholic High School while assisting at St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway and St. Boniface Parish in Kersey. From 1966-72, he served as parochial vicar

of St. Lawrence Parish in Houtzdale.

In 1972 he was named pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Sheffield, and its mission church of St. Clara, Clarendon, where he served until 1985. From 1986-91 he served as senior associate of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Farrell.

He also served as administrator at St. Venantius Parish, Rouseville, and St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown.

From 1991-95 he assisted at parishes throughout the Diocese of Erie including Our Lady of Fatima and St. Adalbert parishes in Farrell; St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Frenchville; St. Patrick Parish, Franklin; St. Michael Parish, Emlenton; St. Mary Parish, Crown; and St. Stephen Parish, Oil City.

He retired in 1995. He ministered in the Diocese of Tulsa, Okla., from 1995 to 2007, through Glenmary Home Missioners.

Sister Lauretane Rucpzewski, CSFN

Sister M. Lauretane (Anna) Rucpzewski, CSFN, 88, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for 70 years, died Dec. 30, 2011.

She was born June 10, 1923 in Erie, daughter of the late John and Martha Melerski Rucpzewski. A native of St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie, she taught and served as principal at schools in Alabama, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania for 50 years. Before her retirement she worked as a parish minister at St. Stanislaus visiting the sick, elderly and home-bound.



Sister Lauretane Rucpzewski, CSFN

Pope names 22 new cardinals, including two from U.S.

CARDINALS, from page 1

cluded 16 Europeans, continuing a trend in his cardinal appointments since his election in 2005.

Seven of the new appointments are Italians, which will bring that nation's total of cardinal electors to 30 — or 24 percent — more than any other country.

None of the new cardinals are from Africa, the region where the church is experiencing its fastest growth, or Oceania.

Ten of the new cardinals are officials of the Roman Curia, whose offices by tradition often entail membership in the college. Pope Benedict, when he was known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, spent more than 23 years in the curia as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, though he had been elevated to cardinal in his previous role as archbishop of Munich-Freising, Germany.

Four of the new cardinals are already over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible to vote in a conclave. The pope uses such nominations to honor churchmen for their scholarship or other service to the church. Among the new so-called honorary cardinals is Cardinal-designate Karl Beckler, a Jesuit and former theology professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.

The Jesuits remain the religious order with the highest representation in the college, with eight cardinals, followed by the Salesians with six, including the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. There are seven Franciscan cardinals, divided between the Order of Friars Minor and the Capuchins, with the latter represented by Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston.

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Preschool through 8th grade
Meet teachers, students and faculty
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Co-Ed Preschool through 8th Grade!
Villa Maria Elementary School
Founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph 1892
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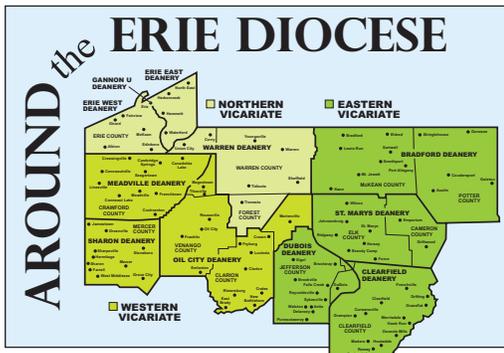
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Preschool—8th Grade
Sunday, January 29, 2012
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Ability to register for 2012-2013 school year at Open House. Must have:
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Join us at Mass January 28th at 6:00 p.m. or January 29th at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., or 11:50 a.m. to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week.



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

Photo Tips

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures. <http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



SSCD students place in Patriot's Pen scholarship contest

PUNXSUTAWNEY – St. Cosmas and Damian School in Punxsutawney has three winners from the local VFW Patriot's Pen scholarship essay contest. Each year the Big Run VFW Post 9044 asks local students in grades 6-8 to participate in its Patriot's Pen competition. Students were asked to write a 300- to 400-word essay discussing the topic, "Are You Proud of Your Country?"

Seventh grader Maggie Prutzal (center) took first place in the competition while fellow students Mia Lingenfelter (right) and Kylee Lingenfelter took honorary mentions.



Parochial students receive awards in Barber Center essay contest

ERIE – Students from two Catholic schools received first-place awards in an essay contest sponsored by the Barber National Institute in celebration of the 100th birthday of its founder, Dr. Gertrude A. Barber.

John Barber, president of the Barber National Institute, and Dr. Maureen Barber-Carey, executive vice president, congratulated Alex Kruszewski, a student at Mercyhurst Prep, who won first-place in the Grades 9-12 category, and Meaghan Breski, a student at St. James School, who received first-place honors in the Grades 6-8 category.

In addition to their families who attended the awards presentation, Kruszewski was accompanied by his teacher, Marge Burchard, and principal, Deborah Laughlin, and Breski was accompanied by her teacher, Paula Pacinelli.

Entries were received from more than 720 students throughout Erie County.



Catholic Daughters give funds to Seton Catholic School

MEADVILLE – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Columbia No. 2 in Meadville had a successful card party this year and with the proceeds donated \$1,000 to Seton Catholic School to help with the children's educational needs in the year ahead.

Pictured left to right are: (back row) Audrey Albaugh, Lucille Gable, Mary Ann Cochran, school principal Julia Strzalka, Jeanette Kitch, Angie Lewis and Lucille Albaugh.

Also pictured is the second grade class at Seton Catholic School: (standing) Rebecca Carlson, Mia Soerensen, Caleb



Sommers, Victoria Boyd, Elijah Chatley, Rianna-Lynn Maloney, Jonathan Finck, Jessica Grinnell, (kneeling) Emma Landefeld, Isaiah Predis and McKenna Longoria.

Blessed Sacrament School mission auction benefits Second Harvest

ERIE – Students and faculty at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie recently held their annual mission auction to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania.

Blessed Sacrament students Angeline Kurczewski, Evan Sala, Alexandra Velez and Karson Fomich presented Karen Seggi, executive director of Second Harvest, with a check for \$400.



St. Marys students thank America's veterans

ST. MARYS – The St. Marys Catholic Middle School students in Maryann Rettger's Create a Card elective class recently made cards for Letters from Home, an Elk County-based program that sends support in the form of cards, letters and care packages to our troops overseas. The cards were made in celebration of Veterans Day as the students wanted to show their appreciation to America's troops for their service.

Pictured are sixth graders Peyton Stoltz, Alicia Fritz, Jenna Minard and Matthew Avery showing some of the cards they created.

In addition and as a surprise



for Thanksgiving, one of St. Marys' hometown veterans made a visit to the school. The kids met Sgt. Stephen Steele Jr. while he

was in town on leave. Sgt. Steele thanked the students and staff at SMCMS for their prayers and support.

Immaculate Conception School honors veterans

CLARION – On Nov. 11, Immaculate Conception School students K-8 welcomed local veterans, their spouses and the community at large to their annual Veterans Day program.

Immaculate Conception middle school students prepared the presentation honoring all veterans. Second graders created small handmade tokens of gratitude for each veteran and proudly presented them. Seventh and eighth graders served breakfast to veterans and their spouses. Additionally, all of the decorations adorning Meisinger Center were created by the student body during their weekly art classes.

The guest speaker was Sgt.



Frank Wolbert of the Pennsylvania State Police, Clarion barracks. Pictured left to right: Fourth grader Carlos Santiago Jr. presents a handmade gift to Sgt. Frank Wolbert; eighth grader John Allen; Principal Donna Gaydash; Father Monty Sayers, pastor; eighth grader Madison Weaver.

Choirs honor St. Cecilia with concert in Franklin

FRANKLIN – The seventh annual Oil City Deanery concert celebration of St. Cecilia, the patroness of musicians and church music, was held Nov. 20 at St. Patrick Parish in Franklin. The concert featured music by the choirs of St. Joseph Parish and St. Stephen Parish in Oil City and St. Patrick Parish in Franklin.

The combined Oil City choirs, under the direction of Susan Dreick, performed first followed by the St. Patrick choir, under the direction of Ron Himes.



The choirs then joined together to present the final concert numbers. The concert, part of a national festival of sacred song sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, was followed by a reception.

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7	\$50,715
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