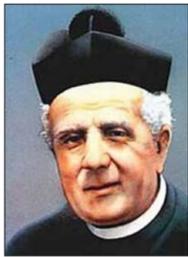


New saints

Pope proclaims three saints, calls them models of Christian charity, page 2.



FaithLife

100 years of faith

St. Hedwig Parish in Erie celebrates milestone anniversary, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 6, 2011

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Christ the King

- Nov. 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
- Nov. 10 St. Leo the Great
- Nov. 11 St. Martin of Tours
- Nov. 12 St. Josaphat
- Nov. 15 St. Albert the Great
- Nov. 16 St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude
- Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov. 18 Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rome, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
- Nov. 20 Christ the King

Confirmations

St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park – Saturday, Nov. 19 at 5 p.m.

USCCB meeting – Nov. 14-16

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will meet Nov. 14-16 in Baltimore for their annual fall general assembly. The bishops will hear the first address of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York as president of the USCCB.



Pope Benedict XVI to visit Benin – Nov. 18-20

Pope Benedict XVI will make his second trip as pope to Africa, visiting Benin Nov. 18-20 to sign and distribute a letter reflecting on the 2009 special Synod of Bishops for Africa.

The synod focused on “the church in Africa in service to reconciliation, justice and peace.”

The pope’s schedule also includes separate meetings with government representatives, with African bishops and with children.

He also is scheduled to pray at the tomb of the late Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, who died in 2008. The Benin cardinal had retired as dean of the College of Cardinals in 2002 and was succeeded by then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development – Nov. 19-20

For more than 43.6 million Americans, there is a thin line: between eviction and home, between hunger and health, between unemployment and work, between anxiety and stability. This line is the Poverty Line. For a family of four, that line is \$21,834 a year (U.S. Census Bureau).

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a program of the U.S. bishops, is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. Your generous donations during a special collection Nov. 19-20 will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.



COUNTDOWN:

There are **20 days** to the implementation of the new Roman Missal (as of Nov. 6)
For resources, visit www.eriebcd.org/liturgy2.htm

Ad Limina preview

Quinquennial Report helps paint diocesan picture for Vatican

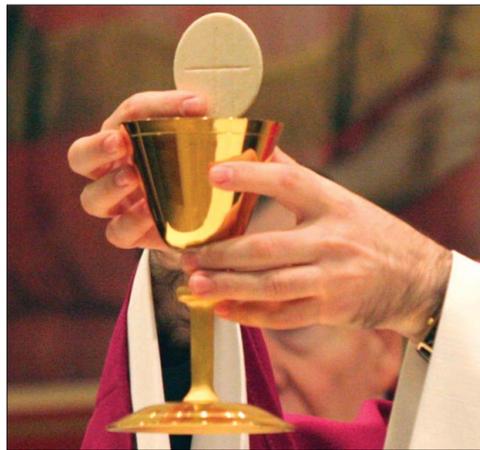
By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Editor’s note: This is Part 1 of our Ad Limina preview. Look for Part 2 in the Nov. 20 edition of FaithLife.

ERIE – Bishop Donald Trautman will make his “ad limina” visit to the Vatican Dec. 1-10 bringing him face-to-face with Pope Benedict XVI and giving a comprehensive assessment of the church in the Diocese of Erie.

The U.S. bishops are preparing to make their first ad limina visits with Pope Benedict XVI. Beginning in November and extending through much of next year, the visits will provide the Vatican with the most detailed look at church life in the U.S. since the German pope was elected in 2005.

The approximately 200 heads of U.S. dioceses will



arrive in Rome in 15 regional groups. Bishop Trautman will be visiting with a group of bishops from the Philadelphia and Newark provinces, which include the bishops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

During his ad limina visit in 2004, Bishop Trautman met

with Blessed John Paul II. A number of factors have caused a backlog in the visits, which have traditionally occurred every five years. Among them are the late pope’s death in 2005 and subsequent papal transition and the increasing number of diocesan bishops.

Statistics from the Quinquennial Report

The Quinquennial Report tracks the period from Jan. 1, 2004 through Dec. 31, 2010. Statistics cover the 13 counties of northwest Pennsylvania included in the Diocese of Erie.

	2004	2010
Total population	874,057	860,340
Catholic population (estimated).....	225,602	221,958
Diocesan priests.....	230	193
Women religious.....	425	326
Permanent deacons	31	62
Parishes.....	126	117
Catholic charitable institutions.....	22	34
Infant baptisms	1,817	1,400
First Holy Communions	2,291	1,850
Confirmations	2,245	1,770
Marriages (canonically celebrated).....	1,247	648
Percentage of Sunday Mass attendance.....	47%	41%
Estimated Sunday Mass attendance.....	71,762	57,088
Catholic schools	47	40
Catholic school enrollment	12,752	8,770
Catechists.....	1,632	1,636

“Ad limina” is short for “ad limina apostolorum” in Latin, which means “to the thresholds of the apostles.” As part of the ad limina visits, bishops make a pilgrimage to the tombs of Ss. Peter and Paul, visit with Vatican offices and have an audience

with the pope. The Code of Canon Law says, “The diocesan bishop is bound to present a report to the supreme pontiff every five years concerning the state of the diocese committed to

See AD LIMINA, page 3

‘Coping with Life

Alone During the Holidays



Catholic Charities presents one-day event Nov. 20

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Navigating through the holidays can be a stressful time for anyone, but doing so alone can be a difficult experience.

There is a special heartache for those who find themselves single again when a marriage ends because of death, divorce or separation. The holiday season may only seem to compound the feelings of loneliness and grief.

Catholic Charities’ Transitions ministry for separated, divorced and widowed persons will host a special event

entitled “Coping with Life Alone during the Holidays” on Sunday, Nov. 20 at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, from 2-4 p.m.

The program will include presentations, time for personal reflection, small group discussion and light refreshments.

“The holidays can be a difficult and stressful time for anybody. But for newly single people, it can be a time of great tension and anxiety,” said Ann Badach, Catholic Charities’ Family Life director.

The “Coping” event will involve peer ministry, Badach

said, with speakers who will discuss what it was like becoming a single person again and how they navigated their way through the holidays and beyond.

“This program offers a lifeline to people and can spark some hope in them,” she said. “The people attending know the holidays can be a challenging time, both emotionally and spiritually.”

“Coping with Life Alone During the Holidays” is Christian in its perspective, Badach said, and open to all denominations.

There is no cost to attend, but a free-will offering will be taken. Registrations are appreciated. Contact Catholic Charities at 814.824.1265 or e-mail FamilyLife@ErieRCD.org for information and registration.

Office for Religious gets new director

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, has been appointed director of the Diocese of Erie’s Office for Religious.

Bishop Donald Trautman made the appointment, effective Oct. 26, after consultation with the major superiors of religious communities in the diocese.

In heading the Office for Religious, Sister Nancy succeeds Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSI, who retired Sept. 1 after 27 years of service as vicar for religious.

“I hope I’ll be able to continue the work that Sister Mary Rita has done in ministry to the sisters of the diocese,” Sister Nancy said.

The director of the Office for Religious assists the bishop in service to members of religious communities in the diocese. Sister Nancy will oversee a number of committees including the national and local retirement fund for religious appeal, vocation awareness for women religious, diocesan jubilee celebration and the annual Mass for deceased religious.

Upon her appointment, Sister Nancy becomes a member of the diocesan administrative cabinet.

Sister Nancy’s appointment is in addition to her current duties. She will continue to serve the diocesan Office of Education as director of small community formation and lay ministry training.

Sister Nancy taught at several Catholic schools in the diocese including Villa Maria Elementary, St. Andrew, Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist in Erie and served as coordinator of student activities at Villa Maria College.

From 1978-85, she served at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie in family ministry and as school counselor and confirmation coordinator.

From 1985-89, Sister Nancy was the associate director, then director of RENEW, a program of evangelization, catechesis and faith formation through small Christian communities that was implemented in 140 parishes.

Since 1990, Sister Nancy has served the diocese as director of small community formation and lay ministry training.



Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI

School choice gets victory in Senate

By Amy B. Hill
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Pennsylvania students and their families are one step closer to getting assistance in the exercise of their right to choose a school that they believe best meets their needs. On Oct. 26, the Pennsylvania Senate passed Senate Bill 1, the Opportunity Scholarship Act, by a vote of 27-22. The measure will now be considered by the House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

The Senate Education Committee amended the proposed legislation to reflect Governor Tom Corbett’s plan to create a pilot program for school vouchers and increase the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The proposed voucher program will be a pilot project, of sorts. The neediest students

attending the worst performing public schools get the vouchers first. In the second year, every qualified student who lives in the geographic boundary of the failing schools can get a voucher, even if they are already attending a nonpublic school.

Senate Bill 1 lists 144 schools that will qualify for vouchers. The list includes elementary, middle and high schools that have persistently scored in the lowest 5 percent of statewide tests.

The income qualifications are based on a sliding scale. Families whose income is at 130 percent of the federal poverty limit or less qualify for a voucher up to 100 percent of

the state subsidy amount for their school. That amounts to about \$29,000 a year for a family of four. Families above 130 percent but below 185 percent of the poverty limit can get a voucher worth 75 percent of the subsidy. A family of four at this level can earn up to \$41,000 a year. Families can use the voucher to attend any school they choose — private, parochial or even another public school.

The average per pupil state subsidy is between \$8,000 and \$9,000; each school district is different. The maximum voucher would be based on the actual subsidy amount for the specific school the child attends. Vouchers cannot pay for any more than the actual amount of tuition charged. Under this formula, the voucher would adequately cover tuition at Catholic schools.

The school choice proposal also includes a significant



Amy B. Hill

Voting for school choice

State Senators in the Diocese of Erie and how they voted Oct. 26 on Senate Bill 1:

	Yes	No
Jane EarlI (R- Erie)	X	
Robert Robbins (R- Mercer)	X	
Joseph Scarnati, III (R- Jefferson)	X	
Donald White (R- Indiana)	X	
Mary Jo White (R- Venango)	X	
John Wozniak (D-Cambria)		X
Gene Yaw (R- Lycoming)	X	

increase to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program that provides scholarships to students no matter where they live. The income guidelines for EITC qualify middle class families too. And once vouchers are available, many of the lowest income students who get an EITC scholarship now will get a voucher, freeing up more EITC dollars for others. Senate Bill 1 would fund EITC at \$100 million in the first two years, \$125 million

in the third year with scheduled increases in all future years.

Voice your support of Senate Bill 1 to your local representative and thank state senators who voted in favor of school choice by visiting www.pacatholic.org/schoolchoice.

Amy B. Hill is communications director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania’s Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.



IN THE U.S.

House passes Protect Life Act

The U.S. House Oct. 13 passed the Protect Life Act, which applies long-standing federal policies on abortion funding and conscience rights to the health reform law. The measure passed with a bipartisan vote of 251 to 172. Its chief sponsors were Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., who co-chairs the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. The bill also had 144 co-sponsors. "The health care law made it clear that the current way we prevent taxpayer funding of abortion through annual riders is dangerously fragile," Lipinski said in January when the measure was introduced. "We must take action to prevent federal funding for abortion under the health care law and throughout the government, without exception."

AROUND THE WORLD

Rome celebrates JP II feast day



People gather for a vigil marking the feast day of Blessed John Paul II outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome Oct. 22, the first observance of the Polish pope's feast. The date marks the anniversary of the inauguration of his pontificate in 1978.

Thousands of Catholics in Rome celebrated the first feast of Blessed John Paul II Oct. 22 and the promoter of his sainthood cause said he has received several reports of healings that could be the miracle needed for the late pope's canonization. Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the postulator of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause, told Vatican Radio, "I have received several very significant testimonies and am waiting for the complete documentation" that would allow him to judge which would be the most appropriate to submit to the Vatican. "I was particularly struck by the healing of a little girl who was in an almost desperate situation and another very touching testimony regarding the healing of a priest," he said. The Polish priest also noted that for the first time many little boys and girls named Karol or Carolina or John Paul, Jean Pierre or Giovanni Paolo were able to celebrate their name day, an important day in many countries and cultures.

Vatican calls for financial reform

A Vatican document called for the gradual creation of a world political authority with broad powers to regulate financial markets and rein in the "inequalities and distortions of capitalist development." The document said the current global financial crisis has revealed "selfishness, collective greed and the hoarding of goods on a great scale." A supranational authority, it said, is needed to place the common good at the center of international economic activity. The 41-page text was titled, "Toward Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority." Prepared by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, it was released Oct. 24. The document cited the teachings of popes over the last 40 years on the need for a universal authority that would transcend national interests.

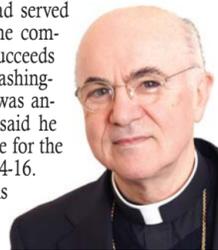
Pope announces 'Year of Faith'

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special "Year of Faith" to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others. Celebrating Mass Oct. 16 with participants in a Vatican conference on new evangelization, the pope said the Year of Faith would give "renewed energy to the mission of the whole church to lead men and women out of the desert they often are in and toward the place of life: friendship with Christ who gives us fullness of life." The pope said the observance would begin Oct. 11, 2012 — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council — and conclude Nov. 24, 2013 — the feast of Christ the King. "It will be a moment of grace and commitment to an ever fuller conversion to God, to reinforce our faith in him and to proclaim him with joy to the people of our time," the pope said in his homily. Pope Benedict explained his intention more fully in "Porta Fidei" ("The Door of Faith"), an apostolic letter released Oct. 17 to formally announce the special year.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Pope names new nuncio to U.S.

Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, 70, as the new nuncio to the United States. In his most recent position, the Italian archbishop had served for two years as secretary-general of the commission governing Vatican City. He succeeds the late Archbishop Pietro Sambi in Washington. Just minutes after his assignment was announced Oct. 19, Archbishop Vigano said he hoped to get to the United States in time for the U.S. bishops' general assembly Nov. 14-16. Being a nuncio, the archbishop said, is "a call to know this people, this country and come to love them. For me to take the place of someone who was so loved, so committed, makes it an even greater challenge," he said.



Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano

By the Way...

You can tell the faithful throughout the diocese are anticipating the appointment of a new bishop. There was quite a buzz in downtown Erie a few weeks ago when word quickly spread that Bishop Donald Trautman was bringing the new bishop to visit St. Peter Cathedral. We heard from a couple sources that seminarians ran up from Gannon University to greet the new ordinary. It turned out that the contingent included friends of Bishop Trautman who were simply passing through town.



Jason Koshinskie

Bishop Trautman was recently featured twice in the *Buffalo News*. He was quoted in an Oct. 18 article about Western New Yorkers to be elevated to the Catholic hierarchy. The news coming out of the story is that the bishop plans to stay in Erie when his resignation is accepted and he will likely teach at Gannon University and Mercyhurst College.

The bishop was also highlighted in a photo and quoted in an Oct. 28 front-page story on the debate inspired by the new English translation of the Roman Missal.

Members of National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries will visit the Diocese of Erie January 11-26, providing retreat experiences for junior high and senior high students at parishes, schools and youth groups.

For 30 years, NET Ministries has trained teams of young adults to proclaim the Gospel of Christ across the country through personal witness of faith. NET Ministries first reached the diocese in 1996. Since then, the ministry has conducted 171 retreats over 13 years and reached approximately 9,146 youth from our diocese.

We offer our condolences to Father Matias Rosado Sosa, pastor of St. Stephen of Hungary Parish in Erie, on the death of his father, Ulises Rosado, in his home city of Merida, Mexico, following a brief illness. Father Matias traveled home to be with his family during this difficult time.

Father Matias arrived in the diocese earlier this year through the Mission of Friendship between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico. He succeeded Father Jorge Villegas, who served the diocese's Hispanic apostolate and St. Stephen Parish for nearly 20 years.

Father William McLaughlin, an Erie native and Gannon University alum, passed away recently. Father McLaughlin joined an Italian missionary order, the Sonsolata Society for Foreign Missions, and helped the mission get established in the United States. He later became a priest of the Diocese of Trenton, N.J.

Jason Koshinskie is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at JKoshinskie@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1171.

New saints

Pope proclaims three saints, calls them models of Christian charity

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed three saints and said their lives demonstrated that true faith is charity in action.

"These three new saints allowed themselves to be transformed by divine charity," the pope said at a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 23.

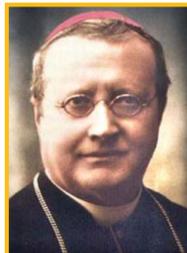
"In different situations and with different gifts, they loved the Lord with all their heart and they loved their neighbor as themselves, in such a way as to become models for all believers," he said.

All three founded religious orders in the 19th century, working in missionary areas and on behalf of society's disadvantaged in Europe. The canonizations took place on World Mission Sunday, and the pope said their witness showed that love is at the center of the missionary task.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims filled the square on a splendid fall morning, many carrying holy cards, banners and images of the saints. Tapestries with portraits of the newly canonized hung from the facade of the basilica.

The new saints were:

■ St. Guido Maria Conforti, an Italian who founded the Xaverian Foreign Missionary Society, dedicated to the sole purpose of evangelizing non-Christians. He sent missionaries to China in



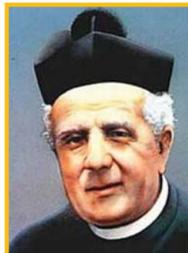
St. Guido Maria Conforti

1899 and personally traveled to China in 1928 to visit the order's communities.

Plagued by ill health, he also served as a diocesan bishop in Italy for many years, making religious instruction the priority of his pastoral ministry and establishing schools of Christian doctrine in all parishes.

■ St. Louis Guanella, the Italian founder of the Servants of Charity, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Confraternity of St. Joseph, whose members pledge to pray for the sick and dying. Having worked with young women in northern Italy, he came to Rome and founded an association of prayer for the dying.

"It is impossible to stop as long as there are poor people to be helped," he would tell his colleagues. In 1912, at the age of 70, he traveled to



St. Louis Guanella

the United States to work among Italian immigrants in North America.

Pope Benedict, in his homily, called him a "prophet and apostle of charity."

■ St. Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro, a Spanish cordmaker in Salamanca who gathered working women for spiritual encounters in her household. The group became the Servants of St. Joseph, a congregation dedicated to providing a religious and technical education to poor women and protecting them in the workplace.

Her religious did not wear habits and they worked side by side with laywomen in the shop, practices that aroused the resentment of the local clergy. Opposed by the bishop, she was removed as superior of the community and left Salamanca in humiliation; she opened a new foundation in



St. Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro

the city of Zamora, where she was welcomed by the bishop. Only in 1941 was she recognized as the foundress of her congregation.

A sung prayer during the Mass proclaimed: "The mission of Bonifacia is not finished: In God she looks after the dignity of the women workers of the world."

In his sermon, the pope said the lives of the new saints underscored that love is the essence of the Christian message.

"The visible sign that Christians can show the world to witness Christ's love is love for one's brothers and sisters," he said. These saints, he said, demonstrated that when faith is strong, there is a sense of urgency in announcing this love to all.

The liturgy had a U.S. connection: Carrying relics of St. Guanella to the altar was William Glisson, a 30-year-old Pennsylvania man, whose healing after a rollerblading accident nine years ago was accepted by the Vatican as the miracle needed for the saint's canonization.

Glisson, who had been skating backward without a helmet, hit his head and was in a coma for nine days. Doctors gave him little hope for recovery. A family friend, meanwhile, gave Glisson's mother two relics of Blessed Guanella, and the prayers began. Glisson recovered unexpectedly and was released from the hospital less than a month after the accident.

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Part-time Accompanist/Associate Music Director

Holy Cross Catholic Church in Fairview is looking for an experienced church musician to serve as primary accompanist and associate music director. The associate director will assist parish liturgies with piano and keyboard music and serve as a backup director for choirs and ensembles. Candidates should have 5+ years' experience accompanying, preferable in Catholic setting. Vocal, choral directing and administrative skills a plus. Position is **part-time beginning January 2012**. Salary is commensurate with experience and availability. If interested, send a resume, cover letter and references **BY NOVEMBER 7**, to Holy Cross Catholic Church, 7100 West Ridge Road, Fairview, PA 16415 or e-mail to res6mt29@verizon.net.

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 6, 12:30-3 PM

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Briefly

Catholic Young Adult Ministry presents Beer & Bible series



ERIE — Erie's Catholic Young Adult Ministry (CYAM) will present the first event in its 2011-12 Beer & Bible series Thursday, Nov. 10 from 7-9 p.m. at Molly Brannigans, 506 State St. in Erie.

Father Jason Feigh will discuss "Saints & Sinners." Join Catholic young adults for a night of faith and fellowship. No RSVP required. Must be 21. There is no cost with the exception of your food/drink order.

For questions, contact Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of Young Adult Ministry, at 814.824.1218 or e-mail KPeterson@ErieRCD.org.

Taizé prayer and St. Cecilia Sing

SHARON — Join the musicians of the Sharon Deanery for Taizé prayer and a St. Cecilia Sing on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at St. Joseph Parish, 79 Case Ave. in Sharon, beginning at 7 p.m.

All are welcome for a night of music, prayer and fellowship. Please RSVP to Nancy Rehner at nrehner@roadrunner.com by Nov. 8.

This event is sponsored by the Sharon Deanery music group.



Cancer support group

ERIE — Catholic Charities' Healing Ministries invites you and your family members to share your thoughts, hopes, angers and fears about cancer at its cancer support group. Share your story, listen to others and join in prayer.

The group will be led by Deacon Tom Matusiak and Deacon Fred Keck, both experienced cancer caregivers. All people who are open to God's presence in their lives are welcome.

The group meets from 7-8:15 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd in Erie, in the Bishop Michael J. Murphy Conference Room. The entrance is located in the back of the building on the west side. Look for the big, red "C" and a greeter at the door.

The next sessions will be Nov. 17, Dec. 15 and Jan. 19. For questions about the meetings, contact Deacon Matusiak by e-mail at deacontom@holymtrinityrc.org or at Holy Trinity Parish in Erie at 814.456.0671. To check back for future meetings, visit their web page at <http://www.eriecatholic.org/cancer.asp>.



High school youth rally Nov. 19

ERIE — It's not too late to register for the diocesan high school youth rally Saturday, Nov. 19 from 3-10 p.m. at Villa Maria Academy in Erie.

The rally will include the anticipated Mass for the feast of Christ the King. The theme will be "Take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

To register, contact your parish director of religious education or school's campus ministry. Registration and release forms are available at www.onthevine.us. Cost is \$30.

For more information, contact Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at 814.824.1218 or e-mail KPeterson@ErieRCD.org.

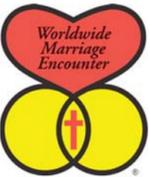


Marriage Encounter fall community event

EDINBORO — Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) will hold a fall community event Saturday, Nov. 19 at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro.

Mass is at 5:30 p.m. with a meal and presentation to follow in the parish social hall. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a snack to share. Couples that recently completed WWME weekends in August and November will be welcomed.

RSVP to Kris and Richard Gosnell by Nov. 13 at 814.398.9165 or e-mail kandrgosnell@gmail.com. Please state how many adults and children (and their ages) will be attending. Activities will be arranged for children.



KNOW YOUR RISK.

When it comes to vascular disease, often times diet and exercise simply aren't enough.

In an effort to provide early intervention for those who may have heart disease or stroke risk factors, we're bringing our Vascular Screening Program to you.

If you're over age 50, have a family history of vascular disease, suffer from obesity, have high cholesterol or high blood pressure, or if you smoke, you could be at risk.

Each noninvasive vascular screening takes approximately 40 minutes and includes a carotid artery screening, an abdominal aortic aneurysm screening and an ankle brachial index—all for only \$75.

It's a quick, affordable way to know your risk. And quite possibly save your life.



SCHEDULE YOUR VASCULAR SCREENING TODAY

Saint Vincent Heart & Vascular Center
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Now offering convenient Saturday hours.

To schedule your appointment, please call 814-452-5658.

St. Hedwig Parish celebrates

100 years

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — In 1926, the church at St. Hedwig Parish in Erie was deemed too small for the growing congregation and its parish school was crowded. Plans were announced and ground was broken for a new church.

But the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression delayed the church's completion until 1934.

It was during this time that parishioners decided to build the church themselves. They gave freely of their time and efforts, offering to work on the church. They completed it using cobblestones from old city streets and stones from local creek beds.

"This is a good example of your strong and vibrant Polish faith and your love of the church," Bishop Donald Trautman told parishioners during St. Hedwig's 100th anniversary Mass Oct. 16.

Bishop Trautman celebrated the parish's anniversary Mass, with Msgr. Henry Kriegel, pastor of St. Hedwig, and Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg, a former pastor, serving as concelebrants. Following Mass, a dinner and reception was held at the Polish Falcons Club.

The Oct. 16 date is an important one to the parish. It is the feast day of its patroness, St. Hedwig, as well as the anniversary of the 1978 election of John Paul II as the first Polish pope. The parish proudly honors its Polish heritage in many ways, including an inscription of "John Paul II — First Polish Pope" on the base of the altar and a shrine to the Black Madonna of Czestochowa.

In his homily, Bishop Trautman noted that the anniversary of a parish is an occasion for remembering and rejoicing, saying



Bishop Donald Trautman (center) celebrated St. Hedwig Parish's 100th anniversary Mass Oct. 16. Msgr. Henry Kriegel (left), pastor of St. Hedwig, and Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg, a former pastor, served as concelebrants.

it goes deeper than simply marking the passage of time.

"Above all, the anniversary of a parish is a time of thanksgiving," he said. "We give thanks to God for the presence of the risen Jesus in this faith community of St. Hedwig's for 100 years."

Prior to the establishment of St. Hedwig Parish, Catholics living near Lake Erie's bayside east of Parade Street worshipped in churches at St. Stanislaus, St. Mary or St. Patrick.

The parish was formally established in 1911 at Third and Wallace streets. Msgr. Francis Robaczewski was named its first pastor and served the faith community for 37 years.

Initially a two-story building was built on the corner of Third and Wallace streets. The first floor housed a two-room school and rectory and the second floor was home to a 300-seat church.

The parish's original 80 families numbered more than 300 by 1925. In 1929, the basement of the present church was constructed and Mass was celebrated there



The Black Madonna of Czestochowa shrine at St. Hedwig.

until the church was completed.

The parish school was staffed by the Felician sisters and operated until closing in 1984.

"Today we also celebrate the response of the people of this parish to the risen Lord," Bishop

Trautman said. "We celebrate your discipleship, we celebrate your faith and good works."

With gratitude, the bishop said, the parish remembers the service of the priests who have served the parish during its 100 years. They include pastors Father Joseph Cebelinski, Father Louis Kozlowski, Msgr. John Dollinger, Msgr. Joseph Wardanski, Bishop Brandt, Father William Sutherland and Msgr. Kriegel. A number of priestly and religious vocations have come from St. Hedwig. They include Msgr. John Daniszewski, Father Anthony Nowakowski, Father John Santor, Father Tom Alexa, Brother Felix Nowakowski, OFM, Brother Bruno Karpinski, SJ, and Father Ramon Purzycki, CSC.

St. Hedwig is also home of numerous vocations to the Felician Sisters, the Sisters of the Holy Family and the Benedictine Sisters.

Information from "Shepherds and Sheep" by Msgr. Robert Barcio was used in this report.

Quinquennial Report helps paint diocesan picture for Vatican

AD LIMINA, from page 1

him." This report is known as the Quinquennial Report.

"The two are intimately intertwined," said Father Christopher Singer, chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, of the ad limina visit and Quinquennial Report. "They're two parts of the same process. The reason for the Quinquennial Report is it provides a snapshot of the life and ministry of a diocese for the pope and for the Vatican offices in advance of the bishop's actual visit."

In preparation for the ad limina visit, Father Singer said the Congregation for Bishops sends out a questionnaire to every diocese that outlines the information they wish to have in the Quinquennial Report. The report is sent to Rome about six months ahead of the bishop's visit.

"This allows the different Vatican offices to get an understand-

ing of the life and ministry of that diocese before the bishop's arrival so that they can have an educated discussion and conversation with the bishop when he is actually there," Father Singer said.

The framework of the questionnaire asks about the society of a particular territory but quickly delves into the sacramental life of the diocese.

"It's similar to a census, although it's much more than just statistics," Father Singer said. "The questionnaire asks about these different areas—the positive strengths of the ministry in the diocese, the areas that need improvement. It's intended to be a very realistic overview of the life and ministry of the church."

The report was a collaborative effort, he said, from numerous people throughout the diocese who contributed to the chapters pertaining to their particular area

of expertise.

The Quinquennial Report contains more than 200 pages divided into 23 chapters detailing the ministry of the bishop, the liturgical and sacramental life of the diocese, Catholic education, clergy, religious, the laity, evangelization efforts, pastoral care of the family, social justice and social teaching of the church and the pastoral care of refugees and migrants, among other topics.

Copies of the Quinquennial Report are sent to Rome where the various sections are divided among the appropriate dicasteries. The information is then summarized and put into a report

which is then given to the pope.

"The pope will have a summary report, if not the original also, prior to Bishop Trautman's visit," Father Singer said.

In addition to the Quinquennial Report, the diocese sends information to the Vatican each year to update its statistical report. The barebones statistics include the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths, parishes and Catholic schools.

"We provide those statistics each year that allows them to track trends in church life," Father Singer said. "But numbers by themselves can never tell the whole picture. Every five years or so, this fuller report helps to flesh out the story behind those numbers. This helps to give them a fuller picture of what's happening in this region of the world."

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.



Father Christopher Singer

DEATH NOTICE

Sister Margaret Mary Nielsen, OSB

Sister Margaret Mary Nielsen, OSB, 90, died October 23, 2011 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

Born in Chicago and baptized Helen Frances, Sister Margaret Mary was one of six children of the late Joseph and Mary (Ruminski) Drzewiecki. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Holy Family Priory, Benet Lake, Wis., on Sept. 15, 1951. She lived as an oblate until beginning her canonical novitiate in 1956 and pronounced her perpetual vows

in 1960.

In 1968 she was elected the first prioress of Holy Family

Priory and held the office for 12 years. Sister Margaret Mary celebrated her silver jubilee in 1982. In 1986, the Benedictine Sisters of Benet Lake began a merger process with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie which



Sister Margaret Mary Nielsen, OSB

was completed in 1991. She celebrated her golden jubilee in 2007.

Sister Margaret Mary held a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in social work and a social service certification in health care. She was a member of the Omega Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma, a national scholastic honor society with a Catholic tradition, and did extensive studies in theology.

During her years of ministry at Benet Lake, she did clerical work at Our Faith Press in St. Benedict's Abbey, worked in religious education both as a

teacher and director and served as a parish volunteer coordinator. In addition to serving three terms as prioress, Sister Margaret Mary served the community as formation director, elected council member and general secretary. She also worked in public relations for a number of years.

After transferring to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Sister Margaret Mary worked on the staff of Chapter 57, Mount St. Benedict's fine art gift shop. Most recently as an infirmary resident, Sister Margaret Mary was engaged in the ministry of prayer and presence at the monastery.

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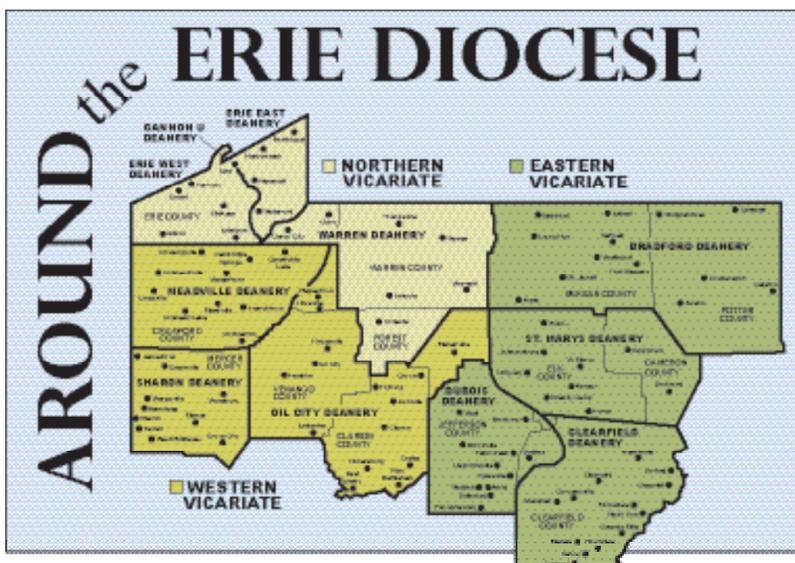
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at mailto: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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

Catholic Daughters contribute to St. Callistus renovations

KANE — The Catholic Daughters of America, Court Callistus No. 66, held its annual Women and Friends Breakfast Oct. 16.

The court presented St. Callistus Parish in Kane with a check for \$2,500. The check was the second of two payments of the court's \$5,000 pledge for the recent church renovations.

Pictured is Father Philip Pinczewski (left), pastor of St. Callistus, accepting the check from Sarah Ambrose, regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Callistus No. 66.

The speaker at the breakfast was Pat Marshall, the Diocese of Erie's director of diocesan and international missions.



Clarion Students for Life welcome speaker

CLARION — A crowd of 330 people attended Dr. Janet Smith's talk on "The Connection Between Contraception and Abortion" Oct. 11 in the Gemmill Multi-Purpose Room on the campus of Clarion University.

Smith, a noted national and international speaker on the Catholic teachings on sexuality and bioethics, holds the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is the author of "Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later."

The event was sponsored by Clarion Students for Life, Clarion Catholic Campus Ministry and the Clarion University Newman Club.

Pictured are Clarion Students for Life posing with month by month baby development posters

and Tom McConnell (inset), president of Clarion Students for Life and Dr. Smith.

For more information on Dr. Janet Smith and her talk, visit www.mycatholicfaith.org and www.janetesmith.com.



Cross-age learning at DuBois Central Catholic

DUBOIS — At DuBois Central Catholic, cross-age learning activities benefit every grade level. Older students learn patience, acceptance and social skills and younger students gain knowledge and confidence.

Kindergarten student Kelcee Clark carefully follows her step-by-step computer instructions from 5th graders Jacob Snyder (standing) and Aliya Singleton (seated).



OLP football team wins Parochial League title

ERIE — The Our Lady of Peace School football team won the Erie Parochial League championship with a 20-0 victory over Our Lady's Christian School Oct. 26 at Dollinger Field at the Cathedral Prep Events Center.

The OLP Crusaders (in light blue jerseys), the No. 1 seed, finished the season undefeated with a 10-0 record. The OLC Raiders (in white), the No. 2 seed, completed the season going 7-3.

In semifinal action Oct. 20, Our Lady's Christian beat No. 3 St. Luke 28-8 and Our Lady of Peace beat No. 4 Blessed Sacrament 36-16.



SSCD School choir gets assist from volunteers

PUNXSUTAWNEY — Each Friday for the past three years, three volunteers have given of their time and talent to lead the choir at Ss. Cosmas and Damian School in Punxsutawney for weekly Mass.

Arlene Stewart directs the choir and Toie Neal and Elaine Pape take turns each week playing the piano and organ.

Their generosity has provided SSCD students with the opportunity to actively participate in the Mass and connect with their faith in a meaningful way.

The SSCD School choir is open to all students in grades 3-8 who want to lead the congregation in song for weekly Mass. In addition to participating in choir, several students also serve as cantors. The choir practices for 45 minutes before each Mass to learn new music.

Pictured are the 3rd grade members of the Ss. Cosmas and Damian School choir and choir volunteers Elaine Pape, Toie Neal and Arlene Stewart posing with cantors McKayla Mock and Emily Griebel.



St. Marys students bring cheer to nursing home residents

ST. MARYS — On a bi-monthly basis, the fourth and fifth grade students at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School create posters to decorate the facilities at two area nursing homes. The posters are designed with a holiday theme and also contain a message informing the residents that the students are praying for them.

By volunteering their time after school, the students hope to provide cheer to all the residents, many of whom have supported St. Marys' Catholic schools in the past. School officials say caring for others is also a way for the students to imitate Christ in their lives and to carry out works of mercy.



Pictured making posters are fourth graders Grace Keyes (left) and Emily Wolfe.

St. Marys Catholic Elementary School is a part of the Elk County Catholic School System.

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St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community wants to thank all those who attended our Oktoberfest and supported the Mercedes Benz Raffle. It was a great success. God bless you all. See you next year!

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