



Papal Coat of Arms

FaithLife



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 10, 2006

Descriptions of PAPAL AWARDS

PROTONOTARY APOSTOLIC SUPERNUMERARY

Protonotary Apostolic is an office dating back to the early church. Today, protonotaries apostolic are divided into two groups, those who are *de numero* and those who are supernumerary.



The first group (*de numero*) consists of only seven individuals who function as true notaries at the Vatican. The second group (supernumerary, i.e., "beyond the number") contains all the rest beyond the seven in Rome. The distinction in this second group is honorary, since most do not function as notaries, but instead usually hold the post of vicar general in a diocese. Protonotaries apostolic are the highest ranking group of Monsignors in the church and are entitled to wear the purple feraiolo, a type of clerical cape.

THE PONTIFICAL EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT

Established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 to honor citizens of the papal states, today this order is conferred by the Holy See on lay persons of distinguished character in recognition of their outstanding service for the well-being and growth of the church at the local level. The knights and ladies of this pontifical equestrian order are under the spiritual patronage of Pope St. Gregory the Great (pope from 590 to 604). The insignia for the Knights and Ladies of St. Gregory the Great consists of a red enamel cross rimmed in gold with a center medallion bearing the image of St. Gregory. The cross is suspended from a red and yellow ribbon.



THE PONTIFICAL EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF POPE SAINT SYLVESTER

Established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1841 and reorganized in 1905, this order is bestowed on lay persons who by their example in business, the professions, the military and society have lived exemplary lives. The knights and ladies of this pontifical equestrian order are under the spiritual patronage of Pope St. Sylvester (Pope from 314 to 335). The insignia for the Knights and Ladies of Pope St. Sylvester consists of a white enamel cross rimmed in gold with a center medallion bearing the image of St. Sylvester. The cross is suspended from a black and red ribbon.



THE PAPAL CROSS PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE

First given by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, the Papal Cross *pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* is given to clergy, religious and laity who have given exemplary service *pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, i.e., for the church and for the pope. Originally intended to honor those who were of direct service to the pope, today this cross is ordinarily awarded to those whose service is rendered primarily to the local church. Since the reign of Pope Paul VI, the Papal Cross *pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* has been in the form of a gold cross of modern design, suspended from a yellow and white ribbon.



THE BENEMERENTI MEDAL

The Benemerenti Medal, first given by Pope Pius VI in 1791, takes its name from the Latin word *benemerenti*, literally meaning "to one who is well-deserving." Originally a military medal, since 1925 the Benemerenti Medal has been given to those who have rendered particularly meritorious service to the faith, both military and civilian alike. Today, it is almost exclusively a civilian award. The Benemerenti Medal is a gold cross of modern design bearing on it the image of Christ and suspended from a yellow and white ribbon.



'Faith lived'

Papal honors conferred on 62 in Erie Diocese for their service to the church

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Sixty-two individuals from the Diocese of Erie received papal honors from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, recognizing their dedication and service to the Catholic Church, in a special ceremony on Nov. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

"This is an occasion of great rejoicing for our diocese," Erie Bishop Donald Trautman said during the welcome at the papal honors ceremony. "Tonight we recognize individuals who have served the Lord's church with dedication and zeal, individuals who have given exemplary witness as disciples of Christ by their faith and charity."

It is most appropriate that papal honors, coming from our Holy Father Benedict XVI, be conferred by a cardinal of the church, Bishop Trautman said. He then welcomed the cardinal archbishop of Philadelphia, his eminence Justin Cardinal

Rigali to the Erie Diocese.

Cardinal Rigali conferred honors from Pope Benedict XVI to 62 people. They included Msgr. Robert Smith given the title Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary; Knights and Ladies of St. Gregory the Great; Knights and Ladies of Pope St. Sylvester; and recipients of the Papal Cross, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For the Church and the Pope), and the Benemerenti Medal.

Approximately 1,000 family members and friends of the honorees from many areas throughout the 13-county Diocese of Erie attended the ceremony. The overflow crowd filled the cathedral, with many seated in extra chairs and standing along the side aisles.

The recognition of papal honors is given in the name of Pope Benedict XVI on the recommendation of the local bishop. A bishop may nominate candidates to the pope at any time he wishes. The last papal honors were given in the Erie Diocese in

"Look not on our sins but on the faith of your church."
—from the Mass prayer prior to the rite of peace.



Above, Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia, confers a Lady of St. Gregory the Great medal to Carol Garibaldi of St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie as Bishop Donald Trautman looks on. Right, Cardinal Rigali and Bishop Trautman pose with Msgr. Robert Smith (center) after the papal honors ceremony. Msgr. Smith received the honor of Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary.



2000 when 45 people were honored.

In his homily prior to distributing the honors, Bishop Trautman recalled one of his favorite prayers from the Mass, which occurs just prior to the exchange of the sign of peace. With hands extended, the priest prays, "Lord, Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, 'I leave you peace.

My peace I give you.' Look not on our sins but on the faith of your church."

"This evening I look out on priests, religious and laity and I see faith," Bishop Trautman said. "I see faith and good works. I see years of service and sacrifice. I see years of witness and work. I see disciples of the Lord from all parts of our diocese representing all three vicariates. Disciples that generously love Christ and his church. Disciples who put their gifts and talents at the service of God's people."

"I see people who have labored to build up the Lord's kingdom and I pray, Lord, don't look on our sins, don't see PAPAL HONORS, page 4

Securing the future of Catholic education

By Marybeth Hicks
Special to FaithLife

In the last issue of *FaithLife*, Bishop Donald W. Trautman shared the news that the schools of the Diocese of Erie are achieving their missions, but unfortunately, decreasing populations throughout the diocese and declining enrollments in our Catholic schools—particularly our elementary schools—will necessitate dynamic and creative solutions in the future. In this issue, read more about how the bishop collaborates with pastors and the Office of Education to assess the viability of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie.

How Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese make the grade

Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Erie provide excellence in education and support the responsibility of parents to bring up children in the Catholic faith. In the process, they encourage students to do their very best in order to be successful in school.

When the time comes to evaluate the schools, however, even those that do their best may struggle to maintain viability. This is because factors beyond the control of most schools are having an impact on enrollment, funding, fundraising and the future of individual parish schools.

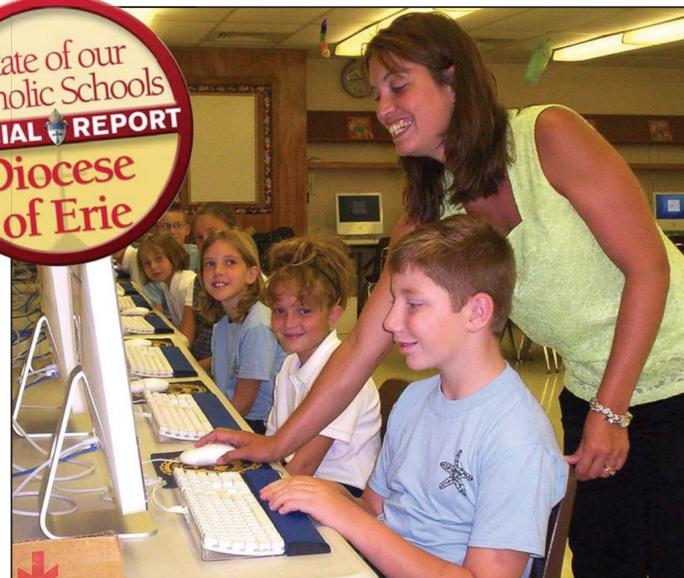
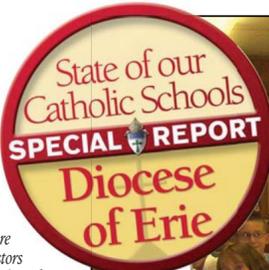
The Diocese of Erie is blessed with seven high schools, two dedicated middle schools and 33 elementary schools. Total enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year in Catholic schools dropped 5.9 percent from enrollment of one year ago, and this trend is likely to continue.

Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, says the future of Catholic education in the diocese depends on seeking new ways to achieve cost savings and efficiencies, identifying new sources of funding and philanthropy and on strengthening schools that are deemed the most viable. Ultimately, Father Rouch envisions a future when more vibrant schools will serve wider, more diverse populations of students and families.

"Now is the time when we must take a hard look to determine which schools meet our criteria for viability," Father Rouch said. "We don't use a hard and fast measurement. Many factors are considered in assessing the strength of a particular school, including its contribution to the parish it serves."

Assessing viability

Evaluating the viability of schools within the Diocese of Erie involves looking at key areas. In addition to expecting each school to manifest a strong Catholic identity, the diocese needs to assess other important factors. These include, but are not limited to: enrollment and population trends; financial strength; educational excellence and accreditation; proximity of other Catholic schools; and community support.



Deana Wittman, computer technology instructor at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School in St. Marys, goes through a lesson with one of her classes. This year, the school's computer lab hosts

30 new upgraded computers. Technology is one of the criteria considered when assessing the viability of Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese.

Enrollment and population

The Diocese of Erie has followed the national trend in decreased enrollment in its Catholic schools. In addition to the decline in school enrollment, a dramatic shift in the population of western Pennsylvania will mean a smaller percentage of young people, a larger percentage of those considered elderly and an increase in migration out of the state. Also, as reported in the Nov. 26 issue of *FaithLife*, births in the 13 counties of the diocese have declined by 13 percent and baptisms have declined by 40 percent in the last 10 years.

Enrollment and population figures in various communities throughout the diocese are important aspects of school viability because the potential for growth or decline in the community will impact the future of every school.

Financial strength

Contrary to popular belief, the tuition paid by parents does not meet the expenses to educate a child in a Catholic school. Operating clean, safe and adequate facilities as well as keeping up with technology are costly endeavors. But keeping tuition affordable is crucial in achieving the goal of providing a Catholic education to all who seek it for their children. Since tuition falls far short of expenses, parishes typically provide significant subsidies to their schools.

In addition, fundraising for operational and capital expenses continues to pose a challenge to

many parish schools. In assessing viability, it is crucial to consider each school's tuition structure, fundraising ability and the burden imposed on its parish for financial assistance. While the diocese does provide funds for tuition assistance when possible, those resources are not adequate to cover all needs or operational deficits.

Educational excellence and accreditation

Viable Catholic schools are those that offer unqualified excellence in the education of their students. The mission of Catholic schools is not only to provide an atmosphere that supports and upholds the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, but also to educate young women and men who will become the leaders of their generation. When assessing viability, assuring that each school can uphold academic excellence is a key factor.

One way to assure that diocesan schools maintain standards of excellence is to require them to engage in a continuous process of improvement through accreditation. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie participate in the accreditation program of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Evaluation examines the total school: its philosophy and goals, the quality of communication among all members of the school community, the academic program, the physical plant and its financial stability.

See SCHOOLS, page 4

2006 Papal Honorees



PROTONOTARY APOSTOLIC SUPERNUMERARY

The Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Smith, V.G., J.C.L.

Msgr. Robert Smith was ordained to the priesthood in 1970. He has faithfully served in the diocesan curia for more than 30 years, first as vice chancellor, then as chancellor, and finally as vicar general for the past 15 years. He was named a prelate of honor on Nov. 11, 1991.



Dr. Antoine M. and Carol J. Garibaldi

Dr. Antoine and Carol Garibaldi are active parishioners of St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie. Since 2001 he has served as the president of Gannon University. He has been instrumental in the full implementation of the provisions of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* at Gannon University and is very supportive of the Catholic mission of the university. He has also served as a member of the board of trustees of St. Vincent Health Center, Cathedral Preparatory School and Catholic Charities. She assists in the parish with visiting the sick and homebound and she also serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. With her husband, she has been very supportive of furthering the Catholic mission and identity of Gannon University and she has been a personal source of much encouragement to Gannon's students.



Steven A. Brazinski

Steven Brazinski is a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in DuBois. He assists in Catholic health care for the elderly through his serving as president of the Board of Directors of Christ the King Manor in DuBois.



Timothy J. Broderick

Timothy Broderick has rendered exceptional service to the church and community through his position over the course of many years as head of the pro-life movement in Erie County. In particular, for the past several years he has led the efforts to force the closing of the only abortion facility in the diocese.



KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

Norman F. and Agnes E. Allgeier

Norman and Agnes Allgeier are parishioners of St. Boniface Parish in Hammett. They have been active supporters of the parish and its school. *No photos available.*

Milissa Bauer

Milissa Bauer is a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion. She is vice president of the Kriebel Foundation in Clarion County which aids in the financing of Catholic education and she helps to direct the Children's Scholarship Fund, which has distributed more than \$2 million in aid since 1988.



Atty. Alfred H. Lander

Atty. Alfred Lander is a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Lucinda. He has been instrumental in securing funding for Catholic education in the Clarion County area through the establishment of the Children's Scholarship Fund, which has distributed more than \$2 million in aid since 1988.



Timothy J. and Kathleen M. Crotty

Timothy and Kathleen Crotty are parishioners of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Erie. For many years, they have been faithfully practicing the corporal work of mercy of visiting the imprisoned by making weekly visits to the inmates of the local county correctional facility.



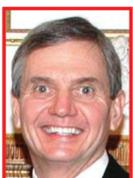
Dr. Walter P. and Jo Ann Beh

Dr. Walter and Jo Ann Beh are parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Greenville. They have been leaders in the pro-life movement in their area, each year sponsoring a bus to take people to the annual pro-life march in Washington. He serves as a member of the parish finance council and recently assisted with the diocesan capital fund drive. She has been a longtime member of the area public school board.



Dr. John F. and Nedra Dwyer Lehrian

Dr. John and Nedra Lehrian are parishioners of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie. He is an oral surgeon who regularly contributes his services to the poor. He is active in the parish choir. Together, Dr. and Mrs. Lehrian have participated in a medical mission to Belize. They help to lead the parish's participation in the annual diocesan Catholic Services Appeal.



D. Edward Chaplin

Edward Chaplin is a member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois. He has been a strong supporter of Catholic education. He serves on the investment committee for the DuBois Area Catholic Schools.



Peter J. Buchheit

Peter Buchheit is a parishioner of St. Bernard of Clairveaux Parish in Bradford. He has served on the finance board for both St. Bernard Parish and for St. Bernard School, as well as on the Diocesan Insurance Advisory Board.



John H. and M. Aloyse Ogorchock

John and Aloyse Ogorchock are members of St. Bernard of Clairveaux Parish in Falls Creek. They are ardent supporters of Catholic education and have been especially solicitous toward the care of retired diocesan priests.



Donald W. Fleming

Donald Fleming is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in St. Marys. He has given strong support to Catholic education and has served as a member of the Board of Directors both of Elk County Catholic High School as well as Christ the King Manor in DuBois.



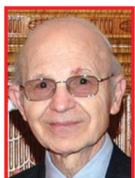
Joseph J. and M. Joyce Maljovec

Joseph and Joyce Maljovec are members of St. Callistus Parish in Kane. He has served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. They have been very supportive of their parish, always being ready to assist in whatever way is necessary. They are well-respected as honest business leaders in the local timber industry.



Dr. Frank J. Episcopo

Dr. Frank Episcopo is a parishioner of St. Paul Parish in Erie. He is a widower and a daily communicant. He has helped to establish a donor-advised fund for the benefit of various parish and charitable causes.



Atty. Norman H. and Marie A. Stark

Atty. Norman and Marie Stark are members of St. Andrew Parish in Erie. He has been an active member of the Serra Club for many years. Together, Attorney and Mrs. Stark are active in the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and to religious life.



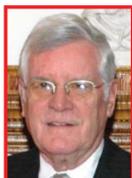
J. William and Audrey L. Pustelak

William and Audrey Pustelak are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard. They have been active in various projects in the parish, including the construction of a parish center. They have been strong supporters of Catholic education.



James E. and Joan K. Feeney

James and Joan Feeney are parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Sharon. James is a local businessman who has served on numerous parish committees. Most recently he served on the parish finance committee. Joan oversees a foundation named in her father's honor which helps to support Catholic schools, both parochial and diocesan. They are very involved in their parish, as well as St. Joseph School and Kennedy Catholic High School.



KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF POPE ST. SYLVESTER

Frances A. Froess

Frances Froess is a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Erie, where she has been a daily communicant for almost her entire life, often walking to Mass. She and her late brother and late sister have been very supportive of the parish and its school.



John W. and Evelyn F. Anderson

John and Evelyn Anderson are parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Greenville. He was largely responsible for the construction and maintenance of St. Margaret Mission in Jamestown and served recently as supervisor for the renovation of the parish church of St. Michael. She has been very active in the catechesis of the young, having directed the religious education program at St. Margaret Mission for 15 years.



Dr. William B. and Dr. Mildred M. Trice

Dr. William and Dr. Mildred Trice are members of St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie. He has regularly contributed his services as a dentist on behalf of the poor and serves as a Eucharistic minister at the cathedral parish. He has served for years on the Diocesan Medical Moral Committee. Along with her husband, Dr. Mildred Trice is an active member of the parish. She has been especially solicitous toward the poor and has served on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors.



CONGRATULATIONS!

- from your friends...

Immaculate Conception Church & School
Clarion, Pa.
"For All That Has Been-Thanks.
To All That Shall Be-Yes."

Notre Dame Parish & School
Hermitage, Pa.
Congratulations to Mrs. Frances Sok,
our Secretary and Finance Officer

St. Paul Roman Catholic
Erie, Pa.
St. Paul Parish extends
congratulations to Dr. Frank Episcopo.

Villa Maria Academy
Erie, Pa.
Congratulations to the Sisters of St. Joseph
and all of our Villa Alumnae!

Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Sharon, Pa.
Congratulations, love & prayers,
Sr. Clare Marie -Sharon SSJAs & Margie

St. Bernard of Clairveaux
Bradford, Pa.
Fr. Gallina, Msgr. Olowin, Deacon Beeman & the
people of St. Bernard offer our congratulations.

St. Raphael Parish
& St. Mary Mission
Eldred, Pa. Sartwell, Pa.
Eldred elders & youth, & Sartwellans honor
Sartwell Roadsters, Srs. Mary & Phyllis

St. Theresa Parish
Shinglehouse, Pa.
We do not tarry in honoring Srs. Mary
Hoffman and Phyllis Schleicher.

St. Mark Parish
Emporium, Pa.
Jennie, We are so proud of you!
Congratulations from your Parish Family!

Sacred Heart Parish
Erie, Pa.
Francis Froess and Bill & Audrey Pustelak,
thanks for everything you have done for us!

DuBrooke & St. Bernard Parish
Falls Creek, Pa.
We salute our Knight & Lady of
St. Gregory, Jack & Aloyse Ogorchock

DuBois Regional Medical Center
DuBois, Pa.
Sister Rita, we are blessed to have you
in our lives. Congratulations.

St. Joseph Parish
Oil City, Pa.
Congratulations, Msgr. Robert Smith,
and Mary Margaret Hajduk!

Prince of Peace Center
Farrell, Pa.
Sister Clare Marie Beichner, thank you
& congratulations!

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pa.
Erie, Pa.
Congratulations and God's Blessings
to all the honorees



Diocese of Erie, Pa.

PAPAL CROSS PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE (FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE POPE)

Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ
Sister Clare Marie Beichner was professed with the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1985. For many years she directed the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, which serves the urban poor of Mercer County. She is presently in formation work with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie.



Sister Ann Jeanne Chisholm, CDS
Sister Ann Jeanne Chisholm was professed originally with the Sisters of St. Joseph and later transferred to the newly established Congregation of the Divine Spirit in 1950 to provide them with the assistance of a professed religious in their new religious institute. She remained one of the pillars of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit until her death in 2000. The Papal Cross is awarded posthumously in recognition of her contributions to the congregation and of her many years of teaching in the Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie. *No photo available.*

Sister Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ
Sister Claudia Dombrowski was professed with the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1977. She served quite successfully as principal of Our Lady of Peace School in Erie for the last 20 years. Under her leadership, the school has done well in an era when many Catholic schools are struggling. She is now principal at Cathedral Prep in Erie.



Sister Rita Marie Hettish, RSM
Sister Rita Marie Hettish was professed with the Sisters of Mercy in 1957. She and Sister Mary Louis Oslick, RSM, were the last Sisters of Mercy in full-time elementary school work in the Diocese of Erie. She retired in June from St. George School in Erie after nearly 50 years of teaching in various Catholic elementary schools, bringing to an end the long history of the Sisters of Mercy in our parochial schools.



Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ
Sister Phyllis Hilbert was professed with the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1965. From 1995 to 2006, she served as the administrative director of the Erie DAWN project, a program that serves women who have completed rehabilitative programs by providing housing for them and their children.



Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB
Sister Mary William Hoffman was professed with the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1952. Along with Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, she serves the rural poor in the Eastern Vicariate through catechesis, retreat work and spiritual formation. The presence of the sisters has had a very positive influence in the counties where they serve.



Sister Rita Kartavich, RSM
Sister Rita Kartavich was professed with the Sisters of Mercy in 1961. She has spent most of her religious life in Catholic health care and currently serves as an administrator of the DuBois Regional Medical Center, a hospital founded by the Sisters of Mercy.



Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
Sister Mary Rita Kuhn was professed with the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1956. She has served as the bishop's liaison to religious in her role as vicar for religious for more than 20 years. Through most of that time, she has directed the Sisters' Vocation Awareness Committee in an effort to promote a broad awareness of vocations to the consecrated life.



Sister Miriam Mashank, OSB
Sister Miriam Mashank was professed with the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1954. She serves as the executive director of the St. Benedict Education Center, a facility which provides life skills and employment skills to inner-city residents and the poor.



Sister Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM
Sister Mary Mark McCarthy was professed with the Sisters of Mercy in 1953. After more than 50 years in Catholic education and catechetical work, she retired in June from her most recent service as the Director of Religious Education at St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie.



Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ
Sister James Francis Mulligan was professed with the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1953. She has spent her entire religious life in Catholic education. Even at age 80, she continues to teach full time, presently at Cathedral Preparatory School where she has taught for more than 20 years and also at Gannon University.



Sister Mary Louis Oslick, RSM
Sister Mary Louis Oslick was professed with the Sisters of Mercy in 1956. She and Sister Rita Marie Hettish, RSM, were the last Sisters of Mercy in full time elementary school work in the Diocese of Erie. She retired in June from St. George school in Erie after nearly 50 years of teaching in various Catholic elementary schools, bringing to an end the long history of the Sisters of Mercy in our parochial schools.



Sister M. Agnes Pisarchick, OLC
Sister M. Agnes Pisarchick was professed with the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in 1965 and has spent her entire religious life at Gannondale, a residential school founded by the sisters for adolescent girls. For many years, Sister Agnes has been confined to a wheelchair, yet she continues to be present to the students at Gannondale and remains an active part of her religious community.



Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB
Sister Phyllis Schleicher was professed with the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1961. Together with Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB, she serves the rural poor in the Eastern Vicariate. The presence of the Sisters through their ministry of catechesis, retreat work and spiritual formation has had a very positive influence in the counties where they serve.



Sister Laura Vallimont, OSB
Sister Laura Vallimont was professed with the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1966. She served for many years in Catholic education as a teacher and principal, and currently serves as prioress of St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys.



Deacon Ralph A. and Janet M. DeCecco
Deacon Ralph and Janet DeCecco are members of St. Andrew Parish in Erie. Deacon Ralph DeCecco was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1999. He serves as chaplain to a state correctional facility in Albion. He also serves as the director of pastoral formation for the Permanent Diaconate Training Program. Janet DeCecco serves as the coordinator of activities for the Permanent Diaconate Training Program. Through this service, she establishes programs and activities designed to address the needs and concerns of the wives of the diaconal candidates.



BENEMERENTI MEDAL

Gusty J. Arrigo
Gusty Arrigo is a member of Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren. He attends daily Mass and regularly contributes his services as a barber to patients at the local hospital and for the home-bound. He is a member of the parish finance committee and assists with the care of the parish church after weddings and funerals.



Mary Margaret Hajduk
Mary Margaret Hajduk is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Oil City. For many years she served on the faculty of St. Stephen parochial school in Oil City and for the past nine years has served there as principal, providing an exemplary role model for Catholic school teachers.



Rita C. Karing
Rita Karing is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Sharon. For more than 20 years she has run the parish food pantry, directing volunteers and gathering supplies to feed more than 170 families twice a month. She also is very involved with the parish Care and Concern group. *No photo available.*

John R. Kerle
John Kerle is a member of St. Michael Parish in Emlenton. In 2002, along with his daughter-in-law, he founded Charitable Deeds and Services, a group which collects funds and organizes volunteers to assist those in need. In its short history, the organization has gained more than 100 volunteers and the support and collaboration of such entities as private area businesses, county and state government and the American Red Cross.



Kathleen H. Kunkle
Kathleen Kunkle is a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois. She has served for more than 30 years at DuBois Central Catholic High School, first as a teacher and now as both a teacher and chief administrative officer of the DuBois Area Catholic Schools. She brings to her efforts a well-developed understanding of the nature and purpose of Catholic education.



Josie A. Osiecki
Josie Osiecki is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs. A widow, she has served for years as the bookkeeper and sacristan of the parish. She was especially instrumental in assisting numerous priests who worked to provide for the sacramental needs of the parish during a lengthy hospitalization and recuperation of the pastor.



Carl A. Slomski
Carl Slomski was a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Erie and a retired funeral director. Throughout the years, he gave generously of his time by serving on the parochial school board and on the pastoral council, and was an active member of many parish organizations, especially the Ushers Society. Although still living at the time he was nominated for this honor, Mr. Slomski passed away before the honor could be conferred, and so it was received posthumously.



Frances Sok
Frances Sok is a member of Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. She has faithfully served the parish and its priests for more than 20 years as the parish secretary, bringing to her role a true sense of hospitality and helpfulness.



Jennie A. Songer
Jennie Songer is a member of St. Mark Parish in Emporium. For many years until her retirement, she contributed to the catechesis of the young by serving as the parish director of religious education. She worked to provide qualified catechists for the youth of the parish. She remains active in several parish groups and organizations and has been an active supporter of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.



Martha A. Tylwalk
Martha Tylwalk is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield. She has generously served her parish as a catechist. She is a member of the parish Altar and Rosary Society and a member of the local court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.



Photos by Jim Kelvington, except Carl Slomski.

St. Michael Parish
Greenville, Pa.
You are part of the great leadership at St. Michael & St. Margaret. Congratulations!

St. Mark the Evangelist
Erie, Pa.
Kathy & Tim Crotty-- your ministry is a blessing. Congratulations!

St. Callistus Parish
Kane, Pa.
We honor Mr. & Mrs. Maljovec, Sr. Phyllis Scheicher & Sr. Mary W. Hoffman.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Emlenton, Pa.
John Kerle-- Your "Charitable Deeds & Services" are an inspiration to us all.

St. Jude the Apostle
Erie, Pa.
Congratulations to all, especially our parishioners, Dr. John & Nedra Lehrman.

Christ the King Manor
DuBois, Pa.
Congratulations, honorees! May God bless you for all you do.

DuBois Area Catholic Schools
DuBois, Pa.
We thank you, Kathleen Kunkle, for all you have done for us!

St. George Parish & School
Erie, Pa.
To Sr. Rita M. Hettish, Sr. Mary L. Oslick, Dr. Frank Episcopo & all--congratulations!

Elk County Catholic High School
St. Marys, Pa.
Congratulations to Don W. Fleming, Sr. Laura & all of the Honorees!

St. Boniface Parish
Erie, Pa.
Congratulations, Norman & Agnes Allgeier, from Fr. Jay Schultz & the St. Boniface family!

St. Andrew Parish
Erie, Pa.
Well done, Atty. Norman & Marie Stark and Deacon Ralph & Janet DeCecco!

SS. Cosmas and Damian Parish
Puxsawney, Pa.
SS. Cosmas & Damian extends best wishes to Sr. Rita Hettish and all the honorees.

St. Marys Catholic Schools
St. Marys, Pa.
Congratulations, Don Fleming & Sr. Laura Vallimont, OSB. God bless you.

St. Joseph Parish
Sharon, Pa.
We congratulate James & Joan Feeney & Rita Karing for their service to the Church.

Holy Redeemer Parish
Warren, Pa.
Congratulations and God's blessing to our parishioner, Gusty Arrigo.

St. Francis of Assisi
Clearfield, Pa.
Congratulations to Martha from the parishioners of St. Francis Church.

Securing the future of Catholic education

SCHOOLS from page 1

For schools in the Diocese of Erie to be considered viable, they must be fully accredited and be able to maintain accreditation.

Availability of Catholic schools

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) predicts that the former model of one parish/one school will soon be replaced by a more cost-effective alternative of Catholic school systems, allowing for shared economies and greater consistency across a diocese. When assessing viability of schools, the entire diocese is examined to ensure that access to Catholic education is maintained, even if the schools that provide it are not necessarily at the parish to which a family belongs.

Community support

Catholic schools must be integrated into the communities

they serve and be strongly supported by those communities in order to be considered viable. The larger community benefits from the presence of a strong and vibrant Catholic school, and its willingness to provide fundraising dollars, family and volunteer support and cooperative programming is one aspect of viability.

Planning for the future of Catholic education in the Diocese of Erie

According to Father Rouch, assessing viability in the present academic year is an important step in the ongoing process of planning for the future of the diocese's schools. "The next step is to rededicate ourselves to promoting Catholic education as an excellent educational choice," Father Rouch said. To that end, the diocese soon will announce a marketing ef-

fort to encourage families to consider Catholic schools. "To a certain extent, Catholic schools are a well-kept secret," Father Rouch said. "We have to stop hiding our light under a bushel and instead tell our communities about the extraordinary opportunity of Catholic education."

Long-range planning also is underway to determine if new models of governance and funding could provide greater stability for diocesan schools. "If the NCEA's prediction is correct - and I suspect it is - the old system will likely not survive," Father Rouch said. "As much as we might like to operate parish schools at the parish level, refusing to think beyond this parochial formula could actually prevent us from fulfilling our educational mission. We have to find new and better ways to sustain a vibrant system of Catholic schools."

Papal honors conferred on 62 in Erie Diocese

PAPAL HONORS from page 1

look on our mistakes and wrong choices, don't look on the darkness in our society. But look at the faith of your church. Look at that persevering, humble faith, faith represented by our honorees. Faith expressed in concrete deeds. Faith lived. It is that faith that we recognize and celebrate this evening. This is the reason that we have papal honors. This is a day of joy and jubilation, but most of all it is a day of thanksgiving. We thank God for the variety of gifts, ministries and works which the Lord has given to his church through you."

In nominating persons to be honored by the Holy Father, Bishop Trautman said he chose representatives from clergy, religious and laity who exemplified the different gifts and ministries and good works in the diocese. In singling out various individuals for papal recognition, he said

he wanted to focus attention on the ministry being given to the poor and marginalized, the ministry of pro-life, education, stewardship, prison ministry, health care and parish and community leadership.

In distributing the various medals and recognitions, Bishop Trautman greeted each honoree near the altar steps as his or her name was called. Cardinal Rigali then conferred the honors at the cathedra chair.

A round of applause awaited each group of honorees after their names were called. Msgr. Robert Smith, who was awarded the honor of Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary, received an extended standing ovation, with the crowd applauding from the time his name was called until he returned to his seat.

Kathleen Kunkle, a recipient of the Benemerenti Medal,

spoke on behalf of all honorees, thanking the bishop, cardinal and pope for the honors.

In his remarks, Cardinal Rigali said the evening had been an experience of deep faith.

"There are so many beautiful aspects about our ceremony this evening," he said. "Everything that has been done this evening has been done as a sign. All of these awards speak a very special language of love and gratitude with esteem and appreciation."

He said this occasion was also an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the Gospel.

"Dear friends, on this night forward with new fervor, may those who continue the great work of proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world in our lives, in our families, in our work and in our dioceses, in the name of Jesus build up the kingdom of God."

DEATH NOTICES

Msgr. Addison R. Yehl dies at 87

ERIE - Msgr. Addison R. Yehl, 87, Gannon University, 109 University Square, Erie, died Nov. 22, 2006 at his residence.

Born Feb. 24, 1919 in Allegany, N.Y., he was the son of the late Rennie and Annie Yehl. He attended Olean public schools and was a 1936 graduate of Olean High School. He attended St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y., where he earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1942. After serving for four years as a captain in the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII and being awarded the European African Campaign Medal with two battle stars and a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, he entered Christ the King Seminary, Olean. He completed his seminary studies in 1951 while at the same time earning a master's degree in chemistry from St. Bonaventure University.

He was ordained as a priest on May 3, 1951 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, by Archbishop John Mark Gannon. His home parish was St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Olean. Upon his ordination, Msgr. Yehl was assigned to the Chemistry Department of Gannon University. He continued in that assignment until his retirement in August 2006. From 1951 until 1978 he served as department chair. He also provided weekend Mass assistance at several local parishes including lengthy periods at St. Patrick and St. John the Baptist parishes in Erie. Most recently he provided chaplaincy services to Health South Rehabilitation Hospital.

In 1989, he was presented the Gannon University Distinguished Faculty Award. In 1999, he received the Msgr. Wilfred J. Nash Principles of Christian Conduct Award. He received the Archbishop John Mark Gannon Medal of Distinction from Gannon University in 2002. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. He was a longtime adviser to the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, and beloved friend and mentor to five decades of Gannon students.

In 1994, Pope John Paul II named him a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of monsignor.



Father Robert G. Craig dies at 68

ERIE - Father Robert G. Craig, 68, 2812 Burns Ave., Erie, died Dec. 1, 2006 at Hamot Medical Center.

Born May 24, 1938 in Erie, he is the son of Eleanor Toplansky Craig of Erie and the late Allan Craig. Father Craig graduated from St. Ann grade school in Erie in 1952 and from Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, in 1956. He attended Gannon College in Erie from 1956 to 1958 and then completed his seminary studies at St. Mary Seminary and University, Baltimore, in 1964.

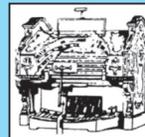
He was ordained as a priest on May 7, 1964 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Auxiliary Bishop Edward McManaman. His home parish was St. Ann Parish in Erie. Father Craig was assigned to the faculty of Cathedral Prep from 1964 until 1977 at which time he was assigned as the diocesan director of the Marriage Encounter program and pro-life activities until 1982. During these years he resided at St. Julia parish from 1964 until 1967, and then at St. Peter Cathedral from 1967 until 1982. He served as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Fairview from 1982 to 1983, and then at St. Paul Parish in Erie from 1983 to 1985. In 1985 he was appointed pastor of Holy Family Parish in Erie and simultaneously became pastor of St. Casimir and St. Ann parishes in 1990 when the tri-parish cluster was formed.

Following a sabbatical in 1991, he served variously as chaplain to the State Correctional Facility in Cambridge Springs, spiritual director of the Bread of Life Community in Erie, chaplain to the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Erie and resided for part of that time at St. Anthony in Cambridge Springs from 1992 to 1995. He retired from active ministry in 1995.



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Center of the Arts, Mercy Center on Aging,
Mercy Center for Women and
Mercyhurst Preparatory School
Congratulate our Sisters
Rita Marie Hettish, RSM Rita Kartavich, RSM
M. Mary McCarthy, RSM M. Louis Oslick, RSM
and Nedra Dwyer Lehrian - '69
Papal Cross pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

Congratulations to
Atty. Alfred H. Lander
on your
**Knight of St. Gregory
the Great medal**
from
St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda

Congratulations to
Mary Margaret Hajduk
St. Stephen School
and Parish
Oil City

Congratulations to
Sister Claudia Dombrowski
and
**Sister James
Francis Mulligan**
on your
Papal Cross

Congratulations
to
Barbara A. Varischetti
Sister M. Agnes Pisarchick
St. Tobias Parish
Brockway, Pa.

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie
are so very blessed by our Sisters:
Mary William Hoffman, OSB
Miriam Mashank, OSB
Phyllis Schleicher, OSB
Congratulate
on being honored
with the Papal Cross.

GANNON UNIVERSITY
Congratulate President Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D.,
Mrs. Carol Garibaldi, Gannon Board of Trustee Members,
and Gannon and Villa Maria Alumni on receiving
the 2006 Papal Honors.

The North American Union of the Sisters of
Our Lady of Charity, along with the residents,
staff and Board of Gannondale, congratulate
Sr. M. Agnes Pisarchick
as she is conferred with the honor of
pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, the Papal Cross.
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women we serve, and for the unwavering model
of religious life that you are for us each day.
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Congratulations!
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