

Giant Jesus

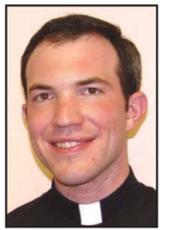
Statue nears completion in Mexico, page 2



FaithLife

Outstanding promoter

Fr. Chris Singer receives award in *Around the Diocese*, page 4



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

January 22, 2006

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Collection for church in Latin America — Jan. 21-22

One Church, One America is again the theme for the 2006 collection for the church in Latin America. The collection will be held in many Catholic parishes throughout the United States this weekend. Monies from the collection are given as collaborative grants for pilot projects and pastoral programs initiated by local bishops in Latin America. Most commonly, the funds are used to educate priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders; to assist missionaries and pastoral workers; to train catechists and youth ministers; and to strengthen the Church's work with the poor.



March for Life, Washington — Jan. 23

The March for Life is the collective effort of grassroots pro-life Americans to assure that our laws protect the right to life of each human being. An important step is adoption of a mandatory human life amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Such an amendment would require that individuals and society provide protection for the right to life of each human being in existence at fertilization. It would require that State laws conform to the Constitution and provide the same protection. Thus, the Life Principles provide guidance and purpose for the task of the grassroots pro-life volunteers in their efforts through an effective education and lobbying program.



— from www.MarchForLife.org

Day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person — Jan. 23

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when the 22nd falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day.

— General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Catholic Schools Week — Jan. 29-Feb. 4

Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S. Parents are encouraged to take full advantage of the benefits of Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese by enrolling their children in our schools.

— from the National Catholic Education Association, www.ncea.org

Presentation of the Lord — Feb. 2

This feast occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus. In Luke's Gospel account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.



— from www.AmericanCatholic.org

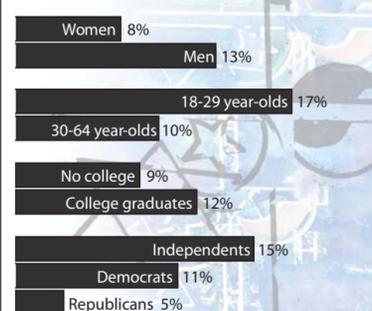
Did You Know?

The number of Catholic parishes in the U.S. entrusted to deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and other lay persons has grown from 268 in 1993 to 566 in 2004, an increase from 1.4 percent to 3 percent of all U.S. parishes, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Research indicates that these parishes tend to have fewer weekend Masses than the average U.S. parish—about two compared to four in the average parish—and typically have 200 or fewer registered households.

— Catholic Woman, Jan./Feb. 2006

No Religion

Americans who claim no religious affiliation



Based on interviews with 24,526 randomly selected U.S. adults conducted January to November 2005. Source: Gallup Poll ©2005 CBS

Schindler speaks out on 'culture of death'

More than 650 attend 28th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Bobby Schindler doesn't feel like he or his family did anything extraordinary. Not for his sister. Not for the pro-life movement. Nothing special at all, really.

"We were just trying to protect a family member who couldn't protect herself," Schindler says.

In 2005, Schindler and his family found themselves thrust into the national media spotlight during their legal fight to save his sister, Terri Schiavo.

In 1990, Schiavo collapsed at her home and suffered brain damage. A legal battle between her husband, Michael Schiavo, and her family ensued over whether her feeding tube could be removed. Her case reached Florida's Supreme Court before a judge ruled that Michael Schiavo could remove the feeding tube.

Terri Schiavo, 41, died March 31, 2005, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed.

Schindler, a former teacher, was the keynote speaker at the 28th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Jan. 7 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie. More than 650 people attended the breakfast while about 100 people and a dozen or so vehicles participated in the Erie March & Motorcade for Life downtown. The events were sponsored by People For Life.

"There are so many issues surrounding my sister's case," Schindler said.

"These are issues that I think will affect all of us at some point, either ourselves or through a family member or friend."

Many facts were misrepresented about his sister, he said, including connecting Terri's case with end-of-life issues and her right-to-die.

"My sister was not dying," he said. "We saw in the autopsy report, my sister was a physically very healthy young woman of 41 years old and had a healthy heart. The reason my sister died is her feeding tube was



"We have to stop referring to people with disabilities as vegetative. It's dehumanizing, it takes away their personhood and it brings about attention to this death movement that devalues the sacredness of human life."

— Bobby Schindler, Terri Schiavo's brother

removed and we sat by as she dehydrated and starved to death."

One of the facts rarely reported, Schindler said, is that there were 25 national disability organizations that were supporting her.

"If you listened to the media, my sister wanted to die and these were her wishes. The truth of the matter is my sister had no living will, and there was nothing



Photo by Jason Koshinski

Loving brother: Bobby Schindler, brother of euthanasia victim Terri Schiavo, was the keynote speaker at the 28th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Jan. 7 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie.

written."

Michael Schiavo testified that during their marriage Terri verbally indicated that if such a scenario would happen, she would want a feeding tube removed and would want to

ent vegetative state (PVS)."

Schindler says the trap his family fell into was to describe Terri as being in "this so-called persistent vegetative state," which he added is a completely subjective diagnosis. He cited a recent British study which found that PVS is misdiagnosed almost 50 percent of the time.

"We are now killing people based on criteria that is misdiagnosed almost half the time," he said. "By the time Terri was starved to death, we had close to 40 doctors' affidavits on file with the court, and all believed that Terri could be helped and she was not in a PVS. These doctors were from the best medical institutions in our country."

Describing persons with profound disabilities and profound brain damage as being in a persistent vegetative state leads to a "culture of death," Schindler said.

"We need to stop referring to people as being in a persistent vegetative state," he said. "We have to stop referring to people with disabilities as vegetative. It's dehumanizing, it takes away their personhood and it brings about attention to this death movement that deval-

ues the sacredness of human life.

"The moment someone diagnosed my sister as PVS, she immediately had to prove to the world, to doctors and the courts that she was worthy of life," he said. "She wasn't brain dead. We don't deny my sister had brain damage; she had significant brain damage. We just wanted to take her home and take care of her."

But based on the advance directive testimony from Michael Schiavo and what the Schindler family felt was Terri's misdiagnosis as being in a PVS, Schindler says "they were able to remove my sister's feeding tube."

The Erie Diocese was well represented at the breakfast. Fr. Tom Brown, pastor of St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth parishes in Corry, gave the invocation. Msgr. Michael Gaines, chancellor of the diocese, and Jean Kennedy Keck, director of Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life Office, also gave remarks. Fr. Edward Krause, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Erie and professor of medical ethics at Gannon University, said the closing prayer.

Months after hurricanes, Gulf Coast continues to receive local support

Volunteers lend helping hand with grants, cleanup

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Even though months have passed since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita decimated cities, homes, churches and schools along the Gulf Coast, the people affected by the disasters have not been forgotten in the Erie Diocese.

Rose Graham, director of development for Catholic Charities, spent Dec. 5-10 in the Diocese of Lake Charles, La., assisting with recovery efforts and recently returned for a two-week stay.

The Diocese of Lake Charles serves a five-county region, three of which were severely affected by Hurricane Rita. Most of the damage was seen in coastal Cameron Civil Parish, which included 200 miles of destruction that left 10,000 people without homes. Eight of the diocese's 38 parishes were either heavily damaged or destroyed.

"You walk around and see debris where there used to be houses," Graham says. "Even finding the debris of your home is nearly impossible."

What is visible are the blue tarps people now use as roofs, Graham says, and evident is the stench of gas and sanitation backup.

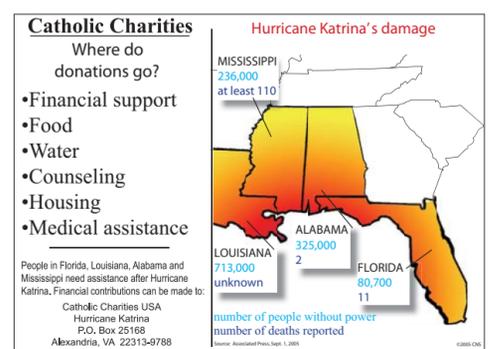
Catholic Charities USA contacted the Erie Diocese specifically to help organize parish volunteers and parish social ministry programs. Graham volunteered. What she found out when she got there is that recovery efforts are not yet at the point where they are ready to develop parish programs.

She then spent her time writing more than \$2 million in grant applications and came up with a distribution plan for what they had already received. She returned Jan. 17 for a two-week stay. On this trip, she'll write a distribution

plan for the newly received grants as well as conduct disaster response training.

Recently a group from the Erie Diocese visited Long Beach, Miss., located in the Biloxi Diocese, Jan. 2-9. The trip, organized by Tabor Lutheran Church in Kane, included people from St. Callistus Parish, Kane; St. Anthony Parish, Sheffield; and St. Bernard Parish, Bradford.

The volunteers spent their time working at a site that houses a free medical clinic, food pantry and clothing store that sees about 1,000 a day. Their time was also spent clearing



trees and debris and removing wet drywall, old appliances and roofing.

One of the things the volunteers got to do was

unload items collected and sent by the Meadville Area Catholic Youth Ministry.

"A lot of people are depressed, just seeing debris around you all the time," says Fr. Phil Pinczewski, pastor of St. Callistus Parish, who went on the trip. "The thing that impressed me was that people we didn't know were just saying, 'Thank you for coming.' They know that people are there to help."

Fr. Phil celebrated first Friday Mass Jan. 6 at St. Paul Parish in Long Beach amid folding chairs and a concrete floor. The coastal church, which was destroyed by Hurricane Rita, is merging with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish located several miles inland. The new parish will be renamed Holy Family.

"We're going to try to develop a relationship between their parish and St. Callistus," Fr. Phil says. "A lot of people that went on this trip want to go back."



Photo by CNS

Picking up the pieces: Delores Koenig, left, and daughter Kelsey stand on their front porch as they react to their destroyed possessions while returning to their flooded home in Chauvin, La., Sept. 27. The town was flooded with up to 5 feet of water when Hurricane Rita's storm surge swamped the local levees.

U.S.

Catholic school students collect \$1 million for hurricane victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Children in Catholic schools and religious education programs across the country raised more than \$1 million to assist students affected by the Gulf Coast hurricanes. The money was raised through *Child to Child: A Catholic Campaign to Aid Education*, sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association. The campaign collected dollar contributions from students to help children in areas ravaged by the storms and areas impacted by large numbers of evacuee students. Through Dec. 2 the contributions totaled \$1.04 million from 1,254 schools and religious education programs.

Generosity follows Christmas Eve theft of collection money

EDISON, N.J. (CNS) — The Christmas Eve theft of about \$10,000 in cash and checks from a collection basket at Guardian Angels Church in Edison has prompted a wave of Christian compassion and generosity. "It's amazing. In today's mail somebody sent a check from upstate New York and people have been coming by who have heard about it on the TV and radio," said Msgr. James P. Moran, pastor of Guardian Angels. "One of the local banks has been gracious and waived the fee for canceling checks," he added. "They are not charging for checks stolen from that collection." The money was taken from the collection basket after the 4 p.m. Mass as Msgr. Moran was saying goodbye to worshippers at the front door. The basket had been routinely brought to the altar with the Communion gifts because it is the parishioners' tithing gifts to the Lord, Msgr. Moran said. "We will change that," he said.

WORLD

Pope meets with immigrant families served by Vatican clinic



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating the feast of the Holy Family with families from almost a dozen countries, Pope Benedict XVI asked them to join him in praying for families in difficulty, especially those who are far from their homelands. The pope Dec. 30 visited the Vatican's St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic staffed by volunteers that serves mainly immigrants. Afterward, in the movie theater of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, he met with families who use the clinic and with the volunteers who staff it. In his short speech, the pope said that, while the modern emphasis on the love of a man and a woman and their free choice to marry is an important aspect of marriage, too many people find it difficult today to understand "the value of the call to collaborate with God in procreating human life."

Philippine priest turns poor parishioners into tech-savvy e-traders

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Divine Word Father Benigno Beltran talks about bandwidth, e-trading and income streams with the ease of a Silicon Valley technophile, yet the ever-present smell of burning garbage betrays his surroundings. Father Beltran is pastor of Manila's Parish of the Risen Christ, a congregation of scavengers who live alongside Smokey Mountain, the Philippine capital's legendary — and ever smoldering — garbage dump. Father Beltran, who has lived among his parishioners for 27 years, knows their desperate marginalization, so he is aggressively pushing a high-tech solution to their poverty. "Globalization is only antagonistic to those who aren't prepared for it," said Father Beltran, who was born on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. "If the poor are unprepared, if they're still linked to the industrial age when we're living in the cybernetic age, then globalization won't benefit them. So it's the responsibility of the church and civil society to ready the poor. We shouldn't hold back the march of history. Our faith tells us to move from the garden to the heavenly city."



Online in Manila: Children who live beside Smokey Mountain, a giant garbage dump in Manila, Philippines, learn how to use computers in this July photo.

Giant statue of Jesus nears installation



75-foot statue: Workers prepare to move a giant statue of Jesus as it is installed on a hilltop overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Rosarito, Mexico.

ROSARITA, Mexico (CNS) — A giant statue of Jesus will soon stand on a hilltop overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The 75-foot-high statue, made of thick fiberglass and reinforced with metal, weighs more than 15 tons and took almost six years to build. Workers were in the final stages of lifting the statue off the ground and placing it over a metal frame, which will then be raised on top of a small domed chapel. The land and money for the statue and chapel were donated by Antonio Pequeno, a Rosarito resident.

PEOPLE

Pope to visit Bavaria in September

MUNICH, Germany (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will visit his home state of Bavaria in September, said a statement from the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. The statement said the visit would probably occur between Sept. 10 and 15 and would include stops in Munich, Regensburg, Altotting and Markt am Inn, the pope's hometown, and might include stops in Freising and Pentling. The statement added that the final details of the visit would be released by the Vatican a few weeks before the trip. It will be Pope Benedict's first visit to his home state since he was elected pope in April.

West Virginia priest kept vigil with miners' families in tragedy

SAGO, W.Va. (CNS) — When Father Andy Kranyc heard the news of the Jan. 2 explosion at the Sago Coal Mine in Upshur County which trapped 13 coal miners 260 feet underground, he immediately left to be there for the families. "When I heard about it, I just went out there to see if I could help," Father Kranyc said. As the son and grandson of Pennsylvania coal miners, Father Kranyc knew well the dangers of the coal mining industry and wanted to be present for the families as they waited to hear the fate of their loved ones. Upon his arrival he learned that three of the miners were from his community of Philippi, roughly 25 miles from Sago, where he is pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish. Father Kranyc stayed with the families through the duration of the ordeal, leaving only for a few hours. He was with them late in the evening on Jan. 3 in the Sago Baptist Church when they were told that 12 of the 13 miners were alive. Father Kranyc said it was difficult to watch the jubilation of the families dissolve into overwhelming grief, despair and disbelief when they learned that all but one of the miners were found dead.



Candlelight vigil: A man breaks down while speaking to several hundred people during a Jan. 4 candlelight vigil at the Sago Baptist Church in Tallmansville, W.Va.

By the Way...

Internationally renowned Catholic lecturer and apologist **Dr. Scott Hahn** will visit **St. George Parish** in Erie for a one-day speaking engagement May 6. Hahn will deliver a series of three talks focusing on the Eucharist and the Scriptural roots of the Catholic faith. The event will be open to the general public, however, details regarding times and ticket prices have yet to be finalized. Look for that information in the coming weeks. Hahn's visit is being organized by the parish's adult study group.



Jason Koshinskie

"The purpose of our inviting Dr. Hahn is exclusively evangelization," says **Fr. Chris Singer**, parochial vicar at St. George. The event is not a fundraiser. "We simply wish to help deepen our own faith and to invite back those who may still be seriously questioning our Catholic faith," he says.

Hahn last visited the diocese in April for a successful fundraising event at Grove City College, his alma mater. He is a professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and is the founder and director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. His latest book, titled *Letter and Spirit*, is a follow-up to his bestseller *The Lamb's Supper*, which explores the complex relationship between the Bible and the Catholic liturgy. For more information about Hahn, visit www.scotthahn.com.

The **Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association (PCHA)** has announced its new board of directors. **C. Angela Bontempo**, president and CEO of St. Vincent Health System in Erie will serve as the vice-chairperson for 2006. **Sister Phyllis McCracken**, SSJ, president and CEO of St. Mary's Home, will also serve as a board member.

PCHA provides support for the Catholic health ministry through Gospel witness in advocacy, communication, education and united action and makes policy recommendations to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. For more about PCHA, log on to www.pacatholic.org.

The next **First Friday Erie** celebration is scheduled for Feb. 3 at Gannon University's Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel. Mass is at 7:30 a.m. followed by a light continental breakfast. The speaker this month is **Msgr. John Hagerty**, whose topic is titled *Bless Me, Father, for I Have Sinned: The State of the Sacrament of Reconciliation—What's Happened?*

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

Pope John Paul II's would-be assassin freed from Turkish prison

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Turkish terrorist who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in a failed 1981 assassination attempt was freed on parole from a Turkish prison Jan. 12. Since his extradition from Italy to Turkey in 2000, Mehmet Ali Agca served five years of a 10-year sentence for the 1979 murder of a Turkish journalist and two robberies the same year. But a Turkish court said Agca had completed his prison term and could be released, according to reports by the country's semiofficial Anatolia news agency. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, commenting on "the news of the possible freedom of Ali Agca" in a Jan. 8 press release, said the decision to release Agca should be up to the Turkish courts. Concerning issues of "a judicial nature," the Vatican "submits to the decisions of the tribunals involved in this matter," the statement said. Agca, 48, had served 19 years in an Italian prison for his May 13, 1981, assassination attempt on Pope John Paul in St. Peter's Square.



Mehmet Ali Agca

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"God surely loves the countless poor better than he loves us, unless we love them."
Mother Mary Alphonsa

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Up to 28 more U.S. bishops could retire for age reasons in 2006

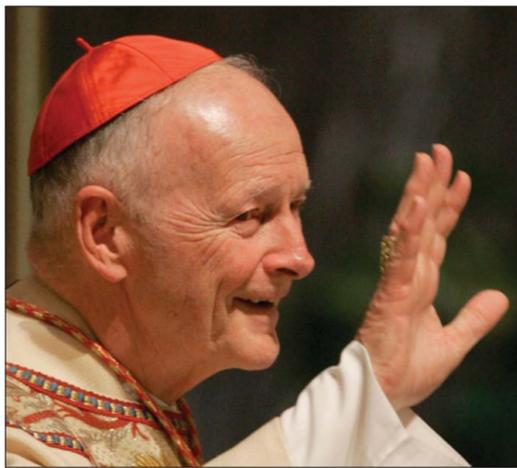
By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Following the Jan. 3 retirement of Ukrainian Bishop Basil H. Losten of Stamford, Conn., up to 28 other U.S. bishops, including five cardinals, could retire because of age this year.

There are 14 still-active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Fourteen more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2006.

At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Bishop Losten turned 75 last May 11.

Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, 78, who has been in Vatican service since 1990, has been the oldest active U.S. cardinal since July 2003. The former bishop of Gaylord, Mich., and former archbishop of Detroit turned 75 Sept. 14, 2002. In Vatican service since 1990, he is president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State.



Nearing retirement: Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington is one of 14 still-active U.S. bishops who have already reached the retirement age of 75. Fourteen more will turn 75 in 2006.

In 2005 Cardinals Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington turned 75.

Cardinal Maida, whose birthday is March 18, was bishop

op of Green Bay, Wis., before he was made archbishop of Detroit in 1990.

Cardinal McCarrick, whose birthday is July 7, was bishop of Metuchen, N.J., and archbishop

of Newark, N.J., before he was named to head the Washington Archdiocese in 2000.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore will be 75 March 4, 2006. Formerly bishop of Harrisburg, Pa., he has been archbishop of Baltimore since 1989.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome, will be 75 Nov. 4, 2006. A former bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., he was archbishop of Boston from 1984 until his resignation in 2002 in the wake of the clergy sex abuse scandal there. He was named to his Rome post in 2004.

Pope John Paul II often asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. So far Pope Benedict XVI has given no indication that he will change that practice. Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

U.S. bishops at or nearing retirement age

The 11 other active U.S. bishops who are already 75 and the dates of their 75th birthday are:

- Ruthenian Bishop Andrew Pataki of Passaic, N.J., Aug. 30, 2002.
- Bishop Manuel Batakian of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics, Nov. 5, 2004.
- Auxiliary Bishop John P. Boles of Boston, Jan. 21, 2005.
- Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit, Jan. 26, 2005.
- Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, N.C., April 1, 2005.
- Bishop William E. Franklin of Davenport, Iowa, May 3, 2005.
- Bishop John J. Leibrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., Aug. 8, 2005.
- Bishop Sylvester D. Ryan of Monterey, Calif., Sept. 3, 2005.
- Bishop Carl F. Mengeling of Lansing, Mich., Oct. 22, 2005.
- Bishop Raphael M. Fliss of Superior, Wis., Oct. 25, 2005.
- Auxiliary Bishop Dominic Carmon of New Orleans, Dec. 13, 2005.

The currently active bishops who will turn 75 in 2006, in addition to Cardinals Keeler and Law, are:

- Jan. 25: Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston.
- March 22: Auxiliary Bishop Robert W. Donnelly of Toledo, Ohio.
- May 1: Auxiliary Bishop Emil A. Wcela of Rockville Centre, N.Y.
- June 21: Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill.
- July 14: Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, Ky.
- July 15: Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas.
- Aug. 14: Auxiliary Bishop Robert A. Brucato of New York.
- Sept. 9: Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto of Galveston-Houston.
- Sept. 21: Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala.
- Sept. 29: Bishop Victor Balke of Crookston, Minn.
- Oct. 2: Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo, Texas.
- Oct. 22: Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La.

Report: 26 missionaries murdered in 2005

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Although many of them were killed during robbery attempts, the 26 Catholic missionaries murdered in 2005 each died spreading the Gospel and serving the poor and victims of violence, a Vatican news agency said.

Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, published its annual list of murdered church personnel Dec. 30.

The agency said its tally, twice as many as were killed in 2004, showed that one bishop, 20 priests, two religious brothers, two nuns and one lay missionary died violently in 2005.

In the 2005 list, Fides included a priest killed in Russia and one killed in Belgium. Although they were not working in mission territories, the Belgian, Father Robert De Leener, was included because of his work with immigrants; Slovakian Father Jan Hermanovski was included because of his work with the homeless in Russia.

"The list includes not only missionaries in the strict sense, but all church personnel killed in a violent way or who sacrificed their lives aware of the risks they ran by not abandoning their commitment," the agency said. "Some of them were found hours or days after their deaths, usually the victims — at least in appearance — of



aggression, robbery or theft perpetrated in social contexts marked by violence, human degradation and poverty, which they sought to alleviate with their presence and their work."

After the list was compiled, Fides received news of another murder. Ursuline Sister Clementine Brantschen, a 74-year-old Swiss nun, was killed Dec. 28 in South Africa. She was shot during a robbery on the order's property.

Among the missionaries listed by Fides was Notre Dame de Namur Sister Dorothy Stang, originally from the U.S., who lived in Brazil's Amazon region for nearly four decades, often provoking the anger of ranchers as she defended rural workers. She was shot several times in the chest and head Feb. 12; two of the five people accused of involvement in her murder were found guilty in early December. The other three, including two ranchers accused of ordering the killing, were awaiting trial.

The murdered bishop was

an Italian who had worked in Kenya for four decades; Bishop Luigi Locati, apostolic vicar of Isiolo, Kenya, was murdered in July.

Not including Sister Clementine, Fides said 12 church workers were killed in South America, two in Europe, eight in Africa, and four in Asia.

Holy Spirit theme of next three youth days

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — While choosing themes for the next three celebrations of World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI asked young Catholics to reflect on how the Holy Spirit leads people to encounter Christ, to love others and to go out to the world to spread the Gospel, said the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The council, which coordinates the local annual celebration of World Youth Day and organizes the international gatherings of young people with the pope, published the list of themes for 2006-2008.

The next international gathering, the council said Jan. 3, will be held July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia.

The theme for the 2008 event is "You Will Receive



Meeting world's youth: Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd as he arrives for the World Youth Day Mass at Marienfeld outside Cologne, Germany, Aug. 21. More than 1 million people gathered for the service.

Power When the Holy Spirit Has Come Upon You; and You Will Be My Witnesses." The quotation is taken from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

"Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet and a Light to My Path" is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict for the 2006 celebrations, which will be held on the diocesan level, the council

said.

In 2007, also on the diocesan level, young people will focus on the theme "Just as I Have Loved You, You Also Should Love One Another."

"The thread running through these three years of preparation is the link between the Holy Spirit and mission," the council said.

Clergy Appointments

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

Fr. Brian E. Vossler, appointed campus minister at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and weekend sacramental assistant at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, with residence at St. Agatha Parish, Meadville for a term of five years. Effective Jan. 16, 2006.

Fr. Mark A. Nowak, approved sabbatical to participate in the Resident Assistance Program in spiritual direction offered by the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, Wernersville, Pa. Effective Jan. 14, 2006 and concluding June 7, 2006.

Fr. William M. Calabrese, appointed pastor of St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, and Sacred Heart Mission, Genesee, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012. Effective Jan. 16, 2006.

www.erieRCD.org

The website of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

The following athletics schedules are now available online at www.erieRCD.org/athletics.asp

- 2005-06 swim schedule
- 2005-06 wrestling schedule
- Boys high school basketball CYO current schedules and standings

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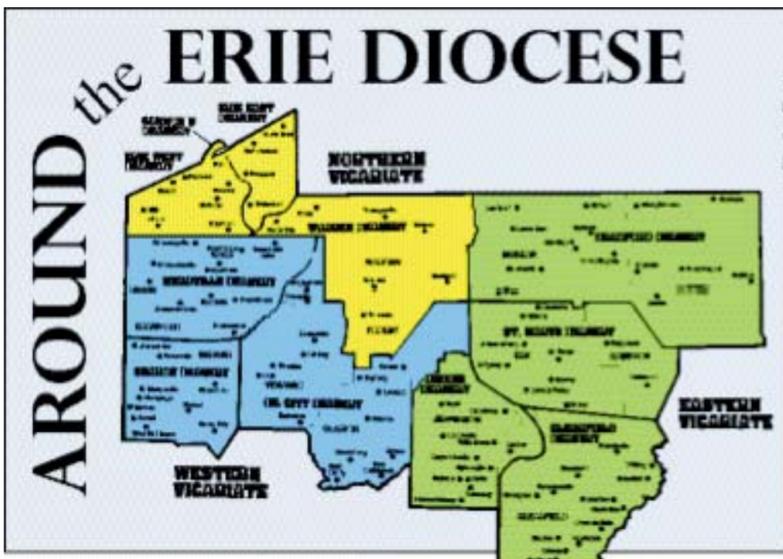
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Selena, 7 years old - Guatemala

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Parish correspondents

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

E-mail your parish news

Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to FaithLife.
FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Youth ministry holds live nativity

St. George Youth Ministry held a living nativity Dec. 21-22. Twenty-two youth members participated with goats, sheep and Banjo the donkey. The nativity received about 400 visitors for both nights and raised \$201.50 for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Fr. Chris Singer receives NFP award



Barbara Burkett, co-director of Natural Family Planning, poses with Fr. Chris Singer honored as Outstanding Promoter of NFP.

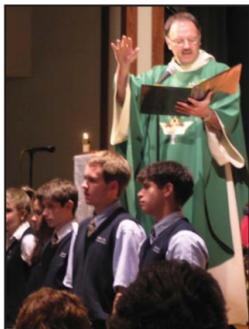
Fr. Chris Singer, parochial vicar of St. George Parish, Erie, was honored as the Outstanding Promoter of NFP this year at the annual Advent Volunteer Appreciation Celebration held on Dec. 11 at the home of Wayne and Patty Hepler in Cranberry. Fr. Chris assisted the directors, Ed & Barbara Burkett, in planning the Clergy Study Days in April, presented at the NFP Enrichment Day in November and gave talks on John Paul II's Theology of the

Body in Erie. Additionally he serves as a consultant on Theology of the Body to NFP teachers.

Guests at this celebration included more than 80 families and priests who generously volunteer hundreds of hours to assist in the promotion of the church's teaching on married love, sexuality, chastity and family life and teach the full course of natural family planning throughout the diocese.

Seniors complete training as Eucharistic Minister at DCC

Eighteen seniors recently completed training as Student Eucharistic Ministers at DuBois Central Catholic. This year's members were inducted during a recent school liturgy. Family members of each inductee were invited to the ceremony. Following the liturgy, a reception for the newly-inducted and their family members was hosted in the secondary library by the Campus Ministry Department.



Fr. Edward Walk, assistant headmaster of the DACS, is seen presiding over the ceremony that inducted student Eucharistic Ministers recently at Central Catholic. Pictured from left are Erica Philippone, Krista Spicher, Ryan Hanner, Matt Stoeck, and AJ Vetrano.

Installed as Eucharistic Ministers for the 2005-06 school year were: Alison Boyce, Hilarey Camuso, Ryan Hanner, Gemma Homer, Michael Kentoski, Elizabeth McMullen, Rebekkah O'Connor, Erica Philippone, Ian Pifer, Megan Postararo, Susan Rehermann, Cassandra Rokosky, Holly Shok, Krista Spicher, Matthew Stoeck, Francis Szczerbka, Albert Varacalco and Antonio J. Vetrano.

According to Becky Dutra, campus minister at DuBois Area Catholic School, this diocesan training also enables these sen-

iors to serve as Eucharistic Ministers in their respective parishes with permission of their pastors.

Christian rock band releases first CD



The members of Straight Ahead pictured back row, from left, Duane Golden, acoustic guitar, vocals; Jim Dzuricky, bass guitar, vocals; Brian Calvelage, electric guitar, backup vocals. Front row, left: Paul Aldridge, drums; Bob Malyuk, audio engineer; Doug Konzel, keyboard, vocals. Inset: the cover of Straight Ahead's CD *Lookin' Up*.

Straight Ahead, a six-member Christian rock band from St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie, has released its first-ever CD titled *Lookin' Up*. With 12 contemporary songs, the group puts a '70s rock twist on songs like "Grace Like Rain" from Todd Agnew, "More Love, More Power" from Jude Del Hierro, "Blessed Be Your Name" from Matt and Beth Redman and their signature song, "They'll Know We Are Christians" by Peter Scholtes.

The group has performed for Kairos Prison Ministry, Martin Luther King Center, Westminster Presbyterian and for the last two years at St. Joe's/Bread of Life annual picnics.

Lookin' Up is available at Hofmann's, Gospel Book & Supply and Beacon Books. For bookings or more information, call Paul at 814.825.4189 or visit <http://mysite.verizon.net/res1bbi6/index.html> on the Web.

The group is now working on original music and plans to release another CD this year.

Saint Vincent announces \$28.2 million in projects



Pictured at the groundbreaking are, left to right: project contractor, Cle Austin; Ann Loretta, SSJ; Ricarda Vincent, SSJ; Bishop Donald Trautman; Saint Vincent president and CEO Angela Bontempo; Joe Checota, chairman and CEO of Landmark Healthcare Facilities, LLC; and Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott.

Saint Vincent Health System in Erie has embarked on the first phase of a 10-year, multimillion dollar expansion designed to improve access to the health center, streamline the delivery of outpatient services and increase inpatient services.

Sound fiscal practices have resulted in an improved Moody rating for the health system, which has made the project attractive to investors.

Phase one of the *Landmark Project* includes a \$14 million, 80,000-square-foot office building and an 800-space parking garage, both of which should be completed within 18 months.

St. Vincent says the project will mean an economic boost to the region by providing local construction jobs and additional tax revenue while strengthening the region's second largest employer.

The health system also announced plans to construct a

new energy facility, add up to four floors of private patient

rooms and expand its emergency department.

St. Andrew Parish 'exploring options' for elementary school

Parents at St. Andrew Parish in Erie attended a meeting on Wed., Jan. 11 to discuss the future of its elementary school, which has been in operation for 75 years. The meeting was part of a process begun under the leadership of Msgr. Richard Sullivan, pastor, who is also working with faculty and the parish pastoral council.

In a media appearance on Jan. 12, Msgr. Sullivan emphasized

that no decisions have been made regarding the school's future, and that the parish has simply initiated internal discussions to explore options for its future. He said changing demographics were having an impact on enrollment, which has decreased from 150 students two years ago to 97 this year. The number of baptisms at the parish has also decreased to an average

of 19 each year over the past six years. Fr. Jay Schultz, diocesan vicar for education, and Kate Stark, vice president of St. Andrew's school board, attended the news conference with Msgr. Sullivan, in support of the efforts being made.

Working with the diocese two years ago, St. Andrew Parish converted some of its grades to multi-age levels, a move which

has been a positive experience for students and faculty. Msgr. Sullivan said providing access to a Catholic education for the children of St. Andrew Parish remains a priority.

No timeline has been established for reaching a final decision about the school's future, but additional meetings will likely be held within the next several weeks.

OBITUARIES

Sr. Bernardine Goebel, OSB, 94

Sister Bernardine Goebel, OSB, died Dec. 9, 2005 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie. She was born in Newark, Ohio, on Jan. 2, 1911, daughter of the late Otto and Otilia Stoecklein Goebel.

She received her early education at Immaculate Conception Parish schools in Clarion. Sister Bernardine entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie as a novice on Aug. 24, 1927. She made her first profession on March 27, 1928, and her final monastic profession as a Benedictine sister on Aug. 2, 1932. She celebrated her silver,

golden, and diamond anniversaries of profession. Sister Bernardine earned a bachelor of science in education by the University of Pittsburgh and the master of arts in psychology and counseling by the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.



Sister Bernardine Goebel, OSB

She began her ministry in education as an elementary teacher and continued as a high school teacher and administrator. Sister Bernardine served in several schools in the Diocese of

Erie, including Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, Sharon; St. Joseph High School, Oil City; St. Gregory High School, North East; Immaculate Conception High School, Clarion; Venango Catholic High School, Oil City; Kennedy Catholic High School, Sharon; and St. Benedict Academy, Erie. She served as a counselor and psychologist at Gannon University and at St. Benedict Education Center, Erie.

She was a teacher and counselor in drug rehabilitation and education programs at the New York State Prison, Long Island, N.Y. When she returned to Erie, she continued to serve at the Erie County Prison as a

counselor and tutored high school students.

Sr. M. Claudia (Irene) Mamros, OSF, 81

Sister M. Claudia (Irene) Mamros, OSF, died Dec. 24, 2005, at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Sr. Claudia entered the School Sisters of St. Francis from St. Mark Parish, McKees Rocks, in 1944 and professed her vows in 1945. During her years of ministry, she served in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Altoona-Johnstown and Erie and the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

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