

## Fast forward

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# FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 24, 2006

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Stephen



Holy Family

Dec. 26 St. Stephen  
Dec. 27 St. John  
Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents  
Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket  
Dec. 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Jan. 1 Mary, Mother of God  
Jan. 7 Epiphany of the Lord

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Jan. 1

“Called in the Gospels ‘the mother of Jesus,’ Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as ‘the mother of my Lord.’ In fact, the one whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father’s eternal son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the church confesses that Mary is truly ‘mother of God.’” – *Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 495*

This feast is not a holy day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday.



### World Day of Peace – Jan. 1

Even when faced with a potential terrorist attack or in the midst of war, basic human rights must be respected. Pope Benedict XVI noted in his text prepared for World Peace Day 2007.

“Peace is based on respect for the rights of all,” the pope said in his message for the Jan. 1 commemoration.

To read Pope Benedict’s complete message for World Peace Day, visit the Vatican Web site at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

### Feast of the Epiphany – Jan. 7

The feast of the Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi to Jesus and marks the end of the Christmas season. It is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas. In the United States, this feast has been moved to the Sunday occurring between Jan. 2 and 8.

### National Migration Week – Jan. 7-13

As the Gospels make clear, it is God’s will that the abundance of the earth be shared in love by all of his people. Reflecting on this spiritual imperative, Pope Benedict observed in his 2006 World Refugee Day message, “... those who must leave everything, at times even their families, to escape from grave difficulties and dangers ... [should find] the church as a homeland where no one is a stranger.”

For more information on National Migration Week or for parish resources, visit the U.S. bishops on the Web at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

## Clergy appointments

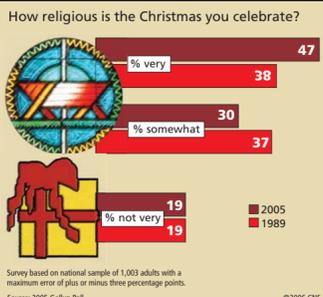


The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL, Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

**Father Anthony Anthappa**, granted the faculties of the Diocese of Erie as the director of pastoral care at the Elk Regional Health Center in St. Marys.

**Deacon William Sproveri**, appointed deacon assistant to Msgr. James Peterson at the Diocesan Lodge in Spartansburg for a term of five years. Effective Dec. 18, 2006.

### Meaning of Christmas



## Christmas is the assurance of God’s love for us

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Everywhere you look this Christmas you see bright colored lights. On every street you see outdoor lights, house after house draped in shining lights, Christmas decorations glowing in the dark. Windows and doors and porches all decked out with flickering lights. Crèches and Christmas trees and wreaths—Christmas decorations inside and out — beaming with sparkling lights.



Bishop Donald Trautman

Why all these lights? What prompts people to decorate and light up their homes? On the surface people would answer it’s the season of joy and love and gift-giving and friendship shared; but below the surface there is a deeper reason, a more profound reason. All those bright shining lights recall that Jesus the savior came into a darkened world. He came as the light of the world. He is the laser beam that pierces the darkness and shows us the way to holiness and happiness.

Sin had plunged the world into darkness, people could not see, they had lost their way; but then in the silence of a Bethlehem night, Jesus came as the *Light of the World*. He was like a laser beam that pierced straight through the darkened world into the hearts of people. His rays of love and new life

spread throughout the world and down through the centuries.

We profess in our creed that Jesus is “light from light,” he is “the way and the truth and the life.” At times we have turned Jesus, the light of the world, on and off; and yet darkness does not overcome him. We have tried to extinguish that light. We had tried to snuff it out on Calvary. Our sins brought about the crucifixion of Jesus, but the light did not go out. On Easter morning the light shined brighter than ever, and twenty centuries later the light continues to shine in the darkness. Born in the darkness of a Bethlehem night, his death and resurrection brings us a radiant new day.

Isaiah 9:1 recalls this prophecy: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” We are those people! And we see Christ living and risen in the Eucharist. We have seen a great light.

Perhaps there is darkness in our life this Christmas: sickness, loneliness, unemployment, divorce, alcoholism, breakup of family and friendship. We may be surrounded by different kinds of darkness both personal and global — the darkness of a world haunted by threats of terrorism — the darkness



The manger scene at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie.

of a raging war in the Near East. There is a growing darkness of secularism in the West and a rampant religious fanaticism in the East. And so we pray: Christ, light our darkness, scatter our darkness, show us the way to a new day. We need to hear the words of Scripture: “God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Christmas is the joyful reminder that in spite of our unfaithfulness, in spite of all the darkness in our lives, in spite of the trials and tragedies in our midst, God has not left us alone, God has

not abandoned us. A savior has been born for us, and that savior dwells in the tabernacles of our churches until the end of time. He is present to us in the Scriptures and in the sacraments. The risen Jesus, savior of the world, is in our midst, and he is the way and the truth and the life. He is our savior.

This Christmas there is no one without a gift. Did not the angel tell the shepherds: “A savior has been born for you?” We are all recipients of this divine gift. We all receive the perfect gift — Jesus the savior — the greatest gift ever given.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Christmas is the

assurance of God’s love for us. Sin and sinful habits can be strong but God’s love is stronger. Sadness and sorrow can consume our strength, but God’s love is stronger. Trials and tragedies can sap our spirits, but God’s love is stronger. Terrorists can attack and cause fear, but God’s love is stronger. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it. Rejoice and give thanks. It is Christmas, the birth of Christ, the light of our world. Amen.

— Donald W. Trautman

Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL  
Bishop of Erie

## St. Martin Center’s Shining Stars make Christmas bright

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Trenae Egan said the woman on the phone couldn’t find the words to express the happiness she felt when she found out that her son would get the new bed he wanted for Christmas.

“She was so appreciative,” Egan said. “He was growing out of the bed he has and she wasn’t able to afford another one. That’s a big purchase for a mother with a little boy who’s growing.”

Egan is the development director for St. Martin Center, a social service agency in Erie partially funded by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie and the United Way of Erie County.



Barb Letzo and Trenae Egan organize gifts for the St. Martin Center Shining Stars program. This year the program will provide Christmas gifts for nearly 1,800 children.

It was just one of the nearly 1,800 Christmases made possible through St. Martin Center’s Shining Stars program. The program provides holiday gifts for children whose parents cannot afford to purchase them. In 2005,

the center had a record year with more than 1,700 children signed up for the program. This year it’s even more.

Organizations throughout the area help by signing up for the stars. Each star has a child’s first name, age, sizes and a wish list of items they would like for Christmas.

“When people sign up for the program, we ask for gift ideas,” Egan said. “We try our best to make sure they get something that they asked for.”

St. Martin Center staff and volunteers have turned the former Holy Rosary School in Erie into “Santa’s workshop.” All the gifts from the Shining Stars donations are collected and brought there to be organized. Bikes, Barbies, Spider-Man figures and basketballs fill the second floor of the school. Most packages contain several gifts, including an item of clothing and a toy.

Fifty volunteers spent the Dec. 15-16 weekend organizing it all. Families who register for the program pick up the gifts the week before Christmas.

“We get hugs and thank yous,” Egan said. “They say, ‘We would never have had anything if it weren’t for you.’ They’re so thankful and appreciative of the program, and we’re happy to provide it for them.”

## Cardinal Rigali visits schools, speaks on church unity

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE – In his first visit to the Diocese of Erie, Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia, spoke about the unity between the diocese and the Holy Father.

Cardinal Rigali was in town Nov. 20 to confer papal honors on 62 individuals in the diocese. Bishop Donald Trautman invited him as a cardinal of the church to bestow the honors from Pope Benedict XVI.

In his remarks at the ceremony, held at St. Peter Cathedral, Cardinal Rigali spoke about unity.

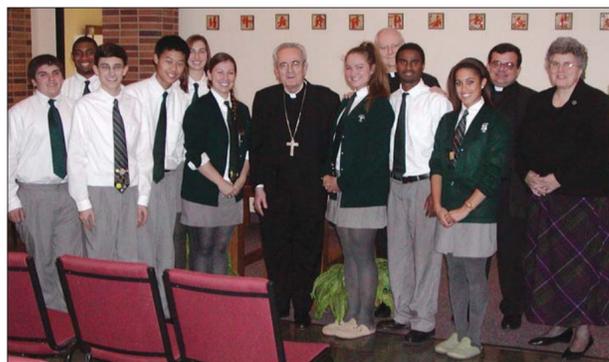
“There is a wonderful union that is made even more visible this evening between the church in Erie and the Holy Father, therefore the universal church,” he told the overflow crowd at the cathedral. “Because of these signs, these awards, we have seen this great aspect that belongs to the very nature of the church, our community, the body of Christ. We have seen that there is a profound union between this church, that means all of you dear friends united with your bishop, and the church

of Rome with the universal church. I am so grateful that I can be a small part, a sign of the unity that exists between the Holy Father and this church. We are one in Christ.”

He also talked about how the Erie Diocese and the dioceses of Pennsylvania are related to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The dioceses located in Pennsylvania are united under the archdiocese of Philadelphia as provinces with the archbishop serving as metropolitan, although there is no official jurisdiction between them.

Before the festive ceremony at the cathedral, Cardinal Rigali got a glimpse of the life of the church in Erie on a whirlwind tour from Bishop Trautman. His eminence visited Cathedral Prep High School, Gannon University and Mercyhurst Prep High School before meeting with the diocese’s seminarians at St. Mark Seminary.

“When Pope John Paul II would speak to seminarians, he would thank them for wanting to have an impact on the world,” Cardinal Rigali told the young



While visiting Erie to bestow papal honors to members of the Erie Diocesan community, Cardinal Rigali honored Mercyhurst Prep with a visit in November. He spent some time with students and posed for a photo in the school’s chapel. From left to

right are: Trevor Colvin, Jayson Nickson, Kevin Hirst, Dan Borgia, Autumn Anderson, Lindsay Paterniti, Cardinal Rigali, Alyssa Smith, Bishop Trautman, Kamal Sharif, Dana Macrino, Father Mike Allison and Sister Mary Ann Bader, RSM.

men. “He said if you’re going to have an impact on the world, there’s one thing you have to do in your mission above everything else: pray.”

While fielding several questions, the cardinal was asked about his favorite memory of the late Holy Father. He then recalled accompanying John Paul II on a pastoral visit to Africa.

While the pontiff was tirelessly giving of himself throughout the trip, it appeared he had become exhausted, the cardinal said.

“He was so very tired one evening but decided to go into a chapel to pray before the Blessed Sacrament,” he said. “Fifteen minutes became a half-hour then an hour. When he came out of

the chapel, he was completely rejuvenated. That’s what we have to do today. We have to nourish ourselves spiritually through prayer.”

On Nov. 21, Cardinal Rigali visited with retired Bishop Michael Murphy and the Carmelite Sisters at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery before returning to Philadelphia.

## FAST FORWARD

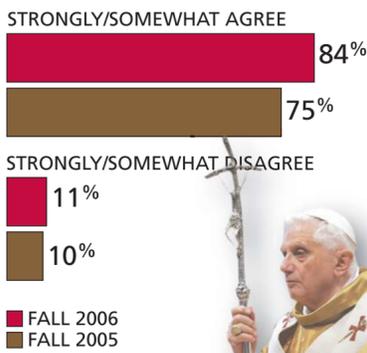
### 2006 saw acceleration of Benedict's papacy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The year 2006 saw an acceleration of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, highlighted by publication of the pope's first encyclical, four foreign trips and important appointments at the Vatican and around the world. For what was supposed to be a pared-back papacy, it was a busy 12 months. The world will remember the big events: the pope's November visit to Turkey and his prayer in the Blue Mosque, the earlier controversy over the pope's remarks on Islam at the University of Regensburg, his encyclical proclaiming the simple Christian message that "God is love," and his first consistory to induct 15 new cardinals. But most of the pope's work did not make headlines and

took place in quiet offices behind the Vatican's walls. On this day-to-day level, the pace quickened for the pontiff, who turned 79 April 16 — three days before the first anniversary of his election. During 2005, it seemed the pope was easing into office; in 2006, his daily schedule was starting to look like that of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. Pope Benedict held more than 700 private audiences during 2006, including some 360 "ad limina" meetings with individual bishops from dioceses on three continents. He gave more than 300 speeches or talks, celebrated more than 50 public Masses or prayer services and addressed close to a million people in his weekly general audiences.

#### Papal Poll

When asked if Pope Benedict XVI is doing a good job, U.S. Catholics...



Source: Le Moyne College/Zogby International Poll ©2006 CNS



## By the Way...

For the 12th straight year, WJET-TV 24 will televise **Midnight Mass** on Christmas Eve live from St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The broadcast will begin at 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. The half-hour segment prior to Mass will include an interview with **Bishop Donald Trautman** conducted by **Mike Gallagher**, special projects producer for JET-TV and the host for **Midnight Mass**.



**Jason Koshinski**

"By far, I get more feedback on **Midnight Mass** than any other project I do," Gallagher said. "In my 22 years in broadcasting, I get more mail for this than anything else."

The Mass broadcast reaches approximately 70 percent of homes within the diocese, which is made up of 13 counties in the north-west corner of Pennsylvania.

"People tell us that we have become part of their Christmas traditions at home," Gallagher said. "Parents that are up late wrapping presents tell us that the Mass and the music have become part of their Christmas Eve."

There is also a large response from shut-ins, Canadian viewers and inmates watching from area prisons, he said. It has also become a tradition for Bishop Trautman to make a special greeting to those viewers and welcome them to the eucharistic celebration.

Musicians of all ages will bring together the best of Christmas music at an Epiphany concert, set for 3 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 6 at **Holy Cross Parish** in Fairview. The annual concert and singalong features musical groups and soloists from the parish. An ethnic potluck dinner will follow.

**FaithLife** will skip one week and resume its regular bi-weekly publication Jan. 14. The new year marks the beginning of the third year of publication for **FaithLife** and **Faith** magazine in the diocese.

The **Erie March & Motorcade for Life** will be held Sat., Jan. 20. The motorcade will assemble at Perry Square and begin at 11 a.m. Those who arrive early will be welcome to gather in the lobby of the Gannon University Hammermill Auditorium (entrance on Peach Street). Gannon University Students for Life will be on hand to offer hospitality between 10:30 and 11 a.m.

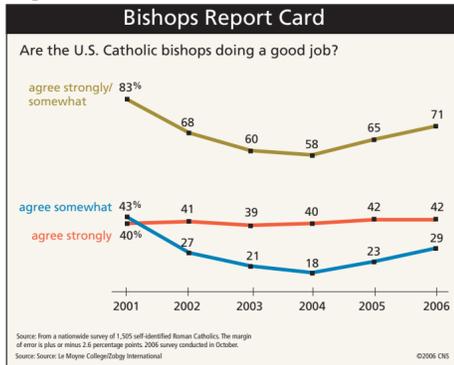
The March and Motorcade will proceed south on State Street to 18th Street, passing by the American Women's Service abortion facility before making its way back to Perry Square for a brief memorial service at the Gazebo. The entire activity is expected to take just more than an hour. Call 814.882.1333 for more information.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

U.S.

### Catholics' approval rating for bishops highest since 2002



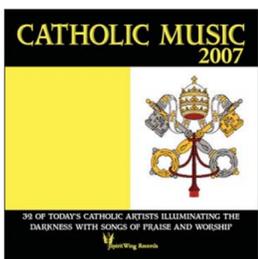
SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — The percentage of Catholics who think the U.S. bishops are doing a "good job" is the highest it has been since the clergy sex abuse scandal broke in early 2002, according to results of the Contemporary Catholic Trends poll conducted by LeMoyne College in Syracuse and Zogby International. In the fall 2006 Contemporary Catholic Trends survey, 71 percent of Catholics said they strongly agreed (29 percent) or somewhat agreed (42 percent) that "the U.S. bishops are doing a good job leading the Catholic Church." That percentage had been 83 percent in the fall of 2001; the U.S. clergy sexual abuse crisis erupted in Boston in January 2002. Later that year the percentage dropped to 68 percent and was as low as 58 percent in 2004. In late 2005, 64 percent of Catholics said the bishops were doing a good job. The latest survey results, made public Nov. 30, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. Zogby conducted telephone interviews of 1,505 self-identified Catholics chosen nationwide.

### Doubleday acquires rights to Pope Benedict's first book as pontiff

NEW YORK — Doubleday has acquired rights to publish the first book Pope Benedict XVI has written as the Holy Father. Bill Barry, vice president and publisher of the company's religious publishing division, made the announcement Dec. 12 in New York. The book, titled *Jesus of Nazareth: From His Baptism to His Transfiguration*, is written for the general reader. It will be published next spring. The announcement said Doubleday acquired world English, first serial, audio and exclusive Spanish-language rights in North America from the Italian publisher Rizzoli, which licensed international rights to the book at the request of Libreria Editrice Vaticana, the Vatican publishing house.

### New anthology of Catholic praise music hits store shelves

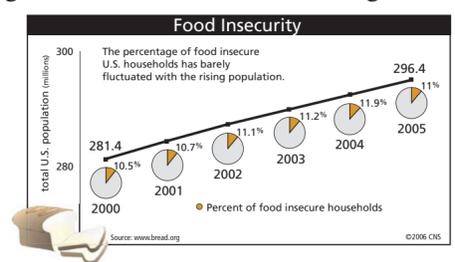
SIOUX CITY, Iowa — A two-CD set of contemporary Catholic music has been released featuring the contributions of 32 performers. *Catholic Music 2007: Illuminating the Darkness* was created by Gary Gersin of Cleveland and Mike Beloud of Los Angeles. One CD is music for worship and the other is praise songs, Gersin said. The worship CD features prayerful and meditative songs. The praise CD contains songs with a more modern, upbeat tone. The set resembles the popular *WOW* Christian music CDs released annually since 1995. *WOW* was the first recording put together by three major Christian record companies. Those releases include gospel music, children's songs and popular Christian music hits. A priest of the Diocese of Sioux City, Father David Hemann, is among artists featured on the Catholic music CD. It was released by Spirit Wing Records, whose Web address is [www.spiritwingrecords.com](http://www.spiritwingrecords.com), on Nov. 22, the feast of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians.



### Catholic Channel debuts on Sirius

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Channel debuted Dec. 4 on Sirius Satellite Radio. Sirius and the Archdiocese of New York worked together to create the channel. Its original Sept. 26 launch date was delayed because of New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan's recovery from Sept. 6 knee-replacement surgery. It can be found at Channel 159 on Sirius receivers. The Catholic Channel airs programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many of the programs are listener call-in shows, and a dedicated toll-free telephone line has been established to handle calls: 888.322.8465. Among the Catholic Channel offerings are (times EST): "Ask the Cardinal," Thursdays, noon-1 p.m. featuring Cardinal Egan speaking directly with Catholics around the nation on Scripture, current events and Vatican news, and "Busted Halo," weekdays, 7-9 p.m., hosted by Paulist Father Dave Dwyer, who was ordained in his 30s and who aims to reach young adults and teach them that nobody is perfect, hence the name "Busted Halo."

### Hunger: By any other name, it still gnaws at Americans' well-being



WASHINGTON — It may be irony — or it may serve a more useful purpose — that just before the feasting season that begins with Thanksgiving and ends with New Year's Day, reports are issued that detail the prevalence of hunger in the United States and around the world. "Hunger" is an easy, six-letter word. But this year in its annual report on Americans' access to food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture decided to use the term "very low food security," which brought scoffs from some and rebuke from others. The Rev. David Beckmann, head of the Christian citizens' anti-hunger lobby Bread for the World, told Catholic News Service he got no flak for his comments about it in *The Washington Post* Nov. 16. He was quoted as saying that "the proposal to remove the word 'hunger' from our official reports is a huge disservice to the millions of Americans who struggle daily to feed themselves and their families." The USDA study, released Nov. 15, showed that in 2005 35 million people — about 12 percent of all Americans — could not put food on the table at least part of the year, and that 11 million reported going hungry on occasion.

### Spirit of Christmas, more prosaic concerns motivate year-end giving

WASHINGTON — It's the most wonderful time of the year. That's what many of those who run the nation's charitable organizations might say about the period that includes Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as the end of the tax year. But Mark Melia, director of fundraising for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, thinks it is the spirit of Christmas rather than the thought of tax deductions that drives increased giving during the holidays. "This is the season that calls giving to mind," as Christians reflect on God's great gift of his Son to the world, he told Catholic News Service. To help others is "an expression of our faith," he added. CRS, the U.S. Catholic overseas relief and development agency, receives 42 percent of its total private donations during the months of November, December and January, Melia said. At Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Va., and its member agencies around the country, the Christmas season is both a time of increased giving and a time of increased need.

WORLD

### Vox Clara says translation of Mass prayers could be ready in mid-2007

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican could approve the new English translation of the main Mass prayers as early as mid-2007 if the work of its advisory committee proceeds as planned, the committee said. The Vox Clara Committee, which includes a dozen bishops from eight English-speaking countries, met Dec. 4-5 at the Vatican. Over the past

year, most of the world's English-speaking bishops' conferences have approved a new translation of the Order of the Mass, which includes all the prayers — such as the Gloria, creed and eucharistic prayers — used regularly in daily and Sunday Masses. The Latin-rite bishops of India, among the last to consider the new translation prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, are expected to vote on it during their January plenary meeting. The Vox Clara Committee has been reviewing the translations approved by the bishops' conferences at the request of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which must give its permission — or "recognition" — for the translations to be used.

PEOPLE

### Pope: Visit to Turkey unforgettable

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI called his visit to Turkey an unforgettable experience and said he hoped it would lead to improved relations between Christians and Muslims. The pope made the remarks at his noon blessing Dec. 3 at the start of the Advent season, addressing pilgrims two days after returning from a pilgrimage of dialogue in Turkey. The pope thanked the organizers of the four-day trip, including Turkish authorities, for ensuring that the visit was "peaceful and fruitful." He expressed his gratitude to "the friendly Turkish people" for giving him "a welcome worthy of their traditional spirit of hospitality." He said the visit was "an unforgettable spiritual and pastoral experience, which I hope will help produce an increasingly sincere cooperation among all the disciples of Christ and a beneficial dialogue with Muslim believers."



Pope Benedict XVI prays with Mustafa Cagrici, the grand mufti of Istanbul, as he visits the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 30. The pope's visit marked only the second time a pontiff has entered a mosque.



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## Serafin family featured in Faith

Watch for the January/February issue of *Faith* magazine coming your way beginning Jan. 5. The issue marks the first time the magazine has had an animal on the cover—Rosie the mule carries Mathew Serafin during a therapeutic riding session at Centaur Strides in Westfield, New York. The Serafin family has much to share about moving forward when life is not what you thought it would be,



Cover of Jan./Feb. *Faith* magazine

which in their case, began when Mathew was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

The magazine also provides a ground-breaking in-depth look at Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese, following through on information that has been published in recent issues of *FaithLife*. Using a question and answer format, the report addresses everything from "What is the overall state of Catholic education

in our diocese?" to "How are Catholic schools financed?" and "Where do Catholic school students stand in terms of standardized testing?"

All registered Catholic households in the Erie Diocese receive *Faith* magazine, free of charge, on a bi-monthly basis. If you are not receiving a copy, please contact Brenda Williams, circulation manager, at 814.824.1160.

## Runnin' Revs use hoops to highlight vocations

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

National Vocation Awareness Week is Jan. 8-12

It begins with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 8. We are invited to renew our baptismal commitment and to pray for the renewal and strengthening of vocations for married and single people and men and women to serve as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. For more information on vocations in the Erie Diocese, visit [www.eriecd.org/vocation.asp](http://www.eriecd.org/vocation.asp).



The Runnin' Revs (left), a team of priests, deacons and seminarians from the Erie Diocese, played the St. George CYO basketball team Dec. 3 as part of a program to highlight vocations. It was the first of three scheduled games for the Runnin' Revs.

ERIE — For Father Rich Toohey, basketball was a big part of his life growing up. Reminiscing about the pick-up games from his days as a seminarian, his voice becomes excited. Though that passion is eclipsed by his excitement in talking about his journey of faith toward the priesthood.

Now he's found a way to bring the two together.

Father Toohey has formed a basketball team of priests, deacons and seminarians — dubbed the Runnin' Revs — with the goal of promoting vocations in the Erie Diocese. The team is scheduled to play several parochial CYO teams of high school students. Each game will be followed by prayer, a presentation on the priesthood and sharing of vocation stories by the priests themselves.

"Basketball is a big passion of mine," Father Toohey said. "Sports is part of our culture, so we try to reach out to that culture where the young people are and at the same time, reinforce with them that the priesthood involves normal guys who come from all different types of life."

The first game was held Dec. 3 at St. George School in Erie with tremendous success. Parents and family members, St. George religious education students, Serra Club members and area priests packed the St. George School gym for the event.

The game itself was highly competitive. After exchanging leads throughout the contest, the teams were tied with just under a minute remaining. The Runnin' Revs had the game's final

possession, and Father Toohey's last-second jump shot from just inside the arc hit the front of the rim as time expired. After four eight-minute quarters, the teams declined to play overtime ending the game in a 58-58 tie.

After the game, participants and fans helped themselves to pizza and soda before viewing *Fishers of Men*, a 20-minute DVD produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to promote vocations to the priesthood. The program includes interviews with priests to find out what encouraged them to consider a religious vocation; what excites and gives them hope about their work; what has nurtured their relationships with God; and what they value most about their vocation.

short talks from the team of priests giving witness to their vocations and a question-and-answer session.

Not only did the program promote awareness of vocations, but it also provided a positive and healthy image of the priesthood and diaconate in the Erie Diocese.

"We can still talk about our journey of faith," Father Toohey said. "We can use basketball as a way to bring about a program of fellowship. It's another way to get young people to think about their call and for parents and others to encourage young people."

Father Toohey said there have already been a few conversations about bringing the Runnin' Revs to other areas of the diocese, including the Shenango Valley.

"I think there's some openness to continue it," he said. "I was familiar with the CYO program in Erie, and that seemed to fit the age that we are targeting. It seems to be a natural age that

we can be competitive with on the court, too."

Members of the Runnin' Revs basketball team include: Father James Campbell, Father Joseph Campbell, Father James Reardon, Father Stephen Schreiber, Father Marc Solomon, Father Rich Toohey, Deacon Jeff Swanson and seminarians Michael Rodgers, Patrick Wiler and Brandon Wiley.

"Having some of the newly ordained priests is nice because they're young guys, and the same goes for our seminarians," Father Toohey said. "It's a reminder that there are young guys involved in the priesthood. That drove home the reality to the other players that there are guys just a few years older than them who are considering the call to the priesthood."

Parishes interested in the Runnin' Revs vocations program should contact Father Rich Toohey at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage at 724.981.5566.

## Briefly

### Trip planned for March for Life in Washington Jan. 21-22

The annual March for Life in Washington is the collective effort of grassroots pro-life Americans to assure our laws protect the right to life of each human being. Travel with People for Life to Washington and join the tens of thousands of our fellow citizens who will take the pro-life message directly to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court on Mon., Jan. 22. Members of the newly elected 110th Congress will be watching closely.



Buses chartered by People for Life will leave Erie on Sun., Jan. 21 at 11 p.m. and return just a little after midnight Jan. 23. The cost of a bus seat is \$38. Reserve your seat(s) now by sending payment along with name, address, and telephone number to People for Life, Inc., P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. A limited amount of financial assistance for students and families is currently available. Call 814.882.1333 for more information.

### Secular Franciscans elect officers

ERIE — St. Peter Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) held its election of officers Dec. 5. The newly elected council members are:

David Green, SFO, minister; Carol Onuffer, SFO, vice minister; Paul Tarasovitch, SFO, secretary; Pat Lewis, SFO, treasurer; and Bob Adams, SFO, formation director.

Secular Franciscans are a community of Catholic men and women who seek to pattern their lives after Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Peter Fraternity gathers on the first Tuesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. in St. Peter Cathedral's Synod Hall, 230 W. 10th St., Erie. For more information, call Dave at 476.1100 or Pat at 459.0419 or visit the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order USA on the Web at [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org).



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## Bishop Trautman receives liturgy award

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

obvious choice to us."

WASHINGTON — Bishop Donald Trautman was the recipient of the 2006 National Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Liturgical Life of the American Church, given by the Georgetown Center for Liturgy, on Dec. 8 at the center's annual Advent celebration and benefit in Washington.

The award, which was instituted four years ago, is given annually to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the liturgical life of the American church. Past recipients include Father Walter Burghardt (preaching), Father Richard Vosko (church design), Marty Haugen (liturgical music) and Sister Katherine Dooley, O.P. (liturgical catechetics). The award itself is a pyramid-shaped Tiffany crystal.

Bishop Trautman is the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy.

"He has been a leader at a very crucial time in the progress of the liturgical life of the church," Father Lawrence Madden, director of the Center for Liturgy, said of Bishop Trautman. "Leadership in crucial times is something to be prized and celebrated. He was a pretty

presider and homilist at a Mass for the center's 25th anniversary celebration and benefit. In his remarks, Bishop Trautman accepted the award in the name of all liturgists who have worked so hard to promote full, conscious and active participation in the Eucharist.

"I believe our greatest chal-

The citation on the Georgetown Center for Liturgy's 2006 National Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Liturgical Life of the American Church reads:

The Georgetown Center for Liturgy presents the 2006 Award for Outstanding Contributions Made to the Liturgical Life of the American Church to Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, trusted leader and respected scholar.

With love, dedication and wisdom, you help to guide the American church in its reflections on liturgical principles and practices.

You exemplify what it means to be servant, pastor and bishop through your gentleness, presence and attentive listening.

Out of your own love for the Scriptures and the church's prayer, you inspire us to embrace the word and the liturgy as source and summit of the Christian life.

With deep admiration and heartfelt gratitude for gifts generously shared to nurture the worship life of God's people, The Georgetown Center for Liturgy presents this award on the eighth day of December, 2006.

challenge for the future is to keep alive the spirit and vision of the Second Vatican Council for liturgical renewal," he said. "Thanks to the movement of the Holy Spirit at Vatican II, a new beginning was made. We cannot forfeit these liturgical advances through a reform of the

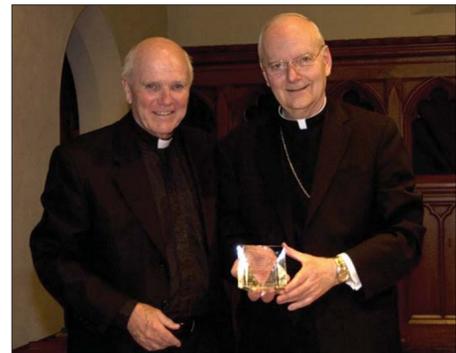


Photo by Scott Sullivan.

Bishop Donald W. Trautman, right, poses with Father Lawrence Madden, director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy, after receiving the center's liturgy award Dec. 8 in Washington. The center's annual honor is awarded for outstanding contributions made to the liturgical life of the American church.

reform. We need to revitalize the reform."

He then quoted Pope John XXIII's words that the liturgy must not become a relic in a museum but remain the living prayer of the church.

Father Lawrence Madden, SJ, director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy since its inception, said Bishop Trautman's episcopal leadership on the national scene has given guidance, hope and motivation to thousands of people working in this essential apostolate.

He recalled Bishop Trautman speaking years ago at Union Station in Washington at a meeting called to discuss the formation of what came to be called the Coalition for Catholic Preaching. "He said to all of us, 'Teach, teach, teach!'" Father Madden said. "That is what our mission at the center has been now for 25 years."

Added to this year's festivities was the celebration of the center's

25th anniversary. Founded in 1981 by Georgetown University and Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, the Georgetown Center for Liturgy (GCL) is an education, research and consultation center dedicated to transforming American Catholic parishes through the liturgical renewal initiated by the Second Vatican Council. The center provides resources and programs to the church at the parish, diocesan, regional and national levels.

The center's latest endeavor is the launch of EnVision-Church.org, a Web site dedicated to art, architecture and liturgy in the Catholic tradition.

"There are literally hundreds of churches each year that are being built or undergoing renovations," Father Madden said. "This is a way for churches to connect with artists and liturgical consultants."

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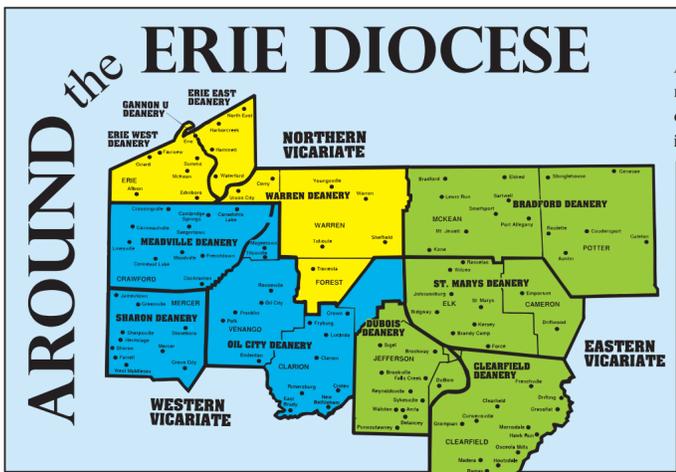
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**Harvest of plenty at St. Luke, Youngsville**

YOUNGVILLE — Pictured at right is the generosity shown by the parishioners during the fall ingathering held during November at St. Luke in Youngsville. Collected food items were donated to restock the Youngsville Ministerium Food Pantry. The easel board illustrates the four freedoms: to worship, of speech, from want and from fear. These freedoms provided the basis for preaching during the Thanksgiving holiday. Pictured are Alice and Darrell Harlan, Michael Stec, Dave Warner, Florence Schwab, Eulalia Fredrick and Rose McCanna.



**DuBois Central Catholic students write to troops**

DUBOIS — Ninth grade English students at DuBois Central Catholic High School took a letter-writing exercise one step further by composing a lengthy letter full of news about their lives in the DuBois area and then including their newsy letters in Christmas cards for the military. The effort was part of "Fan Mail for the Troops," a Christmas writing project. The students' cards were then sent to the Basilica of St. Michael in Loretto, Pa., for distribution under their sponsorship. These 10 students alone created 60 cards for the project. Seated: Dan Sawey, Joe McNally, Josh



Zimmerly, Will Gangewere, Philippone, Lauren Strishock and Alex Goldbach. Standing: Alex Welch, Sean Reilly, Monica and Sarah Boyce.

**Blessed Sacrament's Mission Auction raises money for Second Harvest**

ERIE — The fourth-grade class at Blessed Sacrament School organized the Mission Auction this year with all non-perishable food items going to the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry and money donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. The school collected \$538.50 and a lot of food items. The Mission Auction is a long-standing tradition at Blessed Sacrament School where students learn about stewardship and helping others in a creative way. Students donate items for the auction and sell chances on each item. The children also get one chance for every non-perishable food item donated. Pictured is second grader Noah Rose.



**St. Luke School takes first place in Presque Isle Coin Challenge**

ERIE — St. Luke School students were the winners of the 2006 Presque Isle Coin Challenge. In less than two weeks, students filled a 10-gallon aquarium with \$1,425.82. Not only did St. Luke School students bring in the highest total overall among the 14 public and private schools that took part in the endeavor, but they also had the highest per pupil contribution. All contributions will aid the Presque Isle Partnership located at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Topping off the 10-gallon aquarium are (left to right): Amanda Costello, Andrew Kapper, Katie Keppel, Kyle Carmosino and Hunter Bean.



**Sacred Heart BSA Troop 15 honors 43rd Eagle Scout**

ERIE — A Court of Honor was held for Eagle Scout Joseph Adiatori Jr. on Oct. 22 at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie. Joseph has earned 36 merit badges and completed a service project in which he planted several trees at the V.A. Medical Center. Since his advancement, Joseph has earned a Bronze Palm and a Gold Palm for continued participation with Troop 15. Joseph is the son of Diane and Joseph Adiatori and is a senior at Cathedral Prep High School.



**Annual Mass for deceased sisters and priests**

ERIE — Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated a Mass at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse for deceased sisters and priests Nov. 8. Members of Erie area communities of women religious, priests and members of the Erie Serra Club, which promotes religious vocations, attended. Pictured after the annual liturgy, from left, are Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ, diocesan vicar for religious; Bishop Trautman; Sister Christine Vladimiroff, prioress, Benedictine Sisters of Erie; and Sister Bernadette Bell, president, Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Erie.



**Lucinda celebrates feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

LUCINDA — St. Joseph School students participated in a Spanish liturgy on Dec. 12 in honor of the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pictured in the photo is the school's Spanish teacher, Senora Tatianna Karg, a native of Columbia, and her nephew, Brady Karg, who led the congregation in the recitation of the Our Father in Spanish during the Mass. Brady is the son of Walt and Pam Karg of Leeper and is a 5th grade student at St. Joseph School in Lucinda.



**St. Marys Catholic Middle School students learn about vocations**

ST. MARYS — Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, recently visited with the students of St. Marys Catholic Middle School to discuss vocations. Sister Clare Marie discussed the many different vocations one has in life. "We are all members of one body, the body of Christ and we each need to find our place or ministry," she said. Sister is pictured with Stephanie Pister, Savannah Kirvonyak and Michael Jacob showing how prayer and ministry are important in a religious community.



**Villa Maria Elementary holds 'Penny Challenge'**

ERIE — Students at Villa Maria Elementary School collected more than \$1,300 during the Student Council sponsored "Penny Challenge." Students had fun collecting pennies and loose change to help defray costs for the Sisters of St. Joseph's annual Thanksgiving dinner for the needy. Pictured are Villa Maria Elementary Student Council members Stephanie Warner, Ed Baxter, Conner Drost, Mary Wilcox and Lydia Laythe with some of the proceeds.



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