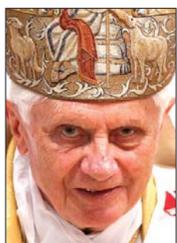


And the winner is ...

Pope Benedict XVI named top newsmaker of 2010, page 2.



# FaithLife

Top local stories of 2010

Bishop's anniversaries among the year's highlights, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

January 23, 2011

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Francis de Sales



St. Thomas Aquinas

Jan. 22 St. Vincent

Day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person

Jan. 24 St. Francis de Sales

Jan. 25 The Conversion of St. Paul

Jan. 26 St. Timothy and St. Titus

Jan. 27 St. Angela Merici

Jan. 28 St. Thomas Aquinas

### March for Life, Washington – Jan. 24

This year marks the 38th annual national March for Life in Washington, which coincides with the 38th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion.

### Bishop's Commendation for Service Award – Nomination deadline Feb. 18

The deadline to nominate someone for the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award is Feb. 18. Nomination forms are available on the diocesan website at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). Forms must be completed and sent to the nominee's local pastor.

Bishop Donald Trautman recently established the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award in recognition of meritorious and generous service to Christ and the church. The award also recognizes those who have advanced the spread of the Gospel in the Diocese of Erie through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

This award specifically recognizes that there are many who, motivated by faith, consistently give of their time and energy and have made a significant contribution to the church in some way.

Nominee names and information will remain confidential.



Bishop's Commendation for Service Award medallion

## Erie priest named bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

### Bishop-elect Mark Bartchak to be consecrated April 19

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

Msgr. Mark Bartchak, a priest of the Diocese of Erie, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Bishop Donald Trautman made the announcement Jan. 14 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie in front of a gathering of diocesan staff and members of the media.

"This morning I have exciting and joyful news to announce," Bishop Trautman said. "Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, has appointed a priest of our Erie Diocese to be the bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Msgr. Mark Bartchak, our judicial vicar, will become the bishop of our neighboring

diocese, Altoona-Johnstown."

The news was met with applause. At the same time, Bishop-elect Bartchak was in Hollidaysburg at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's administrative offices where his appointment was being announced.

"Praise be Jesus Christ, who is our hope of glory," Bishop-elect Bartchak said in his greeting to his new diocese. "I give thanks to Almighty God whose grace has brought me to this day and to this place where I have been called to serve the people of God as bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown."

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, located in the Allegheny Mountains of Central-Western Pennsylvania, has 94,000 Catholics in



Photo by Bruce A. Tomaselli / The Catholic Register

Bishop-elect Mark Bartchak is introduced as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Jan. 14 at the diocese's administrative offices in Hollidaysburg.

seven counties. There are 184 priests, of which 78 are active. The diocese has 91 parishes and operates three Catholic high schools and 20 Catholic elementary schools.

Bishop-elect Bartchak will be consecrated April 19 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. Cardinal Justin Rigali of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Bishop

Joseph Adamec, the retiring bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, and Bishop Trautman will serve as the consecra-

See BARTCHAK, page 4

## Gannon announces interim president, formation of search committee

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

ERIE – Dr. Phil Kelly, a professor of English at Gannon University and a member of the English Department faculty since 1968, has been named the university's interim president, effective Jan. 1.

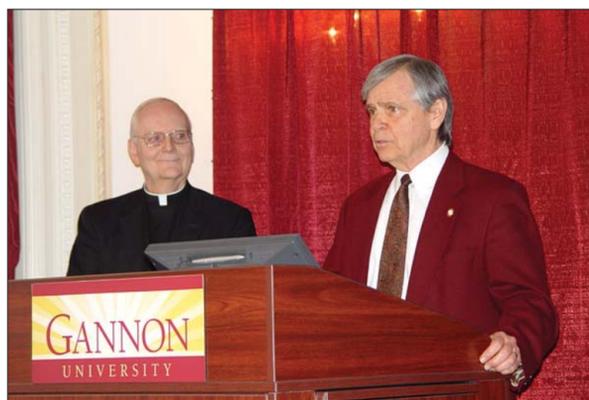
Bishop Donald Trautman made the announcement after a meeting of Gannon's board of trustees Dec. 16.

On Nov. 12, the university announced that Dr. Antoine Garibaldi was stepping down from his post as president to accept the same position with the University of Detroit Mercy.

"The Gannon University board of trustees is extremely appreciative of Dr. Garibaldi's nine-and-a-half years of service to Gannon University and has offered him a sabbatical so that he may focus on documenting his many accomplishments at Gannon and other scholarly activities prior to assuming his duties as the next president of the University of Detroit Mercy," Bishop Trautman said.

Dr. Garibaldi will begin his duties at the University of Detroit Mercy July 1.

"As a show of respect and admiration for Dr. Garibaldi and his outstanding contributions to Gannon, the board of trustees has asked him to



Dr. Phil Kelly is introduced as Gannon University's interim president Dec. 16 as Bishop Donald Trautman looks on.

be the commencement speaker in May and he will also be presented with an honorary degree," Bishop Trautman said. "He has graciously accepted."

In accordance with the university bylaws, Bishop Trautman, as chair of the board of trustees, appointed Kelly as interim president. The board concurred with the appointment.

Kelly has served in a number of administrative positions at Gannon, including dean of the College of Humanities in the early to mid-1990s. He most recently served as interim

provost during the 2004-05 academic year.

Kelly is not a candidate for the permanent position of president, the bishop said.

"Some internal candidates may apply, and this strategy levels the playing field for fairness to all applicants," he said.

Also at its meeting, Gannon's board of trustees approved Bishop Trautman's appointees to the search committee. The committee members include:

- Father Nicholas Rouch, trustee and former vice president for Mission and Ministry at Gannon, will lead the search committee as its chair.

- William Alford, trustee.

- Dr. Michael Caufield, associate professor of mathematics at Gannon.

- Tina Donikowski, trustee.

- Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ, trustee and Villa Maria College alumna.

- Tom Guelcher, trustee and vice chair of the board.

- Dr. Constantine Klioriys, trustee and president of the Faculty Senate.

- Tom Loftus, trustee and chair of the Enrollment Committee of the board.

- Mark Minnaugh, trustee and secretary of the board.

- Tom Panighetti, trustee and president of the Student Government Association.

- Msgr. Robert Smith, trustee and chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the board.

- Bill Springer, trustee and chair of the Advancement Committee of the board.

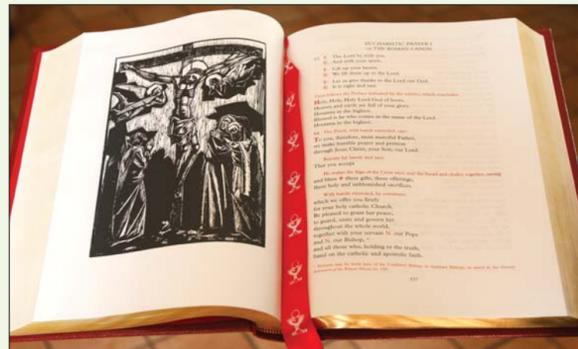
- Father George Strohmeyer, Gannon's vice president for Mission and Ministry and university chaplain.

- Atty. Jim Toohey, trustee.

- Linda Wagner, Gannon's vice president of Finance and Administration.

## The new Roman Missal

There are 309 days to the implementation of the new Roman Missal (as of Jan. 23)



Soon the new translation of the Roman Missal will be implemented in all the countries of the English-speaking world. This is a rich opportunity for us to renew our sense of mystery and awe, to deepen our Eucharistic spirituality and to learn more about this celebration that gathers us together weekly as the body of Christ to be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ.

The use of the third edition of the Roman Missal enters into use in the dioceses of the United States as of the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27.

Announced by Pope John Paul II

in 2002 and first published in Latin in 2002, the missal is the book of prayers used in the worship in the Latin-rite church. This includes the prayers used at Mass.

Look for this Roman Missal feature in each issue of *FaithLife* leading up to the implementation. We'll glance at its history, answer questions and examine the way we pray during Mass.

A variety of resources are available for priests, parish groups and individual Catholics through the diocesan website at [www.ErieRCD.org/liturg2.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/liturg2.htm).

## Catholic Charities offers new peer ministry to those grieving the loss of their marriage

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

Beginning this month, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie will offer a support group for people who are grieving the loss of their marriage through death, divorce or separation.

Transitions, a peer support group for divorced, separated or widowed persons, begins Sunday, Jan. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. This monthly support group will continue to be offered on the last Sunday of every month (unless it's a holiday). The group is open to persons of all denominations.

Catholic Charities previously offered a fellowship of divorced and separated Catholics. After much discussion and discernment among staff members, Ann Badach, director of Catholic Charities' Family Life Office, said they discovered that the need was far more reaching.

"We found that grief is shared among persons who have suffered the loss of their marriage through death, divorce or separation," Badach said. "In our research, we

found it was possible to have a successful ministry to all three of those populations because they do have that shared thread of grieving the loss of their marriage. The circumstances are different, but they share a lot of similar traits in that grieving process."

Transitions follows on the heels of a successful, one-day "Coping: Adjusting to Life Alone During the Holidays" seminar Dec. 5 at St. Mark Catholic Center, with 35 people participating in the event. Badach said the event was a response to inquiries about offering this type of ministry.

"This was a good time to reintroduce this ministry in its new form," she said. "The reason that it's a peer ministry is that people who know firsthand the experience of loss and grief in their life are best prepared to contribute to this ministry."

The faces and the people will change over time, and that can be a good thing, Badach said. It means that people are moving on in their journey of grief and their hearts are beginning to heal.

"There will always be other

people who will need this type of ministry," she said. "It's our hope that as this ministry grows, people will find within themselves the desire to give back by becoming involved in this ministry in some way—as

a facilitator, an assistant or a volunteer."

For more information on Transitions, contact the Family Life Office at 814.824.1265 or e-mail [familylife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org).

CATHOLIC MARITAL TRENDS are similar to those of the U.S. population as a whole.

- 53% of adult Catholics are currently married
- 25% never been married
- 12% divorced
- 5% widowed
- 1% separated
- 4% unmarried and living with partner

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

©2009 CNS

## May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II after miracle approved

VATICAN CITY – Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope Benedict's action Jan. 14 followed more than five years of investigation into the life and writings of the Polish pontiff, who died in April 2005 after more than 26 years as pope.

The Vatican said it took special care with verification of the miracle, the spontaneous cure of a French nun from Parkinson's disease — the same illness that afflicted Pope John Paul in his final years. Three separate Vatican panels approved the miracle, including medical and theological



experts, before Pope Benedict signed the official decree.

The Vatican said it would begin looking at logistical arrangements for the massive crowds expected for the beatification liturgy, which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict at the Vatican. Divine Mercy Sunday had special significance for Pope John Paul, who made it a church-wide feast day to be celebrated a week after Easter. The pope died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005.

With beatification, Pope John Paul will be declared "blessed" and thus worthy of restricted liturgical honor. Another miracle is needed for canonization, by which the church declares a person to be a saint and worthy of universal veneration.

### IN THE U.S.

#### ■ Bishops ask Catholics to pray for Haitians on earthquake anniversary

The one-year anniversary of the massive earthquake that affected a wide swath of Haiti gives Catholics an opportunity to stand in prayerful solidarity with the people of the impoverished Caribbean nation. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, chairman of the Haiti Advisory Group of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America, invited Catholics to pray and reflect for nine days using the novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The novena started on the evening of Jan. 12, the anniversary of the magnitude 7 quake, and ends with the celebration of Mass the weekend of Jan. 22-23, the date of the bishops' annual collection for Latin America, which includes Haiti. "Haiti and its people still very much need our prayers and solidarity," Archbishop Wenski said.

#### ■ Twenty-one U.S. bishops could retire for age reasons in 2011

Five U.S. cardinals and 16 other U.S. bishops could retire because of age this year. There are 12 active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Two cardinals and seven other bishops, including Bishop Donald Trautman, will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2011. At age 75, bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia turned 75 on April 19, 2010. Pope Benedict, like his predecessor Pope John Paul II, often has asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. 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. Locally, Bishop Joseph Adamec of Altoona-Johnstown turned 75 on Aug. 13, 2010. Bishop Trautman will turn 75 on June 24. Bishop Edward Kmiec of Buffalo, N.Y., will turn 75 on June 4.

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### ■ Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians and announced a new interfaith meeting next fall in Assisi, Italy. At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle East. In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a "despicable gesture of death." A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured. The pope said the attack was part of a "strategy of violence that targets Christians," and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. The pope also denounced the recent practice of "planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave." At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted in bombings Dec. 30, leaving at least 13 people wounded.

#### ■ Pope signs measures to guarantee financial transparency in Vatican

Pope Benedict XVI has instituted a new agency to monitor all Vatican financial operations and make sure they meet international norms against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The pope issued an apostolic letter Dec. 30 that established the Financial Information Authority as an independent agency to oversee the monetary and commercial activities of all Vatican-related institutions, including the Vatican bank. At the same time, the Vatican promulgated a detailed new law that defined financial crimes and established penalties — including possible jail time — for their violation. The list of transgressions includes corruption, market manipulation, fraud and virtually any activity that facilitates or provides funding to acts of terrorism. The new law, which reflects the latest European Union regulations, takes effect April 1. The pope's letter said the Vatican fully supported the international community's efforts to coordinate a response to financial crimes, which often involve more than one country.

## By the Way...

In an early report from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Vocation Director Father Steve Schreiber described Bishop-elect Mark Bartchak's introductory news conference as "very joyous."

"He had a number of poignant comments about his family. It was a very positive experience," said Father Schreiber, who accompanied our native priest to his new diocese. He also noted the bishop-elect's calm demeanor and the warmth with which he was received.



Jason Koshinski

While his coat of arms is still being developed, Bishop-elect Bartchak has selected his episcopal motto. "Christ Our Hope of Glory" will appear on the shield. The selection was inspired by Colossians 1:27 where St. Paul teaches that "God has willed to make known the glory beyond price which comes from the mystery of Christ that is in you," and reminds us that "Christ is our hope of Glory."

Information on farewell events in honor of the new bishop-elect prior to his departure will be announced at a later date.

January 14 will go down as a blessed day for the local and universal church. Msgr. Bartchak was officially appointed as the bishop of our neighboring diocese of Altoona-Johnstown by Pope Benedict XVI on the same day the Holy Father announced Pope John Paul II's beatification, which is set for May 1. Bishop-elect Bartchak met the late pope in March 2004 at his library in the Vatican. In a 2006 interview for his 25th jubilee, Bishop-elect Bartchak said he could not adequately express what a profound experience it was to meet with him. "It certainly left a lasting impression," he said.

In another tie-in for the local church, Msgr. Nelson Baker, a Buffalo diocesan priest, has cleared the first major hurdle on the way to being declared a saint. Pope Benedict XVI signed a formal decree Jan. 14 recognizing that Msgr. Baker, who died in 1936 at the age of 94, heroically lived the Christian virtues and is worthy of veneration.

Msgr. Baker, a Civil War-era soldier and grain dealer who became a Buffalo diocesan priest in 1876, served as pastor of Our Lady of Victory in Lackawanna, N.Y., for more than 50 years. At Our Lady of Victory, which is now a basilica, Msgr. Baker operated soup kitchens and a hospital, as well as homes for unwed mothers, homeless and troubled boys and abandoned infants.

The pope must still recognize a miracle attributed to Msgr. Baker's intercession before he can be beatified. A second miracle will then be needed for canonization.

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

## Haiti earthquake, Pope Benedict named top story, newsmaker of 2010

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – The devastating January earthquake in Haiti and the recovery and rebuilding effort that followed it topped the religious news stories of 2010, and Pope Benedict XVI was again the top newsmaker, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The debate over health care reform, which bruised both the American political system and the unity of the U.S. Catholic Church, was a close second among the 30 news stories on the ballot. Continuing revelations about clergy sex abuse, especially in Europe, took third place.

Among the 25 newsmakers on the ballot, Pope Benedict was the clear first-place winner. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, elected in November as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was second and Blessed John Henry Newman, beatified by Pope Benedict during a September visit to England, was third.

The poll was the 49th annual sur-

vey conducted by CNS.

Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were the continued problems facing the global economy and the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Pope Benedict, who has been the top religious newsmaker in the CNS poll every year since 2006, took first place this year for his travels to Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, England and Scotland; his continued efforts against clergy sex abuse as new accusations surfaced in Europe and elsewhere; and the revelations in a book of interviews he conducted with a German journalist.

Among newsmakers, Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, was fourth and President Obama was fifth.

Here are the choices for top 10 stories and top five newsmakers of 2010:

### Top STORIES of 2010

1. Haiti earthquake
2. Health reform
3. Clergy sex abuse, especially in Europe
4. Economy/recession
5. Gulf oil spill
6. Roman Missal
7. Same-sex marriage and related issues
8. Papal travels
9. Midterm elections
10. Chilean miners' rescue

### Top NEWSMAKERS of 2010

1. Pope Benedict XVI
2. Archbishop Timothy Dolan
3. Blessed John Henry Newman
4. Sister Carol Keehan
5. President Barack Obama



The Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti left 230,000 people dead and 1.5 million homeless. The country struggled with recovery and an outbreak of cholera.

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## PROXIMO TRAVEL 2011

**Holy Land:** April 7-17 / April 25-May 5 / May 16-26...  
**France/Spain/Portugal:** May 14-26 / June 30-July 12...  
**Italy Regular:** May 14-22 **Italy South:** Sept. 10-22...  
**Italy / Holy Land:** March 20-April 1 / May 9-22...  
**Italy / Switzerland:** April 2-14 / April 30-May 2...  
**Ireland / Scotland:** May 14-26 / July 9-21 / Sept. 3-15...  
**Greece Medjugorje:** May 4-15...  
**Tuscany:** June 30-July 10 / Sept. 8-18...

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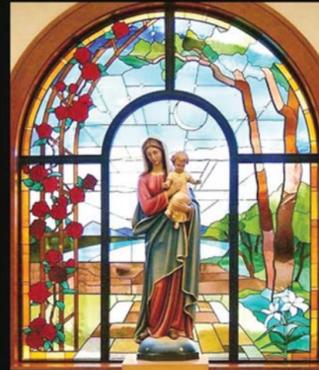
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# Top stories in the Diocese of Erie for 2010

In a year when health care reform and the Haitian earthquake grabbed the national and international headlines, respectively, the church in northwestern Pennsylvania also had its share of news and happenings. After poring over a year's worth of *FaithLife* headlines, here they are: The top stories and newsmakers in the Diocese of Erie for 2010:

## Anniversaries and milestones

A number of parishes, organizations and agencies celebrated anniversaries in 2010:

- Blessed Sacrament School, Erie — 70 years
- St. Joseph Parish, Sharon — 150 years
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie — 50 years
- St. Anthony Parish, Cambridge Springs — 100 years
- Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney — 125 years
- Erie Serra Club — 50 years
- Mother Julia Verhaeghe, FSO, foundress of The Spiritual Family The Work — 100 years
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania — 150 years
- Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage — 50 years
- St. Boniface Church, Erie, rededicated Feb. 14

## CSA and Catholic Charities Ball break records

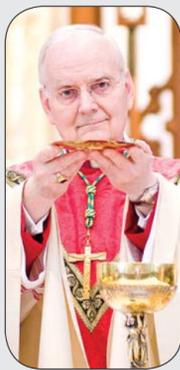
Even in difficult economic times, the generosity of the people throughout the diocese was clearly shown in 2010. The annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) netted more than \$6 million in pledges, making it currently the second largest annual appeal in the history of the diocese.

The 15th annual Catholic Charities Ball, held April 16 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, raised more than \$68,000, also a record. All proceeds went to families in need.

## Bishop Trautman's milestones

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving April 13 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie marking his 25th anniversary as a bishop and 20th anniversary as bishop of the Diocese of Erie.

Among the flock joining the bishop for the double anniversary celebration were 15 visiting bishops from around the United States, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, nearly 200 priests from the dioceses of both Erie and Buffalo, deacons, religious, seminarians, ecumenical leaders and lay members of the faithful.



## Helping Haiti

Parishes throughout the diocese collected more than \$500,000 to go toward humanitarian aid in Haiti after a Jan. 12 earthquake killed at least 230,000 people and left 1.5 million homeless. Collections were taken at Masses during two weekends in January.

One hundred percent of the funds were distributed through Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church.

## New vocations



In 2010, the diocese celebrated new vocations to the church.

On June 11, Bishop Trautman ordained five men to the priesthood—the diocese's largest ordination class in a number of years. The new priests included (pictured left to right) Father Matthew Strickenberger, Father Ross Miceli, Father Michael Polinek, Father Matias Quimno and Father Christopher Barnes.

Six men were ordained as permanent deacons May 21. The new deacons include Deacon Richard Brogdon, Deacon Fred Keck, Deacon Doug Konzel, Deacon Dick O'Polka, Deacon Rick Rueberger and Deacon Dennis Socash.

## New leadership at the Mount

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie elected Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, the religious community's 21st prioress May 31 for a term of five years. She was officially installed July 11 during a Mass and ceremony July 11 at Mount St. Benedict in Erie.

## Parish changes

The parishes of St. Adrian in Delancey, St. Anthony in Walston and St. Joseph in Anita were subsumed into Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney, making them mission churches of Ss. Cosmas and Damian. The move became effective July 1.

St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes in Erie came under the guidance of one pastor. Father John Jacquet became pastor of both parishes as of June 29.

## Arrivederci, Father Lohse

The Congregation for Clergy in Rome requested the appointment of Father Edward Lohse, chancellor of the diocese, to serve as an official for that congregation. Bishop Trautman released Father Lohse from his diocesan duties Aug. 4 and appointed Father Chris Singer as chancellor. Father Lohse began his service to the Congregation for Clergy in September.



## Cathedral Prep Events Center opens

The Cathedral Prep Events Center officially opened its doors Sept. 10. The multi-purpose athletic complex in downtown Erie is home for a number of Cathedral Prep High School's athletic teams, and will be used by Villa Maria Academy and Erie's parochial schools.

## Rural House of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy established a permanent presence of women religious in Jefferson County. Sister Margaret Park, RSM, and Sister Trish Tyler, RSM, opened the Rural House of Mercy at the rectory at St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville, to provide pastoral outreach and spiritual support and respond to the social needs of the people in the DuBois Deanery.

## Garibaldi leaves Gannon

Dr. Antoine Garibaldi, who has served as president of Gannon University since 2001, announced Nov. 12 that he is stepping down from his post to accept the same position with the University of Detroit Mercy.

During Dr. Garibaldi's presidency, Gannon's enrollment has increased by 24 percent and its endowment has more than doubled.

## Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate jubilee year

The Sisters of St. Joseph began celebrating an historic jubilee year of 150 years of service in the Diocese of Erie and the 13 counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Bishop Joshua Young invited Mother Agnes Spencer, foundress of the local community, to the diocese in 1860. She began her ministry at St. Ann's Academy for Girls in Corsica. The rest, as they say, is history.

## Elk Co. secures future of Catholic education

Elk County Catholic High School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary School System combined to form a new entity, the Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS). The result gives the St. Marys area a unified Catholic preschool through 12th grade school system.

# Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5

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# Erie priest named bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

BARTCHAK, from page 1

tors. Bishop-elect Bartchak, a noted canon lawyer, has served the diocese as a priest since 1981. During his 30 years of service, he has been a parish priest, a high school teacher and a member of the diocesan marriage tribunal. He most recently served the diocese as judicial vicar and head of the Office of Matrimonial Concerns. He has been a resident of St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie for almost 20 years where he has assisted with parochial work.

"I wish to express publicly my appreciation to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI for the confidence he has placed in me by appointing me as the eighth bishop of this diocese," Bishop-elect Bartchak said. "I pledge my fidelity to him as Vicar of Christ and the successor of St. Peter, as well as my resolve to exercise the office of bishop in communion with him and all the bishops of the Catholic Church."

He then acknowledged a number of people who he said helped bring him to this day.

He thanked Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, for his care and encouragement when he informed him of the Holy Father's decision that he should come to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. He recognized Cardinal Rigali, who presides over all the bishops in Pennsylvania as their metropolitan, for his support in the days leading up to the announcement.

"I have spent almost 20 years assisting and advising the Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop of Erie," he said. "I want to especially acknowledge his trust in me and the care which he has shown me as a father and brother."

He thanked Bishop Adamec for the warm welcome he has re-

## The file on Bishop-elect Mark L. Bartchak, JCD

**Age:** 56  
**Hometown:** Cleveland, Ohio  
**Home parish:** St. Monica, Garfield Heights, Ohio

**Education:**  
St. Monica School, Garfield Heights  
Holy Family School, Syracuse, N.Y.  
Bradford Central Christian High School, Bradford  
St. Mark Seminary, Erie  
Gannon University, Erie  
Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y.  
Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

**Ordained:**  
May 15, 1981 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

**Deacon assignment:**  
St. Joseph, Warren

**Parochial vicar:**  
St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield  
St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway

**Sacramental assistant:**  
St. James, Erie  
St. Boniface, Erie  
St. Stanislaus, Erie

**Priest in residence:**  
St. Stanislaus, Erie

**Diocesan office:**  
Tribunal; judicial vicar; director, conciliation and arbitration; Matrimonial Concerns; Clergy Continuing Education Committee; Presbyteral Council; vicar of canonical affairs; spiritual director, St. Mark Seminary.

**Other:**  
Canon Law Society of the United States, member and past president  
Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith, judge  
Visiting judge on various diocesan tribunals  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on canon law, consultant  
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, executive committee



ceived in his new diocese.

"In a special way I give thanks to God for my family," he said. "I am forever grateful for their care and support. I think of them and pray for them every day and I am strengthened by their continued prayers."

He also noted that he has been blessed by the fraternity of priests in the Diocese of Erie with whom he has served and by the co-workers in the various assignments he has been given, especially in the Office of the Tribunal.

"I wish to thank the parishioners of St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie, and especially the pastor, Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, for their prayers and kindness," he said. "I will always cherish having been a part of that parish family for almost 20 years."

Bishop-elect Bartchak said he looked forward to meeting and getting to know his new family in his new diocese.

"To be a good pastor, I will certainly need the continued help of God's grace and the prayers of all the people, so please pray for me," he said. "I will do my best to take to heart some advice spoken to me in recent days; to get to know the good people of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and allow them to share Christ with me as much as I am called to share Christ with them."

Bishop Trautman said the pope's appointment of Bishop-elect Bartchak is an honor and a blessing for the Diocese of Erie.

"A few years ago our Holy Father selected Msgr. (Lawrence) Brandt, then chancellor of our diocese, to become the bishop of Greensburg," Bishop Trautman said. "Now another Erie priest is selected to become a bishop. I see this as a sign of the very gifted and talented presbyterate of this diocese."

He assured Bishop-elect Bartchak of the diocese's prayers and support.

For the complete texts of Bishop Trautman's statement announcing the appointment and Bishop-elect Bartchak's introductory statement in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## DEATH NOTICE

### Sister Stephanie Campbell, OSB

Sister Stephanie Campbell, OSB, 87, died Dec. 9, 2010, at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie. She was born January 5, 1923, in New Brunswick, N.J., a daughter of the late John and Loretta Campbell.

She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Elizabeth, N.J., in 1942, pronounced her perpetual monastic vows in 1946 and celebrated her silver jubilee in 1968. From 1971-81, she was a member of Emmanuel Priory in Severn, Md. In 1983 she completed a transfer to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. She celebrated her golden jubilee in 1993 and marked her 60th year of profession in 2003.

Sister Stephanie received her bachelor's degree in English and

a master's in speech and drama from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

She began her ministry in education in 1943 as an elementary school teacher and continued as a high school teacher and administrator. Sister Stephanie served as an adjunct professor of English at Mercyhurst College (1981-82) and Gannon University (1982-86), both in Erie.

Her teaching career was followed by community ministry: coordinator of Mount St. Benedict Monastery (1987-89) and supervisor in the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) program at St. Benedict Education Center (1989-90).

From 1991-94 Sister Stephanie worked in various levels of administration at John XXIII Home, Hermitage. During this time she became a licensed nursing home administrator. In 1995 Sister Stephanie began writing "Vision of Change, Voices of Challenge: The History of Renewal in the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 1958-1990," which was published in 2001.



Sister Stephanie Campbell, OSB



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