

Traveling pope
In Spain, pope promotes pilgrim spirit, page 3.



FaithLife

By George!
DCC Middle School celebrates George Washington, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 5, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Juan Diego St. John of the Cross

- Dec. 4 St. John of Damascus
- Dec. 6 St. Nicholas
- Dec. 7 St. Ambrose
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Dec. 9 St. Juan Diego
- Dec. 11 St. Damasus I
- Dec. 13 St. Lucy
- Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Dec. 8 (holy day of obligation)

The Catholic belief that Mary was free from original sin from the first moment of her existence was promulgated by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the United States, is a holy day of obligation in the United States and falls on a Wednesday this year. Vigil Masses in anticipation of the solemnity are celebrated on Tuesday evening.



Retirement Fund for Religious collection – Dec. 11-12

Parishes in the Diocese of Erie will conduct the 23rd annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious during the weekend of Dec. 11-12.

Congregations of women religious in the diocese receive financial assistance made possible by the fund.

The collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRTO) in Washington, D.C., and benefits thousands of elderly women and men whose communities lack adequate funding for retirement.

In addition to those aided in the diocese, religious who serve or who have served in the diocese but whose institutes are headquartered elsewhere may also benefit from this fund.

The Retirement Fund for Religious benefits those women and men who, as vowed members of Catholic religious communities, have dedicated their lives to prayer and ministry.

For more information, visit www.retiredreligious.org.

Mass, dedication at St. Patrick, Franklin – Dec. 11

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 5:15 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 11 at St. Patrick Parish in Franklin and dedicate the new multi-purpose room at the parish in honor of Dr. Stephen and Marie Cenedella. Following the dedication, the parish will host a dinner for family members and guests.

An Evening of Lessons and Carols at St. Mark Seminary – Dec. 13

The public is invited to join Bishop Donald Trautman and the seminarians of St. Mark Seminary for an Evening of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 13 beginning at 7 p.m.

This reflective meditation on the Advent season includes music and Scripture. The program will be presented in the St. Mark Seminary chapel, located at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Clergy appointments

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

Father Stephen Anderson, re-appointed pastor of Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake, for a term of six years.

Father John Walsh, re-appointed pastor of St. Peter Parish, Conneautville, for a term of six years.



Garibaldi leaving Gannon University

Bishop announces national search for new president

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

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

Bishop Donald Trautman made the announcement to the Gannon community Nov. 12. At the same time, Dr. Garibaldi was in Michigan being introduced as the new president of the University of Detroit Mercy. He returned to Erie that afternoon where he personally addressed faculty, staff and students about his departure.

"This is a day of mixed emotion for me because I have come to not only love Gannon, but I'm passionate about this place," Dr. Garibaldi said. "From the first time I arrived on campus for a presidential interview in April 2001, I was overwhelmed by the sincere and genuine hospitality of the Gannon community."

Dr. Garibaldi will begin his duties at the University of Detroit Mercy on July 1, 2011. Bishop Trautman, who serves as chairperson of Gannon University's board of trustees, announced he has called a meeting of the full board for Dec. 16. At that time, the board will appoint a search committee and begin a national search for Dr. Garibaldi's replacement.

"We will follow a process very close to the process used when we selected Dr. Garibaldi," Bishop Trautman said. Thomas Guelcher, vice chairperson of Gannon's board of trustees, said Dr. Garibaldi is leaving behind a strong university, both financially and from an enrollment perspective.

"Any way you look at it, this university is in very stable, healthy shape right now," Guelcher said. "I am very encouraged by that fact which should lead us to get a strong group of candidates for this position."

At the news conference, the bishop cited a number of successes achieved during Dr. Garibaldi's tenure at Gannon.

- During his presidency, Gannon University's enrollment has increased by 24 percent.
- Gannon's international and graduate enrollments



Dr. Antoine Garibaldi

have also increased significantly.

■ *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Gannon as a top tier university for seven years.

■ Gannon's endowment has more than doubled.

■ A comprehensive campaign was completed in 2008 which was the largest and most successful fundraising effort in Gannon's history—

raising more than \$31.5 million in private gifts and \$8 million in foundation and government grants.

"I would like to commend Dr. Garibaldi for his emphasis on Catholic identity and the mission of Gannon University," Bishop Trautman said.

He noted that the university's mission and identity have been nurtured and celebrated with prayers before athletic competitions, a welcome Mass as part of the freshmen convocation, National Catholic Colleges Week and a Mass of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of every academic year.

"Certainly he has strengthened the bonds with our diocesan schools, and I'm very proud of him for that," he said.

Dr. Garibaldi has been actively involved in many community projects including the Downtown Erie Partnership.

See GARIBALDI, page 3

GETTING REAL

Youth rally focuses on issues facing teens, turning to Christ

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

GREENVILLE – The message was clear to every teenager in the church: God loves them and is waiting for them.

Nearly 300 high school teens throughout the Diocese of Erie met God in the messages of the speakers, the sacrament of reconciliation and in the Eucharist Nov. 20 at the "Let's Get Real Rally—Real Answers to Real Questions" held at St. Michael Parish in Greenville. The rally was sponsored by the diocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

"As Catholic teens, you have a lot to think about today," Bob Summers, youth minister at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City, said as he greets the audience. Summers served as emcee for the day's activities.

The initial event, a teen version of "The Dating Game," broke the ice with the crowd. Summers got three "bachelors" from the audience. To keep their anonymity, Summers suggested they use phony voices. The brave "bachelorette," who was blindfolded, was then led into the church.

After being asked how many children he



Father Larry Richards interacts with a student Nov. 20 at the Let's Get Real Rally at St. Michael Parish in Greenville. Nearly 300 high school teens from around the diocese participated in the event.

would like to have, Bachelor No. 3 replied in an English accent, "All of them."

"Is sex a four-letter word?" Father Chris Singer, chancellor of the diocese, opened his talk with a profound question: "What is the meaning of life?" He received some good answers from the crowd—"to spread God's Word" and "to know, love and serve God."

"At the age of all of you are, you are beginning to ask the question, 'What will make me happy?'" he said.

To begin to find the answer, he read part

See GETTING REAL, page 3

Pope Benedict XVI creates new cardinals

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI created 24 new cardinals, including two from the United States, and called them to be strong in spreading and defending the faith and promoting peace and tranquility within the church.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington and Cardinal Raymond Burke, prefect of the Vatican's supreme court, joined other new cardinals from 13 countries Nov. 20 in formally professing their Catholic faith and fidelity to the pope.

After the oath, all but one of the new cardinals knelt before the pope to receive a red biretta, a three-cornered hat, which the pope said, "signifies that you must be ready to act with

strength, to the point of shedding blood, to increase the Christian faith, for the peace and tranquility of the people of God and for the freedom and growth of the holy Roman Church."

Cardinal Antonio Negrino of the Catholic Coptic patriarchate of Alexandria, Egypt, received a new patriarch's hat with a thin red trim added to the traditional black veil.

Pope Benedict consecrated Mass Nov. 21 with the new cardinals and gave each of them a cardinal's ring, telling them it was a sign "of your nuptial pact with the church."

Rather than precious gems, the gold rings feature a crucifix, which, "for the same reason your clothes allude to blood, is a symbol of life and love" as demon-

See CARDINALS, page 2



Cardinal Raymond Burke



Cardinal Donald Wuerl

Bishops elect new leadership, pass agreement on baptism

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE – The 2010 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was devoted primarily to internal matters — the election of new conference leaders, discussion of how their own statements should be produced, budgetary and structural questions and information about how they can better integrate new media into diocesan structures.

They also affirmed an historic agreement to recognize baptisms in four Protestant church communities.

Public sessions made up the first two days of the Nov. 15-18 assembly, with the bishops spending the remainder of the meeting in executive session.

The last public action the bishops took was a nearly unanimous vote Nov. 16 to approve the preparation of a brief policy statement on assisted suicide, which they will debate and vote on at their spring assembly in June.

Before the afternoon vote Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the bishops' Commit-

tee on Pro-Life Activities, outlined the "increasingly urgent threat" posed by the wider use of assisted suicide in the United States.

The one surprise of the meeting came Nov. 16 when the bishops voted for new leaders of their conference. Breaking with precedent, the sitting vice president, Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., was not elected to succeed Chicago Cardinal Francis George, who was completing his three-year term as president.

Bishop Kicanas lost to New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan 129-111 in the third ballot of voting.

It marked the first time since the bishops' conference was reorganized in 1966 following the Second Vatican Council that a sitting vice president who sought the presidency did not win election. In two elections, in 1974 and 1977, circumstances dictated that the vice president did not rise to lead the conference.

"I'm surprised, I'm honored, I'm flattered and a tad intimidated," Archbishop Dolan said after being elected.

In a statement, Bishop Kicanas said he respected the

Meeting Highlights

2010 USCCB fall general assembly

- Broke with precedent to elect Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan as president rather than Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, USCCB vice president.
- Affirmed a letter from Cardinal Francis E. George to President Barack Obama urging greater U.S. efforts to protect Christians in Iran.
- Heard a plea from Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio for more chaplains to serve the needs of the military.
- Heard a review by Cardinal George of the debate over health reform and the "stimulus in the church's unity," caused by differences over the legislation.
- Approved new guidelines for support of retired bishops, setting their minimum compensation.
- Authorized the drafting of a broad policy statement on assisted suicide.

wisdom of his "brother bishops in choosing their new president and vice president. I greatly appreciated their expressions of thanks to me for my service as vice president." He said that being vice president was "a marvelous experience" and he now looked forward to focusing on the needs of his own diocese.

During the executive session Nov. 17, Cardinal George named Bishop Kicanas chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. Archbishop Dolan held the post but had to vacate it upon his election as president.

In other action Nov. 16, the bishops, by a 204-11 vote, affirmed the "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." It was drawn up over the past six years by a team of scholars from the Catholic-Reformed dialogue group, made up of representatives of the USCCB, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America and United Church of Christ.

See BISHOPS, page 4



IN THE U.S.

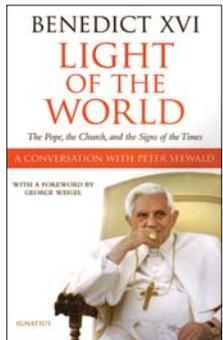
■ **State Department report looks at religious freedom around world**
Iraq, scene of a deadly terrorist ambush Oct. 31 at a Catholic church in the capital of Baghdad, did not make the list of eight "countries of particular concern" in the annual International Religious Freedom Report issued Nov. 17 by the State Department. The reporting year ended in June, too early to include the attack at a Syrian Catholic church that killed 58 people and wounded 75. The countries that made the State Department's list were Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The report said five factors contribute to the restriction of religious freedom: authoritarian governments; failure to address social intolerance; hostility toward nontraditional and minority religious groups; institutionalized bias; and the assertion by governments that some religious groups are "illegitimate and dangerous to individuals or societal order," describing the groups as "cults" or "sects" and "encouraging or implicitly condoning acts of violence against them."

■ **Crosiers Fathers, Brothers gather to mark 800 years since founding**
More than 500 people crowded into St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix for Mass Nov. 7 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Crosier order in Belgium in 1210. Among those in attendance were Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares and retired Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien, all of the Diocese of Phoenix. The Crosiers Fathers and Brothers, a worldwide religious order, have been serving in the Phoenix Diocese for 30 years and in the United States for 100 years. In 2007, the Crosiers moved their national headquarters to Phoenix.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **In new book, pope addresses sex abuse, condoms, possible resignation**
Pope Benedict XVI's book-length interview is certain to spark global attention, and not only for his comments concerning condom use. In the 219-page book, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times," the German pontiff spoke candidly on the

sexual abuse scandal, relations with Islam, papal resignation and the "threatening catastrophe" facing humanity. The wide-ranging interview was conducted by German writer Peter Seewald, who posed questions in six one-hour sessions last summer. The book, which was released Nov. 23, reveals a less formal side of the pope, as he responds simply and directly on topics as diverse as the joy of sex and the ban on burqas. Much of the conversation focuses on the pope's call for a global "examination of conscience" in the face of economic disparity, environmental disasters and moral slippage. Editor's note: Catholic News Service has published a lengthy and insightful commentary on the Pope's comments about condoms, which can be found at www.ErieRCD.org.



■ **Pope calls on laity to evangelize for social justice worldwide**
Pope Benedict XVI said that lay Catholics have a responsibility to promote social justice and charity in a globalized world often marked by injustice and inequality. Addressing the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace Nov. 4, the pope called for "renewed evangelization of the church's social doctrine." Lay people, the pope said, as "free and responsible citizens," are invested with "the

immediate task of working for a just social order." The pope made his remarks in a message to Cardinal Peter Turkson, the council president, as he welcomed council members at the beginning of their plenary meeting at the Vatican Nov. 4-5. He praised the council for promoting the formation of the laity through the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" and Pope Benedict's own "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), the 2009 encyclical that addressed social justice issues.

■ **Young people carry World Youth Day cross in Spain**



Young people carry the World Youth Day cross during a procession in Zamora, Spain, Nov. 13. The procession of the WYD cross and Marian icon ended in a dramatic service led by the local bishop in the town square. The cross is traveling throughout Spain in advance of the Aug. 16-21, 2011, international Catholic youth gathering in Madrid.

■ **Vatican preparing new guidelines to fight abuse**

The Vatican is preparing a document for all bishops' conferences offering guidelines for a "coordinated and effective program" of child protection and for dealing with allegations of clerical sexual abuse, said Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. During the evening session of a meeting Nov. 19 with Pope Benedict XVI and about 150 prelates, the cardinal spoke about the church's efforts to deal with the abuse crisis. The cardinal "made some observations about the greater responsibility of bishops for safeguarding the faithful entrusted to them," said a Vatican statement issued after the meeting. Cardinal Levada also spoke about "collaboration with civil authorities and the need for an effective commitment to protecting children and young people and for an attentive selection and formation of future priests and religious," the statement said.

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Schools in St. Marys are taking steps to ensure the future of Catholic education in the area. Elk County Catholic High School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary School System have combined to form a new entity, the Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS).

The announcement was made Nov. 18 by a transition advisory board. The board was formed at the request of the existing school boards and local pastors and given the task of reviewing and evaluating strategic alternatives for Catholic education in the region.

The result gives the St. Marys area a unified Catholic preschool through 12th grade school system. The primary local governance of the ECCSS will reside in a 12-member board, which will be chaired by C.J. Kogovsek.

Look for a feature story on the new Elk County Catholic School System in the Dec. 19 issue of *FaithLife*. Kudos to the folks at St. Michael Parish in Greenville for being outstanding hosts during the Let's Get Real Rally Nov. 20. The hospitality of Elaine Shearer, director of religious education at St. Michael, and her staff did not go unnoticed by the nearly 300 teens from around the diocese who attended, as well as youth leaders and visiting priests. The homemade meal of chicken, potatoes, salad and strawberry shortcake was appreciated by all.

"We were really impressed with the turnout," said Brandon Peterson, 18, from St. Michael. "We were happy to be able to have this here."

Peterson said a number of students from last year's parish confirmation class returned just to volunteer for the rally.

There were a couple of unexpected and incredible coincidences that made Dr. Antoine Garibaldi realize he was meant to be at Gannon University. Dr. Garibaldi, president of Gannon, shared them Nov. 12 during a news conference when he announced he would be leaving to become president of the University of Detroit Mercy.

Shortly after the news conference introducing him as Gannon's president in 2001, he learned from Msgr. Robert Barcio that the Josephite priest who baptized him in New Orleans and one of his most influential role models, Father Paul Downey, attended Cathedral Prep with Msgr. Barcio and was from Albion.

A few months later, Josephite Brother Tom Vincent visited Dr. Garibaldi's office to say hello.

"I had no idea Brother Tom was from Erie when I was a 20-year-old Josephite seminarian, but here I was 30 years later not only finding out that he was a native of Erie but served as Gannon's primary handyman until he joined the Josephite brothers," Dr. Garibaldi said. Brother Tom was Joe Luckey's best friend since the age of 4 at St. Joseph's Orphanage. He was also the person who told Msgr. Joseph "Doc" Wehrle that Joe could take his place when he entered the Josephite brothers.

"Well, Joe Luckey worked here for more than 50 years. And there aren't many people who don't know Joe Luckey," Dr. Garibaldi said.

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

Pope creates new cardinals, telling them authority means service

CARDINALS, from page 1

strated by Christ's ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of all, the pope said.

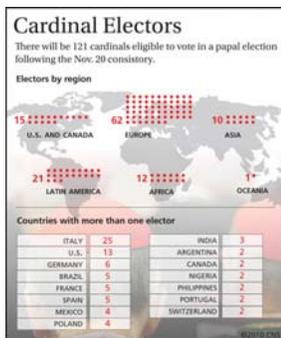
During the consistory Nov. 20, the pope assigned the new cardinals a "titular church" in Rome, making them members of the Roman diocesan clergy, which is what the church's first cardinals were. Cardinal Burke's titular church is St. Agatha of the Goths; Cardinal Wuerl's is St. Peter in Chains, the church famous for hosting Michelangelo's statue of Moses.

The consistory to create new cardinals took the form of a prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica.

At the end of the service, the College of Cardinals numbered a record 203 members, with 121 cardinals under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. With the induction of Cardinals Wuerl and Burke into the College of Cardinals, the United States has 18 cardinals, 13 of whom are under the age of 80.

Only Italy has more cardinals. With 10 new cardinals, Italy has a total of 48 members of the college, 25 of whom are under 80.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said that as cardinals "pastors who govern important diocesan communities with zeal, prelates in charge of dioceses of the Roman Curia or



who have served the church and the Holy See with exemplary fidelity."

Jesus' teaching that authority means humble service is a message that continues to be valid for the church, "especially for those who have the task of guiding the people of God," the pope said.

In Spain, pope promotes pilgrim spirit

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

BARCELONA, Spain — Pope Benedict XVI warned countries of the danger of no longer being at the loving service of their citizens as he urged the faithful to bring Christ's message of hope to all people.

During a two-day journey to a once-staunchly Catholic Spain, the pope sought to bolster and renew people's faith in God and convince an increasingly secular society that the church wants dialogue, not confrontation.

The pope's Nov. 6-7 visit, his 18th trip abroad, brought him first to one of Catholicism's most popular and ancient pilgrimage sites, Santiago de Compostela, and then Barcelona, where he consecrated the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia.

During the Nov. 7 Mass in which he anointed the altar of the church dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth, he said Christians must resist every attack on human life and promote the natural institution of the family.

Under the government of



Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who came to power in 2004, Spain has relaxed its divorce laws, eased restrictions on abortion, legalized same-sex marriage and allowed gay couples to adopt.

In his homily, the pope praised the technical, social and cultural progress made over the years. However, he said, a country must also advance morally.

He asked that courts, legislative bodies and society respect and defend the sacred and inviolable life of the child from the moment of

conception. "For this reason, the church resists every form of denial of human life and gives its support to everything that would promote the natural order in the sphere of the institution of the family" based on marriage between a man and a woman, he said.

More than 6,000 people filled the church, which the pope elevated to a minor basilica during the Mass. Another 50,000 people followed the event outside on 33 jumbo screens that dotted the surrounding streets and squares.

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie.
Volume 6, Issue 21
General information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
Advertising: (814) 824-1168
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.
Member of the Catholic Press Association. Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie. Subscription \$10/year. For more information, call (814) 824-1161.
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1874. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center 402 East Greenville Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.

Fischer Organ Company
Pope Organ Services 2187 W. 13th
Allen Digital Organs Erie, Pa. 16585
Insurance Appraisals (814) 833-8863
LEARN ROSARY MAKING
LEWIS & COMPANY
Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer.
rosaryparts.com
(800) 342-2400

YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY
B.J. Moon, R.Ph.
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.
3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510
814 / 898-2085
Fax 814 / 898-2086
Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

CLOCK REPAIR
Burdie's Clock Shop
238 South Main St.
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
(814) 398-8263
"We Make House Calls"

60 Years of Excellence
RAS AUTO BODY
All your collision needs.
Special Wash & Wax...\$55
453-6185
Since 1947
Dave Ras owner
Amy Ras office
Carol Ras office
Jim Winarski mgr.

Retirement Fund for Religious
Share in the Care
Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
Give generously in your parishes on December 11-12, 2010.
814.824.1125
www.retiredreligious.org

Advent

Presence for Christmas at St. George

ERIE — Come enjoy evenings of inspiring song, story and prayer on Dec. 8, 15 and 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. George Parish, 5145 Peach St., Erie. More information can be found at <http://PresenceForChristmas.com>.

Christmas market at Holy Trinity

ERIE — Holy Trinity Parish in Erie will host a Christmas Market Dec. 10-12 at the Holy Trinity Social Center, 2220 Reed St., Erie. Items include cookies, chruscki, nutroll, sweet bread, pierogies and lucky lotto tickets. Hours are: Friday, Dec. 10 from 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 11 from 3-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Advent day of retreat at Bethany Retreat Center

FRENCHVILLE — Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville will host an Advent Day of Retreat for Individuals and Families on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be separate programs for adults and children. The day will include spiritual nourishment, good food and fellowship. Mass at 9:30 a.m. will be followed by brunch, afternoon conferences, opportunity for reconciliation, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and an early supper.

A free will offering will be taken. For reservations or more information, call 814.263.4855, e-mail bethanyadult@pennswoods.net or visit www.bethanyretreatcenter.org.

Tickets available for Benedictine Sisters of Elk County art raffle

ST. MARYS — Tickets are still available for the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County's sixth annual Christmas Open House art raffle, which features two framed prints by artists Peter Winklbauer and Tom Szatz.

The drawing will take place Dec. 22. For tickets, call 814.834.2267.

Briefly

Drum therapy at Mercy Hilltop Center

ERIE — Drum therapy is an ancient approach that uses rhythm to promote healing and self-expression. Therapeutic rhythm techniques have been used for thousands of years to create and maintain physical, mental and spiritual health.

Drumming can:

- Reduce tension, anxiety and stress.
- Help control chronic pain.
- Boost the immune system.

Karen Narusewicz, grant parent director at the Mercy Hilltop Center, is certified to conduct a drum therapy group. The center has borrowed drums to let participants experience this technique, therefore attendance is limited.

To register, call 814.824.2214. This program is held every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Mercy Hilltop Center, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.



Parish missions

St. Boniface, Erie

St. Boniface Parish in Erie invites you to its parish retreat, "Change Our Hearts," which will be held Dec. 5-8 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. with a social hour at 8:15.

Join the parish for singing, prayer and fellowship. Children are welcome and will have their own retreat.

Transportation is available by calling Fred Regal at 814.825.3226 and Jean Conn at 814.825.0095. Babysitting is also available.

St. Boniface is located at 9637 Watsburg Road in Erie. For more information, visit the parish website at www.stbonifaceparisherie.org.

For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call



Doctor Robert Nelsen
Pastoral Assistance Coordinator
for the Diocese of Erie
814.871.7723

For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org click on *For the Protection of Children*

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 / Mediterranean:** May 4-15...
- Tuscany:** June 30-July 10 / Sept. 8-18...

All-Inclusive Air fare included on all trips from anywhere in the USA **\$2,999** 9-day trip: **\$3,390** 13-day trip: **(\$3,990)**

*Trips to Italy/Holy Land 2011: \$4,490
Anthony Nachev, PhD (Theology) Owner
Toll free: 1-877-994-8259
508-340-9370

Anthony@proximotravel.com
web:www.proximotravel.com



Youth rally focuses on issues facing teens, turning to Christ

LET'S GET REAL, from page 1

of the second story of creation from chapter two of Genesis.

"It's actually very simple," he said. "The meaning of life is love, is relationships, is friendships. That's the whole reason that God created us," he said. "There is no other experience in the universe that will fill our hearts, that will bring us peace, that will bring us happiness than true and genuine love."

But because of our human weakness, Father Singer said, our motives sometimes get mixed up and confused.

"Very easily we begin to confuse genuine love with lust," he said.

He reminded the youth that the church's teaching are not a list of sexual no's but rather an explanation of God's truth to keep us protected.

"The gift of sexuality should be met with respect and a sense of awe," he said. "The gift of sex is good, holy and powerful."

He described chastity as living our sexuality according to God's plan and according to our state in life.

"What's up with marriage?" Greg and Stephanie Schleuter, a married couple from Erie, talked about finding joy.

"Before you at any given time, you have the choice of joy or being really bored," said Greg Schleuter.

In thinking about all that is before them on daily basis—school, work, sports, family, church—he said it was normal for young people to ask, "What's at the heart of it all?"

"If you haven't discovered it yet, wow have you got a great adventure ahead of you," he said.

"We often don't question the versions of joy and happiness that society gives us, Stephanie added.

"They said the purpose of marriage in not to see what you can get out of it but to find out who are you willing to die for."

"The voice of Christ wants to remind you that marriage is about love," Stephanie said. "With that love comes great joy. It's a joy that Christ shows us on the cross."

"I'm a teenage Catholic. Is that OK?"

Jerry Stumpf, a senior at Greenville High School, spoke about how he furthered his relationship with God.

"CLI (Catholic Leadership Institute) really started my prayer life," Stumpf said.

At CLI, he was encouraged

to give 10 minutes each day to prayer. Stumpf said he did for awhile but went away from it.

He then made a TEC retreat (To Encounter Christ). He began going to confession more frequently, made prayer a daily habit and developed a deeper appreciation for the Mass.

"I stuck to it this time," he said.

After starting praying a lot and coming up with questions about what God wants me to do with my life."

He said a mission trip to Eastern Kentucky has made him more grateful.

"It makes you appreciate what you have and the different gifts people might have," he said.

After telling the audience he plans on entering seminary to discern whether God was calling him to be a priest, he received a standing ovation.

"Can God Forgive Me?"

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, spoke about sin and meeting a merciful God in confession.

"Jesus didn't go to the cross to tell you you're not good," he said. "Jesus went to the cross to set you free. That's what happens when you go to confession—Jesus sets you free."

Using humor and anecdotes from his life, Father Richards discussed sin and simplified it by describing it as hurting someone who loves you.

"If sin is no big deal, then Jesus on the cross is a waste of time," he said. "Ultimately, to obey God is to love him."

He then went through the Ten Commandments and explained how to make a good confession.

"God wants to give you mercy, but you have to receive it," he said. "That's what confession is for."

The Blessed Sacrament was then brought back into the church. During adoration, priests were available to hear confessions.

"Is Christ worth my time?"

Abby Schauf, a junior at St. Bonaventure University and a former religious education student from St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie, discussed the idea of popularity.

"Because Christ died for our sins, he lives in each one of us," Schauf said. "So if Christ is living in each one of us, how can one person be more popular than another?"



Nearly 300 high school teens from around the Diocese of Erie attended the "Let's Get Real" rally Nov. 20 at St. Michael Parish in Greenville. The rally included a number of speakers, the opportunity for confession, fellowship and Mass.

What teens are saying about LET'S GET REAL

"I think all the priests did a nice job of talking about where we should be in our spiritual life."

— Molly Regan
Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

"I liked Father Larry's talk and his philosophy on life and how God put us here on earth. Spiritually you're not in control. God is."

— Nick Hazellon
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

"It helped outline what sin is and filled in the blanks about what's wrong and right."

— Kadric Reiser
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

"It brought me back to a spiritual high. It reminded me that I'm called to live a holy life."

— Claire Coulter
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

"It gave me some ideas on how to get closer to God."

— Cassie Witwacz
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

"I love being able to go to confession and Mass with my friends."

— Melanie Wiczak
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

other? We're all equal in Christ's eyes."

The mixed messages of society, she said, particularly in high school, can have us clamoring for stylish clothes or wondering who's having the best party of the weekend.

"But none of that really matters," Schauf said. "Do you want to be remembered as someone who wears cool clothes or do you want to be remembered as someone who starts and ends their day praying on their knees and praising God?"

A group from Beloved Disciple performed the Everything Skit, which is an unspoken but powerful drama performed to the song "Everything" by Lifehouse. The drama focused on spiritual warfare.

At the beginning of the skit,

For a slide show of photos from Let's Get Real, visit www.onthevine.us

a young woman shows her joyful innocence at finding love with God. After God shows her the beauty of his creation, the scene is taken over by seemingly harmless distractions. But the distractions turn into temptations and sins.

The girl finds herself overcome by a number of vices: greed, drinking, sexual impurity, bulimia and cutting.

After being fed lies about her worthlessness and ability to measure up, she contemplates suicide, with God off to the side pleading with her not to go through with it.

She finds God, but is unable to fend off the spiritual attackers. After calling to God for help, God steps in to rescue her.

The day ended with Mass and a group blessing.



Garibaldi leaving Gannon University

GARIBALDI, from page 1

He has also led the initiative for Gannon University's master plan, which is being implemented with the construction of a new residence hall. He has overseen major renovations of many buildings and the acquisition of key properties for the expansion of the university.

The transformation of the

campus goes beyond brick and mortar. Gannon University has expanded its number of colleges from two to three, its athletic teams now compete in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and it has developed and implemented two five-year strategic plans.

"We did this all together even though change did not come easy," Dr. Garibaldi said. "We

can smile now about that because the result of our willingness to do things differently has been very beneficial to our success as a university."

Dr. Garibaldi will become the first lay president of the University of Detroit Mercy, which is operated by the Jesuits and Mercy sisters. While he was impressed with the university's academics, Dr. Garibaldi said he was also

attracted to the opportunity to contribute to the city of Detroit's renaissance.

He assured faculty, staff and students at the gathering that he intends to give his full attention to Gannon through the end of his tenure.

"It is too early for me to say goodbye, especially to the Gannon students—and you mean so much to me," he said.

European Pilgrimage

Departs: **May 2, 16; Aug. 2; & Sept. 12, 2011**

12 Days Celebrate Mass 9 Days! from **\$2349***

ROME - VATICAN - PORTUGAL - FATIMA
SPAIN - FRANCE - LOURDES - PARIS

Fully Escorted + Your YMT Catholic
Chaplain-Priest!

Tour the Vatican including Audience with Pope Benedict XVI, (subject to his schedule). Tour Rome's religious highlights including St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel, and Rome's first church the "Cathedral of Rome and of the World." Celebrate two Masses in Rome including Mass at St. Peter's. See ancient Rome, the Colosseum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore and more! Fly to Lisbon, Portugal; visit Lady of Fatima Church, celebrate private Masses at the Basilica of Fatima and Apariciones Chapel of Fatima; and tour the Batalha monastery. Travel to Salamanca, Spain; visit the Old Cathedral and New Cathedral; overnight in Valladolid, Spain. Visit Lourdes, France; celebrate Mass at the Grotto of Lourdes. Take the high-speed train to Paris for two nights. Paris highlight includes The Shrine of the Miraculous Medal with Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, a full-day tour of Paris visiting the Louvre Museum, Eiffel Tower, Basilica of the Sacred Heart and more. This Pilgrimage includes 10 Breakfasts & 10 Dinners. *Price per person, dbl occ., plus \$259 tax, services, & gov't fees. August & September departures add \$100. Airfare is extra. Call now for complete details. Space is limited.

For information, itinerary, reservations and letter from your chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

America's best choice for affordable travel since 1957!

A Radiant Reminder of the Faith that Guides Us Every Day

The Trinity
SAPPHIRE AND DIAMOND CROSS RING

- Solid sterling silver, plated with 24K gold
- Beautifully engraved with the words "With God, All Things Are Possible"
- 4 genuine sapphires and 8 brilliant diamonds

Discover a beautiful new way to embrace your faith with our exclusive "The Trinity" Sapphire and Diamond Ring. Available for a limited time in women's sizes from 5-12. To learn more and order, visit us online at:

www.bradfordexchange.com/crossring

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE JEWELRY



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

Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



Villa Maria Elementary penny battle help feed the needy

ERIE — Students in grades 5-8 at Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie recently waged a penny battle to benefit the Sisters of St. Joseph's annual Thanksgiving dinner.

During the week of Nov. 15, penny battle containers sat at the doors of each classroom. Students in each homeroom brought in pennies to fill their container. They also used silver coins and paper money to "slam" the buckets of other classrooms. At the end of the week, all the pennies in each container were counted, then the silver and paper money total was subtracted from the penny amount. The class that ended up with the most money after the subtraction was deemed the winner.

All proceeds from the charitable battle, more than \$1,476, were used to purchase food for the annual dinner, which was held at Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center.

This was the sixth year that VME has participated in the penny battle to raise money for



From left to right are VME principal Damon Finazzo, student council members Amy Estes, Hannah Marchant, Ryan Signorino (presenting check), Matt Neville, Emma Shimek, Anna McGovern and Sister Ann Marie Joint, SSJ.

the Thanksgiving dinner. This year's battle produced the largest amount ever collected.

Villa Maria Elementary art classes, under the direction of art teacher Julia Horan, made holiday placemats that were used at the dinner.

The children in preschool

through 4th grade also participated in their own competition raising nearly \$300.

The event was organized by the VME Student Council along with the help of the Villa Volunteers student group. Sister Ann Marie Joint, SSJ, was the faculty adviser.

DCC Middle School celebrates George Washington

DUBOIS — DuBois Central Catholic Middle School has joined a growing network of schools participating in the George Washington Portrait Program, sponsored by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

The official "celebration kit" includes a full-size replica of Rembrandt Peale's famous portrait of George Washington and literature on special projects and activities to be integrated into DCC's middle school social studies curriculum.

According to middle school teacher Tara Kramer, the American flag awarded the school was also used during the flag raising ceremony as part of DCC's fifth annual Veteran's Day event, which honored more than 120 local veterans.



DCC teacher Tara Kramer and her 5th period students display the "celebration kit" recently received by DuBois Central Catholic Middle School. Pictured left to right are (kneeling) Neil Fitzpatrick, Sophia Tornatore, Danny Sayers, Kyle Taylor-Smith, (standing) Sabrina Starr, Jack Garrod, Billy Kurtz, Jodi Warholak, Dallas Gray, Andrea Walters, Jared Kosko, Sarah Wells, Alex Marshall and Kramer.

Bishops elect new leadership

BISHOPS, from page 1

Affairs, called the bishops' vote "a milestone on the ecumenical journey."

The bishops approved a \$180 million balanced budget for the USCCB in 2011, but they refused to agree to an increase in the assessment on dioceses to fund the conference's work in 2012.

Cardinal George opened the first day of the meeting with his farewell presidential address. In it he criticized those who define the church's usefulness by whether it provides "foot soldiers for a political commitment, whether of the left or the right."

He devoted much of his talk to reviewing the debate over health care reform earlier this year and the "wound to the church's unity" caused by differences over the final legislation.

In discussing health reform in his address, Cardinal George said "developments since the passage of the legislation" have con-

firmed that "our analysis of what the law itself says was correct and our moral judgments are secure." He did not specify what those developments were.

The USCCB opposed passage of the final health reform legislation, saying it would permit federal funding of abortion, inadequately protect the conscience rights of health care providers and leave out immigrants. Other Catholic groups, including the Catholic Health Association and many orders of women religious, said the final bill and an executive order signed by President Barack Obama would exclude any possibility of federal money going to pay for abortions under the health plan.

Cardinal George said the debate also raised the question of "who speaks for the Catholic Church."

"The bishops ... speak for the church in matters of faith and in moral issues and the laws surrounding them. All the rest is opinion," he said.

The cardinal addressed several other issues in his outgoing speech, among them concern for Christians in the Middle East. He said Christians were "uniquely ... without protection in the wake of the American invasion of Iraq."

"As bishops, as Americans, we

cannot turn from this scene or allow the world to overlook it," Cardinal George said. The bishops also affirmed a Nov. 9 letter he sent to President Barack Obama, urging the U.S. government to "redouble its efforts to assist Iraqis" in providing safety for its citizens, especially religious minorities.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan

MARCH FOR LIFE

Washington, DC ★ January 24, 2011

ANNUAL BUS TRIP

The *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973 legalized abortion for virtually any reason during all 9 months of pregnancy.

There are now 1.2 million or more lives lost to abortion every year in the United States, and many women are saying that they deeply regret having chosen abortion.

Over 300,000 people gathered in Washington, DC on the anniversary of *Roe* last January to call for change. This year, so can you! Reserve your seat(s) now. The entire trip takes just over 24 hours. Students and church groups are always welcome.

- ♦ Buses leave Erie from St. George Church at 11 pm, January 23 and return at approximately 1:30 am, January 25.
- ♦ Seats are only \$40. Mail a check or use a credit card on-line. Inquiries about financial sponsorships are encouraged.
- ♦ For more information call (814) 882-1333 or visit:

www.peopleforlife.org

ORGANIZED BY
PEOPLE FOR LIFE

1625 W. 26th St. and 1611 Peach St., Suite 321, Erie, PA
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512



PENNSYLVANIA'S #1 HEART AND VASCULAR TEAM

Saint Vincent is ranked number one among all cardiac and vascular surgery programs in Pennsylvania for 2011 by HealthGrades®—the nation's leading provider of independent health care ratings.

We're also among the top 10 percent in the nation for cardiac services, cardiac surgery, pulmonary services and vascular surgery.

Which means you and your loved ones won't have to go far to receive the finest heart care in the state.

SAINT VINCENT
SaintVincentHealth.com/HeartTeam



Erie's Premier PROVIDER OF NON-MEDICAL AND MEDICAL IN-HOME CARE!

More Hope, More Security, More Peace of Mind, More Time, More Joy

At BrightStar, our goal is to improve the quality of life of those entrusted to our care. We are here to make more possible everyday and help you get the most out of life. BrightStar offers high quality, personalized care - available around the clock. Our registered nurse will assess your needs, develop a customized care plan, and match a trained, certified, and RN-supervised caregiver to meet your unique requirements. Tell us what you need - we'll take care of it.

Serving Erie County and Surrounding Areas
Call Today For Your Free, No-Obligation Assessment
814-455-STAR (7827)
Independently Owned & Operated

"To play for a winning team."

WHY GANNON?

- 18 NCAA DII varsity teams with an average GPA of 3.4
- 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio provides personal attention
- nearly 100 degree programs

Call 1-800-GANNON-0 or visit gannon.edu for more information!

Lauren
McDowell '06

Believe in the possibilities.

- ★ Companionship and Transportation
- ★ Meal Preparation
- ★ Errands and Other Personal Services
- ★ Light Housekeeping and Laundry
- ★ Respite Care
- ★ Pediatric and Adolescent Care
- ★ Personal Care (Hygiene, Bathing, Medication Reminders, Exercise)
- ★ Skilled Nursing Care (Infusion Therapy, Blood Draws, Injections, Vital Signs)
- ★ Live Person to Answer Your Questions 24/7

MAKING MORE POSSIBLE
LIFECARE | KIDCARE | STAFFING

All caregivers are licensed, bonded, fully insured and must meet exceptionally high standards and qualification requirements.
Serving Erie County and surrounding Areas

www.BrightStarCare.com