

Remembering Archbishop Fulton Sheen
Masses to commemorate 30th anniversary of his death, page 2.

FaithLife

Parish anniversaries

Linesville, Meadville, Sharpsville parishes mark milestones, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 6, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Our Lady of Guadalupe



St. John of the Cross

- Dec. 7 St. Ambrose
- Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
- Dec. 9 St. Juan Diego
- Dec. 11 Pope Damasus I
- Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 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 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 Tuesday this year. Vigil Masses in anticipation of the solemnity are celebrated on Monday evening.



Advent

Advent, the season of expectation leading up to the celebration of Christmas, began Nov. 29. This joyful period prepares us for the commemoration of the Incarnation.

Advent calendar

An Advent family calendar from Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry & Respect Life is available at www.ErieRCD.org, the official Web site of the Erie Diocese. The printable calendar includes a Scripture verse, reflection and activity for every day of the season.

Jesse Tree

Faith magazine has created Jesse Tree ornaments to help reflect on the story of salvation from the creation of the world through the birth of Jesus.

Download a free, printable set of Jesse Tree ornaments at www.ErieRCD.org. Each of the 28 ornaments is accompanied by a Scripture verse and explanation of what the symbol represents. The ornaments are available in both small and large sizes.



Keep track of your blessings during Advent, Pope suggests

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY - Advent should be a time when Christians keep track of the little blessings they receive each day, blessings that are signs of God's love, Pope Benedict XVI suggested.

"To keep a kind of 'inner diary' of this love would be a beautiful and healthy task," the pope said Nov. 28 as he celebrated evening prayer to mark the beginning of Advent.

God enters the life of each and every person, Pope Benedict said.

But in daily life, most people seem "to have little time for the Lord and little time even for ourselves. One ends up being absorbed in doing things," he said.

Taking a little time each day to recognize signs of God's love reminds people that "God is here; he has not withdrawn from the world; he has not left us alone," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said that if people live each day with their eyes open to the signs of God's presence, they will be filled with joy as they await the final coming of the Lord.

"The contemporary world needs hope above all; people living in developing countries need it, but those in economically advanced countries do, too," he said.

Bishops OK liturgy translations, marriage pastoral

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE - The U.S. bishops took their final look at the English translation of the Roman Missal and approved documents on marriage, reproductive technologies and medically assisted nutrition and hydration during their Nov. 16-18 fall general assembly in Baltimore.

Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops completed their public work at midmorning Nov. 18 and spent the rest of the day in executive session.

The approximately 300 bishops meeting in Baltimore also heard a preliminary report on the "Causes and Context Study" on clergy sex abuse being conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and a staunch defense of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development against charges that it funds groups that oppose church social or moral teachings.

They passed a \$144.5 million budget for the USCCB in 2010 and approved a 3 percent increase in 2011 in the assessment on dioceses to fund the work of the conference, as well as priorities and plans and an operational strategy for the next two years.

The bishops, in a statement

Meeting Highlights

2009 USCCB fall general assembly

- Accepted the English translations and U.S. adaptations of the final five sections of the Roman Missal.
- Heard reports on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Synod of Bishops for Africa, Catholic Relief Services and a recent survey on religious vocations.
- Approved a document criticizing reproductive technologies.
- Approved a pastoral letter on marriage.
- Viewed the first of several planned videos on protecting and promoting marriage.
- Pledged to continue efforts to keep abortion out of health reform legislation.
- Agreed to a \$144.5 million budget for 2010.
- Approved a priority plan and a 330-page operational strategy for the work of the USCCB.
- Heard Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago envision the challenges of a world without priests in his address as USCCB president.
- Heard a preliminary report on the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse of children.
- Selected five new chairmen-elect for USCCB committees and board members for CRS and CLINIC.
- Approved revised directives for the withdrawal of medically assisted food and water in Catholic health facilities.

read by Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, USCCB president, pledged to continue their efforts to keep health care legislation abortion-neutral and thanked House members who had supported those efforts.

With overwhelming majority votes Nov. 17, the bishops approved the final five documents related to the Roman Missal - translations of the proper of the saints, specific prayers to each saint in the universal liturgical calendar, the commons, general prayers for celebrating saints listed in the "Roman Martyrology"; the Roman Missal supplement; the U.S. proper, a collection of orations and formularies for feasts and memorials particular to

the U.S. liturgical calendar; and U.S. adaptations to the Roman Missal.

Each section must now go to the Vatican for approval before the missal comes into use

See BISHOPS, page 2

Bishop's dinner with college students draws crowd

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

EDINBORO - Bishop Donald Trautman dined and discussed on Nov. 6 with approximately 80 college students who were hungry for both lasagna and answers to questions about the faith.

As part of an annual tradition, Bishop Trautman met with local college students at Our Lady of the Lake Parish for prayer and then ate supper with them and took part in a question-and-answer session in the parish social hall.

Students came from area colleges including Gannon University, Mercyhurst Col-

lege, Allegheny College, the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Penn State Behrend and Edinboro University. The event was sponsored by



Edinboro Campus Ministry and the Edinboro University Newman Student Association.



Bishop Donald Trautman chatted with some of the 80 college students who attended this year's dinner. The event was held at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro.



After gathering in the church for prayer, the group proceeded to the social hall for a meal prepared by Our Lady of the Lake's Altar Rosary Society. After dinner, Bishop Trautman began the discussion by answering a number of questions he received via e-mail. The first question asked for the bishop's opinion on the proposed national health care.

"The U.S. Catholic bishops from day one have been for universal coverage," Bishop Trautman said. "We want all people to have health care. It's a human right. But we also believe in life, and we want that life protected from the time of conception all the way through natural death."

Questions ranged from the topic of the bishop's cellular ringtone ("Whatever came with the phone.") to whether he thought celibacy was still a relevant requirement for priests (After an emphatic yes, he said, "We have to give witness to Christ, who chose celibacy. We need to serve people with an open heart and put God's people first.")

See BISHOPS DINNER, page 2

Share in the care Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 12-13

Parishes in the Erie Diocese will conduct the 22nd annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious during the weekend of Dec. 12-13. The theme for this year's collection is "Share in the Care."

Last year, people from the diocese contributed \$175,783.80 to this collection. Members of the women religious congregations in the diocese received financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund.

The collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington,

D.C., and benefits thousands of elderly women and men religious whose communities lack adequate funding for retirement.

In addition to those aided in the Erie 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.

In 2008, the collection drew more than \$28.2 million



which enabled the National Religious Retirement Office to distribute to 483 religious institutes. These funds supplemented the day-to-day care of elderly religious while helping

religious institutes implement long-range retirement strategies.

Since 1988, Catholics have donated nearly \$589 million to this annual appeal. Ninety-five percent of these donations are distributed almost immediately to support the care of senior religious. Five percent of donations are used for administration, education and the national annual appeal.

By the Numbers

\$51,361
Average cost of skilled care for one religious for one year. (Below the national average of \$55,200)

\$33,442.36
Average cost of care in 2008 for religious past age 70.

21,520
Religious with less than 20 percent of amount needed for projected costs of living and health care in retirement.

Today, more than 35,000 religious in the U.S., mostly women, are past the age of 70 (4,308 are past 90). More than 5,500 elderly religious require skilled nursing care.

Most women and men religious receive, on average, a Social Security benefit of \$4,402 per year; the average U.S. beneficiary receives \$12,948 annually. Though community living provides economies of scale, health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income from investments, government programs and compensated ministries.

Data obtained from the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and "The Senior Care Acquisitions Report" from Irving Levin Associates, Inc.



IN THE U.S.

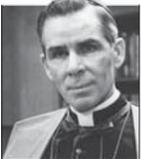
■ **In the end, the successful battle to include strict language prohibiting funding for abortions, led by pro-life congressional Democrats with the strong support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is what made the difference in the Nov. 7 House vote to pass a sweeping health care reform bill.** In a rare Saturday night vote, the House approved the Affordable Health Care for America Act, 220-215, moving the legislation on to the Senate, which was expected to take up debate on its own health care bill later in November. Assuming the Senate passes a version of the legislation, differences between the two bills will have to be reconciled separately. That legislation would go back to both houses of Congress for final approval. Key to passing the House bill was the approval of an amendment by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., to prohibit the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, including barring abortion coverage from insurance plans which consumers purchase using government subsidies. The USCCB and other pro-life organizations had threatened to oppose any final bill that did not include such provisions. The final bill fell short of another element pushed strongly by the church in recent weeks. It would bar people who are in the country illegally from receiving any government assistance to get health coverage. The U.S. bishops also had urged that the legislation allow all immigrants access to the health care system, regardless of legal status. What the bill does do is expand health insurance to an estimated 30 million people who currently lack coverage, meaning an estimated 96 percent of Americans would have access to more affordable health care.

■ **The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington — the largest Catholic church in North America and one of the 10 largest churches in the world — is a familiar place to U.S. Catholics who regard the immense structure as their own.** The basilica, which marked the 50th anniversary of its dedication Nov. 20, is not a cathedral or a cathedral. Instead, it was designated by the U.S. bishops as a national place of prayer and pilgrimage, something the basilica's 1 million annual visitors know well.

The book "America's Church," published by Our Sunday Visitor in 2000, describes the basilica as having "no parish community as its own; but rather counting every American Catholic among its members. No single bishop claims it as his cathedral; rather it is the church of all the nation's bishops. ... In every way, the national shrine is America's Catholic church." And as a church for all Catholics, its doors are always open — seven days a week, 365 days a year. Every day, for five hours, priests administer the sacrament of reconciliation and celebrate at least six Masses. Weddings and baptisms — sacraments that are to be witnessed by a worshipping parish community — do not take place there.



■ **A worldwide celebration of Masses Dec. 9 will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of famed author, lecturer and television evangelizer Archbishop Fulton Sheen, as well as promote his cause for canonization.** Two women from the Paterson Diocese launched the program. Lo Anne Mayer, a parishioner of Christ the King Church in New Verona who is also a board member of the Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation in Peoria, Ill., and president of its advisory council, and La Verne



Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Washburne, a parishioner of Corpus Christi Church in Chatham Township. Masses have been scheduled in 35 countries on six continents.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **The Vatican Web site celebrated the feast of the dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran by launching a virtual tour of the Rome church — thanks to Villanova University in Pennsylvania.** The virtual tour — giving cybernauts a high-resolution, 360-degree view of the basilica — went online at www.vatican.va Nov. 9, the feast of the dedication of the basilica, which is the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. Bryan Crable, chairman of the Communication Department at the Catholic university in Villanova, Pa., said the virtual tour of St. John's — and earlier tours of St. Peter's Basilica and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls — was the brainchild of Paul Wilson, a professor in the department.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The cardinal and bishop-members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes voted unanimously Nov. 16 to recommend that Pope Benedict XVI formally recognize that Pope John Paul II heroically lived the Christian virtues, Italian newspapers reported.** The Vatican did not deny or confirm that the vote took place because the process is supposed to be secret until Pope Benedict signs the decree recognizing the heroic virtue of his predecessor and declares him venerable. Pope Benedict generally signs a dozen or more decrees three times a year: in April, in June or July and in December.



Pope John Paul II

By the Way...

In September, Sts. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney began its 125th jubilee year of celebration commemorating the founding of the parish. The year opened Sept. 19 with the dedication of new statues of Sts. Cosmas and Damian and the dedication of the church's new gathering space. In October, Msgr. Joseph Riccardone, pastor, led parishioners on a pilgrimage to Rome.



Jason Koshinski

With a number of special events planned throughout the year, the celebration will conclude Sept. 26, 2010 with an anniversary Mass. Musicians from the Sharon Deaney came together Nov. 19 at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage for a St. Cecilia Sing and Taizé prayer. During the prayer service, Father Jeffery Noble, pastor of Notre Dame, blessed and recommissioned the musicians.

The memorial of St. Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, is Nov. 22.

A group from the Erie Diocese is already busy making plans and fundraising for the next World Youth Day, which will take place in 2011 in Madrid, Spain. To date, a number of young people from Grove City, Clarion, Franklin and Eldred have signed up. "We're still looking for a spiritual director," says Marilynce Garvis, a parishioner at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City who is coordinating the trip. Beloved Disciple hosted an indoor yard sale Nov. 21 as a fundraiser for the group.

Brochures detailing the trip from the diocese are now available. For a brochure or more information, contact Marilynce at mgarvis@zoominternet.net or 814.786.7856.

In the Year for Priests, members of Marriage Encounter and Serra Club are completing their priest affirmation mission by writing to priests throughout the diocese. Whether they know the priests personally or not, they're simply thanking them for being a priest and offering them prayers or another sacrifice in their honor.

With the Christmas shopping season in full swing, the prayer request box at the Millcreek Mall Chapel in Erie is getting a little more attention than it usually does. Visitors can leave an anonymous prayer request in the box, which is near the tabernacle. Those spending time in the mall chapel are asked to remember the intentions in their prayers.

Father Ed Lohse, chancellor of the diocese, recently completed the confirmation schedule for 2010. Bishop Donald Trautman will confirm classes at 49 churches on 42 dates beginning in March. Putting together such a schedule can prove to be a difficult task, particularly when parishes request the same date. The confirmandi will represent 107 parishes throughout the diocese.

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

Bishops OK liturgy translations, marriage pastoral, ethical directives

BISHOPS, from page 1
in the United States, probably in 2011.

Approval of the pastoral letter "Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan" also came Nov. 17, despite the concern voiced by some bishops about the document's pastoral tone and content.

Nearly 100 changes in two rounds of amendments preceded the 180-45 vote, with three abstentions. Two-thirds of the USCCB membership, or 175 votes, were required for passage of the document. Final approval came after an effort to reword the document to committee failed 56 to 169.

The 15-page document "Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology" says that although the Catholic Church shares the pain of married couples facing infertility problems, some reproductive technologies "are not morally

legitimate ways to solve those problems." It was approved Nov. 17 by a vote of 220-4, with three abstentions.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the new document would "fill a true pastoral need" among U.S. Catholics for a better understanding of "the difference between the Catholic understanding and the secular understanding of human life."

The bishops also overwhelmingly approved a revision to the directives that guide Catholic health care facilities, clarifying that patients with chronic conditions who are not imminently dying should receive food and water by "medically assisted" means if they cannot take them normally.

"As a general rule, there is an obligation to provide patients with food and water, including medically assisted nutrition and hydration for those who cannot take food orally," says the revised text of the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" prepared by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine.

"This obligation extends to patients in chronic conditions (e.g., the 'persistent vegetative state') who can reasonably be expected to live indefinitely if given such care," the text adds.

The bishops spent an hour Nov. 17 hearing and discussing a preliminary report on the John Jay study of the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

Researchers Karen Terry and Margaret Smith told the bishops that early findings confirm "a steep decline" in sexual abuse cases after 1985. The findings also show diocesan responses to incidents of sex abuse have changed substantially over a 50-year-period, with an increase in administrative leave for accused abusers and a decrease in the number accused abusers reinstated.

They also said information they have gathered so far shows no indication that homosexuality increases the chance that a person will be an abuser.

Commissioned by the bishops, the full study is expected to be released in December 2010.

In other action Nov. 17, the bishops approved a \$144.5 million budget for 2010, representing an increase of less than 0.2 percent over 2009, and a 3 percent increase in the diocesan assessment to support the work of the USCCB in 2011.

Bishop's dinner with college students draws crowd



BISHOP'S DINNER, from page 1

were living in a Christian culture. There were a number of audible no's while most shook their heads.

"We live in a secular culture with secular values," Bishop Trautman said.

As college students, the bishop said they can often find their lives messy and difficult during this period of adjustment. And of all the virtues, hope is the one college students need the most.

"The world may be going through difficult times, but you must not lose hope," he said. "You are unique and special. Rejoice in that uniqueness. And always remember that God loves you."

Peter Mayer's Stars & Promises: Sing Joy! Tour 2009

Wednesday, December 9
7 p.m. at St. Jude Church
2801 West 6th Street, Erie
Tickets available at St. Jude Rectory Office and all First National Bank locations. They are \$15 in advance (\$10 for students) and \$20 at the door. Questions: Call Mike Miller at 838-8541

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Advent-Christmas Events

Advent reflection days in Clarion, Venango counties

Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, and Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSI, from Catholic Rural Ministry of the Oil City Deanery will be offering an Advent Reflection Day at three locations during December.

- Dec. 5 from 9-11 a.m. at the Catholic Rural Ministry home, 7 Pulaski St. in Oil City
 - Dec. 7 from 5-6:45 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish's rectory meeting room, 715 E. Main St. in Clarion
 - Dec. 20 from 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Eusebius Parish, 301 E. Second St. in East Brady
- All are invited to attend. To RSVP or for more information, contact the sisters at 814.677.2032.

Lessons & carols at St. Mark Seminary

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. 14 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.

'Stars & Promises' concert at St. Jude

St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. Sixth St. in Erie, will once again host Peter Mayer's "Stars & Promises" concert Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

Mayer's virtuosic voice and guitar playing will be backed by Native American flute, piano, world percussion, acoustic bass and violin. They will also be joined on a few selections by the OLCS children's choir and children's bell choir.

Tickets are on sale at the St. Jude rectory office and all First National Bank locations. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students in advance and \$20 at the door.

Call 814.836.8541 for will call orders or more information.

Mercyhurst choirs to present pair of seasonal concerts

The Mercyhurst College Concert Choir and Carpe Diem Choral, accompanied by string musicians, present two Christmas concerts titled "Vivaldi, Carols and Chords."

The program features both the brilliance of Vivaldi (including the "Magnificat") and the familiarity of carols, plus seasonal arrangements by student composer Jonathan Estrada sung by tenor Daniel Cabanillas.

The Erie concert is set for Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on the Mercyhurst campus. The program will also be performed Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at Mercyhurst North East.

Both performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call 814.824.2394.

Cathedral choirs to perform concert

The St. Peter Cathedral combined children's, youth and adult choirs will present a concert of holiday music for Advent and Christmas at 7 p.m. on Dec. 20 at the cathedral in Erie. The concert is free and open to the public.

Living Nativity at St. George

St. George Youth Ministry will present a Living Nativity performance continuously Dec. 16 and 17 between 7-8:30 p.m.

The rectory garage at 5145 Peach St. in Erie will turn into a stable with live animals for a short rendition of Christ's birth. Cookies and hot cocoa will be available.

Briefly

Bible study to focus on the Mass

The Catholic Community Bible Study's next selected study will explore what the Bible teaches about the Mass. It will look at the ultimate meaning of the eucharistic sacrifice and how what happens at Mass relates to God's covenant dealing with Israel. Explore how through the Liturgy of the Eucharist we offer ourselves back to God.

The program runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 25 at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St. in Erie, with day and evening sessions being offered. Childcare is available.

Contact Dawn Schaeff at 814. 835.8110. Early registration is encouraged.

Experience Benedictine monastic life

Interested in experiencing Benedictine monastic life first hand? A "Come and See" weekend sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie will be held Jan. 8-11 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Road, Erie.

The weekend begins Friday at 7 p.m. and ends Sunday at 1 p.m. Register by Dec. 10 with Sister Janet Goetz, OSB, by email at vocations@mtsbenedict.org or by phone at 814.899.0614 Ext. 2424.

DANIEL CABANILLAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Tuesday, December 29th from 7-9 p.m.
St. George, 5145 Peach Street

Tickets are \$25; available at St. George Rectory, 5145 Peach Street, or St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd.

Program will be followed by a wine and cheese party. Call 864-7046 to order tickets or for more information.

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PARISH ANNIVERSARIES

St. Bartholomew commemorates 135 years

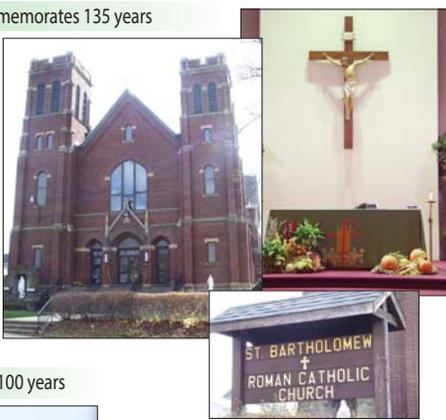
SHARPSVILLE - St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville celebrated its 135th anniversary Nov. 7 with a Mass followed by a dinner and dance in the parish hall.

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated the Mass and presented the parish with a papal blessing in honor of its milestone anniversary.

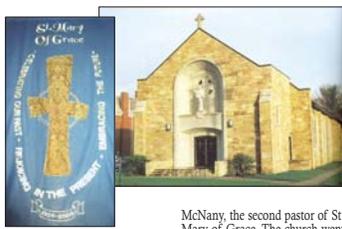
Bishop Tobias Mullen sent Father Thomas McManus to gather the people of the area and establish a parish in 1874. After a number of buildings, the current church was completed in 1907.

Msgr. Edward Latimer, the former superintendent of diocesan schools, planned and built a catechetical and social center. Father Arthur Leon and Father John Lynch also made considerable improvements to the church property.

Today, Father Matt Kujawinski is pastor to the parish's 560 registered families.



St. Mary of Grace celebrates 100 years



MEADVILLE - St. Mary of Grace Parish in Meadville capped off a year of centennial events with an anniversary Mass Nov. 5.

In 1909, Father Salvatore Pandrea was assigned to establish a new church in Meadville to tend to the needs of the growing population of Italian-American Catholics. Masses were celebrated in the club rooms of the local Knights of Columbus until 1912 when a building was purchased on Pine Street and remodeled into a church.

The current church building was dedicated in 1958 under Father James

McNany, the second pastor of St. Mary of Grace. The church went through extensive renovations in the early '90s under the direction of Msgr. Bruce Allison and was rededicated in 1994. Father Rich Toohey is the current pastor.

While many of the parish's more than 440 registered families are predominantly Italian-American, it is no longer exclusively so with many parishioners coming from German, Irish and Polish roots, among others.



Bishop Donald Trautman and Father Rich Toohey at the Nov. 5 anniversary Mass.

St. Philip marks 50th anniversary



LINESVILLE - St. Philip Parish in Linesville recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Mass with Bishop Donald Trautman.

The Mass ended a year-long celebration which included a number of events. The parish was presented with a papal blessing from Pope Benedict XVI. In the fall, St. Philip held a day of Eucharistic adoration, benediction and evening prayer, which was followed by a soup and salad supper. The parish dedication was also marked with the burying of

a time capsule. The original St. Philip church was built in the 19th century as a mission church of St. Peter Parish in Conneautville.

In 1959, the congregation was raised to the status of a parish. Father Samuel Houpt was named the first pastor. His successor, Father Bernard Webber, built the Houpt Educational and Social Center. The previous center had been destroyed by a fire.

Father John Walsh is the current pastor to the parish's more than 270 registered families.

CONSIDER GIFTING WITH SECURITIES THROUGH THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Philanthropy is the desire to benefit humanity, and this desire can become reality even during unstable economic times. People are making careful choices about spending, saving and giving from their resources.

Coming from modest means, Dr. Barbara Behan understands the challenge for families to educate their children in Catholic schools, especially in hard times. Because of the important role Catholic education played in her life, Dr. Behan was determined to begin a fund that would immediately help students. She also wanted the funding to be there for future children. "A Catholic education provided me with the foundation of faith and values that would serve as an anchor in my life's journey," she said. "I think we must search for and implement creative ways to sustain educational offerings and ensure the viability and availability of Catholic education for the young of our diocese." She named her fund the Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Endowment Fund.

donor's decision-making process," says Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation. "It is important for our donors to spend time considering how to make their gift. Often they discover that they can help others more than they ever thought possible." The choice in how to give varies. The best gift may be cash. For others, it may be from appreciated securities, retirement plans, a will or living trust. A donor might value a lifetime income stream available through a charitable gift annuity.

Donors' dollars help people 365 days a year through invested endowments: Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, Clergy Health and Welfare, Evangelization (Spreading the Word of God), St. Martin's Center, Catholic Charities Fund for Emerging Needs, and the Cursillo Movement Endowment Fund. Donors can also create a Named Endowment Fund, which was the choice of Dr. Behan.

Each gift helps to ensure a brighter future for those in need throughout our diocese. To learn more about The Catholic Foundation, visit the Web site at mycatholicfoundation.org or call Dr. McCloskey at 814.824.1237. To make a donation to The Catholic Foundation, fill out the attached form and mail it to 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.



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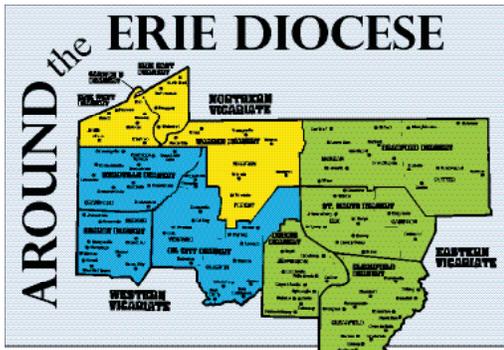
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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



Second annual Cursillo quilt raffle raises \$720

Four women from Cursillo No. 201 created a handmade quilt which was raffled at the Cursillo Movement's annual picnic.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Father Bill Sutherland and Father John Jacquet, spiritual co-directors; Teresa Wilczynski; Patti Matczak; Debbie Bartone; and Sharon Zielinski, who won the quilt. Missing from the photo is Maureen Herbst.

The second annual quilt raffle raised \$720 to benefit the Cursillo Movement.



Eagle Scout designs parish center sign for St. Anthony

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS – Bill Chernicky, a junior at Cambridge Springs High School, recently designed and constructed a new sign for St. Anthony's Parish Center in Cambridge Springs. He did the project to complete his requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

"There are many ways to assess the spiritual and material health of a parish," said Msgr. Lawrence Speice, pastor of St. Anthony. "One exciting way is to see our young people come of age and enter parish life in different ways."

He added that Chernicky's project was one of those moments.

Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Andy Bullman, assistant Scoutmaster; Pat Chernicky, Bill's mother; Bill Chernicky, Eagle Scout candidate; Joan and Bill Chernicky, grandparents; (back row) Cory Hogencamp, Scout; Rob Bullman, committee chairman; Alex Rowden, Scout; Msgr. Lawrence Speice, pastor; and Wes Rowden, Scoutmaster.



St. Michael remembers parish military personnel at Christmas

GREENVILLE – St. Michael Parish in Greenville recently sent Christmas packages to parish military personnel serving overseas. Nine servicemen each received two packages filled with an assortment of Christmas goodies, personal items, a prayer book and military medal.

Donations for these boxes were given by the parishioners of St. Michael and St. Margaret Mission in Jamestown. Packages are mailed to deployed military at Christmas and Easter each year.

Pictured from left to right are Father Dan Hoffman, Msgr. Andrew Karg, pastor, Roseanne McConnell and Ginny Richardson.



Soldiers receive Christmas mailing



ST. MARYS – Two-hundred and thirty-four volunteers gathered at Sacred Heart Activity Center in St. Marys on Nov. 22 to distill 33,000 cards and letters into packets for 4,657 soldiers serving in the military here and abroad.

Each package included a selection of food, drinks, phone cards, toiletries, pens and blank Christmas cards to be sent to friends and family. Every soldier also received a hand-wrapped Christmas tree ornament.

According to Chris Jovenitti, a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Johnsonburg and director of the Letters from Home program, volunteers included numerous Scout troops, staff from congressional representatives and Governor

Huie and his family, who drove to St. Marys from New Jersey for the occasion.

Huie, a Twin Towers survivor, brought messages from the people of New Jersey and New York City to forward to the troops.

Many hands made light work, and the truck was loaded and

ready to go within two hours. Volunteers also signed a large banner forwarded to the men and women stationed at Fort Hood.

If you have the address of a soldier you would like to include in the next shipment, please e-mail it to LettersFromHome@windstream.net by April 1, 2010.

St. Martin Center marks 40 years of service

ERIE – "Tonight we have good reason to celebrate, to rejoice and give thanks for the St. Martin Center," Bishop Donald Trautman said during his remarks at the dinner observing the Catholic Charities agency's 40th anniversary on Oct. 24. He acknowledged both the late Msgr. Vincent Enright and the late Sister Benita Repasky, SSI, for their foundational work.

"I was not always eager to have Msgr. Enright visit," Bishop Trautman joked. "I could never say 'no to him!' He also saluted Cheryl Kobel, who has been executive director of the St. Martin Center since 1984, and who he said never takes no for an answer either. Kobel received two standing ovations during the evening.

Moving personal testimonies from two individuals and a couple whose lives have been impacted by the services of the center were a highlight at the gathering.

Board President Tom Brennan also reflected on why he is committed to the center, pointing to his sense of civic duty, his desire



to give back to the community and his obligation as a parent to be an example to his children. He called his work with St. Martin Center a labor of love.

Kobel said her work with the agency made her feel proud, privileged and honored, noting everyone should feel excited about the future of St. Martin Center with its innovative programs designed

to lead more individuals to self reliance.

Emcee Brady Louis and his wife, Renee, were honored at the 40th anniversary dinner of the St. Martin Center for their loyal support over the years. Pictured from left to right are: Board President Tom Brennan, SMC Executive Director Cheryl Kobel, and Renee and Brady Louis.

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