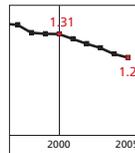


'Christ made himself poor for you'
Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent, page 2.



FaithLife

Abortion rate decline
Pro-life officials praise new numbers, page 2.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

February 10, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Scholastica Our Lady of Lourdes

- Feb. 10 St. Scholastica
- Feb. 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- Feb. 14 St. Cyril and St. Methodius
- Feb. 21 St. Peter Damian
- Feb. 22 The Chair of St. Peter
- Feb. 23 St. Polycarp

World Day of the Sick - Feb. 11



Receiving Christ in the Eucharist, Catholics should in turn give their lives for others, especially those who are sick and suffering, Pope Benedict XVI said. In his message for the Feb. 11 celebration of World Day of the Sick, the pope asked Catholics to consider "the close connection that exists between the mystery of the Eucharist, the role of Mary in the plan of salvation and the reality of human pain and suffering."

World Sick Day is marked each year on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions in the grotto in Lourdes, France.

In his message, Pope Benedict said, "Mary is the model of total abandonment to the will of God" and, in following her example, Christians learn to place their entire existence in God's hands, including their "joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments in an awareness that trials, pain and suffering enrich the meaning of our pilgrimage on earth. Mary is near to all who suffer, standing alongside them as she stood alongside her son as he suffered, the pope said.



What's new at www.ErieRCD.org

Lenten calendar

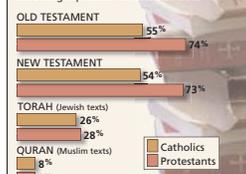
For a printable Lenten calendar, visit the Erie Diocese's official Web site at www.ErieRCD.org. Sponsored by Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life, the calendar provides a Scripture verse, reflection and activity suggestion for each day of Lent.



The official Lenten regulations from Bishop Donald Trautman are available on the Web site, as well.

Word of God

Adults who say "all" or "most" of the following represent the word of God.



Online poll conducted among 2,495 adults within the U.S. Nov. 9-13. The sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel. No indicators of theoretical sampling error can be calculated. ©2007 CRS

Confessions at the MALL

Diocese opens chapel at Millcreek Mall

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — After Millcreek Mall shoppers browse the new springtime fashions at Bon Ton and sip on a cup of Starbucks coffee, they can stop by the mall's newest store and go to confession.

The Erie Diocese became the Erie mall's newest tenant, opening a chapel on Feb. 6—Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent—primarily for hearing confessions.

"People often have different schedules than what the church has," said Bishop Donald Trautman. "We traditionally have had confessions Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening at parishes. That doesn't seem to be working. There are many reasons for that: secularism in our culture, denial of sin. But



it may also be people's schedules that we're not there when they are there."

Confession at the mall has been an idea of Bishop Trautman's for some time. But hearing them there during the penitential season of Lent—a time of prayer, good works and returning to the Lord, gave him the impetus to commit to the idea, he said.

"My idea is to go to where the people are and see if we can, by presenting this opportunity, bring them back to the sacrament and meet them where they are," he said.

The diocese has transformed the empty storefront

that formerly housed American Dental into a chapel complete with a welcoming area, confessionals, a tabernacle and a reading room.

The chapel, located just outside the concourse entrance to Bon Ton, one of the mall's anchor stores, occupies 2,000 of the more than 2.2 million square feet of retail space at Millcreek Mall complex.

Tim Jares, Millcreek Mall property manager, said chapels have opened at other malls and properties owned by the Cafaro Company, which operates the mall, but not in Millcreek Mall until now.

"In our other shopping centers we've done it before," Jares said. "It's all timing when it comes to

See CONFESSIONS, page 4

March for Life marks 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Young people add energy, enthusiasm to crowd

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of young people and adults from the Erie Diocese joined with throngs of school and parish groups throughout the United States in Washington, D.C. Jan. 22 for the 35th annual March for Life.

Tens of thousands of people from around the country gathered on the National Mall before marching up Capitol Hill to the Supreme Court. This year's march was held on the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortion in the U.S.

"It was an interesting group. They said it was one of the higher turnouts they've had in a few years," said Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life Office for the Erie Diocese, who went to Washington. "What was so interesting is that I would say half of the participants were from the high school and college levels. That to me was fascinating."

Gannon University, Mercyhurst College and Cathedral Prep High School students were a part of the younger contingent of the rally. The diocese's annual "Youth Stand 4 Life" trip included

groups from several parishes. People for Life sent two buses, including more than 50 7th and 8th graders from St. George School in Erie.

Other known participants as of press time included buses from Crawford County Citizens for Life, Hermitage, St. Marys, Titusville and DuBois.

"It was very powerful. There's always some level of it that pulls you in," Landini-Grogan said. "A few years ago it was very spiritual. You could feel that collective prayer. This year it was very energizing with young people learning about the march and the long-term consequences of Roe vs. Wade."

A sea of color met the eye at the Verizon Center sports arena in Washington, Jan. 22 as more than 20,000 young people from around the country filled all the seats for the annual Rally for Life and Youth Mass, celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

In addition to the traditional rally and Mass, youths attending this year received a special surprise: a personal message from Pope Benedict XVI, read by the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

In the message, the pope expressed his gratitude for the youths' commitment to life and said he looked forward to his visit to the United States. He will be in Washington April 15-17 and in New York April 18-20.

On the stage, March for Life organizer Nellié



Several parishes participated in the "Youth Stand 4 Life" diocesan bus trip to the march. Pictured are members of this year's trip, which included 34 adults and students from St. Lawrence, Albion; St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie; St. Elizabeth and St. Thomas, Corry; and St. Stephen, Oil City. Another contingent of 11 students from Gannon University's St. Joseph College also participated in the march.

Gray introduced a long program of politicians, clergy and other activists who helped warm up a crowd shivering in freezing temperatures and light drizzle. More than two dozen cardinals, archbishops and bishops stepped onto the stage.

Among the speakers, Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., headed a long string of politicians who took to the microphone to make sure participants saw the fight against abortion in political terms. He warned that "America's liberal elites" were "empathy-deficient" when it comes to the unborn, turning around a phrase about Americans made by Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., in remarks on the

See MARCH, page 4

'Of One Heart and Mind'

Does this situation sound familiar? You live month-to-month having just enough money to cover ongoing expenses. Then one day a leak develops in your older roof and you wonder how you're going to pay for repairs, let alone a new roof. Or the furnace unexpectedly dies, or the carpet you've had for 15 years looks even worse and yet you continue to say, "We'll replace it next year."

At one time or another, these things happen. And a parish is not too different from a home. Roofs need fixing and furnaces and carpeting need replacing. The challenge is to find the money to do it. The offertory of the parish is enough to cover the monthly expenses. But just like your home budget, pastors often wonder how to pay for these unexpected expenses.

In many cases the source of income to pay for these



costs in a parish comes from the annual Catholic Services Appeal. This appeal helps the Diocesan Church of Erie with its month-to-month expenses which include providing ongoing services and ministries to thousands.

The recent special issue of Faith magazine detailed some of them. But once a parish reaches its diocesan goal, every dollar raised over goal can be used for a need within the parish. These dollars are used

for a variety of projects including roofs, parking lots, furnaces, painting and carpeting.

"The fact that parishes receive some of the funds raised through the CSA is stressed each year," says Joseph Hoag, director of Stewardship and Annual Appeals for the diocese. "But it is important to show what this really means. It means additional income to many parishes to cover projects that could not be easily done without these funds."

Every parish will plan to do something with funds raised through the CSA. Each parish will communicate those plans to those in the parish.

"The CSA does truly benefit so much throughout the Diocese of Erie," says Hoag. "Please be generous in your support of the 2008 CSA."

Look for your parish's project listed in an upcoming issue of FaithLife.

Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast



Msgr. Richard Sullivan, pastor of St. Andrew in Erie, says grace at the 30th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast.

"Jesus said if you want to move mountains, it's prayer, penance and fasting," Janet Folger, president of Faith2Action, said at the 30th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast sponsored by People for Life in Erie.

Her compelling and energetic keynote address was presented to a sell-out crowd at the Avalon Hotel on Feb. 2. Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop of Erie, and Erin Landini-Grogan, director of the Respect Life Office for the Erie Diocese, also shared remarks at the gathering.

"This morning we are here for those who have no birthdays," Bishop Trautman said. "Let us not be complacent. Let us march and pray and proclaim and protest until the most basic human right, the right to life, belongs to all."



IN THE U.S.

■ **With the Jan. 24 retirement of 77-year-old Bishop John J. Leibrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., up to 22 U.S. bishops, including four cardinals, could retire because of age this year. There are 14 active U.S. bishops, including four cardinals, who have already turned 75. Seven more will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2008. At age 75 bishops are required to submit their resignation to the pope. Pope John Paul II often asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. Pope Benedict XVI has given no indication that he will change that practice.**

Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

■ **At a Mass celebrating the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Catholic Charities USA unveiled a plan to spark a national conversation about racism and poverty. "Poverty and racial injustice betray our national ideals of liberty and justice for all," said Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities, during a Jan. 21 press conference in the offices of the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. Catholic Charities USA, which is based in Alexandria, Va., and has 1,700 local agencies and institutions nationwide, released a paper titled "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good." It was handed out to those attending**

the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mass. Father Snyder said Catholic Charities would use the paper to start a national dialogue on the topics that most Americans don't want to address. "This document... is intended to start, enrich and inform a conversation throughout our country, compelling each of us to serve, educate and advocate for programs and policies that will foster unity in all of our communities, eliminate racism and significantly reduce poverty in our lifetime," he said. The paper is available at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **In praying for Christian unity, those who follow Jesus recognize their divisions prevent others from believing in the Gospel message of peace, love and salvation, Pope Benedict XVI said. "In common prayer, Christian communities place themselves together before the Lord and, becoming aware of the contradictions arising from their divisions, they demonstrate their desire to obey his will, relying on his almighty assistance," the pope said Jan. 23 at his weekly general audience.**

As is customary during the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the pope dedicated his entire audience talk to ecumenism. Pope Benedict said that common prayer is not a strategy for publicizing the need for Christian unity, "but is an expression of the faith that unites all the disciples of Christ," who had prayed that his followers would be one. "It is the awareness of our human limits that leads us to abandon ourselves with trust into the hands of the Lord," he said.

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PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Paulist Father Isaac Thomas Hecker was "a real-life saint like you and me," Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York said Jan. 27, describing the founder of the Paulist Fathers. "He was a person who suffered, who made his way through life bearing crosses and who taught that sanctity can be captured in many different ways," the cardinal added. He made the comments during a Mass that marked the opening of the cause for Father Hecker's canonization and the 150th anniversary of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, the parish he established on Columbus Avenue in New York. In his homily, Cardinal Egan traced the "troubles and tribulations" that led Father Hecker to found the Paulists as a distinctly "American approach to announcing the Gospel."**

■ **Msgr. Joseph Champlin, a Syracuse priest who was known nationally as an author, speaker and liturgist, died Jan. 17 after a long battle with a rare form of bone cancer.**

He was 77. A prolific writer, Msgr. Champlin wrote more than 50 books with more than 20 million copies in print. He circled the globe, traveling 2 million miles lecturing, conducting retreats and sharing his expertise on liturgy and pastoral care. From 1968-1971 he served as associate director in the Liturgy Secretariat for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Msgr. Champlin edited "A Catholic Handbook of Pastoral Help for Marriage Preparation," familiar to many in the Erie Diocese. He is the author of the "Together for Life" series that walked couples through almost every aspect and liturgical consideration of a Catholic marriage ceremony. Many parishes in the diocese have utilized the sacrificial giving approach and program that he developed.

By the Way...

St. Andrew Parish in Erie is still looking for the head of a statue that was vandalized sometime during the night on Jan. 12 outside the church. The head of one of the three shepherd children was cut off the marble statue, which is part of the parish's shrine to Our Lady of Fatima.



Jason Koshinski

According to Msgr. Richard Sullivan, the statue could be repaired if the head is found. The parish received a phone call last week from a woman who found the head of a statue in the dumpster outside the Salvation Army downtown. But the head was found to be too small to be from the Fatima statue.

St. Andrew has always had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. The shrine, which was built in 1956, includes a six-foot statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Winds gusting between 35-50 mph on Jan. 30 knocked off a 700-pound terra cotta cross from the top of St. Mary Parish in Erie. Thankfully no one was injured. One of the cross' arms fell through the rectory's basement window. The base of the cross crashed through the church roof, going through a skylight and damaging the floor in the center aisle. Due to repairs the parish was forced to cancel the daily Mass the rest of the week.

Established in 1840, St. Mary is one of the oldest churches in the Erie Diocese.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is offering a variety of multimedia resources to help Catholics reflect during the 2008 season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6. Resources include a new series of "radio retreats" in English and Spanish featuring bishops as retreat leaders. Bishop Donald Trautman will lead the retreat for the second week of Lent. His homily will be followed by a question-and-answer segment and the bishop's blessing.

Resources on the special Web site (www.usccb.org/len) are organized around four pillars of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*: What we believe, what we celebrate, how we live and how we pray. The site includes information on fasting and abstinence, examinations of conscience to aid preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation and a section on Holy Week observances.

The Web site also has several versions of the Stations of the Cross, including a new audio version available for download.

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

Christ made himself POOR for YOU

Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent 2008

Editor's note: Here is part one of the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent 2008. Look for part two in the Feb. 24 issue of FaithLife.

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period, the church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in this process of interior renewal: these are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. For this year's Lenten message, I wish to spend some time reflecting on the practice of almsgiving, which represents a specific way to assist those in need and, at the same time, an exercise in self-denial to free us from attachment to worldly goods.

The force of attraction to material riches and just how categorical our decision must be not to make of them an idol, Jesus confirms in a resolute way: "You cannot serve God and mammon" (Lk 16:13). Almsgiving helps us to overcome this constant temptation, teaching us to respond to our neighbor's needs and to share with others whatever we possess through divine goodness. This is the aim of the special collections in favor of the poor, which are promoted during Lent in many parts of the world. In this way, inward cleansing is accompanied by a gesture of ecclesial communion, mirroring what already took place in the early church. In his letters, St. Paul speaks of this in regard to the collection for the Jerusalem community (cf. 2 Cor 8-9; Rm 15, 25-27).

According to the teaching of the Gospel, we are not owners but rather administrators of the goods

we possess: these, then, are not to be considered as our exclusive possession, but means through which the Lord calls each one of us to act as a steward of his providence for our neighbor. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, material goods bear a social value, according to the principle of their universal destination (cf. n. 2404).

In the Gospel, Jesus explicitly admonishes the one who possesses and uses earthly riches only for self. In the face of the multitudes, who, lacking everything, suffer hunger, the words of St. John acquire the tone of a ringing rebuke: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" (1 Jn 3:17). In those countries whose population is majority Christian, the call to share is even more urgent, since their responsibility toward the many who suffer poverty and abdundance is even greater. To come to their aid is a duty of justice even prior to being an act of charity.

Pro-life officials praise decline in U.S. abortion rate

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A study showing that abortion rates in the United States have fallen to their lowest level in nearly 30 years is good news for pro-life officials who attribute the decrease to changing attitudes.

"I am not surprised that the number and rate of abortions is falling steadily," said Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, who credits the shift in part to recent debates about partial-birth abortion which have increased public awareness about abortions.

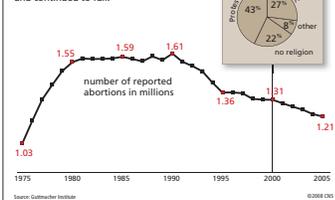
She said she was confident abortions would continue to decrease in the United States as more information about abortions was made available to the general public, support networks expanded for expectant parents in crisis, people sought healing from past abortions and adoption was "treated as a courageous choice for both mother and child."

The number of abortions declined to 1.2 million in 2005, 25 percent below the 1.6 million abortions in 1990 and is the lowest level reported since 1.179 million in 1976, according to a study released Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, a Planned Parenthood affiliate based in New York.

The report shows the abortion rate, the number of abortions per every thousand women ages 15-44, was down to 19.4 for 1,000 women — the lowest since 1974.

Abortions Decline

The number of reported abortions began to gradually decline in 1991 and continued to fall.



Source: Guttmacher Institute

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The study, "Abortion in the United States: Biocidence and Access to Services, 2005," is based on the organization's survey of abortion providers in the United States and analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. The study will appear in the March 2008 issue of the institute's journal, *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*.

Randall O'Bannon, director of education and research for the National Right to Life Committee, said the data indicate that women are rejecting abortions because they are becoming more informed about the procedure.

He said information about abortions has become increasingly available, particularly in the 23 states with informed consent laws ensuring that women seeking abortion are provided with

detailed information about abortion and its risks, biocidence information about the development of their unborn child and financial information about the types of governmental and private assistance available to them.

Although the Guttmacher report did not list reasons for the decreased number of abortions, researchers said it could be a combination of factors, including the possible increased use of contraception, restrictions on abortions and the wider availability of the abortion pill RU-486.

The report also noted a decline in the number of U.S. abortion providers since 2000. The number of abortion providers decreased in 26 states, increased in 15 states and stayed the same in nine states.

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Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
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Briefly

Catholic Colleges Week Feb. 17-23

Each year, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) and the National Catholic College Admission Association (National CCAA) present National Catholic Colleges Week.

The week's activities highlight the accomplishments of Catholic colleges and celebrate the role of Catholic colleges in society. The major goal of Catholic Colleges Week is to encourage high schools, churches and families to encourage students in the community to consider Catholic higher education.

Both Gannon University and Mercyhurst College will be involved in the week's festivities.

On Tues., Feb. 19, Dr. Michael Galligan-Stierle, vice president of the ACCU, will speak at Gannon University faculty and staff in the afternoon about the spirituality of college students today. He will speak to students about leadership at 7 p.m. in the Yehi Room.

On Thurs., Feb. 21, Bishop Trautman is offering a Lenten Evening of Reflection for Gannon faculty and staff and will then join the students for Eucharistic adoration.

On Sat., Feb. 23, Gannon hosts Mercyhurst College for women's and men's basketball games. As an expression of their unity in faith, Father Jason Glover from Gannon and Father Jim Piszker from Mercyhurst will jointly offer the prayer before the game.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC COLLEGES WEEK
FEBRUARY 17-23, 2008

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl, the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services, began in 1975 as a response to the drought in the African Sahel. For 33 years, Operation Rice Bowl has called participants to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Since its beginning, Operation Rice Bowl has raised more than \$160 million to fund development projects that improve peoples' ability to access food around the world and in local diocesan communities in the United States.

Today, more than 14,000 faith communities across the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl as a way to respect human dignity and foster solidarity with the poor around the world. Last year, \$8 million was offered by participants in Operation Rice Bowl.

For more information about Operation Rice Bowl, visit <http://orb.crs.org>.

Marriage Encounter Feb. 22-24

Marriage Encounter is a unique weekend experience designed to help revitalize Christian marriage. Couples commit to an entire weekend together during which they are invited to devote concentrated time and energy to their relationship. The focus of the program is communication, and couples learn the technique of dialogue.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb. 22-24. Call Ed and Sue Hudson at 814.823.4600 or go to www.wme.org for details.

St. Luke parish mission

St. Luke Parish, 421 E. 38th St., Erie, is holding a parish mission March 2-5. Events will take place each night from 7 - 8:15 pm. The mission will be led by Father Steve Vasek, O.M.I., and Sister Jean Fitzpatrick, S.S.C. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the strengthening and/or renewal of their faith with compassion, meditation, reconciliation and celebration. For more information about the mission, call the rectory at 814.825.6920.



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DEATH NOTICES

Father Edward J. Stutz dies at 87 Served as long-time pastor of St. Mary, Crown

ERIE — Father Edward J. Stutz, 87, died on January 26, 2008 at St. Mary's Asbury Ridge in Erie.

Born August 30, 1920 in New Philadelphia, Pa., he was the son of the late Walter and Anna Shilaukas Stutz.

Father Stutz attended Brady Township High School in Luthersburg, Pa., before transferring to Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie where he graduated in 1939. He attended Cathedral College (later Gannon University) in Erie from 1939 to 1941. In 1941 he entered St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, earning a bachelor's degree in 1943 and a baccalaureate (S.T.B.) and licentiate (S.T.L.) in sacred theology in 1946.

He was ordained a priest on May 30, 1946 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Archbishop John Mark Gannon. At the time of his ordination, his home parish was St. Ladislavus in Detroit. Following ordination, Father Stutz served as assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard from 1946 to 1948. From 1948 to 1952, he was assigned as assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Erie, and from 1952 to 1958 he served as the assistant pastor at St. Brigid Parish in Meadville.

In 1958 he was transferred to St. Joseph Parish in Sharon, where he served as assistant until 1961 when he was named administrator of St. Mary Parish in Crown. Six weeks after his arrival in Crown he was named pastor, continuing in that capacity until his retirement in 1994. During his retirement he resided in Erie, eventually residing at St. Mary's Home in Erie until his death.



Father Edward J. Stutz

He received a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from St. Bonaventure University in 1965 and 1970, respectively. In addition, he studied pastoral Spanish at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., during the summers of 1961 and 1962.

He was ordained as a priest on May 27, 1965 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by the Most Rev. Frederick Hall, visiting bishop from Kisumu, Kenya. His home parish was St. Joseph in Oil City.

Father Driscoll served many years in the Catholic school system of the Diocese of Erie. Following ordination, he was assigned from 1965 to 1972 to the faculty of Elk County Christian High School in St. Marys. During that time, he resided at St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgeway from 1965 to 1967, at the school's faculty house from 1967 to 1969 and at Holy Rosary Parish in Johnsonburg from 1969 to 1972.

In July 1972, he was transferred to Kennedy Christian High School in Sharon with residence at Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon. In November 1972, he was assigned as assistant pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Erie. In 1983, he returned to Elk County Christian, this time as headmaster, serving until 1985. He also served briefly as administrator of St. Benedict Parish in Dagushachonda from 1984 to 1985. He was named pastor of St. Philip Parish in Linesville in 1985 and served there until 1998.

He then was named pastor of St. Michael Parish in Fryburg, serving in that position until his retirement in 2000. He continued to reside in Fryburg until 2005 when he moved to Oil City.

Deacon Edward E. Ward Sr. dies at 65 Served at St. Tobias, Brockway

BROCKWAY — Deacon Edward E. Ward Sr., 65, of 2543 Rt. 219, Brockway, died January 29, 2008 at his residence.

He was born on August 23, 1942 in Brockway, son of the late Edward and Rena Reitz Ward. He was the husband of Linda Shley, to whom he had been married for 44 years.

He was a member of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway. He worked as an inspector at Brockway Glass for 33 years, before retiring. During his later years, he entered the Erie Diocese's permanent diaconate program and was ordained a deacon on June 4, 1999. He served at St. Tobias, where he also taught the R.C.I.A. program. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Deacon Ward is survived by his wife Linda Ward Brockway, son Edward Ward Jr. of Brockport, daughters Deborah Camuso and Denise Larson both of Brockport and Carol Wingard of Brockway as well as his brother Robert Ward of Falls Creek. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren.



Deacon Edward E. Ward Sr.

Father William J. Driscoll dies at 68 Served many years in Catholic schools

OIL CITY — Father William J. Driscoll, 68, died on January 29, 2008 at UPMC Northwest, Seneca.

Born August 29, 1939, he was the son of the late William J. Driscoll II and Helen J. Kirchner Driscoll.

He attended St. Joseph grade school and high school in Oil City, graduating in 1957. He entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie at attended Gannon University for two years before completing his seminary training at Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y.



Father William J. Driscoll

Lenten Dinners

FISH & PIEROGI
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Scheffner Hall
1553 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA
February 15, 29 & March 14
4:00-7:00 PM
Adults: \$8.00
Ages 7-12: \$4.00
6 and under: Free
Takeouts Available for 50 cents more.
More info, call Kathy Pytlarz at 825-6626

FISH & PIEROGI
St. Stanislaus Parish
516 E. 13 St., Erie, PA
February 8, 22 & March 7
4:00-7:00 PM
Adults: \$8.50
Ages 6-12: \$3.25, 5 and under: Free
Takeouts: \$8.75, Call 452-6606

FISH
All Saints Parish
11264 Route 97 North
Waterford, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14
4:30-7:00 PM
Adults: \$7.00
Under 12: \$3.00
Toddlers: Free
Dinners include:
• Baked or Fried White Fish
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Coleslaw, Apple Sauce
• Homemade Desserts
• Coffee, Tea, Fruit, Drinks
Takeouts: 796-3023

FISH & SHRIMP
Sacred Heart Parish
Sacred Heart Activity Center
St. Marys, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29 & Good Friday
4:00-6:30 PM
Large: \$8.00, Small: \$7.00
Children under 10: \$5.00
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Fish, Shrimp
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Coleslaw, Meatless Soup
• Rolls, Light Dessert, Drinks
Takeouts: (814) 834-4017

FISH, SHRIMP & CRAB LEGS LUNCH AND DINNER
St. Joseph School
Route 66, Lucinda, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
4:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$7.95, Child: \$3.95
4 and under: Free
Crab Leg Dinner: \$11.95
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Fish, Shrimp or Crab Legs
• Choice of Potato
• Coleslaw, Roll, Drink, Dessert
LUNCH
11:00 AM-1:00 PM, \$6.00
Takeout ONLY, Call 226-8310
Lunch includes:
• Fish Sandwich, French Fries, Coleslaw

FISH
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Blessed Sacrament Cafeteria, Erie, PA
February 8, 22 & March 7
4:30-7:00 PM
Adults: \$8 for Fish or Cheese Ravioli Dinner
\$5.00 for Macaroni and Cheese Dinner
Child under 12:
\$5.00 for Fish or Cheese Ravioli
\$3.00 for Macaroni and Cheese
Dinner includes:
• Baked Scrod
• French Fries or Mac and Cheese
• Coleslaw, Roll, Sherbet, Drink
Takeouts available.
Stop by the bake sale after Dinner!
454-0171

FISH
St. Boniface Parish
School Cafeteria
355 Main St., Kersey, PA
Ash Wednesday: February 6
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
4:00-7:00 PM
Large: \$8.00, Small: \$7.00
Dinner includes:
• Icelandic Haddock
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Macaroni Salad or Coleslaw
• Roll, Drink, Dessert
Takeouts Available.
Two Free Dinners each night!
More info: 885-8941

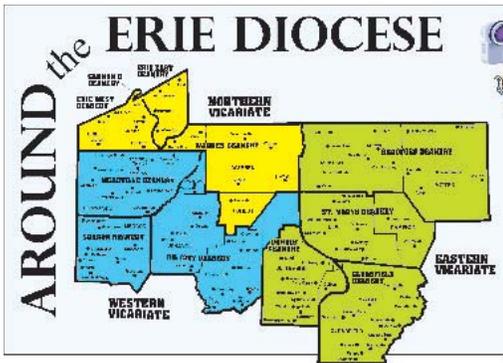
FISH
St. Teresa Parish
3rd Ave., Union City, PA
4:30-7:00 PM
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Fish
• Baked Potato or French Fries
• Coleslaw, Roll,
• Desserts, Drink
More info: 438-2000

FISH
St. Luke Parish
Knights of Columbus
School Cafeteria
421 E. 38 St., Erie, PA
February 15, 22 & March 7, 14
5:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$7.00 Donation
Child: (6-12): \$5.00 Donation
6 and under: Free
Dinner includes:
• Icelandic Cod
• French Fries
• Coleslaw or Applesauce
• Macaroni and Cheese or Pierogi
• Sherbet, Drinks
825-6920

FISH
St. Joseph Church
17735 Bennetts Valley Hwy, Force, PA
Ash Wednesday: February 6
and every Friday during Lent
4:00-7:00 PM
Adult: \$8.50, 12 and under: \$5.00
Dinner includes:
• Baked or Fried Haddock
• French Fries or Baked Potato
• Roll, Coleslaw, Dessert, Drink
Eat in or take out: Call 787-4819
We deliver in Bennetts Valley.

FISH
St. Anthony Parish
St. Paul Center
746 W. Main St., Sheffield, PA
February 8, 15, 22, 29
March 7, 14, 21
5:00 PM-Sat
Adult: \$8, Child: \$5
Dinner includes:
• Deep Fried Haddock
• French Fries, Coleslaw
• Desserts, Drinks
968-5915

FISH
Sacred Heart Parish
Sacred Heart Auditorium
W. 25th and Liberty, Erie, PA
February 15, 29
4:30-7:00 PM
Adult: \$8, 12 and under: \$6.50
Dinner includes:
• Baked Scrod
• French Fries or Rice Pilaf
• Green Beans, Coleslaw
• Roll, Drink, Ice Cream
Macaroni & Cheese Dinner: \$6.50
814-456-6256



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

Are you pictured in this issue? Share this page with family and friends online by visiting archived issues of *FaithLife* at: www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp

Cathedral Center collects items for orphanage

ERIE — Students at Cathedral Center recently collected items such as towels, blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes and baby wipes for an orphanage in Jamaica. Owen McCormick, a senior at Cathedral Prep High School, organized the project from flyers and advertising to boxing the items and mailing them. The school collected enough items to fill 15 large boxes.

Pictured from left to right are (front row) Natalie Wagner, David Roach, Rachel Bowen, (back row) Ashlynn Rowane, Summer Rodrigues and Owen McCormick.



St. Columbkille honors volunteers for years of service

STONEBORO — On Dec. 9, St. Columbkille in Stoneboro presented awards to parishioners who are over 80 years of age to recognize them for their years of service. A special achievement award was given to the oldest active parishioner, Eleanora Wiand, who is 92.

Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Irene Kinch, Betty Jean Sullivan, Irene Reash, Biaggio Chimeria, Mary Ann Gallagher, Lois Schiemer, (back row) Sarah Safran, Eleanora Wiand and Leonard Gallagher.



Sisters of St. Joseph share gifts from 19th annual Thanksgiving dinner

ERIE — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the Marketplace Grill restaurant, prepared and served more than 1,000 meals to persons who were alone, in need or otherwise would not have celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday, at the sisters' 19th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Nearly 600 donors supported the sisters' efforts through financial gifts as well as food donations. Numerous others volunteered at the dinner by preparing, serving or delivering meals to homebound individuals. Monetary donations helped cover the cost of the dinner and provide needed resources that the sisters share with local shelters, food banks and agencies throughout the year.

On January 13, the sisters hosted representatives from various local agencies and organizations for liturgy and continental breakfast at the Sisters' Community Living Center and presented them with donations from the proceeds of the Thanksgiving Dinner.

"The Thanksgiving Dinner project is in keeping with our mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God," said Sister Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, co-chairperson of the dinner. "We believe that sharing the spirit of the holiday is one of the greatest gifts we can give. And to be able to share these gifts with other agencies that serve the lonely and less fortunate throughout the year is a great way of extending the spirit of giving."

Agencies and representatives attending and not pictured include: Shirley Schell, Mercy Center for Women; Agnes Priscaro, MHEDS; Sue Porowski, Crime Victim Center; Jeanne Niedzielski, St. Andrew Food Bank; Jeff Hardner, Sister Mary Pascal, SSJ, Food Pantry; Kim Lytle, Erie DAWN; Ruth Mercier and Zeline Euler, St. James Haven; Sister Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ, Blessed Sacrament Food Bank, St. Pat's Haven; and Dorothy Zupanick, Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

Other agencies receiving donations include: St. Ann Food Without Borders and Catholic Rural Ministry, Oil City.



From left to right: Lisa Kelleher, St. Paul neighborhood Free Clinic; Dick Rahner, Shankar Service Foundation; Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network; Cheryl Kobel, St. Martin Center; and Karen Seggi, Second Harvest Food Bank.



From left to right: Daniel O'Brien, International Institute; Bob Jenkins, St. Luke Food Pantry; Mary Ann Varnick, L'Arche; Mr. and Mrs. Tim Giles, St. John Holy Rosary Food Pantry.

Diocese opens chapel at Millcreek Mall

CONFESSIONS from page 1

retail. If a space is available for a period of time, different businesses will come in. Malls used to have everything. They got away from different service business, and it's now coming back to that."

On Ash Wednesday, Bishop Trautman and Father Ed Loise, diocesan chancellor, introduced the concept by hearing confessions and distributing ashes. Confessions, both traditional and face to face, will be heard on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"However, if there is such a volume, we will hear them every day," Bishop Trautman said. "If the need is there, we'll do it other days of the week, but that remains to be seen. Right now we have it worked out for Wednesdays and Saturdays."

Both retired and active priests are being lined up for the time slots.

The mall chapel will remain open throughout the season of Lent during regular mall hours for visitors to stop in and pray. It will be closed Sundays. After Lent, a schedule will be announced.

This evangelization attempt is not, in any way, to rival parish life, the bishop said, but rather an opportunity to bring people back to the sacrament of reconciliation and the church.

"We want to get people back to their parish communities," he said. "It's an experiment on our part, and we'll see how it goes."

According to a 2007 report from the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), most Catholic adults admit to infrequent or no participation in the sacrament of reconciliation. Citing data from a 2005 poll of adult Catholics in the U.S., the report stated that 42 percent of those surveyed responded that they never go to confession. Thirty-two percent said they went less than once a year, and 26 percent said they went once a year or more.

Whatever their reasons might be, the numbers show that people are avoiding confession. By having a chapel in such a public setting, Bishop Trautman said he hopes bring people back to the sacrament.

"We should not come with fear and trembling but we should come with joy in our hearts knowing that the Lord wants to welcome us and embrace us," he said.

He recalled Jesus' parable of the prodigal son returning home to his father. When the father sees his son coming down the road, he runs out to embrace him. He then calls for a robe to be put on him, sandals for his feet and a ring to be put on his finger.

"I love that story," the bishop said. "That prodigal son represents all of us. And the father doesn't make the prodigal crawl back. The father rushes out to meet him. For me, that's the powerful part."

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March for Life marks Roe v Wade anniversary

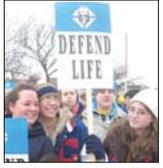
MARCH from page 1

presidential campaign trail a few days earlier.

In his remarks recorded at a White House breakfast earlier that morning and replayed at the rally, Bush lauded those who work for "a culture of life where a woman with an unplanned pregnancy knows there are caring people who will support her; where a pregnant teen can carry her child and complete her education; where the dignity of both the mother and child is honored and cherished."

Overall, the program focused on a consistent pro-life ethic, said Landimi-Grogan.

"While it was the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, they were talking about stem cell research, the death penalty, euthanasia and how all of these are attacks on life. It was all-encompassing."



Students from DuBois Central Catholic High school take part in the March for Life in Washington on Jan. 22. The Campus Ministry Department of DuBois Central Catholic High School spearheaded a group of 37 students along with 6 chaperones who left the school at 6 a.m. and returned home at 11 p.m.

View all FaithLife pages **ONLINE** www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp

St. Peter Cathedral Center
Open House
 160 West 11 Street Erie, PA
 Sunday, March 2, 2008, Noon - 2:00
 Website: www.cathedralcenter.org
 To schedule a private tour, call (814) 452-4276

Middle States accredited • October 2007 school wide, state-of-the-art technology upgrade • Art, music, physical education, technology, library classes • Small class size • Variety of sports and clubs • Transfer students welcome • Centrally located - close to downtown businesses

To: Women of the Erie Community
 You are invited to attend and receive a belated Valentine gift to yourself by...
 "Honoring Yourself as a Woman."
 Guest speaker: Mimi O'Connor
 When: Thursday, February 21
 7:00-9:00 pm
 Where: St. George Parish (5145 Peach St., Erie)
 Tickets: Call 864-0622

Tickets are FREE, but a free will offering is appreciated. Call Jackie: 814-490-6848

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