

HHS mandate

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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

February 17, 2013

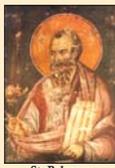
Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Peter Damian



St. Polycarp

Feb. 21 St. Peter Damian

Feb. 22 Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Feb. 23 St. Polycarp

50th anniversary of Venango Catholic High School – Feb. 23

Venango Catholic High School, 1505 W. First St. in Oil City, will hold a 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Feb. 23. Venango Catholic and St. Joseph High School alumni are invited to celebrate.

Doors open at 2 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico at 4:30 p.m. A light reception will follow.



Confirmations

Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman will visit the following churches to offer the sacrament of confirmation.

Queen of the World, St. Marys – Sunday, March 3 at 1 p.m. Confirmation classes include Sacred Heart, St. Marys; St. Mary, St. Marys; and Queen of the World, St. Marys.

St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford – Sunday, March 10 at 11 a.m. Confirmation classes include Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run; St. Raphael, Eldred; St. Bernard, Bradford; and St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford.

St. James, Erie – Monday, March 11 at 7 p.m.

Christ the King, Houtzdale – Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; St. Basil, Coalport; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; and Christ the King, Houtzdale.



Pope Benedict XVI announces he will resign

By Carol Glatz and Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Saying he no longer has the strength to exercise ministry over the universal church, Pope Benedict XVI announced Feb. 11 that he would be resigning at the end of the month after an eight-year pontificate.

"After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry," the pope told cardinals gathered for an ordinary public consistory to approve the canonization of new saints.

Pope Benedict, who was elected in April 2005, will be the first pope to resign in more than 600 years.

He told the cardinals, "In today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of St. Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told journalists at a briefing that the pope's decision was not prompted by any medical illness, but was due to a natural "decline of strength" associated with old age.

Even though the an-



Pope Benedict XVI is shown in side-by-side images from 2005 and 2013. At left is the pope in a photo taken May 4, 2005, about two weeks after his election. At right is an image taken Feb. 6 at the Vatican. The 85-year-old German pontiff announced Feb. 11 that he was stepping down, saying he does not have the strength to exercise ministry over the universal church.

nouncement had caught almost everybody by surprise, it was not a snap decision, but rather one that "had matured over the past few months," Father Lombardi said.

The pope made his announcement in Latin from a pre-written text during a morning ordinary public consistory where a large number of cardinals were present.

When he delivered his announcement, the pope seemed very "composed, concentrated" and read "in a solemn manner" in keeping with the importance of what he was saying, Father Lombardi said.

Fulfilling the canonical requirement, Pope Benedict solemnly declared to the cardinals, "Well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop

of Rome, Successor of St. Peter, entrusted to me by the cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of St. Peter, will be vacant and a conclave to elect the new supreme pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is."

It is up to the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to make preparations for a conclave to elect a new pope.

Cardinal Sodano, who was one of the many cardinals present during the pope's announcement, addressed the pope, telling him the news left them with "a sense of loss, almost completely incredulous."

However, it was obvious that his decision was based on

the cloister, called the Ma-

ter Ecclesia monastery, and dedicate his time to prayer and reflection, the Vatican spokesman said.

It was likely the pope would keep writing, he added, since the pope has mentioned many times that he has wanted to spend more time dedicated to study and prayer.

When asked if there would be any confusion over leadership or a schism were a possibility, Father Lombardi said he believes the pope "had no fear of this" happening because he clearly demonstrated his desire to step down and no longer be pope or retain any papal authority.

"I think in no way is there any risk of confusion or division" in this respect, he said.

The pope, who is past the age allowed a cardinal to vote for a new pope, will obviously not be part of the conclave that will convene to elect his successor, he added.

He is not likely to play any role in the "interregnum" or time between popes because "there is no role for a predecessor pope" during this period, the priest said.

The Jesuit priest said a "sede vacante" usually lasts less than a month, and that it was more than likely a new pope would be elected in time to lead the full schedule of Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

See RESIGN, page 2

Bishop Persico reacts to pope's resignation

Editor's note: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie, released a statement Feb. 11 reacting to Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that he will resign at the end of February. Here is the complete statement:

"It was with great surprise that I heard the news that Pope Benedict XVI is resigning—this is the first time in 600 years that a pope has resigned. The Holy Father realized that his age and health would make it difficult to continue fulfilling the role entrusted to him as the supreme pastor of the church.



"I think he should be commended for his decision. He not only has the wisdom and foresight to see the im-

itations of his age and health, but also has the humility to give up the office of St. Peter. He was able to humbly resign the office entrusted to him, making way for the church to have a new pastor, someone who will take up his leadership and continue the pastoral and spiritual care of the church.

"Pope Benedict brought to the papacy the mind of a scholar and the heart of a pastor. For eight years he has led the church, during which time he responded to some very serious concerns. He gave us an excellent example

of selfless leadership. "I never had the opportunity to meet Pope Benedict XVI, but I certainly have a bond with him as he is the one who appointed me as bishop of Erie.

"At this time, I ask all of the faithful of the Diocese of Erie to pray for Pope Benedict XVI and to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the cardinals of the Catholic Church as they prepare for the conclave where they will elect the new pope. Pray they will elect someone who will truly fit the needs of the time for the church."

Pope's resignation will set in motion period of transition

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — While the surprise resignation of Pope Benedict XVI is a first for the church in centuries, it also leads to a complicated period of transition that ends in the election of a new pope.

Regulated by ancient traditions and recent rules, the period between popes — known by the Latin term "interregnum" — will begin exactly at 8 p.m. Rome time Feb. 28, a date and time Pope Benedict stipulated in a declaration he made Feb. 11 for when the See of Rome and the See of St. Peter will be vacant.

Normally the interregnum begins with a pope's death and is followed by a period of mourning.

This time the pope will resign from his ministry and spend a short period of prayer and reflection at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, before moving to a monastery at the Vatican.

The rules governing the interregnum are matters of church

law, not dogma.

The apostolic constitution "Universi Dominici Gregis" confirms that as long as the Holy See is vacant, the universal church is governed by the College of Cardinals, which cannot, however, make decisions normally reserved to the pope. Such matters must be postponed until the new pope is elected.

Until there is a pope, the Roman Curia — the Vatican's network of administrative offices — loses most of its cardinal supervisors and cannot handle any new business.

The College of Cardinals is to deal solely with "ordinary business and matters which cannot be postponed." At present, there are 209 cardinals, and all of them are asked to meet in Rome to help administer the transition period.

The College of Cardinals does this through two structures: a general congregation, in which all the cardinals are to meet daily; and a particular four-member congregation, consisting of the chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, Cardinal Tarcisio Ber-

tone, and a rotating team of three cardinal assistants.

As chamberlain, Cardinal Bertone is to administer the goods and temporal rights of the Holy See until the election of a new pope.

Meanwhile, the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, is charged with making preparations for a conclave to elect a new pope, and the cardinals must set the time for the conclave to start.

The word conclave comes from Latin, meaning literally "with key," and reflects the previous tradition of locking the cardinals in an area where they would spend day and night until the new pope's election.

On the day set for entry into the conclave, the cardinal-electors assemble in St. Peter's Basilica to attend morning Mass. In the afternoon, they walk in procession to the Sistine Chapel, located just to the north of St. Peter's.

The voting may begin that afternoon with one ballot; on following days, normally two ballots are held in the morning and two



Only those cardinals under age 80 will be eligible to vote in the coming conclave. Cardinals who are age 80 or over by the time the conclave starts are excluded from the closed-door proceedings. There will be 117 cardinal-electors when the "sede vacante" begins Feb. 28; by March 5, that number will be 116. There are 11 eligible cardinal-electors from the United States.

in the afternoon.

A pope is elected when he obtains a two-thirds majority, reflecting a change Pope Benedict established in 2007 that effectively undid a more flexible procedure introduced by Blessed

John Paul.

According to the new rule, the two-thirds majority rule cannot be set aside even when cardinal-electors are at an impasse.

If the cardinals are deadlocked after 13 days, the cardinals pause

for a day of prayer, reflection and dialogue, then move to runoff ballots between the two leading candidates. A papal election will continue to require a majority of

See TRANSITION, page 3

Proposed rules fall short of meeting bishops' concerns, cardinal says

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The new proposed rules issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding insurance coverage of contraceptives show movement but fall short of addressing the U.S. bishops' concerns, New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan said in a Feb. 7 statement.

The cardinal, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the 80-page document released Feb. 1 by HHS concerning the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act indicates that the administration "seeks to offer a response to serious matters which have been raised throughout the past year."

He also noted that the bishops "look forward to engaging with the administration, and all branches and levels of government, to continue to address serious issues that remain. Our efforts will require additional, careful study."

The rules are open for a 60-day comment period and are expected to be finalized this summer.



Cardinal Timothy Dolan

After evaluating the proposed rules, Cardinal Dolan said in the statement that the bishops continue to stand by the statement on the HHS mandate issued by their Administrative Committee last March and affirmed by the entire body of bishops last June.

In that statement, he said, the bishops expressed concern over the mandate's "exceedingly narrow" four-part definition of "religious employer," one that exempted houses of worship, but left "our great ministries of service to our neighbors, namely, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the students in our schools and universities, and others in need" subject to the mandate.

Such a distinction, they said, created a "second class of citizenship within our religious community," and weakened the federal law's "healthy tradition of generous respect for religious freedom and diversity."

The cardinal credited the administration for proposing to drop the first three parts of the four-part test, which he said "might address" some of the bishops' concerns but not all.

An HHS spokeswoman said Feb. 1 no nonprofit religious institution — including churches, universities, hospitals and charities — will have to "arrange, contract, pay for or refer for" contraception insurance for employees or students who want it.



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued revised regulations Feb. 1 related to the contraception mandate and religious concerns under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. U.S. bishops had lambasted the mandate as violating religious freedom.

Bishop Persico's statement

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued a statement in response to the Feb. 1 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Acknowledging it "shows some movement by the administration," they say it still falls short of addressing U.S. bishops' concerns. For the full statement from the USCCB, visit www.usccb.org/news/2013/03/07.cfm.

In addition, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, bishop of Erie, released the following statement concerning the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

"I share the concern of my brother bishops who have studied the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to the mandate. For one thing, the exemption as presently formulated effects little, if any, substantive change. The government's definition of 'religious employer' is extremely narrow in that it defines 'freedom of religion' as little more than 'freedom of worship.' Houses of worship are exempt — but religious organizations such as Catholic Charities, hospitals and colleges are not. I find equally troubling the fact that there is no conscience protection for employers who continue to be held bound to the mandate, under penalty, to act contrary to their faith and the teachings of their church.



Bishop Lawrence Persico

"The bishops of this country have long supported the right of every person to have access to the best quality health care possible. We are hopeful that with continuing dialogue we can reach the goal of universal health care that falls within the rightful parameters of religious freedom and freedom of conscience."

Cardinal Dolan faulted the proposed rules for maintaining an "inaccurate distinction among religious ministries," noting that HHS "offers what it calls an 'accommodation,' rather than accepting the fact that these ministries are integral to our church and worthy of the same exemption as our Catholic churches."

He also said the proposed rules seem to "take away something that we had previously — the ability of an exempt employer (such as a diocese) to extend its coverage to the employees of a ministry outside the exemption."

The cardinal also noted that the government would require all employees of "accommodated" ministries in religious institutions to have access to contraception coverage, noting that they "may not opt out, nor even opt out for their children."

According to HHS, even in the

case of self-insured religious entities — which includes the Diocese of Erie and many dioceses and colleges — employees or insured students who want contraceptive coverage will be able to arrange it through outside insurance companies, at no cost to themselves and without financial or even administrative support of the faith-based institution.

Cardinal Dolan said "gaps in the proposed regulations" make it unclear "how directly these separate policies would be funded by objecting ministries, and what precise role those ministries would have in arranging for these separate policies."

This lack of clarity, he said, provides "the possibility that ministries may yet be forced to fund and facilitate such morally illicit activities" which the bishops would like to see changed in the final rule.

By the Way...

Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that he planned to resign Feb. 28 stunned and shocked religious leaders around the world. It sets up a probable mid-March conclave to elect a new pope. While there are no official candidates, there are always "papabili" (potential popes) that are frequently mentioned in church circles.



Jason Koshinski

Bishop Lawrence Persico held a news conference Feb. 11 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie to share his reaction to the pope's announcement. When asked if he had any guesses or insight on who the new Holy Father might be, the bishop gave a quick-witted reply. "I can tell you who it won't be," he said. "Me."

St. Peter Cathedral in Erie will honor Msgr. William Biebel at its Legacy Gala on May 3 at the Masonic Temple in Erie. The theme is "Kentucky Derby." The event will include a live and silent auction. Msgr. Biebel has served as rector of the cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, for more than 19 years. For more information on the Legacy Gala, contact Jennie Hagerty, advancement director of St. Peter Cathedral, at JHagerty@stpetercathedral.com or call 814.452.4276.

As it currently exists, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate in the Affordable Care Act would directly affect a number of diocesan agencies. One of them is the **Prince of Peace Center** in Farrell. Prince of Peace is an affiliate agency of **Catholic Charities** that does not require faith participation as a contingency for hire (employees) or service (clients), said **Joe Flecher**, the center's executive director.

"Our bishops are correct to stand up to protect established religious rights and freedoms for all—including those who are either unaware of the depth of this attack or others who just no longer value those particular rights," Flecher said.

We offer our sympathy to **Father Dan Kreshinsky**, pastor of **St. Adalbert Parish** in Farrell and **St. Anthony of Padua Parish** in Sharon on the death of his mother, **Bernice Kreshinski**, 95, died Jan. 28 at the Golden Living Center in Oil City.

The diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org has a plethora of good resources for the penitential season of Lent. They include Lenten practices and observances, a Q & A session on the sacrament of penance (confession), a Lenten family calendar from Catholic Charities, Mass and service times, a parish listing of Lenten dinners and more. Bookmark the page and come back frequently for updates throughout the papal transition as well.

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

Citing health reasons, Pope Benedict XVI announces he will resign

RESIGN, from page 1

a "great affection" for the well-being of the church, the cardinal said.

Father Lombardi said being a pope today is "much more fast-moving, more demanding" than it was in the past with an almost nonstop full schedule of public and private events and liturgical celebrations.

When asked why the pope chose Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the day to announce his stepping down, Father Lombardi said most likely the date was a coincidence, and that the pope instead chose an event — the ordinary public consistory — where a large number of cardinals would be present.

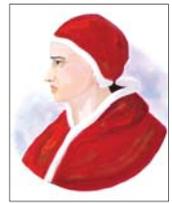
"The pope chose this significant occasion with the gathered cardinals" as the best moment to announce his plans, the Vatican spokesman said.

When asked whether the pope



Pope Celestine V resigned from the papacy in 1294. It is rare for a pope to step down from his position, and St. Celestine V was the last to freely do so. He was known through history as a holy man who rejected the political machi nations of the medieval papacy.

had any medical illnesses or bouts of depression that may have prompted his resignation, Father



Pope Gregory XII resigned his papacy in 1415. He was the last pope to do so. His resignation under pressure helped end the Great Western Schism.

Lombardi said the pope was "absolutely not" depressed and possessed a remarkable "spiritual serenity" and composure despite the many difficult moments he has had to face as pope.

The Vatican spokesman also said he was not aware of any

medical illness that would have caused the pope to step down, rather it was due to a "normal" deterioration of physical and mental strength that comes with old age.

The pope has increasingly had trouble walking in the past year, often using a cane and always being assisted getting up and down steps. However, the Vatican has never released medical information that would make it appear the pope suffers from anything other than joint pain connected to his age.

The option of a pope to resign is explicitly written into the Code of Canon Law. It says a pope may step down, but stipulates that the decision must be made freely and "duly manifested." No one needs to formally accept a pope's resignation for it to be valid.

The last pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII in 1415.

Pope Benedict had long said it would be appropriate for a

pope to resign for the good of the church if the pontiff felt he were unable to physically bear the burden of the papacy.

In his book-length interview, "The Light of the World," with German journalist Peter Seewald, the pope said, "If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

The pope told the author that it was important, however, that the pope "must not run away" and "must stand fast and endure" any difficult situations that are facing the church. For that reason, he was not thinking of resigning in 2010 — the year the interviews were conducted.

"One can resign at a peaceful moment or when one simply cannot go on," the pope had said.

Before ending his remarks during the consistory, Pope Benedict

told the cardinals: "I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the holy church to the care of our supreme pastor, our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the cardinal fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new supreme pontiff."

The pope said, "I wish to also devoutly serve the holy church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer."

Father Lombardi said he felt "great admiration" for the pope's "great courage" and "freedom of spirit" in making this decision. The spokesman said it shows the pope is not only fully aware of the great responsibilities involved in leading the universal church, but his hopes that "the ministry of the church be carried out the best way" possible.

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Holy Land: Apr. 8-19, Apr. 15-25, Apr. 22-May 2...
Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28, Apr. 22-May 5, Apr. 29-May 12, May 6-19, May 13-26...
Italy South: Apr. 27-May 9, May 4-16, May 11-23...
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Join Catholic Young Adult Ministry (CYAM) for Fish Fry Fridays during Lent

ERIE — Join CYAMers (Catholic young adults) Fridays during Lent for dinner at a fish fry at a local parish. The group will meet each Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the parish center.

- Feb. 15 St. Stanislaus, 516 E. 13th St. in Erie
- Feb. 22 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1553 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, Scheffler Hall.
- March 1 Blessed Sacrament, 1626 W. 26th St. in Erie, school cafeteria.
- March 8 St. Luke, 421 E. 38th St. in Erie, school cafeteria.
- March 15 All Saints, 11264 Route 97 North in Waterford.

For more information, visit www.cyamerie.com or contact Kathleen Peterson at 814.824.1218.

CYAM is open to all Catholic young adults age 18-39. The group gathers for meetings, prayer and fellowship.

Lenten Bible study, soup and salad suppers at Mount Calvary, Erie

ERIE — Beginning Feb. 19 and running every Tuesday evening throughout Lent, Mount Calvary Parish, 2022 East Lake Road in Erie, will hold a 5:15 p.m. Mass followed by a free-will offering soup and salad supper and a special Lenten Bible study led by Father Mike DeMartino. For more information, call the parish office at 814.454.0061.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal prayer brunch

ERIE — Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center will sponsor a prayer brunch on Saturday, March 2, from 9:30 a.m. until noon at St. Joseph Bread of Life Community Center, 147 W. 24th St. in Erie.

The keynote speaker will be Paul Snyder Jr., a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie. Brunch fee is \$7.50 and must accompany reservation. Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514.

For more information, contact Word of Life at 814.824.1286 or email wolccrc@ErieRC.org.

Contemporary Stations of the Cross at Holy Rosary, Erie

ERIE — Junior and senior high school youth from the Eastside Catholic Faith Formation Ministry will present a contemporary meditation of the Stations of the Cross on March 10 at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Parish, 2701 East Ave. in Erie. The event is free and open to the public.

Sister Kathryn Connolly, SSI

Sister Kathryn Connolly, SSI, formerly Sister Jane Catherine, 89, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died January 31, 2013. She was in her 61st year of religious life. Born in Corry on March 28, 1923, the daughter of the late Daniel and Emma Smith Connolly, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Joseph Parish in Erie on August 30, 1952 and professed her final vows on August 15, 1957.

Sister Kathryn received her high school diploma from Mercyhurst Seminary in 1941 and a bachelor's degree in social work and education from Mercyhurst University in 1945.

After graduation, she was employed as a social worker at Family and Child Services for seven years before entering the Sisters of St. Joseph. Additionally, she completed a year of study at Boston College's School of Social Work from 1957-58.



Sister Kathryn Connolly, SSI

In 1955, she began a career in social work that spanned more than 50 years. She spent 14 years as director of social work at Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie and served five years in counseling and adoption services with Catholic Social Services (now Catholic Charities).

Most of her career in social work was spent at Saint Mary's Home of Erie from 1974-2008. She later served as a part-time activity aide at Saint Mary's Home.

Father John Burke

Father John Robert Burke, 85, died February 5, 2013 at his residence at The Highlands in Brighton, Rochester, N.Y.

Father Burke was born on July 15, 1927 in Rochester, a son of the late Paul J. and Mary Guilfoyle Burke.

He attended Aquinas Institute in Rochester and graduated in 1945. He then attended Sampson College in Geneva, N.Y., and St. Bonaventure University and Christ the King Seminary in Olean, N.Y. He received a master's degree from St. Bonaventure in 1955 and a doctorate in philosophy from Fordham University in 1968.

Father Burke was a veteran of the United States Navy.

In May 1950, he was accepted as a candidate for ordination in the Diocese of Erie. He was ordained a priest on May 27, 1954 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Edward McManaman.

Father Burke served as parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren (1954-55) before he was appointed to the faculty of Gannon University in Erie where he served as a professor of philosophy.

In 1970, he was released by Bishop Alfred Watson to teach at



Father John Burke

Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Other assignments included serving as a part-time faculty member of Mercyhurst University in Erie; parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Erie, Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookville and Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale; administrator of St. Bernadette Parish in Saegertown with chaplaincy duties at San Rosario Nursing Home; Spanish apostolate at St. Teresa Parish in Union City; the L'Arche Community in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and in Merida, the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico, as part of the Mission of Friendship.

He retired from the active ministry in 2008.

Sister Mary Margaret Meldon, SSI

Sister Mary Margaret Meldon, SSI, 88, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died January 26, 2013. She was in her 69th year of religious life.

She was born in Erie on September 11, 1924, a daughter of the late James and Evelyn (Morrison) Meldon. Sister Mary Margaret entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1943 and professed her final vows on August 15, 1949.

During her ministry, she served as a teacher, social worker, hospital administrator, director of planning for hospitals and business manager for her congregation.

A graduate of Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria College in Erie, she earned master's degrees in social work and hospital administration, both at St. Louis University. She completed post-graduate work at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she earned a certificate in health planning administration.

Her ministry in education included teaching at St. Gregory in



Sister Mary Margaret Meldon, SSI

North East, Villa Maria Elementary and St. Andrew schools in Erie and St. Bernard High School in Bradford. For six years, she served as a social worker for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.

She was administrator of Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie and Washington Hospice Society in Washington, D.C. She also served as director of planning at Canonsburg Hospital in Canonsburg, Pa. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, she worked in the business office at Spencer Hospital in Meadville. She returned to Spencer Hospital and served as director of long-range planning from 1979-81.

In 1981, she began working as the business manager of the Sisters of St. Joseph and continued in that capacity until 1999.

Father John Lynch

Father John Lynch, 76, died February 9, 2013 in the Intensive Care Unit of Sharon Regional Health System following an extended illness.

He was born January 1, 1937 in Erie, the son of the late Stephen and Sara Larson Lynch, holding the distinction of being the first child born in Erie in 1937. Raised in Erie, he attended Wayne Grade School and graduated from East High School in 1954.

He entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie in 1955 and took classes at Gannon University before assignment to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

Father Lynch was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie on May 23.

He was assigned as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon (1963-66) while also serving as a part-time teacher at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage. In 1966, he was assigned as a full-time faculty member at Ken-



Father John Lynch

neddy Catholic, where he launched the school's athletic programs and the Butala stadium project. During this time, he earned a master's degree in education from Gannon University. He served as parochial vicar at St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway (1970-76), St. Luke Parish in Erie (1976-80) and St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Erie (1980-82).

In 1982, he was named pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville where he served for almost 27 years until his retirement in 2008. Upon retirement, Father Lynch continued to assist in parishes in the Mercer Diocese and throughout the diocese.

Pope's resignation will set in motion period of transition

TRANSITION, from page 1

two-thirds of the voting cardinals. All voting is secret, in writing, on paper ballots, which are deposited in a receptacle by each elector, then counted. Ballots are taken to any cardinals residing at the Domus Sanctae Marthae but who are too sick to come to the Sistine Chapel.

After each morning and afternoon round of voting, the ballots

are burned.

By tradition but not by rule, they are burned with special chemicals to produce the black smoke signifying an inconclusive vote, or white smoke if a new pope was elected. Due to confusion in the past as people in St. Peter's Square tried to determine what color smoke was coming out of the Sistine Chapel smokestack, the basilica's bell is also rung to confirm a successful election.

tion.

Once a new pope has been elected, he is asked if he accepts the office — he is encouraged but not bound to do so by the current rules — and is asked to choose a name.

Traditionally, the senior member of the cardinal deacons — currently Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, 69 — announces the successful election results from the central balcony of St. Peter's

Basilica. After the new pope has been named, he proceeds to the balcony, where he greets the public and offers his first blessing.

At a time designated by the pope, usually a few days later, he officially opens his ministry with an investiture Mass at St. Peter's. The new pope is no longer crowned with a papal tiara, but receives a pallium, or stole, in recognition of his authority.

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Justin Fatica - Hard As Nails Ministry (Graduate of Cathedral Preparatory High School, Erie, Pa.)
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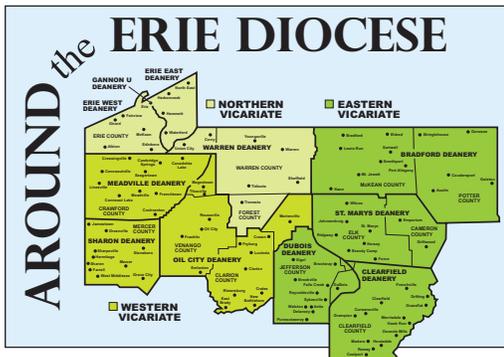
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

Photo Tips

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures. <http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie raises funds for Hurricane Sandy relief

ERIE — Students at St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie raised \$538 for the American Red Cross and its disaster relief programs aiding Hurricane Sandy victims.

To raise funds, student council members served a pancake and muffin breakfast at the school and received a matching gift from a school family.



Pictured left to right: Mary Gibson, principal; Lauren Scutella, student adviser; Tamara Walters, Red Cross representative;

Daniel Scutella, treasurer; Peter Bloomstine, president; Richard Libby Kretzing, secretary; David Tullio, student adviser.

Kindergarteners at DuBois Central Catholic support Catholic Charities

DUBOIS — Three sections of kindergarten students at DuBois Central Catholic Elementary School used their creativity to personalize the wrapping paper on each of the Christmas gifts they had purchased for local needy children, a project in support of the DuBois office of Catholic Charities.

Placing some of their class gifts under the Christmas tree in the secondary foyer are (pictured left to right) Johnny Varischetti, Sophia Reilly, Ethan Gradowski, Caleb Benson, Hope Jacob and Megan Whipple.



Boy Scout Sunday Mass at Immaculate Conception in Clarion

CLARION — Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion celebrated Boy Scout Sunday Feb. 3 with a Mass for Scouts, their parents and leaders. The Mass was attended by Scouts from Troop/Pack 51 in Clarion, Troop/Pack 55 in Lamartine and Troop 68 in Sigel.

Father Monty Sayers, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, blessed the Scouts and reminded them of their motto that "a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."



Pictured left to right are: (first row) Father Monty Sayers, Gary Mathis, Will Clark, Joshua Beal, Avery Kline, Gage Hunt, Luca Cherico, (second row) Jonah Hubauer, Marshall

Powers, Greg Kalinowski, Daniel Ketter, Connor Nichols, Joseph A. Polito, (third row) Jon Beal, Ron Bobin, Tyler Beal, Ethan Straffin, Nick Cherico, Louden Buchanan, Bonnie Hubauer and Joseph P. Polito.

Immaculate Conception students participate in Chorus Fest

CLARION — Middle school students from Immaculate Conception School in Clarion attended the District 3 PMEA Elementary Chorus Fest Feb. 1 held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Derrick Fox, who is currently pursuing a doctorate of musical arts in choral conducting at Michigan State University, was the guest conductor of Chorus 2. There were a total of 222 singers from 26 school districts.

Pictured (left to right) are Immaculate Conception students: (front row) Isabela Barboza, Hannah Smith, Alana McMaster, Isabella Tynski, (back row) Alex Cussins, Ali Troese and Laryssa Bauer.



St. Boniface School in Erie honors volunteer firefighters

ERIE — During Catholic Schools Week, students at St. Boniface School in Erie carried the "Raising the Standards" theme throughout the week by recognizing one facet of their school community each day.

The contribution of the Kuhl Hose Volunteer Fire Department was acknowledged Jan. 30. Four firefighters represented the department at a special lunch and plaque presentation.

Pictured (left to right) are firefighters Eric Eastman, Rob Collins, Stephen Evan and Steve Urash receiving a plaque from Student Council Vice President Eion Russell and President Rebecca Praetzel on behalf of the entire student body.



Knights of Columbus light up St. Mary in Crown, St. Ann in Marienville

CROWN — The Knights of Columbus St. Hubert's Council No.10341 pose in a brightly lit room just after a recent First Degree Exemplification in Stutz Hall at St. Mary Parish in Crown.

The Knights recently had new lighting fixtures installed in the parish office and classrooms at St. Mary and at St. Ann Church in Marienville.

Landscaping was also completed at St. Mary, including around the memorial stone for abortion victims.



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