

Hoops hype

Several diocesan teams featured in latest state standings, page 3



FaithLife

Catholic Schools Week

Schools celebrate with activities in *Around the Diocese*, page 4



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

February 19, 2006

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter – Feb. 22

Congressional Advocacy Days, sponsored by U.S. bishops' Department of Education, Washington — Feb. 26-28

Constituent participation in advocating for the just and equitable treatment of students who attend our Catholic schools is critical. Over the past few years, Catholic-school advocates have mobilized to form diocesan-based grassroots organizations. This conference allows members of those organizations, which work primarily at the state level, to advocate issues at the federal level that will effect educational equity for Catholic school children. This conference is designed to include the participation of all diocesan school administrators, principals and parents who are interested in strengthening the presence and influence of the Catholic-school community on Capitol Hill.



www.usccb.org

Ash Wednesday – March 1

Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for forty days to prepare for his ministry. It was for him a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation. By observing Lent, Christians join Jesus on his retreat. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The service draws on the ancient biblical traditions of covering one's head with ashes, wearing sackcloth and fasting. In Ash Wednesday services, churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and symbol of mortality. The ashes are made by burning palms from the previous Palm Sunday. *Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel.*



World Day of Prayer – March 3

Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. Through Women's World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of the wider community. www.worlddayofprayer.net



Did You Know?

There are currently 17,000 students enrolled in religious education programs offered through parishes in the Erie Diocese. A dedicated corps of 1,850 catechists give of their time and talent to make this possible.*

*Taken from *A Reason to Believe*, the 2005 annual report produced by the diocesan Dept. of Education.

www.erieRCD.org

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



Religious Connection

For the 68 percent of U.S. teens who say religion is important to them:



Parish projects another benefit of Catholic Services Appeal

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Funds from the Catholic Services Appeal turn into the services and ministries of the Erie Diocese, but they also stay within your parish.

Of the more than \$4.5 million that was raised for the 2005 Catholic Services Appeal, \$1.2 million stayed within the parishes in the Erie Diocese for parish projects. That \$1.2 million has turned into a new organ, a new roof over the school gymnasium, landscaping for a parish center and lighting for a sanctuary, among many other projects.

"This appeal benefits

the larger church but also benefits the local church, as well," says Joseph Hoag, director of the Stewardship and Development Office.

Once parishes reach an assessment for the CSA, all funds raised over that assessment stay within the parish.

"We would love to see that number increase this year," Hoag says.

Here is a sampling of what some parishes have been doing with their CSA funds:

St. Joseph Parish, Warren

The parish is using its CSA funds from 2005 and



**CSA
CATHOLIC
SERVICES
APPEAL
2006**

2006 to pay for a new church organ.

"We got it last summer and we appealed to the people that we would like to pay for this project," says Fr. Walter Packard, pastor of St. Joseph. "The organ was replaced was the original

organ in the church. After several attempts, it came to the point where it couldn't be repaired." Most of the things the parish has done are items that couldn't be put in a normal operating budget, Fr. Packard says. Past projects have included repaving a parking lot and cleaning, sealing and repointing the exterior of the church. "Most of the things we've done are big ticket items," he says. "We just couldn't do it otherwise. (The appeal) always seems to have greater momentum if there is a project for the church."

St. Joseph Parish, Force
The parish is looking to purchase new chimes for the

church in anticipation of its 100th anniversary this year. The current bell system is no longer functioning.

"People have been talking about this as a nice way to signify the anniversary of the church," says pastor Fr. Thomas Tyler. "We have a few secondary projects. We want to do some landscaping in front of the church and put a new porch roof over the social hall."

Last year, St. Joseph's used its CSA funds for landscaping around its new faith formation center and paved some parking areas around the building.

"It provides an opportu-

See CSA page 3

Mission Office returns from annual visit to Mexico

Holy Rosary Parish signs sister-parish agreement

Holy Rosary Parish in Erie recently became the 17th parish in the diocese to form an official sister-parish relationship with a parish located in the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico. The archdiocese and the Erie Diocese are celebrating 35 years of a formalized sister relationship—believed to be the first of its kind in the nation—this year.

Pat Marshall, director of the Erie Diocesan Office of Diocesan and International Missions and a member of Holy Rosary, arranged for the formal signing of an agreement between Holy Rosary Pastor Fr. Jim Gutting and Padre Miguel Santos Fernandez, pastor of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Assumption) in Chichimilá.

"Our parish has always had a great concern for people beyond our own parish," says Fr. Gutting. "We appreciate the fact that we're part of a larger church, a bigger world. We know we have gifts to give and to receive. Becoming a

sister parish is a good way for us to reach out and feel connected."

Fr. Gutting says he expects the parishes to send photos and letters back and forth and to remember each other in prayer. He also hopes Holy Rosary may be able to provide occasional financial assistance for specific projects.

"We know a little bit of money here will go a long way in Mexico," he says.

The Mission Office's visit to Nuestra Señora de la Asunción included a stop at one of the 16 mission parishes served by Fr. Miguel. "It was basically a picnic shelter," Fr. Gutting says, although the main thing he remembers from the visit was the joy and enthusiasm of the parishioners. The group met with more than a dozen catechists and students at the mission church which is located in Xocan, a Mayan village whose name is translated variously as "Remember Me" or "Don't Forget Me."

"Everything was so simple, but their spirits are so full of what faith is supposed to do for us," says Fr. Gutting. "I still see the joy and peace they had in all those faces. It was clear that we have many more similarities than differences."



Photos by Art Becker
Design by Rich Papalia

In the homily given upon his return from Mexico, Fr. Gutting says he told parishioners at Holy Rosary that it's easy for Americans to consider themselves rich and to think of how much they may be able to help those in poorer countries.

"But after having been there," he observes, "I would say they have more to give us in terms of trust in God, reverence and love of people, especially family. Everybody is part of an extended family in the villages we visited. Everyone

is welcomed. Their spirits taught us a lot about the things that really count."

The visit to Mexico was part of the Mission Office's annual week-long visit to the Mission of Friendship in Merida, Mexico. This year, Marshall was also accompanied by Kathy Bills, coordinator of religious education at Holy Rosary, Anne-Marie Welsh, editor of *Faith* magazine and Art Becker, photographer. Other stops on the agenda

included a visit to the mission's daycare center, an afternoon at Nueva Vida, a shelter established for young girls, a meeting with Archbishop Emilio Carlos Berlié Belaunzaran, stops at medical clinics and visits supported by sponsors through the Amigos program.

The entire July/August issue of *Faith* magazine will be dedicated to the relationship between the Erie Diocese and the Archdiocese of Yucatan.

Vatican visit examines St. Mark Seminary

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

St. Mark Seminary recently received a visit as part of the Vatican-run apostolic visitation of U.S. Catholic seminaries and houses of priestly formation, which began in September.

Fr. Meinrad Miller, OSB, an apostolic visitor from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, visited St. Mark's Jan. 22-26.

St. Mark Seminary is one of 229 college-level seminaries, academic institutions and houses of formation that are included in the apostolic visitation in the United States.

He interviewed all 14 seminarians at St. Mark, including 12 from the Erie Diocese and two from the Greensburg Diocese, four seminary faculty members, recently ordained priest alumni, philosophy and theology professors at Gannon University, as well as administrators.

"We were very pleased with the visit," said Fr. Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary. "We were very happy to cooperate, and it was an honor for our seminary. All those who were interviewed enjoyed meeting with him."

As part of his duties, Fr. Miller examined criteria for

admission to candidates of seminary, intellectual formation and human and spiritual formation, Fr. Kesicki said.

The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education will send a report of the visit to Bishop Donald Trautman. The congregation will also send a general report to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding all the visitations.



Lenten regulations for 2006



The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006 and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord begins prior to the start of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, April 13, 2006.

The following regulations are promulgated and binding for all Latin Rite Catholics in the Diocese of Erie for Lent and the Paschal Triduum, 2006. Eastern Rite Catholics who may be attending Latin Rite parishes have their own proper regulations for Lent and should consult their own eparchy or parish.

1. Traditional Lenten practices of piety, fasting, and almsgiving and other forms of self-denial are recommended most warmly by the church.
2. The faithful observance of Lent should manifest itself especially in the imitation of Christ in daily life and in the readiness to sacrifice time and talent whenever possible in personal, parish, and community efforts on behalf of those in spiritual or material need. The spiritual hunger of the unchurched locally and in mission lands can be the focus of prayer and charitable giving.
3. ASH WEDNESDAY and GOOD FRIDAY are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. They are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 59 inclusive. (Those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.)
4. ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. In their planning for observances, organizations and individuals are requested to offer meatless alternatives for Catholics in attendance. In order to celebrate the patronal feast of the diocese, Catholics in the Diocese of Erie will be dispensed from abstinence on FRIDAY, MARCH 17 (ST. PATRICK'S DAY), but only provided that they observe abstinence on the day before, March 16, as a substitute. For those not substituting March 16 as a day of abstinence, St. Patrick's Day remains a day of abstinence.
5. ALL FRIDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (except solemnities) outside of Lent remain days of penance. The United States bishops highly recommend the traditional abstinence from meat, together with fasting, for the cause of peace in the world. However, some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance may be substituted.

Pope Benedict to visit Turkey, Poland, Baltimore

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just four days after an Italian priest was killed in Turkey (see story below), the Vatican confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI would visit the country Nov. 28-30. While the pope had spoken publicly about wanting to go to Turkey, particularly to visit the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Feb. 9 Vatican announcement was the first to mention specific dates. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore has invited Pope Benedict XVI to visit Baltimore and has expressed hope the trip will take place in 2007. "The Holy Father will most likely be able to come next year," the cardinal said. The Polish bishops' conference announced that Pope Benedict XVI would visit Poland May 25-28. Vatican Radio reported Feb. 1 that the bishops announced the pope would visit Warsaw; the Marian shrine at Czestochowa; Wadowice; Krakow; Auschwitz, the former Nazi concentration camp; and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, a 400-year-old shrine dedicated to Christ's passion and Mary's compassion.



A Swiss Guard stands near Pope Benedict XVI as he waves to those gathered for his weekly general audience in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican Feb. 1. The pontiff spoke on cooperation as a requirement for peace in the world.

U.S.

Hawaii celebrates feast day of Blessed Mother Marianne Cope

KALAUPAPA, Hawaii (CNS) — "What better place to start than here," Sister William Marie Eleniki told 75 people packed into tiny St. Francis Church for the first celebration in Hawaii of the feast day of Blessed Mother Marianne Cope. Sister William Marie, the regional administrator of the Sisters of St. Francis in Hawaii, made her comments at the end of a Mass honoring Mother Marianne at which Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva had presided. Coming to Kalaupapa "is like coming home for the Sisters of St. Francis," she said. The isolated Molokai peninsula was where Mother Marianne spent the three decades of selfless service that led to her beatification in Rome eight months ago. The beatification established Jan. 23 as her feast day. Her religious order decided to kick off its observance a day early in the place she labored and was laid to rest before her remains were exhumed and transported to the order's motherhouse in Syracuse, N.Y., a year ago.

First lady meets with pope, discusses violence sparked by cartoons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed his hopes that the U.S. first lady's trip to the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, would be peaceful and spoke of his concern about violent protests taking place in many Islamic countries. First lady Laura Bush and one of her 24-year-old twin daughters, Barbara Bush, met the pope at the Vatican Feb. 9 during a brief stop in Rome on the way to the Olympics. After the meeting, she told reporters traveling with her that peace, terrorism and violence were among the topics the pope raised. "He talked to me about the worries of terrorism, worries right now about violence in Beirut, Damascus and other cities" in the Middle East as protests continued over cartoons published in Europe that many Muslims found offensive. "His hope and certainly our hope (is) for peace and tolerance" and for everyone to treat others with respect, she said.



First Lady: U.S. first lady Laura Bush talks to Pope Benedict XVI at the conclusion of a meeting in the papal library at the Vatican Feb. 9.

Survey shows Catholics who give most want more church accountability

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics who give more than \$5,000 a year to the church are more critical than other Catholics about the church's financial accountability practices, according to a new survey commissioned by FADICA. "Only 12 percent of larger parish donors rated the church above average in keeping them informed on the use of their donations, while over a third of typical parishioners rated church reporting practices above average," according to a survey analysis prepared by Charles E. Zech, director of the Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova University's College of Commerce and Finance. The survey, conducted in November and December 2005 by Zogby International, was the fourth annual "Catholic donor attitude survey" commissioned by Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, a Washington-based consor-

tium of charitable foundations and individual donors interested in religious philanthropy. Responses were received from 1,000 Catholics nationwide, but only the answers of the 787 people who identified themselves as regular churchgoers — attending Mass at least three times a week — were analyzed.

WORLD

Italian priest gunned down in Turkish church

TREBIZOND, Turkey (CNS) — Father Andrea Santoro, an Italian priest who had been serving as a missionary in Turkey, was shot and killed Feb. 5 as he prayed in St. Mary Church in the Black Sea coastal city of Trebizond. The 60-year-old priest was part of the Vatican's "Fidei Donum" program, which sends priests to help in the missions for a fixed period of time. Fr. Santoro, from the Diocese of Rome, had been serving in Turkey for about 10 years, according to the Italian missionary news service AsiaNews. Police were looking for a young man about 17 years old seen fleeing the scene. Turkey is an overwhelmingly Muslim nation that has a tiny Christian population.



Priest slain: An undated file photo shows Italian Father Andrea Santoro in the Black Sea city of Trebizond, Turkey.

At Olympics, Catholic involvement seen in Turin

ROME (CNS) — Snow, ice, skis and skates: Those are just some of the essential ingredients that have come together for the XX Olympic Winter Games Feb. 10-26 in Turin, Italy. The Catholic Church is also getting into the mix, adding its own sacred riches and traditions to an event that's brimming with Olympic spirit. Even the Vatican has gotten involved in the games. Pope Benedict XVI blessed the Olympic flame during his Dec. 8 Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square. A Swiss Guard, who was sporting a tracksuit and sneakers instead of his usual colorful uniform, held the torch aloft for the blessing. The guard had received the flame from a Vatican gendarme, making it the first time Vatican representatives ever participated as Olympic torchbearers. For the first time, the head of the Vatican's new sports office, U.S. Father Kevin Lixey, will be in Turin to network with national Olympic committees and chaplains from other countries.



By the Way...

Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie, will lead a 12-day pilgrimage to Poland July 24 through Aug. 4. Pilgrims will travel to Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin, Erie's "Sister City." Lublin Mayor Andrzej Pruszkowski has extended an invitation to welcome the group with a reception and dinner in honor of the Lublin-Erie Sister City partnership. Included are visits to Wadowice—birthplace and boyhood home of Pope John Paul II; Czestochowa, Shrine of the Black Madonna; Catholic University in Lublin, Majdanek Concentration Camp and Wawel Castle and Cathedral. Msgr. Urbaniak has arranged for select tours and private Mass celebrations at sacred sites throughout Poland. This *Journey to Poland* is open to the public. For more information, including an itinerary, contact St. Stanislaus Parish at 814.452.6606, 516 East 13th St., Erie, Pa., 16503.



Jason Koshinski

Times and ticket prices for the Scott Hahn event at St. George Parish, Erie, have been finalized. Hahn, an internationally known Bible expert and convert to Catholicism, will present a series of three talks on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. George Church in Erie. The program, titled *Heaven on Earth: the Mystery Unveiled*, will explore the biblical roots of our Christian belief and spiritual life. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door and \$5 for students. For more information, or to request tickets, visit the Web at www.gifts-of-faith.com/scott_hahn.html or call the church at 814.864.0622.

Those journeying through the *Why Catholic?* program may be interested in picking up a copy of the new *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a 200-page synthesis of the 1992 catechism that will be available March 31 from USCCB Publishing. The compendium, made up of 598 questions and answers, echoes to some degree the format of the *Baltimore Catechism*, which was standard in many U.S. Catholic parishes and schools from 1885 to the 1960s.

It also includes two appendices — a list of Catholic prayers, side by side with the Latin versions, and a list of "formulas of Catholic doctrine," including the Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, the theological and cardinal virtues and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

The compendium may be ordered online at www.usccbpublishing.org or by phone at 800.235.8722 or wherever religious books are sold.

On Feb. 20, Presidents' Day, the Presidential Prayer Team will host its third annual Presidents' Day Online Prayer Rally. Those who visit www.presidentialprayerteam.org can choose a timeslot during which they'll pray for the president. The *Presidential Prayer Team* was launched shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, and now has 3 million participants.

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

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CSA funds parish projects

CSA from page 1
 nity to do something above and beyond what we normally could do with a regular budget," Fr. Tyler says. "It provides a good motivation to be able to fulfill our obligation to the diocese as well as something for our own parish needs. It generates some enthusiasm for all."

Immaculate Conception Parish, Osceola Mills

The parish is using its overage of CSA funds to clean and paint the church's interior. Many parishes use appeal funds for upkeep of their worship space, Hoag says.

St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda

The parish would like to put a new concrete floor in its lower social hall. Plans also call for the purchase of partitions to

convert the social hall into temporary classrooms and the construction of a storage facility.

St. Philip Parish, Linesville

"We're going to update the lighting in our sanctuary to make it more economical and efficient," says Fr. John Barwin, pastor. "We also need a roof on our parish center, so that's going to be something we'll be working on in the next couple of years."

Past appeal projects include paving the parking lots of both the church and parish center.

"The appeal is good because it supports the diocese and also allows us to be flexible in addressing the needs we have," Fr. Barwin says.

Commitment Sunday for the 2006 Catholic Services Appeal is Feb. 26.

HOOOPS HYPE

It has been a great season for high school basketball so far. With the playoffs fast approaching, several teams from schools in the Erie Diocese are featured in the PIAA state rankings.

BOYS

Rank	School	Record
6th	Cathedral Prep (Class AAAA)	(16-4)
2nd	Elk County Catholic (Class A)	(19-0)
5th	Kennedy Catholic	(14-5)
9th	DuBois Central Catholic	(21-1)

Teams to watch: Villa Maria (15-5)



Photo by The Daily Press

Members of the Elk County Catholic High School Crusader basketball team are: front row, J.D. Detsch, Kyle Mahoney, Dan Scuteller, Kevin Genevro, Brad Meholic, Andy Olson and Ray Jablonski. Back row, Tony Lecker, Jesse Bosnik, Jim Higgins, Josh Salter, Kiel Nissel, E.J. Crowe and Matt Fritz.

GIRLS

Rank	School	Record
5th	Villa Maria (Class AAA)	(19-2)
4th	Elk County Catholic (Class A)	(17-1)

Source: Patriot-News of Harrisburg. Standing for the week of Feb. 5

'On Eagle's Wings' tops all songs in online liturgical music survey

By Mark Pattison
 Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — "On Eagle's Wings," the musical reworking of the 91st Psalm by Father Michael Joncas, topped all other songs in an online poll asking which liturgical song most fostered and nourished the respondent's life.

Two songs made popular by the St. Louis Jesuits — "Here I Am, Lord" and "Be Not Afraid" — came in second and third, followed by "You Are Mine," by David Haas.

The online poll was sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. The poll was featured last year in an issue of its membership magazine, *Pastoral Music*, and announcements about the poll were distributed to diocesan newspapers in an effort to get the input of "rank-and-file Catholics," said J. Michael McMahon, the association's president.

In the poll, respondents could vote for only one song. No songs were listed on the Web site to give them suggestions. About 3,000 people took part in the poll.

Of the 25 liturgical music songs mentioned most, songs written after the Second Vatican Council took not only the top four positions, but six of the top nine, and 12 of the top 25. The fourth-ranked song, "You Are Mine," received 138 votes, 81 percent more votes than the fifth-ranked song, "How Great Thou Art," which got 76.

McMahon cautioned against the notion that post-Vatican II music has dominance over all other liturgical music. "We got 670 different songs mentioned," he said. "Even the top choice is only 8 percent of the total," or 242 votes.

The poll results didn't surprise McMahon. "It panned out pretty much like the way I expected," he said, adding that *The Tablet*, a

Top Ten

An on-line liturgical music survey lists the following as the top 10 church songs

1. On Eagle's Wings
2. Here I Am, Lord
3. Be Not Afraid
4. You Are Mine
5. How Great Thou Art
6. Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
7. Amazing Grace
8. All Are Welcome
9. Prayer of St. Francis
10. Ave Maria

Source: National Association of Pastoral Musicians ©2006 CNS

British Catholic newspaper, conducted a similar survey, which found "Here I Am, Lord" to be the top choice of its readers.

Rounding out the pastoral musicians association's top 10 was, in sixth place, the traditional Catholic hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," whose lyrics are ascribed to Ignaz Franz, followed by John Newton's "Amazing Grace," Marty Haugen's "All Are Welcome," Sebastian Temple's "Prayer of St. Francis," and "Ave Maria."

Those who voted for "Ave Maria" and "Panis Angelicus," which finished 15th, probably meant the versions by Franz Schubert and

Cesar Franck, respectively, "but we don't know for sure," McMahon said. "Since many of them (voters) were not professionals, they probably didn't realize there was more than one version."

Currently filling in as a parish choir director, McMahon said, "I'm always surprised how many young people ask for 'Ave Maria' or 'Panis Angelicus' at weddings and funerals."

One Spanish-language song, "Pescador de Hombres," made the list, finishing 17th. Many hymnals print English-language companion lyrics, calling the song "Lord, When You Came to the Seashore." In his current interim job, McMahon said, he asked "who had heard this song, and only one did, and she came from Latin America."

McMahon said this points to "the divergence of American Catholic churches," including "the hymnals they use," since songs published by one copyright holder don't always find their way into the hymnals of their competitors.

Other contemporary Catholic songs in the top 25 were "We Are Called," 11th place; "I Am the Bread of Life," 13th; "The Summons," 14th; "Shepherd Me, O God," 19th; "One Bread, One Body," 22nd, and "Hosea," which tied for 24th place with the traditional Catholic hymn "Pange Lingua."

Other traditional Catholic hymns on the list were "Ave Verum Corpus," 20th, and "Tantum Ergo," 23rd.

Songs on the list with roots in Protestant or evangelical hymnody included Richard Gillard's "The Servant Song," 16th place, and Donna Marie McCargill's "Servant Song," 18th.

Also making the list were "Let There Be Peace on Earth," in 12th place, and "Lord of the Dance," in 21st. "Both found their way into liturgical use, but came from outside the (liturgical music) culture," McMahon said.

Postulator says French nun's cure could be miracle for Pope John Paul

Verification process not expected to be completed soon

By Cindy Wooden
 Catholic News Service

ROME — The Polish priest charged with shepherding Pope John Paul II's sainthood cause said he believes the healing of a French nun suffering from Parkinson's disease could be the miracle needed for the pope's beatification.

Msgr. Slawomir Oder, postulator of the cause, announced on Italian radio in late January that he had chosen the case of the French nun from among the many apparently miraculous healings people from around the world had reported to him.

He said that the case involved a French religious who had been diagnosed with Parkinson's when she was "very young; it was a precocious onset."

Pope John Paul had suffered from Parkinson's, a progressive disease that attacks the nervous system.

Msgr. Oder had refused to talk about the French nun's case in late November when Pope John Paul's former personal secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, told reporters her healing would

be submitted to Vatican investigators.

Newspapers had reported at the time that the French nun was suffering from cancer, but Msgr. Oder said it was Parkinson's.

The postulator said he had felt it was important not to talk about the case until several doctors had reviewed the nun's case history and confirmed that there likely was no natural or medical explanation for her healing.

While Pope Benedict XVI set aside the normal five-year waiting period before Pope John Paul's cause could be opened, Msgr. Oder said there is still much work to do. People who knew the pope are being interviewed, a thorough biography is being prepared and all his writings are being collected for study by a panel of theologians. Before Pope Benedict can proclaim that Pope John Paul heroically lived a life of Christian virtue, Msgr. Oder must compile all the information collected in a "positio," a document of multiple volumes explaining who the candidate was and how he or she lived and acted.

A separate report is prepared on the miracle, Msgr. Oder said.

"The procedure for the verification of the miracle is a process that can parallel the verification of heroic virtues," he said, so the miracle can be submitted even before the "positio"

The steps to sainthood and some modern causes

- 1. Servant of God**
 A candidate for sainthood is declared a servant of God upon the opening of his or her official cause for sainthood.
 Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)
 • 2005 cause opened
- 2. Venerable**
 The pope declares a person venerable after church officials conclude from their investigation that the person has led a life of heroic virtue.
 Father Solanus Casey (1870-1957)
 • 1982 cause opened
 • 1995 declared venerable
- 3. Blessed**
 The pope declares a person blessed after a miracle attributed to his or her intercession is canonically recognized.*
 Mother Teresa (1910-1997)
 • 1999 cause opened
 • 2002 declared venerable
 • 2003 beatified
- 4. Saint**
 One is declared a saint in an elaborate ceremony after another miracle is canonically recognized.
 Mother Katharine Drexel (1858-1955)
 • 1964 cause opened
 • 1987 declared venerable
 • 1988 beatified
 • 2000 declared saint

*A martyr may be declared blessed without a miracle.

is. Nevertheless, he said, he does not expect the process to be completed soon.

While a Vatican panel of historians and theologians will review the "positio," another panel of Vatican theologians and a panel of Vatican-appointed physicians will review the nun's medical records.

In Poland, the head of a Polish tribunal gathering evidence for the cause criticized

media speculation about witnesses after press reports that the country's former communist strongman, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, had been asked to give evidence.

"It's natural and right that people should be interested in our work," said Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, head of the Krakow Theological Academy as well as the tribunal. "But the witnesses are covered by secrecy rules — those called should

be discreet about the questions they're asked and how they answered."

The bishop said witnesses were summoned according to their knowledge of "important moments" in Pope John Paul's life.

"The tribunal can't be expected to consider how a particular summons will be publicly interpreted, nor does it see such invitations in terms of rewards and punishments," he said.

Jaruzelski, who was educated at a Marian order school and was raised a Catholic, became notorious for supervising the arrest and internment of around 10,000 opponents of communist rule after crushing the Solidarity labor movement with martial law in December 1981.

Contributing to this story was Jonathan Luxmoore in Warsaw, Poland.

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53rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner
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SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 1-3 p.m.

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AROUND the **ERIE DIOCESE**

Catholic Schools

Character. Compassion. Values.

Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) was a celebration of education centered around faith that prepares students for a Christian life. This event gave schools in the Erie Diocese an opportunity to showcase all the good things that are taking place within their classrooms. Look for more coverage in our next issue. Here is a sampling of how schools in the diocese celebrated Catholic Schools Week 2006:

Parish correspondents

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

E-mail your parish news

Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to *FaithLife*.
FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie



To celebrate Catholic Schools Week, OLMC held a volleyball game that pitted the 8th graders versus faculty and staff. It was a great time for the student body to cheer the 8th graders. Some were even cheering for the teachers! After 45 minutes, the game ended with the teachers winning by five points. According to observers, it was a great game and the teachers only walked away with a couple of bruises!

St. Marys Catholic Middle School, St. Marys



Saint Marys Catholic Middle School students carried the offertory gifts at the Elk County-wide student Mass held at Elk County Catholic High School. St. Marys students also enjoyed the art exhibit provided by the ECCHS art department.



St. James School, Erie

St. James School began the week with Popcorn Day featuring popcorn sculptures. Two evening Family Nights highlighted the talents of students in a variety show. Students ended the week with school Mass and a prayer service for peace on earth.

St. Boniface School, Kersey



St. Boniface students celebrated the week with Mass and Crazy Hat Day, which featured an afternoon of games. On Red, White and Blue Day, students created Valentines for soldiers serving overseas. Fr. John Kuzilla and Sr. Claire Joseph spoke to students about vocations and religious life. Other school activities included preschool and kindergarten registrations, an open house, Grandparents Day and a book fair lunch.

St. Francis School, Clearfield



The St. Francis School's choir rehearsing here, sang at Mass during Catholic Schools Week. Photo courtesy of *The Progress*.

Seton Catholic School, Meadville



Seton Catholic School celebrated with several Crazy Days including Crazy Hair Day, Crazy Sock Day, Crazy Hat Day, Favorite Sports Team Day and Game Day on which members of Student Council planned games for the entire school. Students also made Valentines for soldiers in Iraq.

Ss. Cosmas & Damian School, Punxsutawney



Classrooms, hallways and stairwells were filled to capacity with student work during Catholic Schools Week. Fifth graders' work showed them "Having the time of their lives," and sixth graders displayed their "Snow Fooling" exhibit. Activities included: bowling, an all-day open house, 100th Day celebration, Groundhog Day activities, an indoor picnic, bingo, and family Mass and brunch for 400 people.

Holy Family School, Erie



Holy Family kicked off Catholic Schools Week with Mass on Jan. 29 followed by a reception and open house. Special activities included Buddy Day, Student Appreciation Day, Thank You Tea for volunteers, Teacher Appreciation Day, a volleyball game, and Spiritual Day. Spiritual Day featured a trek to the Serengeti, where the gym was transformed into Africa. Students also learned different Scriptures along with correlating crafts and activities to proclaim their faith in Christ. At the end of the day, all the students came together to sing.

St. Michael School, Greenville



St. Michael School opened Catholic Schools Week with Mass on Jan. 29. Student retreat helpers and parishioners Gloria Cianci, Margaret St. John and Margaret Erdesky were honored for their years of service to the school. First grade teacher Molly Best and fourth grade teacher Mary Pat McParland were honored for their enthusiasm, caring and dedication to the school. Pictured, Msgr. Andrew Karg and Patricia Mulligan present eighth grader Laura Seiple with a certificate as the winner of the St. Francis of Assisi Peace Award.

Mercyhurst Prep High School, Erie



A special liturgy was held on Jan. 31 which included MPS alumni. Students purchased tickets to wear different clothing for Catholic Schools Week (sweats, fun ties, pajama pants, jeans, and MPS spirit clothes). Profits totaled \$1,589 and will be donated to the Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Also, 700 non-perishable food items were collected for the food bank. Students could purchase special lunches such as Papa John's Pizza or lunch boxes from Teresa's Deli.

Our Lady's Christian School, Erie



Catholic Schools Week added up to calculating success at Our Lady's Christian School. Students spent part of an afternoon playing cards with basic math facts. Card games dealing with math abounded on all levels, showing the students that math can be fun and you can truly calculate success. Pictured, from left, are Peter Jefferys, John Fessler, Philip Sweny and Drew Miller.

St. Joseph's School, Lucinda



St. Joseph School showed its school spirit by wearing the school's colors and logos throughout the week. The teachers were treated to an appreciation lunch. The week ended with a dodgeball competition between students and teachers.

Watch for more photos and Catholic Schools Week reports in the March 5 edition of *FaithLife*.