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National Pilgrim
Virgin Statue to
visit diocese dur-
ing Lent, page 3.



FaithLife

Year for
Priests
DuBois Knights of
Columbus honor
area priests, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

February 21, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Katharine Drexel St. Casimir

Feb. 22 Chair of St. Peter
Feb. 23 St. Polycarp
March 3 St. Katharine Drexel
March 4 St. Casimir
March 5 World Day of Prayer

Rite of Election – Feb. 21



Candidates and catechumens participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program at their respective parishes in the Erie Diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 21, the first Sunday of Lent. The Rite of Election will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at two sites: St. Peter Cathedral in Erie and St. Michael the Archangel in DuBois.

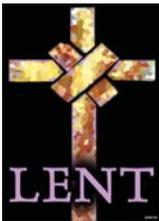
All new members of the Catholic Church will be received into their own parishes at the Easter Vigil on April 3.

The Rite of Election formally acknowledges the readiness of those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation—baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

Lenten calendar, regulations available on Web

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.



Grandparents Raising grandchildren

New Sisters of Mercy ministry serves growing group

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Barb and Gerri have known each other only for a few months. But when they get together, they talk like old friends.

They're both grandmothers in similar situations: they're each trying to raise a grandchild. Barb's daughter is a drug addict in denial, and Gerri's daughter is recovering.

When they meet, they talk about coping in the day-to-day living situations in which they find themselves, their weaknesses and what puts them over the edge, among a host of other topics.

Barb and Gerri are just two of the grandparents who are part of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program offered by the Sisters of



CRS photo

In Erie County, one in four grandparents has some level of responsibility for their grandchild, said Karen Narusewicz, director of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

Mercy which began in September. Working out of the Mercy Center on Aging, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, the support group meets for an hour on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

"We just met, but somehow we clicked," Barb said. "We're in two totally different situations, but we know what

each other is going through." Barb has custody of her 8-year-old granddaughter, who is diabetic. Her daughter is a crack and meth addict. She recently gave birth again and has been evicted three times in the past two months. "I was falling apart," Barb said. "I did fall apart."

ing and found support in Gerri, who helps raise her four-year-old grandson.

"It's a place to vent," Gerri said of the program meetings. "This is a support system."

In Erie County, one in four grandparents has some level

See GRANDPARENTS, page 2

BY THE NUMBERS:

In the last 10 years, the number of children living with their grandparents has increased by 50%.

—The Brookdale Grandparent Caregiver Information Project based at the University of California at Berkeley Center on Aging

31% of adults are grandparents. Of that number, 8% are providing day care on a regular basis and 3% are rearing a grandchild.

—According to a survey by AARP

The number of grandparents raising their grandchildren has risen to nearly 6 million kids, which is approximately 8% of kids in the U.S.

—A 2005 U.S. Census Bureau survey

In Erie County, there are 2,983 grandparents living with their grandchildren, with 1,657 serving as legal guardians.

—A 2008 census data for Erie County

Diocese collects nearly \$300,000 for Haiti

All funds to be used by Catholic Relief Services for humanitarian aid

From staff and wire reports

With only 79 of 120 parishes counted as of Feb. 12, the people of the Erie Diocese have so far collected \$295,336.78 for Haiti relief.

"That figure will most certainly grow to well over \$300,000," said Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop of Erie.

Collections were taken at Sunday masses on two weekends in January, but many school children held additional fundraisers to help their brothers and sisters in Haiti. The final figures will be released when all the donations are tallied.

One hundred percent of the funds collected will be used for humanitarian aid through Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. The money will be used strictly to provide humanitarian relief and no administrative fee will be taken for the Erie Diocese.

CRS will use the funds for relief and rehabilitation efforts in Haiti. Pictured are Venango Catholic High School senior and Student Council President, Mercedes Hoefft and fourth grade St. Stephen School student Jenna Ronchi in Oil City.

VCHS Student Council recently raised \$500 for the relief efforts in Haiti and is currently collecting soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other personal care items to be delivered in care packages to Haiti.



Catholic Relief Services in Haiti

Many of the ongoing CRS programs in Haiti focus on the country's most vulnerable groups, including orphans and people living with HIV.

BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE

1954 First year of CRS work in Haiti
315 CRS staff in Haiti on a regular basis
\$28 million Invested into Haiti's programs in the most recent fiscal year

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

\$30-\$40 million To be spent by Dec. 31, 2010
\$100 million Estimated to be spent by CRS for earthquake disaster
34 Additional temporary staff sent to Haiti
There are 12 additional workers in the Dominican Republic.



Ronchi organized a loose change drive at St. Stephen School to donate the funds to the charity World Vision. Every morning she went to each classroom to collect the change that students brought in. The final donation from

See HAITI, page 2

Clergy appointments

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



Msr. Robert Barcio, accepted retirement as diocesan archivist. Effective February 1, 2010.

Father Joseph Czarkowski, appointed to the office of dean of the Erie East Deanery. Effective February 1, 2010.

Father John Santor, granted retirement from active ministry. Effective January 1, 2010.

Father Charles Schmitt, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. John Parish, Tidouste, and St. Anthony Parish, Tionesta. Effective February 5, 2010.

Catholic Services Appeal 2010

Help support diocesan ministries

The annual Catholic Services Appeal helps fund the Erie Diocese's ministries and provides support for health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services that serve 13 counties in northwest Pennsylvania. Parishes throughout the diocese conducted Commend Sunday the weekend of Feb. 13-14.

By supporting the CSA, there are just a few diocesan ministries you assist:

- Retrouvaille
- Tuition assistance
- Parish Care and Concern
- groups
- Religious education
- Marriage enrichment
- Faith magazine
- Lay ministry training
- Youth and young adult ministry
- Assistance for refugees
- Feeding the hungry
- Seminary formation

It's not too late to make a pledge. Contact your parish office or Joseph Hoag, director of stewardship and annual appeals, at 814.824.1192 or JHoag@ErieRCD.org for more information.



Did You Know?

In 1966 a total of 155 Erie diocesan priests were full time teachers in our Catholic schools. That number quickly began to decline, dropping to 94 by 1980, to 36 by 1990, to 20 by 2000 and today there are 13 priests in full-time teaching positions.



IN THE U.S.

■ **The new English translation of the Roman Missal** might not be in U.S. parishes for as long as two years, but Father Rick Hilgartner hopes Catholics are talking about it now. Mention of the upcoming changes in the prayers at Mass might come in the occasional bulletin insert, in adult religious education classes or Bible study groups or in a homily at Mass, said the associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship in Washington. "Anything to heighten people's awareness," he added. Once the Vatican approval is received, the president of each bishops' conference will decide when the new missal will start being used in each country. But before that can happen, priests and people must be involved in a "two-tiered catechetical process" that starts with "general and broad" discussions of such issues as the "nature of the Mass, how it builds up the church and how we encounter Christ," Father Hilgartner said. Further information and resources are available at a Web site launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/rommissal.



AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Catholics enter religious orders or consecrate themselves as virgins** because the love of God is so great that it is worth giving everything for, Pope Benedict XVI said. Adoring the Eucharist and celebrating evening prayer with religious Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the pope told them that they are witnesses for others of the readiness of God's love and mercy. The church celebrates World Day for Consecrated Life each year on the feast day. The pope told the religious that each one of them had drawn near to Christ "as the source of pure and faithful love, a love so great and beautiful that it deserves everything or, rather, more than our all, because an entire

life would not be enough to repay that which Christ is and has done for us." Beyond the thousand things religious do in the church, he said, "consecrated life is important precisely as a sign of selflessness and love."

■ **Organizers of the 2011 World Youth Day celebration in Spain** launched an English-language Web page offering registration information, schedules and social networks to help spread word about the event. The Web site, www.madridwyd2011.com, created by and for young people, opened its English page Jan. 29. It counts down to the Aug. 16-21, 2011, World Youth Day international gathering in Madrid. The Web site introduces multimedia resources including videos, audio and social networking tools that allow young people from all over the world to stay connected and updated via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. The site also offers a detailed schedule of the 2011 World Youth Day week including events with Pope Benedict XVI, religious activities, catechesis sessions and cultural programs.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The sainthood cause has formally opened for Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini**, a Venezuelan woman believed to have seen 31 apparitions of Mary, who spread worldwide a message of family reconciliation and fraternal unity that she said Mary relayed to her. Bishop Paul Bootkoski presided at the ceremony at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen, N.J. Jan. 31. The Mass, which was concelebrated by

29 priests, drew more than 1,400 people, including family members, a 60-member choir and others from Bianchini's native Venezuela. Bianchini reportedly first saw an apparition of Mary in 1976, but she became a world-renowned figure after Mary reportedly appeared to her and 150 others at a farm named Finca Betania in Venezuela on March 25, 1984. Mary is said to have appeared under the title "Mary, virgin and mother, reconciler of all people and nations." Bianchini died in New Jersey in 2004 after a long illness.



Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini

■ **As the 30th anniversary of the murder of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero approaches**, El Salvador's bishops have agreed to write a letter to the Vatican supporting Romero's canonization. "As church, it is our great desire that Archbishop Romero be canonized as soon as possible," San Salvador Archbishop Jose Escobar Alas told reporters Feb. 7. Archbishop Escobar said the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes is considering the matter. Archbishop Romero was gunned down while celebrating Mass March 24, 1980, shortly after a radio broadcast in which he urged Salvadoran soldiers to stop turning their weapons on civilians in El Salvador's civil war. The canonization cause entered the verification phase in 2000. In 2005, around the 25th anniversary of the prelate's death, the Vatican informed the Salvadoran bishops that the cause had passed the first phase of verification. Although formal canonization is a slow process, many Salvadorans have considered the archbishop a saint since his murder. His image hangs in many churches, and there are icons of "St. Romero."



Archbishop Oscar Romero

By the Way...

This year marks some rather large milestones for Bishop Donald Trautman and the Erie Diocese.



Jason Koshinski

First, Bishop Trautman will mark the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination on April 16. On this day in 1985, he was consecrated bishop at Buffalo's St. Joseph Cathedral. The family of the Diocese of Erie — religious, laity, deacons and priests — will gather on Tuesday, April 13 for a 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The bishop will celebrate his silver anniversary Mass, with Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and a number of visiting bishops and priests concelebrating.

The summer will also bring his 20th anniversary as shepherd of the Erie Diocese. On July 16, 1990, Bishop Trautman was formally installed as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Erie.

Matthew Kelly, a native Australian, best-selling author and internationally known speaker, was a hit at Gannon University Jan. 30. During the day, Kelly gave a retreat to more than 115 Catholic college students throughout the diocese. Students from Gannon, Mercyhurst College, Penn State-Behrend, Clarion University and Allegheny College attended the event. In the evening, Kelly gave a public talk in a packed Yeh Room in the Waldron Campus Center. Blending humor with a dose of straightforwardness, he engaged the crowd by relaying his story of finding joy in the Catholic Church.

Look for a full report on Kelly's visit in the March/April issue of *Faith* magazine.

Hundreds of fourth graders from Erie Diocesan Catholic schools virtually visited the diocesan Mission of Friendship in Yucatan, Mexico, Jan. 21-28. The trip was conducted via a blog by Kim Lytle, director of curriculum and teacher personnel for Catholic schools, who traveled to the mission with Pat Marshall, director of the Mission Office. Lytle visited all the programs of the mission as well as several historical sites and shared her experiences with postings on a daily blog created for the trip. Students were actively involved by completing related tasks assigned through the blog.

With 16 schools registered, classes from all over the diocese "made the trip" and took names such as the Clarion Companeros (Immaculate Conception, Clarion), Grade 4 St. Leo's Lions (St. Leo, Ridgway) and the 20 Amigos (Our Lady's Christian School, Erie).

The blog is still available at <http://eriemission.wordpress.com>.

Every year, Catholics raise about \$6 million through Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) annual program to increase awareness of global hunger. Officially beginning on Ash Wednesday, Catholic parishes and schools from more than 12,000 communities will use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their Lenten observance. For more information on Operation Rice Bowl, visit <http://orb.crs.org>.

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

Grandparents raising grandchildren

New Sisters of Mercy ministry serves growing group

GRANDPARENTS, from page 1

of responsibility for their grandchild, said Karen Narusewicz, director of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. That ranges from daily care while parents are working, to full custody and responsibility. Grandparents find themselves raising grandchildren due to a number of factors, Narusewicz said. Some of them include military deployment, unemployment, divorce, neglect, abuse, incarceration, alcohol or drug usage, abandonment and the death of the parents.

The daughter of one woman in the support program was killed in a car accident. The daughter's husband couldn't deal with it, Narusewicz said, and he took off. The grandmother was left with raising two grandsons while grieving the loss of her daughter.

"I don't think any of the grandparents here ever thought that they would be in these situations," Narusewicz said.

Sister Mary Dolores Jablonski, RSM, executive director of the Mercy Center on Aging, said the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program is a response to the needs of the community.

"A tradition of the Sisters of



Karen Narusewicz, director of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program at the Mercy Center on Aging, talks with grandparents attending a recent support group meeting. In Erie County, one in four grandparents has some level of responsibility for their grandchild, Narusewicz said.

Mercy is to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of a particular culture and time," Sister Mary Dolores said. "A few years ago, we noticed that more and more grandparents were taking on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren."

There are a few, simple ground rules for the support group. One

is confidentiality, meaning what's said in the group stays in the group. The others are respect for each other and respect for boundaries.

Plans also call for Renewal Days which will feature relaxation techniques, aromatherapy, chair massage, lunch and a support group meeting.

"We're trying to help them take care of themselves," Narusewicz said. "They can learn things here so when they go home they can relieve stress and take care of themselves."

She said she also hopes to get them involved with activities at the Mercy Center on Aging for more socialization. The center also offers exercise classes and visits with a staff nurse.

A planned speaker series will also address a gamut of issues grandparents face including legal issues such as custody and family court and health aspects including autism and ADHD diagnosis.

Narusewicz noted that school superintendents in Erie County have received packets of information for distribution inviting grandparents raising grandchildren to be part of the program and to fill out a survey to assess needs. She also plans to have surveys distributed through area churches.

"It takes a lot of energy (to raise children). That's why God had us have children when we were young," Narusewicz said.

"There's a reason why we weren't supposed to have children after a certain age. You can't do it without support."

Diocese collects nearly \$300,000 for Haiti

HAITI, from page 1

the school was \$1,000.

The Haiti program is Catholic Relief Services' largest, running at about \$30 million annually

prior to the earthquake. Through Feb. 9, CRS had raised \$41.7 million for Haitian earthquake relief.

Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-based confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social services organizations from around the world, had raised \$25 million for earthquake relief.

Through Feb. 3, donations to U.S.-based relief agencies have totaled more than \$644 million, according to statistics gathered by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.



(CRS photo)

Women wait in line for shelter materials being distributed at the Petionville Club camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 5. Catholic Relief Services provided 7,000 shelter kits to replace makeshift tents being used by people left homeless after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

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General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170

E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
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Parish missions

Blessed Sacrament, Erie

ERIE — Blessed Sacrament Parish, 1626 W. 26th St. in Erie, will hold its parish mission March 22-25 with each session beginning at 7 p.m.

March 22 — Reconciliation
 March 23 — Scriptures (confessions following)
 March 24 — Redemption
 March 25 — Mass of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The keynote presenter will be Redemptorist Father John Murray, C.Ss.R. Father Murray recently preached the parish mission for St. Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney Feb. 14-18.

Over the years, Father Murray has preached more than 140 retreats for priests and women religious, as well as 320 parish missions and weekend retreats including Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille weekends.

Father Murray has ministered with Catholics who for different reasons have felt separated from the church. His talks will focus on God's love and forgiveness.

Briefly

Fatima National Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit diocese during Lent

The World Apostolate of Fatima National Pilgrim Virgin Statue will visit several parishes in the Erie Diocese in February and March.

Scheduled visits include:
 Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell (Feb. 19-21)
 St. Mark, Emporium (Feb. 28)
 St. Mary, St. Marys (March 5)
 St. Leo the Great, Ridgway (March 6-7)
 St. George, Erie (March 13)
 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer (March 14)
 St. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney (March 16)
 St. Michael, Fryburg (March 21)

The new Fatima movie, "The 13th Day," will be shown in Farrell and Fryburg and possibly other sites as arrangements are finalized.

The statue is among the treasures found at the World Apostolate of Fatima National Shrine in Washington, N.J. Blessed by Pope Paul VI in 1967, the statue was brought to the United States personally by Bishop Perera Venancio of Fatima to help spread the Fatima message.

For more information on the World Apostolate of Fatima, visit www.wafusa.org.



'Heart of My Life' Lenten program at St. Jude

ERIE — St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie will present "Heart of My Life" on several Tuesdays during Lent.

Guest priests will reflect on living their priesthood. The program will take place at the parish, 2801 W. Sixth St., Erie, and will include evening prayer, benediction, music and adoration. The following priests are scheduled to speak:

- Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. — Father Dan Hoffman, parochial vicar at St. Michael, Greenville
- Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. — Msgr. Robert Malene, pastor of Good Shepherd, Middlesex, and former military chaplain
- Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. — Father Steve Schreiber, associate director of vocations and director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

For more information, call the rectory office at 814.823.0927 or visit www.stjudeapos.org.

Runnin' Revs basketball game, vocations event at DuBois Central Catholic



DUBOIS — The Runnin' Revs, a basketball team of priests, deacons and seminarians who promote vocations in the Erie Diocese, will participate in a vocations event at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 14 at DuBois Central Catholic High School.

The event will feature a basketball game between the Revs and the DCC senior boys with a vocation program to follow. Traditionally games are followed by prayer, a presentation on the priesthood and sharing of vocation stories by the priests themselves.

Runnin' Revs players anticipated to play include the diocese's newest priests, Father Dan Hoffman and Father John Miller, the Revs' founding pastor, Father Richard Tooley, and the always-ready-to-play, Deacon Jeff Swanson.

Admission is free and open to everyone.

PROXIMO TRAVEL 2010

Italy / Switzerland: April 10-22 / May 1-13 / May 15-27 / May 29-July 10 / June 26-July 8 / July 3-15
Italy Regular: April 17-25 / June 26-July 4 / Sept 18-26
Tuscany: June 30-July 10 / October 7-17
Holy Land: April 19-29 / May 29-June 8 / June 30-July 10 / Sept 9-19 / Sept 20-30 / Oct 7-17 / Oct 18-28
Ireland / Scotland: May 29-June 10 / July 10-22
France: June 30-July 12 / July 12-24 / October 2-14
Spain: June 30-July 12 / Sept 18-30
Greece: April 12-22 / May 29-June 8

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Why abortion?

There are other, better responses to unexpected pregnancy

How to help

By Amy B. Hill
 Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Every year the Pennsylvania Department of Health releases the latest state abortion statistics. Everyone waits to see if the numbers go up or down. In 2008, there were 38,807 abortions in Pennsylvania, an increase of 2,144 (5.8 percent) from 2007. Disappointing: but overall, that is 41 percent less than the record of 65,777 abortions in 1980, the most ever recorded.



Amy B. Hill

Both opponents and supporters of abortion will focus on the change — where to give credit or place blame. These are important questions; but a more significant question is why did Pennsylvania women feel they had no choice but to terminate their pregnancies nearly 39,000 times?

The Guttmacher Institute is a research agency that grew out of a division of Planned Parenthood. In a 2005 study, Guttmacher asked women why they chose abortion. The reasons most frequently cited were a child would interfere with a woman's education, work or ability to care for dependents (74 percent); she could not afford a baby (73 per-

cent); and she did not want to be a single mother or was having relationship problems (48 percent).

The Guttmacher Institute concludes, "The decision to have an abortion is typically motivated by multiple, diverse and interrelated reasons. The themes of responsibility to others and resource limitations, such as financial constraints and lack of partner support, recurred throughout the study."

Also in 2008, Real Alternatives, administrator of a government-funded alternative to abortion services program, reported that its pro-life social service agencies, pregnancy support centers, maternity homes and adoption agencies that provide counseling and maternal assistance served a record 20,478 women. This was nearly an eight-percent increase from the year before.



cents at one of Real Alternatives' maternity homes.

Adoption is also an important part of the discussion with clients. The women often do not know how it works or what to expect. They do not realize that is one of their choices.

Abortion is discussed, too. Moyer says clients do not always understand what happens when an abortion is performed. They are genuinely surprised at the harsh, life-ending reality of abortion. Knowing the truth about abortion often helps women see the seriousness of their situation more clearly.

The 115 facilities funded by Real Alternatives statewide allow thousands of women to choose life and finish school or keep their jobs. Clients are finding the means to support a baby or mustering the courage to allow him or her to be adopted into a loving family who can. They offer gentle counsel to help women realize that there are other choices outside of abortion. One of these centers is within an hour's drive of every woman in Pennsylvania. (Call toll-free 1.888.LIFE.AID or visit www.realalternatives.org for locations.)

As a pro-life community, we must continue asking the tough question — why do women choose abortion? We should also ask are we doing all that we can to make it known that abortion does not have to be the only response to an unexpected pregnancy?

DEATH NOTICES

Sister Lorraine Leannah, CDS

Sister Lorraine Leannah, CDS, a member of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit, died February 6, 2010.

She was born in Neopit, Wis., the daughter of the late Mary Louise Dennis and Emmanuel Leannah. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters; Cecilia and Sister Ursula and four brothers; Edward, Raymond, Kenneth and Father Thomas Leannah.

She is survived by her religious community and three sisters; Patricia Kabasiak of Fox Point, Wis.; Gladys Paska of Deltona, Fla.; and Sister Marie Emmanuel of Manitowish, Wis., along with many nieces and nephews.

Her ministry included Gannon University, Erie; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Erie; Assumption School, Geneva, Ohio; and House of Loreto, Canton, Ohio.

Sister Gladys Spengler, CDS

Sister Gladys Spengler, CDS, a member of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit, died February 6, 2010.

She was born in Syracuse, N.Y., the daughter of the late Mary Agnes Coyne and Henry Walter Spengler. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Jean Milligan; and two brothers, Walter and John Spengler.

She is survived by her religious

community; one sister, Grace S. Kile (James) of Clinton, Tenn.; and several nieces and nephews.

Her ministry included the Chancery Office and Gannon University, Erie, and the House of Loreto, Canton, Ohio.

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St. Jude the Apostle Church
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Special 2010 Lenten Program
"Heart of My Life"

Guest Priests reflect on living their Priesthood

Tuesday - February 23rd 6:30 pm
 Father Dan Hoffman - Parochial Vicar of St. Michael in Greenville

Tuesday - March 9th 6:30 pm
 Monsignor Robert Malene - Pastor Good Shepherd in West Middlesex and a former Military Chaplain

Tuesday - March 23rd 6:30 pm
 Father Steve Schreiber - Associate Director of Vocations Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

This Special One Hour Program will also include:
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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 FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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St. Luke, Youngsville, celebrates resetting of altar stone

YOUNGVILLE – On Jan. 24, the parish family of St. Luke, Youngsville, witnessed the resetting of the altar stone that rested in the first altar of the old St. Luke church in Irvine that was built in 1957.

Tradition holds that a relic of St. Luke the Physician and disciple of Jesus lays inside the stone.

"Relics are meant to draw us closer to the life of a saint and imitate their faith," said Father John Neff, pastor of St. Luke.

The resetting of the stone was done in conjunction with the Year for Priests, with a dinner following Mass.

St. Luke was originally founded in Irvine in 1870 as a mission church of St. John, Tidouct.

Pictured are Troy McFate, president of the pastoral council; Michael Stec, Deputy Grand Knight, Youngsville Council; Charles Mayhoad, District Deputy; Deacon Philip Skerda; Father John Neff, pastor; and officers of the Warren Council Knights of Columbus.



Venango County schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week

OIL CITY – Venango Catholic High School in Oil City welcomed the elementary students from St. Stephen School in Oil City and St. Patrick School in Franklin to VCHS for a day of celebration on Feb. 5 for the culmination of Catholic Schools Week.

The school also welcomed priests and deacons from the area to concelebrate Mass in the afternoon. Students enjoyed games, prizes, a play by the drama club, music and food.



Pictured left to right are: Deacon Tim Wren, Msgr. John Swoger, Father David Poulson, Father Paul Siebert (at the altar) and Father Matthew Ruyechan.

St. Julia doll raffle raises funds for sister parish



ERIE – On Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Julia Parish's sister parish committee awarded an American Girl doll to Sheri Parry. The "Josefina" doll was wearing the traditional dress worn by the women of the Yucatan for celebrations and fiestas.

More than 1,000 chances were sold on the doll, raising \$800.

The proceeds were then sent to Santa Ines, St. Julia's sister parish in Dzitas, Yucatan, Mexico, for books for children.

Pictured from left to right are women of the Yucatan for St. Julia's sister parish committee making the presentation.

DuBois Knights of Columbus honor area priests



DUBOIS – In solidarity with area priests during the Year for Priests, the DuBois Knights of Columbus, Patrick J. Healy Assembly 2661 and Msgr. M.T. Urbana Council 519, recently held a dinner in their honor at St. Michael the Archangel Parish

social hall in DuBois.

Each priest was presented with a certificate from the Knights in appreciation for their dedicated and devoted service to the church. Sir Knight Ken Straub served as the emcee for the event.

Pictured are members of

the Knights of Columbus and their spouses, along with several priests.

They include: (seated left to right) Father David Foradori (Sir Knight and friar of assembly 2661), Father John Mihalco (Sir Knight), Father Thomas

Hoderny, Msgr. Richard Siefer (Sir Knight), Father Marc Solomon (Sir Knight) and Father Ed Walk.

Also in attendance but not pictured was Father Marc Stockton (Sir Knight and chaplain of Council 519).

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Serving noon-6pm

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Adults: \$6.00, Children (6-12): \$3.00
Small Fry (under 6): FREE

Carryout orders from 11:30 am (Bring your own containers.)

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