



## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Katharine Drexel St. John of God

- March 2 World Day of Prayer
- March 3 St. Katharine Drexel
- March 7 Ss. Perpetua and Felicity
- March 8 St. John of God
- March 9 St. Frances of Rome
- March 11 Girl Scout Sunday

### Confirmations

Bishop Donald Trautman will visit the following churches to offer the sacrament of confirmation:

**Queen of the World, St. Marys** – Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Mary, St. Marys; Sacred Heart, St. Marys; and Queen of the World, St. Marys.

**St. Boniface, Erie** – Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Family, Erie, and St. Boniface, Erie.

### Operation Rice Bowl

Every year, millions of Catholics in the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten program that starts on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. Each Lent, Catholic parishes and schools from more than 12,000 communities use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer, fasting and learning. Getting involved in the program is a tangible way to help people living in poverty around the world.

Participants in Operation Rice Bowl make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes each week and putting the money they otherwise would have spent on a big meal into symbolic rice bowls. That money goes to support CRS' mission to fight global hunger and poverty.

For more information on Operation Rice Bowl, visit [www.orb.crs.org](http://www.orb.crs.org).

### Rite of Election – Feb. 26

Candidates and catechumens participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program at their respective parishes in the Diocese of Erie will celebrate the Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 26, the first Sunday of Lent. The Rite of Election will be celebrated at 3 p.m. at two locations: St. Peter Cathedral in Erie and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield.

## HHS mandate a threat to religious liberty, bishop says

*Bishop Trautman on HHS compromise: 'our position remains unchanged'*

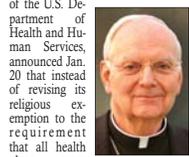
By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

In a letter to parishioners throughout the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Donald Trautman reiterated his stance against the Obama administration's support of compulsory health insurance funding for contraceptives, sterilizations and abortions.

"I want to underscore the fact that this is not a Republican or a Democratic issue, but rather a fundamental, constitutional issue," Bishop Trautman said in the letter dated Feb. 8. "At stake is our own constitutional right to religious liberty and freedom of conscience protected by the Free Exercise

Clause of the First Amendment."

The public controversy erupted when Kathleen Sebelius, secretary



Bishop Donald Trautman

of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced Jan. 20 that instead of revising its religious exemption to the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilizations free of charge, nonprofit groups will get an additional year "to adapt

to this new rule."

Sebelius announced the mandate and a narrow religious exemption to it Aug. 1, 2011. Under the plan, after Aug. 1 of this year, new or significantly altered health plans will be required to provide all FDA-approved contraceptives, including some that can cause abortions, without co-pays or deductibles as part of preventive health care for women.

The announcement delays but does not change the HHS ruling on contraceptive coverage.

"Please understand that this issue is much broader than contraception," Bishop Trautman said in his letter. "In addition to the fact that we are morally opposed to contraception, sterilization and abortions, we must stand against this ruling in order to preserve the civil rights and the conscience rights of Catholic Americans. There can be no compromise when it

comes to truth."

In a move that appears unlikely to end the controversy over the HHS mandate, President Barack Obama outlined a plan Feb. 10 that would allow religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so.

The president announced the policy in a brief statement but took no questions.

"At this point our position remains unchanged," Bishop Trautman said in response to the president's statement. "The Catholic Diocese of Erie, like many other church institutions, is self-insured. Many questions remain about the status of self-insured entities with the Obama compromise."

Bishop Trautman said it's important

See HHS MANDATE, page 2



## How is a bishop appointed?

Process begins at diocesan level before reaching Rome

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

When Bishop Donald Trautman turned 75 on June 24, he submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI.

The Catholic Church's Code of Canon Law requires all bishops to submit a letter of resignation when they turn 75; although the pope rarely accepts the resignation immediately.

It often takes six to eight months—and sometimes longer—from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The eight-month mark came this month, so the Diocese of Erie is already in the "sometimes longer" timeframe.

So who actually appoints a new bishop?

The short answer to that question is the Holy Spirit. Prayer is an important part of the process. The Holy Spirit is called upon to guide deliberations and candidate selections so that the will of God is working through the entire process. The ultimate decision in appointing a new bishop rests with the pope.

But how does he know whom to select?

"The primary process is that at least once every three years, the bishops of a province come together with the metropolitan and put together a list of names of priests whom they think would make

good candidates," said Father Chris Singer, chancellor of the diocese and a canon lawyer.

For the Diocese of Erie, our province is made up of the dioceses of Pennsylvania and the metropolitan is the archbishop of Philadelphia.

Canon law requires that a bishop candidate should be:

- Outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence and human virtues and endowed with other qualities which make him suitable to fulfill the office in question;

- Of good reputation
- At least 35 years old
- Ordained to the priesthood for at least five years

■ In possession of a doctorate or at least a licentiate in sacred scripture, theology or canon law from an institute of higher studies approved by the Apostolic See or at least truly expert in the same disciplines.

"The practice is for the bishops of each province to meet periodically and to float names of priests they think would make good bishops," said Vatican journalist John Allen.

A Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter (NCR) and a Vatican analyst for CNN and National Public Radio, Allen writes the weekly "All Things Catholic" blog for NCR.

See BISHOP, page 3



The mitre, a liturgical headdress, is a symbol of the office of a bishop. The Diocese of Erie will soon have a new bishop, but the process in selecting a candidate is a lengthy one. Pictured is a mitre belonging to Bishop Donald Trautman.

## Catholic Schools Week brings pastoral visit to St. Michael School in Greenville



GREENVILLE – Bishop Donald Trautman visited St. Michael School in Greenville Jan. 27 to celebrate Mass for the school community to begin Catholic Schools Week and view the newly renovated school. After a morning Mass, Bishop Trautman blessed each classroom.

The school received a top-to-bottom renovation over

the summer. The \$750,000 project included new doors, floors, plumbing, windows and wiring.

The project was completed with pledges from parents and parishioners and proceeds from fundraisers, said Joanie Micsky, the school's director of advancement.

"We are very proud of this building, but we're more proud of you," the bishop told the students.

## Child protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The Diocese of Erie and its Office for Protection of Children and Youth were found to be in full compliance (with) the U.S. Catholic bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children during its most recent audit.

For the eighth time in eight years, the diocese has complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse.

The bishops' charter went into effect in June 2002. The diocesan policy, based on the charter, went into effect in June 2003. The charter calls for annual audits to ensure that dioceses across the nation are in compliance with the charter's provisions.

"We've always been found in full compliance of the charter," said Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese and director of the Office for Protection of Children and Youth. "And that's very important. Full compliance is a good indicator of the many people in our parishes—priests, religious education directors, coaches and volunteers who are working very hard to ensure the protection of children. It's a credit to them and the efforts they're expending in implementing the bishops' charter



### Child Protection — By the numbers:

Data from this year's Child Protection audit showed a total of 23,005 children, youth and adults in-serviced on the Diocese of Erie's safe environment practices. The in-servicing took place from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. As part of the in-servicing process, all adults have had background checks completed and cleared.

In-servicing were conducted with:

- 18,638 children and youth
- 173 priests
- 64 deacons
- 34 candidates for ordination
- 762 educators (teachers, principals)
- 934 parish and school employees
- 2,400 parish and school volunteers

Source: Office for Protection of Children and Youth

## IN THE U.S.

### ■ Right to conscience protection must be enacted into law, says bishop

Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the ongoing debate over a federal mandate requiring employers, including most religious entities, to provide no-cost contraception and sterilization coverage demonstrates the need that a religious right to conscience protection be enacted into federal law. "Our religious freedom is too precious to be protected only by regulations," Bishop Lori said Feb. 13. "It needs legislative protection. More legislators, I think, are looking at it. There's more bipartisan support for it. There should be a lot of pressure exerted on Congress to pass it and for the president to sign it," he said. Among the bills under consideration is the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb.

### ■ Same-sex marriage legalized in Washington

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire Feb. 13 signed a measure that legalizes marriage for same-sex couples, making Washington the seventh state, along with the District of Columbia, where same-sex marriage is legal. The House passed the bill with a 55-43 vote Feb. 8, a week after the Senate approved it. The same-sex marriage law takes effect 90 days after the governor's signature, but opponents have promised to fight it with a ballot measure that would allow voters to overturn it. If opponents gather 120,000 signatures, the measure will be put to a referendum in November. Prior to the vote, the state's bishops urged legislators to reject the measure and "defend the current legal definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman." In Jan. 23 testimony before a Senate committee, Seattle Archbishop Peter Scharf urged lawmakers to oppose the measure "based on the grave challenge this legislation poses to the common good. By attempting to redefine marriage, it ignores the origin, purpose and value of marriage to individuals, families and society."

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ■ World Youth Day logo unveiled

Officials of World Youth Day 2013 unveiled the winning logo for the event at a ceremony attended by more than 100 Brazilian bishops, government officials and local organizers. Gustavo Huguenin, 25, creator of the winning logo, is a Brazilian from the interior of Rio de Janeiro state. The contest was open to anyone, and the



This is the Portuguese-language version of the winning logo for World Youth Day to be held in Rio de Janeiro July 23-28, 2013.

logo was chosen by a Vatican council from more than 200 entries from around the world. The logo shows Rio's most famous symbols — Christ the Redeemer statue, Sugarloaf Mountain, the Brazilian coastline — and the World Youth Day pilgrim's cross inside a heart symbolizing the heart of the disciple. The green, yellow and blue of the heart are the colors of the Brazilian flag. Huguenin said he got the idea after reading a passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew. He said participation in the contest was an act of faith. To celebrate the occasion Feb. 7, the Christ the Redeemer statue was lit in different colors, representing the 150 countries that will participate in World Youth Day.

### ■ Pope calls on Syria to address citizens' legitimate demands

As a sectarian conflict in Syria intensified, Pope Benedict XVI called on all Syrians to begin a process of dialogue and reminded the government of its duty to recognize its citizens' legitimate demands. In Beirut, Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan of the Syriac Catholic Church warned against toppling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, calling for dialogue to solve the crisis in the country. In St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 12, the pope expressed his concern for "the dramatic and increasing episodes of violence in Syria." At the end of his Angelus prayer, he said he was praying for everyone who has been killed, injured and affected by a conflict that is "increasingly worrisome."



A sign in response to the violence in Syria is seen during a Feb. 11 Mass at a church in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

### ■ Church officials step up relief efforts to quake victims

Catholic officials are stepping up relief efforts to provide assistance to victims of an earthquake that struck Negros Oriental province in the Philippines Feb. 6. San Carlos Diocese on Negros Island is organizing relief groups to deliver food and water to thousands of people who remain isolated after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake on the eastern part of the island. The quake destroyed or damaged bridges and buildings and triggered landslides. As of Feb. 9, the official death toll was 26, but rescuers said there was little hope of finding any of the 71 missing alive. More than 1,500 families were evacuated from their homes.

# Child protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

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and our diocesan policy." This year's self-reporting audit was conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners. The audit covered in-servicing and safe environment practices from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

In 2010, auditors conducted an on-site visit, which is done every three years. Other years such as 2011 are self-reporting and data collection audits.

"One of the central tenets of the bishops' charter is its focus on assisting victims to heal," Msgr. Smith said. "Every allegation is taken seriously."

Karen Strett serves as coordinator for the Office for Protection of Children and Youth and works with parish and school personnel regarding in-servicing of students and staff. All students are in-serviced each year on safety practices, Strett said.

"While clearances and background checks and in-servicing adult volunteers and employees are extremely important, the most

important thing really is the in-servicing of the students and getting it for a transition to our parents," she said.

Schools and religious education programs will use agencies that are experienced in providing in-servicing or use resources from the diocesan media library.

"The programs vary for different age levels," Strett said.

"They discuss creating a safe environment but can include topics such as forming good relationships, bullying and Internet



Msgr. Robert Smith



Karen Strett

safety. Strett said the parents' role is crucial to the process.

"They need to pay close attention to where their kids are going, who they're hanging out with, how adults are relating to their children and what they are doing online," she said.

Msgr. Smith credited the leadership of Bishop Donald Trautman for guiding the implementation of the bishops' charter and establishing a diocesan office to protect children and youth.

"From the get-go he has emphasized the critical importance of this program and the work of our office and rightfully so," Msgr. Smith said of Bishop Trautman. "Our policy norms are consistent with those of the Bishops' Charter and have been so very helpful to us in addressing this issue locally and for the church at the national level."

"Any violation of a child is a terrible sin. The more we can do to protect our children, the healthier we are as a church and as a society."

# Bishop Trautman on HHS compromise: 'our position remains unchanged'

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for the faithful to see the larger issue of what is involved.

"The president and so many others keep referring to contraception, making the point that surveys talk about the use of contraceptives among Catholics," Bishop Trautman said. "The Catholic Church teaching on contraception is clear, but let us also be clear that the president's directive also embraces surgical sterilization and abortifacients. The church's teaching has been clear and consistent on these immoral practices. Under no circumstances can they be included."

While President Obama has shifted the payment for these practices to insurance companies, Bishop Trautman raised the question of how the insurance companies will pay for them.

"Will they not be reflected in the premiums charged?" the bishop said. "We must not be glib in these matters."

For the complete text of Bishop Trautman's letter and the U.S. bishop's point-by-point response to White House claims, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp).

# By the Way...

The cover story in this issue of *FaithLife* on how a bishop is appointed was interesting to research. There is also a section of the church's code of canon law that covers the governance of dioceses once a bishop's resignation has been accepted.

Bishop Donald Trautman will remain bishop of the Diocese of Erie until a new bishop is appointed.

"What usually happens in a case like Erie where our current bishop has passed the retirement age is that when the pope announces a new bishop, he will simultaneously accept the current bishop's resignation and then immediately appoint him as apostolic administrator of the diocese until the new bishop arrives," said Father Chris Singer, chancellor of the diocese. "The apostolic administrator has the authority to handle the day-to-day operations of the diocese but is no longer able to make significant, long-range decisions that would affect the future of the diocese."

When this happens, the vicars general and the episcopal vicars of the diocese immediately lose their office. In our diocese, this will include Msgr. Robert Smith and Msgr. Charles Kaza and Msgr. Robert Malenc. However, the chancellor's and judicial vicar's offices remain. The decision is left to the new bishop to reappoint the vicars or appoint others.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Eileen Gaither and Joann Mullen.

Gaither, who died Feb. 8, worked in the Office of Clergy Personnel, which assists the bishop in coordinating the assignment and care of diocesan priests.

"Eileen gave her all in service to the priests of this diocese for some 40-plus years," said Msgr. Smith, director of clergy personnel. "Here at St. Mark Catholic Center, she did the same for all of us. She was a woman of great faith, so we know she's in the good hands of our Lord."

Mullen, who died Feb. 6, served on the faculty at Cathedral Prep in Erie for more than 40 years. She was a longtime math teacher at Prep and was the school's first principal, serving in that capacity for 10 years. After stepping down, she continued to teach at Prep and Villa Maria Academy. In 2011, she was elected to the Cathedral Prep Hall of Fame as a distinguished faculty member.

We've heard from many former students who cite her as an inspiring and positive influence on their lives and education.

Jason Koshinski is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at [JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org) or 814.824.1171.



Jason Koshinski

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Italy: April 14-22, April 18-May 06, May 05-13, May 12-20, May 19-27, June 02-10, June 09-17, June 16-24 ...  
Holy Land: April 09-19, April 14-25, April 30-May 10, May 07-17, May 14-24, May 21-31, June 18-28 ...  
Holy Land/Italy: April 09-22, April 23-May 06, May 07-20, May 14-27, June 18-July 01, June 25-July 8.

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**Make your views known**

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference website is designed to help people contact their congressional representatives and the president. Become a member of the Catholic Advocacy Network by logging on to [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org). After filling out a simple form, you will receive occasional e-mails concerning only the issues on which you wish to remain informed and active. The Diocese of Erie also has HHS resources available at [www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp).

Those who do not have access to email are reminded they can call the main Capitol switchboard at 1.202.224.3121 to be connected with their congressional representatives' offices. Let elected officials know you want them to co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act and help enact it into law.

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REGISTRATION - Tuesday, March 13th from 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Preschool-8th Grade; 385 Pine Street, Meadville PA 16335  
Mrs. Jamie Longo, Advancement Director  
Mrs. Julia Strzalka, School Principal  
814.336.2320 / [www.seton-school.com](http://www.seton-school.com)

**Sacred Heart Altar Society's 59th Spaghetti Dinner**

Auditorium, W. 25th and Liberty Streets, Erie  
Sunday, March 11  
Serving noon-6pm

Dinner includes savory spaghetti and meatballs with sauce, topped salad, bread and butter, dessert and beverage.  
Adult: \$7.00, Child (6-12): \$4.00  
5 and under FREE

Carryout orders from 11:30 a.m. (Please bring your own containers.)

Theme basket raffle: Two cash awards; Bake sale

Under the guidance of Lorraine Scapellato with Lisa Lopez Zamlerowski and Lim Lopez Rater

## Briefly

### Lenten vigils at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE – Lenten vigils will take place every Saturday during Lent at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road in Erie. Join the Benedictine Sisters of Erie for prayer, songs, Scripture and psalms. Vigils will begin at 7 p.m.

Reflections will be given by:

- Feb. 25 Sister Marlene Bertke, OSB
- March 3 Sister Mary Ellen Cummings, OSB
- March 10 Dorothy Konyha, oblate
- March 17 Sister Anne McCarthy, OSB
- March 24 Sister Katherine Horan, OSB
- March 31 Sister Janet Goetz, OSB

### Sisters of Life women's retreat at St. Eulalia

COUDERSPORT – The Sisters of Life will present a women's retreat at St. Eulalia Parish in Coudersport on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 12:30-6 p.m. The sisters are members of a religious order based in the Bronx, N.Y.

The topics of discussion will be "The Charism of Life" and "The Dignity and Vocation of Women." The day will include Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession and dinner. The cost is \$10. To register, call the parish office at 814.274.8646.

For more information, visit [www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org).

### Lenten events at Bethany Retreat Center

FRENCHVILLE – Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville will offer several programs during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be held each Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the chapel beginning Feb. 28.

A Lenten day of reflection for individuals and families will be held Sunday, March 4.

Bethany Retreat Center is operated by Young People Who Care. For a listing of events, visit [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org/schedule.htm](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org/schedule.htm).

For more information, call 814.263.4855 or e-mail the center at [bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com).

### Word of Life prayer brunch

ERIE – Word of Life Renewal Center is sponsoring a prayer brunch Saturday, March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Center, 139 W. 24th St. in Erie.

The featured speaker will be Father Jason Feigh, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. The cost of the brunch is \$7.50.

To register or for more information, call the Word of Life office at 814.824.1286.



Father Jason Feigh

### Mercy Center for Women celebrates Women Making History



ERIE – Mercy Center for Women is celebrating its 20th year of Women Making History by honoring 20 phenomenal women in our community.

The program will be held March 29 at 7 p.m. at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on the Mercyhurst University campus, 501 E. 38th St., Erie. The program is free and open to the public.

Pictured left to right are the 2012 Women Making History honorees: (front row) Sharon Downey, Lisa Nietupski, Tammy Batchelor, Kekha Halligan, MD, Rebecca Styn, Patty McGuinness, Mary Catherine Hosack, Mary Hoffman, (back row) Erika Howland, Sister Rita Panciera, RSM, Sister Bernadette Bell, RSM, Ann Scott, Lisa Adams, Maureen Barber-Carey, Marne Roche, Johnie M. Atkinson, Sister Kevin Berdis, OSF, and Mary Lou Scottino. Missing from photo are Sallie Newsham and Mary Weber.

### Retreat for young adults

CRANBERRY – Erie's Catholic Young Adult Ministry (CYAM) will sponsor a retreat for Catholic young adults age 21 to 39 March 30-31 at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry, near Oil City.

The theme of the retreat is "Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thess. 5:19). Retreat master Father Steve Schreiber will help revive your spiritual life so that you can be leaven within your communities.

The \$50 registration fee includes a wine and cheese reception on Friday evening, all snacks and meals (breakfast and lunch on Saturday), all materials and talks and overnight accommodations.

Space is limited. Register by March 23. Contact Kathleen Peterson in the Office of Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1218 or visit [www.CYAMerie.com](http://www.CYAMerie.com) for registration forms and more information.

### Middle school youth rally

ERIE – The annual middle school youth rally, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will be held Sunday, April 29 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The theme for the rally is "I Have Seen the Lord!" (John 20:18). Youth in grades 6, 7 and 8 are encouraged to spend an amazing day of all things cool and Catholic: confession, music by Pat Brown & Co., Deacon Frank Pregler, an extreme scavenger hunt, tug-of-war, a Velcro sticky wall, adrenaline rush obstacle course, Mass and Eucharistic adoration.

Contact your youth leader, religious education leader or campus minister for registration information. Cost is \$30. Registration fee includes all fun, food and a rally T-Shirt.

Visit [www.onthevine.us](http://www.onthevine.us) for details, forms and other information.



"Do not quench the Spirit." 1 Thess 5:19



Velcro sticky wall

## How is a bishop appointed? Process begins at diocesan level

BISHOP from page 1

and is the author of several books. He visited the diocese Oct. 6 to give a talk at Mercyhurst University on trends that are revolutionizing the Catholic Church.

"Theoretically, there's no limit to the number of names a given bishop can toss into the hopper, but typically a bishop from a mid-sized diocese such as Erie might offer two or three names for the provincial list," Allen said.

The list is then forwarded to the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United States. Any bishop is also free on his own to submit names to the nuncio or to the Vatican.

Any appointments in process came to a halt when Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who served as the nuncio to the U.S. from 2005 to 2011, died July 27 while in office. The pope appointed Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò as the new nuncio Oct. 19.

"Things slowed down considerably after Archbishop Sambi's death," Allen said. "Archbishop Viganò has been on the job since October, so at this point the system seems to be back up and running more or less as normal."

After receiving a list of candidates, the nuncio gathers facts and information about potential candidates and conducts his own investigation about their suitability. The list is narrowed and a questionnaire is sent to 20 or 30 people—priests, religious, laypeople—who know each of the candidates for their input.

Geography also plays a role in the selection process.

"It's not a determining factor, but it is a consideration for very common sense reasons," Father Singer said. "Someone from Pennsylvania is more likely to understand the people, the culture, the needs of Pennsylvania, the society and the economy. Whereas if someone from the West Coast came to

Pennsylvania, for example they would need much time just to get to know the people, the place and to understand how it works. There is an advantage to having someone serving in the general area of the country where they're from. I think Rome tries to do that, but it's not always possible."

The nuncio will then send a list of three names—called aterna—accompanied by extensive background files on the candidates to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome.

The candidates are listed alphabetically with the nuncio's preference noted.

The prefect of the Congregation for Bishops is Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who was appointed in 2010.

Under Cardinal Ouellet's tenure, Allen said things seem to be moving through the system a bit more rapidly.

"Cardinal Ouellet is a longtime friend and collaborator of Pope Benedict, going back to the days when they were both part of the 'Communio' editorial board and theological school," Allen said. "So in general, Cardinal Ouellet is well-positioned to identify bishops who broadly share the pope's outlook and sense of priorities."

The Congregation for Bishops is made up of 32 cardinals and archbishops from around the world, including five Americans. They study theterna sent over by the nuncio, take a vote and then send a finalterna of three names to the pope with their recommendations.

So how much information does the pope have on a candidate? The thick background file prepared for each candidate is part of the documentation that goes to the pope, Allen said, along with notes from the discussion in the Congregation for Bishops.

"Of course, with more than 5,000 bishops in the world, the pope can't have the same level of familiarity with all of them," Allen said. "In the vast majority of instances, he relies on the recommendations that come from the nuncio and the Congregation for Bishops. In a very few cases, he'll go outside theterna based on his own personal knowledge and experience of a candidate; by all accounts, for instance, that's what happened with the appointment of Archbishop Charles Chaput to Philadelphia."

At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the congregation to the Holy Father, who prays over it. A few days later, the pope informs the congregation of his decision. The congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is yes, the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement.



If a newly appointed bishop is not already consecrated a bishop, as was the case when Bishop Mark Barchak was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, canon law requires that he take possession of the diocese within four months. If the appointed is already consecrated a bishop, as was Bishop Donald Trautman when he came to the Diocese of Erie from his position as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo in 1990, then canon law requires he come to the diocese within two months. "That's barring some extenuating circumstances which could delay that time, if necessary," said Father Chris Singer. Bishop Barchak (left), a priest of the Diocese of Erie, is escorted by Bishop Trautman as he offers a blessing during his Mass of consecration and installation April 19 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

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### Prayer for a new bishop

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and pastor of the church, you have guided our Erie Diocese in 13 counties for 158 years. In your love and care for this flock, guide your vicar on earth, Pope Benedict XVI, in the selection of our new bishop. We pray that our diocese will be blessed with a holy shepherd and servant. May he be a courageous teacher of the faith and a humble, wise, prudent, collaborative leader.

May he be caring and compassionate and endowed with the gifts your church needs at this time. Lord Jesus, we trust in your providence and love. Help us to welcome with prayer and open hearts our new shepherd. This we ask in your name. Amen.

— Composed by Bishop Donald Trautman

## Twenty-two U.S. bishops could retire in 2012

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Two U.S. cardinals and 20 other U.S. bishops could retire because of age this year.

There are 10 active U.S. bishops, including two cardinals, who have already turned 75. Eleven other bishops will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2012.

At age 75, bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope.

With the retirements in 2011 of Cardinals Bernard Law, Justin Rigali and Roger Mahony and the death of Cardinal John Fo-

ley, the only U.S. cardinals still active over age 75 are Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Francis George.

Cardinal Levada, the former archbishop of San Francisco and Portland, Ore., and former auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, turned 75 on June 15, 2011, but is expected to remain in the Vatican post until Pope Benedict XVI names his successor. He took the job at the Vatican in 2005 and became a cardinal in 2006.

Cardinal Francis George, who has served as archbishop

of Chicago since 1997 and was named a cardinal in 1998, turned 75 on Jan. 16. He previously served as archbishop of Portland and bishop of Yakima, Wash.

Pope Benedict often has asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

In addition to Cardinal Levada and Cardinal George, the eight other active U.S. bishops who are already 75 and the dates of their 75th birthday are:

■ Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz

of Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 6, 2010.

■ Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford, Ill., Feb. 20, 2011.

■ Bishop Edward Kmiec of Buffalo, N.Y., June 4, 2011.

■ Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, June 14, 2011.

■ Bishop Donald Trautman of Erie, Pa., June 24, 2011.

■ Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., Sept. 12, 2011.

■ Bishop Tod Brown of Orange, Calif., Nov. 15, 2011.

■ Archbishop John Vlazny of Portland, Feb. 22, 2012.

There are 12 more U.S. bishops who will turn 75 in 2012.



... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

— Matthew 25:40

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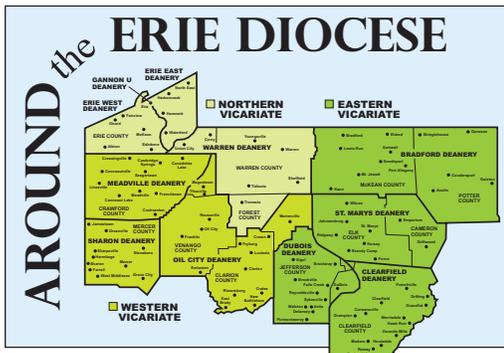
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**Photo Tips**

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



**St. Bernard School celebrates Catholic Schools Week**

BRADFORD – The students at St. Bernard Elementary Middle School in Bradford recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a math-a-thon sponsored by Kelly Strotman's 5th grade students. Students overcame numerous mathematical challenges and with the help of their sponsors raised \$2,500 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

St. Bernard students also used each day of Catholic Schools Week to study a specific decade and the social, cultural, religious and political events which shaped the era. In addition to learning a lot of valuable information, the students dressed appropriately for the decade — and had fun doing so.

Pictured from left are 1st grade "greasers" Lucas Burrs, Greg Tyler, Ryan Persing, Connor Wickett and Andy Krainz.



**St. Boniface, Seton Catholic students place in PJAS**

ERIE – Students from St. Boniface School in Erie and Seton Catholic School in Meadville walked away as winners at the regional Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition at Penn State Behrend in January.

St. Boniface sent 16 students with 10 receiving first-place awards. Of those ten, two also received bonus awards.

The students' success was made possible by the science curriculum at St. Boniface School, which includes an outdoor environmental lab, a dedicated science lab for the primary grades and annual Science Night projects presented by students of all grades. Laptop computers are also made available for each middle school student.

The PJAS first-place award winners in botany were: Olivia Altgeier (bonus award recipient), Hennasee Bedow, Angelina Randazzo and Courtney Stuckey. First-place award winners in chemistry were Chris Foltyn and Nick Srnka. First-place awards in physics were earned by Brett Cox, Jordan Henry, Noah Runser and Eion Russell (bonus award recipient). The St. Boniface science teacher is Andrea Schriener.

Seventeen Seton Catholic students participated, with 14 garnering first-place awards, and three taking home second-place awards. Seven students were cited for special awards, as well.



Middle schools students at St. Boniface School in Erie pose with their laptops.



Pictured left to right: (standing) Nick Bratek, Katrina Sherry, Natalie Greco, Stephanie Onyeiwu, Pietro Damasceno, Max Rust, James Mullen, Sam Michaels, Ried Fauble, Michael Hall, (sitting) Case Gryta, Sam Alexander, Nick Lynch, Paige Yoder, Kennedy Hanaway, Morgan Neville and Adrian Nagy.

"We were delighted that our students did so well this year," said Cathy Gorman, Seton 8th grade teacher and PJAS sponsor. "Our students put in a tremendous effort starting back in September, and they were excited to participate."

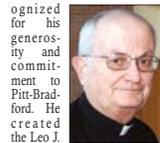
Students participated in a wide range of hands-on science projects, including examinations of airplane propeller efficiency, investigations of temperature effects on elasticity and effects of color on learning proficiency.

**People in the News**

**Father Leo Gallina to receive Pitt-Bradford's highest honor**

BRADFORD – Father Leo Gallina, a Bradford native and former pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Bradford, will receive the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's highest honor, the Dr. Livingston Alexander, president of Pitt-Bradford, will present Father Gallina with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's Presidential Medal of Distinction at the school's 2012 commencement ceremony April 29 at 2 p.m. in the KOA Arena of the Sport and Fitness Center.

Father Gallina is being recognized for his generosity and commitment to Pitt-Bradford. He created the Leo J. and Jessie S. Gallina and Father Leo J. Gallina Scholarship and the Phillip John Gallina Scholarship in memory of his parents and brother. Since 1998, those scholarships have assisted 42 students.



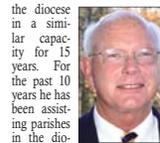
Father Leo Gallina

Father Gallina has also supported several community organizations including the Bradford Area Public Library, Bradford Hospital Foundation and scholarships at Gannon University and St. Bonaventure University. He has also given his time to servicing on the boards of numerous local organizations including Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems, Futures Inc., The Bradford Family YMCA and the Bradford Hospital Foundation.

**Bill Grant to direct diocesan stewardship and annual appeals**

ERIE – Bill Grant, CFRE, recently rejoined the Diocese of Erie as director of Stewardship and annual appeals. One of his primary responsibilities will be to oversee the Catholic Services Appeal. Grant will be assisting in parishes with increased offertory campaigns and capital campaign consultation. His duties will also include working on other fundraising activities on behalf of the diocese, schools and parishes.

Grant previously worked for the diocese in a similar capacity for 15 years. For the past 10 years he has been assisting parishes in parishes with increased offertory campaigns and capital campaign consultation. His duties will also include working on other fundraising activities on behalf of the diocese, schools and parishes.



Bill Grant

He is a founding member and the immediate past president of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). He is currently serving as vice president of education for AFP. AFP honored Grant as Outstanding Fundraising Executive of the Year in 2000. For 17 years he served as treasurer of the Estate Planning Council of Erie. He also served as president of the Serra Club of Erie.

**DCC student takes top prize at state farm show**

DUBOIS – Michael Zaffuto, an 8th grade student at DuBois Central Catholic Middle School, was recently awarded first place in the Hershey's Cocoa Classic Contest at the 2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Zaffuto, the first male ever to win top honor, was the Sykesville Ag & Youth Fair finalist in August. Beating out 79 state entries, he received the top cash prize of \$250 for his strawberry shortcake brownies.

Zaffuto is a member of DCC's soccer and basketball teams, as well as president of the school's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. He is the son of Sam and Angela Zaffuto of Sykesville.



**St. Stephen School students provide service during CSW**

OIL CITY – Seventh graders from St. Stephen School in Oil City helped stock shelves Feb. 6 at St. Elizabeth Center. The school held a food drive during Catholic Schools Week and collected 218 pounds of food for the center.



Pictured helping to stock the shelves are Hunter Lancaster and Ian Bain.

**Knights of Columbus LENTEN FISH FRY**  
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