

The cross reveals the fullness of God's love

Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent, page 3.



FaithLife

Death notices

Father John "Tex" Hilbert (right), Father William Calabrese, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 11, 2007

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Patrick



St. Joseph

March 17 St. Patrick

March 19 St. Joseph

March 23 St. Toribio de Mogrovejo

St. Patrick is the patron saint of the Diocese of Erie. Legend says that he used the shamrock to describe the Trinity to those he sought to convert.

Middle School Youth Rally - Sat., March 24



The diocesan Middle School Youth Rally will take place March 24 at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie. The theme of this rally will focus on image and how dignity and beauty come from God and not media sources. Featuring national Catholic recording artist Curtis Stephan and inspirational speaker Mike Patin. Visit www.ErieRCD.org/youth.asp on the Web for more information.

Clergy appointments



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

Father Thomas Dugan, granted a six-month medical leave of absence. Effective Feb. 26, 2007.

Msgr. John Hagerty, appointed temporary parochial administrator of Holy Cross Parish, Fairview. Effective Feb. 26, 2007.

Father Chris Hamlett, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. Adalbert Parish and Holy Trinity Parish, both in Farrell, and St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sharon. Effective Feb. 26, 2007.

Theology on Tap

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — Young adults will soon gather around pub tables and sip glasses of wine and frosty mugs of ale and lager while discussing how they find faith in a messy world.

Sessions for *Theology on Tap*, an increasingly popular outreach to twenty- and thirtysomething Catholics across the country, are coming to Erie in April.

The diocese's Office of Young Adult Ministry will host a *Theology on Tap* series at The Brewerie at Union Station in downtown Erie on four consecutive Fridays beginning April 13. Bishop Donald Trautman will be the first speaker. His discussion will focus on "Finding Faith in a Messy World."

Started in Chicago 25 years ago under the auspices of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, *Theology on Tap* brings together Catholic Church leaders and young adults in an informal setting to discuss subjects that interest them. As the name suggests, people gather for a beverage of choice (responsibly, of course) and open conversation.

The format will be very casual, said Greg Baker, director of the Office of Young Adult Ministry. For each session, the guest speaker will make a 15-minute introductory presentation; the majority of the time will be spent in discussions around the tables in smaller groups. After the table conversations, the program will return to the larger group.

"We'd like to get people to honestly talk about their faith," Baker said. "We want real dialogue to happen. And for any dialogue to happen, people need to listen and be respectful to others."

He said he's hopeful these sessions will inspire young adults to go back and ask how their own parishes can be more young-adult friendly.

The Catholic Church defines a young adult as someone between the ages of 21 and 40, a rather large demographic which makes up 40 percent of the Catholic population, Baker said.

"That's why young adult ministry is really challenging. People in this age range can be in vastly different places in their lives," he said. "Younger singles are in a different place than older singles and a married couple with children is in a different place than a couple who doesn't have children."

While young adult can be a tricky title or concept for some, Baker said it is exactly the kind of audience *Theology on Tap* intends on attracting.

"I'd love to see a room full of people in their mid-20s to early 30s," Baker said. "Some people in that age range think of themselves as young adults and some don't."

"This is a program designed to evangelize and build community with the young adult population," he said. "For some reason, many young adults don't feel connected to the church. Our goal is to get people plugged into parish life."

Baker also noted that in other dioceses, "Theology on Tap" sessions have successfully drawn in young adults.

While these sessions are being held in Erie, Baker said he is hopeful that their success will lead to more *Theology on Tap* events in other areas of the diocese. Some parishes and deaneries have conducted their own including Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek, Gannon University through its campus ministry, St. Leo

Pub-style discussions catering to young adults is coming to Erie



CNS photo

San Francisco Archbishop George H. Niederauer speaks about the U.S. bishops' document "Faithful Citizenship" and political responsibility during an Oct. 3 *Theology on Tap* session at the Ireland 32 Pub in San Francisco.

Theology on Tap sessions

7-9 p.m. on Fridays

April 13, 20, 27 and May 4

The Brewerie at Union Station
123 W. 14th St., downtown Erie

A complete list of speakers and topics will be announced soon.

for non-Catholics, as well as Catholics—garnered an audience of 35 and sparked people discussing the faith. He also did one session on marriage and relationships. Father David Pery spoke about *The Da Vinci Code*.

"People are very open in these sessions," Father Marconi said. "The questions people ask here are the same ones many priests get at wedding receptions and other events. It's not adversarial."

"We need to reach out to the young adults and get them back to church and into parish life. It's a matter of going where the people are."

Theology on Tap is a copyright of Renew International, which also offers *Why Catholic?*, a four-year program focusing on Scripture related to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* being used by parishes in the diocese.

Rite of Election

Candidates, catechumens prepare to join the church at Easter

The Diocese of Erie will welcome 72 catechumens and 174 candidates into the fullness of the Catholic Church at the April 7 Easter Vigil.

Catechumens and candidates, along with their sponsors, family and friends, filled St. Peter Cathedral in Erie and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois for the Rite of Election ceremony Feb. 25.

The Rite of Election, celebrated annually in cathedrals and churches around the world on the first Sunday of Lent, formally acknowledges the readiness of those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil.

Bishop Donald Trautman and Vicar General Msgr. Robert Smith presided over services at the cathedral and St. Catherine, respectively, for the 246 peo-

ple participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in parishes throughout the diocese.

Across the United States this Lent tens of thousands of prospective Catholics began the final phases of joining the church, a process that will culminate with the sacraments of Christian initiation at the Easter Vigil.

For catechumens, people not yet baptized, the final part of the journey began with a Rite of Election; For candidates, who are already baptized Christians, the start of Lent meant participating in a Call to Continuing Conversion.

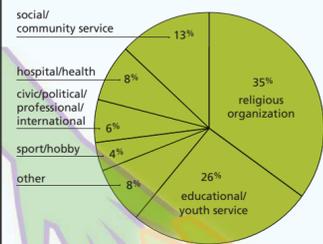
Catechumens will receive baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Candidates, will enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Eucharist.



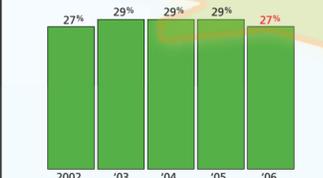
Catechumen Zachery Higgins of St. Luke Parish in Erie signs the Book of the Elect Feb. 25 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie as his sponsor Linda Kaleta looks on. Higgins was one of 72 catechumens and 174 candidates participating in the Diocese of Erie Rite of Election and calling of candidates. The rite acknowledges the readiness of catechumens preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil.

Volunteer Efforts

American volunteer opportunities tend to focus in religious, educational and youth areas.



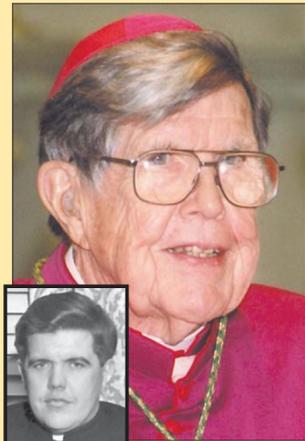
A little more than a quarter of Americans 16 and older participate in a volunteer activity at least once in a year's time.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Happy anniversary



Congratulations to Bishop Michael Murphy, retired bishop of Erie, who recently celebrated 65 years as a priest. Bishop Murphy was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 28, 1942 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland.

CSA benefits larger and local church

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Have you noticed any recent changes at your parish? A fresh coat of paint or new windows, perhaps?

There's a good chance that those improvements to your local church were made possible by the Catholic Services Appeal. Every year, parishes are able to fund projects through CSA funds that they might not be able to do otherwise.

Each parish is assessed a financial goal for the CSA, which helps fund the ministries and operations of the diocese. Once a parish reaches its goal, all funds raised over that amount stay within the parish. Last year, \$1.88 million was retained by parishes.

St. Bonaventure, Grampian and St. Timothy, Curwensville

Father Mark Swoger, pastor of both St. Bonaventure in Grampian and St. Timothy in Curwensville, calls the CSA essential financially not only to the diocese but parishes, as well.



"The response from the people has been wonderful," Father Swoger said. "They definitely have come through when we've presented our needs to them."

St. Timothy plans to use any CSA funds staying within the parish to update the boiler for the church. St. Bonaventure will begin saving to build a chapel for the parish cemetery.

The good news at these parishes is that plans for these projects can move forward, as pledges at both parishes have already exceeded

their CSA assessments.

St. Charles, New Bethlehem and St. Nicholas Mission, Crates

St. Charles in New Bethlehem will continue to use any CSA funds remaining in the parish for renovation of the church steeple, improving the overall quality of its pointing and spires.

At St. Nicholas, the parish's mission in Crates, they are in the process of refurbishing the Blessed Mother grotto and water fountain, which includes a shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette and an altar.

"It's been in disrepair for some time and we're trying to get it refurbished," said Father William Laska, pastor of St. Charles and St. Nicholas.

Regarding the CSA assessment, Father Laska said his parishioners have given generously.

"They are steeped in the fact that their generosity comes back and returns here for the upkeep of the parish and our mission. They take great pride in that."

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S.

Thousands gather in Detroit to mark 40 years of charismatic renewal

DETROIT — One of the world's foremost Catholic preachers told a Feb. 16-18 gathering of more than 3,000 people involved in the charismatic renewal movement that they should be focusing more on the future than on the movement's past. Even as they gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the charismatic movement, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa told charismatic Catholics from across the United States, "We should expect a new Pentecost, not just celebrate that others experienced a new Pentecost 40 years ago."

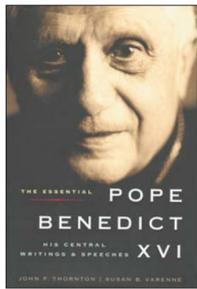


Young adults pray Feb. 17 with more than 3,000 Catholics from across the country gathered in Detroit at the Cobo Center to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the charismatic renewal.

The preacher of the papal household spoke Feb. 17 in the Riverfront Ballroom of Detroit's Cobo Center. Harkening back to Pope Paul VI, the first pope to welcome the charismatic renewal movement in the church, Father Cantalamessa said the best speech he ever heard the late pontiff give was one in which he said, "The first need of the church is for a perennial Pentecost — an ongoing Pentecost — in which the church would have fire in her heart, works in her midst and prophecy in her outlook."

Collection of Pope Benedict's 'essential writings' to be published

SAN FRANCISCO — A new book to be published in March by HarperSanFrancisco brings together what its editors call "the central writings and speeches" of Pope Benedict XVI. "The Essential Pope Benedict XVI: His Central Writings and Speeches" opens with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's sermon at the funeral of Pope John Paul II April 18, 2005, and closes with his first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), dated Dec. 25, 2005. Edited by John F. Thornton and Susan B. Varenne, the 464-page hardcover book will sell for \$27.95 in the United States and \$34.95 in Canada. Major subject areas in the book include Christian relations with Islam, Christian values, birth control and abortion, sexual misconduct in the priesthood, the ordination of women, anti-Semitism and the Catholic Church and ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.



The cover of "The Essential Pope Benedict XVI: His Central Writings and Speeches."

WORLD

Pope says Christ on cross helps Christians recognize sin, God's love

VATICAN CITY — Contemplating Christ on the cross, Christians recognize the seriousness of their sins and the power of God's love, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Only by turning our gaze to Jesus, dying on the cross for us, can this basic truth be known and contemplated: God is love," he said Feb. 25 before praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square. The midday appearance was Pope Benedict's last public engagement before he and top Vatican officials began their week-long Lenten retreat in the evening. The pope asked the people in the square to accompany him with their prayers, and he promised to pray for them as well. Pope Benedict asked Catholics during Lent to keep their hearts and minds focused on Christ's crucifixion, because it is the best way "to understand fully what sin is, how tragic its seriousness is and at the same time how incomparable the Lord's power and mercy are."

Scholars reject filmmakers' claim about tomb of Jesus

JERUSALEM — A Catholic biblical scholar and an Israeli archaeologist rejected filmmakers' claim that a tomb uncovered nearly 30 years ago in Jerusalem is the burial site of Jesus and his family. Dominican Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a biblical archaeologist and expert in the New Testament at the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem who was interviewed for the film two years ago, said he did not believe there was any truth to the claim. "It is a commercial ploy that all the media are playing into," he told Catholic News Service Feb. 27. Amos Kloner, an Israeli archaeologist who wrote the original excavation report on the site for the predecessor of the Israel Antiquities Authority, called the claim "nonsense." "In their movie they are billing it as 'never before reported information,' but it is not new. I published all the details in the Antiquot journal in 1996, and I didn't say it was the tomb of Jesus' family," said Kloner, now a professor of archaeology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University. Toronto filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici and Oscar-winning Canadian director James Cameron announced at a press conference in New York City Feb. 26 that by using new technology and DNA studies they have determined that among the 10 ossuaries — burial boxes used in biblical times to house the bones of

the dead — found in the cave by Kloner in 1980 are those of Jesus, his brothers, Mary, another Mary whom they believe is Mary Magdalene, and "Judah, son of Jesus." The documentary film by Jacobovici and Cameron aired on the Discovery Channel March 4.

New head of clergy congregation issues defense of priestly celibacy

VATICAN CITY — Two months after taking over as head of the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes has issued a strong and lengthy defense of priestly celibacy. "Priestly celibacy is a precious gift of Christ to his church, a gift that must continually be meditated upon and strengthened, especially in the deeply secularized modern world," Cardinal Hummes said. The cardinal made the comments in a full-page article he wrote for the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. It was published Feb. 14, under the headline "The importance of priestly celibacy," to mark the 40th anniversary of *Sacerdotatus Caelibatus*, Pope Paul VI's encyclical on priestly celibacy. Cardinal Hummes, formerly the archbishop of Sao Paulo, arrived at his new Vatican post last December, shortly after telling a Brazilian newspaper that priestly celibacy was a disciplinary norm and not a church dogma and was therefore open to change. Vatican officials were concerned, and within hours of arriving in Rome Cardinal Hummes issued a statement emphasizing that priestly celibacy was a long and valuable tradition in the Latin-rite church.

Church aid officials say influx of Iraqis puts burden on Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan — The enormous influx of Iraqis over the past five years has put a large burden on Jordan, said church aid officials trying to help the refugees. Though official estimates put the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan at about 1 million, Catholic groups working with the refugees say that number is closer to 1.5 million. "Overall the situation is very difficult," said Ra'ed Bahou, director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman. "Most of the refugees are very poor, and this country does not have the resources" to deal with the situation. The arrival of the Iraqi refugees in this landlocked nation of some 5 million people — more than half of whom are former Palestinian refugees — has caused prices to skyrocket, making the cost of living for the average Jordanian almost prohibitive, said Hania Bsharat, assistant manager of the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project of Caritas Jordan, the local church's charitable aid agency. "Most Jordanians do not welcome the Iraqis," she said. "We are a poor country... There is no way they can go back to Iraq."



PEOPLE

Pope to canonize Brazilian in May, four others in June

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI will canonize a Brazilian Franciscan during his May trip to Brazil and will declare four other new saints in June. During a prayer service in the Apostolic Palace Feb. 23, the pope set May 11 as the date for the canonization of Blessed Antonio Galvao, an 18th-century Franciscan and founder of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Conception of Divine Providence. The pope will be in Brazil May 9-13 to participate in the Latin American bishops' fifth general assembly; the papal schedule published by the Brazilian bishops in early February said the pope would celebrate a morning Mass May 11 at the Campo de Marte airfield in Sao Paulo. Pope Benedict also announced the June 3 canonization at the Vatican of a Polish Franciscan, Blessed Simon of Lipnica; Blessed Charles Houben, a Dutch Passionist priest; Sister Anne-Eugenie Milleret de Brou, the French founder of the Religious of the Assumption; and a Maltese priest, Father George Preca, founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine.



Father George Preca, founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine, will be the first native of Malta to be canonized.

Rome office inundated with requests for JPII prayer cards, relics

ROME — The Rome diocesan office charged with promoting the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II has exceeded its postage budget because of increased requests for prayer cards and relics of the late pope. Franciscan Brother Chris Gaffrey, who assists the office with English translations, told Catholic News Service that the vast majority of requests in late February and early March were coming via e-mail from the United States. CNS had published a story about the cards and relics Feb. 26. An individual prayer card, relic and copy of the cause's magazine, *Totus Tuus*, could be mailed to the United States for about \$5, Brother Gaffrey said. Several options for sending donations can be found on the official Web site of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause — www.JohnPaulIIBeatification.org — which was experiencing interruptions in service because of the increased traffic in early March.

By the Way...

Judy Mindicino has been named the director of development for Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage. As director of development, her responsibilities will focus on securing Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC), which provide financial aid in the form of scholarships to students that could otherwise not afford to attend Kennedy Catholic, cultivating alumni relations and establishing an annual scholarship gifting program.



Jason Koshinskie

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are accepting nominations for the 11th annual *SSJ Spirit of Courage Awards*. The awards will be presented Oct. 9 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie.

The sisters are seeking nominees who have demonstrated extraordinary courage in their lives as they've coped with illness, injury, chemical dependency and/or economic adversity. Nominees must reside within the Erie Diocese.

For more information on the *SSJ Spirit of Courage* nominations and sponsorship opportunities, contact Kristina Huber at 814.836.4202 or e-mail kristina.huber@ssjerie.org. Nominations will be accepted through May 31.

The 12th annual Catholic Charities Ball will be held Friday, April 20 at Lake Shore Country Club in Erie beginning at 7 p.m. Music will be provided by Tennessee Backporch. Kathy and Dan Dahlkemper will be honored with the Helping Hands Award, which is given annually to an individual, family or organization for having demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community.

The ball is the premiere charitable event for Catholic Charities. Last year, attendees raised \$30,000 for Rainbows, a support program for children who have experienced a loss in their lives through separation, divorce or death. For more information, contact Catholic Charities at 814.824.1250.

According to an article in the *Erie Times-News*, Erie County's only abortion clinic has closed again. Erie Medical Services, operated by New Jersey-based American Women's Services, will not see patients until it recruits a new physician, according to the report published Feb. 21. This was welcomed news to People for Life, a local non-profit organization which maintains an office down the hall from the abortion clinic.

Jason Koshinskie is editor of FaithLife. Contact him at JKoshinskie@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1171.

Advertisement for Schutte Woodworking, featuring a list of services like altars, pulpits, and tables, and contact information for their factory in Erie, PA.

Advertisement for 'Your Man' Tours, offering a 22-day cruise to Italy and the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Caribbean, with details on pricing and booking.

Advertisement for Gannon University Open House, held on Sunday, April 22, featuring a Catholic mass, a math contest, and various campus tours.

Advertisement for Good Shepherd Catholic Church, seeking a part-time youth minister in State College, PA, with details on qualifications and application process.

Advertisement for Erie Area Theatre Organ Society, sponsoring bus tours to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo, with pricing and contact information.

Advertisement for FaithLife, the official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie, providing contact information and subscription details.

Advertisement for Hofmann's Church & Religious Goods, featuring a variety of religious items and contact information for their Erie store.

Briefly

March/April issue of Faith focuses on the arts

Back in the 18th century, poet and philosopher Johann von Goethe told us that we "should hear a little music, read a little poetry and see a fine picture every day in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."

In that spirit, Faith magazine chose art as the underlying theme for its March/April issue which will be mailed the week of March 18.

Eighty-one-year-old Gloria Knouse and 9-year-old Brennan Staaf, both of whom appeared in the recent production of *Seussical the Musical* at the OLP Playhouse, an outreach of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, grace the issue's cover. Find out what the playhouse has meant to the more than 500 people who have collaborated on shows in this unique ministry.

Spiritual Fitness columnist Father Jerry Simmons considers ways to find balance in body, mind and spirit while Matthew Clark, associate director of the Office of Worship, presents insight into the role music plays in our liturgies.

Ever wonder what it would be like to devote your life to the arts? Photographer Art Becker and opera student Nicole Gasse give us their first-hand accounts.

If you are registered in a parish in the Erie Diocese and do not receive your complimentary subscription to the magazine, please contact circulation manager Brenda Williams at 814.824.1161.



Catholic Rural Ministry to sponsor reflection day for women in Coudersport

COUDERSPORT - A Reflection Day for Women, sponsored by Catholic Rural Ministry, will be held Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St. Eulalia Parish Center, 6 Maple St. in Coudersport.

The program, titled *The Friendship of Women - The Hidden Tradition of the Bible*, will be presented by Sister Carolyn Gornykopkowski, OSB.

For more information and registration, call Margaret French at 814.945.6245 or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB at 814.544.8017 or e-mail crm@zitomedia.net.

Reservations are due March 27. An offering of \$15 includes lunch and a copy of the book *The Friendship of Women*.

FREE BOOK about "The Passion"

You have seen the movie, now read what Jesus says about the meaning of His Passion as dictated to stigmatist, Catalina Rivas.

This 48 page book has the "Imprimatur" and is recommended for meditation. Mrs. Rivas was featured in the recent FOX-TV special, "Signs from God," that was broadcast worldwide.

To receive this book, send your name and address with \$2 for shipping & handling to: Love & Mercy Publications, P.O. Box 1160 Hampstead, NC 28443

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Visit 6 Western National Parks + More!

Join other Catholics on this terrific 15-day motor coach tour departing (your choice) July 21 or August 11, 2007. Fly round-trip to Salt Lake City and visit six national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks. You'll also visit Fresno, CA; Reno, Carson City, Pyramid Lake, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas, Nevada; Liberace Museum; Ethel M Chocolate Factory; a city tour of Salt Lake City including Mormon Square, The Beehive House, Great Salt Lake; Kennecott Copper Mine; and more! Prices, including taxes, baggage handling, and daily escorted sightseeing, start at only \$1048 (per person, double occupancy). For optional airfare from Erie add \$700.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week: **'YOUR MAN' TOURS** 1-800-968-7626

The cross reveals the fullness of God's love

Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent 2007

By Catholic News Service

Editor's note: Here is part two of the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent 2007. Look for part three in the March 25 issue of FaithLife.

The cross reveals the fullness of God's love

It is in the mystery of the cross that the overwhelming power of the heavenly Father's mercy is revealed in all of its fullness. In order to win back the love of his creature, he accepted to pay a very high price: the blood of his only begotten son. Death, which for the first Adam was an extreme sign of loneliness and powerlessness, was thus transformed in the supreme act of love and freedom of the new Adam. One could very well assert, therefore, together with St. Maximus the Confessor, that Christ "died, if one could say so, divinely, because he died freely" (Ambigua, 91, 1956). On the cross, God's eros for us is made manifest. Eros is indeed -- as Pseudo-Dionysius expresses it -- that force "that does not allow the lover to remain in himself but moves him to become one with the beloved" (De



divinis nominibus, IV, 13: PG 3, 712). Is there more "mad eros" (N. Cabasilas, Vita in Cristo, 648) than that which led the Son of God to make himself one with us even to the point of suffering as his own the consequences of our offenses?

"Him whom they have pierced"

Dear brothers and sisters, let us look at Christ pierced on the cross! He is the unsurpassing revelation of God's love, a love in

which eros and agape, far from being opposed, enlighten each other. On the cross, it is God himself who begs the love of his creature: He is thirsty for the love of every one of us. The apostle Thomas recognized Jesus as "Lord and God" when he put his hand into the wound of his side. Not surprisingly, many of the saints found in the heart of Jesus the deepest expression of this mystery of love. One could rightly say that the revelation of God's eros toward man is, in reality, the supreme expression of his agape. In all truth, only the love that unites the free gift of oneself with the impassioned desire for reciprocity instills a joy, which eases the heaviest of burdens. Jesus said: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32). The response the Lord ardently desires of us is above all that we welcome his love and allow ourselves to be drawn to him. Accepting his love, however, is not enough. We need to respond to such love and devote ourselves to communicating it to others. Christ "draws me to himself" in order to unite himself to me, so that I learn to love the brothers with his own love.

DEATH NOTICES

Father John "Tex" Hilbert dies at 72

Served as diocesan director of religious education, spiritual director of Cursillo Movement

May 26, 1960 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Auxiliary Bishop Edward McManaman. His home parish in the time of ordination was St. Luke parish in Erie.



Father John J. "Tex" Hilbert

ERIE — Father John J. "Tex" Hilbert, 72, died Feb. 22, 2007. Born March 16, 1934 in Erie, he was the son of the late Joseph M. "Tex" and Mary E. McKenna Hilbert. Father Hilbert graduated from St. John Grade School in Erie in 1948 and from Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, in 1952.

He attended Gannon College and St. Mark Seminary in Erie from 1952 to 1954 and then earned his bachelor's degree at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore in 1956. He completed his seminary studies at Catholic University in Washington in 1960. He received an M.A. from Catholic University in 1962.

He was ordained a priest on

service. He served as diocesan director of Campus Ministry from 1963 to 1981. During these years, he resided at St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie, from 1963 to 1968 and at Mercyhurst College from 1968 to 1986. He also served as chaplain to Mercyhurst College from 1968 to 1972. He was active in the Knights of Columbus, serving as chaplain both at the local chapter level and at the state level. From 1973 to 1986, he served as the diocesan representative to the Education Department of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

In 1986, Father Hilbert was appointed pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence Park, where he served until 1999. In 1999, he was named chaplain to Mercyhurst College's North East campus with residence at the main campus, serving there until his death.

In 1963, he served as one of two spiritual directors for the first Cursillo weekend ever held in the Diocese of Erie, and from 1964 until his death, he served as the

diocesan Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement. He had a profound influence on the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Erie, and on the countless cursillistas who have participated in the movement.

In 1999, he became the diocesan delegate to the CALL program (Congregational Action to Lift Lives), which he had been instrumental in helping to establish to speak out against racial discrimination and social injustice in the Erie area. He served several times as president or vice president of CALL. He continued as diocesan delegate until his death. He was also a member of the board of Invest Erie.

Father Hilbert also has a sister involved in religious life: Sister Phyllis Hilbert of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania.

Burial was held at Calvary Cemetery in Erie. Memorials may be made to the Erie Cursillo Movement or to CALL, both at 204 W. Sixth St., Erie, Pa., 16507.

as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois. In 2001, he was assigned parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Sharon.

From 2002 to 2006, Father Calabrese served as chaplain of St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge while residing at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. In 2006, he was assigned as pastor of St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, and Sacred Heart Parish, Genesee, where he served until the time of his death.

Entombment was at Calvary Cemetery in Punxsutawney. Memorials may be made to St. Bibiana Church, 111 Germania St., Galeton, Pa. 16922.

Father William M. Calabrese dies at 54

Pastor of St. Bibiana in Galeton, Sacred Heart in Genesee

bachelor's degree in management from St. Francis College, Loretto, in 1974. He worked in the private sector and owned a business, Calabrese Garage in Punxsutawney, from the time of his graduation until deciding to enter the seminary in 1993.



Father William M. Calabrese

GALETON — Father William M. Calabrese, 52, died Feb. 28, 2007.

Born Oct. 11, 1952 in Punxsutawney, he was a son of Martha and the late Frank Calabrese.

He attended St. Cosmas & Damian Elementary School in Punxsutawney and graduated from Punxsutawney Area High School in 1970.

Father Calabrese earned a

Father Calabrese attended St.

Mark Seminary and Gannon University in Erie from 1993-95 and earned his master of divinity degree from St. Vincent College and Seminary, Latrobe, in 1998.

He was ordained to the priesthood on Sept. 24, 1999 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Donald W. Trautman. His home parish at the time of ordination was St. Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney.

Father Calabrese was assigned as a continuum student and transitional deacon to the Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex, from 1998-99. From 1999 until 2001, he was assigned

as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois. In 2001, he was assigned parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Sharon.

From 2002 to 2006, Father Calabrese served as chaplain of St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge while residing at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. In 2006, he was assigned as pastor of St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, and Sacred Heart Parish, Genesee, where he served until the time of his death.

Entombment was at Calvary Cemetery in Punxsutawney.

Memorials may be made to St. Bibiana Church, 111 Germania St., Galeton, Pa. 16922.

Deacon George E. McMahon dies at 70

Ridgway native, Gannon graduate

with a bachelor's degree in business and also received certification in Confraternity of Christian Doctrine from Gannon.



Deacon George Edward McMahon

MORGANTON, N.C. — Deacon George Edward McMahon, 70, of Morganton, N.C., died Feb. 15, 2007.

He was born in Ridgway on Dec. 28, 1936, a son of the late Edward Michael McMahon and Catherine Mary Stangel McMahon.

Deacon McMahon graduated from Gannon University in 1958

He served as city manager in Maitland, Fla., Berlin, N.H.,

Northampton, Pa., Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Beech Mountain, N.C., and Edgewater, Fla., and as county manager in Hardy County, Fla.

He was ordained into the per-

manent diaconate in 1989 at St. Elizabeth of the Hills Catholic Church, Boone, N.C., and served as a deacon in several churches in North Carolina and Florida.

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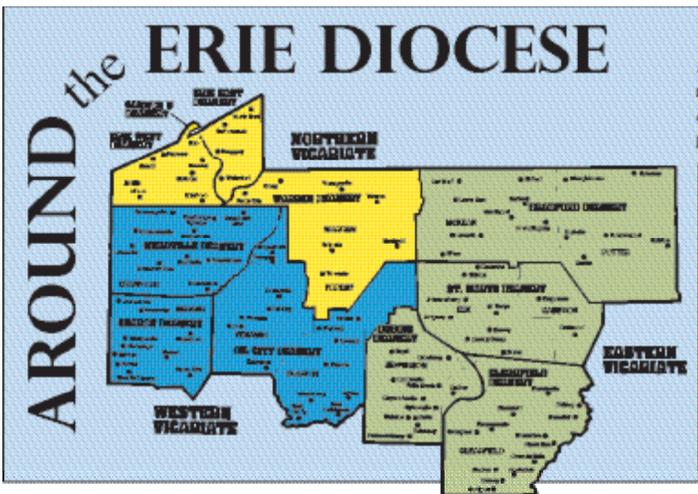
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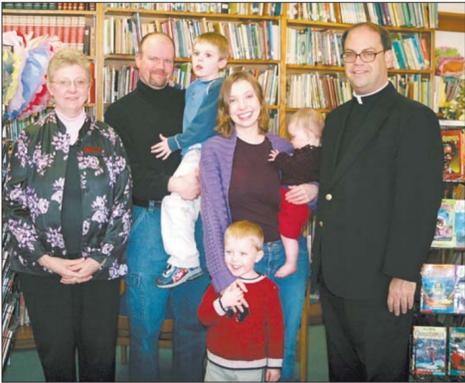
FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to Around the Erie Diocese.

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

St. Boniface School, Erie, celebrates 150 years with education fair, tuition awards

ERIE — St. Boniface School in Erie celebrated 150 years of quality education with an education fair and open house Feb. 18. The event kicked off with lunch and a world drum performance. Numerous activities continued throughout the afternoon, including a program on Alaskan bears and a talk by Phillip J. Belfiore, Ph.D. of Mercyhurst College. Belfiore discussed the benefits of the multi-age classroom, an educational model that St. Boniface has used for several years with success. The day closed with a drawing for two free tuition awards. Recipients of the tuition awards were Zavier Justik, son of Michael and Korrin Justik, and Christian Fuhman, son of Chris and Annette Fuhman. Both will enter kindergarten in the fall. In addition to an education grounded in Christian values, the multi-age education model



Father Jay Schultz (right), pastor of St. Boniface, and principal Barbara Portenier (left) pose with Michael and Korrin Justik, and their sons Zavier, Liam and Sebastian (standing).

at St. Boniface offers students a customized learning environment. This approach is founded on the belief that children perform best when able to explore and learn in a nurturing and challenging environment, unrestricted by age or grades.

Spelling c-h-a-m-p-s at St. Francis School, Clearfield

CLEARFIELD — During Catholic Schools Week, St. Francis School in Clearfield held a school-wide spelling bee. Each classroom was represented with five classroom champions. These classroom winners competed in the school-wide contest Feb. 2. Pictured, left to right, front row: Abby LaBorde, kindergarten; Brittni Walker, 1st grade; David McKenzie, 2nd grade; Jack Soult, 3rd grade; Ashley Khouri, 4th grade. Back row: Matthew McKenzie, 5th grade; Maria Cordon, 7th grade; Case Kramer, 6th grade; and Maureen Witters, 8th grade.



St. John/Holy Rosary celebrates Black History Month

ERIE — Black History Month was celebrated at St. John/Holy Rosary School in Erie with several speakers visiting the school. Erie School Board representative Gary Horton is pictured with sixth graders Austin Smith, Cassidy Yeast, Lacei Hubbard, Catherine Barclay and Amor Mourtat. Other guest speakers included educator Johnny Johnson; Larry Meredith, personnel director for Erie County; Dr. Antoine Garibaldi, president of Gannon University and Ruby Jenkins-Husband, Erie City Council president. Students in grades five through eight also visited Edinboro University on Feb. 23 to hear a discussion on the Underground Railroad.



St. Callistus religious ed. students show 'The Beauty of God's Creation'

KANE — Religious education students at St. Callistus in Kane entered a contest held by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The themes of the contest were "The Beauty of God's Creation" and "Taking Time for Others." Students could choose to enter the essay, poetry, art, poster or computer art categories. Each winning student received a monetary prize. Their entries will be forwarded to the national contest chairperson. Pictured from left to right, first row: Madeline Stanisch, 1st place; Nickloas Perry, 3rd place; Emily Truden, 2nd place. Second



row: Janet Bard, 5th grade catechist; Sandra Olson, CDA representative and Ellen Perry, 4th grade catechist.

Mardi Gras at St. Mark, Emporium



Maryclaire Malizia (left) and Emily Richnafsky have fun with Mardi Gras masks.

EMPORIUM — St. Mark in Emporium held its annual Mardi Gras celebration Feb. 18, which included a potluck dinner after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All proceeds from donations and a 50/50 raffle were given to San Antonio de Padua, Tinum — St. Mark's sister parish in Yucatan, Mexico. There was a table for children to decorate masks to wear and a piñata was eventually cracked to end the fun.



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St. Brigid Parish, Meadville, PA. FISH DINNERS. 6 Lenten Fridays from 4:30 - 6:30pm in McCrory Social Hall. Dinner includes: Baked or Fried Islandic Haddock, Potatoes, Vegetable, Cole Slaw or Apple Sauce, Bread/Butter & beverage. A Sundae Bar is available for an additional \$1.00. Cost: \$7.00 for adults; \$3.50 for children 5-12 FREE for 4 & under. Also available: Macaroni & Cheese Dinner for \$5. Take-outs available.

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SACRED HEART 54th annual Spaghetti Dinner. Auditorium, W. 25th & Liberty streets, Erie. Sunday, March 11. Serving noon - 6 p.m. Savory spaghetti with meatballs, Italian tossed salad, bread & butter, dessert and beverage. Adults\$6 Children (6-12)\$3 Small Fry (under 6) ... FREE. CARRY-OUT ORDERS FROM 11:30 a.m. Bring Your Own Containers

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