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Cardinals visit Roman parishes to offer Masses, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 17, 2013

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Joseph



Holy Week

- March 17 St. Patrick
- March 19 St. Joseph
- March 28 Holy Thursday
- March 29 Good Friday

### Confirmations

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

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

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

**Holy Trinity, Erie** — Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Rosary, Erie; Holy Trinity, Erie; Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie; St. Hedwig, Erie; St. John the Baptist, Erie; St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; and St. Stanislaus, Erie

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie** — Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

### Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass, one of the most solemn and significant liturgies on the church calendar, will be celebrated on Monday, March 26 at 4 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The public is invited to attend.

During the Mass, Bishop Lawrence Persico will bless the sacred oils used for celebrating the sacraments throughout the diocese for the entire year. This will be the new bishop's first Chrism Mass. Each priest in the diocese will be invited to renew his commitment of service and to receive the support and prayers of the people.



### Clergy appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

**Father Michael Allison**, appointed part-time religious studies instructor at Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage, concurrent with his appointment as pastor of Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City. Effective March 15, 2013.

**Father William Barron**, appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Emlenton, concurrent with his appointment to Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, part time until the close of the academic year. Effective April 5, 2013.

**Father Joseph Campbell**, appointed pastor of St. Anthony of Padua, Sharon, and St. Adalbert Parish, Farrell, and part-time religious studies instructor at Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage. Effective March 15, 2013.

**Father David Foradori**, appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Greenville, and the mission church of St. Margaret, Jamestown, for a term of six years. Effective March 15, 2013.

**Deacon Douglas Konzel**, appointed facilitator of the Roman Catholic Chapel at Millcreek Mall, Erie, for a term of two years. Effective March 18, 2013.

**Father Daniel Kresinski**, appointed pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, DuBois, and St. Joseph Parish, DuBois, for a term of six years. Effective March 15, 2013.

## Universal priest • Prophet • King

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

### Next pope faces global challenges



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the rest of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, including the 5,100 bishops and 412,000 priests, the pope exercises what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls his "baptismal priesthood" by participating in "Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king."

The bishop of Rome exercises his ministry in a unique way, of course, as pastor of the universal church. In practically everything he does, he has special responsibility for preserving and building unity among members of the largest, most widespread and ethnically diverse organization on earth. That responsibility is crucial to defining the particular challenges that await the man whom 115 cardinal electors will choose in the conclave starting March 12.

#### Priest

In carrying out this aspect of his mission, the new pope may draw particular inspiration from the two men who preceded him. In the spirit of Pope Benedict's avowed hope that the older and newer litur-

gies might enrich each other, he may encourage a synthesis of various forms of worship embraced by his global flock. In practical terms, he may follow the example of Blessed John Paul II by incorporating elements of the church's liturgical diversity into papal Masses, especially during international gatherings such as World Youth Day.

#### Prophet

Pope Benedict made it a major project of his pontificate to shape the church's understanding of Vatican

II, emphasizing that the council's doctrines did not represent a radical break with the past but followed in continuity with tradition.

The next pope may decide that this magisterial task has been largely accomplished, but he is almost certain to maintain Pope Benedict's emphasis on the new evangelization, the effort to revive the faith in increasingly secular societies. Defense of religious freedom is bound to be another priority for the next pope, who will certainly continue

to draw attention to religiously inspired violence and legal restrictions on worship and evangelization around the world.

#### King

The most obvious challenge that the next pope will face in regard to governance is the one closest to home: the need for reform of the Roman Curia, the church's central administration.

In their preparatory meetings over the week prior to the papal election, the cardinals discussed the corruption and mismanagement sensationally documented in the 2012 "Va-

tiLeaks" release of confidential correspondence to the Italian press. Serious reform would almost certainly require national diversification of the Italian-dominated curia, a job that some observers think an Italian pope would be best positioned to accomplish, given the will to do so.

On a global level, no issue of governance is more urgent than that of clergy sexual abuse. A zero-tolerance policy, leading to the exclusion of child abusers from any public ministry, is now in principle the universal norm of the church.

Financial governance at the Vatican has been the object of heightened media attention in recent years, and the next pope will presumably follow up on Pope Benedict's moves to make the Vatican bank's activities more transparent and in conformity with international norms. In order to prevent scandals that could undermine the church's credibility, especially in its pronouncements on matters of economic justice, the next pope may have to call on local churches to develop more rigorous and uniform policies on their own financial activities.

## Bishop Persico offers Mass for the papal election

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..."



Photo by Jason Kozlowski

Bishop Lawrence Persico joined bishops and priests from around the world in offering a "Mass for the Election of a New Pope" the day after Pope Benedict XVI

officially left office. The early evening liturgy, celebrated at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, was attended by many people on their way home from work.

The day after Pope Benedict XVI officially resigned, the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico celebrated a "Mass for the Election of a New Pope" at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Similar Masses were offered in churches around the world. "Today we gather together as the Church of Erie to pray to the Holy Spirit for the election of a new pope," he said during his homily, noting the important role the pope plays as supreme pastor of the universal church.

"The ministry of the pope, founded upon the ministry of Saint Peter himself, is an essential and central component for preserving and promoting the church's unity, its holiness, its universality and its apostolic teaching," he said. Bishop Persico pointed out that Peter was constantly called to strengthen his brother-bishops and in so doing, guaranteeing and fostering the unity of faith.

"This is why the Second Vatican Council stated that the pope, as the bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, is the perpetual and visible

"The ministry of the pope, founded upon the ministry of Saint Peter himself, is an essential and central component for preserving and promoting the church's unity, its holiness, its universality and its apostolic teaching."

— The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful," he said. The bishop then discussed two ways in which the pope promotes the holiness of the church.

"First, he calls the members of the church to turn away from sin and to lead holy lives," he said. "He must constantly warn them against false arguments and immoral actions that would deprive them of their dignity as holy men and women by leading them into sin and evil."

Secondly, the bishop said, the pope is the supreme guardian and pro-

motor of the sacraments, especially of the Eucharist, as the fountains of grace through which all Christians truly worship the all holy God.

Bishop Persico reminded those assembled that the source and example of the pope's leadership can be found in St. Peter, who was appointed by Jesus to be the head of the Apostles. He concluded his homily by emphasizing the Mass was offered in the hopes that the Holy Spirit would "inspire and strengthen the cardinal-electors so that they elect a new shepherd of the universal church with the heart and mind of Christ."

## Mother-Daughter teas scheduled across diocese



Many special surprises await moms and daughters who sign up for the annual teas offered by the NFP/Chastity Office of the Diocese of Erie.

by AJ Czerwinski

The Office of Natural Family Planning and Chastity Education will hold its annual Mother-Daughter Teas for girls in grades 5-7 and their moms in three areas of the diocese this spring. The program explores God's special gift of human fertility and the beauty and wonder of growing up and becoming a woman.

First introduced 20 years ago, the program provides an atmosphere of love and learning for young girls in which

they can discuss growing up and discuss the changes their bodies are experiencing. The event gives mothers and their daughters an opportunity to dress up for an elegant tea which features finger sandwiches, cookies and real tea served in fine china tea cups. Young girls and their moms enjoy the rare chance to bond in a spiritual atmosphere that is both social and educational. Women and teens who are part of the NFP program

See TEAS, page 2

## Special online-only editions of Faith magazine cover papal transition

While the March/April edition of Faith magazine will arrive in homes within about ten days, an online-only three-part special series of the magazine created to cover the papal transition can be found at [www.ErieRCD.org/faith.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/faith.asp). The first edition covers the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, the second one delves into the period between popes—the Sede Vacante—and the third will feature news about the new Holy Father.

An interview with Father Edward Lohse, former chancellor of the Diocese of Erie and now working full time in the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, is featured in the first edition. Follow the Diocese of Erie on facebook for the latest news concerning the papal transition and more.





## IN THE U.S.

### ■ Conscience-protection bill for HHS mandate introduced in House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three Republican members of the House of Representatives have introduced a bill to protect conscience rights for both workers in the health care industry and for employers in light of the federal mandate requiring employers to cover contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. One of the sponsors, Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., said it is possible that the bill, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, could be folded into a continuing resolution being considered by the House to keep the federal government operating beyond March 27. The Health Care Conscience Rights Act would offer a full exemption from the U.S. Department Health and Human Services' mandate for individuals and health care entities that refuse to provide, pay for or refer patients to abortion providers because of their religious beliefs. The bill had 50 co-sponsors by the time of its introduction. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said he welcomed the act and called for its swift passage into law.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### ■ Supporters: Arkansas law on fetal heartbeat breaks new ground



LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — Six days after passing a ban on abortions after 20 weeks' gestation, the Arkansas Legislature approved an even stricter ban. The House of Representatives and Senate voted March 5 and 6 to override Gov. Mike Beebe's veto to approve the Arkansas Human Heartbeat Protection Act. The bill banning most abortions at 12 weeks will take effect this summer. Opponents have vowed to file lawsuits to stop the 12-week law from taking effect. According to National Right to Life, a fetus' heartbeat begins at the 22nd day. Exceptions are made for rape, incest, to save the life of the mother or if a "highly lethal fetal disorder" is discovered. It has been called the strictest abortion law in the country. Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said the legislature did the right thing. "Governors aren't governing their people if they aren't protecting them," he said.

## PEOPLE

### ■ Venezuelan president changed nation, had rocky relations with bishops



Venezuela President Hugo Chavez, the socialist president who transformed the country while acting as chief protagonist in what was one of the worst Catholic Church-government relationships in Latin America, died at age 58 March 5.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (CNS) — Hugo Chavez, a socialist president who transformed Venezuela while acting as chief protagonist in what was one of the worst Catholic Church-government relationships in Latin America, died March 5. Chavez, 58, died of complications from a respiratory infection nearly two years and four surgeries after his cancer diagnosis was made public. Last April 5, Holy Thursday, shortly before his third surgery for cancer, Chavez attended a Catholic Mass in Barinas, the state in western Venezuela where he was born and where his brother, Adan Chavez Frías, is now governor. Wearing a rosary and dressed in a blue and white tracksuit, Chavez pleaded for his life. "I ask God to give me life, however painful. I can carry 100 crosses, your crown of thorns, but don't take me yet. I still have things to do," he said, according to press reports.

### ■ Maryknoll Sisters' founder honored

Cited for her extraordinary achievements, Mother Mary Joseph Rogers, founder of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, has been named one of nine American women to be inducted in 2013 into the National Women's Hall of Fame. "We are thrilled and honored by Mother Mary Joseph's selection," said a statement from Maryknoll Sister Janice McLaughlin, the congregation's president, "and happy for the recognition it gives to our founder who achieved so much, not only for women religious, but for all American women, at a time when possibilities for them were far more limited than they are today." She established the Maryknoll Sisters Jan. 6, 1912, taking the religious name Mother Mary Joseph. The induction ceremony will be held Oct. 12 at the National Women's Hall of Fame headquarters in Seneca Falls, N.Y.



Mother Mary Joseph Rogers

## By the Way...

It is always fascinating to learn more tidbits about the Catholic Church during a time of papal transition. It's not surprising that new details abound: there are approximately 600 reporters with permanent credentials who cover the Vatican; more than 4400 additional reporters received credentials to cover the conclave and all the events surrounding it. They will send stories back to 65 nations in 24 languages.

Cardinals have assigned seats when they are in the Sistine Chapel during a conclave. The order in which they process into the sacred space is determined by "precedence," the order in which they became a cardinal. That means careful attention is paid to the order in which the pope announces the names of new cardinals each time he creates them.

"Canadian Cardinal Thomas C. Collins of Toronto is ranked above Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York because when Pope Benedict XVI announced the names of the cardinals he was creating at a Feb. 18, 2012, consistory, he read Cardinal Collins' name a few seconds before Cardinal Dolan's," writes Cindy Wooden of the Catholic News Service.

She says episcopal longevity, not alphabetical order, was the deciding factor. Cardinal Collins was ordained a bishop in 1997 while Cardinal Dolan became a bishop in 2001.

By the time you are reading this, it may well all be settled, but Wooden reports precedence also determines who has the honor of walking out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and announcing to the world, "Habemus papam," "We have a pope." This time around that honor will go to French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He is the top-ranking Cardinal-deacon, another designation within the College of Cardinals.

During the short period between popes, the "Sede Vacante," no detail was left unattended. Workers in the Vatican Gardens dug up the flowers planted to form a colorful version of Pope Benedict's coat of arms; the flower bed is now being readied for the new pope's insignia.

As reported in the last edition of *FaithLife*, clergy, women religious and laity across the diocese are working intensely with candidates and catechumens who are preparing to be welcomed into the Catholic Church at Easter. In writing about the Rite of Election event at Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys in our last issue, we inadvertently left out the fact that two candidates and a catechumen from Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale were among those in attendance, along with team members.

"It was a very enlightening experience and we were all happy to be part of it," says team member George Pallo. Parishioners are looking forward to welcoming the new members at Christ the King's Easter Vigil.

Also, big digital news: *FaithLife* magazine will now be available, free of charge, in app form. Beginning in April you will be able to find it through iTunes by searching for FaithLife. Your print version will still arrive in the mail every other month, but we hope this will be a convenient way for you to take the magazine with you on your tablet or phone.

Anne-Marie Welsh is serving as interim editor of *FaithLife*. Contact her at [amwelsh@ErieRCD.org](mailto:amwelsh@ErieRCD.org) or 814.824.1167.



Anne-Marie Welsh

## Mother-Daughter teas scheduled across diocese

TEAS, from page 1

present talks on growing in virtue, the sacredness of human life, understanding the menstrual cycle, establishing a foundation of communication between parent and child and responding to God's call.

Events are planned at St. Francis School in Clearfield April 13 from 10 am until 12:30 pm; St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie April 14 from 1 until 3:30 pm and April 21 at St. Joseph School in Warren from 11:45 am until 2 pm.

The Natural Family Planning and Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie, which sponsors the teas, recently received an endorsement from the Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. According to NFP/CE Director Barbara Burkett, "The endorsement validates the quality of our work and assures that couples attending our classes and programs are receiving a first-rate education."

Burkett will be a presenter at each of the Mother-Daughter

Teas. Anne Jaskowak, a mother who attended a recent tea with her daughter, Catherine, felt the presentation was very effective.

"Barbara's talk about the physiological changes that occur as the girls mature into young ladies was very informative," Jaskowak said. "It easily opened the lines of communication between mothers and daughters." She called the presentation about the process of becoming a woman both "wonderful and powerful."

Theresa Resek-Hoover, who attended the Mother-Daughter Tea in Greenville last spring with her daughter, Caroline, was impressed with how the program handled delicate topics in a way that allowed both the mothers and the young women to feel comfortable.

"I loved the time Caroline and I spent together," she said. Flyers about the programs have been distributed to all Catholic schools and religious education programs in the diocese. For more information on attending one of the spring events, visit



The NFP/Chastity Office of the Diocese of Erie was recently endorsed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Office Director Barb Burkett shares the good news with Bishop Lawrence Persico.

the NFP/CE website at [www.ErieRCD.org/nfp\\_tea.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/nfp_tea.asp) or call 800.374.3723 ext. 259. Advance registration is required. Barb Burkett at 814.824.1259 or

## Vatican Chapel of the Holy Spirit designed by Pa. architect



CNS photo

The Domus Sanctae Marthae residence inside the Vatican where cardinal deacons sleep and dine during a papal conclave includes this modern Chapel of the Holy Spirit. It was designed by Penn State graduate Louis D. Astorino of Pittsburgh, the first and only American architect to design a structure in the Vatican.

**FaithLife**  
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

Volume 9, Issue 5

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Member of the Catholic Press Association. Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishops of Erie. Subscription \$10/year. For more information, call (814) 824-1161.

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center 429 East Greenville Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.

Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

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**Italy/Switzerland:** May 4-16, May 25-Jun. 6, Jun. 1-13 ...  
**Italy Regular:** Apr. 27-May 5, May 4-12, May 11-19, May 18-26, May 25-Jun. 2, Jun. 1-9, Jun. 8-16, Jun. 15-23  
**Holy Land:** May 6-16, May 20-30, May 27-Jun. 6 ...  
**Holy Land/Italy:** Apr. 29-May 12, May 6-19, May 13-26, May 20-Jun. 2, May 27-Jun. 9, Jun. 3-16, Jun. 10-23 ...  
**Italy South:** May 4-16, May 18-30, Jun. 15-27 ...  
**Ireland/Scotland:** May 4-16, May 25-Jun. 6, Jun. 1-13 ...

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## Briefly

### Support our seminarians!

The St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary will hold its annual card party on Thurs., April 18 in the St. Mark Catholic Center gymnasium, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, at 6 pm. Doors open at 5 pm. Admission is \$5.00 and includes a light meal. Plan now to attend this evening which includes grand prizes, an auction, a gift card/certificate raffle, a money and lottery tree and more. This is the only major fundraiser to provide support for our seminarians.



### Renew the joy of your marriage with an "encounter"

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is hosting a weekend for married couples April 5-7 at Toftrees Resort, State College, Pa. Make a good marriage better by taking a break from daily distractions to concentrate on each other in a private, confidential environment. No group discussions. To register, please call 814.823.4600 or visit [www.ErieRCD.org/fo\\_me.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/fo_me.asp) for more information.

### Registration open for Young Adult retreat

Catholics age 18 to 39 are invited to join Fr. Dan Hoffman and Kathleen Peterson on a Lenten weekend retreat at the St. Thomas More House of Prayer, 365 Hill City Road Cranberry, Pa. The retreat begins with check-in on Fri., March 22, at 5 pm and ends with 10 am Mass on Palm Sunday, March 24. Cost is \$170/single or \$255/married couple and includes 2 nights at the House of Prayer, meals and a reception Friday. Talks, small group discussion, personal prayer, confession and adoration will be included. Register now at [www.cyanerie.com](http://www.cyanerie.com) or contact Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1218.

### NPM plans Songfest for public, members

The Diocese of Erie's Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is holding a Songfest and Spring Banquet beginning with a 3 pm concert open to the public, Sun. April 21 at St. Agatha Church, 353 Pine Street, Meadville.

The choral presentation by the Allegheny College Choirs under the direction of Dr. James Niblock, will include performances by the chamber choir, the women's ensemble and the college choir, which will offer Mozart's *Gloria* and Whalum's *Lily of the Valley*. A tree-will offering will be taken at the concert.

Songfest participants will then remain for a vocal workshop, followed by the 5 pm spring banquet in the parish hall. To register for the Songfest and Spring Banquet, visit [www.eriecd.org/liturg.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/liturg.htm). Cantors and choir members are especially encouraged to attend as the event will provide insight into the techniques and artistry of singing.

### Save the date for the ball!

The 18th annual Catholic Charities Ball is planned for Fri., May 17, 6:30 to 11:30 pm at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Bishop Persico and Catholic Charities Executive Director Mary Maxwell will present the Helping Hands Award will be given to Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell of St. Andrew Parish. Enjoy great dance music with The Chosen Few Band as well as the popular Celebrity Dance Contest. Spectacular food stations and silent auction. Tickets are \$85 per person and can be reserved at 814.824.1250 or visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). Proceeds benefit families of all faiths in need.



### Information night planned for Faith magazine pilgrimage to Rome

Thinking about joining the diocese's Year of Faith pilgrimage to Rome? All are invited to an information night at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th Street in Erie on Tues., April 2 at 7 pm. Meet Belinda Held representing Unitours, Inc., Anne-Marie Welsh, editor of *Faith* magazine and Father Ted Marconi, who will serve as the spiritual director for the trip. The pilgrimage, planned for Sept. 12-21, 2013, includes stops in Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome. Bishop Persico will celebrate Mass with the group in Rome and a general audience with the new Holy Father is planned if he is in residence. Renowned art historian Dr. Elizabeth Lev will give a rare guided tour of the Sistine Chapel. Come with questions!

### Calling all teens: Catholic Leadership Institute has openings

Registration is now open for CLI 2013, June 23-28, to be held at St. Philip Church in Linesville. The institute is a joy-filled, five-day experience for high school students who have completed 9th grade with a heart for leadership. Engaging, hands-on techniques help form and equip participants to become outstanding Catholic leaders and disciples in their school, parish and in the larger community. Using proven leadership principles, the youth will discover and better appreciate how their God-given talents and gifts can be used to build up and enliven any person, program or community. Visit [www.onthevine.us](http://www.onthevine.us) to register or contact Kathleen Peterson, 814.824.1218. Cost per student is \$200.

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## Cardinals visit Roman parishes to offer Masses

Members of the College of Cardinals fanned out across Rome March 10 to celebrate Mass in their titular churches, Roman parishes assigned to them essentially as an honorary position when they become cardinals. Here are excerpts from reports filed by the Catholic News Service about some of the Masses celebrated by the American cardinals:

### Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York

Cardinal Dolan had taken formal possession of his titular church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, only five months earlier. Now he was back, two days before the start of voting in a papal election.

"The last week has been just filled with apostolic fraternity and good prayer and solid conversation, a real sense of trust and confidence," he said. "A week ago we would have said, 'wow, we've got a lot of work to do,' but now you see a sense of resignation and trust and faith."



Members of the media surround Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York as he arrives to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Rome on March 10.

### Cardinal Francis George of Chicago

Children of the members of the Church of St. Bartholomew on Tiber Island gave Cardinal Francis George an icon of the Madonna and Child and asked him to take it with him into the conclave to elect a new pope.

At the beginning of the Mass, which he celebrated in Italian, Cardinal George told the congregation that the Christian life is full of choices, but it was God who chose them first. He asked for their prayers as he and the other cardinals prepare to meet to make one of the most serious choices they are called to make: that of a new pope.



U.S. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago receives a basket of hand-written prayers as he celebrates Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish in Rome last Sunday. Cardinal George is among 11 U.S. prelates who were expected to enter the conclave March 12 to elect the new pope.

### Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston

Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston visited his titular church of Santa Maria della Vittoria with the no-nonsense, businesslike air of a pastor who was there simply to preside over a liturgy. He gave a homily based on the day's Gospel reading of the Prodigal Son, noting how many children of God today leave their father's house—the church—because of "ignorance, a lack of feeling welcome, negative experiences, scandals, spiritual mediocrity" and other reasons.

Just like the father in Jesus' parable, the church, too, must demonstrate a welcoming evangelical joy toward its lost sheep "without creating a difficult life for those who have drifted and who ask to return," the cardinal, a Capuchin monk known for wearing sandals year-round, said. "Because often they have suffered a lot after being far from God and they,



like all people, are looking for real joy, the kind only God can give." The cardinal told the standing-room-only congregation that Lent is the perfect time to return to one's family "and feel that joy of being at home." He ended his 13-minute homily by praying the Holy Spirit would help him and the other cardinal electors choose a new pope "who will confirm us in the faith, do the utmost possible to make visible the love of the Good Shepherd who goes looking for his lost sheep, to heal the sick and to embrace the prodigal son."



Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston celebrates Mass at his titular church, Santa Maria della Vittoria, in Rome.

### Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, DC

At the Basilica of San Pietro in Vincoli (St. Peter in Chains), Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl urged members of the media—a large part of the congregation—to get the word out about the importance of praying for the upcoming conclave.

"Your presence," he told the camera crews and reporters, "makes it possible for everyone at home to join us in prayer." He said the cardinal electors particularly need prayers to be sure "the Lord will work through each of us," adding: "We need the prayers we can receive."

In his homily, he spoke of the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation, describing it as an opportunity to be "assured of God's love and forgiveness." He urged those present to seek this sacrament particularly at this time in Lent as a "way to renew in our hearts" God's forgiveness and experience the grace of God who "never, ever stops waiting for us."



Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington speaks with the media before celebrating Mass at his titular church, the Church of St. Peter in Chains.

Mass and afterward greeted some of the Italians who seemed to know him well.

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