

Mall chapel to remain open

Confession hours slightly altered, page 3.



FaithLife

Divine Mercy Sunday

OLP, St. Ann to offer services, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 23, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Annunciation of the Lord



St. Isidore

March 30	Divine Mercy Sunday
March 31	Annunciation of the Lord
April 2	St. Francis of Paola
April 4	St. Isidore
April 5	St. Vincent Ferrer

Faith is in the mail!

The March/April 2008 issue of *Faith* magazine, with a cover featuring the varsity girls' basketball team at St. John-Holy Rosary Parish in Erie, is scheduled to arrive in mailboxes throughout the diocese just after Easter. The magazine is part of a family of custom publications that just announced a partnership with the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois, bringing total circulation to 916,000.

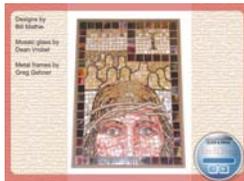


The March/April 2008 issue of *Faith* magazine.

Stations of the Cross video and slideshow

Two local artists have combined their efforts to craft 14 mosaics as the new Stations of the Cross for Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro.

View a slideshow of the completed stations as well as a video on the history of the project and how the stations were designed and put together at www.ErieRCD.org.



Easter is the guarantee of our faith

An Easter message from Bishop Donald Trautman

The tomb is empty. Jesus is risen. A dead Jesus was carried into the tomb on Good Friday, but walked out alive on Easter Sunday morning. Jesus of Nazareth has triumphed. Everything he had said and done is now verified. Easter is the guarantee of our faith. Christ, the Son of God and promised Messiah, has had the last word, and it is a word of victory — a word of Alleluia. He has conquered sin and sickness, death and darkness. He has made us a people of hope.

Pain and suffering are still with us, but we can move beyond these passing realities to a new permanent reality — the abundance of life that



A crucifix hangs before a mural depicting the Resurrection in the sanctuary at St. Timothy Parish in Mesa, Ariz.

comes from the risen Christ. For the person with terminal cancer, Easter speaks of another life without pain and agony.

For people suffering from the recession — struggling to pay bills, Easter speaks of an inner strength and courage that

helps us persevere and move forward. For the victims of war, violence, poverty and abortion, Easter promises that

injustice and sin will not defeat us. For those enduring loneliness, especially the elderly and those in nursing homes, Easter speaks of an intimacy and love of God that lasts forever. For the youth struggling with empty relationships and pressures, Easter speaks of true love, inner peace, self-worth and lasting fulfillment. For those suffering from broken marriages and broken homes, Easter promises hope and new life. After every crucifixion and death, there can be a resurrection, a rising to new life. We need to be on the side of the winner, the risen Christ.

The empty tomb demonstrates that Christ is the way and the truth and the life. He has revealed the power of life over death, light over darkness, love over hate, mercy over anger, compassion over selfishness. This is the Christian way of life.

Jesus calls each of us by name as he called Mary Magdalene at the tomb on that first Easter morning. The risen Jesus walks with us on our journey of life just as he walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He eats with us as he did with them that first Easter evening. Easter proclaims new life, new

See EASTER, page 4

Through contacts, trips, pope has finger on pulse of U.S. church

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Editor's note: This article continues a series of stories leading up to Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic visit to the United States in April. For more information on the pope's trip to the U.S., visit www.uspapalvisit.org.

VATICAN CITY — When Pope Benedict XVI visits the United States this spring, he will not be stepping into the unknown.

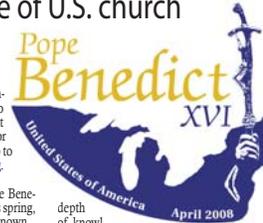
Through his many personal contacts with American church leaders and papal diplomats, his past trips to the U.S. and his ability to remember much of what he hears and reads, Pope Benedict has his finger firmly on the pulse of the church in the United States.

Bishops from around the world coming to Rome consistently have expressed awe and admiration for the pope's remarkable

depth of knowledge, his familiarity with everyday events worldwide and his recollection of minute or even obscure facts and past events.

"He has always been amazingly well-informed on the U.S.," said U.S. Jesuit Father Joseph Fessio, who studied under the future pope in the 1970s.

Father Fessio, founder and editor of *Ignatius Press*, said that every time he met with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger dur-



ing annual meetings of the directors of Casa Balthasar — a Rome-based center that aids priestly discernment

See POPE, page 2

'Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence'

DuBois Central Catholic School launches capital campaign

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

DuBois Central Catholic School has launched the public phase of its capital campaign with a goal of \$2.7 million to go toward debt management, as well as an endowment fund and technology upgrades.

Parents and local parishioners were informed about the public phase of the campaign with a letter and announcements at Masses during the March 1-2 weekend.

The campaign, "Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence," has already secured commitments of \$1.4 through major gifts during its quiet phase.

The campaign will provide resources for the fulfillment of the debt management program associated with the construction of the pre-k through grade 12 educational facility, which opened in Sandy Township in 2002. Other objectives of the campaign in-



Photo by Patty Prescott

DuBois Central Catholic School students Jacob Miknis (4th grade) at left and Justin Miknis (1st grade) are pictured along with their grandmother, Marlene Miknis (Central Grandparents' Club), and their father Dan Miknis (Central class of '91). The candles symbolize the light of Catholic education passed from generation to generation. The family represents 'Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence,' a capital campaign announced March 3 by the school.

clude funding endowments for operation and for faculty and staff compensation, funding computer technology for classrooms and funding capital reserves for building and equipment.

The campaign is a continuation

of the one started in 1999 to help fund the building of the new school, said Jason Gray, who co-chairs the capital campaign along with Jim Curtis.

See DUBOIS, page 3

Catholic Charities Ball is April 18

Rahners to be recognized with Helping Hands Award

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Dr. Richard Rahner, along with his wife, Willie, is just as busy now with his day-to-day work with refugees as he was as an orthopaedic surgeon.

The work may be different, but nothing much has changed. They're still caring for people.

The Rahners will be honored with the Helping Hands Award for outstanding service to the church and their community at the annual Catholic Charities Ball, which will be held April 18 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

"It was a unanimous decision by the ball committee, and that's unusual because usually they are looking at several couples," said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, chair of the Catholic Charities Ball committee and executive director of The Catholic Foundation.

"But this particular couple stood head and shoulder above all others this year. The reason for that is both of them have been heavily involved with foreign missions and refugees. When many people are retiring or moving out of the area, they decided to stay and



Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner

work in their community for those who are less fortunate. I think that's to be praised and that's noteworthy."

For 20 years, the couple has taken students from Mexico, Spain, Germany and Serbia into their home to study in the United States. They welcomed a 13-year-old boy as a foster son after he was tragically orphaned. They've made several visits to a medical facility in India where Dr. Rahner volunteers his services;

sponsored the education of students in high school, college and medical school, both locally and abroad; sponsored a foster child, financed the building of several homes and supported a hospital and school for physically handicapped children, all in Cuddapah, India.

A former orthopaedic surgeon at St. Vincent Health

See CHARITIES BALL, page 3

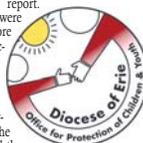


IN THE U.S.

■ **The California Supreme Court's opinion on the definition of marriage** will mark a step in a national debate that remains far from settled, according to a law professor who audited the high court's March 4 hearing in San Francisco on a legal challenge to a voter-backed measure upping traditional marriage. The measure, Proposition 22, states that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It was ratified by an overwhelming majority of California voters in 2000. "No matter what the decision is, we're in a time of transition as far as marriage rights across the country," said Beth Hillman, a professor at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

■ **Counseling, retreats, support groups and spiritual direction** are among the types of assistance U.S. dioceses have offered to victims of sexual abuse, notes a new audit report.

Such services were offered to more than 3,200 victims of abuse and their families, including 951 people who came forward since the last report, said the "2007 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" released March 7 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The audit by the Gavin Group analyzed how 190 dioceses stacked up against the standards of the 17 articles of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." In 2007, an independent audit found the Erie Diocese to be in full compliance with the U.S. bishops' charter.



■ **Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming encyclical is titled "Charity in Truth"** and covers a wide range of issues related to globalization and social justice, said an Italian report. The text is still under revision and has yet to be translated, according to church sources. A leading Vatican official said he doesn't expect the encyclical to be published before summer. The Italian news agency ANSA reported March 12 that the encyclical, whose Latin title is "Caritas in Veritate," is divided into four chapters. The lengthy text begins with a reflection on the 1967 encyclical, "Populorum Progressio" ("The Progress of Peoples"), and the social changes that have occurred since then, it said. Among the topics examined by the pope are the relationship of economic and social development with human dignity, and the gap between the rich and poor, it said. It said the text touches on issues of war and peace, international cooperation and economic globalization, environmental and energy issues, the "digital divide" and disarmament.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **The body of an Iraqi archbishop who was kidnapped Feb. 29, was found in a grave March 13.** Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, 65, was kidnapped Feb. 29 in an attack that left his driver and two bodyguards dead. The pope had made several public appeals for his release. Catholic leaders in Iraq said that they had recovered the archbishop's body after the kidnappers told them where they had buried him. "We all had continued to hope and pray for his liberation," said Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. "Unfortunately, the most absurd and unjustified violence continues to weigh on the Iraqi people and particularly on the small Christian community, to whom the pope and all of us are particularly close in prayer and in solidarity at this moment of great pain." Father Lombardi said the Vatican hoped "this tragic event" would lead to a greater commitment by all, particularly the international community, to work for peace in Iraq.



Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho

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PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The five-year waiting period to start the canonization process for Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, has been lifted by Pope Benedict XVI.** The decision means that the diocesan phase of the sainthood process can begin immediately. Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, made the announcement at a Feb. 13 Mass in Coimbra commemorating the third anniversary of Sister Lucia's death. The cardinal said Pope Benedict had reduced to three years the waiting period so the Diocese of Coimbra, where Fatima is located, can begin the initial phase of the sainthood investigation. Bishop Almino Manoel Cleto of Coimbra, supported by other bishops, had asked for the reduction. On May 13, 1917, when Sister Lucia was 10 years old, she and her cousins — Francisco, 9, and Jacinta, 7 — claimed to have seen Mary at Fatima, near their home. The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.



Sister Lucia dos Santos

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By the Way...

Happy Easter!

The diocese will soon welcome a new religious community that will make Erie its first-ever home in the United States.

Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, and Sister Giuseppina Vuodi, FSO, members of The Spiritual Family The Work, also known simply as The Work, will arrive in mid-June and reside in a house owned by Gannon University and near its campus.

Sister Kathleen, who has completed her doctorate in theology, will teach part time at Gannon in the Theology Department. Sister Giuseppina will serve as a pastoral associate at St. George Parish in Erie.

Two other sisters from this community reside and work in New York City.

The community was founded in 1938 by Mother Julia Vhaeghe (1910-1997). The Work has a presence in several European countries with headquarters in Rome.

The name is taken in large part from John 6:29: "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one whom he has sent." Although the names are similar, there is no connection between The Work and Opus Dei (The Work of God).

In 2001, Pope John Paul II approved The Spiritual Family The Work as a "Family of Consecrated Life of Pontifical Right." As a "family," The Work is a unique religious community, as it consists of consecrated women and a community of priests, to which priests, deacons and brothers belong. Others are spiritually associated with The Work, including diocesan clergy, families and individuals.

For more information about The Work, visit www.thework-fso.org.

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a "membership blitz" in churches throughout the diocese on the weekend of March 29-30 to provide information about the Knights to prospective members and their families.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic organization, with more than 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Central America and Poland. Last year the Knights of Columbus gave more than \$139 million in charitable and benevolent contributions and volunteered more than 64 million service hours to the church and local communities.

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



Jason Koshinski

Through contacts, past trips, pope has finger on pulse of U.S. church

POPE, from page 1

and study — he would always find him extremely aware.

During those meetings "I would generally have two or three items I wanted to bring to his attention. He almost always was already aware of what I spoke about," Father Fessio said.

In a way, the pope's long stint at the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was the perfect place to become well-versed in the situations and challenges the Catholic Church faces in the United States. The congregation has weekly meetings with experts on current prominent topics — such as advances in medicine — and it also receives regular reports from the world's bishops.

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said a lot of those reports "would have to do with theological issues, but, regularly, doctrine committees of conferences of bishops were asked to provide the (doctrinal) office with overviews of what was going on in that country."

The archbishop said Pope Benedict's attention to and recollection of details are particularly striking.

He recalled that in January 2005 he had to visit the Vatican's doctrinal congregation for a project on which he was working.

Cardinal Ratzinger was elected pope just a few months later, and that May Archbishop Wuerl returned to Rome and greeted the pope at the end of a Wednesday general audience.

"When I went up to greet him, he said, 'Have you completed that project?' I thought to myself: How would he even remember, with all the things on his desk right now as pope, this little project of mine?" the archbishop said.

Despite this ability to recall surprising amounts of minutiae, Pope Benedict does not get bogged down in the details, the Washington archbishop said.

"He strikes me as a person far more aware of the bigger picture," he said.

Collaborators, both past and present, who have worked alongside the pope are also quick to point out the pope's gigabyte memory bank.

"He has an amazing power of retention. He reads an enormous amount. Still, I don't know how he does it," said Father Fessio.

As head of the doctrinal congregation and as pontiff, Pope Benedict has always had Americans on his staff. For instance, U.S. Archbishop James Harvey is one of his private secretaries, and the former San Francisco archbishop, Cardinal William J. Levada, is now head of the doctrinal congregation.

People who know Pope Benedict say he is a good listener and accessible, and it made meetings with him as head of the doctrinal congregation a positive experience. "Not only was he present, as opposed to having just someone from the office meet (us), but he would listen, he would respond to questions, and he would seem to already have considerable knowledge of whatever the issues we brought to discuss," said Archbishop Wuerl.

He said bishops' group talks with Cardinal Ratzinger began with a prayer and with him ask-

ing participants what their issues and concerns were "rather than give a talk to us first."

"He didn't come to the meeting with a already formed vision of what was happening. He listened and he responded across the board," the archbishop said.

The pope's ability to see things from so many points of view is also a sign of his having "a very wide vision" and sources of information that "were of considerable breadth," the Washington archbishop said.

Pope Benedict's schedule is much more restricted now that he is the pontiff, but he also has access to a whole new network of information.

Staffers at the Vatican's Secretariat of State and Vatican representatives in the United States — the papal nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, in Wash-

April Visit

The tentative schedule of Pope Benedict XVI on his first pastoral visit to the United States.

April 15	WASHINGTON	Arrive in the nation's capital.
16		Official welcome at the White House. Address to U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
17		Mass at the new Nationals baseball stadium. Visit to The Catholic University of America. Interfaith meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.
18	NEW YORK	Address to the United Nations. Ecumenical meeting.
19		Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Meeting with youths and seminarians.
20		Visit to ground zero. Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

'The pope strikes me as a person far more aware of the bigger picture.'

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl on Pope Benedict XVI

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Religious Tours '08

June 13-22: **Poland**
Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Footsteps of John Paul II

June 15-25: **Holy Land**
Jerusalem, Cana, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Tomb of Christ, etc.

July 22-27: **Mexico City**
and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

For a packet of details: 724-548-7649 or Email: padre16201@yahoo.com

Director of Finance and Operations

Holy Cross Catholic Church in Fairview, PA is seeking a Director of Finance and Operations. With the support of various committees, the incumbent will oversee the financial, maintenance, personnel and office aspects of the parish. Bachelor's degree in Business or a related field, three to five years experience in office administration or management, and bookkeeping experience with QuickBooks are required. Additional skills include: ability to manage multiple projects, ability to maintain confidentiality, and excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. Candidates will be practicing Roman Catholics in good standing and be willing to be involved in the life of the parish. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume and references to Fr. Scott Detsch at resfsm29@verizon.net by Tuesday, April 1.

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Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2008 Catholic Services Appeal, "Of One Heart and Mind," supports the Erie Diocese in helping to provide health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services throughout the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

Parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects.

Last year's appeal netted \$5.8 million in pledges, with \$2.27 million retained by parishes for parish projects. Over the next several issues, *FaithLife* will take a look at this year's parish projects by deanery.

Meadville Deanery

Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake – Parish's 50th anniversary celebration in 2008

St. Agatha, Meadville – Refurbish stained glass windows (year two of a three-year goal)

St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs – Religious education program book purchase, repair rectory roof, solve pigeon problem in church steeple

St. Bernadette, Saegertown – Modify roof over sanctuary, redo roof over church entrance and Water Street rental property

St. Brigid, Meadville – Repair of drainage in church parking lot

St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown – Debt reduction

St. Mary of Grace, Meadville – Window restoration for church building

St. Peter, Conneautville – General fund

St. Philip, Crossingville – Improvements on building and parish grounds

St. Philip, Linesville – Replace boiler in parish hall

Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochranton – Debt reduction



Rahners to be recognized with Helping Hands Award

CHARITIES BALL, from page 1

Center who retired in 1995. Dr. Rahner has also provided athletic physical exams to area sports teams and individuals throughout the years.

But their involvement with area refugees has touched the lives of many strangers in this county, aiding them in need while making them feel welcome. Their garage served as a veritable warehouse of furniture, appliances, clothes and other items to be given away until it became too small. The Rahners, parishioners at St. George in Erie, now use a storage facility to house the many items they distribute.

"When immigrants come here, there is a complete emptiness," Dr. Rahner told *FaithLife* magazine in 2005. "They've left

The Catholic Charities Ball featuring the **Dave Stevens Big Band** will be held Friday, April 18 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. Doors open at 7 p.m. with dancing 8 p.m. to midnight.

Get In Step with Erie's Stars — see well-known personalities compete to capture 1st place for Swing and Cha-Cha!

Dr. Richard & Willie Rahner will receive the **Helping Hands Award** for outstanding service to church and community.

Hors d'oeuvres are included and a cash bar will be available. **Tickets** are \$50 each. Call 824.1236 or visit www.enercd.org for more information.

everything they know—friends, family, jobs and even their status in the community. Many don't speak English."

Proceeds from this year's ball will benefit families in need throughout the 13-county diocese. Last year's ball set the record for fundraising with \$29,000. That money was distributed in the form of grants to seven agen-

cies in the diocese: Catholic Rural Ministries, Port Allegany; The Prince of Peace Center, Shenango Valley; St. Elizabeth of Hungary Center, Oil City; St. Martin Center, Erie; Catholic Charities' Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries; Better Housing for Erie; and Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services in DuBois and Sharon.

An added twist to this year's ball will be "Get in Step with Erie's Stars," a dance competition featuring local celebrities. Competing in the swing category are: Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott, Karla Munteaux, Scott Bremner, Jr. Pillea, Jim Martin, Dan Dahlkemper, Angela Bontempo and Matt Roche. Competing in the cha-cha are: Judge Susan Paradise Baxter, Almi Clerkin, Cheryl Vicary, Connie Boone

Manus, Gerry Vandemerwe, Jim Jackson and Mark D'Accio. Judges for the competition include John Leemhuis, Esq. and Stephen and Kathy Findlay.

Connie Shoop of Connie's Ballroom Dance donated two dance lessons for each participant. Catholic Charities supported the event. Catholic Charities also donated private in-home lessons.

DuBois Central Catholic School launches capital campaign

DUBOIS, from page 1

"The initial campaign went above and beyond our goal," Gray said. "The minimum goal of this campaign will be enough to retire the building debt in the next 10 to 12 years."

However, anything raised over goal will help the school's operations budget.

"We initiated an endowment fund to build the school, and it went from zero to a little more than a million dollars," Gray said. "It's an important part of our operations budget."

Over the past three years DuBois Central Catholic has used the interest from the endowment fund to supplement its operation income, said Kathleen Kunkle, the school's chief administrative officer.

"We hope that it keeps growing," Kunkle said of the endowment. "It goes toward tuition assistance and salaries. It really helps us keep tuition as low as possible."

With commitments for a little



more than half of the capital campaign's goal, campaign board members are optimistic.

"We think it's off to a very, very good start," Gray said. "In the future, this endowment will be absolutely crucial to putting together our operational budget. We certainly need the enthusiastic support of the people. Pastors have also been very supportive."

DuBois Central Catholic is owned and subsidized by seven parishes in the Erie Diocese: St. Catherine, St. Joseph and St. Michael in DuBois; St. Bernard in Falls Creek; St. Mary in Reynoldsville; St. Tobias in Brockway; and Assumption in

Sykesville. Enrollment is comprised of students from these and other parishes in Clearfield, Punxsutawney, Brookville, Grampian, Curwensville and Clarion, as well as non-Catholic students.

In the five school years since DuBois Central Catholic opened, 227 students have enrolled in classes and 268 students have graduated from the school. It was re-accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges in 2004.

Construction of the 100,000-square-foot facility was financed through proceeds of the sale of the former Central Catholic Middle and High School build-

ing and campus, an initial capital campaign and bond indebtedness. The capital campaign in 1999 raised \$3.9 million toward the \$14.4 million construction project.

The second phase of the debt management plan, which projects retirement of the bond indebtedness between the years 2017 to 2020, was formulated by financial advisors and approved by the Erie Diocese.

View a video detailing DuBois Central Catholic School's capital campaign at www.duboiscentralcatholic.com; click on "alumini."

Briefly

Mall chapel to remain open; confession hours slightly altered

The Roman Catholic Chapel at the Millcreek Mall in Erie will remain open after Lent. Bishop Donald Trautman has announced. The Erie Diocese became the mall's newest tenant, opening a chapel on Ash Wednesday Feb. 6 primarily for hearing confessions.

The chapel, located just outside the concourse entrance to Bon Ton, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Confession hours have changed slightly from the hours during Lent. Priests will be available to hear confessions or for conversation on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both traditional and face-to-face confession is available.



Father John Dear to speak April 3 on 'The Beatitudes of Peace'

Father John Dear, S.I., an internationally recognized voice for peace and nonviolence, will speak on "The Beatitudes of Peace" on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Villa Maria Academy auditorium, 2403 W. Eighth St., Erie. Admission is free; a free will offering will be accepted.

Father Dear is a Jesuit priest, pastor, peace activist, organizer, lecturer, retreat leader and the author/editor of 25 books on peace and justice. He has worked in homeless shelters, soup kitchens and community centers; traveled in war zones around the world, including Iraq, Palestine, Nicaragua and Colombia; lived in El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala and Northern Ireland.

He has two master's degrees in theology from the Graduate Theological Union in California. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. For more information of Father John Dear, visit www.johndear.org.



Father John Dear

Divine Mercy services March 30 at OLP, St. Ann in Erie

Two Erie churches will hold services for Divine Mercy Sunday, which is the second Sunday of Easter, March 30.

Our Lady of Peace Parish will present a program at 2 p.m. which will include a procession and veneration of the Divine Mercy image, exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the sung Divine Mercy chapel. Confessions will be made available beginning at 1:30 p.m. Confessions are also available the week of March 24 from 11:30 a.m. until noon.

St. Ann Parish will hold services at 2:30 p.m. with Mass at 3:15 with guest homilist Father James McCormick. Preliminary hymns will be sung at 2 p.m. with the Divine Mercy choir, with Mark Alloway at the organ.

All are invited to attend either service.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II announced that in order "to ensure that the faithful would observe this day (Divine Mercy Sunday) with intense devotion," this Sunday would be enriched by a plenary indulgence.

The plenary indulgence is granted (under the usual conditions of a sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and a prayer for the intentions of the pope) to the faithful who, on Divine Mercy Sunday, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, recite the Our Father and the Creed, also adding a devout prayer (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!).

For more information about the history of Divine Mercy Sunday and the plenary indulgence offered with this feast, visit www.divine-mercysunday.com.



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Father James P. Ruhling dies at 73

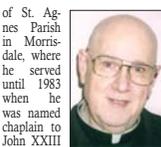
Parish priest served as long-time pastor at St. Agnes, Morrisdale

Father James P. Ruhling, 73, died Feb. 29, 2008 at Christ the King Manor in DuBois.

Born January 18, 1935 in Erie, he was the son of the late Richard F. and Mildred Schaubel Ruhling Graham. Father Ruhling attended both St. John Parish grade school and St. Peter Cathedral Parish grade school in Erie before graduating from Cathedral Prep in 1952.

Upon high school graduation, he entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie and attended Gannon College (now Gannon University) for two years before completing his seminary training at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, graduating in 1960. He was ordained as a priest on May 26, 1960 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Bishop Edward P. McManaman, auxiliary bishop of Erie.

Father Ruhling's home parish was St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. Following ordination, Father Ruhling was assigned as assistant at St. Joseph Parish, Erie, from 1960 to 1967 and as assistant at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage from 1967 to 1971. From 1971 to 1974, he served as assistant at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. In 1974 he was named pastor



Father James P. Ruhling

of St. Agnes Parish in Morrisdale, where he served until 1983 when he was named chaplain to John XXIII Home in Hermitage.

From 1984 to 1985 he served as pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Cory. In 1985 he was named parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Erie. From 1987 to 1990 he served as assistant chancellor for the Diocese of Erie. During his time as assistant chancellor, he resided at Sacred Heart Parish, Erie, from 1987 to 1989 and at St. Casimir Parish, Erie, from 1989 to 1990, while providing weekend sacramental assistance to St. Peter Parish in Conneautville from 1987 to 1988 and serving as chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy from 1988 to 1990.

From 1990 to 1999, he served in the diocesan Office of Matrimonial Concerns and also as Catholic chaplain to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Erie, residing at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie. He retired in 1999. During his retirement, he assisted at Immaculate Conception Parish in Erie. In 2005 he relocated to Christ the King Manor in DuBois where he resided until his death.

Sister Mary Philip Kiehmeier, OSB, dies at 91

Teacher, administrator helped develop Benetwood

Sister Mary Philip Kiehmeier, OSB, 91, a Benedictine Sister of Erie for 58 years, died on Feb. 3, 2008 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

A daughter of the late Philip and Loretta Senger Kiehmeier, she was born in Erie on July 23, 1916 and was baptized Gertrude Marie. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1948, pronounced her first profession in 1950 and her perpetual monastic profession on August 12, 1953.

Sister Mary Philip was a graduate of St. Mary's School, St. Benedict Academy and a magna cum laude graduate of Villa Maria College, Erie. She received her master's degree in home economics education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, and continued her formal education with courses at Gannon University, Erie; Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. and Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Sister Mary Philip ministered as a teacher at St. Benedict Academy, Erie, and Venango Catholic High School, Oil City. She served at the Martin Luther King Center, Erie, as director of the child development program and later as associate director of the center. In the late 1970s, Sister Mary



Sister Mary Philip Kiehmeier

Philip began background research and planning and the Benetwood Apartments, a facility for seniors. She oversaw the building, staffing and furnishing of Benetwood and was its administrator from 1981 until 1991.

She was, for several years after her retirement from Benetwood, a member of the staff at Breville Village, Erie, and later assisted in the community's health insurance office. Sister Mary Philip served her Benedictine community in many ways, including as a member of the prioress's advisory council and as operations coordinator for Mount St. Benedict, the community's primary residence.

For several years, she chaired the committee responsible for the community's summer festival and was a member of many other committees with a broad range of responsibilities. She was a member of the advisory and building committees for Mount St. Benedict Monastery and for a later addition to the building. Most recently, she was a member of the committee responsible for the renovation of the Mount St. Benedict chapel completed last year.

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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



An Easter message from Bishop Donald Trautman

EASTER, from page 1

love, new hope, new forgiveness. Easter is for conversion. We cannot live the same as before. Because of the risen Lord we now have new truth, new priorities, new hope for handling disappointments and sorrow. Sinners have a new way of seeking happiness — happiness that lasts. On Good Friday Jesus appears as a loser, but on Easter Sunday he is a winner who has defeated the devil, death and all darkness. And so in the Mass we pray, "Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world." For more than 2,000 years, the risen Jesus has inspired billions of faithful followers.

We have new life from Christ. Let us live new lives. Alleluia.

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL Bishop of Erie

First Commonwealth helps Catholics schools with EITC funds



First Commonwealth Bank recently presented checks to several Catholic schools as part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The program allows businesses to receive up to 90 percent of their contribution in tax credits while aiding the Erie Diocese's STAR Foundation to help with tuition costs. Parents who have children enrolled in Catholic schools or who are interested in any financial aid programs for the 2008-09 school year can apply for these tax credits. For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org/schools3.asp.

Schools receiving checks from First Commonwealth include St. Boniface School in Kersey and St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools and Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys.

Pictured from left to right are: Lori Schreiber, manager of St. Marys Commonwealth; David Hanna, market executive; Marie Giazzoni, principal of St. Boniface School; Lois Huff, bank teller in Kersey; and William Kurtz, regional manager.

St. Boniface Living Stations

ERIE — The 8th grade students at St. Boniface School in Erie walked in faith this Lenten season. Through this annual tradition, the 8th grade students dedicated themselves to understanding the different roles people played in the crucifixion of Jesus and portrayed a live version of the Stations of the Cross on March 12 for the community.

Pictured are (front row, left to right) Megan Leo, Keisey Schupp, Rebecca Kosack, Stephen Evan, Dan Algeier, (center row) Mrs. Cindy Stormer, Forrest Stuckey, Tyler Finn, Haley Panighet-



ti, Frank Hall, Ryan Alexandrowicz, Jesse Hodapp, Tom Whiteford, Say, Lindsay Matczak, Ellie Johnson, Andrea Yosten, Lexi Vallmont and Marc Moore.

SMCMS Living Stations

ST. MARYS — The 8th grade class at St. Marys Catholic Middle School, which traditionally presents the Living Stations of the Cross each Lent, provided the community with an intimate journey of Jesus' passion on Palm Sunday. The class previously had presented the stations at Elk County Catholic High School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools earlier in Lent.

Vanessa Weis and Kathy Cheattle directed 20 students in the production.

"The 8th graders look forward to this every year knowing that they'll get to be a part of Jesus' passion," Weis said. "To be a part of this experience is something that I think they will always remember with pride." She added that some visual ef-



fects helped make this year's production unique, including having students sign during the singing of "Still Her Little Child," which accompanied the 13th station.

Pictured are Cole Gerber (Jesus) and Taylor Schlimm (Mary) in a scene from the 13th station where Jesus is taken from the cross.

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30th Annual Georgian Ball
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Saturday, April 5, 2008
on the Bay at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center
We will honor those of yesterday, today, and our children who will continue our legacy tomorrow.
Reservations & ticket prices, please contact
Saint George Church at 864-0622

Youth Ministry
The partner parishes of Mt. St. Peter and All Saints in New Kensington, PA, are seeking a dynamic leader for a full-time position as Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This Catholic faith community of 2300 families is located in the Diocese of Greensburg (20 miles from Pittsburgh). This position is envisioned as one of coordination of junior and senior high youth formation in discipleship as set forth in the USCCB's document *Renewing the Vision*. Special emphasis will be given to social justice initiatives engaging youth and their families in prayer and action serving the local and global communities and faith formation in tune with the rhythm of the liturgical year. An intergenerational, experiential catechetical model, that forms youth as disciples and resources families as the domestic Church is desired. This staff member will join others on a parish ministry team comprised of qualified and committed ministers. Weekends and evening hours required. Applicants should possess a BA in theology, religious education or related field; demonstrate leadership, organizational and communication skills; familiarity with best practices of Catholic youth and social ministries; proficiency in all Microsoft Office software. Persons submitting resumes should be Catholics in good standing. Send cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to Bill Staniszewski by April 15, 2008. Mail to: Mt. St. Peter Church • 100 Freeport Rd. • New Kensington, PA 15068

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