

## Growing church

Vatican says number of Catholics, priests, bishops worldwide increased, page 2.



# FaithLife

## For a good cause

Erie Catholic schools raise money for Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 25, 2012

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Annunciation of the Lord

Easter

- March 26 Annunciation of the Lord
- April 5 Holy Thursday
- April 6 Good Friday
- April 7 Holy Saturday, Vigil of Easter
- April 8 Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord

### Confirmations

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

**St. Eusebius, East Brady** – Saturday, March 24 at 4:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Richard, Rimersburg, and St. Eusebius, East Brady.

**Immaculate Conception, Brookville** – Sunday, March 25 at 3 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Charles, New Bethlehem, and Immaculate Conception, Brookville.

**St. John the Evangelist, Girard** – Monday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie** – Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m.

### Chrism Mass – April 2

The Chrism Mass, one of the most solemn and significant liturgies on the church calendar, will be celebrated on Monday, April 2 at 4 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

During the Mass, Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the sacred oils used for celebrating the sacraments throughout the diocese for the entire year. They will then be brought to each parish.

Also, each priest in the diocese is invited to attend to renew his commitment of service and to receive the support and prayers of the people.

The public is also invited to attend.

### National collection for the Holy Land – Good Friday, April 6

Parishes in the Diocese of Erie will participate in the annual Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. Proceeds from this national collection help in two main ways: to maintain the holy places at Bethlehem, Bethany, Jerusalem and Nazareth, to name a few, and to give concrete material assistance to the Christian communities in the Holy Land as they minister on behalf of youth, families, education and housing for the poor, among others.

## Pa. bishops declare day of prayer, fasting for religious liberty

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania have declared Friday, March 30 as a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence for the preservation of religious liberty.

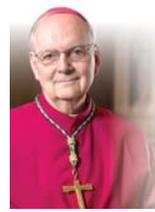
The bishops announced the effort in a letter dated March 7.

"The assault by the federal government on constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty continues," the letter said. "Our concern and alarm flows from a mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which punishes the church for its firmly held beliefs and consistent teaching. This mandate—published in the federal register without change, despite claims of 'accommodations'—would force Catholic employers to pay for

abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception."

During the Fridays of Lent, the faithful are obliged to abstain from eating meat. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics are also asked to fast—eating only one full meal, and, if necessary, two much smaller meals—to aid our spiritual life.

"Recognizing the efficacy of prayer and fasting as well as the challenges we face in overcoming the recent attack on our religious freedom, we, the bishops of Pennsylvania, request that all Catholics dedicate the regular Lenten Friday practice of prayer and abstinence as well as the additional practice of fasting on Friday, March 30, to the preservation of religious liberty," the letter said. "On that day, offer your sacrifice for the cause of religious liberty, that the church may be granted the basic right



"It has always been a Catholic tradition to resort to prayer, fasting and abstaining whenever a critical situation develops for the church."

—Bishop Donald Trautman

to practice what she preaches, and for our political leaders, that their eyes may be opened to the rights of all Americans, including those of faith."

The effort would unite more than 3 million Catholics in Pennsylvania in prayer and solidarity, the letter said.

"It has always been a Catholic tradition to resort to prayer, fasting and abstaining whenever a critical situation develops for the church," Bishop Donald Trautman said. "This is a time-honored practice that the bishops of the state are evoking now to call to the attention of our people the seriousness of the Obama HHS mandate and the implications of the practice of our faith in free conscience."

Catholics are encouraged to visit the Pennsylvania

Catholic Conference (PCC) website at [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org), which is designed to help people contact their congressional representatives and the president, and send a message to legislators in support of conscience rights. By becoming a member of PCC's Catholic Advocacy Network, members will receive occasional e-mails concerning only the issues on which they wish to remain informed and active.

"We cannot, as a church, be silent because some have sought to politicize our plight," the bishops' letter said. "Our voices and yours must be heard. The mandate must be rescinded. Our freedom and liberty must be preserved. And in this effort, we must remain steadfast."

For the complete text of the Pennsylvania bishops' letter, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## BLESSINGS IN BLOOM

### Catholic Charities Ball proceeds to benefit families in need

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Amidst significant unemployment and the economy in a recession, more and more people are turning to non-profit agencies for help, including assistance with food, rent and utilities.

In 2010, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie served more than 82,000 people, according to its latest annual report. That number looks to only increase in 2012.

Catholic Charities has four emergency service centers in the diocese. Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, executive director of The Catholic Foundation, said all four emergency service centers have seen an increase in the number of people coming for direct services, whether it's food, clothing, training or other services.

Catholic Charities agencies and services extend throughout the 13 counties of the diocese offering many forms of aid and support throughout northwest Pennsylvania.

McCloskey oversees the annual Catholic Charities Ball, which is the organization's premiere charitable



John and Bridget Barber

event and its largest fundraiser of the year. In 2011, the Catholic Charities Ball granted \$70,855 to families in need, with the proceeds raised through sponsorships, ticket sales and donations.

Proceeds from the 17th annual Catholic Charities Ball, which will be held Friday, April 27 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, will once again go to families in need.

Immediately after the

ball, Catholic Charities' board of directors meets to review the grant applications. Within six weeks, all the net proceeds from the ball are sent out to organizations applying for grants.

Last year's recipients included St. Martin Center in Erie, Catholic Rural Ministries in Bradford and Oil City, St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City, Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, Good Samaritan Center in Clear-

### 17th annual Catholic Charities Ball "Blessings in Bloom"

Friday, April 27 from 6:30 – 11:30 p.m. at Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Live entertainment by The Chosen Few

Tickets are \$85 each and include hors d'oeuvres and a sit-down dinner with wine. Call 814.824.1250 or visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) for more information.

field, Harborcreek Youth Services, Better Homes, Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services, and Maria House Projects.

"That's why this is so critical," McCloskey said. "The dollars going out do not just feed and clothe people but also give them a hand up."

"Blessings in Bloom" is the theme of this year's ball, which will feature hors d'oeuvres and a sit-down dinner with wine. A silent

auktion will offer more than 30 packages.

"We're pulling out all the stops to make this a very special, elegant evening," McCloskey said.

During dessert, attendees will be entertained by an Erie version of "Dancing with the Stars" featuring local celebrities in the ball's fourth annual dance contest. Male and female winners will be crowned.

"It really stirs up the crowd, which is pretty exciting," McCloskey said.

Atty. John and Bridget Barber will be honored with the Helping Hands Award at this year's ball. The award was created in 2006 by Catholic Charities and is given annually to an individual, family or organization that has demonstrated exceptional service to their church and community.

"Bridget and I are very grateful for this honor, which we consider to be a recognition of the dedication of all of our staff and families at the Barber National Institute who are committed to bringing hope and opportunity to children

See CHARITIES BALL, page 2

## Doing good works during Lent



**MEADVILLE** – In February, the 7th grade class from Seton Catholic School in Meadville visited the Meadville Area Soup Kitchen. Students volunteered from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., preparing lunch and serving for more than 50 guests. They also cleaned and washed dishes. Pictured left to right are Paige Yoder, Reid Fauble, 7th grade teacher Patty Ross and Nick Lynch.

Almsgiving and works of charity, particularly during Lent, are a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us.

## Lent is a time to help others spiritually, materially, pope says

By Mary Shovlain  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In his Lenten message, Pope Benedict XVI called on the faithful to be concerned for one another and "not to remain isolated and indifferent" to the fate of others.

Materialism and a sense of self-sufficiency are obstacles to a Christian life of charity, the pope said.

Instead of looking first to God and then to the well-being of others, people often have an attitude of "indifference and disinterested born of selfishness and masked as a respect for 'privacy.'"

He said that God's commandment to love "demands that we acknowledge our responsibility toward those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God."



Pope Benedict XVI elevates the Eucharist during Ash Wednesday Mass in the Church of Santa Sabina in Rome Feb. 22. In his message for Lent, the pope warned against what he called "spiritual anesthesia," which numbs people to the suffering of others.

See LENT, page 3



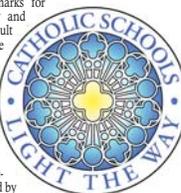
## IN THE U.S.

### ■ 'United, focused' bishops pledge to continue religious liberty defense

Declaring themselves "strongly unified and intensely focused," the leadership of the nation's Catholic bishops vowed to continue their multipronged defense of religious liberty in the courts, Congress and the White House. The five-page statement titled "United for Religious Freedom" was approved March 14 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee, made up of the USCCB officers and committee chairmen and an elected bishop representative from each of the geographic regions of the USCCB. The bishops opened their statement with thanks for "all who have stood firmly with us in our vigorous opposition to this unjust and illegal mandate," referring to the Department of Health and Human Services' requirement that nearly all employers must provide free coverage of contraceptives and sterilization to their employees through health insurance plans. For the bishops' complete statement, visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### ■ National standards and benchmarks established for U.S. Catholic schools

A set of national standards and benchmarks for Catholic schools — defining what makes them unique and providing ways to measure their effectiveness — was released March 7. The publication, "National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools," is the result of a collaborative effort by the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness at Loyola University Chicago's School of Education, the Roche Center for Catholic Education at Boston College's Lynch School of Education and the National Catholic Educational Association. The landmark document was developed and vetted by a national task force of Catholic school educators and supporters through a process that began at a 2009 Catholic educators' conference. At the conference, educators said they were looking for a way to put all of the best ideas of Catholic schools — based on Vatican statements on Catholic education, remarks by Pope Benedict XVI and statements of U.S. bishops — into one statement that would "clarify the brand" of Catholic schools and give a framework for schools seeking accreditation or advocating for public policy efforts.



## AROUND THE WORLD

### ■ Officials decry bombing at Nigerian parish

The suicide car bombing of a church in Jos was an "evil, irrational, beastly and criminal" act, said the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria. Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Jos also called on Christians to remain calm after the bombing March 11 — during a Mass — claimed the lives of three worshippers and led to retaliatory violence that resulted in at least seven deaths around the city. "We want those that are behind this crisis to come and seek dialogue rather than attacks," Archbishop Kaigama said hours after the bombing. The incident is the most recent in a decade-long conflict among Christians and Muslims that has claimed thousands of lives in and around Jos.

### ■ Eucharistic congress won't ignore abuse scandal, Vatican official says

The International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin will be characterized by humility, moderation and a renewed focus on the Eucharist as the source and nourishment of unity in the church, said the president of the Vatican committee charged with overseeing the gathering. Archbishop Piero Marini, president of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, said the congress June 10-17 will reflect that this year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, but also that Catholics in the host country, Ireland, are still reeling from the clerical sex abuse scandal and are engaged in a process of repentance and reform. The theme of the 2012 congress, which is expected to bring together more than 80,000 Catholics from around the world, is: "The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with One Another."

## PEOPLE

### ■ Sainthood cause opens for Boys Town founder

It started in 1917 with a rented house, five boys who needed a home in Omaha and a Catholic priest determined to help troubled and abandoned youths throughout the city. Now, Boys Town helps more than 1.6 million people each year through its main campus of group homes, churches, a grade school and high school, post office and bank, as well as a national research hospital in Omaha, a national hotline, and other services and locations around the country. And the priest who started it all — Father Edward Flanagan — might someday be named a saint. The process toward canonization began Feb. 27 and continued with a March 17 Mass at Immaculate Conception Church at Boys Town — where Father Flanagan's body is laid to rest. Father Flanagan was named a "servant of God" at the Mass.



Father Edward Flanagan

## By the Way...

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on April 7, which is the day before Easter. Bishop Trautman will celebrate the 9 p.m. Easter Vigil April 7 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.



Jason Koshinski

The bishop, who studied for the priesthood in Innsbruck, Austria, was ordained April 7 1962.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has named Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys and Elk County Helping Others (ECHO) as one of five honorees of its 2011-12 Charity and Social Service Honors program.

Representatives of Elk County Catholic High School will receive a weekend trip to Washington, D.C., April 13-15 as a gift of the basilica and will be awarded the Charity and Social Service Honors medal during the basilica's noon Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 15.

Held biennially, the Charity and Social Service Honors program recognizes "charity in action" as urged by Pope Benedict XVI to the youth of our nation during his apostolic visit to the United States in 2008. Elk County Catholic's presentation can be viewed at [www.OnTheVine.us](http://www.OnTheVine.us). Congratulations to all involved!

Gannon University will host a lecture March 28 by Mary Lou Scotino, Sandra S. Lee, Ph.D., and Norma Palandro Webb, the authors of "Italian Americans of Greater Erie." Scotino, Lee and Webb will discuss the book, which uses photos to chronicle the history of local Italian immigrants. A section of the book dedicated to religion includes photos and history from St. Paul Parish in Erie.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held in Gannon's Old Main building, corner of West Sixth and Peach streets in Erie, from 6-8 p.m. For more information or to register, call 814.871.7744.

Redemptorist missionary Father Thomas Maceda, who taught in North East for 12 years, died March 13. In 1972, Father Maceda, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was transferred to North East where he served as a history professor in the same St. Mary's High School Seminary where he himself had been educated as a seminarian.

Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Operation Rice Bowl released 3.9 million cardboard rice bowls to 13,000 parishes, schools and families, including those in the Diocese of Erie, in the lead up to Lent this year.

The rice bowls—a centerpiece of CRS' Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl—serve as a collection box for alms during during Lent. The rice bowls come with a Lenten calendar featuring stories, photographs and facts about how Operation Rice Bowl charity is helping people in need around the world.

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

# Vatican says number of Catholics, priests, bishops worldwide increased

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The number of Catholics in the world and the number of deacons, priests and bishops all increased in 2010, while the number of women in religious orders continued to decline, according to Vatican statistics.

At the end of 2010, the worldwide Catholic population reached 1.196 billion, an increase of 15 million or 1.3 percent, slightly outpacing the global population growth rate, which was estimated at 1.1 percent, said a statement published March 10 by the Vatican press office.

Catholics as a percentage of the global population "remained stable at around 17.3 percent," it said.

The statement reported a handful of the statistics contained in the 2012 "Annuario Pontificio," a yearbook containing information about every Vatican office, as well as every diocese and religious order in the world.

Officials of the Vatican Secretariat of State and its Central Office of Church Statistics presented the first copy of the 2012 yearbook to Pope Benedict XVI during an audience March 10.

Detailed statistics in the yearbook are based on reports from dioceses and religious orders as of Dec. 31, 2010.

The percentage of Catholics declined slightly in South America from 28.54 percent



Worshippers fill St. Callistus Parish in Kane for its rededication Mass Oct. 9, 2011. According to Vatican statistics, the worldwide Catholic population reached 1.196 billion at the end of 2010, 17.5 percent of the global population.

to 28.34 percent of the regional population, and in Europe from 24.05 percent to 23.83 percent. The percentage of Catholics increased in 2010 by just under half a percentage point in Southeast Asia and Africa.

The Vatican said the number of bishops in the world increased from 5,065 to 5,104; the number of priests went from 410,593 to 412,236, increasing everywhere except Europe.

The number of permanent deacons reported — 39,564 — was an increase of more than 1,400 over the previous year. 97.5 percent of the world's permanent deacons live in the Americas or in Europe.

The number of men joining a religious order showed "a setback," the Vatican said, with an increase of only 436 male religious

worldwide in 2010.

The number of women in religious orders fell by more than 7,000 in 2010, despite showing a 2 percent increase in both Asia and Africa. At the end of the year, Catholic women's orders had 721,935 members.

The number of seminarians around the world showed continued growth, from 117,978 at the end of 2009 to 118,990 at the end of 2010.

In the last five years, it said, the number of seminarians rose more than 14 percent in Africa, 13 percent in Asia and 12.3 percent in Oceania. Numbers decreased in other regions of the world, particularly Europe, which saw a 10.4 percent drop in the number of seminarians between 2005 and 2010.

# Catholic Charities Ball proceeds to benefit families in need

CHARITIES BALL, from page 1

and adults with disabilities every day," said John Barber, who is the nephew of Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, founder of the institute. He has served as president and chief executive officer of the Barber National Institute since 2000. "It is nearly impossible to separate our personal feelings from our pride in the mission of the Barber National Institute. We believe that this award recognizes the role that our organization plays in this region, and the commitment that we share in including persons with disabilities in all areas of community life."

Bridget Barber said she and her husband were both raised with the belief that service to

their church and community was an integral part of their lives.

"The example set by my parents, Maureen and Richard Power, and by Dr. Barber and all members of the Barber family, continues to inspire us, and is a legacy that we have tried to pass on to our own children," she said. "The foundation of this philosophy is recognizing that every person has the right to a full and meaningful life where they can reach their greatest potential."

She also noted that their five children enjoyed a Catholic education during their formative years at St. Peter Cathedral School, Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy and have been involved in various ways at the Barber National Institute.

**FaithLife**  
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie  
Volume 8, Issue 6  
General Information: (814) 824-1161  
Fax: (814) 824-1170  
E-Mail: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)  
Editorial: (814) 824-1171  
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association.  
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop 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 Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa.  
Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

**CLOCK REPAIR**  
**Burdie's Clock Shop**  
238 South Main St.  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(814) 398-8263  
"We Make House Calls"

60 Years of Excellence  
Since 1947  
**RAS AUTO BODY**  
All your collision needs.  
Special Wash & Wax...\$35  
**453-6185**

Dave Ras owner  
Amy Ras office  
Carol Ras office  
Jim Winkowski info

**11 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**  
During the Church's "Year of Faith"  
Hosted by Father Monty Sayers  
NOVEMBER 5-15, 2012; FOR ONLY \$2499 Per Person  
Including Roundtrip Air from Cleveland,  
First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals,  
Comprehensive Sightseeing and much more!  
Tour includes visits to Venice, Padua, Florence,  
Assisi and Rome with Vatican City and a Papal Audience.  
For a brochure and more information contact:  
Fr. Sayers at 814-226-8433 or  
email: [montysayers@hotmail.com](mailto:montysayers@hotmail.com)  
SPACE IS LIMITED! CALL TODAY!

**Tours to Italy**  
See the best of Italy and the town of your family roots in Abruzzo, Puglia, Calabria, Sicily, etc.  
Customized tours for churches, clubs, seniors, family groups are also our specialty.  
Call 1-800-829-2201  
email: [italiantours@aol.com](mailto:italiantours@aol.com)  
[www.italianheritagetours.com](http://www.italianheritagetours.com)  
Doing tours for 34 years!

**Let Our Family Care for You**  
Maxim Healthcare Services is proud to provide in-home care to help meet your loved one's needs.  
Assistance with personal care & activities of daily living  
Skilled nursing care available  
24/7 availability & flexible payment options  
Experienced & credentialed caregivers  
FREE in-home evaluation  
Contact us Today!  
814-453-7540  
[www.maximhomecare.com](http://www.maximhomecare.com)

**Open House**  
Sunday, April 22 2012  
1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Preschool-8th grade  
1531 East Grandview Blvd.  
For more information call the school at 825-2822

## Briefly

### Mercy Studies program focuses on death

ERIE — Faculty members from Mercyhurst University will gather March 29 to share views on death from a variety of perspectives. The program is set for 4:30 p.m. in the Mercy Heritage Room at the university and is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mary Hembrov Snyder will begin the Lenten program with a lecture titled "Death: The Great Adventure." In 2010, Snyder was appointed the first Endowed Chair in Mercy & Catholic Studies at Mercyhurst and director of the newly established Center for Mercy and Catholic Studies. She has been a member of the religious studies faculty for 25 years.

Following her talk, colleagues from a variety of disciplines will respond, including Dr. Ludlow 'Bud' Brown, philosophy; Dr. Dyan McBride Jones, physics; and Dr. Daniel McFee, religious studies. Dr. Verna Ehret will moderate the discussion.

For more information, contact Snyder at msnyder@mercyhurst.edu.

### Musical Passion play at Beloved Disciple, Grove City

GROVE CITY — Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City presents "Make Us Believers," a powerful and multi-generational musical Passion play written and directed by pastoral associate and youth minister Bob Summers.

The third annual performance will take place on Friday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

Beloved Disciple is located at 1310 S. Center Street Ext., Grove City. For more information, call the parish at 724.748.6700 or visit [www.beloved-disciple.com](http://www.beloved-disciple.com).

### People for Life oratory contest

ERIE — People for Life is sponsoring an oratory contest for high school students. The contest will be held April 14 at the Blasco Memorial Library in Erie.

All high school students from Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties are eligible to participate. This is a chance for students to learn more about human life issues, get public speaking practice and make some new pro-life friends.

Each contestant will present an original, 5-to-7-minute pro-life speech on abortion, euthanasia or stem cell research. Students from grades 9-10 and 11-12 will compete separately. The first-place winner in each division will receive \$100; the second-place winners will receive \$50.

To register or for more information, contact People for Life at 814.882.1333 or e-mail [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org).

### Communion luncheon for Catholic Boy Scouts, leaders and families

ERIE — The Catholic Committee on Scouting will host a Communion luncheon on Sunday, April 15 at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, for Catholic Boy Scouts, their families and Scout leaders.

An 11 a.m. Mass in the St. Mark Seminary Chapel will precede the Communion luncheon which will feature a guest speaker. For reservation or additional details, contact Paul and Joanie McCoy at 814.868.1871.

### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.

Please visit the website of the Diocese of Erie's Office for Protection of Children and Youth at [www.ErieRCD.org/protectyouth.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/protectyouth.htm) for resources and articles.

In addition to the website, the Office for Protection of Children and Youth will also be offering parent fliers to all Catholic schools and religious education programs to be sent home during April.

Parishes are encouraged to include bulletin announcements each Sunday in April to increase awareness. These announcements are posted on the diocesan website for your convenience.

### Programs, offerings from Family Life

Here are some of the latest offerings from Catholic Charities' Family Life Office:

- **Transitions**, a support group for separated, divorced and widowed persons, will have its next sessions March 25 and April 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. Call 814.824.1265 for more information.

- The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is April 27-29 at Lake Chautauqua Retreat Center in Bemus Point, N.Y. Registration is required. Call 814.825.4600 for details or visit [www.wmenc.org](http://www.wmenc.org).

- The next **Engagement Encounter** weekend will be held May 4-6 at McKeever Learning Center near Mercer/Sandy Lake. Call 814.824.1261 for details. Visit [www.mckeever.org](http://www.mckeever.org).

- **NOVA**, a one-day program for couples seeking re-married life in the church, will be held June 2 at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 695 Smithson Ave. in Erie. This program is designed to meet the unique needs of couples entering re-marriage. Topics covered include: expectations, adjustments, blending families, legal issues, marriage as a spiritual partnership and more. Call 814.824.1261 for details.

## Proximo Travel

Your Catholic Tour Company

Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shrines of Europe and much more... ranging from \$3,599—\$4,699 for 2012.

Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE W/ Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

**Italy Wide/Switzerland:** May 05-17, May 12-24, May 19-31, June 02-14, June 9-21, June 16-28, June 23-July 5 ...  
**Italy:** April 14-22, April 18-May 06, May 05-13, May 19-27, June 02-10, June 09-17, June 16-24, June 23-July 1  
**Holy Land:** April 14-25, April 30-May 10, May 07-17, May 14-24, May 21-31, June 18-28, June 25-July 05 ...  
**Holy Land/Italy:** April 09-22, April 30-May 13, May 14-27, June 18-July 1, June 25-July 8, July 2-15 ...

Visit our website [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com) for more information and dates!

855-842-8001 | 814-479-4165  
 www.proximotravel.com  
 email: anthony@proximotravel.com  
 Carmela A. Dupuis  
 Executive Director

## Lent is a time to help others spiritually, materially, pope says

LENT, from page 1

The theme of the 2012 Lenten message was taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works."

The pope outlined his message with three points taken from St. Paul's letter: "concern for others, reciprocity and personal holiness."

Concern for others, the pope said, means wanting what is good physically, morally and spiritually for one's neighbor. But he noted that contemporary culture "seems to have lost the sense of good and evil."

"There is a real need to reaffirm that good does exist and will prevail," the pope said, defining good as "whatever gives, protects and promotes life, brotherhood and communion."

The pope warned against what he called "spiritual anesthesia," which numbs people to the suffering of others. Only a "humbleness of heart and the personal experience of suffering can awaken within us a sense of compassion and empathy," he said.

The suffering of others is not only physical or material, he said, but it is also spiritual, and he encouraged Christians to remember their "spiritual responsibility" toward their neighbor. He called for a renewal of a forgotten aspect of the Christian life, that is, "fraternal correction."

Fraternal correction, he said, is a kind of Christian charity that speaks out against people indulging in sin.

"We must not remain silent before evil," he said.

Often, "out of human regard or purely personal convenience," Christians fail to warn others against ways of thinking and behaving that are contrary to the truth.

The reluctance to confront others in the name of truth, he said, stems from a world view dominated by individualism, which "accepts any moral choice in the name of personal freedom," which then makes people blind to physical suffering and the spiritual and moral demands of life.

However, God wants Christians to help and encourage each other to strive for the truth, for good and holy lives, he said.

Fraternal correction must never be motivated by a spirit of accusation or recrimination, but instead be both loving and admonishing, as God is with his children, he

added. "Both our sins and our acts of love have a social dimension," which is why the church asks forgiveness for the sins of its members and at the same time rejoices in examples of virtue and charity in the church, he said.

The pope said time is precious and people must not become lukewarm about performing good works and using their God-given spiritual and material riches for the benefit of others.

In a world "which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works," he said.

To read the complete text of Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## People in the News

### Father Nicholas Rouch presents talk on Newman and Tolkien

Father Nicholas Rouch, the Diocese of Erie's vicar for education and vice rector of St. Mark Seminary, recently gave a talk as part of a program on Blessed John Henry Newman and J.R.R. Tolkien.

The program, titled "Newman and Tolkien: Using Literary Genius for the Catholic Faith," was hosted Feb. 20 at the Lincoln Center campus of Fordham University in New York.

Father Rouch's presentation was on "Heroic Virtue in Newman's Callista and Tolkien's Frodo." In his talk, he noted that shortly after



Father Nicholas Rouch

Newman's conversion to Catholicism, he wrote two novels with vivid religious themes. In "Callista," Newman portrays the heroine as converting to Christianity. He compared the character to the heroic journey of Tolkien's Frodo from "The Lord of the Rings."

Newman's later reflection on the use of imagination found in "The Grammar of Assent" can help in the appreciation of the fictional portraits of Christian heroism found in both novels, Father Rouch said. The program was sponsored by Fordham University and The Spiritual Family The Work.

### Msgr. David Rubino writes on homiletics

Msgr. David Rubino, special assistant to the president at Mercyhurst University and interim dean of the Walker School of Business, recently had an article published in "Homiletic & Pastoral Review."

The article, titled "Communicating God's Word: The challenges for a homilist in trying to reach out to the typical, diverse parish family," was published in the magazine's November 2011 edition.

Throughout the six-page article, Msgr. Rubino offers a view of putting together a contemporary homily. His tips include understanding the needs of people, keeping it simple and keeping it as focused and as brief as possible.



Msgr. David Rubino

### Sister Joan Chittister speaks at U.N. in Kenya

Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, served as a keynote speaker and participant at a one-day conference at the United Nations Office Nairobi (UNON) in Kenya.

The event, titled "Awakening the Healing Heart," was held March 2.

The all-day interfaith conference, which celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW), featured presentations, panels and discussions on how to bring about a world of cooperation, sharing, respect, balance and healed relationships among all people and nations.



Sister Joan Chittister, OSB

**YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY**  
 B.J. Moon, R.Ph.  
 John Pontoriero, R.Ph.  
 3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510  
 814 / 898-2085 Fax 814 / 898-2086  
 Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

**Knights of Columbus LENTEN FISH FRY**  
 St. Paul Center (Route 6, Saybrook, Sheffield)  
 Fridays during Lent beginning February 24th; 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Deep fried haddock, french fries, coleslaw, rolls, desserts and beverages too!

\$8.00 large  
 \$5.00 small  
 Takeout available 50/50 each night!

**DUBOIS CENTRAL CATHOLIC'S Palm Sunday SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
 When: April 1, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Where: School cafeteria, takeouts available  
 Hosts: CCHS Junior Class and their parents  
 Adults: \$7.00; children under 12: \$4.50  
 All proceeds benefit the Junior-Senior Prom.

Plus, check out the **SCIENCE FAIR** exhibit (school gym), **FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS DISPLAY** (secondary wing) and the **SPRING BOOK FAIR**. You'll find something for everyone!

**mi sauzi**  
 ristorante italiano  
 Hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 5 to 9 pm  
 Friday and Saturday, 5 to 10 pm  
 NOW OPEN SUNDAYS! 1 to 5 pm  
 Reservations recommended  
 27th & Myrtle Street, Erie, PA 16508  
 www.misauzirestaurant.com

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

**VISIT OPEN HOUSE INQUIRE EXPLORE**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ADULT STUDENTS AND TRANSFER STUDENTS WELCOME!**

Register for our upcoming Open House at [gannon.edu/events](http://gannon.edu/events) or by calling 1-800-GANNON-01!

**GANNON UNIVERSITY**  
 Believe in the possibilities.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS SEASON TICKETS RAFFLE**

GET YOUR TICKETS! \$20 each  
 Tickets sold at all three VCPS schools and online (see below) and by calling 814-677-3098.

The Best Seat in the House Is Your Seat!

BENEFITS VENANGO CATHOLIC PREPARATORY SCHOOLS:  
 St. Patrick Elementary, St. Stephen Elementary, Venango Catholic HS

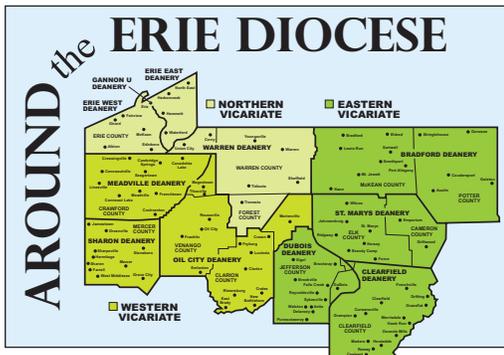
Are you a huge Pittsburgh Steelers Fan? Do you know someone who is?

4 PITTSBURGH STEELERS 2012 SEASON TICKETS  
 10 Home Games  
 (2 pre-season & 8 regular season)

Section 509, Row R, Seats 10-13

Order tickets online at [www.winsteeltickets.com](http://www.winsteeltickets.com)  
 Checks can be made payable to Venango Catholic High School

Small Games of Chance #1410  
 Winner Drawn at VCHS Talkgate Party on June 16, 2012



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

**Photo Tips**

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



**Cursillo dance raises funds for Catholic Charities refugee program**

ERIE – The past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently held their annual charity dance Feb. 18 at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie.

The dance raised \$730.40. Proceeds this year went to the Refugee Resettlement Program of Catholic Charities Adoption & Counseling Services, which serves to connect refugees with appropriate diocesan resources to enable them to attain self-sufficiency and to become actively contributing participants in the community.



Pictured from left to right are Father Dan Arnold and Father Bill Sutherland, co-spiritual directors for Cursillo. Nandu Subedi, refugee resettlement program co-leader, and Tim Nowakowski, lead coordinator of the dance.

**'Be prepared' motto proves true for two DuBois Scouts**

DUBOIS – Rep. Matthew Gabler, recently attended Boy Scout Troop 28's Court of Honor to present scouts (left to right) Caleb Elias of Cub Scout Pack 21 and Brian Elias of Boy Scout Troop 28 with an official letter of commendation from the state for their courage and quick action in averting a potential car accident involving six passengers.

Brian, in the front passenger seat of the family car, was able to take control of the steering wheel of the fast-moving vehicle, bringing it under control and to a safe stop on the side of the road. Younger brother Caleb contacted OnStar for help for their mother, who was having a seizure while driving home from a basketball game. Six people were in the car including five students at DCC.



As Gabler recalled the scenario, he thanked the boys for their bravery, saying, "Not only were you prepared, but frankly, you saved six lives." Both brothers are students at DuBois Central Catholic School.

**Erie Catholic schools raise money for Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation**

ERIE – Two Catholic elementary schools in Erie recently completed fundraising projects and made donations to the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation.

The faculty, staff and students of St. Peter Cathedral School presented a check for \$1,066 to the foundation. The school's community project—using a coin cart to insert quarters—was conducted during Catholic Schools Week to help raise the funds.

Pictured left to right (top) are Principal Kathleen Lane, Nicholas Flaminio, Brenda Smith, education coordinator for Kanzius Research, and Mark Neidig, executive director of Cancer Research.



Student Council at St. George School raised \$200 for the foundation through its annual Valentine's Day candygram sale in February.

Members of the student council (bottom) joined Michael Bishop, student council president, to present the donation to Smith. Also pictured are Larry Neubauer, principal and student council co-adviser (left), and Maricelle Lafaro, theology teacher and student council co-adviser (center).



**Adopt a Grandparent at St. Joseph School, Lucinda**

LUCINDA – St. Joseph School in Lucinda has started an Adopt a Grandparent program in conjunction with the Golden Living Center in Shippenville.

Every month the students of St. Joseph School make cards and gifts for their "adopted" grandparents at the center. Each grade has an "adopted" grandmother and grandfather.

Pictured are five of Linda Cecchetti's 28 pre-school students along with members of Jim Steadler's 6th grade class. Left to right are: (front row) Abigail Allen, Ayden Grata, Leroy Ochs, Lindsay Amsler, Jady Reisinger, Brandon Fitzgerald,



Kyle Moore, Kera Cussins, Josh Homan and Mason Bauer. The 6th graders helped the preschoolers make their Valentines.

**Gannon students, president make service trips**

ERIE – Gannon University students, faculty and staff have returned from their alternative spring break service trips, which took them to Haiti, El Salvador, Joplin, Mo., and Ontario.

Gannon President Dr. Keith Taylor joined seven Gannon students on a service trip to Croix-des-Bouquets, a suburb of Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince.

For the Haiti trip, Gannon partnered with International Samaritan, an organization dedicated to addressing extreme poverty internationally. Taylor and the students spent the week of Feb. 27 interacting with children at an orphanage teaching them sewing, first aid and basic computing.

In Joplin, Mo., 15 Gannon students and three staff leaders spent a week helping with tornado relief efforts including rebuilding projects and meeting with survivors.

In El Salvador, seven students, one staff member and one faculty member worked with Project Fiat (Faith in Action Together). The Gannon group helped with a number of building projects including a greenhouse and housing. The trip also included visits to the Salvadoran Civil War. They visited the home and chapel of



Gannon President Dr. Keith Taylor (right) is shown with Carlo, an employee of Relief Team One, during one of Gannon University's alternative spring break service trips in Haiti. Relief Team One assembles small teams of dedicated volunteers to work with Haitians so as to impart real and lasting skills.

Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass. The group also visited Central American University where six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered.

In Richmond Hill, Ontario, seven students and one staff member lived in homes of L'Arche Day-break, a community for individuals

with emotional, physical or intellectual disabilities. The group shared in daily living including worship with the people living in the community.

Diocese of Erie  
**facebook**  
Get the link at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

**THOMAS M. CLICKETT MEMORIALS, INC.**  
Mon. Evening Memorial!  
GRANITE BRONZE  
FINAL DATE LETTERING  
COMPETITIVE PRICES  
814-438-7349  
Route 8 South Union City, PA

**ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES**  
VARIOUS OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE NEW CALVARY MAUSOLEUM  
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT 814-838-7724  
[www.eriecdc.org](http://www.eriecdc.org)

**GUARANTEED RETIREMENT INCOME. SECURE. SAFE. NO RISKS.**  
Have you planned properly for your retirement? Will you have a safe, secure stream of income to help you maintain the quality of life you and your wife have enjoyed during your working years?  
We can help.  
The Knights of Columbus offer retirement products that can provide income that you cannot outlive. We have annuities designed to be funded by money from CDs, mutual funds, money markets, IRAs, 401Ks, TSAs and SEPs.  
With our Flexible Premium Annuity, you can make one payment or make periodic payments, and with either option, you will have a minimum guaranteed interest rate.  
How many other companies can say that?  
**Contact me to schedule an appointment.**  
**Ardire Agency**  
Eight Agents Servicing the Erie Diocese  
Call 814-375-1205 or email [arthur.ardire@kofc.org](mailto:arthur.ardire@kofc.org)  
**Knights of Columbus INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE  
LIFE • LONG-TERM CARE • RETIREMENT • DISABILITY  
There is no more highly rated life insurer in North America.

**Ericson Memorial Studios**  
SINCE 1925  
www.ericsonmemorials.com  
(memorials, vases, urns, pavers, and stepping stones)  
3803 West 26th Street Erie, PA 16506  
814-833-7816  
Hours: 8:00-5:00 M-F 9:00-12:00 Sat.

**Preschool Open House**  
Sunday, April 29  
1:00- 3:00 pm  
**Mercy Center of the Arts**  
444 East Grandview Blvd.  
814-824-2519  
[mercycenterofthearts.com](http://mercycenterofthearts.com)  
A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

**STUMP GRINDING**  
by Ken Eaton  
Back yards - tight spots - No problem  
Free estimates, Insured, Shrubs and small trees removed. Prompt service.  
Ken (814) 474-2195 or (814) 397-0384 LICENSE PA 056087