

Almsgiving a means to deepen our Christian vocation

Part III of Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent, page 2.



# FaithLife

Catholic Services Appeal Find out how your parish benefits from the CSA, page 3.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 9, 2008

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Patrick St. Joseph

March 13 St. Patrick\* (see below)  
 March 15 St. Joseph\* (see below)  
 March 16 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion  
 March 20 Holy Thursday  
 March 21 Good Friday  
 March 22 Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)  
 March 23 Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)

### \*Feast day transfers

FROM THE DIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS: All feast days of the saints are omitted every year from Palm Sunday to the conclusion of the Easter Octave. Therefore, in order to provide for their celebration during the year 2008, the liturgical observance of the Solemnity of St. Joseph is moved to March 15, of the Solemnity of the Annunciation is moved to March 31 and of the Feast of St. Patrick (diocesan patron) is moved to March 13.

### Lenten calendar at www.ErieRCD.org

For a printable Lenten calendar, visit the Erie Diocese's official Web site at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). Sponsored by Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life, the calendar provides a Scripture verse, reflection and activity suggestion for each day of Lent.

The official Lenten regulations from Bishop Donald Trautman are available on the Web site, as well.

### National collection for the Holy Land - March 21 (Good Friday)

Every year on Good Friday, parishes and other communities throughout the world take part in a collection for the Holy Land in order to assist those Christians living in the Holy Land in the midst of what are often very difficult situations.

Proceeds from last year's collection assisted with the maintenance of the holy places at Bethlehem, Cana, Jerusalem, Jaffa and Nazareth. This annual collection provides much needed funds for activities on behalf of youth, families, education and housing for the poor, among others.

## 'Lessons in LOVE'

### Artists collaborate on OLOL Stations of the Cross

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Since the chapel devotion of St. Francis of Assisi and the medieval period through today, the Stations of the Cross have helped the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage through Christ's final hours by depicting some of the main scenes of his passion. For Bill Mathie and Dean Vrobel, they want to help people observing the popular devotion at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro have



Artist Dean Vrobel works on the Stations of the Cross for Our Lady of the Lake Parish at his Union City studio. It takes Vrobel approximately 60 hours to complete each station.

a more intimate experience. Mathie, an Edinboro University art professor and parishioner, and Vrobel, a hand-made mosaics as the new Stations of the Cross for the church. The pair has



been hanging two each week during Lent with the goal of having all the stations hung by Good Friday.

The project began almost a year ago, shortly after the parish's new church was dedicated on March 31, 2007, a vigil Mass for Palm Sunday. Mathie has provided Vrobel with sketches for each station. Vrobel then re-draws the sketch on a 12-inch by 18-inch piece of wood before beginning the mosaic.

"Bill's drawings are amazing," Vrobel said. "I'm basi-

See STATIONS, page 3

## St. Leo Magnus in Ridgway to host Chrim Mass

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The Chrim Mass is one of the most solemn and significant liturgies on the church calendar.

During the annual Mass, traditionally celebrated on Holy Thursday, the local bishop will bless the sacred oils and consecrate the chrim used throughout the diocese for the entire year. 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 Mass date may also be moved to another day during Holy Week to accommodate priests and attendees.

In recent years, the Chrim Mass has been celebrated at different churches throughout the diocese. This year, St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway will host the Chrim Mass on Monday, March 17 at 4 p.m.

"The folks in Ridgway are really excited and honored that the Chrim Mass is here," said Father Ted Marconi, pastor of St. Leo. "I think it's really important that the diocese has a relationship with them and they have a relationship with the diocese.

The bishop and all these priests are going to be here. It says, here is the diocese and you are part of the diocese. That's the exciting part."

During the Mass, Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the oil of cathecumens (used for adult cathecumens and infants) and the oil of the sick (used in anointing the sick) and consecrate the oil of chrim (used for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the ordination of priests and for the consecration of altars).

Prior to the blessing, area nurses will process down the main aisle with the oil of the infirm. Confirmation students will bring up the sacred chrim and the oil of the catechumen will be brought up by local RCIA participants. Music for the liturgy will be provided by musicians from the St. Marys Deanery.

Many of the priests of the diocese will gather to celebrate Mass with the bishop. The emphasis at this Mass is on the sacramental ministry of the priesthood and of "the communion of the priests with their bishop in the same priesthood and ministry of Christ." (*Paschales Solemnitatis*, 35). Also, the oils from this Mass are then



Bishop Donald Trautman blesses the sacred chrim oil during the 2005 Chrim Mass at St. Callistus Parish in Kane.

brought back to each parish in the diocese for use in celebrating the sacraments throughout the coming year.

"I think that's what everyone's excited about: being part of something that's bigger than them or bigger than the parish," Father Marconi said. "The other piece that's really big is educating people on what it is. Kids in religious ed and the school kids are

getting involved and learning about the faith."

The Chrim Mass will also mark the completion of the church's building project. After digging and construction began in September, the church now has an indoor handicap ramp, an elevator to the second floor social hall and a large gathering space in the shape of an octagon.

## In U.S. pope will find multicultural church marked by stronger laity

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

Editor's note: Beginning this issue, FaithLife will present a series of stories leading up to Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic visit to the United States in April. For more information about the pope's trip to the U.S., visit [www.usapalvisit.org](http://www.usapalvisit.org).

WASHINGTON — What kind of Catholic Church will Pope Benedict XVI find when he arrives in the United States in April? How similar or different will it be from the U.S. church community that greeted Pope John Paul II on his first papal visit in 1979 or his last trip to the U.S. in 1999?

Scholars and experts contacted by Catholic News Service at Catholic universities around the country did not always agree on the answers to those questions, but several themes emerged.

They saw a church dealing with parish consolidations or closings and a declining availability of priests, but also experiencing a new vibrancy in lay ecclesial ministry. They saw what one called "a chastened church" after the clergy sex abuse scandal but a church that has learned important lessons about accountability. And they saw a church already more than one-third Hispanic and still learning how to adapt to the realities of multiculturalism.

There's no doubt that the

## POPE BENEDICT XVI CHRIST OUR HOPE



United States Pope Benedict will visit has more Catholics than the country to which Pope John Paul came in 1979 or 1999.

The Catholic population in the 50 states was less than 50 million in 1979 but grew to more than 59 million in 1999 and 64.4 million today, according to the Official Catholic Directory. That growth has roughly mirrored the rise in total U.S. population, from 218.6 million in 1979 to 232.4 million in 1999 and 300.7 million in 2007.

The number of U.S. parishes has remained relatively steady over those years, with 18,695 parishes in 1979, a slight rise to 19,186 in 1999 and a drop back down to 18,642 last year. But the number of diocesan and religious-order priests serving U.S. Catholics has sharply declined, from 58,430 in 1979 to 46,355 in 1999 and 41,446 in 2007.

Alan Schreck, chairman of the religion department at the Fran-

ciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, said the alarming drop in the number of priests also has had a happy consequence in the rising number of Catholic laypeople involved in church ministries.

At Franciscan University alone, there are more than 500 undergraduate theology students, "the vast majority of them laypeople," he said, and more than 100 graduate each year with the training once given only to clergy. Schreck believes Pope Benedict will find "a greater maturity, a greater sense of direction and mission" among American Catholics today than Pope John Paul did 28 years ago.

"For me, the most positive thing in 2008 is that laypeople are immensely more aware of their responsibility for the church present and future," said Paul Lakeland, director of the Center for Catholic Studies at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Lakeland said the clergy sex abuse crisis had one positive result: It convinced Catholics that "we need to have more of a voice in our church."

"It didn't matter if you were on the left or the right," he added. "You were equally scandalized."

Michael O'Keefe, a theology

## Drop in number of U.S. Catholics offset by new immigrants, study says

By Carol Zimmerman  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — According to a new study on the religious affiliation of U.S. adults, 28 percent of Americans have either changed religious affiliations or claim no formal religion at all.

The study also shows the Catholic Church has been hardest hit by these shifts, but that the influx of Catholic immigrants has offset the loss. So, the percentage of the adult population that identifies itself as Catholic has held fairly steady at around 25 percent, it says.

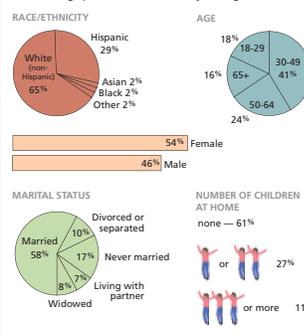
The 148-page study, "U.S. Religious Landscape Survey," was conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and based on interviews with 35,000 adults last year. Its findings, released Feb. 25, show that roughly 10 percent of all Americans are former Catholics. Almost half of these former Catholics joined Protestant denominations, while about half do not have a religious affiliation and a small percentage chose other faiths.

"If everyone raised Catholic steady (with their religious affiliation), Catholics would be one-third of the population," said John Green, a senior research fellow and a principal author of the study.

Jesuit Father Allan Figueroa Deck, executive director of Cultural Diversity in the Church, said that the trend of adult Catholics leaving the church points to

### U.S. Catholics

Select demographics from a recent survey on religion in America



Based on the responses of 35,000 U.S.-born and foreign-born Catholics from a larger survey of more than 35,000 randomly-selected adults conducted May 8-Aug. 15, 2007. For the Catholic group, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life U.S. Religious Landscape Survey ©2008 CNA

the "lack of a more vigorous engagement" with the church's diverse membership.

"We can't sit on our laurels," he said, stressing the need to promote lay leaders, encourage vocations and also think of creative ways to evangelize and reach out to members.

The margin of error for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Cultural Diversity is plus or minus 0.6 percentage points.

In a Feb. 25 teleconference with reporters, Green attributed

the shifts in religious affiliation to "lifecycle effects," or the changes young people make when they are on their own. He also said the changes in religious affiliation could be explained in part by the diversity of today's American society where there are "a greater number of options."

The Catholic Church was not the only religious affiliation to lose members. Study researchers

See STUDY, page 3



## IN THE U.S.

**All the punditry about religion in this year's presidential election** seems to be about evangelical Republicans. In this year's lively primary election season, there has been little attention to Catholics as a voting bloc — at least not in the mainstream news media. There are, however, some trends appearing in how Catholics are voting. According to exit polling, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York has been getting a majority of the votes of Catholics in nearly every Democratic primary, no matter who won. Only in Louisiana and Georgia did Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois get more votes from Catholics than Clinton did. In his home state of Illinois, which he won with 65 percent of the vote, Obama took only 48 percent of the votes of Catholics, to Clinton's 50 percent. Even in states such as Maryland, where Obama took 60 percent of the vote, Clinton was supported by a majority of Catholic Democrats. In Wisconsin, according to a CNN Democratic exit poll, Clinton and Obama just about split the overall Catholic vote, 50 percent and 48 percent, respectively.



**Eliminating much of the world's worst poverty within a decade** would become a principle of U.S. foreign policy for the first time under a Catholic-led legislative push gathering force with a growing interfaith alliance. Nearly 40 representatives from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, among other religions, met at the University of San Francisco Feb. 20 in an effort to broaden the ranks of members of faith communities involved in the campaign. Leaders said they are trying to build the campaign to full strength by May to push the U.S. Senate to pass the Global Poverty Act of 2007

this summer. The U.S. House passed the bill Sept. 25. The meeting was organized by the Lane Center for Catholic Studies and Social Thought at the Jesuit-run University San Francisco. The bill, if signed into law, would require the president to implement a comprehensive strategy to promote the elimination of global poverty as a foreign policy goal.

## AROUND THE WORLD

**New figures on vocations published in the 2008 Irish Catholic Directory** indicate how quickly the country is headed toward a major shortage of priests. According to the directory, the country lost 160 priests last year — mostly because of death in old age — and had only nine new ordinations. Currently there are about 4,750 priests in Ireland but, if current trends continue, by 2028 Ireland will have fewer than 1,500 priests. "It's a trend that priests would have known about for some time," said Father Eamonn Bourke, Dublin diocesan vocations director. "But many laypeople are only beginning to become aware of the implications and the dramatic effect that the fall in vocations will have. It will mean parish amalgamations, it will mean some parishes not having daily Masses and it will probably mean some parishes not having a Mass every Sunday," he said. "Couples will not be able to get married on their own — it's more likely that they will make their wedding vows with at least another couple sharing the ceremony. The same will apply to funeral Masses."



St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland

**Catholics and Muslims must learn more about each other's religions if they want to get along better**, said the Vatican ambassador in Egypt and former president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. "Rather than just knowing persons, we must know their religion more deeply in order to understand the people," Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald told Vatican Radio. The archbishop was interviewed Feb. 24, the evening before the annual Catholic-Muslim dialogue meeting of Vatican representatives with representatives of Cairo's al-Azhar University. "We know that among Muslims and Christians there are common points, although certainly not a common faith in Christ," Archbishop Fitzgerald said. "We must respect the differences while trying to find spheres in which it would be possible to collaborate and help one another." The dialogue with the university, a point of reference for many Muslims around the world, was marking its 10th annual session.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

**Six U.S. bishops have been named as delegates or alternates** to the October world Synod of Bishops that focuses on the Bible. Among the delegates are the president and vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., respectively. The other two delegates are Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., the immediate past USCCB president, has been named as an alternate, as has Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. The U.S. delegates and alternates were elected by the bishops' conference and ratified by the pope; their names were released in February. The theme of the synod, scheduled for Oct. 5-26, will be "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church."

## By the Way...

Sister Kathleen Erickson, RSM, a longtime advocate for just immigration policy and border issues, will receive this year's Archbishop Oscar Romero Award from Mercyhurst College. She'll visit Erie on March 18 to accept the award and to deliver a lecture on "The Spiritual Challenge of Immigration." Her talk begins at 8:15 p.m. in Mercyhurst's Mercy Heritage Room and is free and open to the public.



Jason Koshinski

Sister Kathleen has spent the last 15 years working near the U.S./Mexico border, as well as traveling and studying in Latin America. She is co-founder and former director of the Women's Intercultural Center in Anthony, N.M., a rural community near the U.S./Mexico border that is one of the most economically impoverished areas in the United States.

The newly formed Warren County chapter of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation had its first meeting on March 4 at the Warren County Public Library. The Warren group is one of 50 chapters across the commonwealth focusing on the right to life. Anyone who would like more information or is interested in being part of this group can contact Ryan and Dawn Vost at [vost@warrenprolife.net](mailto:vost@warrenprolife.net) or visit [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org).

Cardinal Francis George, the archbishop of Chicago and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be the inaugural speaker for a new lecture series in Duquesne University's McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. As part of the Richard T. and Marion A. Byrnes Lecture Series, the cardinal will present *The Importance of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition in the Life of a Catholic University: the Church and Society* on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Duquesne Room of the Duquesne Union in Pittsburgh.

The lecture series, which will focus on the Catholic intellectual life, was endowed through a \$100,000 gift to the McAnulty College by an anonymous benefactor. Free and open to the public, the cardinal's lecture will be followed by a reception.

For more information or to register for Cardinal George's lecture, call 412.396.6388.

The St. Mark Seminary choir, directed by Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, will combine with the St. Peter Cathedral children and adult choirs on Palm Sunday at the cathedral. Approximately 80 voices will sing for the blessing of the palms and procession for the 11 a.m. Mass on March 16, celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman.

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

# Almsgiving a means to deepen our Christian VOCATION

## Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent

*Editor's note: Here is the third and final part of the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's message for Lent.*

Dear brothers and sisters!

Almsgiving teaches us the generosity of love. St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo forthrightly recommends: "Never keep an account of the coins you give, since this is what I always say: if, in giving alms, the left hand is not to know what the right hand is doing, then the right hand, too, should not know what it does itself" (*Dati e pensieri*, Edilibri, n. 201).

In this regard, all the more significant is the Gospel story of the widow who, out of her poverty, cast into the temple treasury "all she had to live on" (*Mk* 12,44). Her tiny and insignificant coin becomes an eloquent symbol: this widow gives to God not out of her abundance, not so much what she has, but what she is. Her entire self.

We find this moving passage inserted in the description of the

days that immediately precede Jesus' passion and death, who, as St. Paul writes, made himself poor to enrich us out of his poverty (*cf. 2 Cor* 8,9). He gave his entire self for us. Lent, also through the practice of almsgiving, inspires us to follow his example. In his school, we can learn to make of our lives a total gift; imitating him, we are able to make ourselves available, not so much in giving a part of what we possess, but our very selves.

Cannot the entire Gospel be summarized perhaps in the one commandment of love? The Lenten practice of almsgiving thus becomes a means to deepen our Christian vocation. In gratuitously offering himself, the Christian bears witness that it is love and not material richness that determines the laws of his existence. Love, then, gives almsgiving its value; it inspires various forms of giving, according to the possibilities and conditions of each person.

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent invites us to "train ourselves" spir-

itually, also through the practice of almsgiving, in order to grow in charity and recognize in the poor Christ himself. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that the Apostle Peter said to the cripple who was begging alms at the Temple gate: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk" (*Acts* 3,6).

In giving alms, we offer something material, a sign of the greater gift that we can impart to others through the announcement and witness of Christ, in whose name is found true life. Let this time, then, be marked by a personal and community effort of attachment to Christ in order that we may be witnesses of His love.

May Mary, mother and faithful servant of the Lord, help believers to enter the "spiritual battle" of Lent, armed with prayer, fasting and the practice of almsgiving, so as to arrive at the celebration of the Easter feasts, renewed in spirit. With these wishes, I willingly impart to all my apostolic blessing.



## In U.S. pope will find multicultural church marked by stronger laity

POPE, from page 1

professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago, said he hopes Pope Benedict will acknowledge during his visit that the issues raised by the sex abuse scandal are not over.

"I believe that the pope would be well served by speaking to people about this issue and becoming more engaged in helping the church to heal," O'Keefe said.

"I might also ask the pope to take the time to hear about the health of the American Catholic Church, not simply from the bishops, but from the people, especially those people that feel they have been pushed to the margins," he said.

Charles Zech, professor of economics at the business school at Villanova University, near Philadelphia, and director of the school's Center for the Study of Church Management, said the sex abuse scandal brought "pressures at all levels to be more transparent."

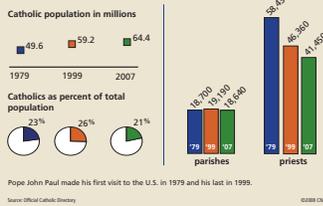
And the decline in the number of priests led more and more laypeople to take on "responsibility for the things priests and nuns used to do," he said.

Together, those trends have left many laypeople in need of "the skills to run a faith-based nonprofit," Zech said, adding that the 2-year-old National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management is working to fill those gaps.

Msgr. Kevin Irwin, dean of the school of theology and religious studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said

## U.S. Church

A look at some key figures on the U.S. Catholic Church as it prepares for a visit by Pope Benedict XVI



Pope John Paul made his first visit to the U.S. in 1979 and his last in 1999.

Source: Official Catholic Directory

Pope Benedict will find "a higher awareness of the multicultural reality of the church" than Pope John Paul might have seen on any of his U.S. visits.

Hispanics now make up an estimated 35 percent of the U.S. Catholic population, and more than half of all U.S. Catholics under age 25 are Hispanic or Latino. With Mass celebrated in more than three dozen languages around the United States, "there's lots of work being done" to promote multiculturalism, "and more that needs to be done," Msgr. Irwin said.

Eileen C. Burke-Sullivan, director of the master's program in ministry at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., said she has heard little advance publicity about the upcoming papal trip, in sharp contrast to Pope John Paul's 1979 visit, "which stirred enthusiasm and excitement all over the

country but especially here in the heartland."

"It strikes me that the gap between the bishops and ordinary Catholics has so widened in this country that even if the bishops are excited about Benedict's coming they are not in a position to stir up the energy of lay Catholics to care a great deal," she said.

Although there are some exceptions to "this enduring malaise," Burke-Sullivan said, most U.S. Catholics today are "willing to work on their own faith, be loyal to their own local clergy if they feel attended to by them," and are "somewhat uncaring about the universal expression of the church."

Schreck hopes Pope Benedict will inspire "a revitalization" that will help American Catholics resist "the increasing pressure toward secularization, to be part of the mass culture."

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Visit [ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp](http://ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp) to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



### St. Francis carnival benefits students' tuition, medical expenses

**CLEARFIELD** — The 8th grade religion class at St. Francis School in Clearfield recently held its annual carnival. Festivities included a magic show, movie theater, face painting, Nerf tag, a silent auction, pie-in-the-teachers-face contest and T-shirt tie-dye.

The money raised throughout the afternoon of fun totaled \$870.59. Proceeds will go to help several families with tuition and medical expenses. A donation to the 8th grade classroom will also be made in the honor of the St. Francis School Class of 2007-08. Pictured is this year's 8th grade class.



### St. Joseph's penny war to benefit Mission of Friendship

**LUCINDA** — St. Joseph School in Lucinda holds a mission collection each Lent. The school's project this year is to help out the Erie Diocese's Mission of Friendship with the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico.

There are several programs coordinated to serve under the Mission of Friendship, including the Little Friends Day Care Center and the Child and Family Sponsorship programs, among others. The program that St. Joseph School has selected to help is the New Life Shelter for Girls. At the shelter, girls whose family situations are inadequate live in group homes and receive schooling, supervision and care.

The staff and children of St. Joseph's have voted and decided on a Grade against Grade Penny War. Each grade has a container in their classroom for donations. Anyone can contribute to any grade's container. At the end of each week, each grade will report the amount in the cans, along with the amount of pennies and other coins and bills. Pennies will be counted as positive points and the rest will be counted as negative



points. The difference between the two will be posted along with the total dollar amount. The grade that has the highest points will be declared the next week's "target." This game of "go get 'em" will continue until the end of Lent. The grade with the final highest score will win.

The "battle" began on Ash Wednesday and will conclude on the last school day before Easter. Pictured from left to right are

students Isaiah Greibel, Drew When, Ashley Harst and Jennifer Lander (front), along with Pat Marshall, director of Diocesan and International Missions for Catholic Charities.

### Seven installed as lectors in deacon program

**ERIE** — Seven men were installed as lectors in the Erie Diocese's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program by Bishop Donald Trautman on Feb. 2 in the chapel at St. Mark Seminary in Erie.

Pictured from left to right are: Doug Konzel (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie); Jim Owens (Blessed Sacrament, Erie); Dick O'Polka (St. Patrick, Franklin); Bishop Trautman; Fred Keck (Holy Rosary, Erie); Rick Rueberger (St. Anthony, Sharon); Dick Brogdon (St. Jude, Erie); and Dennis Socash (St. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run).



Photo by Jean Keck

As lectors, these men are in year three of a five-year program

of academic, spiritual and pastoral formation which prepares them for ordination to the permanent diaconate.

### St. Marys welcomes Our Lady of Fatima pilgrim statue

**ST. MARYS** — The St. Marys Apostolate of Fatima recently welcomed the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to St. Mary Parish. Parishioners and members of the apostolate weekly prayer groups escorted the statue as it was carried into the church.

Pictured are some 14 members of the St. Marys Youth Apostolate of Fatima who participated in the event. Twelve-year-old Clayton Housler crowned that statue of Our Lady as "Hail Holy Queen" was sung by the congregation. Other children carried red roses and carnations which they placed at the feet of the statue.



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**Friends of Saint George**  
It is official and the date has been set!!  
After nearly 20 years, the Saint George Community is proud to announce the return of the

*30th Annual Georgian Ball*

A Gala Celebrating the Saint George Legacy  
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 866-0692

Join Other Roman Catholics July 26 or August 23, 2008

**National Parks Tour of the Golden West**

**2-Week Tour from \$899\***  
Visit 6 Western National Parks + More!

Join other Catholics departing (your choice) July 26 or August 23, 2008. Be met by 'your man' in Salt Lake City, Utah. Travel in your comfortable motor coach for 15 days of amazing sight-seeing on this terrific tour including six United States national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks. Besides the parks you'll also visit the largest excavation project in North America - the Kennecott Copper Mine; Silver Zone Pass; St. George & Moab, Utah; Fresno & Bakersfield, CA; Reno, Carson City, Pyramid Lake, Virginia City, majestic Lake Tahoe, Winnemucca, Primm, and Las Vegas, Nevada; enjoy a city tour of Salt Lake City including Mormon Square, The Beehive House, Great Salt Lake; and more! \*Prices, including baggage handling, and daily escorted sight-seeing, start at only \$899 (per person, double occupancy). Add \$149 tax, service, & gov't. fees. Add \$700 for round trip airfare from Erie.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:  
**'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-736-7300**

**Retreat for Priests**

Presentations by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, and Daniel Lanahan, O.F.M.

Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark was ordained a Bishop in 1979 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and was installed as the eighth Bishop of Rochester that same year. Before being installed as Bishop, he had served in various positions in the Albany Diocese, including Vice-Chancellor, prior to serving as Assistant Spiritual Director and Spiritual Director at the North American College in Rome.

Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard received his Episcopal Ordination in 1977, and became the ninth Bishop of Albany. Previous to that, he has served as Director of the Office of Pastoral Planning, Diocesan Consultant, Vicar General of the Diocese

**CHRIST THE KING RETREAT HOUSE**  
500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224

Located in a quiet residential area, minutes away from downtown, yet away from the noise of the city, the Retreat House offers peaceful places to read, study, relax and pray. In addition to Conferences and Liturgy, there will be time to enjoy the peaceful grounds and gardens. Refresh yourself in our private, heated, spacious pool. Come for a week of rest and renewal.

Retreat begins at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 16  
Retreat ends at 11:00 am on Friday, June 20  
Offering: \$300  
Reservations: (315) 446-2680

**Sacred Heart 55th Annual Spaghetti Dinner**  
Auditorium, W. 25th and Liberty Streets, Erie  
Sunday, March 9  
Serving noon-6pm

Directed by: Lorraine Squaglia  
with: Lisa Lopez Zamierowski and Lynn Lopez Rater

Savory spaghetti with meatballs, Italian tossed salad, bread and butter, dessert and beverage

Adults: \$6.00  
Children (6-12): \$3.00  
Small Fry (under 6): FREE

Carryout orders from 11:30 am (Bring your own containers.)

**Travel to Italy/Ireland**  
Feb. 16-24 / March 1-9  
April 19-27 / (May 15-27) / (June 7-18)  
June 28-July 6 / July 14-22 / Sept. 6-14  
Sept. 22-30 / (Oct. 6-18)  
**COST \$2,900**  
**(\$3,600 ALL INCLUDED)**  
Rome \* Venice \* Tuscany \* Florence (Milan) \* Lake Como \* Amalfi Coast Capri \* Sorrento \* Pompeii

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