

Basketball roundup

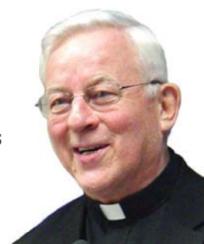
Find out how some diocesan champions fare this season, page 3.



FaithLife

Romero Award

Father George Strohmeier talks about L'Arche Erie community, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 10, 2011

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Stanislaus

St. Martin I

- April 11 St. Stanislaus, bishop of Cracow, martyr
- April 13 St. Martin I, pope, martyr; St. Hermengild, martyr
- April 17 Palm Sunday
- April 21 Holy Thursday
- April 22 Good Friday
- April 23 Holy Saturday
- April 24 Easter Sunday

Confirmations

St. Agatha, Meadville – Sunday, April 10 at 4 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown; Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochran; St. Mary of Grace, Meadville; St. Brigid, Meadville; St. Bernadette, Saegertown; and St. Agatha, Meadville.

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

St. George, Erie – Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m.

Mass and rededication of St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway – April 14

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass and rededicate the newly renovated church at St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway on Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

To view photos of the renovations, visit www.stleochurchridgway.com.

Chrism Mass – April 18

This year's Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage on Monday, April 18 at 4 p.m. At the Chrism Mass, which is celebrated during Holy Week, Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the sacred oils used for celebrating the sacraments throughout the year.

Clergy appointments

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



Father Walter Packard, appointed temporary administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bradford, and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Lewis Run. Effective immediately.

The new Roman Missal

Different but the same

Within the lifetime of many of us, we have celebrated Mass from three different versions of the *Sacramentary*. Different ... but not so different. The four main divisions of the Mass—the introductory rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and concluding rite—have been in place since the mid to late second century. The translations are somewhat different, but the “new” Mass is still the same Mass! Each version of the *Sacramentary* helps us celebrate better.



—Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC)

COUNTDOWN: There are 231 days to the implementation of the new Roman Missal (as of April 10)

VMA unveils renovations, launches capital campaign

Sisters of St. Joseph pledge \$1 million

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Villa Maria Academy recently won its third straight state championship in girls basketball. Now its looking to make sure its students are champions off the court, as well.

In doing so, the school also got an assist from the Sisters of St. Joseph.

On March 21, Villa Maria Academy launched the public phase of its Mission-Passion-Vision capital campaign, which will help make improvements to its current facilities and provide financial aid scholarship money for students.

“We have a great building, but it’s getting old,” said Father Scott Jabo, the school’s president. “It’s already a good product, and we want to improve on that.”

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated a Mass for the solemnity of St. Joseph in the school’s auditorium for students, faculty and guests before blessing some of the academy’s recent renovation



On March 21, Villa Maria Academy launched its Mission-Passion-Vision capital campaign and unveiled a number of renovations and additions. Clockwise from top right: The new chapel, a state-of-the-art fitness center, the renovated basement corridor and gymnasium with new lights and floor.

and improvement efforts.

The campaign’s goal is to raise \$3 million, said Chris Hagerty, VMA’s director of advancement. Since the March 21 launch, the school has raised \$1.7 million. Hagerty said Villa Maria is hoping to raise the remaining \$1.3 million in the next 20 to 24

months.

“This is an exciting phase in the history of Villa Maria Academy,” Father Jabo said. “With the current improvements and putting \$1 million into the building thus far is a strong statement that Villa is here to stay and provide a quality education for girls.

Along with Cathedral Prep, it’s a strong statement that Catholic education has a very bright and promising future.”

The school was founded in 1920 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania. It was under their operation until 2009 when officials announced that Villa would

become a diocesan school and combine with Cathedral Prep to form one school with two campuses.

During the Mass, the sisters announced that they would pledge \$1 million toward the capital campaign.

See VMA, page 2

Plans set as ordination of Bishop-elect Bartchak nears

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ALTOONA – The Diocese of Erie will be well represented during the episcopal ordination of one of its native priests.

Parishioners, co-workers, brother priests and friends of Bishop-elect Mark Bartchak have made plans to travel to Altoona for his installation as the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown’s eighth bishop. The Mass will be celebrated on April 19 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

Parishioners from St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie, where Bishop-elect Bartchak has served for nearly 20 years, will fill two buses and travel to the event. Co-workers at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie, where the bishop-elect has worked in the Marriage Tribunal, will also fill a bus.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will serve as the principal consecrator during the Mass, with Bishop Joseph Adamec, the retiring bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-

Johnstown, and Bishop Donald Trautman serving as consecrating bishops.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has announced updated information regarding the episcopal ordination and installation Mass and ceremony.

Only invited guests with a ticket will be admitted to the ordination and the reception which will follow at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. Those receiving an invitation include bishops from around the country; priests and religious from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, the Diocese of Erie and dioceses from throughout the country; staff of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and the Diocese of Erie; ecumenical leaders; elected officials; and family and friends of Bishop-elect Bartchak.

Due to the limited amount of seating in the cathedral, tickets will not be available to the general public.

A number of local and national television and radio stations will broadcast the ordination and installation Mass live. WJAC TV (www.wjacv.com) and WWCP TV Fox 8 (www.fox8tv.com) in Johnstown, which serve the Allegheny area of Pennsylvania, will carry the broadcast as will Radio Maria WHHN 88.1 FM (<http://radiomaria.us>) out of Hollidaysburg and We Are One Body Radio WAOB 106.7 FM in Pittsburgh.



Bishop-elect Mark Bartchak

CatholicTV (www.catholicv.com) in Boston, which broadcasts local and national religious programming and live events, will also carry the Mass.

An Evening Prayer Service will be held Monday, April 18 at 5 p.m. at the Altoona cathedral. The event, which is open to the public, is an opportunity for the faithful to join the bishop-elect in prayer on the evening before his ordination and installation. The bishop-elect will gather privately with clergy following the service.

Bishop Bartchak will be the celebrant of the Chrism Mass to be offered at 11 a.m. on Holy Thursday, April 21 at

the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, giving the public another chance to pray with the new bishop.

On Easter Sunday, April 24, he will take canonical possession of St. John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown when he celebrates the Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection at 11 a.m.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, the bishop will be the celebrant of a 2 p.m. Mass at St. Benedict Parish in Johnstown’s Geistown neighborhood. The public is invited to attend the Mass and the reception which will follow.

A number of commemorative publications are also in the works. A special edition of *The Catholic Register*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown (www.ajdiocese.com), will be published April 11. The *Altoona Mirror* will publish a special ordination and installation section on April 17. In the Diocese of Erie, a special edition of *FaithLife* news bulletin containing features and coverage of the installation will arrive in parishes the week-end of May 14-15.

Holy Land collection supports Christians, peace



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates an outdoor Mass in the Josafat Valley at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem during his 2009 visit to the Holy Land. In his homily, the pope urged the region’s Christians to stay in the Holy Land and work for harmony among its people.

From staff and wire reports

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches.

Unfortunately there is a “sorrowful tendency of Christianity to the region, said

See HOLY LAND, page 2

3peat

ERIE – The Villa Maria Academy Victors girls varsity basketball team won its third consecutive PIAA Class AA state championship March 25 by defeating the Dunmore Bucks 61-39 in front of more than 2,000 fans Penn State’s Bryce Jordan Center.

Abbey Steudler scored 18 points for the Victors, Lisa Mifsud had 16 and Karlee McBride added 12. Villa’s defensive effort was key, with the Victors holding Dunmore to just one point in the second quarter.

Villa Maria finishes the season with a 28-2 record, a 15-game winning streak, a District 10 championship and third straight state title.



Members of Villa Maria Academy’s girls basketball team celebrate their third consecutive state title March 25 after beating Dunmore 61-39.

The school held a ceremony March 28 to formally honor the team.

Team members include: Jillian May, Lindsey Mifsud, Abbey Steudler, Adrienne Kloecker, Zhane Brooks, Ameshia Harden,

Nikki Arbanas, Lisa Mifsud, Leah Bennett, Karlee McBride, Amanda Mason, Rebecca Sweny, Amy Mikotowicz, Cierra Pollock, Shanice Morris and coaches Doug Chuzie and Nikki Delsandro.

Editor's note: The following statements were released by Bishop Donald Trautman in response to charges filed against Father Samuel Slocum on April 1 by the McKean County District Attorney's Office.

Statement by Bishop Trautman

Upon hearing that Father Samuel Slocum has been charged with violations of criminal law, I immediately placed him on a leave of absence and revoked his diocesan faculties. He is not permitted to exercise any ministry in the church.

While the charges filed against him at this point are most serious, it is my understanding there is no criminal allegation of inappropriate sexual activity. Nevertheless, I view the conduct described in the criminal complaint as devastating, if true.

My prayers go out to all who have been hurt in any way and also to the parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi, Bradford and Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run.

If the allegations are shown to be true, I am doubly saddened not only by the pain of victims but also by the betrayal of confidence and trust on the part of a priest.

I ask for your prayers that there will be healing for all concerned.

Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman,
Bishop of Erie

Letter to the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford, and Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run

Dear parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi and Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

I have placed Father Sam Slocum on a leave of absence while certain civil matters are being addressed. Please remember him in your prayers as well as your entire parish community. I know this is a tense time for all of you, but we must focus on the presence of the Lord, the Good Shepherd, who continues to be present to you in your parishes through the Scriptures and sacraments. I have appointed Father Walter Packard to serve as a temporary administrator of your parishes. He will continue the teaching, shepherding and sanctifying role of the Lord in your midst. The stability of the parishes continues.

Through the years you have known many fine and dedicated priests. You were blessed with the lengthy pastorates of Msgr. Carlton Ritchie, who served St. Francis for 36 years, and Father Howard King, who served the

people of Lewis Run and Bradford for 23 years. You also know firsthand the faith and good works of these pastors and others. Please pray for all priests.

Now is the time for the Catholic community to respect the civil and church processes regarding Father Slocum. Now is a time for prayer, not speculation. Now is a time for trust. Your parishes are literally going through your own Good Friday, but let us remember resurrection, Easter Sunday, follows death and dying. Good Friday was a day; Easter is forever. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Donald W. Trautman

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

Newsmakers

from Catholic News Service

Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

IN THE U.S.

■ South Dakota passes nation's toughest regulations on abortion

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed a law March 22 establishing a three-day waiting period for all abortions, a time frame that exceeds other state laws that require 24-hour waiting periods. The law, effective July 1, also requires women to undergo pre-abortion counseling as a way to make certain that their decision to have an abortion was "voluntary, uncoerced and informed." Opponents of the new law immediately announced plans to challenge it. "I think everyone agrees with the goal of reducing abortion by encouraging consideration of other alternatives," the Republican governor said in a statement. "I hope that women who are considering an abortion will use this three-day period to make good choices." In a statement supporting the measure before the final vote and the governor's signature, the Diocese of Sioux Falls said it would help ensure that "mothers are as fully aware as possible of the implications and ramifications of the grave decision to terminate the most sacred gift of life."

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Apostleship of the Sea responds to pope's requests to aid Japanese

The Apostleship of the Sea, the Catholic Church's official society for the pastoral care of seafarers, is answering the pope's call to bring help to the Japanese people affected by recent natural disasters and to remain united in prayer. Seafarers are one of the groups hit hardest by the tsunami and earthquake, said Soon-Ho Kim, director of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) in Japan. Kim, a Columban lay missionary, reported that more than 20,000 boats have been destroyed and 260 ports damaged in the wake of the March 11 earthquake and tsunamis that followed. Auxiliary Bishop Michael Goro Matsuura of Osaka said March 28 that the AOS and the Japanese bishops are focusing their efforts on fishermen and other people who do not qualify for government aid. "It will take many programs and projects to rebuild the human, social and working environments of these people," Bishop Matsuura explained. "It will be a long-term process because still today people look at the sea with extreme fear." The AOS has launched a campaign to raise money for the rehabilitation of Japanese seafaring communities. Kim said humanitarian aid is the first step the AOS is taking, followed by establishing an efficient communication network to reach coastal towns. Later, the AOS plans to hold reconstruction projects, he said.

By the Way...

According to Matt Burnett, *Faith* magazine readers have responded to the article on the DuBois Central Catholic senior's Pure Thirst campaign profiled in the March/April issue.

Since the article was published, Burnett says he has received letters from all over the diocese with notes and checks from many individuals.

"It has helped raise over \$700 in less than a week for my campaign," he said in a March 29 e-mail. "Over the last two days, I have received a total of seven letters."

Burnett, 18, is the founder and manager of Pure Thirst, a group of teens from across Western Pennsylvania whose mission is to raise awareness about the world's water crisis. Their goal is to raise \$25,000 to build a water filtration system in Honduras. So far, more than \$21,000 has been raised. Members of the group will be traveling to Honduras in June to build and dedicate the system, which can supply clean water to 3,000 people per day.

To make a donation, make checks payable to The Rice Foundation, memo: Pure Thirst. Checks can be sent to: Matt Burnett, 808 Green Glen Drive, DuBois PA 15801. For more information, visit www.purethirst.org or e-mail Burnett at matt@purethirst.org.

More than 200 people, including musicians, liturgy leaders and clergy, attended the NPM SongFest and dinner April 3 at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro. The focus of the event was to review musical settings of Mass acclamation for the new translation of the Roman Missal.

The numbers show a broad interest about the upcoming changes and also demonstrate the willingness of many music and liturgy leaders to be prepared, says Matt Clark, administrator for the diocese's Office of Worship.

This was the first of three spring events on the diocese's Roman Missal implementation calendar. Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S., Ph.D., S.T.D., a noted liturgist and founder and director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry in Dayton, Ohio, offered two talks on the Roman Missal April 7 at Mercyhurst College. Look for a feature on Sister Joyce Ann's presentation in the next issue of *FaithLife*.

Msgr. James Moroney will offer presentations May 17 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois for clergy and lay liturgy leaders from 2-4:30 p.m. and the public from 6:30-8 p.m. Msgr. Moroney, a priest of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., was with the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship for several years and serves as the executive secretary for Vox Clara, the Vatican committee appointed to oversee liturgical translations.

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



Jason Koshinskie

VMA unveils renovations, launches capital campaign

VMA, from page 1

The Sisters of St. Joseph are celebrating their 150th anniversary in the Diocese of Erie this year. Officials with the Sisters of St. Joseph said an important component of the anniversary celebration was to do something that would leave a lasting impression of their presence in the diocese and, at the same time, help future generations. They called the pledge a legacy gift that will help ensure the continuance of Catholic education for young women in the area.

In light of the anniversary, many sisters attended the Mass to commemorate this milestone for Villa Maria Academy while celebrating their years of service and ministry in the diocese.

"From the very beginning, we have focused on educating young women so they can flourish and lead in today's world," said Sister Moira Sullivan, SSI. "We are fortunate to be able to give a gift of this magnitude because of our commitment to living simply, cutting expenses, investing wisely and through the generosity of our benefactors."

The sisters' pledge is the largest single gift in the school's history.

Over the course of the past 18 months, Father Jabo said a number of significant improvements have been made. After Mass, the school unveiled its new fitness center, which is located on the second floor and overlooks the renovated gymnasium which features new lighting and a new floor. The fitness center features treadmills, ellipticals, recumbent bikes and strength training equipment.

The basement corridor has been fitted with new lockers, flooring and lighting, with the school's blue

and white colors incorporated throughout. The school's exterior front entrance has been updated to provide safe wheelchair access and new windows for better insulation.

The school's lobby has been redesigned to include a new central corridor which features a chapel and conference room.

In the summer, Father Jabo said more renovations will take place.

The auditorium seats and lighting will be replaced and the first floor corridor will be renovated with new lighting and painting.

Offices and classrooms will also be remodeled.

"We'll gradually move through

the course of the entire building over the next few years," Father Jabo said.

Holy Land collection supports Christians, peace

HOLY LAND, from page 1

tian emigration which impoverishes the entire area, draining it of the most vital forces constituted by the young generations," he said in a written appeal to bishops around the world.

The letter is sent every year to bishops to encourage parishes in their dioceses to support the Holy Land collection, which tradition-

ally is taken up during Good Friday services.

Parishes in the Diocese of Erie will take up the special collection on Good Friday, April 22.

"Today, Christians living in the Holy Land endure numerous hardships for their faith as they strive to maintain a Christian presence and witness," Bishop Donald Trautman said. "Contin-

ued tensions and violence have taken their toll on the Christian communities living there. These communities are in danger of disappearing without our help."

Many of the projects combine archaeological studies and restoration of Christian shrines with the improvement of pilgrim facilities and convents at the same site. These sites include holy places at

Bethlehem, Bethany, Jerusalem and Nazareth, to name a few.

Funds collected around the world help support university scholarships for Christian students in the region, craft-making businesses, social and medical services for the poor, financial assistance to struggling parishes and schools and a project to build apartments for poor families and young couples.

FaithLife

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General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170

E-Mail: FaithLife@erieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
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Basketball ROUNDUP

Mercyhurst Prep girls basketball season ends with silver

ERIE – The Mercyhurst Prep girls varsity basketball team held its own with the top teams in the state this season but fell one victory short of a state title.

The Lakers fell to defending champion Archbishop Wood 53-41 on March 26 in the PIAA Class AAA championship in front of more than 2,000 fans at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Cen-

ter.

The Lakers finished the season with a 27-3 record which included a streak of 24 consecutive victories and a District 10 Class AAA championship.

The team defeated Grove City, General McLane and Franklin to capture the district title. On their way to the state championship game, they beat Hopewell,

Indiana, New Castle and Villa Joseph Marie before falling to Archbishop Wood. The Lakers' only losses during the regular season came out of state in the Bishop Watterson Classic in Columbus, Ohio.

Pictured, left to right, are members of the Mercyhurst Prep girls varsity basketball team: (front row, seated) coach Shanna



Gabbard, Amanda Berchtold, Tarynn Garnon, Ally Burke, Lauren Aronica, Alissa Robbins, Sarah Kupniewski, (back row,

standing) coach Dan Perfetto, Lindsay Stamp, Kayla Wilwohl, Bethany Woll, Kelly Hedderick, Brenna Robbins, Grace Hol-

land, Tiffany Carrier, Elysha Chrzanowski, Florie Fournier, coach Jen Crawford and coach Jeff Orlando.

St. George girls basketball wins diocesan championship, finishes sixth at states

ERIE – The St. George School girls basketball team capped the 2010-11 season by winning the diocesan championship and finishing sixth at the state tournament.

The Lady Lancers varsity squad finished the diocesan season with a 7-1 record and tied for first place. They entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed via a coin flip and began their playoff run March 1 by defeating St. Luke. They beat Our Lady of Peace on March 7 for the AAA championship and St. James on March 10 for the Erie Region championship. The Lady Lancers defeated St. Stephen in Oil City on March 13 to capture their second straight diocesan championship.

By winning the diocesan title, St. George won a trip to the state Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament, which was held at the University of Scranton March 25-27.

The Lady Lancers fell 34-28 to St. Gabriel of Pittsburgh in the opening round. In consolation matchups, they beat St. Andrew



Pictured, left to right, are members of the St. George girls varsity basketball team: (front row) Anna Corritore, Maggie Schoenig, Hannah Zeigler, Chloe Hampy, Morgan Putnam, (back row) assistant coach Allison Roberts, Maxine Hawthorne, Nicole Geanous, Lexie Simpson, Mariah Elwell, Jessica Damico, Nicole Maxson and head coach Lisa Beery.

from Altoona-Johnstown 45-39 and fell to St. Bernadette of Philadelphia 22-16. The team

finished sixth in the tournament going 1-2 and ended the season with a 29-4 record.

Seton Catholic boys basketball wins diocesan championship, heads to states

MEADVILLE – Seton Catholic School's boys varsity basketball team will represent the Diocese of Erie at the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) state championships at Bishop McCort Catholic High School in Johnstown April 8-10.

Seton Catholic from Meadville will be one of eight teams in the state tournament representing the eight dioceses in Pennsylvania.

The school held a sendoff rally for the team and cheerleading squad April 8 in the school gymnasium.

Cars traveling to Johnstown departed the school parking lot with a police escort past the Meadville City fire station on Park Avenue. The caravan got a special sendoff from the Meadville firefighters, as well as Seton students, faculty and staff who lined Park Avenue near Wendy's to wish the team well. The Eagles played their first game that night against St. Mary Glenshaw of Pittsburgh. (Editor's note: This edition of FaithLife went to press prior to the



Members of the Seton Catholic School boys varsity basketball team celebrate their diocesan championship March 27. Team members include Isaiah Orris, Connor Melvin, Antonio Frisina, Kevin O'Malley, Jarrid Miller, Brian Predis, Alex Parker, Ryan Miller, James Mullen, Jack Swick, Peter Egan, Pietro Damasceno, Max Rust and coach Drake Parker.

tournament's first game.) Seton's games will be broadcast on Cool 101.7 WMVL FM (www.cool1017online.com). Seton won the Tri-County

league championship with a victory over Our Lady of Peace in Erie and captured the diocesan championship with a win over Notre Dame in Hermitage.

Briefly

Pro-life town hall meeting

ERIE – People for Life will host a town hall meeting with Michael Ciccioppo, executive director, and Maria Vitale, education director, of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Gannon University, Zurn 101, 143 W. Seventh St. in Erie. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact People for Life at 814.882.1333 or e-mail office@peopleforlife.org.

Retreat for people with physical disabilities

ERIE – The Victorious Missionaries will sponsor a retreat for people with physical disabilities on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

Deacon Steve and Vicki Washek will direct the retreat, titled "What Does it Mean to Live a Life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ?" The retreat will include presentations, Mass, penance and large and small group sharing.

The cost is \$5 (scholarships are available) which includes a light breakfast and a box lunch. To make reservations or for more information, contact Jackie Johnson at 814.824.4534 or e-mail JJJohnson@ErieRCD.org.

Engagement Encounter

MERCER – The next Engagement Encounter will be held the weekend of April 29-May 1 at McKeever Learning Center near Mercer.

Early registrations are encouraged. Contact the Family Life Office for details at 814.824.1261 or e-mail familylife@ErieRCD.org.

Reason for Our Hope Foundation presents Robert Rogers

ERIE – The Reason for Our Hope Foundation will present an evening with Robert Rogers on Sunday, May 15 at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St. in Erie. Praise and worship begins at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker starting at 7.

Rogers inspires others to "Live a Life with No Regrets." He experienced a tragedy of Biblical proportions when he lost his wife and all four children in a flash flood in Kansas in 2003.

Through his immediate trust in God, he has risen above adversity and shared his compelling message across the country. An accomplished worship leader, pianist, songwriter and author of "Into the Deep: One Man's Story of How Tragedy Took His Family But Could Not Take His Faith," Rogers teaches others to live a life of no regrets with his inspiring words and original songs at the piano.



Robert Rogers

L'Arche Erie community receives Romero Award

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Whenever we come to community, Father George Strohmeier says, we're called to something bigger than ourselves. "We're invited into something that is much larger than our intention," Father Strohmeier said. "Jesus takes us over and we realize we're called to something deeper."

Mercyhurst College presented its annual Archbishop Oscar Romero Award to Erie's L'Arche community on March 24. Father Strohmeier, who co-founded the L'Arche Erie in 1972, accepted the award on behalf of the local community.

Following Father Strohmeier's talk, Vicki Washek, executive director of L'Arche Erie, and members of the community were presented with a certificatennp.

Mercyhurst's Department of Religious Studies presents the Romero Award annually to an individual "living the call of faith and justice in an extraordinary manner." The award is in its 20th year.

L'Arche Erie is a faith-based community where life is shared between people with and without intellectual disabilities. L'Arche was originally founded by Jean Vanier in France in 1964. Today there are 135 L'Arche communities in 30 countries.

In 1971, Father Strohmeier,



who is Gannon University's current chaplain, attended a lecture by Vanier in Toronto. Inspired by his radical message of community, he later co-founded L'Arche Erie. It is the oldest L'Arche community in the United States. L'Arche Erie has eight homes and two apartment settings where members live, work and share daily life.

Father Strohmeier spoke about his first visit to L'Arche. The community went to see a Charlie Chaplin movie. In the theater, he sat next to a man named Andre, whom the community called Bebe. Bebe didn't speak. He would simply often gaze peacefully. That was until Father Strohmeier heard him commenting on what he saw. But nobody else was seeing it. He was simply enjoying the lights on the screen before the movie.

Father George Strohmeier accepted the Archbishop Oscar Romero Award, given annually by Mercyhurst College and its Department of Religious Studies, March 24 on behalf of the L'Arche Erie community. Father Strohmeier co-founded L'Arche Erie in 1972. It is the oldest L'Arche community in the United States.

"I pray that we can all reach within our unspoken hearts where we could look and gaze and evoke a great sense of wonder from ourselves regarding the miracle, the message and the story of life, the story of justice and peace and tonight the story of L'Arche," he said. He called L'Arche an expression of the relationship between Vanier and Father Thomas Philippe, a Dominican priest who served as Vanier's spiritual director. After a number of hardships, Father Philippe went to the village of Trosly in France. There he met people with intellectual disabilities.

"They were people who were poor and were suffering but who had such a love for Jesus," Father Strohmeier said.

Father Philippe invited Vanier

to visit him and his community of about 30 people. But there were others who needed help, and Father Philippe encouraged Vanier to help them. A year later, he founded L'Arche.

The goal of L'Arche, Father Strohmeier said, is to have a community where people with and without disabilities can share life, affirming one another's unique values and gifts.

"What really matters in the end is that L'Arche is here and we're friends," he said.

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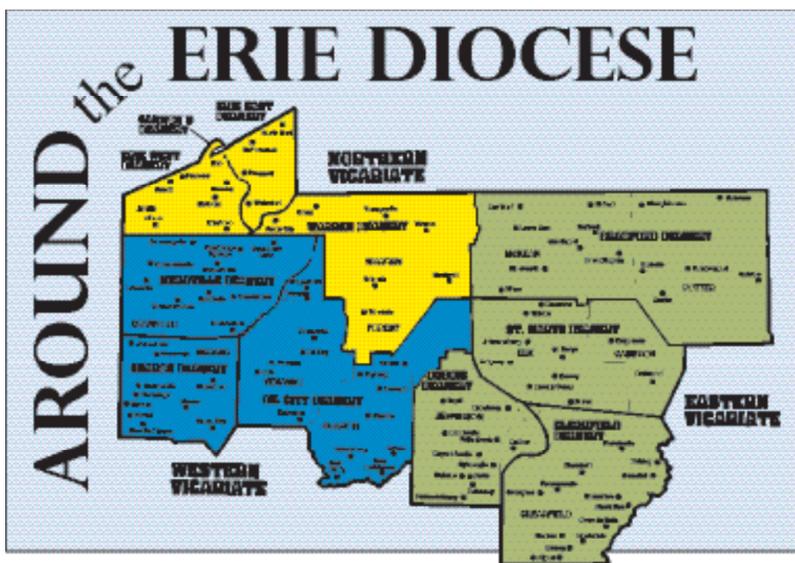
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Youngsville Knights of Columbus sponsor holy hour for life

YOUNGSVILLE – On March 8 the Knights of Columbus, Youngsville Council, sponsored its sixth annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Luke Parish in Youngsville. Committed to defending the life of the unborn, the Knights tithed 10 percent of the profits to the Pregnancy Support Center of Warren County.

On March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, the Knights sponsored a holy hour for life. Following the prayer service for the unborn, a display table featuring the life of the unborn at different stages of development was available for viewing and reflection. Pictured, left to right, are Alice Harlan; Darrell Harlan, Grand Knight; and Peg Yeager.



Immaculate Conception student's Flat Stanley visits White House

CLARION – Early in February, Isabela Barboza, a second grader at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion, mailed her Flat Stanley to President Barack Obama at the White House. Imagine her surprise when Flat Stanley returned to the school along with information and photos from the White House and a letter relating the events of the day Flat Stanley spent with President Obama and the First Family, including the First Dog, Bo.

As a part of the second grade reading curriculum, teacher Debra Marchand reads the book, "Flat Stanley," by Jeff Brown to her class. The students are then instructed to write a letter, color three Flat Stanley cutouts and mail them to three recipients of their choice.

Upon receiving the package, each chosen participant is asked to spend the day with Flat Stanley and report on the events of their day to the sender of the package. The recipients are also asked to pass Flat Stanley, with instructions, along to another destination of their choosing in an effort to keep Flat Stanley travelling the world and report-



ing on his adventures. Pictured are Debra Marchand and Isabela Barboza along with the letter and informational items they received from the White House and the First Family.

Father Joseph Maryland turns 100

ERIE – Father Joseph Maryland has the distinction of being the longest serving priest in the history of the Diocese of Erie and the first priest to reach the age of 100.

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated Mass for Father Maryland's 100th birthday on March 18 at St. Mary's Home at Asbury Ridge in Erie, where Father Maryland resides.

Father Maryland was born on March 20, 1911 and was ordained a priest on May 2, 1940. He retired from active ministry in 1981.

He has served as a pastor at St. Timothy, Curwensville; Our Lady Help of Christians, Oil City; St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown; St. Basil the Great, Coalport; St. Joseph, Anita; and St. Anthony of Padua, Walston. He served as a parochial vicar at St. Brigid, Meadville; St. Paul, Erie; St. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney; St. John the Evangelist, Girard; and St. Mark, Emporium.

Attending the birthday Mass were a number of friends and well wishers including former parishioners. The Mass was followed by a lunch and reception.



Bishop Donald Trautman presents Father Joseph Maryland with an apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI in honor of his 100th birthday.

DuBois Central Catholic sends 11 students to compete at PJAS

DUBOIS – DuBois Central Catholic recently sent 11 students to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of the Sciences (PJAS) regional competition in Altoona.

Pictured, left to right, are: (front row) DCC middle school science teacher Renee Gressler, Cara Burgeson, Sarah Aravich, Kallie Crawford, Ayden Hanes, Sean Garred, Dom Goldbach, DCC high school science teacher Jennifer Graeca, (back row) Brianna Clyde, Sabrena Starr, Nick Pitrone, Baliegh Cannistraci and Melanie Lowrie.

Two students earned first-place honors and will advance to the state PJAS event in May



at Penn State: Aravich with her project entitled "How much calcium carbonate is in an eggshell?" and Crawford with her project entitled "Battle of the Stains." Both Gressler and Graeca accompanied the students to Altoona.

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Retreat for Sisters
"WHO REALLY IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD?"
July 4-9, 2011

Presented by: Father Richard Gielow, C.M.
Fr. Gielow was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Mission of Saint Vincent DePaul in 1970. He served as Director of Vocations for the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers, and was later Rector and Principal of St. John's High School Seminary in Kansas City, MO. He has served as a member of the Vincentian Parish Mission Team since 1982, and is currently its Director. Fr. Gielow holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a M.Div. in Theology from DeAndreis Institute of Theology and a M.A. in Religious Education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

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