



Flurry of criticism

Notre Dame standing firm on choice of President Obama as commencement speaker, page 2.

FaithLife

Erie Diocese in full compliance

Vast majority of dioceses comply with sex abuse charter, audit finds, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 12, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. George

St. Adalbert

- April 13 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- April 19 Divine Mercy Sunday
- April 21 St. Anselm (philosopher, theologian)
- April 23 St. George (martyr, patron of England), St. Adalbert (missionary, Apostle of Prussia)
- April 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (lawyer, Capuchin friar)
- April 25 St. Mark (evangelist, martyr)

Confirmation schedule

St. Joseph, Force — Sunday, April 19 at 1 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Force, and St. Boniface, Kersey.

St. Bernard, Bradford — Sunday, April 19 at 5 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bernard, Bradford; St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford; Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run; St. Raphael, Eldred; St. Gabriel, Port Allegany; St. Mary, Sartwell; and St. Theresa, Shinglehouse.

St. Francis Xavier, McKean — Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Francis Xavier, McKean, and All Saints, Waterford.

Blessed Sacrament, Erie — Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m.

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney — Sunday, April 26 at 11 a.m. Confirmation classes include Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney; St. Adrian, Delancey; St. Anthony of Padua, Walston; and St. Joseph, Anita.

Immaculate Conception, Clarion — Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. Confirmation classes include Immaculate Conception, Clarion; Immaculate Conception, Brookville; and St. Charles, New Bethlehem.

Diaconate ordination — April 25

Two seminarians for the Erie Diocese are ready to take another step toward priesthood. Matthew Strickenberger (St. Stephen, Oil City) and Ross Miceli (St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois) will be ordained transitional deacons at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 25 at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore. Bishop Donald Trautman will be the ordaining prelate. Strickenberger and Miceli are both third-year theology students studying at St. Mary's.



Matthew Strickenberger



Ross Miceli

Clergy appointments



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

Msgr. Robert Brugger, appointed pastor of St. George Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective May 1, 2009.

Msgr. Richard Mayer, granted retirement from active ministry with residency at the rectory of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. Effective May 1, 2009. Named pastor emeritus of St. George Parish, Erie.

Easter is the feast of new life and hope

An Easter message from Bishop Donald Trautman

The resurrection of Jesus is the centerpiece of our faith. Easter proclaims that Jesus, the Son of God, has conquered all evil and death itself. He is with us and offers us new hope. This Easter, more than ever, we need hope. Hope is not putting on rose-colored glasses and pretending things will get better in time. But Christian hope is the certitude that we are on the side of the winner, the risen Jesus who always has the last word, and that word is "Alleluia."

There is much suffering in our world today: loss of jobs, loss of homes, loss of savings, loss of investments. In parts of our world, terror and suicide bombings and land mines still dominate. Whole populations suffer starvation and health epidemics. Closer to home there are victims of abortion, broken homes, sicknesses, scandals and personal trials and tragedies. We need hope. The empty tomb tells us that suffering need not defeat us. With every crucifixion there can be a resurrection.



Bishop Donald Trautman

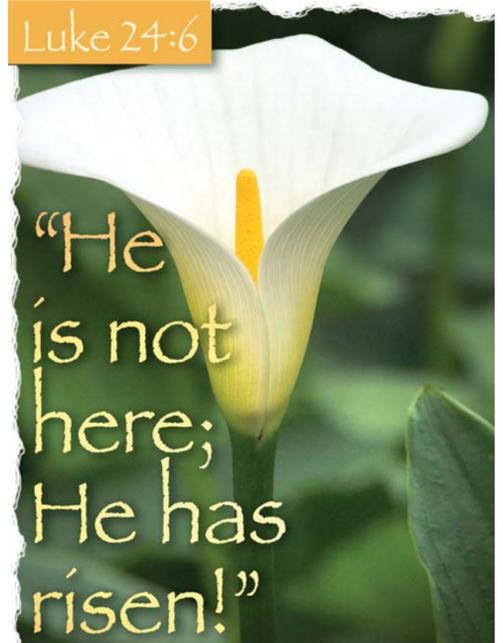
Easter is the feast of hope. With spring comes the end of the harsh winter cold and the beginning of warming temperatures and budding trees and flowers. Christians should always be a springtime people — people of new life centered in the risen Jesus. Disciples of Jesus should live in such a way that everyone knows that there is new life, new hope, new strength, new opportunity no matter what the season of the year. Christians are called to represent vitality and growth and joy. The follower of Jesus is on the side of the winner. We

have that certitude because of the resurrection, and we can, therefore, be springtime people, happy in the possession of Jesus, happy in his love.

Because of the resurrection we cannot live the same as before. All that Christ has said and taught has been vindicated. The empty tomb is the warranty of our faith. If we want real lasting life and happiness, there is only one way, and it is the way of Christ.

Because of the risen Jesus we now have new priorities, new hope for handling disappointments and sorrow. Sinners have a new way of seeking happiness — happiness that lasts. Thanks to the risen Jesus we have a new beginning, new life. St. Paul tells us: "Set your hearts on what pertains to higher realms — be intent on things above rather than things of earth."

Down through the centuries, Christ has been raising up and sustaining an Easter people. The risen Lord is the creator of the real Easter parade — when the saints come marching in. The Church is a long procession of a Christ-raised people — a Christ-changed people. Let us join



in that Easter parade into God's kingdom.

Easter is the feast of new life and hope. It is a feast that must not only be celebrated but lived. We have new life from Christ; we are a springtime people. Let us live new lives. Alleluia!

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman
Bishop of Erie

Three years of polls show Catholic, non-Catholic views on moral issues

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

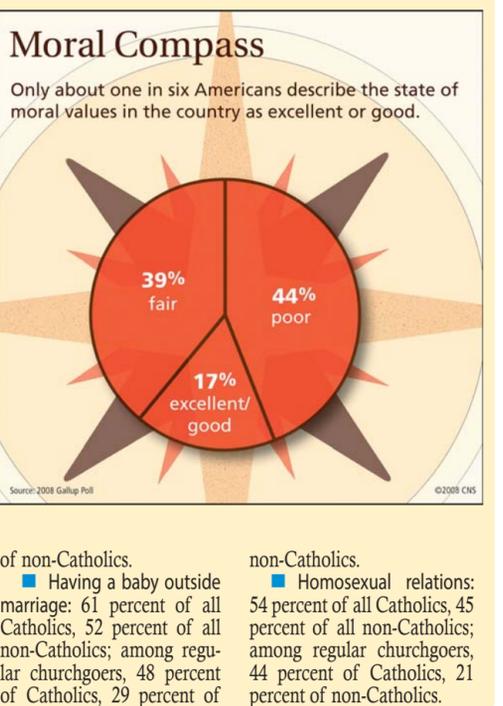
WASHINGTON — Telephone polling of Catholics and non-Catholics over three years shows the degree of difference between the two groups on abortion, the death penalty and other moral issues about which the Catholic Church has spoken.

According to figures released March 30 by the Gallup Organization in Princeton, N.J., only on the abortion issue did a minority of Catholics overall find it acceptable — 40 percent compared to 41 percent for non-Catholics.

The only other moral issue which Catholics overall found less acceptable than non-Catholics was the death penalty, but substantial majorities — 61 percent of Catholics and 68 percent of non-Catholics — still found capital punishment morally

acceptable. Besides abortion and the death penalty, other moral issues covered by the polling included sex outside marriage, divorce, gambling, homosexual activity and having a baby outside of wedlock. The polling figures were taken from Gallup's 2006, 2007 and 2008 Values and Beliefs surveys, in which 3,022 respondents were polled. The margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points, which means that Gallup has a 95 percent degree of confidence that, were the survey to be repeated, the results would be within 2 percentage points of the current results. Even when separated from Catholics and non-Catholics who attend church regularly, a majority of Catholics polled found a majority of the issues raised to be morally acceptable — and, with the exception of

the death penalty, declared the issues to be more morally acceptable than their non-Catholic counterparts. On the issue of embryonic stem-cell research, 63 percent of Catholics overall believe the practice to be morally acceptable, compared to 62 percent of non-Catholics. Among regular churchgoers, 53 percent of Catholics approve of it while 45 percent of non-Catholics do. Catholics tended to find other practices to be morally acceptable as well: ■ Sex between an unmarried man and woman: 67 percent of all Catholics and 57 percent of all non-Catholics said it was acceptable; among regular churchgoers, 53 percent of Catholics and 30 percent of non-Catholics said it was acceptable. ■ Divorce: 71 percent of all Catholics, 67 percent of all non-Catholics; among regular churchgoers, 63 percent of Catholics, 46 percent



Providing help and creating hope

Catholic Charities Ball proceeds to aid families in need

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

With increasing 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.

Last year, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie served more than 62,000 people. That number looks to only increase in 2009.

"We feel this year it will be more than 70,000 families that we've served in a year's time," said Emma Lee McCloskey, executive director of The Catholic Foundation.

Catholic Charities agencies and services extend throughout the 13 counties of the Erie 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 event and its largest fundraiser of the year. Last year's ball raised a record amount of nearly \$35,000, which went to families in need throughout the diocese. Proceeds from the 14th annual Catholic Charities Ball, which will be held Saturday, April 17 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, will once again go to families in need.

"It's a huge outreach on behalf of Catholic Charities to those most seriously in need," McCloskey said. "We saw the need a couple years ago, but it keeps increasing. We feel that the ball is right on track with putting money right where people need it. These are families of all faiths, and we help them in a number of areas."

The Catholic Foundation will accept grant applications from all Catholic Charities providers and affiliates in the coming months. But because

Catholic Charities Ball
April 17 at Bayfront Convention Center, Erie
Music by Tennessee Back Porch
Doors open at 7 p.m.

Norm and Marie Stark will be honored with the Helping Hands Award, which was created in 2006 by Catholic Charities and is given annually to an individual, family or organization that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community.

Back by popular demand will be "Get in Step with Erie's Stars," a dance competition featuring local celebrities. Competing this year in Swing and Fox Trot are: Bridget Barber, Steve Gary, Cheryl Kobel, Vickie Lampe, Joseph Schember, Tom Tredway and Jennifer Dobbs Woods.

Hors d'oeuvres are included and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$75 each. Call 814.824.1250 or visit www.eriecd.org/charitiesball.asp for more information.

of the increased need, some programs have already been earmarked for some of the ball proceeds. ■ Catholic Charities Bet-

ter Homes program provides a seven-week summer program for 45 children who live in difficult circumstances in inner-city Erie. While partici-



pating in physical activities, games and crafts, children are served a healthy lunch and two snacks each day.

■ Emergency assistance agencies in the diocese are serving 27 percent more clients in 2009 than they were last year, McCloskey said. Those agencies include: St. Elizabeth Center, Oil City; Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield; St. Martin Center, Erie; and Prince of Peace Center, Farrell. They provide

See CHARITIES BALL, page 2



IN THE U.S.

■ University of Notre Dame officials were standing firm on their choice of President Barack Obama as commencement speaker at the institution's May 17 graduation, in spite of a large number of Catholics calling on them to rescind the invitation. The Indiana university, run by the Congregation of Holy Cross, and the White House announced March 20 that Obama would be Notre Dame's 2009 commencement speaker and confirmed he will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at the graduation. "The invitation to President Obama to be our commencement speaker should not be taken as condoning or endorsing his positions on specific issues regarding the protection of human life, including abortion and embryonic stem-cell research," said Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame. "Yet, we see his visit as a basis for further positive engagement," he said in a March 23 statement. The announcement on Obama was promptly followed by a flurry of criticism from Catholics, who said the president's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research makes him an inappropriate choice to be the commencement speaker at a Catholic university.



■ A U.S. District Court judge's decision giving 17-year-olds over-the-counter access to the morning-after pill known as Plan B "will put minors' health at greater risk," according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said U.S. District Judge Edward Korman's decision was "worrying in any number of ways." Korman, a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, said the Food and Drug Administration had "repeatedly and unreasonably" delayed a decision on whether Plan B should be available over the counter and had been swayed by politics in ultimately deciding to make the drug available without a pre-

scription only to those 18 or over. McQuade said the decision opens up the possibility of a 17-year-old male getting "emergency contraception" for his girlfriend — "whether she's 17 or 12" — and subjects the young woman to taking "a very strong drug without any medical supervision." Plan B, containing a high dose of birth control pills, usually prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.



AROUND THE WORLD

■ The Vatican has ordered an apostolic visitation of the institutions of the Legionaries of Christ following disclosures of sexual impropriety by the order's late founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado. The announcement of the unusual investigation was posted on the Web site of the Legionaries of Christ March 31, along with the text of a letter informing the Legionaries of the pope's decision. The letter, written by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, said the pope wanted to help the Legionaries of Christ deal with its present problems with "truth and transparency." It said the visitation would be carried out by "a team of prelates," who were not identified. Apostolic visitation is a form of internal church investigation ordered by a pope and undertaken by his delegate or delegates. The pope sets the jurisdiction and powers of the visitation, which usually ends with the submission of a report to the Holy See. In February, Legionaries of Christ officials in Rome disclosed that Father Maciel had fathered a child. Sources in Rome said the order was also looking into accusations of financial irregularities by Father Maciel.

■ Pope Benedict XVI's first social encyclical is already completed and should be ready for release in early May, said a top Vatican official. The original aim had been to have the encyclical on social justice issues ready for publication in 2007 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on human development, "Populorum Progressio" ("The Progress of Peoples"), said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. "Naturally, however, with the research and revisions necessary to create and have a text that would respond to today's current situation, well, it got behind schedule a little bit," he told reporters March 20. He said the new papal encyclical will offer "a beautiful response" to the new realities and the changes that have occurred since the last papal encyclical on Catholic social teaching, "Centesimus Annus" ("The Hundredth Year"), was published in 1991 by Pope John Paul II.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ On his first trip to the Holy Land, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, stop at the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem and visit a refugee camp in Bethlehem, West Bank, the Vatican said. The May 8-15 visit will take the pope to holy sites in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The schedule said the pope would visit the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, Jordan, stop at Jesus' baptism site at the Jordan River and make a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at the Promised Land. The pope's program calls for encounters with Israeli political leaders, Christian leaders, Jerusalem's most prominent rabbi and the city's leading Muslim cleric, the grand mufti. Pope Benedict also will visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and celebrate public Masses in Amman, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth, Israel.

By the Way...

Jason Koshinski

Good Shepherd Sunday, traditionally the fourth Sunday of Easter, gets its name from the Gospel reading on this day. The Gospel of John talks about Christ as the Good Shepherd who, by dying on the cross, lays down his life for his sheep. Good Shepherd Sunday, celebrated this year on May 3, will also be the home of the annual Good Shepherd Collection. This special collection benefits retired diocesan priests and assists with health care needs and other related costs.

Msgr. Dan Magraw, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie and chair of the collection, says contributing on Good Shepherd Sunday is one way to thank the retired and senior priests of the diocese for their years of faithful service. Msgr. Magraw is asking his brother priests to step up to the plate, as well. He is sending a request to diocesan priests that they consider making a minimum \$200 to \$500 donation to the Good Shepherd Collection. Look for a story on retired priests in the next issue of *FaithLife*.

Approximately 150 students are expected to take part in the middle school youth rally on April 18 at St. Bernard School in Bradford. The theme for the rally is "I Have Chosen You."

Some in our neighboring Diocese of Cleveland are connecting a 26-year-old local man's recovery from a gunshot wound to the head that doctors said should have killed him to a rosary blessed by Pope John Paul II. Some labeled the recovery of Jory Aebly, who was shot execution-style during a mugging Feb. 21, a miracle and were speculating his case could help the sainthood cause of the late pope. Neither the Cleveland Diocese nor Vatican officials have commented on the case.

After the shooting, Aebly was taken to MetroHealth Medical Center, where doctors expected him to die. Father Arthur Snedeker, a Cleveland diocesan priest who is a chaplain at the hospital, gave Aebly the last rites of the church. At a press conference March 30, the day Aebly was released from the hospital, the priest told reporters he asked Pope John Paul "to pray for Jory and to protect him." He said he gave the young man the last of a dozen rosaries the pope had blessed years before for the priest to give to patients.

Meanwhile, the fourth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II April 2 was marked by a sense of anticipation following reports that the late pontiff would be beatified on the fifth anniversary next year. The Vatican has played down those rumors. But among the thousands who flocked to his tomb and gathered in St. Peter's Basilica for a memorial Mass, the feeling was strongly hopeful.

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

When we feed the hungry, we give them life

In tough times, stewardship of time and talent valuable to alleviating suffering of others

By Amy B. Hill
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

"Feed people dying of hunger, because if you do not feed them you are killing them."

Strong words from our early church fathers. They teach that we are bound to come to the aid of the poor and to do so not merely out of our superfluous goods. (See *Gaudium et Spes*, 69)

The downturn in the economy is squeezing our friends and family, neighbors and fellow parishioners and our own wallets. As jobs are lost, mortgages are foreclosed, pensions shrink and uncertainty clouds our future, more families find themselves in need of a helping hand.

As our local economy and our own family budgets begin to feel the pinch, how will we, as a community, fulfill the command to meet the needs of those less fortunate?

Pennsylvania's eight Catholic Charities agencies—including the one in the Erie Diocese—serve thousands of people. Local parish soup kitchens, food banks, thrift shops, homeless shelters and many other worthwhile projects serve countless others. Through these important ministries, the church provides material things like food and

clothing, helps people to make ends meet on utility bills or housing, offers emotional support through counseling to cope with stress or substance abuse and meets many other urgent needs. This year, Charities are already reporting a measurable increase in demand for services.

Catholic Charities agencies obtain the means to provide these services from a variety of sources — financial donations, government funding, generous volunteers who provide "in kind" support and other creative ways.

To those of you who are generous with your financial support to your local Charities agency, thank you. Catholic Charities needs your contributions now more than ever. A significant part of an agency's budget comes from direct financial donations. Your treasure goes a long way to help many people.

But because times are tough for many right now, increased financial support might not be feasible for every family. A contribution of someone's time and talent can be just

as valuable in alleviating the suffering of others. Volunteering is an outward action of a faithful follower of Christ. Catholic Charities has many opportunities for people to help. Thousands of people volunteer every year with Catholic Charities programs. Thank you to all volunteers, too.

Federal, state and local governments spend hundreds of millions on programs to help people in need. Catholic Charities agencies receive some of these government dollars. Tax dollars provide modest support, but the funding allows Catholic Charities to extend their reach to more people in need.

As taxpayers, we must urge our legislators to remember the needs of the poor in their budget deliberations, as the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) does in its advocacy. We must encourage private citizens to give what they can out of their wallets and free time. As a community, we are bound to meet the needs of the "least of our brothers and sisters," even when times are tough.

"Feed people dying of hunger, because if you do not feed them you are killing them." Those strong words require strong action. Contributions of time, talent and treasure answer the call. When we feed the hungry, we give them life.

Amy B. Hill is communications director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference — the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.



Amy B. Hill

Catholic Charities Ball proceeds to aid families in need

CHARITIES BALL, from page 1

food, clothing and utility assistance, as well as casework and counseling services.

■ Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services is collaborating with U.S. bishops on the resettlement of refugees. More than 100 refugees (roughly 35 families) are expected to arrive in the Erie area this year. Counseling and Adoption is putting together apartment starter kits, which include kitchen, bathroom and living room necessities. "They need decent living environments," McCloskey said. "They come with literally nothing. These refugees are escaping turmoil in their own countries. They have to flee for their lives."

■ Catholic Rural Ministry is hoping to reach out to 160-plus families in McKean and Potter counties by providing clothing and school needs for children and monthly groceries through food vouchers.

■ St. Martin Center's Super Cupboard Program, which has a projected outreach of 50 families, provides help with healthy

food selection and preparation, budgeting for nutritious foods and lead awareness in homes.

■ Prince of Peace Center's AWESOME program (Assistance with Education, Shelter, Organization, Money Management and Employment) provides life skills training sessions in the Shenango Valley.

There will always be more need than Catholic Charities can fill, McCloskey said.

"We'll still have a number of other organizations with need," she said. "These are just ones that we already know exist. We hope to address that through the bottom line proceeds."

Most of the programs contain some kind of educational component to help families get to a better level of living, she said.

"Our board of directors is eager to see the variety of grants that are not just exclusive to larger cities," McCloskey said. "They realize the job losses throughout the diocese, including the more rural areas. We're committed to addressing those communities."

FaithLife
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Briefly

Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2009 Catholic Services Appeal, "Of One Heart and Mind," supports the Erie Diocese in helping to provide health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services throughout the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

While a portion of the financial goal for the appeal benefits the ministries of the diocese, parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects.

Here's a look at what some parishes are doing with their CSA overage funds:



Erie East Deanery

- Holy Rosary, Erie – Roof for Hastings Hall
- Holy Trinity, Erie – Installation of new church boiler
- Mount Calvary, Erie – Debt reduction
- Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Debt reduction
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie – Replace water line to school and church
- St. Boniface, Erie – New sign in parking lot, school subsidy
- St. Gregory, North East – School roof project
- St. James, Erie – New roof for St. James Place, resurfacing of parking lots
- St. John the Baptist, Erie – Funding for school
- St. Luke, Erie – Parking lot resurfacing
- St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie – Recover expenses from 2008, replace church radiators
- Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie – Funding for Holy Family School, repair stained glass windows, sidewalks and roofs on all buildings
- Immaculate Conception, Erie – Parish is closing in 2009
- St. Hedwig, Erie – No project listed
- St. Mary, Erie – No project listed
- St. Patrick, Erie – Replace Cauley Center floor
- St. Stanislaus, Erie – Debt reduction

'Dead Man Walking' author Sister Helen Prejean to present annual Romero lecture at Mercyhurst

ERIE — Sister Helen Prejean, SSJ, whose efforts to spark national dialogue on the death penalty were chronicled in the book and film *Dead Man Walking*, will present the Romero Lecture at Mercyhurst College on Wednesday, April 15. Her talk, at 8:15 p.m. in Walker Recital Hall, is free and open to the public. Mercyhurst will present her with its Archbishop Oscar Romero Award during her Erie visit.

Sister Helen, a native of Louisiana and a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, is known internationally for her tireless work against the death penalty.

In 1982, she started visiting Death Row inmate Patrick Sonnier in Louisiana's Angola Prison. She became his spiritual adviser, worked to prevent his execution and finally walked with him to the electric chair. She did the same thing with a second prisoner, Robert Willie. Her book about the experience, *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, was published by Random House in 1993. The book became a best-seller, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and spawned an Oscar-winning movie and an internationally acclaimed opera.

Mercyhurst's Department of Religious Studies presents the Archbishop Oscar Romero Award annually to an individual "living the call of faith and justice in an extraordinary manner."



Sister Helen Prejean

Divine Mercy Sunday services

Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St. in Erie, will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 19 at 2:30 p.m. Confessors will be available from 2-2:30. The afternoon includes Liturgy of the Word and homily, procession, blessing and veneration of the Divine Mercy image, Eucharistic exposition and benediction and singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All are welcome.

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie, will have two services at St. Ann Church, 10th Street and East Avenue. On April 15 at 7 p.m., a one-hour movie on the life of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska will be screened at the church. On April 19, Divine Mercy devotions begin with confessions at 2 p.m. followed by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and rosary at 2:30. Mass will begin at 3:15.



Luncheon to benefit Bishop's Breakfast Program, food pantry

The St. Peter Cathedral Women's Council will hold its first charity ladies luncheon at noon on May 6 at the Erie Yacht Club to support the Bishop's Breakfast Program and the St. Peter Food Pantry.

The Bishop's Breakfast Program provides breakfasts Monday through Friday to the homeless and needy. The food pantry hands out groceries and living essentials on a weekly basis.

Reservations are \$30 per person, with host opportunities available. To make reservations by April 24, call Marcia Allshouse at 814.456.1924.

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Vast majority of dioceses comply with sex abuse charter, audit finds

Erie Diocese found in full compliance

From staff and wire reports

The latest audits assessing compliance with the U.S. Catholic bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" found nearly complete compliance among participating dioceses and eparchies, but the number refusing to participate rose from five to seven.

A report released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in March showed that only four of the dioceses or eparchies participating in audits between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, were found to be noncompliant with any articles of the charter.

Three—the dioceses of Lansing, Mich., and Las Cruces, N.M., and the Archdiocese of San Francisco—had corrected the problems cited by auditors by the end of December, while the Diocese of Tulsa, Okla., "continues to work toward full compliance with providing safe environment training to children," the report said.

In addition to the dioceses of Baker, Ore., and Lincoln, Neb., refusing to participate in the audits were the Chaldean eparchies of St. Thomas the Apostle in Detroit and St. Peter the Apostle in San Diego; the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Mass.; the Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio; and the Syrian Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance in Newark, N.J.

For the fifth time in five years, the Diocese

of Erie has complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse.

The diocese's Office for Protection of Children and Youth was found to be in full compliance of the Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children during its most recent audit.

As part of the process, the diocese established its own Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in 2004. It is under the direction of Vicar General Msgr. Robert Smith.

The audit showed that 23,000 children and youth in the Erie Diocese received safe environment training and inservicing from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

The audits were conducted by the Gavin Group, a Boston-based firm founded by former FBI agent William Gavin, and overseen by the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Audits also were conducted at the parish level in 17 of the 188 dioceses or eparchies where audits took place.

Gavin said in a letter to Cardinal Francis George, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, that the "lack of noncompliance issues" in the latest audits "does not tell the full story of the dedication of the bishops, eparchs and their staffs."

"It is the positive, proactive and caring manner in which they have discharged their



From July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 in the Erie Diocese:

Inservices were conducted with 23,000 children and youth.

The number of people working with children who have been inserviced, not necessarily completed this year. They have had background checks completed and are cleared:

- 177 priests
- 55 deacons
- 26 candidates for ordination
- 788 educators
- 797 parish employees
- 2,693 volunteers

Source: Office for Protection of Children and Youth

responsibilities that demonstrates their dedication," he added, noting that many dioceses and eparchies "have established internal controls and protocols that exceed charter mandates" in order to ensure that "problems are identified, aggressively addressed and rapidly adjudicated."

DEATH NOTICES

Sister Joseph John McDonald, SSJ, dies at 87

Provided foster care for more than 120 children

Sister Joseph John (Teresa) McDonald, 87, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania died on March 22, 2009. She was born in Binghamton, N.Y., daughter of the late William F. and Teresa (Callahan) McDonald.

In 1943 she received a bachelor's degree in public school music from Mansfield State Teachers College in Mansfield. She earned a master's degree public school music from Chicago Music College. She graduated from Union High School and George F. Johnson Elementary School in Endicott, N.Y.

In January 1954, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Augustine Parish and was given

the name Sister Joseph John. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1959 and celebrated 50 years as a sister of St. Joseph in 2003.

Sister Joseph John spent more than 20 years providing foster care for Catholic Social Services. She cared for more than 120 children, many of them newborns, during this ministry and many of these same children remained in contact with her over the years. Gatherings were held at the Villa Maria Community Living Center to bring together many of these families as a group to visit with her.

From 1972-79, Sister Joseph John served as superior of Villa Maria Convent. Prior to that time, most of her ministry was in teaching. She taught at Villa Maria Elementary School, Erie; Harborcreek School for Boys, Harborcreek; Villa Maria College, Erie; and Notre Dame School, Sharon, where she also served as principal. Serving as a piano teacher, she taught for 13 years at Villa Maria Conservatory and St. Francis Convent in Clearfield.

She is survived by her religious community, 12 nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews.



Sister Joseph John (Teresa) McDonald

Sister Damian St. George, OSCO, dies at 80

Erie native was a member of Cistercian order

Sister Damian St. George, OSCO, formerly of Erie, died March 13, 2009 at Caritas Hospital in Norwood, Mass.

Formerly Elizabeth Jean Mary St. George, she was born in Erie on March 27, 1928, daughter of the late Fred Angelo and Romana Marie St. George. After graduating from Villa Maria Academy, she received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Villa Maria College in 1950. She then taught at Holy Rosary Grade School for a

year-and-a-half before entering the Cistercian order (Trappistines) at Mount St. Mary's Abbey, Wrentham, Mass. in 1952.

During her years at the abbey, she created and perfected most of the recipes for the now famous Trappistine Quality Candy.

She is survived by a brother, Don St. George of East Springfield.



Sister Damian St. George

Sister Mary Lauretta, CSSF, dies at 97

Member of St. Casimir, Erie, served as Felician for 80 years

Sister Mary Lauretta, CSSF, 97, a Felician Sister for 80 years, died March 22, 2009 in the Felician Sisters Health and Wellness Center, Buffalo, N.Y.

The former Mary Lepkowski was born on June 16, 1911, in Glassport, Pa. She was a member of St. Casimir Parish in Erie. She entered the Buffalo province of the Felician Sisters on June 24, 1928, and professed perpetual vows on August 16, 1936.

She attended East High School



Sister Mary Lauretta

in Erie and graduated from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Buffalo. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Mount St. Joseph Teachers College, now known as Medaille College, Buffalo; a master's degree in sociology from St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.; and a doctorate degree in education from State University of New York at Buffalo.

Sister Lauretta began her ministry in education serving as a teacher and administrator at a number of Catholic schools in New York. In 1980, she began serving as a parish minister and coordinator of religious education.

Sister Lauretta is survived by her brother, Frank Lepkowski, and sisters, Anne Arcidi and Therese Paul together with nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, the late Theodore and Anastasia (Brocki) Lepkowski, her brothers, Bernard, Stanley and Joseph Lepkowski and her sister, Theodora Kuchinski.

Travel to Italy-Switzerland; Ireland; Greece

April 18-26 / (May 2-14) / May 17-29
(June 6-18) / June 27-July 5 / (June 27-July 9) / July 18-26
(Sept. 5-17) / Sept. 12-20 / Sept. 19-27 / (Oct. 3-15)

COST: \$3,300 (\$3,890) Air Fare Included
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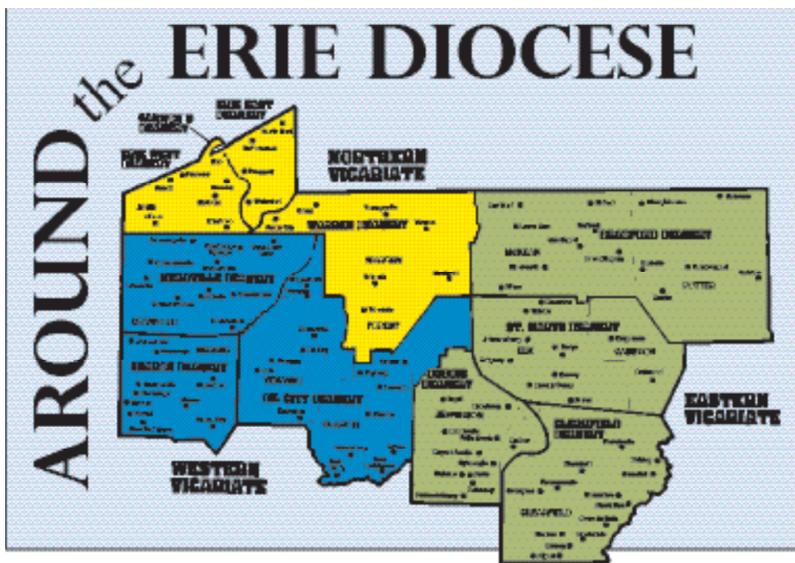
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP POSITION

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School (Altoona, Pa), a Pennsylvania 501C3 non-profit organization, is looking for a dynamic and talented leader to serve as its President (CEO of the school). Accountable to a Board of Trustees, the President will be responsible for the overall management of the school.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: supervision of the work performance and department outcomes of employees on the Leadership Team, including the Principal, Director of Finance, Director of Development and Director of Marketing and Public Relations. The President is responsible for the fiscal health of the school including short and long-term budgetary planning; is the liaison with the Diocese Director of Education, and Pastors and Principals of the elementary feeder schools; executes all contracts and agreements, consistent with the directives of the Board of Trustees; and oversees plant decisions such as re-disposition of physical space, acquisition of major new equipment, and asset protection. The President will be the school's visionary leader and primary spokesperson to all constituents.

Requirements: practicing Catholic; master's degree or principals certification; understanding of secondary education; familiarity with accounting and finance principals; development and marketing experience; desire to be visible at school and community events; commitment of at least 5 years service; high energy level; and must live in or relocate to Blair County.

Salary range: \$55-75K. Submit letter of interest with resume to J. Douglas Wolf, Chairman, Board of Trustees at dwolf@wolffurniture.com or by mail to 2400 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, Pa. 16602. For more details on the position, visit www.bishopguilfoyle.org.



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 FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



Girl Scout Sunday at St. Basil the Great



COALPORT — St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport opened its doors to Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania on March 8th to kick off Girl Scout Week. Girl Scouts from the Glendale Area attended Mass and sang "Girl Scouts Together" to celebrate 97 years of Girl Scouting in the United States.

Guitar Heroes in Sheffield assist Caring for Life

SHEFFIELD — The confirmation class of St. Anthony's Parish in Sheffield sponsored a Guitar Hero tournament on Feb. 22 to benefit Caring for Life, an organization that assists families of children with severe medical conditions. They recently presented the organization with a check for \$150, which was raised at the tournament. Pictured left to right are Stefanie Santo, Chelsea Kyler, Ian Davidson, Chaelyn Highhouse, Kyle Wees and Lori McNeal, president of Caring for Life.



DCC mock trial team competes for district title

DUBOIS — DuBois Central Catholic High School's mock trial team finished its season as one of the top three teams in its district. The team participated in a round robin competition Feb. 26 at the Indiana County Courthouse with teams from Punxsutawney and Indiana.

The Young Lawyers Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association sponsors this statewide competition. DCC has been involved in Mock Trial for the past 18 years.

Members of DCC's mock trial team are: (standing) adviser Carol Korthaus, Peter Hopkins,



Josh Zimmerly, (seated) Vincent Vetrano, Mandy Knarr and Sarah Szczerba.

Cursillo's Valentine's Day dance benefits People for Life

ERIE — The past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently held their annual St. Valentine's Day Dance, which each year benefits a local charity. The benefactor of the 2009 event, held at Holy Rosary's Hastings Hall in Erie, was People for Life. A total of \$1337.95 was raised. The Cursillo movement seeks to enhance the faith lives of its participants. People for Life is dedicated to advancing true justice by working for the protection of all innocent human lives. Gathering for the check presentation were, pictured left to right, Father John Jacquel and Father Bill Sutherland, co-spiritual directors for Cursillo; Dennis Jobczynski, representing the past presidents as lead coordinator of the dance; and Tim Broderick, director of People for Life.



Do you remember the Parish Priest who heard your First Confession gave you your First Holy Communion, prepared you for Confirmation? He was there again when you said, "I do," visited you or a loved one while hospitalized, gave you courage in time of need. Our priests have been and are active in so many facets of our lives even after retirement. They dedicated their lives to us.



As the priest shortage increases, the number of retired priests will be increasing — but not nearly as fast as their health care needs and other soaring retirement expenses.

The annual collection on Good Shepherd Sunday is our opportunity to say thanks to our retired diocesan priests for their many years of faithful service. Provide for them the same love and generosity they provided for us for generations.



Collection in your parish May 2nd & 3rd

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 Games of chance ~ Video Races ~ 50/50 ~ Refreshments
Saturday April 25, 2009
 7:00 p.m. - Midnight
 Rainbow Gardens
Cash back drawings throughout the night
 6 chances for \$200
 6 chances for \$300
 8 chances for \$500
 3 chances for \$1,000
 2 chances for \$2,500
Top Prize - \$10,000
 Admission: \$10.00 per person
 \$25.00 includes admission for two and cash back drawing.

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 Join other Roman Catholics on this terrific motor coach tour filled with included sightseeing! Fly into Sioux Falls, SD for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. In route visit Fargo and Bismarck, ND; then north to Saskatchewan to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Highlights include Calgary, Lake Louise; Banff National Park; ride a SnoCoach over the Columbia Ice Fields; Bow Falls; Cascade Gardens; Medicine Hat & Canmore, Alberta; Waterton Lakes National Park; Kananaskis Country; Helena and Billings, Montana; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Wild Bill Hickock's Deadwood; Black Hills National Forest; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park; and more! Includes 13 nights hotels, baggage handling, and lots of motor coach sight-seeing. *Per pers, dbl. occ. plus \$149 tax, service, gov't fees. Roundtrip airfare is extra.
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 Coming September 26, 2009: Teresa Tomeo

Tim Staples is a convert to Catholicism and a world-renowned speaker and radio host. He is also a frequent guest on EWTN.