

Birthday wishes for Holy Father

Send Pope Benedict a free electronic birthday greeting, page 2



FaithLife

Calvary recreated

Conneat Lake parishioner makes life-size crosses in *Around the Diocese*, page 4



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 2, 2006

Confirmation Schedule

Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish, Punxsutawney – Friday, April 7 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Punxsutawney; St. Adrian, Delancey; St. Anthony, Walston; and St. Joseph, Anita

St. Stephen Parish, Oil City – Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Stephen, Oil City; St. Joseph, Oil City; Assumption, Oil City; Our Lady Help of Christians, Oil City; and St. Venantius, Rouseville.

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

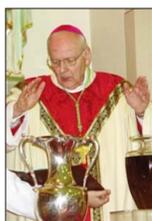
First anniversary of death of Pope John Paul II – April 2

A worldwide effort is underway to promote an hour of Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 3 p.m. local time on April 2, the first anniversary of Pope John Paul's death and the Hour of Divine Mercy, a devotion to which the late Holy Father was very dedicated.



Chrism Mass at St. Peter Cathedral – April 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The Mass of Chrism comes once a year to your cathedral. If you've never celebrated it, you're missing one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our church. During the Mass, Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and the oil of chrism. The first is used for adult catechumens and infants, the second for anointing the sick and the sacred oil of chrism for baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests and the consecration of altars. All three are basically an olive oil; chrism spices the air with the scent of a perfume, traditionally balsam.



Good Friday Pilgrimage for Peace – April 14

The 26th annual Good Friday Pilgrimage for Peace, a Lenten tradition of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, will remember the suffering throughout the world and honor those who have worked to alleviate that suffering. The pilgrimage will begin at St. Peter Cathedral, 10th and Sassafras streets, Erie, at 10:30 a.m. The procession from station to station is made in silence. Pilgrims will proceed to the following stations with themes:



Station 1 – St. Peter Cathedral; racism, sexism and classism; Mary of Nazareth

Station 2 – Neighborhood Art House, 10th and Holland; lack of beauty in the lives of many; Mary Magdalene

Station 3 – Habitat for Humanity House, 640 E. 10th; growing chasm between rich and poor; Jimmy Carter

Station 4 – National Guard Armory, 6th and Parade; war; Martin Luther King Jr.

Station 5 – John Horan Apartments, Franklin and East Lake Road; poverty and homelessness; Dorothy Day

Station 6 – Northwest Savings Bank, East Lake Road at Harborcreek Mall; international debt; Lazarus

Station 7 – Partners Tavern, East Lake Road; oppressed women; Veronica

Station 8 – Mount St. Benedict, 6101 East Lake Road; violence; John the Baptist

All are invited to the traditional Lenten prayer of Tenebrae at the chapel at Mount St. Benedict at 9 a.m. Buses will leave the Mount at 10 a.m. to go to the first station.

Did You Know?

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania distributed **6,709,818** pounds of food in 2005. The food bank serves 11 of the 13 counties in the Erie Diocese.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A year after pope's death, people worldwide continue to show devotion

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — From starting prayer groups to cheering at the mention of his name, people around the world continue to show their devotion to Pope John Paul II.

A year after Pope John Paul's death, the Vatican still maintains a separate entrance to the grotto under St. Peter's Basilica where he is buried, and Pope Benedict XVI still cites his writings and example in his public speeches.

While the cause for Pope John Paul's canonization continues with interviews of people in Rome and Poland who were close to him, Pope John Paul prayer groups are springing up around the world.

Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the official promoter of the pope's sainthood cause, said the groups — one in Argentina calls itself "Juan Pablo Magno" (John Paul the Great) — not only support the cause with their prayers, but they study Pope John Paul's writings.

Pope Benedict does not appear jealous of the attention; in fact, from the beginning of his pontificate he has urged the church to continue to study the teachings of his predecessor.

Speaking to the Roman Curia in December, he said: "No pope has left us a quantity of texts equal to what he left us; no pope before him could visit the entire world like he did and speak directly to men and women of every continent.

"The Holy Father, with his words and his works, has given us great things; but no less important is the lesson he gave us from the chair of suffering and silence," Pope Benedict said.

In addition to the television movies, documentaries and books on the life of Pope John Paul, an Italian work focused specifically on the suffering.

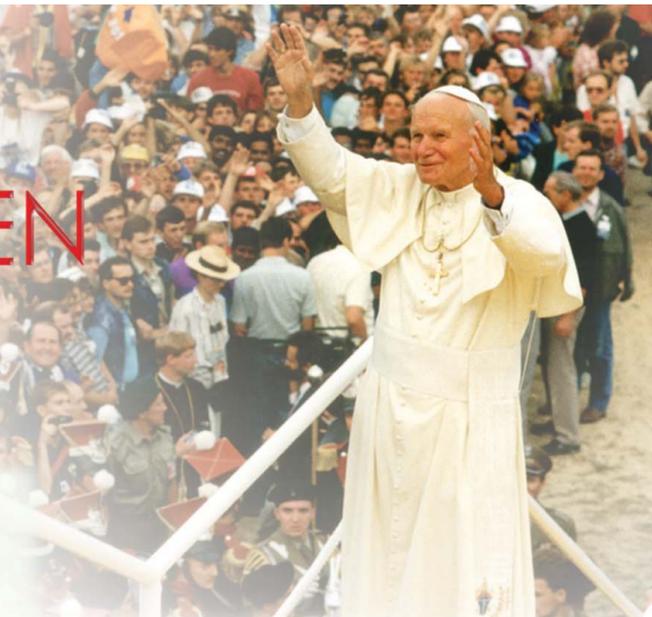
Let Me Go: The Strength in Weakness of John Paul II was released March 15 in Italy and featured reflections by the pope's longtime secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, and by Dr. Renato Buzzonetti, the pope's personal physician.

Buzzonetti, who was the pope's physician for almost 27 years, wrote that the pope "was a person very attentive to noticing symptoms, which he described with great exactness, evidently with the aim of simply enlightening his doctor and accelerating his treatment so he could get back to work.

"He always demonstrated an attitude of profound interior serenity which — despite some moments of visible human disappointment and impatience — led him to accept sickness, physical pain and forced inactivity from the hands of God," the doctor said. The title of the book comes from the pope's last words, murmured in Polish: "Let me go to the house of the Father."

In his contribution to the book, Cardinal Dziwisz said Pope John Paul's life "from the beginning was marked by suffering, which he transformed into an instrument for his apostolate."

The Krakow archbishop said Pope John Paul's obvious suffering in silence and his death were his "last catechesis," telling the world that



Record Vatican crowds continue a year after pope's death

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One year ago this month, the city of Rome saw record numbers of crowds when millions of people flocked to the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica for the funeral of Pope John Paul II, the conclave of cardinals and the subsequent election of Pope Benedict XVI. In just one week, more than 3 million people descended on the Vatican to honor Pope John Paul, who died April 2, 2005. According to the Vatican, the crowds have just kept coming. In just the first eight months of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI drew nearly 3 million pilgrims to public events. According to the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, more than 2.8 million people attended the weekly general audiences, the Sunday blessings, special papal audiences or liturgical celebrations at which Pope Benedict presided. Also, the number of visitors going through the doors of the Vatican Museums in 2005 broke all records.

"moments of suffering and death must be lived in the light of faith, with love and Christian hope, in complete abandonment to the will of God."

The way Pope John Paul lived and the way he died have led millions of people to his tomb.

Archbishop Angelo Comastri, the papal vicar for Vatican City State, said that until Pope John Paul died an average of 300 people a day went down to the grotto below St. Peter's to visit the tombs of the popes.

Now, he said in early March, the daily number is 10 times greater and often reaches 20,000 on Sundays and

holidays.

Pope Benedict, one of Pope John Paul's closest aides as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, obviously tries to connect with those devoted to his predecessor.

At the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Benedict seemed surprised when people would interrupt him — especially during a Mass homily — with applause and cheers. When he would mention Pope John Paul, the reaction was immediate and predictable, and it did not take long for Pope Benedict to adjust his timing and, especially with young people, to emphasize his predecessor's name and let the crowds roar.



Susan Zill of Holy Rosary Parish and Sister Karen Kosin, OSB, pack a bag of food at Second Harvest that will be picked up by an area agency. Second Harvest serves 241 agencies in 11 of the 13 counties in the Erie Diocese.

Study says 52,000 area residents seek food assistance each year

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

At least 52,000 Northwestern Pennsylvania residents obtain emergency food assistance each year from the Second Harvest Food Bank, according to a new study.

Results of the local study came from face-to-face interviews with clients at area agencies that receive food from Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. The interviews were conducted during a four-month period in 2005.

"It's important to learn about the circumstances of agency clients and find out why people go to a food pantry," said

To view the complete hunger study, which includes local and national demographics of clients, visit www.eriefoodbank.org.

Karen Seggi, executive director of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. "The problem is poverty. We may not be able to eliminate poverty, but we can get food to people." Second Harvest was one of 156 food banks in the United States that participated in "Hunger in America 2006," billed as

the most-comprehensive national study ever conducted on emergency food distribution. It was commissioned by America's Second Harvest, the largest charitable hunger-relief organization in the country with more than 200 food banks and food-rescue organizations serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Second Harvest Food Bank has a network of 241 member charitable agencies, many of which are Catholic agencies. Second Harvest serves agencies in 11 of the 13 counties in the Erie Diocese.

Of the 52,000 area residents that obtain emergency food assistance each year from area agencies, nearly 30 percent are children under the age of 17, and 11 percent are seniors.

Removing the stereotype that a typical hungry person in America is homeless, unemployed or a drug addict, the study revealed that hunger continues to be a problem for the working poor who face difficult choices.

Nearly 32 percent of those surveyed reported having to choose between buying food or making a

rent or mortgage payment; 29 percent said they had to choose between buying food and paying for medicine or medical care; and 40 percent said they were forced to decide between buying groceries and paying for utilities or heating fuel.

"Families find that once all their bills are paid, they do not have enough money to buy food," Seggi said. "So food becomes a discretionary budget item and they end up getting food from a food pantry or skipping meals."

One of the more jarring numbers from the survey revealed that seven percent of those surveyed said their child or children had to skip meals. "That to me is just unacceptable," Seggi said.

Of those surveyed, 68 percent had a high school diploma or higher. "Many people assume that the typical hungry person is homeless or doesn't have a job," Seggi said.

See HUNGER STUDY, page 3

"What we all need to do is come to the conclusion that hunger is unacceptable."



Karen Seggi
Executive Director of the
Second Harvest Food Bank
of Northwest Pennsylvania

U.S.

March, rally for immigrants draws tens of thousands in Chicago

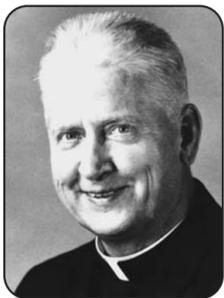
CHICAGO (CNS) — Judging by the turnout at a March 10 immigration rights march and rally, the Chicago-area priests who have committed themselves to work for just immigration reform this spring have plenty of company. A crowd estimated at 100,000 people filled the streets from Union Park, the march's official starting point, to Federal Plaza, about two-and-a-half miles away. "The legislation in Washington has demanded our attention," said Dominican Father Brendan Curran from St. Pius V Parish in suburban Pilsen. "It was a red flag. ... This is a time of danger." Even so, he said, the many efforts to support humane immigration reform have made people "cautiously hopeful." "Humane" reform, as defined by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, would unify rather than divide families, create a workable system for people to cross the border for jobs and forge a path to legal permanent residency, said Elena Segura of the Chicago archdiocesan Office for Peace and Justice.



Huddled masses: Nancy Mondragon holds up a crucifix as demonstrators pack Federal Plaza in Chicago after marching against pending immigration legislation.

Sainthood cause for Jesuit missionary in Soviet Union takes next step

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (CNS) — More than 20 years after the death of Jesuit Father Walter J. Ciszek, a Pennsylvania-born priest who was a missionary in the Soviet Union, officials in the Diocese of Allentown have completed the preliminary phase of their quest to see him declared a saint. Materials and documentation supporting the canonization cause for Father Ciszek were sent to Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, postulator general for the Society of Jesus, in Rome Feb. 27. This officially closes the first phase of the process of canonization — the diocesan inquiry into the priest's reputation for sanctity.



Jesuit Father Walter J. Ciszek, a Pennsylvania-born missionary to the Soviet Union.

Brubeck, many others honored with 2006 Christopher Awards

NEW YORK (CNS) — A jazz legend, a television writer and a historical documentary series received special honors March 16 at the 57th annual Christopher Awards presentation in New York. Twenty-one feature films, TV/cable programs and books for adults and young people — and their 100 writers, illustrators, directors, producers and executive producers — were honored at the ceremony. Jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck became the 10th person in the organization's 57-year history to receive the Christopher Life Achievement Award. The 85-year-old Brubeck continues to record CDs and performs 60 to 70 times a year. For a complete list of winners, visit www.christophers.org. The Christophers is a non-profit organization that uses print and electronic media to spread a message of hope and understanding to people of all faiths and of no particular faith. Its aim is to encourage all individuals to recognize their abilities and use them to raise the standards in all phases of human endeavor.

Electronic cards available for free to mark pope's 79th birthday

NEW YORK (CNS) — A New York-based publisher of educational and catechetical materials is offering free electronic birthday cards to celebrate Pope Benedict XVI's 79th birthday April 16. Through its Web site at www.webelieveweb.com, William H. Sadlier Inc. allows people to choose from four electronic cards with slogans such as "All God's children love you, Holy Father" and "The whole world is happy on the birthday of our pope." Each card may be personalized and sent in English or Spanish. William Sadlier Dinger, president of William H. Sadlier, said he and his brother, board chairman Frank Sadlier Dinger, "see this as an opportunity for millions of people from all over the world to tell the pope how much they love him."



Oregon company develops hybrid tea rose in honor of late pope

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — There have been medals, mugs, puzzles and even a commemorative umbrella, but an Oregon company has created arguably the most elegant memorial for the late Pope John Paul II. Medford-based Jackson & Perkins unveiled a hybrid tea rose in honor of the pope, who died a year ago April 2. Company representatives worked with Vatican officials over a period of several months to designate the rose. In addition, the company will put 10 percent of sales at the disposal of the Vatican; church officials have designated the poor people in sub-Saharan Africa as the recipients. The Vatican chose the pure white rose, which its creators are calling luminous. The color is reminiscent of the late pope's white garb, and the description brings to mind the five luminous mysteries the pontiff added to the rosary in 2002. The 2006 papal rose is available through the company's March catalog or via its Web site, www.jacksonandperkins.com.



By any other name: Jackson & Perkins, a U.S. gardening company, has unveiled this hybrid tea rose in honor of the late Pope John Paul II, who died a year ago April 2.

WORLD

Pope, cardinals discuss several issues, including dialogue with Islam

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI and most of the world's cardinals sat down for closed-door discussions on a number of administrative and pastoral questions, including dialogue with Islam. The pope presided over the day of reflection and prayer March 23, the day before he was to hold a public consistory to induct 15 new cardinals. The cardinals-to-be, dressed in bishops' purple, were also invited to the meeting in the Vatican's synod hall.



Discussing Islam: Pope Benedict XVI and most of the world's cardinals meet at the Vatican March 23 for a closed-door discussion on administrative and pastoral issues, including dialogue with Islam.

There was no formal agenda, but in an opening talk the pope mentioned three specific concerns for discussion, according to a Vatican press statement: "the condition of retired bishops," "the question raised by (Archbishop Marcel) Lefebvre and the liturgical reform desired by the Second Vatican Council," and "questions connected with the dialogue between the church and Islam." The pope invited the cardinals to raise other issues of their own and said the exchange should take place in a spirit of unity and communion.

3.5 million Kenyans face starvation: Agencies

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic aid agencies in Britain and the United States say as many as 3.5 million Kenyans face a severe food emergency because of several seasons of drought. The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, an agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said millions of Kenyans could starve to death unless emergency food supplies are delivered soon. Dominic Stolarow, a CAFOD humanitarian officer who has been visiting the worst-affected areas in the northeastern part of the country, said Kenya is also facing its most severe drought since 1971.



Drought: A malnourished Kenyan girl sits on her hospital bed in Lodwar, 500 miles from the capital, Nairobi.

By the Way...

Villa Maria Academy Principal Cynthia Martone resigned from her position March 10 to take an education job in the Middle East. Martone will be a senior school management adviser to the Supreme Education Council in Doha, Qatar. It is a leadership position in which her primary responsibility will be overseeing and consulting the transformation of schools in Qatar into modern, high-quality learning environments.



Jason Koshinskie

Martone departed for Qatar March 15. In July 2004, she became VMA's first lay principal since its founding in 1892.

Sister Carol Morehouse, SSJ, will act as interim principal as the school conducts a nationwide search for Martone's replacement. Sister Carol is a 1967 graduate of VMA and has served as an administrator at VMA from 1979 to 1983. She currently teaches a business law class at Villa and is a partner in the Erie law firm of Moran, Morehouse and Bruno.

Two diocesan priests are quoted in the April issue of *U.S. Catholic* magazine. Comments from **Msgr. Richard Siefer**, pastor of **St. Catherine of Siena** and **St. Joseph** parishes in DuBois, and **Fr. Tom Whitman**, pastor of **All Saints Parish** in Erie, are featured in the cover story *Picturing the Perfect Priest*.

The article comes from a reader survey and includes some strong ideas about how to build a better clergy—from training to ordination requirements to personal traits that make a priest great. It's a very interesting read. Visit www.uscatholic.org for more details.

St. Stephen Parish, Oil City, will host a Lenten Seder meal at 6 p.m. on April 2 in the St. Stephen school cafeteria. Seder was celebrated by Jesus and the apostles on Passover and is a meal of food and prayer based on Scripture. **Fr. Scott Katren**, pastor of **St. Mark the Evangelist Parish** in Erie and formerly of St. Stephen's, will facilitate this reenactment of the Last Supper. St. Stephen's own **Polly Miller**, known for her soup suppers, will prepare the dinner.

Cost is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Call Beth or Tim at 814.676.5652 or e-mail btccyphert@msn.com for reservations, as seating is limited.

Congratulations go out to the **Elk County Catholic High School boys basketball team** on its state championship and undefeated season. The Crusaders beat Scranton's Bishop Hannan 71-61 for the PIAA Class A title on March 24 at the Giant Center in Hershey. **Jesse Bosnik** had 22 points and 11 rebounds and **Kevin Genevro** added 20 points for the Crusaders in their title game victory. Elk County Catholic finished the season as the only undefeated team in the PIAA with a 33-0 record.

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

"Cattle die first in times of drought as they can only go for up to three days without water," he said. "In some villages I went into I saw carcasses just piled up. There is very little people can do once they have lost their livestock." The famine and drought have been caused by consecutive poor rainy seasons.

PEOPLE

Novel recounts history of Florida missions

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston has co-written a novel that recounts the little-known history of the chain of Spanish missions in northern Florida. The book, *Cacique: A Novel of Florida's Heroic Mission History*, was released March 14 by St. Catherine of Siena Press. The book's co-author is Tony Sands. *Cacique*, a Spanish word for chieftain, is the tale of Florida's Potano Indian chieftains and their relationship with Spanish Franciscan missionaries. The book is available at www.bishopbaker.com.

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Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
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56	5.6%	65	6.0%	74	6.9%
57	5.6%	66	6.1%	75	7.1%
58	5.7%	67	6.2%	76	7.2%
59	5.7%	68	6.3%	77	7.4%
60	5.7%	69	6.4%	78	7.6%
61	5.8%	70	6.5%	79	7.8%
62	5.9%	71	6.6%	80	8.0%
63	5.9%	72	6.7%	81	8.3%
				82	8.5%
				83	8.8%
				84	9.2%
				85	9.5%
				86	9.9%
				87	10.2%
				88	10.6%
				89	11.0%
				90 & over	11.3%

*Rates are effective through June 30th, 2006.

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Dust off your Dancing Shoes!

It's Time for the Catholic Charities Ball

April 21st ~ 7pm-midnight

Proceeds benefit Rainbows
Find out more. Call 814-824-1250

WHY CATHOLIC?

JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

Faith formation workshops

These workshops are an opportunity for the whole parish to reflect on an aspect of our Catholic faith. This workshop will include the following:

Jesus: The fullness of revelation
Tradition: The life breath of the church
Scripture: The Word of God

Who should attend a workshop?

Workshops are designed for:

- members of the pastoral staff
- parish organizations
- small group leaders & participants
- parents
- senior citizens
- young adults
- the whole parish

Come and bring a friend.

If you would like to attend a workshop, contact your small group leader or parish office.

Workshop schedule:

Meadville: St. Agatha
Tuesday, April 18 • 7-9 p.m.
353 Pine St.

St. Marys: Queen of the World
Wednesday, April 19 • 7-9 p.m.
130 Queens Road

Hermitage: Kennedy Catholic High School
Thursday, April 20 • 7-9 p.m.
2120 Shenango Valley Freeway

Erie: St. Mark Catholic Center
Friday, April 21 • 7-9 p.m.
429 E. Grandview Blvd.

Erie: Sacred Heart Auditorium
Saturday, April 22 • 9:30-11:30 a.m.
25th and Plum streets

'Shall We Dance?' at Catholic Charities Ball

It's time to break out those dancing shoes! The annual Catholic Charities Ball will be held Friday, April 21 at Lake Shore Country Club in Erie from 7 p.m. to midnight. Black-tie is optional.

The event, themed "Shall We Dance?," will feature music by The Chosen Few.

The Hilbert family (Midge, Bill and Martha, Fr. Tex and Sr. Phyllis) will be honored with the 2006 Helping Hands Award for their outstanding dedication to their community.

Tickets are \$45 per person. Proceeds will benefit Rainbows, a grief support program for children who have experienced a loss in their life due to separation, divorce or death.

For tickets or more information, call Catholic Charities at 814.824.1250.

This year's ball committee includes: Ruth



Alberstadt, Donna Carlino, Susan Elliott, Pamela Graham, Michael Jan Janin, Cheryl Kobel, Giles Mulard, Mary Tellers and Scott Wallen.

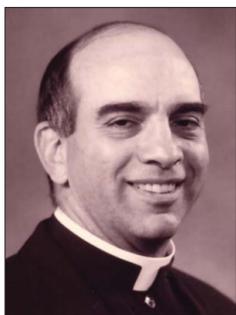
Pastor in Iraq hopes for summer return

Sometime this summer, Fr. Frank Ziemkiewicz hopes to be home from Iraq.

Fr. Ziemkiewicz, OSB, pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Marys, since 1999, is a member of the Army Reserves. He is on active duty serving as chaplain and also holds the rank of colonel. In July 2005, his reserve unit was deployed to Baghdad as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Parish staff members say his operation has been mobile and moving around for some time. Fr. Ziemkiewicz's e-mails indicate that he is expecting to be back this summer, although he does not know for sure. When he was called last year, it was thought that his deployment would be for 12 to 18 months.

Since Fr. Ziemkiewicz's deployment, Fr. Eric Vogt, OSB, has served St. Mary as parish administrator pro tem and Fr.



Fr. Frank Ziemkiewicz

Chrysostom Schlimm, OSB, has served as parochial vicar pro tem.

Write to Fr. Ziemkiewicz at:

Ch. Frank Z.
HQ MNC-I Chaplain
Operation Iraqi Freedom
APO AE 09342-1400

Study says 52,000 area residents seek food assistance each year

HUNGER STUDY from page 1

gry person is homeless or doesn't have a job," Seggi said. "What the survey told us is that that stereotype is not accurate."

The study also found that in northwest Pennsylvania, 86 percent of the clients have their own housing; 28 percent indicated they own their home. Of the clients employed, 21 percent indicated that they are currently working or have worked previously in managerial or professional jobs. Only 4 percent reported that they have never worked and only 6 percent of the clients served are receiving federal welfare assistance.

Seggi added that about 75 percent of the clients seeking emergency food assistance

from the 241 Second Harvest member agencies are living below the federal poverty line, and approximately 29 percent of the clients have at least one adult working in their household.

Supporting food programs at area agencies and schools is one way to combat hunger, Seggi said. The food bank also needs the community's support.

"Every year we are providing more and more food to area agencies," she said. "Our former director, Sr. Augusta Hamel, used to say, 'We will always have the poor, but why do we have the hungry?' What we all need to do is come to the conclusion that hunger is unacceptable."

Vandals throw rocks at statue of Virgin Mary

SHARON — Two 13-year-old boys have been charged with desecration of venerated objects and institutionalized vandalism after throwing rocks at a statue of the Virgin Mary at Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon, according to a report in *The Herald* of Sharon.

The incident occurred March 22. According to police, the boys were throwing rocks at the statue and one of the boys threw a brick that knocked off part of its face, *The Herald* reported.

Fr. Stanley Swacha, pastor of Sacred Heart, said the boys are not members of the church.

No decision has been made about whether the statue would be repaired or replaced, Fr. Swacha said.

The incident comes a year after the parish renovated the area around the statue.

"We spruced it up last summer," Fr. Swacha said. "We had taken out the old wooden backdrop that was rotting away and put in some new shrubbery."

Heaven on Earth: The Mystery Unveiled

Dr. Scott Hahn, the internationally known Bible expert and convert to Catholicism, will be presenting a series of three talks on

SATURDAY, MAY 6th, 2006
at **St. George Church** in Erie.

10:00am: The Lamb's Supper
12:30pm: Letter and Spirit
2:00pm: Lord Have Mercy



Tickets: \$7 in advance; \$10 at the door; \$5 students (12-22)
For more info: www.gifts-of-faith.com/scott_hahn.html
or call 814-864-0622

We hope to see you there for this exciting event!

Gannon University Open House



Sunday, April 23 • Noon - 4 p.m.

- Catholic mass at 11 a.m. in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel (corner of 5th and Peach)
- Meet faculty, administration, coaches and student life staff
- Campus and downtown Erie tours
- Admissions, academic and financial aid presentations

Scholarship Applied Math Contest

- 10 a.m.
- \$24,000 in four-year awards.
- Awarded to students who will major in Engineering or Computer Science.
- High school sophomores and juniors may apply.

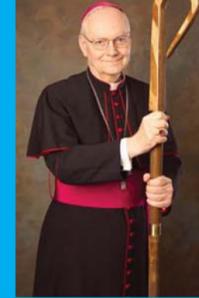
Advanced registration required.

For more information or to make reservations, call Gannon University's Office of Admissions at (814) 871-7240, or visit www.gannon.edu.



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WORDS of the SHEPHERD



"A translated text is intended for prayer, worship, lifting up the heart and mind to God. If a translation -- no matter how exact -- does not communicate in the living language of the worshipping assembly, it

fails as a translation; it fails to lead to full, conscious and active participation. This is the essential criterion and ultimate goal for all translations of the Sacramentary and Lectionary. This is the thesis which I advance in this lecture. A translated text must be more than exact and faithful to the original; it must become the authentic prayer of the liturgical assembly. That means the worshipping community must own the prayer, its contents, its vocabulary, its style, its idiom, its cadence, its rhythm. The believer must be able to make the prayer his or her own. Only in this way can a translated prayer fulfill the definition of prayer -- 'the raising of one's mind and heart to God.'"

— Bishop Donald Trautman, speaking at a public lecture on liturgy March 27 at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

Much of Bishop Trautman's work on the U.S. bishops' liturgy committee involves proposed new translations of the Sacramentary and Lectionary.

For complete text of the bishop's lecture on liturgy, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

Papal Audience



"The basic mission of Jesus' twelve apostles and of those who evangelize today is not to spread an idea, but to lead people to Jesus and gather them into a single family."

— Pope Benedict XVI, addressing some 35,000 people in St. Peter's Square March 22 for his weekly general audience.

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Father Walter Grabowski to Host Catholic Group with Daily Mass on This

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Parish correspondents

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

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Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to FaithLife.
FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Gannon alumnus honors parents with \$10,000 scholarship

Alumnus Dennis Domsic of Iowa City, Iowa, has established a \$10,000 scholarship at Gannon University in honor of his parents, Mike and Betty Domsic of Erie. The university will award the scholarship to academically deserving students with financial need, preferably students who are enrolled in Gannon's School of Education. Domsic graduated from Gannon University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Domsic obtained his MBA in health administration from Temple University in 1974. Currently, Dennis serves as the associate vice president at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. "I established this scholarship at Gannon University in honor



Mike and Betty Domsic

of my parents because they afforded me the opportunity to attend Gannon University to pursue my college career," Domsic said. "My parents' support, as well as the strong academic instruction and personal

attention I received at Gannon University, have played a major role throughout my life. I can think of no better way to thank my parents and Gannon University than to establish this scholarship to assist future teachers as they start their careers. Educators are unsung and under appreciated societal assets." Domsic's parents are members of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. For more information about the Domsic Family Endowed Scholarship or about making donations to Gannon, contact Tony Fulgenzio (class of '82), director of major gifts and annual fund, at 814.871.7786 or e-mail fulgenzi001@gannon.edu.

Crosses at Our Lady Queen of the Americas are life-size Lenten reminder

The "Crosses of Calvary" have become a dramatic reminder of the events of Calvary to parishioners of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake, this Lenten season.

The idea was conceived last Easter by parishioner Rich Starn. "I saw the top of the cross we had in the front of the church by the baptismal font and thought it could be very meaningful to have three life-size crosses in our midst to walk around, walk under, to touch," Starn said. After receiving authorization from the pastor, Fr. Stephen Anderson, and the parish liturgy committee, Starn started planning. He created them as authentically as possible, drawing quite a bit of his artistic inspiration from the film *The Passion of the Christ*.



Our Lady Queen of the Americas parishioner Roger Starn works on the "Crosses of Calvary" in his basement. Starn put approximately 285 man-hours into the project. The three crosses have been on display at the parish since the beginning of Lent.

Starn designed two 11-and-a-half-foot crosses for the 'good' and 'bad' thieves and one 15-and-a-half-foot cross for Christ, each with 7-and-a-half-foot cross beams and all made from cardboard boxes, random strips of wood, and a slurry of paper, wallpaper paste, glue, flour, linseed oil and plaster. In November, when all the parts were glued together, Rich moved everything inside to his basement. By mid-January everything was shaped and dry and the painting began and was finished about mid-February. With all the gluing, shaping,

painting and papier-mâché, approximately 285 hours of "TLC" went into this project. Parishioner John Meyerhoff created the stained wood box pedestals in which the crosses stand. Each box holds a cross and 650 pounds of steel weights, sand bags and rocks. About seven parishioners set up the crosses in the church: one in the main aisle, one next to the

pulpit and the Christ cross in the baptistry at the front of the church. When Starn was asked how he feels when he sees the crosses, he said, "I am very pleased that God gave me a gift that just may help increase the awareness and faith of others. It's one of the best feelings of accomplishment I ever had ... something meaningful made out of scraps."

Blessed Sacrament School celebrates Read Across America



Pictured are Blessed Sacrament student Catie Cacchione and third grade teacher Dawn Marie DeCenso holding Cacchione's fairy tale.

Read Across America Day was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament School on Thursday, March 2. The theme for this year's celebra-

tion was Fairy Tales. Students brought in fairy tale stories to read and the third-grade class wrote a creative fairy tale. Read

Across America was originally created as a one-day event to celebrate the joy of reading on March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Empty baptismal font becomes place of outreach for Holy Cross

Reflecting on the Lenten directive for prayer and charity, the Holy Cross community in Fairview has been building on the parish's hospitality during this Lenten season. Each Lent, the dry baptismal font is a reminder of emptiness and the needs of so many. The community fills the empty font with overflowing love and outreach.



Holy Cross' "In and Around the Baptismal Font" fills the empty font with products to be distributed to local shelters and outreach agencies. This year's gifts will be distributed to the Mercy Center for Women, Erie DAWN and St. Patrick Haven.

Under the direction of Fr. Tom Dugan, Holy Cross' "In and Around the Baptismal Font" fills the empty font with personal care and cleaning products to be distributed to local shelters and outreach agencies. This year's gifts will be distributed to the Mercy Center for Women, Erie DAWN and St. Patrick Haven.

After Palm Sunday, the staff sorts and distributes this amazing collection. Staff members include Sylvia Smith, coordinator of religious education; Carole Wingerter, receptionist; Joan Weislogel, outreach coord-

inator; and Jan Kindling, the parish's sixth year of the outreach program.

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