

Helping Hands

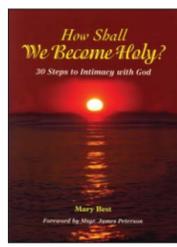
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FaithLife

How Shall We Become Holy?

Local author pens spirituality book, page 3



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 14, 2006

Confirmation Schedule

St. Luke Parish, Erie – Monday, May 15 at 7 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Parish, McKean – Tuesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro; St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs; St. Francis Xavier, McKean; and St. Teresa, Union City.

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie – Wednesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include All Saints, Erie/Waterford; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer; Mount Calvary, Erie; and St. Boniface, Erie.

St. Jude Parish, Erie – Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m.

Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg – Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Anne, Wilcox, and Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg.

St. Leo Magnus Parish, Ridgway – Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Elizabeth Parish, Smethport – Saturday, May 20 at 5 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bibiana, Galeton; St. Elizabeth, Smethport; St. Gabriel, Port Allegany; St. Joseph, Mt. Jewett; St. Raphael, Eldred; and St. Theresa, Shinglehouse.

Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys – Sunday, May 21 at 1 p.m.

Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys – Sunday, May 21 at 4 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Mary, St. Marys, and Queen of the World, St. Marys.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie – Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m.

Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale – Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Christ the King, Houtzdale; Holy Trinity, Ramey; Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; St. Basil the Great, Coalport; and St. Mary, Frenchville.

St. Thomas Parish, Corry – Wednesday, May 24 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Elizabeth, Corry, and St. Thomas, Corry.

St. Gregory Parish, North East – Thursday, May 25 at 7 p.m.

Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City – Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m.

Good Shepherd Parish, West Middlesex – Saturday, May 27 at 6 p.m. Confirmation classes include Good Shepherd, West Middlesex, and St. Bartholomew, Sharpville.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bradford – Sunday, May 28 at 1 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run; St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford; and St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford.

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Baccalaureate Mass and graduation at Mercyhurst College – Sunday, May 21

Ascension Thursday — May 25 (Holy Day of Obligation)

“When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.’” Acts 1: 9-11



Memorial Day – Monday, May 29

Erie Diocesan Cemeteries invites the public to attend the annual Memorial Day Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald W. Trautman at 11 a.m. May 29 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 5711 West Lake Road, Erie. For more information, visit www.ErieDC.org.



Sisters of Mercy call for immigration reform

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Calling for humane reform of the U.S. immigration system, the Erie Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas pledged their support by declaring May 4 as a day of prayer and fasting for compassionate immigration reform.

The sisters hosted a day of prayer in the motherhouse’s chapel, 444 East Grandview Boulevard, beginning with a morning Mass, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and a closing prayer service in the afternoon.

At a news conference April 28 to announce the day of fasting and prayer, Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, vice president of Erie community, said the Gospels and the heritage of the Mercy Sisters compels them to help those who are forced to move from their homelands and seek economic and physical survival elsewhere.

“In our spirit of welcome and hospitality, we have always ministered to immigrant persons and to those most vulnerable,” Sister McCartney said.

Mercy Sister Malou Serrano, a member of the community’s justice committee, urged citizens to contact U.S. Sens. Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum, both Republicans from Pennsylvania, to advocate

for passage of an immigration policy that allows a pathway to lawful permanent residence and citizenship, meets immigrants’ basic needs and encourages family unity and reunification.

Sister Bernadette Bell, president of the Erie community, joined the presidents of 24 other regional communities on Capitol Hill in Washington May 4 for a day of lobbying for immigration reform legislation.

The lobbying group delivered letters to senators calling for “humane reform” of the U.S. immigration system “to respect the rights of all persons while responding to values of family unity and community life.”

The sisters were joined by representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Network, a national social justice lobbying group; the Catholic Alliance for the Common Good; and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Their lobbying efforts came as the Senate works to craft an immigration reform bill that addresses a wide range of concerns, from cracking down on illegal border crossing to debating whether to offer people already in the country illegally a chance to regularize their status. A bill passed by the House in December addresses enforcement almost exclusively and has



The Erie Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy declared May 4 as a day of prayer and fasting for compassionate immigration reform at a news conference April 28 at the Mercy Motherhouse in Erie. Seated from left are Mercy Sisters Malou Serrano, a member of the Erie community’s justice committee, and Lisa Mary McCartney, vice president of the Regional Community of Erie. Standing in support of the sisters’ statement are: Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the Erie Diocese; Mario Medina and Claudia O’Connor, Erie Hispanic American Council; Sister Mary Pierre Dembinski, justice committee; Jean Keck, Catholic Charities Justice and Peace Office; and Mercy Sister Mary Ann Bader, Mercyhurst Preparatory School.

been widely criticized by Catholic organizations as unnecessarily harsh.

The women religious and other church representatives were pushing for legislation that includes a path to legalization, a guest worker program and dramatic changes in how applications for legal immigration are handled, among other provisions.

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.

To contact your lawmakers about compassionate immigration reform, e-mail Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter by visiting www.usenate.com.

Call, write or fax them at:

Sen. Arlen Specter
711 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202.224.4254
Fax: 202.228.1229
Erie office phone: 453.3010
Erie office fax: 455.9925

Sen. Rick Santorum
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202.224.6324
Erie office phone: 454.7114
Erie office fax: 459.2096

New church dedicated for Beloved Disciple, Grove City

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

GROVE CITY – When Msgr. Edward Zeidler came to the Church of the Beloved Disciple in 1997, there were three things he noted that the parish wanted.

On the wish list were a youth minister, air conditioning and handicap accessibility.

“The first two things we took care of right away,” Msgr. Zeidler said. “The big challenge was making the church handicap accessible.”

The third wish came in the form of a new, modern church that is unique in that it has no steps.

“We had a very beautiful church and even I in my nine years have grown quite fond of it, but it didn’t meet our needs anymore,” Msgr. Zeidler said. “The response to this project has been very positive. Our parish has been excited for quite a while. We are very proud and pleased with our new church.”

Bishop Donald Trautman

celebrated Mass and dedicated the new Church of the Beloved Disciple in Grove City April 29.

The church, located at 1305 Route 208 between Grove City and I-79, features a large gathering space, a special area for the choir near the altar, a large reconciliation room and expanded sacristy.

“The church now seats 450, almost double that of the old church, so that’s a big improvement,” Msgr. Zeidler said.

It is also less than two miles from the old church at 321 N. Broad St., which will still make it easy to find for travelers who visit the Grove City Outlets.

“We’ve become the home parish of Grove City College,” Msgr. Zeidler said. “The students have become very involved in parish life, especially religious education. We hope to accommodate them because they do make a big contribution to the parish.”

The church and worship space are the first parts of the parish to relocate. Plans call for new offices, a religious education complex and social hall to follow.

“We’ll be discussing our



Photo by Jay Adams

Bishop Donald Trautman blesses the baptismal font during the dedication ceremony April 29 at the new Church of the Beloved Disciple in Grove City.

next phases of expansion as soon as we reasonably can,” Msgr. Zeidler said.

Until then, those offices and parish programs will be housed at the North Broad Street complex.

Cost for the church and building projects is \$2.2 million. Much of the funds used for the new church’s construction came from the

diocesan Capital Campaign that called for any amount a parish reached over its goal to stay within the parish.

“Our people really got behind that,” Msgr. Zeidler said.

The property was offered by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3685.

“We had this parcel of land that the church used for

its summer festival,” said Peter Gavis, grand knight of Council 3685. “We had the idea that if the church ever needed to expand or build, that it would be available.”

At the request of Council 3685, the property was donated to the parish by the Knights of Columbus home court.

Clergy appointments

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

Msgr. Bruce R. Allison, reappointed as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

Father Henry C. Andre, reappointed as pastor of St. Columbkille Parish, Stoneboro, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

Msgr. William E. Biebel, reappointed as pastor of St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

Father Samuel G. Bungo, reappointed as pastor of St. Mary the Assumption Parish, Frenchville; St. Severin Parish, Drifiting; and Ss. Peter and Paul Mission, Grassflat, known collectively as the Northern Moshannon Cluster, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.



Barron, Pino ordained transitional deacons

Two seminarians have taken another step toward priesthood for the Erie Diocese.

Bill Barron and Justin Pino were ordained into the order of the diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman on April 29 during a Mass at the St. Mark Seminary chapel. As transitional deacons, Barron and Pino will finish their final year of major seminary before ordination to the priesthood in 2007.

Deacon Pino is studying at



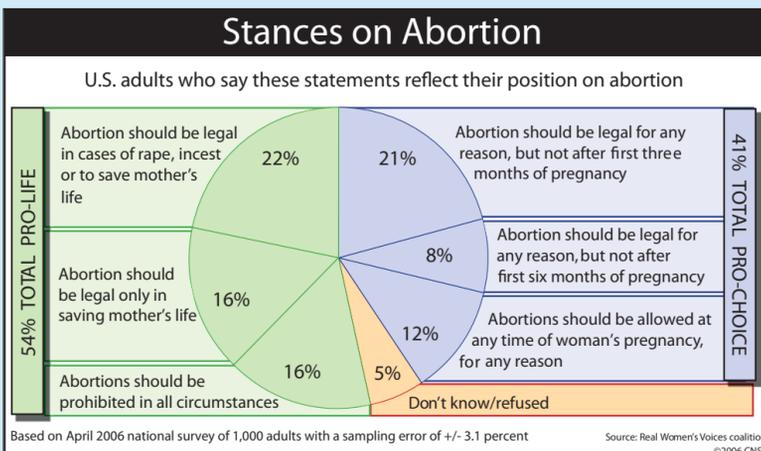
Newly ordained deacons Bill Barron, left, and Justin Pino.

St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore and is assigned to St. George Parish in Erie. His home parish is St. Basil the Great in Coalport.

Deacon Barron is studying at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe and is assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Oil City. His home parish is St. Andrew in Erie.

Poll: Americans more pro-life but still don't grasp how far Roe goes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thirty-three years after Roe v. Wade, most Americans still do not understand the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in nearly all circumstances, according to poll results released April 25 in Washington. Although 65 percent of respondents to a recent survey said they were very familiar or somewhat familiar with Roe v. Wade, only 29 percent were able to select the most accurate description of the decision from among four options, said Karen Smith of the polling company at a Washington press conference. Most respondents — a total of 50 percent — chose an incorrect description, saying Roe made abortion legal only in the first trimester (18 percent), only in limited circumstances (17 percent) or only in the first and second trimester (15 percent). Another 15 percent said they did not know, while 1 percent each said the correct description of Roe was "other" or "all of the above," 3 percent said "none of the above" and 2 percent refused to answer. The margin of error for the national poll, conducted by telephone April 13-14 among 1,000 adult Americans, was plus or minus 3.1 percent.



U.S.

Yearbook on U.S., Canadian churches reports rise of 'emergent church'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 2006 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches has an essay on the growing phenomenon of what is being called the "emergent church" — a decentralized movement or conversation among younger Christians in the United States and abroad who are committed to discipleship but resist traditional denominational ties, leadership structures and doctrinal formulations. Not surprisingly, much of the conversation among participants is carried out on the Internet, with numerous Web sites and blogs, short for Web logs, where they share ideas and write journals of their own faith understandings and experiences. The yearbook is an annual publication of the New York-based National Council of Churches.

Bishops' official says priesthood not only profession facing shortage

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The priesthood is not the only service profession facing a shortage in the United States today, Father Edward J. Burns, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation, said at a dinner April 25 in St. Louis. He cited recent studies and news reports about shortages looming nationwide in the fields of nursing, teaching, law enforcement and firefighting as well as ministry in Protestant churches. The underlying problem is a "commitment crisis" in the country that has also sharply reduced the number of couples who enter marriage, he said. Father Burns made his comments at the annual vocation dinner of the St. Charles Serra Club of the St. Louis Archdiocese. Serra clubs are organizations of lay Catholics devoted to promoting and supporting church vocations. "The challenges we face today are many," Father Burns said. He said that "such ideologies as materialism, individualism and relativism" are having a negative impact on many forms of commitment and service to others.



CNS photo
Father Edward J. Burns

WORLD

Thousands gather as cardinals beatify priests in India, Italy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thousands of people gathered at a parish church in southern India and in the square in front of the cathedral in Milan, Italy, April 30 for the beatification of three priests. With Pope Benedict XVI signing beatification decrees but not presiding over the ceremonies, Father Augustine Thevarparampil was beatified at St. Augustine Parish in Ramapuram, India, and Fathers Luigi Biraghi and Luigi Monza were beatified in Milan. Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, head of India's Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, presided over the beatification of Father Thevarparampil, who spent about 40 years as an assistant pastor at St. Augustine Parish, focusing his ministry on the "dalit" people once considered untouchable in India's traditional caste system. Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi of Milan presided over the Mass for the beatification of the two Italian priests. Blessed Monza founded the Secular Institute of the Little Apostles of Charity, a group of consecrated women devoted to caring for disabled children. Blessed Biraghi founded the Marcelline Sisters dedicated to educating children.

Former Swiss Guards show humor, tenacity in 439-mile march to Rome

ACQUAPENDENTE, Italy (CNS) — If it hadn't been for the clippety-clop of two mounted horses trotting over the asphalt, passers-by never would have heard the three divisions of former Swiss Guards heading their way. Their soft-soled "Wanderschuhe" or walking shoes and quiet chitchat made the arrival of some 70 veteran Swiss soldiers barely perceptible even in the silent countryside. To commemorate the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the Swiss Guard, the men were marching from Bellinzona, Switzerland, to Rome, following more or less the same route their compatriots took half a millennium ago, along the ancient pilgrim's path of the Francigena Way. The jubilee march began April 7. Twenty days and 368 miles later, the men reached Acquapendente — a historically important commercial town that once marked one of the borders of the Papal States south of the independent Tuscany region.



CNS photo
Call of duty: Former Swiss Guards pose in the Castelgrande in Bellinzona, Switzerland, April 6.

Pope says church must be more selective in picking saint candidates

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church should be more selective and very rigorous in choosing candidates for sainthood, Pope Benedict XVI said in a message to the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The pope, who as a cardinal expressed concern over the number of causes being promoted, wrote to the congregation as its members met April 24-26 for a plenary assembly. Congregation members discussed a new instruction for the initial diocesan stages of the sainthood process and were looking at possible changes to the formal criteria for determining martyrdom and for miracles. Pope Benedict told the congregation that, from the moment of his election a year ago, he had put into effect changes that met the "widespread hope" that the difference between beatification and canonization would be underlined and that local churches would be more involved in the entire process. Modern men and women need true models of holiness, he said, and they must be chosen with care.



CNS photo
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. John the Evangelist Church in Center Moriches, N.Y.

Nun who worked with ex-convicts murdered

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — Sister Karen Klimczak, a Sister of St. Joseph who was murdered April 14 at the Buffalo home where she ministered to ex-convicts, "gave her life in service to her God, her church and the community she loved," said Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Buffalo. Police have charged Craig M. Lynch with the murder. Lynch, who was released from Wyoming Correctional Facility in January, lived at Bissonette House, a residence for former prison inmates founded and directed by Sister Karen. Police said Lynch, 36, attacked Sister Karen, 62, as she interrupted a burglary. Lynch reportedly led police to the nun's body, which was not recovered until the evening of April 17. Sister Karen began Hope House prison ministry in 1985 to provide a home for men recently released from prison. In 1989 she moved the ministry to the former rectory of St. Bartholomew Church.



CNS photo
Sister Karen Klimczak is shown here arranging small crosses in 2004 in the Peace Garden, a special memorial displaying names of people murdered in the city from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004.

By the Way...

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in the diocese!

An exhibit of artist-in-residence Brother Thomas Bezanson's porcelain ceramics will be on display at the monastery through May 21 as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. Brother Thomas, a world-renowned potter, has been artist-in-residence at Mount St. Benedict Monastery since 1985.



Jason Koshinski

Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) will take place from June 19-23 at Camp Notre Dame. This five-day experience is designed to form and equip young people to become outstanding Christian youth leaders and disciples in their school, parish and in the larger community. CLI is open to youth who will be attending 10th grade in the fall of 2006 through those who are 2006 graduates.

For more information, contact Linda Lecce at the diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries at 814.824.1218 or e-mail llecce@ErieRCD.org. To fill out a CLI application, visit www.ErieRCD.org/youth.asp.

The Knights of Columbus have printed 10 million post cards in a joint effort with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops encouraging Catholics to write to their senators voicing support for the Marriage Protection Amendment.

The Marriage Protection Amendment would amend the U.S. Constitution to read that "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."

The Senate is slated to vote on the amendment during the first week of June.

If your parish does not have a Knights of Columbus council and you would like to participate, cards and letters can be sent to Senator Rick Santorum, United States Senate, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6324 and/or Senator Arlen Specter, United States Senate, 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510-3802.

Those going to Pittsburgh sometime this summer will want to check out the Pope John Paul II exhibit at Duquesne University. The exhibit, titled *A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People*, profiles the late Holy Father's role as an advocate for improving the bond between the Catholic and Jewish faiths. The exhibit opens May 15 and runs through Aug. 11 in the Mellon Hall lobby on campus.

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

12-Day Pilgrimage to ITALY

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FaithLife

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Since leaving his position as Director of Erie's Diocesan Youth Office, Greg Schlueter's video production and vision-development companies have contributed substantially to the success of Disney/Walden's Narnia, A&E's God or the Girl and Catholic diocese, parishes and programs around the country. His wife and six children are active at St. George Parish and School in Erie and remain committed to vital Catholic evangelization, discipleship and renewal locally and nationally. Let us help you Remember Forever.™

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People in the News

Cathedral Prep names Sister Claudia Dombrowski new principal

ERIE — Sister Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ, has been named the new principal of Cathedral Preparatory School.

Sister Claudia, currently the principal of Our Lady of Peace Elementary School, will officially begin her duties at Prep on July 1.

"It certainly looks to be a challenge and an exciting one," Sister Claudia said of her new position. "Sometimes, professionally and individually, change can be good. I just felt that this is where God is calling me to be at this time and look forward to working toward the future at Prep."

As principal, she will oversee the school's curriculum and faculty.

She has been at Our Lady of Peace for 20 years. She previously taught math at Cathedral Prep and was an assistant principal at Villa Maria Academy. She has taught at Blessed Sacrament and St. John the Baptist, where she also served as principal.

Sister Claudia will become the first Cathedral Prep principal who is not a layperson in the school's 85-year history.

Outside of being a former Prep teacher, Sister Claudia also has family ties to the school. Her seven brothers are all Cathedral Prep graduates.

OLP is currently accepting applications for its open principal position.



Sister Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ

Jean Keck leaving Catholic Charities for bereavement ministry

ERIE — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie has announced that Jean Kennedy Keck will be leaving her position as director of the Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life Office to pursue a position with the Visiting Nursing Association Hospice Program.

As part of her duties, Keck will be coordinating bereavement services as well as hospice volunteers.

"I have always felt called to this," Keck said. "I have always felt drawn to hospice work."

She leaves Catholic Charities after five-and-a-half years of service assisting parishes in promoting both the social teachings of the Catholic Church and activities which meet the social welfare needs of its neighbors.

"Meeting and connecting with people in our parishes who are involved in outreach has been a huge inspiration to me," she said. "They truly are the Body of Christ. I've gotten to work with people who are so giving and so loving and so caring."

Keck says it has been a privilege to educate people about Catholic social teaching and social justice.

"I have enjoyed helping people put those teachings into practice in our daily lives and making that real, not just theoretical," she said. "That part of living out our faith everyday. If we say this is who we are, then this is who we have to be. At least we have to do our best to try."

To fill the open position, Catholic Charities seeks a knowledgeable and practicing Catholic professional to coordinate training and support for its volunteer programs in parish social ministry, justice and peace and respect life. A master's degree in social work, pastoral studies or other human services is required. Send resume and references to William Saborsky, Human Resources, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514 or e-mail wsaborsky@eriedcd.org.



Jean Keck

WORDS of the SHEPHERD



"On this day of your ordination to the diaconate, keep in mind the reassuring words of Jesus: Do not be afraid. Today, as you embark on your journey of ministry and promise of celibacy and obedience, put your trust in Christ's words: Do not be afraid."

— Bishop Donald Trautman, speaking to diaconate candidates Bill Barron and Justin Pino, during his homily prior to ordination at Mass April 29 at St. Mark Seminary.

Director of Parish Social Ministry, Justice and Peace/Respect Life

Catholic Charities seeks a knowledgeable and practicing Catholic professional to coordinate training and support for its volunteer programs in parish social ministry, justice and peace and respect life. Some travel throughout the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie is necessary. Computer experience preferred. Master's in Social Work, Pastoral Studies or other human services required. Send resume and references to:

Deacon William Saborsky
St. Mark Center Human Resources
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16514
E-mail: wsaborsky@eriedcd.org
Fax: 814-824-1264

Director of Religious Education

Vibrant suburban parish of 2,500 families is on the lookout for a highly motivated DRE to continue leadership of an excellent program that includes elementary, secondary, Confirmation, and adult faith formation. Applicant should have a degree in Religious Education and the skills necessary to coordinate with the Pastoral Team, parish staff, and volunteers. Previous experience is preferred for this full-time position.

Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience.

Send resume by June 9th, 2006 to:
Search Committee: Director of Religious Education
Our Lady of Peace Parish
2401 West 38th St.
Erie, PA 16506
(814) 833-7701

Charities Ball raises \$30,000, honors Hilbert family

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Attendees raised \$30,000 at the 11th annual Catholic Charities Ball, held April 21 at Lake Shore Country Club in Fairview.

Catholic Charities selected Rainbows, its support program for children who have experienced a loss due to separation, divorce or death, to benefit from the ball this year. Approximately 400 children participate in Rainbows throughout the Erie Diocese.

"The ball is the premiere charitable event in the diocese," said Mary Maxwell, executive director for Catholic Charities of the Erie Diocese. "It's a wonderful opportunity for individuals and the corporate world to demonstrate their commitment to the work of charity."

A new addition to the ball this year was the presentation of the Helping Hands Award, created by Catholic Charities to be given annually to an individual, family or organization having demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community. The recipient for the 2006 award is the Hilbert family.

In accepting the award, Father Tex Hilbert said the spirit represented in the award came to the family through their parents, the late Mary and Joseph "Tex" Hilbert as well as Lavina Wurst, whom he introduced, and her late husband, Leo.

The five members of the Hilbert family who were honored with this year's award include: Midge Hilbert Klebes, a nurse for 45 years. A past member of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie, she was an officer and chairperson of several committees and a 25-year bingo volunteer. A member of St. George Parish in Erie, she has volunteered for several organi-



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

From left, Mary Maxwell, executive director of Catholic Charities; Bishop Donald Trautman; Martha and Bill Hilbert; Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ; Father Tex Hilbert; and Midge Klebes at the 11th annual Catholic Charities Ball.

zations including scouts, cheerleading and soccer. She also served as a eucharistic minister.

Sister Phyllis entered the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1957. She taught at several schools throughout the diocese for more than 12 years, and served as religious education administrator. Sister Phyllis spent six years in Africa as the director of religious education for the Diocese of Arusha, Tanzania. There she co-founded the MWEDI project, which instructs teachers how to teach religion in elementary schools. Sister Phyllis spent several years as part of the leadership council for the Sisters of St. Joseph and six years as a treatment specialist at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for women and children. She then co-founded Erie DAWN where she was administrator for the last 10 years.

Bill Hilbert serves as chairman, president and CEO of the PHB Corporation and chairman and CEO of Reddog Industries. He has received numerous awards for his dedication to higher education, labor and industry, religion and

numerous civic and social causes including the Archbishop Gannon Medal of Distinction for commitment to the cause of Catholic higher education, the Newcomen Society and ACES (Americans for Competitive Enterprise System) Citizen of the Year Award, the Philanthropist of the Year Award from United Way and Man of the Year from the Boy Scouts of America. He is a Knight of St. Gregory honoree. Bill is chairman of the board of trustees for the Erie Community Foundation and for St. Vincent Health System as well as a member of the Council of Fellows for Penn State Behrend and of the board of directors for Eriez Magnetics.

Martha Hilbert, who graduated from Mercyhurst College with a degree in education, is well-known for her support of many organizations. A volunteer for the Emmaus Soup Kitchen, she has served meals to the homeless weekly for 25 years. She is on the board of directors for Emmaus Ministries, St. Paul's Neighborhood Free Clinic and

the Barber National Institute. A past member of St. George Parish Council, she is also past chairperson of the St. George Financial Campaign. She is a Lady of St. Gregory the Great honoree. Bill and Martha have four children and seven grandchildren.

Father John J. "Tex" Hilbert was ordained in Erie in 1960. He has served in a number of diocesan and parish capacities including diocesan director of religious education, spiritual director of the Cursillo Movement, diocesan Campus Ministry director, pastor of St. Mark Parish in Lawrence Park, chaplain of Mercyhurst/Northeast College, president of Congregational Action to Lift with Love and sacramental assistant at St. Andrew Parish. He has also provided leadership for several state and national organizations. He is a member of the Civic Coordinating Committee and the Greater Erie Unity Committee. Father Tex has also authored two books, *Mary, the Mother of God* and *Parish Alive*.

Local author asks, How Shall We Become Holy?

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — For people who may get lost on the road to holiness, Mary Best has provided a spiritual map.

Best, a local writer and member of St. Jude Parish in Erie, recently released *How Shall We Become Holy? 30 Steps to Intimacy with God*. It is her first book on spirituality.

"When people think of holiness, most times they think of priests and nuns," Best says. "But we're all called to holiness."

Best has outlined what she calls a "map to spirituality" into 30 steps such as commitment, trust, accepting forgiveness and spiritual direction. The first step, however, is humility.

"We all need humility in our lives," Best says. "We need to open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit. All the steps outlined in the book go together. They all overlap, but you can take them one by one and see the importance of each."

The second half of the book is on the Holy Spirit and includes steps on the gifts of the Spirit and fruits of the Spirit.

"The Spirit is the one who

brings us to holiness," Best says.

In writing a book of this type, Best says her goal was to be clear and concise. Each step is fused with a Scripture passage corresponding to that step.

"Mary writes very simply and handles difficult problems

in ways that are clarifying," says Msgr. James Peterson, director at Maria House Project, who has written the forward for the book. "She helps to take holiness out of the realm of stained glass windows and brings it to everyday earnestness about

purity of intention. In the process, she makes it clear that many people who call themselves Christian aim too low."

Best suggests that her book would be good for discussion groups and a gift idea for those being confirmed. She says she was also pleased to learn that the book was being shared by inmates at SCI Albion.

The book is published by Resurrection Press, an imprint of the Catholic Book Publishing Company. It has already been well-received by several Catholic outlets. The Paulist Press bought 500 copies for their February back-of-the-



Mary Best

How Shall We Become Holy? 30 Steps to Intimacy with God is available at:

- Hofmann's Church & Religious Goods
- Barnes & Noble
- Erie Book Store
- Gospel Book and Supply Center
- Amazon.com

or contact Mary Best directly at icsfrend@velocity.net or call 814.459.6751

The book is priced at \$6.95.

church book racks, and *Living Faith*, a quarterly devotional for Catholics, has featured it in its current issue and on its Web site. It is also being promoted at www.findthedivine.com, which services 1,300 retreat centers, 500 conference centers and 100 spiritual directors.

In addition to editing two award-winning national magazines, *The Master's Work* and *Catholic Forester*, Best has written for *Living Faith* and *My Daily Visitor* and authored a syndicated column for *Catholic*

Singles. She has a master's degree in pastoral studies and is available for workshops on spirituality.

She is a member of Pennwriters, a network of 400 writers in the region.

Best is also the author of *Seventy Septembers*, which researches the history of black education in Mississippi from 1905 to 1975 with a special emphasis on the educational work of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in Techny, Ill.

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Notre Dame hoops wins CYO state title



The Notre Dame Vikings recently captured the school's first CYO state championship. From left to right are Jake Penn, Joe Benes, Rocky Farmartino, Anthony Uberti, Ramal Hayes, Matt Durisko, Tyler Montgomery, Dante Vetica, Eric Grasso and ball boy Evan Montgomery. Not pictured are head coach Bob Votino and assistant coaches Rich Vetica, Dr. Anthony Uberti and Mike Puleo.

Notre Dame School's 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team captured the Pennsylvania CYO championship during the state parochial tournament held at Holy Family University in Philadelphia the last weekend in March. In the championship game, Notre Dame beat St. Andrew of Philadelphia 50-47. St. Andrew entered the game with a 46-0 record for the season. Notre Dame finished its year with a 29-1 record, with the team's only loss coming from

participation in a 9th grade tournament. This was Notre Dame's fifth time representing the Erie Diocese in the state tournament and its first state title. "This is a very exciting time for the school and parish community," said Notre Dame head coach Bob Votino. "For the kids, they'll never forget it. It was a dream weekend in Philadelphia for them, to get in the big game and play a team like the one we played. We played an almost perfect game."

St. George School's Mile of Kindness helps Erie DAWN

Students of St. George School in Erie gathered in the school's parking lot in celebration of the Feast of St. George April 28 and presented Erie DAWN, Inc. with an impressive display of donated personal and household care items. The path of donations, part of the school's Mile of Kindness project, measured 940 feet. Kimberly Lytle, administrator of Erie DAWN, gratefully accepted the contributions on behalf of the families that Erie DAWN serves with transitional, supportive, independent housing.



Students at St. George School in Erie laid their donations end-to-end as part of their Mile of Kindness project.

Student Council members orchestrated this all-out effort to gather the much-needed items. Paper towels, bath tissue, toothpaste, soap, lotions, shampoo, diapers, baby wipes and even baby clothes made up a good portion of the donations. The value of their gifts is estimated at \$1,600. The donations mean a lot to the women in the Erie DAWN program, who, with a very limited

income, must carefully prepare and keep a monthly budget with an added stipulation that includes payment of any debts. Their goal is to leave the Erie DAWN program ready to find and maintain permanent housing. Erie DAWN is a collaborative effort of the Mercy Sisters, Benedictine Sisters and Sisters of St. Joseph. Women in the DAWN program must be home-

less and working and/or enrolled in an educational program that will improve their opportunities for work advancement. Jen Shepard, 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at St. George who also serves as adviser to the Student Council, worked with the students to promote this Mile of Kindness project to help Erie's homeless families.

DuBois students take part in educational research



Shown looking over one segment of the unit of study are Chollock and Biology I students Jenna Levin (foreground) and Sarah Sczzerba. More than 55 CCHS students were part of the research effort.

Ninth grade Biology I students at DuBois Central Catholic High School were chosen to take part in a program of educational research currently being conducted by the Science Education Department of Clarion University. Student intern Brandon J. Zawacki, a senior at Clarion University, along with

his mentor Donna Chollock, science chairperson of the DACS, implemented the rubric requirements for the unit of study outlined by Dr. Sue Courson, Clarion Science Education Supervisor. Pilot results will be turned over to the university this spring, according to Chollock.

Mercyhurst Prep tops in Penny Challenge results



Kathy Pirrello's Mercyhurst Prep students claim first place of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania's Penny Challenge.

The Second Harvest Food Bank's 11th annual Penny Challenge raised a total of \$6,956 to help feed those in our community who are facing hard times.

Six schools participated in this year's fundraiser. Mercyhurst Prep took first place in two award categories, including most money raised (\$2,500) and highest amount of funds collected per student (\$3.79).

For the competition, the schools set up containers for each grade level. Students placed pennies in their own containers for positive points; and also placed silver coins or bills (worth negative points) in other grade level containers in order to sabotage their competitors. A calculation of the positive and negative points determined the winner within each school.

Mercyhurst Prep will receive special recognition at the 2006 Bread Box Awards, an annual event held each October at the Food Bank.

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