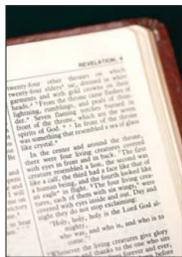


Not an easy read
Survey indicates Bible hard to understand, page 2.



FaithLife

And the winner is ...

Nineteen students compete in diocesan spelling bee, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 18, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Sacred Heart of Jesus



Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- May 18 Most Holy Trinity
- May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena
- May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes and his companions
- May 22 St. Rita of Cascia
- May 25 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
- May 26 St. Philip Neri
- May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury
- May 30 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- May 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Confirmation schedule

Christ the King, Houtzdale – Tues., May 20 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Christ the King, Houtzdale; Holy Trinity, Ramey; Immaculate Conception, Madera; Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; St. Basil the Great, Coalport; St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville; Ss. Peter and Paul, Grassflat; Ss. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run; and St. Severin, Drifting.

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro – Wed., May 21 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include All Saints, Waterford; Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro; St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs; and St. Francis Xavier, McKean.

St. Thomas, Corry – Thurs., May 22 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Thomas, Corry; St. Elizabeth, Corry; St. Teresa, Union City; and Our Lady of Fatima, Canadohta Lake.

Immaculate Conception, Clarion – Fri., May 23 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Immaculate Conception, Brookville; St. Eusebius, East Brady; and St. Richard, Rimersburg.

St. Luke, Erie – Tues., May 27 at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph, Lucinda – Fri., May 30 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Lucinda; St. Michael, Fryburg; St. Mary, Crown; and St. Anne, Marienville.

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield – Sat., June 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Clergy appointments

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

Father Thomas Aleksa, accepted resignation as pastor of St. John Parish, Tidioute, and St. Anthony, Tionesta, for health reasons.

Msgr. John Lucas, appointed to the Office of the Dean of the Warren Deanery for a term ending May 2010. Effective April 21, 2008.

Father Shane Mathew, appointed to residence at St. George Parish rectory, Erie.

Father Christopher Singer, assigned to graduate studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., beginning this fall.

www.erieRCD.org



Read local coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. including the reflection of one seminarian who served at the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Catholic Charities Ball raises \$35,000

Rahners honored with Helping Hands Award

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

After the hors d'oeuvres and dancing, the 13th annual Catholic Charities Ball raised nearly \$35,000, all of which will go toward families in need.

The ball, held April 18 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, is the premiere charitable event for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. More than 400 people attended this year's ball, which is a record for the event. The funds raised this year also broke last year's record of \$29,000.

Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner were also 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.

With rising gas prices and food costs, more and more people are turning to non-profit agencies for help, including assistance with rent, utilities and mortgages, said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, executive director of The Catholic Foundation and the ball organizer this year.

"The number of people call-



Photos by Daniel "Scott" Williams

An added twist to this year's Catholic Charities Ball was "Get in Step with Erie's Stars," a dance competition featuring local celebrities. At left, Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott and Tracy Hawthorne show off their first-place trophies for winning the swing competition. Right, June Pinteau and Brent Davis delight the crowd with their swing rendition.

ing on our services continues to increase," McCloskey said. "That's why it's so important to have the Catholic Charities Ball proceeds help families in need of all faiths. Last year we

helped more than 9,000 with the ball proceeds and hope to increase that this year."

The Catholic Foundation will accept grant applications from all Catholic Charities

providers and affiliates in the coming months. Last year, all of the funds were dispersed directly to families in need

See BALL, page 3

Tomorrow's priest: Timothy Balliett

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Editor's note: This is the first of two profiles of men who will be ordained priests June 6 for the Diocese of Erie.

"There were always a number of priests around when I was growing up," says Timothy Balliett, who grew up at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie.

After early designs on the priesthood, the influence of Balliett's parish and teacher priests helped the call resurface years later. Now he will follow in their footsteps.

Balliett, along with classmate Deacon Johnathan Schmoltz, will be ordained to the priesthood during a 7 p.m. Mass and ceremony on Friday, June 6 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

"From an early age, I was intrigued by the priesthood and interested in it," Balliett said. "That was around the fourth grade."

Blessed Sacrament's co-pastors during his youth — Msgr. Ennis Connelly, Father Tom Fialkowski, Msgr. Gerald Koos, Msgr. Wilfrid Nash, Msgr. James McCullough, Father Tom Brooks, Msgr. Dan Arnold and Msgr. John Hagerty — had a deep impact on his spiritual formation and openness to the priesthood.

At Blessed Sacrament, the Sisters of St. Joseph had a vibrant representation at both the parish and school at the time. Balliett remembers Sister Mary Alice Reed pulling him aside one day asking him if he ever thought about becoming a priest. During his time at Cathedral Prep, then headmaster Msgr. Hagerty took him out of class once. Msgr. Hagerty had recently spoken with Tim's parents about his possible vocation to the priesthood. He asked Tim if he

Deacon Timothy Balliett

Age: 35
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Blessed Sacrament, Erie

Family: Parents, Edward and Marilyn; siblings, Michael and Daniel.

- Schools attended:
- Blessed Sacrament School, Erie
 - Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie
 - St. Mark Seminary formation program, Erie
 - Gannon University, Erie (B.A. in psychology/social sciences with secondary education certification)
 - The Pennsylvania State University, University Park (M.S., Ph.D. in educational psychology)
 - St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore (S.T.B., M.Div.)

- Deacon assignments:
- St. Tobias Parish, Brockway
 - Church of the Immaculate Conception, Towson, Md.

Inspiring Scripture verse: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." — John 15:12. The core of the Gospel message — who God is and who we are called to be — is summarized in this verse. It is a constant reminder of the total self-sacrificial life of love that priesthood entails.

ever thought about it.

"But I was in high school and discovered that there were girls, dated, went to college and kind of put it in the back of my mind," Tim said.



Deacon Timothy Balliett

During his teacher certification at Gannon, he was student teaching at a public high school and enjoying it immensely.

"But I felt that I wasn't able to teach the whole child," he said. "There was something missing, the experience with the teachers and priests that I had at Prep and Blessed Sacra-

ment." Again, he didn't think too much of it at the time. He then went on to pursue a master's degree at Penn State.

"I was down there for a while before things finally surfaced again," he said. "There

See BALLIETT, page 3

Transitional deacon ordained

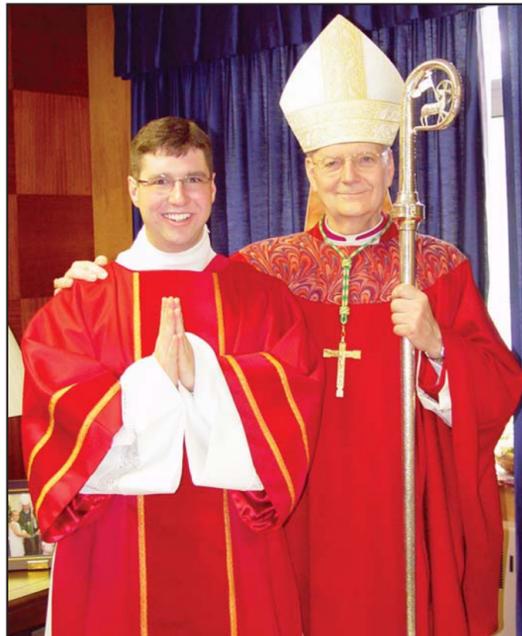


Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Daniel Hoffman (left) was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Donald Trautman on Saturday, May 3 at St. Mark Seminary Chapel in Erie, bringing him one step closer to priesthood. Hoffman, from Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, is studying for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He is scheduled to be ordained a priest in 2009. He is the son of Timothy and Patricia Hoffman of Erie.

Americans think more highly of pope after U.S. visit

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April boosted his image among Americans, including Catholics, according to a recent survey.

Sixty-one percent of the 1,000 people surveyed by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life April 23-30, just days after his U.S. trip, said they view the pope favorably. In March, 52 percent of those surveyed had the same response.

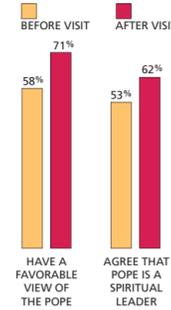
Among Catholics, the pope's favorable rating rose to 83 percent in April, up from 74 percent in March. The survey included 232 Catholics.

The survey also found that nearly half of the responding Catholics (49 percent) say they have a very favorable opinion of the pope, up from 36 percent in March. Among all Americans, 22 percent of those surveyed said they had a very favorable view of the pope.

The pope also received improved marks for promoting good relations with other religions between March and April, especially among Protestants in the survey. Nearly half (49 percent) of Protestants who had

Positive Views

Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. in April had a positive impact on the public's attitude toward him, according to results of a post-visit poll.



heard at least a little about the pope said he has done an excellent or good job in his relations with other religions. In late March, just 32 percent of Protestants held that view.

Overall, 70 percent of Catholics expressed a positive opinion of Pope Benedict's efforts to foster good relations with other religions, up from 64 percent in March. Most of the improvement came from among Catholics who attend Mass less than every week. In that group, 60 percent of those surveyed said they felt positive about the pope's interreligious efforts, an increase from 48 percent a month earlier.



IN THE U.S.

Theological consultants to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes have ruled that the cancer cure of a Hawaiian woman was due to Blessed Damien de Veuster's intercession, Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva announced April 29. The decision represents a major step forward in Father Damien's cause for canonization. The final actions required to declare the priest a saint are the endorsement of the congregation's committee of cardinals and bishops and the approval of the pope. Father Damien, the 19th-century missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary who spent the final 16 years of his life caring for the Hansen's disease patients on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai, was beatified in 1995 in Belgium by Pope John Paul II. In his announcement, Bishop Silva included the name of the Oahu woman, Audrey Toguchi, whose cancer disappeared a decade ago after she began prayers to Father Damien that included pilgrimages to Kalaupapa where the priest worked and died.



Audrey Toguchi holds a picture of Blessed Damien de Veuster at her home in Alea, Hawaii.

During the annual St. Mark's Day Mass on April 30, which celebrates the spiritual and academic growth of St. Mark's seminarians at the end of the school year, Bishop Donald Trautman gave assignments to the two young men who will be moving on to major seminary.

AROUND THE WORLD

The Catholic Church and particularly its social teaching must begin to grapple with the potential and the problems posed by the Internet, particularly when dealing with questions about personal identity, community involvement and solidarity, several social scientists said. Members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, meeting at the Vatican May 1-7, explored how solidarity and subsidiarity can come together to promote the common good. As part of their discussion, they looked at the role of the market economy and the state in promoting the exchange of goods, but also at the role played by communities and groups that support people, give them identity and teach them how to contribute to society. For an increasing number of people, computers are the way they connect to the communities where they test and forge their personal identities and where they express their creativity and contribute to the production of goods, several academy members said at a May 6 Vatican press conference.

The Catholic Church has officially recognized 17th-century Marian apparitions to a 17-year-old peasant girl in a southern Alpine village in France. "Three centuries have passed since Benoitte Rencurel testified ... about what Christ and Mary, his mother, had revealed concerning God's love for men, as well as his infinite mercy and his appeal for conversion," Archbishop Georges Pontier of Marseille, France, said during a May 4 Mass at the Marian basilica in the town of Laus. "Here, as in Lourdes, as in La Salette, as in Fatima, we see Mary pursuing her mission to reveal her son and invite us to do all he tells us," he told more than 6,000 people at the Mass. A decree recognizing the "supernatural origin of the apparitions and of facts lived and recounted by the young shepherdess" between 1664 and 1718 was read at the Mass by Bishop Jean-Michel di Falco Leandri of Gap, France.

In an effort to enhance their visibility on the world stage and provide networking support to others, two worldwide organizations of religious released a global "map" of how the church

is combating HIV/AIDS. Titled "In Loving Service," the 30-page booklet documents the services religious orders offer to millions of people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world. Organizers said the mapping project will be vital for showing the churches, governments, international organizations and potential donors exactly what men and women religious are doing in the areas of prevention, care and education. A draft of the booklet was released April 30 and at a May 3-5 international forum sponsored by the International Union of Superiors General — an organization for women religious — and the Union of Superiors General — an organization for men religious. Organizers said the role religious institutes play in fighting the spread of HIV and caring for those affected by AIDS has either been overlooked or criticized for the church's opposition to the use of condoms in prevention programs.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

Venerating the relics of St. Padre Pio is a reminder that the saints were real men and women who lived for God, said Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. Cardinal Saraiva Martins celebrated Mass April 24 at San Giovanni Rotondo before officially unveiling the new, crystal tomb in which Padre Pio has been reburied. Pilgrims will be able to view the body of the Capuchin friar, who died in 1968. The Capuchins of San Giovanni Rotondo and the papal delegate for the shrine, Archbishop Domenico D'Ambrosio, have said the body will be on view at least until September before the crystal will be covered.



By the Way...

Well, the mystery is over in St. Marys.

Catholic education in the St. Marys area got a big boost this year when an anonymous donor first offered a half-million dollar matching gift, ultimately increasing it to \$1.2 million in response to the generosity of area residents. When donors, friends and family gathered at the Red Fern Restaurant in St. Marys for a celebratory dinner on Friday, April 18, the anticipation was palpable.



Jason Koshinski

Turns out the anonymous matching donor couple was Warren and Marylou Meyer Hayford of Hobe Sound, Florida. Marylou graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1944 and then Central Catholic High School. The announcement was especially exciting for Mary Simons Meyer, development director for St. Marys area Catholic schools, whose husband, Jake, is Marylou's sister.

Warren and Marylou were unable to attend the dinner, but the check was officially presented by two of their seven children, Lisa Hayford Goodmaster and Susan Hayford Luciu. The newly established Edward L. and Cecilia Kosco Meyer Family Endowed Scholarship Fund will help ensure the future of Catholic education in St. Marys. Look for a full report on the event and endowment fund in the July/August issue of *Faith* magazine.

Brandon Kleckner, son of Neal and Cathy Kleckner, will study at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. Brandon is from Sacred Heart Parish in Erie; Patrick Wiler, son of Richard and Carol Wiler, will study at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. Patrick is from St. Luke Parish in Erie.

Our Lady's Christian School in Erie honored Brady Louis on Friday, May 2 for his longtime commitment to Catholic education. Brady and his wife, Renie, attended the gala and sit-down dinner at Lake Shore Country Club. Proceeds from the event will benefit the technology program at OLC.

Louis is the proud father of seven Our Lady's Christian School alumni, and his involvement with the Erie community is legendary. He is known as "the voice" of Erie, having been the toastmaster at literally hundreds of events. Louis has also been a member of numerous non-profit boards and been honored with community awards a remarkable 18 times.

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

Not an easy read: Survey indicates Bible hard to understand

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Bible: Most people in Europe and North America have one and some of them actually read it, but more than half of them say it is difficult to understand.

A survey commissioned by the Catholic Biblical Federation found that even those who reported reading the Bible said it was not easy to understand.

Luca Diotallevi, the Rome-based sociology professor who coordinated the survey's working group, said, "This is very important: People described the Bible as difficult whether or not they said they read it."

"The people of God are asking for help reading the Bible," he said.

The Catholic Biblical Federation commissioned the survey as part of its preparation for the October world Synod of Bishops, which will focus on the Bible.

During an April 28 Vatican press conference, the federation and GfK-Eurisko, which conducted the survey, presented preliminary results from nine countries: the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Russia.

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted in November with 13,000 adults.

Asked, "In the past 12 months have you read any passage from the Bible?" 75 percent of U.S. adults said "yes."

Their European counterparts were far behind them, but Diotallevi said the results coincide with other surveys on the

differences between U.S. and European religious attitudes and practices.

Diotallevi said a few more Protestants than Catholics reported having and reading the Bible, but the difference was so slight that it "was not statistically relevant."

The percentage of Europeans affirming they had read a Bible passage in the previous year varied from a high of 38 percent in Poland to a low of 20 percent in Spain.

But the huge differences all but disappeared when those surveyed were asked whether they considered the Bible's content to be "easy" or "difficult."

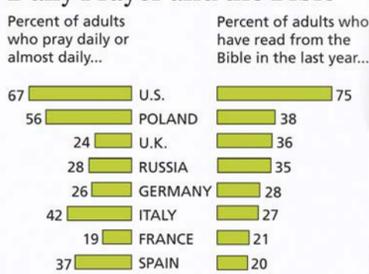
The spread of those who said it was difficult went from 56 percent in the United States to 70 percent in Germany.

The percentage of respondents who said they had a Bible at home was 93 percent in the United States, 85 percent in Poland, 75 percent in Italy, 74 percent in Germany, 67 percent in both the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, 65 percent in Russia, 61 percent in Spain and 48 percent in France.

The survey designers also tested for what they defined as an individual's "index of biblical knowledge," by asking seven very basic questions, such as "Are the Gospels part of the Bible?" and "Did Jesus write a book of the Bible?"

Diotallevi said the scores of Catholics and Protestants were not significantly different because while slightly more Protestants reported reading the Bible "they have a greater tendency toward fundamentalism, giving what we would consider a wrong answer. For example, many of them maintain that Jesus is the author of the Gospels."

Daily Prayer and the Bible



Data from November 2007 interviews with 13,000 residents. Source: GfK-Eurisko for the Catholic Biblical Federation ©2008 CNS



Pope appeals for mercy, generosity for suffering cyclone victims

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI appealed to the world community to be merciful and generous by offering aid and working to relieve the suffering caused by Cyclone Nargis, which killed tens of thousands in Myanmar.

During his May 7 general audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope called on people to open their hearts "to compassion and generosity so that with the collaboration of all who are able and want to lend help, the suffering caused by this huge tragedy can be alleviated."

When the pope spoke, more than 22,000 people had been killed, 41,000 were missing and 1 million were homeless after the cyclone's heavy rains and winds of up to 120 mph swept over southern Myanmar May 3.

The cyclone damaged at least three major cities, including Yangon, the capital of Myanmar and its largest city.

The pope said he was praying for the victims and their families and called for "divine strength and comfort upon the homeless and all who are suffering."

About 1 percent of the population of junta-ruled Myanmar is Catholic. Most of its citizens are Buddhist.

The pope said he was "confident that the international community will respond with generous and effective relief to the needs" of those hit by the cyclone.



Cyclone Disaster

Tens of thousands of people are confirmed dead as a result of Cyclone Nargis that hit southern Myanmar. At least three major cities and two states have declared a state of emergency.

Source: Reuters

clone.

In Thailand and India, Catholic agencies prepared relief efforts for neighboring Myanmar, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Father Pibul Visitmontachai, director of the Thai bishops' Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, told UCA News May 7 that the Myanmar Embassy had just given permission for a church team to go there.

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Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2008 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.



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.

If you haven't yet made a pledge to the CSA, it's not too late. Contact your parish office.

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

Sharon Deanery

Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Construction of faith formation and administrative wing of church

Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex – New heating and air conditioning system in church

Holy Trinity, Farrell – Repair garden wall in front of church

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer – Church renovations and repairs

Notre Dame, Hermitage – New pews and carpeting, projected as a two-year expense

Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell – New roof for chapel at Msgr. Geno Monti School, new air conditioning in church

Sacred Heart, Sharon – Parish lighting project

St. Adalbert, Farrell – Repair of bell tower

St. Ann, Farrell – No project listed

St. Anthony, Sharon – Restroom in back of church

St. Bartholomew, Sharpville – Debt reduction

St. Colombille, Stoneboro – New energy-efficient furnace for church, Catholic grade school assessment

St. Joseph, Sharon – Debt reduction

St. Michael, Greenville – Replace sidewalks at St. Michael School, enlarge loading area in front of parish social hall, repair roof from wind damage

St. Stanislaus, Sharon – General parish improvements

Catholic Charities Ball raises \$35,000

BALL from page 1

through this process.

Catholic Charities agencies and services extend throughout the 13 counties of the Erie Diocese offering many forms of aid and support throughout northwestern Pennsylvania.

McCloskey said Catholic Charities continues to be grateful for its leading corporate sponsors, Highmark and St. Vincent Health System, along with more than 20 additional corporate sponsors. This year's ball included a host circle for the first time, which involved major support from 23 donor couples and individuals, many of whom were new to the ball, McCloskey said.

As winners of the Helping Hands Award, the Rahners were presented with one-of-a-kind pottery from Ecuador which had been purchased by Glass Growers. This was in honor of their service to the international community.

An added twist to this year's ball was "Get in Step with Erie's Stars," a dance competition featuring local celebrities. Competing in the swing category were: Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott, Karla Mullenax, Scott Bremner, June Pinte, Jim Martin, Dan Dahlkemper, Angela Bontempo and Matt Roche. Competing in the cha-cha were: Judge Susan Paradise Baxter, Almi Clerkin, Cheryl Vicary, Connie Boone Manus, Gerry Vandemerwe, Jim Jackson and Mark DiVecchio. Judges for the competition included John Leemhuis, Esq. and Stephen and Kathy Findlay.

Sinnott and his partner, Tracy Hawthorne, won the swing category, and Clerkin and her partner, Jerry Stefanic, won the cha cha competition.



Photo by Daniel "Scoot" Williams

Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner (center) won the 2008 Helping Hands Award for their involvement with refugees and the international community. The Rahners are pictured with Mary Maxwell, executive director of Catholic Charities, and Bishop Donald Trautman.

"I thought it might be fun and wanted to help them raise as much money as I could," Sinnott said in regards to entering the competition. "I thought something like this would draw people to the event and draw contributions."

Sinnott was one of many contestants to take advantage of free dance lessons for each participant, which were donated by

Connie Shoop of Connie's Ballroom Dance. Emmy Nolan also donated private in-home lessons.

"It was a lot of fun and a good experience learning something new," said Sinnott, who says he never swing danced prior to this competition. "We got a nice chance to practice. The event itself was fantastic, going out there and competing."

Tomorrow's priest: Timothy Balliett

BALLIETT from page 1

were a number of things that kind of came together at the same time."

It was the first time he was attending a secular university. He encountered a lot of people who weren't Catholic who had a lot of questions about the faith and some who had fallen away. He belonged to a parish where he got involved and even sat on the parish's school board. His girlfriend at the time was considering becoming Catholic, as well.

"All at once I had people asking me questions, and I was getting involved with the school and the parish," he said. "And all of that together kind of resurrected the thought of priesthood again."

Right around that time, Father Chuck Drexler, who had taught at Gannon and had been a big influence in Tim's life when he was younger, died from cancer. Tim came home for the funeral.

"In the midst of all these forces kind of coming together, I'll never forget Bishop Trautman's remarks toward the end of the liturgy," Tim said. "He talked about how wonderful and full Father Drexler's ministry and life was, even though he had died relatively young in his 50s. And he just turned to the congregation and said, 'And who will take his place?' And not that any



Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain Deacons Johnathan Schmolz (left) and Timothy Balliett to the priesthood on Friday, June 6 during a 7 p.m. Mass and ceremony at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

seminarian has a moment—we're not knocked off our horses like St. Paul—but given everything that was going on, to have that question just verbalized for me ... I said, 'OK, Lord, if it's still there after a year, I'll come to St. Mark's.' And that's what I did."

Over the years, there have been many priests who Tim says have had a great impact in his life, almost too many to mention.

"At one point in my spiritual direction, I remember a conversation about priests who were

influential in my life," Tim said. "I sat down and made a list and there must have been about 20 to 25. It's tough to single out just a couple."

He considers his seminary experience to be very good years, although he said he underestimated how intense the formation would be.

"The soul searching that takes place can be very intense," he said. "They were good years, and there was a lot of growing for me to do."

Before going to major seminary in Baltimore, he lived for a year at St. Jude Parish in Erie and observed Msgr. Robert Brugger, Msgr. Ernest Daly and Father Rich Toohey in their day to day lives as priests.

"To live with them and see how the life of a parish priest is in action confirmed for me that this was something that I was being called to do," Balliett said.

As far as his own ministry is concerned, he said he pretty much is just expecting the unexpected.

"When I look at men who are in their 60s and 70s, they never would have envisioned what the priesthood is now when they were ordained," he said. "I'm entering it with the idea of keeping my core relationship with Christ and being open to however he wants my priesthood to be shaped."

The pastoral formation program at St. Mary's Seminary has done a good job of preparing new priests for a number of uncertainties, he said, such as parish mergers, declining numbers of other priests, increased lay involvement in administration and ministry and working 70 to 80 hours a week while still maintaining a personal prayer life.

"It's a big challenge," Balliett said. "I just think that it's by the grace of God and with the support of the people that any of us get through it."

DEATH NOTICES

Sister Gloria Apodaca, CDS

Sister Gloria Apodaca, CDS, a member of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit, died on May 1, 2008.

Sister Gloria was born in Benson Ariz., the daughter of the late Ricardo and Mercedes (Soza) Apodaca. She is survived by her religious community and two sisters, Frances Apodaca and Artemisa Apodaca, both of Tucson, Ariz., and a brother, Richard Apodaca of Buena Park, Calif.

Her ministry was art and teaching.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at the Congregation of the Divine Spirit Motherhouse on Saturday, May 3. Private burial was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Sister Mary Colomana Gutowska, CSSF

Sister Mary Colomana Gutowska, CSSF, 88, a native of Erie, died March 28, 2008 at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, N.Y.

A Felician sister for 69 years, Sister Colomana served as a teacher and principal at many Buffalo area Catholic schools.

She was born Dec. 8, 1919 in Erie and graduated from Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Buffalo. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Mount St. Joseph Teachers College, which is now Medaille College.

She entered the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters in Buffalo on July 8, 1938 and professed her perpetual vows on Aug. 12, 1946.

Sister Colomana was a full-time Catholic elementary school teacher for 24 years in the Diocese of Buffalo, including Ss. Peter and Paul School in Depew and St. Luke School in Buffalo. She then spent 14 years in Canada where

she served as principal at St. Augustine School in Welland, Ont., and St. Vincent de Paul School in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

She returned to the United States and served as principal at St. Anthony School in Fredonia, St. Joseph School in Olean, Assumption and Transfiguration schools in Buffalo and St. Hyacinth School in Dunkirk. She also was assistant principal at Resurrection School in Cheektowaga. She taught religion at Holy Trinity School in Erie from 1993 to 1997.

From 1997 to 2000, Sister Mary ministered at Holy Spirit Parish in North Collins, and in 2000 she became involved in religious education at St. Michael Parish in Lackawanna.



Sister Mary Colomana Gutowska

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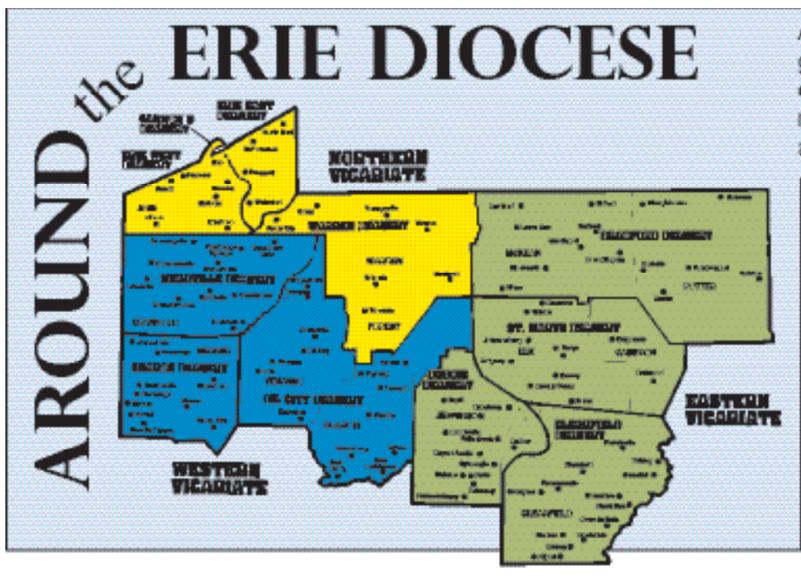
Travel to Italy/Ireland/Greece
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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, Diocese of Youngstown
The Catholic Diocese of Youngstown is accepting applications for the full time position of Chief Financial Officer. The position is responsible for the overall financial management of the diocese and includes responsibility for accounting & financial reporting; budgeting & analysis; investments; audit & internal controls; insurance & risk management; employee benefits & retirement plans; personnel management; real estate, facilities & acquisitions; information systems technology; liaison with attorney in legal matters; and, other financial matters. Administrative and supervisory skills, an ability to work in a senior management position; excellent written, verbal and public speaking skills, planning and organizational skills; proficiency with information technology; and ability to maintain confidentiality are required.
The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or related field with a CPA and/or MBA preferred and have at least 10 years of directly related professional experience in a public or non-profit institution. The individual is required to be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church. Salary is commensurate with education and experience.
Qualified candidates should send in confidence, a letter, resume and recent salary information by May 31, 2008 to CFO Search Committee, Diocese of Youngstown, P.O. Box 628, Youngstown, OH 44503. Information on the diocese is on the diocesan website at www.doy.org. (Resumes will be accepted via U.S. Postal only.)

Scheduled Days of Reflection
June 14: The Fatherhood of God
August 16: The How and When and Why of Anointing of the Sick
To schedule Retreats (Private or Group) Call the Retreat Center (814) 438-7020
Avila Retreat Center
61 East High St.
Union City PA 16438

Notre Dame Church to Host The Gathering
Communal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
* A Talk - Father James Campbell
St. Michaels Parish - Greenville, PA
"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son in the Eucharist"
* Witnessing - Eucharistic Adoration Adorers, Liturgy of the Hours, with Exposition
* The Evening Prayers of the Church.
* Enjoy singing with the Notre Dame Folk Group
Notre Dame Church
2335 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA
Thursday, June 12th at 7:00 pm
Social with Refreshments 6:00-7:00 pm
KCHS Glory and Praise Band will provide music



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.

Clearfield hosts 31st annual rosary march

CLEARFIELD — More than 400 people participated in the 31st annual Clearfield Rosary March, held May 4 at Clearfield Driving Park.

The guest speaker was Father Frederick Miller, associate professor of systematic theology, Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Father Miller has taught theology and spirituality at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook; St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie; Notre Dame Institute (Arlington, Va.); and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is the former executive director of the World Apostolate of Fatima and editor of *Soul* magazine and has published more than 50 articles in scholarly and popular journals.



Autumn Martino of Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish in Punxsutawney is assisted by her grandparents, John and Karen Martino, as she crowns the statue of Mary with a crown of red roses at the 31st annual Clearfield Rosary March.

He delivered the message of Fatima.

"Our Mother has requested to pray the rosary daily for the conversion of sinners," he said. "We must do penance and attend confession regularly and be faithful to our daily duties."



The Knights of Columbus lead the Rosary March with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the procession following on May 4.

Father Joseph Campbell of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield lead the Eucharistic procession and benediction.

Autumn Martino, daughter of John and Rose Martino of Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish in Punxsutawney, crowned the statue of Mary. Autumn had just received her first holy communion the day before on Saturday, May 3.

Father Campbell and Father Miller also conducted an enrollment of the brown scapular.

Nineteen students compete in diocesan spelling bee

ERIE — Nineteen students, all winners of their respective schools' spelling bees, competed in the diocesan spelling bee April 24, which was held at Mercyhurst Prep High School in Erie.

Pictured from left to right are: Sara Kuhman from Villa Maria Elementary School, Erie (first place); Ashley Khouri from St. Francis of Assisi School, Clearfield (second place); Kim Lytle, director of curriculum and teacher personnel for the Erie Diocese's Office of Education; and Stephanie Ochs, St. Joseph School, Lucinda (third place).



Other students competing in the spelling bee included: Sara Gromacki, Blessed Sacrament School, Erie; Colleen Staudt, Holy Family School, Erie; Clare Weisenfluh, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Erie; Hannah Hill, Our Lady of Peace School, Erie; Katie Kloecker, Our Lady's Christian School, Erie; Sirena Plott, St. Boniface School, Erie; Samantha Zimmerman, St. Boniface School, Kersey; Katie Hess, St. George School, Erie; Julie Bernatowicz, St. James School, Erie; Latah Scheffner, St. John-Holy Rosary Eastside Catholic School, Erie; Alexa Corbett,

St. Joseph School, Warren; Dakota Palmer, St. Luke School, Erie; Hannah Onink, St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, St. Marys; Jane Cassady, St. Patrick School, Franklin; Mason Cunningham, Ss. Cosmas and Damian School, Punxsutawney; and Mario Damasceno, Seton Catholic School, Meadville.

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION: The Parishes of Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, and St. Mark, Lawrence Park, are seeking an energetic, creative person dedicated to working with teens to fill the position of youth minister to plan, run and enhance various activities ministering to the youth of both parishes and address the needs of the youth in our community.

All interested persons should submit resumes and references to:
Irene Lucas, 837 Bartlett Rd., Harborcreek, PA 16421 OR
Pat Marshall, 695 Smithson Ave., Erie, PA 16511.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 6. Any questions can be directed to:
Irene Lucas (Our Lady of Mercy) at 814.899.6132, email: ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org or Pat Marshall (St. Mark's) at 814.899.3000 x12, email: pmarshall@stmarksip.org

May crowning at St. Luke, Youngsville

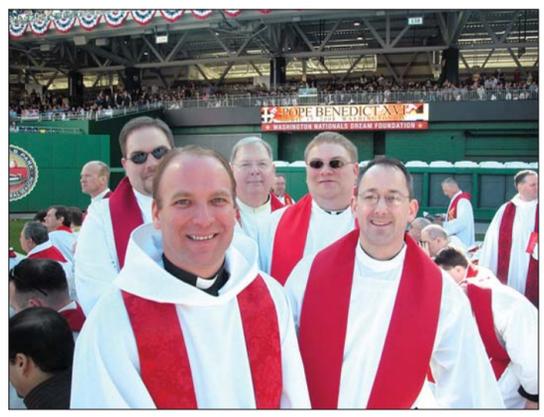
YOUNGVILLE — Parishioners from St. Luke Parish in Youngsville participated in honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary on May 4 with the traditional May crowning. The parish's statue of the Blessed Mother was recently refurbished and given in memory of Raymond White by his parents, Ken and Gloria White.



Priests attend papal Mass in Washington

WASHINGTON — Several priests from the Erie Diocese celebrated Mass with Pope Benedict XVI on April 17 at National Park in Washington, D.C. It was the first public Mass of the pope's pastoral visit to the U.S.

Pictured from left to right are: Father Justin Pino, Father Jason Glover, Msgr. John Herbein, Father Matt Kujawinski and Father Nicholas Rouch.



Seminarian serves at papal Mass at Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK — Seminarian Matthew Strickenberger, a second-year theology student from St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, had the honor of serving Pope Benedict XVI's Mass at Yankee Stadium on April 20.

Strickenberger, who is studying for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, had written a reflection on his experiences at several papal events during the pope's recent pastoral visit.

During a conference, the rector of St. Mary's informed the seminarians that he was notified that two tickets were available for seminarians to serve the papal Mass in New York City — one for the Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral and one for the closing Mass at Yankee Stadium. Numerous members of the community signed up for this opportunity. From those names, Strickenberger was selected to serve the Mass at Yankee Stadium.

"Despite all of the wonderful stories, the behind the scenes access and the unimaginable privilege



Top, Seminarian Matthew Strickenberger in front of the altar on the day of the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium. Bottom, Strickenberger with Pope Benedict XVI.



to be involved in such an intimate way with the apostolic visit, the message of the Holy Father and the simple presence of his witness will stand out in my mind as

the most important aspect of this experience for me," Strickenberger wrote in his reflection.

The complete story is available online at www.ErieRCD.org.

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