

## St. Hildegard of Bingen

Pope recognizes Hildegard as a saint, page 2.



# FaithLife

## Hoop champs

OLP basketball teams represent diocese at state tournaments, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 20, 2012

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Pentecost



Most Holy Trinity

- May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes and companions
- May 22 St. Rita of Cascia
- May 25 St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi
- May 26 St. Philip Neri
- May 27 Pentecost
- May 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- June 1 St. Justin
- June 2 Ss. Marcellinus and Peter
- June 3 Most Holy Trinity

### Confirmations

Bishop Donald Trautman will visit the following churches to offer the sacrament of confirmation:

- St. Luke, Erie** – Monday, May 21 at 7 p.m.
- All Saints, Waterford** – Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Francis Xavier, McKean, and All Saints, Waterford.
- St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford** – Friday, May 25 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford; Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run; and St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford.
- St. Patrick, Franklin** – Saturday, June 2 at 5:15 p.m.
- Good Shepherd, West Middlesex** – Sunday, June 3 at 9 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bartholomew, Sharsville, and Good Shepherd, West Middlesex.

### Memorial Day – May 28

Many Catholic cemeteries celebrate special Masses on Memorial Day to honor those who have died, especially those who lost their lives during military service.

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the annual Memorial Day Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 5711 West Lake Road, Erie, on Monday, May 28 at 9 a.m.

## Faith, fun and seeing the Lord

### More than 700 attend middle school youth rally

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Kyle Steinle gazed around at the remnants of the sun-soaked afternoon and pondered the question: "What exactly would he take away from what he had seen, witnessed and experienced at the middle school youth rally?" "I liked all of it. I had a lot of fun," said Steinle, from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard.

He recalled his jumps and hanging from the Velcro sticky wall. He challenged one of his friends to a race in the extreme rush obstacle course. "I beat her," he proudly boasted of the competition.



The ice cream sundaes and hot dogs were the perfect complement to the warm, cloudless spring day.

"Mass was amazing," said Steinle, who joined 700 other middle school youth under a gigantic tent for the Eucharistic celebration. "I really liked the band."

But as he recounted everything, at the center of it all was the Lord.

"I'm definitely going to carve out more time each day to pray and think about God," he said, which was part of Father Michael Polinek's message



More than 700 youths from across the Diocese of Erie attended the annual middle school youth rally April 29 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. At left, students exchange a sign of peace during Mass.

during his homily. "Every day when I get home from school, I'm going to make some time to pray."

Youth from across the Diocese of Erie converged on the campus of St. Mark Catholic

Center in Erie April 29 for the annual middle school youth rally for an all-day affair sponsored by the diocese's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Upon arrival, students were

offered the chance to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

The rally took its theme from Mary Magdalene's words during Mass. See YOUTH RALLY, page 3

## Tomorrow's priest: Brandon Kleckner

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE – As Deacon Brandon Kleckner grew into his vocation, his family was growing in the Catholic faith right along with him.

His parents, Neal Kleckner and Cathy Runstedler, weren't raised Catholic, but they sent him and his siblings to the former Sacred Heart School in Erie. They chose a Catholic school because they wanted a good education for their children in a safe environment.

"I went through the sacraments at school," Deacon Kleckner said. "My parents went through RCIA at different times. When I was first thinking about the priesthood, they were supportive. All this was new to them, and they learned and grew along with me. They're happy with me and for me. In one sense it's my ordination, but it's also a larger celebration for my family."

Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain Deacon Kleckner to the priesthood for the Diocese of Erie on Friday, June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie during a 7 p.m. Mass and ceremony.

Deacon Kleckner's first exposure to the priesthood was at school where he witnessed the example of the late Father David Findlay, who served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish from 1989-2002.

"He was just a very holy and prayerful good man, and I always admired



Deacon Brandon Kleckner

him," Deacon Kleckner said. "I always thought, 'How does a good man become a priest?' This guy that I really looked up to was a priest, and I wanted to be like this man."

Being an altar server and a Boy Scout helped to further form Deacon Kleckner in the faith. During his freshman

### Deacon Brandon Kleckner

- Age: 26
- Hometown: Erie
- Home parish: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Erie
- Family: Parents, Neal Kleckner and Cathy Runstedler; siblings, Jacob, Shane, Sarah and Allie Kleckner
- Schools attended:
  - ▶ Sacred Heart School, Erie (1991-2000)
  - ▶ Villa Maria Academy, Erie (2000-2004)
  - ▶ St. Mark Seminary formation program, Erie (2004-08)
  - ▶ Gannon University, Erie (2004-08)
  - ▶ St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe (2008-2012)
- Seminarian assignment:
  - ▶ Creighton University IPF program (Summer 2008)
- Deacon assignment:
  - ▶ St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield

year at Villa Maria Academy in Erie, he heard a talk on the priesthood from Father Mark Hoffman, who served as the diocese's director of vocations at the time.

"I had this experience growing up being fascinated by the faith and then was proposed with the idea that I could possibly become a priest myself," Deacon

See KLECKNER, page 2

## Pope says he feels supported by Catholics' prayers

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Pope Benedict XVI said knowing that Catholics around the world pray for him has given him strength and confidence since his election seven years ago.

"From the first moment of my election as the successor of Peter, I always have felt supported by your prayers, by the prayers of the church, especially in the most difficult moments," he said May 9 at his weekly general audience.

Interrupted by the applause of the estimated 10,000 people gathered for the audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope told those who pray for him. "I thank you from the depths of my heart."

Pope Benedict XVI, who celebrated his 85th birthday April 16 and the seventh anniversary of his election April 19, is already the sixth-oldest pope since the 1400s, when records became available. While sometimes showing the unmistakable signs of fatigue, no clear-eyed observer can deny that the pope is unusually robust for his age.

He is reportedly at work on the third volume of his bestselling "Jesus of Nazareth" series and is presumed to be writing at least one encyclical: on the theological virtue of faith, to follow his works on charity ("Deus Caritas Est") and hope ("Spe Salvi"). The pope will be traveling to Lebanon this September, and the Vatican has done nothing to discourage the widespread assumption that he will follow established papal precedent by attending World Youth Day celebrations next summer in Rio de Janeiro.

As the pope told former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, also 85, at a meeting in Havana in March: "Yes, I'm old, but I can still carry out my duties."



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI kisses a baby during his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 9.

## Mary statue at Mercyhurst restored



ERIE – Finishing touches, including placement of the restored statue of Our Lady of Mercy, are being made at Mercyhurst University's Mary Garden, a newly landscaped setting in front of Old Main. The statue was removed earlier in the year for restoration and repositioned May 3.

The Mary Garden consists of the statue of Mary surrounded by a reflecting pool and benches with new landscaping and sidewalks. Msgr. David Rubino, special assistant to Mercyhurst President Dr. Tom Gamble and director of the project, said the main idea behind the garden is to create "a space where students and faculty can relax and talk."

The project is being funded by a donor who asked to remain anonymous.

With Mary's statue returned to its original pedestal on the front campus, it has been positioned facing the campus gates, looking north toward Lake Erie.

	LEO XIII	CLEMENT XII	CLEMENT X	PIUS IX	INNOCENT XII	BENEDICT XVI
Served as Pope	1878-1903	1730-1740	1670-1676	1846-1878	1691-1700	At 85 he is currently the youngest pope ever recorded in history.
Age at Death	53 years, 140 days	87 years, 305 days	86 years, 9 days	85 years, 270 days	85 years, 107 days	

## IN THE U.S.

### Catholic leaders reject Obama's support for same-sex marriage

Catholic leaders rejected President Barack Obama's May 9 declaration in a television interview that "personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, said in a May 9 statement: "President Obama's words today are not surprising since they follow upon various actions already taken by his administration that erode or ignore the unique meaning of marriage. We cannot be silent in the face of words or actions that would undermine the institution of marriage, the very cornerstone of our society."

### New Arizona law cuts off all state funds to abortion providers

Gov. Jan Brewer signed legislation May 4 that prevents the state of Arizona or any local government from using taxpayer dollars to contract with organizations that offer abortion as part of their services. Brewer signed the measure at a reception held in Scottsdale by the Susan B. Anthony List, an organization that works to elect pro-life candidates to public office. Although state law already prohibits the use of public monies for abortion, the new law closes loopholes that were allowing some funds to trickle through to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood.

Brewer's signature on H.B. 2800 was the culmination of what Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, called a "tremendously successful, five-star, pro-life legislative session." In April, the governor signed H.B. 2036, a bill that outlaws abortions after 20 weeks, and S.B. 1009, which keeps abortion providers out of public and charter schools.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Church can educate, blow the whistle on human trafficking, say police

By partnering with law enforcement agencies, the Catholic Church and other organizations can help victims identify human traffickers and bring them to justice. "The Catholic Church has a huge role to play with 1.1 billion Catholics across the world. With their networks they can make (society) hostile to traffickers and be safe havens for victims," said a young British woman who was tricked into prostitution in Italy. The church, who goes by the pseudonym Sophie Hayes for her protection, was one of a number of speakers at a Vatican conference on combating human trafficking May 8.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking — a modern-day form of slavery — is now the second most profitable global criminal activity after the illegal arms trade and it's estimated that more than 2.4 million men, women and children are ensnared by traffickers worldwide. A new partnership between the British bishops' conference and the police already has yielded results, said Detective Inspector Kevin

Hyland of Scotland Yard's trafficking and organized crime unit. After an anti-trafficking conference hosted by the bishops in London last December, Scotland Yard was able to break up a Filipino human trafficking ring, he said.

## PEOPLE

### Archbishop Chaput releases e-book on religious freedom

At the heart of defeating attacks on the country's religious liberty is the need for a faithful to rebuild a Christian culture that serves as the essence of a democracy. Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput wrote recently in his new e-book titled "A Heart on Fire: Catholic Witness and the Next America," the former Denver archbishop discusses the ties between religious freedom and a good society.

In response to the growing threats, instead of simply listing the problems with America and complaining, he added, Christians need to construct this religious culture and protect religious liberty through personal conversion and saying "yes" to Christ. "The only way to do it is to actually live what we claim to believe. Nothing is more powerful or more attractive than personal example," Archbishop Chaput said. "But we also need to speak up vigorously for our rights and press our elected representatives to do the same."

Archbishop Chaput's e-book is available for purchase at [www.Amanzon.com](http://www.Amanzon.com), [www.BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.BarnesandNoble.com) or [www.ChristianBook.com](http://www.ChristianBook.com) for 99 cents.

### Pope recognizes Hildegard as saint

Although she was never canonized in the traditional manner, St. Hildegard of Bingen is to be added to the Catholic Church's formal list of saints, and Catholics worldwide may celebrate her feast day with a Mass and special readings by order of Pope Benedict XVI. The Vatican announced May 10 that the pope formalized the church's recognition of the 12th-century German Benedictine mystic, "inscribing her in the catalogue of saints." The pope's order regarding St. Hildegard recognizes her widespread fame of holiness and the that Catholics have venerated her for centuries.

In a 2010 series of audience talks about women's contributions to the church, Pope Benedict dedicated two talks to St. Hildegard. He said she is a worthy role model for Catholics today because of "her love for Christ and his church, which was suffering in her time, too, and was wounded also then by the sins of priests and laypeople." The pope also plans to make her the fourth female doctor of the church in October.



St. Hildegard of Bingen is depicted in a window holding her book "Scivias," the illustrated book in which she describes her religious visions.

## By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

In last issue's report about Erie's Catholic high schools beginning iPad initiatives on a one-to-one student basis, we inadvertently left the Elk County Catholic School System out of the conversation. The school system recently announced that its board of directors has approved the purchase of iPads for all students at Elk County Catholic High School for the 2012-13 school year. The iPads will be integrated into the entire curriculum.

In addition to iPads for all high school students, every teacher in the Elk County Catholic School System will receive an iPad. The middle school will receive a 25-unit mobile iPad lab. The elementary school already has a 30-unit mobile iPad lab.

Two full-time employees dedicated to technology maintenance and integration will be employed beginning this summer, according to Lindsey Straub from the Elk County Catholic School System advancement office. Funding for the project will come from PA Act 195, 90 and 35 monies, grants, technology reserve funds and private donations.

The Diocese of Erie's presbytery lost one of its best May 6 with the death of Msgr. Robert Reilly. His 67 years of priesthood were marked with many assignments including teaching at Cathedral Prep, serving as the first headmaster at DuBois Central Catholic Schools and guiding St. Lawrence Parish in Albion through difficult times after a tornado devastated the community in 1985. His story was featured in the March/April 2010 issue of Faith magazine, which is available on the web at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

We knew him personally as our regular confessor beginning in 2001 when he was at St. Mary Parish (now St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception) in Erie. Once asked why he spent so much time in the confessional before Masses, he replied, "You never know when someone will be moved by the Holy Spirit to reconcile themselves with God."

Offering the sacrament of reconciliation was something even the loss of his eyesight couldn't take away. His last years were spent hearing confessions in his room at the infirmary of the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

"Oh, hi, c'mon in and pull up a chair. What's new?" was the usual friendly greeting for the steady stream of visitors. The departure was similar in tone. "Say one for me, will ya?" he'd ask. The presence of this humble and holy priest touched the lives of many and will be dearly missed.

Thanks for everything, Monsignor. May the angels lead you into paradise. And say one for me, will ya?

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# Tomorrow's priest: Brandon Kleckner

KLECKNER, from page 1

Kleckner said. "Throughout high school there was a deepening of my faith and in the back of my mind, there was a fascination with the priesthood."

One of the highlights of his vocation journey was traveling to Toronto in 2002 for World Youth Day. More than 800,000 young pilgrims from around the world attended the event, which would end up being Blessed John Paul II's last appearance at a World Youth Day event.

"Seeing John Paul II was an incredible encounter," Deacon Kleckner said. "Up until that point, living out of my faith didn't go beyond the church walls. That was the church for me. At World Youth Day, it was an explosion of young. Being around so many young Catholics was inspiring and enriching for me. Priests were everywhere promoting vocations."

Many things fascinated him during his senior year, he said. He had an array of ideas of what he wanted to be and do. He en-



Deacon Brandon Kleckner, pictured with Bishop Donald Trautman, will be ordained to the priesthood on Friday, June 8 during a 7 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

tertained many things ranging from meteorologist to disc jockey to priest. Through prayer, he decided to enter St. Mark Seminary in Erie.

"When I entered, I had no idea where I'd end up on the other side," Deacon Kleckner said. "It was day by day, week by week, year by year. I had to recommit myself. 'Am I called to be here? Am I in the right place?' Those are questions you take to prayer every day."

Falling in love with God more and more every day, Deacon Kleckner said God's hand was pulling him along throughout his seminary discernment.

"I felt at peace," he said. "I grew a lot in my spiritual life and my faith. There was an awareness that this is what I was called to do."

During seminary, he said he was buoyed by a strong support system of brother seminarians, his family and pastors.

Father John Detisch, who served Sacred Heart Parish as parochial vicar from 1989-95 and pastor from 2002-12, has been present for all of Deacon Kleckner's sacraments. He baptized him and his siblings when they were children, was present for his first Communion and was pastor for his confirmation. Father Detisch will also witness Deacon Kleckner receive the sacrament of holy orders and vest him with a stole and chasuble during the rite of ordination.

"It's a rare honor for a pastor to see someone go from his elementary years through high school and seminary," Father Detisch said. "It's almost unspeakable to be a part of a young priest's life for that much of it. He's always had a kind and gentle personality. He really flourished at St. Vincent (Seminary). To learn of his acceptance of his call from God, he's really jumping into it. He's going to make a wonderful priest."

During his recent graduation from St. Vincent, Deacon Kleckner received the Omer U. Kline,

OSB, Homiletics Award, chosen by the Rector's Council, which is given to the fourth-year student who has most clearly demonstrated excellence in preaching during his fourth year of study.

In addition to his religious studies, Deacon Kleckner enjoys hockey and baseball, listening and learning to play music and the outdoors.

Deacon Kleckner is scheduled to celebrate his first Mass at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 9 at his home parish of Sacred Heart. He will also offer a Mass of thanksgiving at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Sunday, June 17 at 11:30 a.m.

It was through his home parish that he developed a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "It's a strong image for me in prayer," he said.

One of his favorite Scripture passages comes from the end of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

"Jesus talks about dependence

on God and not worrying about all the details of life because God takes care of us," he said. "He uses the image of God taking care of the birds in the sky, the wildflowers and the grass of the field. It's about abandoning ourselves to God, trusting in God and knowing in the end that God will take care of us. I go back to this passage a lot, particularly on days when I want to take control of things."

He said he sees the priesthood today as a two-fold job.

"At one point, the priest has to catechize and present the truth of the faith," Deacon Kleckner said. "At the same time, he has to show the people how to internalize those truths. So much of the treasure and beauty of the church requires the whole heart, the whole soul. We need to teach people to take the faith on as a whole, not just believe parts of the doctrine. We have to help them go the next step and flesh out those truths into their own lives."

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Holy Land/Jordan/Egypt: November 8-21  
Ireland/Scotland: June 24-July 6, June 30-July 12, September 8-20, September 15-27, September 22-October 4  
Medjugorje/Lourdes/Fatima: September 02-13  
Italy/Lourdes: Sept. 3-14, Sept. 29-Oct. 10, Oct. 2-13  
Greece/Turkey: Sept. 8-20 Italy South: Sept. 8-20

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## Briefly

### Spring Fling dance to benefit Maria House Projects

ERIE - The Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Organization will hold its fourth annual Spring Fling Dance on Friday, May 25 at Rainbow Gardens in Erie from 8 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15 per person. BYOB. All proceeds benefit Maria House Projects.

Featuring the 4-Jays, Ruby Port, BluesBeaters, Matty B and the Dirty Pickles, Twilights and Neighborhood Boys. Lou Baxter will be the emcee. For reservations, call 814.868.0160 or 814.825.7288.

### Made2Worship at St. George, Erie

ERIE - St. George Parish in Erie will host Made2Worship, a prayer movement that combines wisdom, word and worship by bringing faithful families together in praise and adoration.

Made2Worship blends real-life stories of faith, proclamation of the word and contemporary praise and worship.

These events, beginning at 7 p.m., are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month at the church, located at 5145 Peach St. in Erie.

The schedule is as follows: June 6, Aug. 1, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7. For more information, visit [www.Made2Worship.org](http://www.Made2Worship.org).



### St. Patrick School alumni picnic in Erie

ERIE - Erie's St. Patrick School (all grades) alumni picnic will be held June 29 at Stephany's, 1022 Wyoming Ave. in Erie (parking on Michigan Avenue off West 12th Street).

The event begins at 5 p.m. with the buffet starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person; reservations due by June 10. Contact Joan Eberlein Peterson at 814.456.0639.

### Second Harvest gleanings opportunities

Do you love gardening? The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is looking for volunteers to help glean crops when farmers are done harvesting. Gleaning opportunities extend throughout the summer and fall.

To get on the list to help pick, call Second Harvest with your name and phone number and you will be contacted when the opportunities arise. If a group is interested, please make that known. Contact Mariana Skonieczka 814.459.3663 Ext 109.

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# Faith, fun and seeing the Lord

YOUTH RALLY, from page 1

to the disciples after the resurrection in John 20:18, "I have seen the Lord."

Father Steve Schreiber, director of youth and young adult ministry for the diocese, started the day off by guaranteeing that everyone would see Jesus Christ at the rally.

The flier for the youth rally advertised "the coolness of Deacon Frank Pregar" and his presentation, "Did Jesus Go to Middle School?"

"I didn't feel cool in middle school," Deacon Pregar said. "I was overweight. Kids used to call me 'Frank the Tank' and 'Preg-nant Pregar.' But I turned to Jesus. Jesus always wants to be the best person you can be. Jesus loves you."

He gave the youth a biblical reference for their age in Jesus being found in the temple.

"He was 12 and Jesus was just like you in all things but sin," Deacon Pregar said. "Even in that biblical story, he still drove his parents crazy. It says, 'Mary was met with great anxiety.'"

Students divided into teams of six to eight for a scavenger hunt



Inflatable sumo wrestling was a favorite activity at the middle school youth rally for both participants and spectators.

for items that were available on the St. Mark campus. The list of 50 items varied from a pinecone and anything Justin Bieber related (1 point) to holy cards and a rosary (2 points) to a seminary and a retired priest's toothbrush (5 points). Scavengers also had to find out information regarding their adult chaperones including Sister Nancy Fischer's favorite candy (sponge candy) to Father Jason Feigh's pet peeve (wrinkled clothing).

After lunch and time to enjoy

the various activities, the rally transitioned to Mass and prayer.

The crowd enjoyed a performance by the St. Luke rappers. The crew rapped about the conversion of St. Paul with a chorus that went, "We spread God's name throughout the world, the world, the world."

Mass was celebrated beneath the colossal white tent with music ministry provided by Pat Brown and Co.

In his homily, Father Polinec compared building strong faith

### Youth rally roll call

The 700-plus youth who attended the middle school youth rally came from all corners of the Diocese of Erie. Here's a list of where visitors traveled from:

Albion  
Brookway  
Corry  
Coudersport  
Crossingville  
Edinboro  
Emmellen  
Erie  
Franklin  
Girard  
Grove City  
Guys Mills  
Harborcreek  
Hermitage  
Kane  
Kersey  
Mcadamsville  
Mercer  
North East  
Port Allegany  
Punxsutawney  
Reynoldsville  
Ridgway  
Smethport  
St. Marys  
Union City  
Waterford  
Youngsville



### What they're saying about the middle school youth rally:

"I thought it was very fun and exciting. My favorite part was when we could do all the activities. I want to come next year."  
- Scott Amson  
Beloved Disciple, Grove City

"My favorite part was the scavenger hunt. We had to ask people different questions and find out information, like what's their favorite band and find stuff about Justin Bieber."  
- Jacob Van Slyke,  
St. James, Erie

"I liked watching the sumo wrestling the best. I didn't do it, though. I did the obstacle course."  
- Laurel West,  
St. Callistus, Kane

"I liked watching the sumo wrestling. I met a lot of different people that I didn't think I'd ever meet before. There were a lot of different experiences here that I didn't expect."  
- Heather Auman,  
St. Marys Inter-Parish, St. Marys

"The obstacle course was really fun. I met someone from North East. We were talking while making our sundaes. We talked about our churches and schools."  
- McKenna Marie Ennis,  
St. Callistus, Kane

"When the deacon was talking to us about Jesus going to middle school, he shared stuff that happened in his life. He showed how you can overcome stuff, and Jesus doesn't judge us."  
- Mark Gorski,  
St. James, Erie

lives to building a strong fort.

"When I was a kid, I used to build a fort to watch Saturday morning cartoons," Father Polinec said. "But I didn't want to use the small, decorative pillows. I wanted to use the big cushions from the couch so I could have a strong foundation. We have to have Jesus our foundation. We're building our lives around Jesus."

Following adoration, praise and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, students made their own ice cream sundaes and participated in a tug-of-war tournament.

"Remember the guarantee that I made to you this morning, that you would see Jesus Christ today," Father Schreiber said before the final blessing. "And you have. You saw him at Mass and in the Eucharist in the most amazing way. You adored him in the Eucharist. You saw the God of the universe, the God who created you. But you also saw him in the joy of the band, the fun you had today and in each other."

To see more youth rally photos or find info on upcoming youth ministry events, visit [www.OnTheVine.us](http://www.OnTheVine.us).

## DEATH NOTICE

### Msgr. Robert J. Reilly

Longtime pastor served diocese for 67 years

ERIE - Msgr. Robert J. Reilly, 92, died May 6, 2012 at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie.

Born April 19, 1920 in Brookville, he was the son of the

late William Albert and Cora Emma Johns Reilly Sr. His home parish was Immaculate Conception in Brookville.

Msgr. Reilly attended Immacu-

late Conception grade school from 1927-1934 and graduated from Immaculate Conception and St. Vincent Prep High School in 1938. He attended St. Vincent College, Latrobe, from 1938-1942 and St. Vincent Seminary from 1942-1945. He was ordained a priest on May 10, 1945.

Following ordination to the priesthood, Msgr. Reilly was assigned as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Sharon, from 1945-1947. From 1947-1949, he served as parochial vicar of St. Francis Xavier Parish, McKean. From 1949-1960 he taught at Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, while serving as weekend assistant at St. Andrew Parish, Erie.

Msgr. Reilly was pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Falls Creek, while also serving as headmaster of DuBois Central Catholic High School from 1960-1967. He was pastor of St. Peter Parish, Conneautville, from 1967-1970 and also pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Kersey, from 1970-1977.

Msgr. Reilly was assigned as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, from which he retired in 1996. In 1994, Pope John Paul II bestowed the title "Prelate of Honor" on Msgr. Reilly.

During retirement he served as administrator of St. Mary Parish, Erie. In October 2007, Msgr. Reilly took up residence at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Erie.

Msgr. Reilly was also an amateur pilot.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Sister Miriam Reilly, RSM, and three brothers; William A. "Pete" Reilly Jr., Hugh Reilly, and Father Frederick Reilly.



Msgr. Robert Reilly

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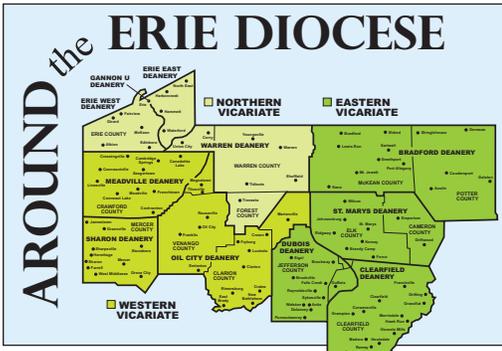
Winner Drawn at VCPS Tailgate Party on June 16, 2012



## St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church's Chicken Dinner

Saturday,  
June 2  
Noon until 5 p.m.

Hastings Hall, Holy Rosary Church  
2701 East Avenue, Erie  
Admission: \$9 adult, \$5 child  
Theme baskets, 50-50 and Take-outs  
More information: 814-452-2410



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 <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

**Photo Tips**

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures. <http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



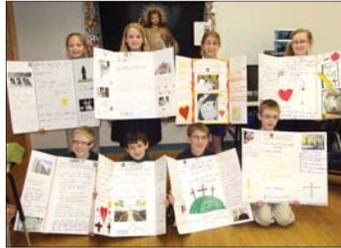
**Students at St. Michael School, Greenville, research, pray for vocations**

GREENVILLE – The fifth grade class at St. Michael School in Greenville joined the church in celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 29.

The class has had numerous lessons and discussions this year regarding vocations and recently completed a vocations project.

"They had to research what a day in their life would be like if Christ was calling them to a specific vocation," said fifth grade teacher **Emily Zgonc**. "They were very excited about finding all the information and nuances of married, religious and priestly life."

Pictured are several students holding project boards they made, each on a different vocation. At the top of each board are the words, "Some day Christ might be calling me to be (vocation). If he did, my life would be very different."



Left to right are students and the vocations they chose to research: (from row) **Alex Harp** (Franciscan Friar of the Renewal), **Bryce Knauf** (husband/father), **Owen Cianci** (diocesan priest), **Lee Groce** (diocesan priest), (back row) **Maddie Blatt**

(Discalced Carmelite), **Deanna Miller** (wife/mother), **Carly Fattman** (Franciscan Sister of the Renewal) and **Caroline Hoover** (Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia). Not pictured are **Cassie Hockett** (wife/mother) and **Ame Smith** (Sisters of Life).

**OLP basketball teams represent diocese at state tournaments**

ERIE – The Our Lady of Peace School girls' and boys' basketball teams recently represented the Diocese of Erie in the parochial state championships.

To represent the diocese, the OLP girls defeated St. Luke School in the AAA championship and Villa Maria Elementary School in the Erie region championship. An OLP victory over St. Michael School in Greenville in the diocesan championship landed the Crusaders a trip to the state girl's grade school tournament March 23-25 in Greensburg.

In the first round, OLP's Francesca Sicari led all scorers with 8 points in a 26-20 win over Our Mother of Sorrows from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. OLP defeated St. Gabriel from the Diocese of Pittsburgh 43-34, with Christine Hoffman leading the Crusaders with 14 points.

In the state championship game, St. Alphonsus from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia beat OLP 22-20 in overtime. Emily Fromknecht led the state runner-up Crusaders with 7 points.

The team, escorted by two fire trucks, was welcomed back to Erie and the OLP campus by a throng of cheering fans with balloons, streamers and signs. The team finished the season with a 30-5 record.

Members of the girls' team include **Emily Zukowski**, **Francesca Sicari**, **Lindsey Friele**, **Elissa Steiner**, **Emily Shope**, **Natalie Swantek**, **Emily Hamilton**, **Emily Fromknecht**, **Christine Hoffman**, manager **Renee Stoicovy**, head coach **Tom Galleher** and assistant coaches **Bob Shope** and **Jason Steiner**.

To represent the diocese, the OLP boys defeated St. George



School in the AAA Erie region championship and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in the AAA/AA Erie region final. An OLP victory over St. Michael School in Greenville in the diocesan championship game put the Crusaders in the state tournament in Reading.

In the first round, OLP defeated Our Mother of Sorrows from the Diocese of Greensburg 35-15. Mark Majewski led Our Lady of Peace with 10 points, while Jake Mays and Colin Ranus each added eight points.

In the semi-finals, the Crusaders fell 56-34 to the eventual state champion, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy from the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

OLP finished the season with a

24-11 record and placed fourth in the state.

Members of the boys' team include **Tim Beveridge**, **Ryan Bogniak**, **Chris Callari**, **Jeremy Hill**, **Jake Mays**, **Craig Meyers**, **Colin Ranus**, **Connor Robbins**, **Franco Agnello**, **Adam Lawson**, **Mark Majewski**, **Nathan Serafin**, **Jared Wallen**, head coach **Mike Douds** and assistant coaches **Jeff Baker** and **Guy Fustine**.

**Smethport first Communion students learn about host making**

SMETHPORT – In preparing students for making their first Communion, Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, and Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB, decided to show how their congregation made Communion hosts in previous years.

Sister Phyllis and Sister Mary of Catholic Rural Ministry in McKean and Potter counties brought an antique altar bread maker to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport May 3 where they explained its history and use to the third graders preparing for the sacrament.

Sister Phyllis provided a brief history of the bread maker. "This machine is an heirloom from the archives of Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie, the home of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie," she noted. "The sisters brought it here from Germany in the late 1800s."

According to Sister Phyllis, for many years, the novice Benedictine sisters were assigned to bake altar breads for their community during the first year of their for-



Photo by Fran De Lancy

Sister Mary William Hoffman, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministry explains the use of an antique altar bread maker to third grade religious education students at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport during their first Communion sacrament class May 3. Pictured left to right are students **Jordan Pavlock**, **Eli Todd**, **Anna Holohan**, **Abby McKeirnan** and **Chloe Costa**.

pantries, hospital chaplains and rural ministry."

Flour and water were the ingredients used to make the hosts, Sister Mary told the students. She then explained the machine's operation.

Our community no longer makes the hosts," she said. "We are now involved in other ministries such as soup kitchens, food

**Race for Education benefits library at St. George School, Erie**

ERIE – Students at St. George School in Erie were on the move March 23 to raise funds for the school library during the second annual Race for Education.

Students from preschool through eighth grade walked, ran and danced around the school for the fundraiser. Activities included playing Dance Dance Revolution, running relay races in the gym and walking/running laps around the school.

The event raised more than \$63,000 to help renovate the library's reading areas, media shelving and lighting, as well as technology for classrooms and improvements to the gym.

Last year's Race for Education raised more than \$59,000 to finance a brand-new science lab, a distance-learning lab, interactive whiteboards and new computers. These improvements were made possible by donations from more than 3,000 individuals and local businesses.



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