

Called to serve

Four men to be ordained permanent deacons May 29, page 3.



FaithLife

Bringing attention to abortion

Cross project comes to Crawford County churches, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 24, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Pentecost St. Norbert

- May 25 St. Bede the Venerable, Pope Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi
- May 26 St. Philip Neri
- May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury
- May 31 Pentecost
- June 1 St. Justin
- June 2 St. Marcellinus & St. Peter
- June 3 St. Charles Lwanga and companions
- June 5 St. Boniface
- June 6 St. Norbert
- June 7 Most Holy Trinity

Memorial Day Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery – May 25

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 25 at 9 a.m. at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 5711 West Lake Road in Erie.

Clergy appointments



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

Father Marc Solomon, appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish, Reynoldsville, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sykesville, for a term of six years. Effective May 22, 2009.

Father Marc Stockton, appointed principal of DuBois Area Catholic School for grade levels 6-12 while continuing as administrator of St. Bernard Parish, Falls Creek. Effective June 8, 2009.

Father Richard Tomasone, appointed president of DuBois Area Catholic School and chaplain at Christ the King Manor, DuBois, for a term of six years. Effective June 8, 2009.

Confirmations

St. Joseph, Sharon – Saturday, May 23 at 5:15 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Sharon, and Sacred Heart, Sharon.

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie – Saturday, May 30 at 5:15 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, and St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie.

Venango Catholic High School, Oil City – Sunday, May 31 at 10 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Stephen, Oil City; St. Joseph, Oil City; Our Lady Help of Christians, Oil City; St. Venantius, Rouseville; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City; St. Titus, Titusville; and St. Walburga, Titusville.

Notre Dame, Hermitage – Sunday, May 31 at 3 p.m.

St. Teresa, Union City – Monday, June 1 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Teresa of Avila, Union City; Our Lady of Fatima, Canadota Lake; St. Thomas, Corry; and St. Elizabeth, Corry.

St. Luke, Erie – Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.

St. Catherine, DuBois – Saturday, June 6 at 11 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois; St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois; and St. Joseph, DuBois.

St. Patrick, Franklin – Saturday, June 6 at 5:15 p.m.

An appeal for peace and a message of hope

Pope calls for interreligious dialogue, peace during Holy Land visit

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM — Pope Benedict XVI closed his Holy Land pilgrimage by delivering a plea for peace and a message of Christian hope.

In Jerusalem at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher May 15, the pope prayed at what Christians believe is the place of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. In a talk, he returned to a key theme of his eight-day visit to the region: that the church can bring healing to a land torn by conflict and mistrust. Christ's empty tomb

"speaks to us of hope," he said.

"The Gospel reassures us that God can make all things new, that history need not be repeated, that memories can be healed, that the bitter fruits of recrimination and hostility can be overcome and that a future of justice, peace, prosperity and cooperation can arise for every man and woman," he said.

The pope's pilgrimage began May 8 in Jordan, where he visited the place of Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and later took him to Jerusalem; Bethlehem, West Bank; and the northern Israeli city of Nazareth.



Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest prayer site, in the Old City of Jerusalem May 12.

Arriving in Israel May 11, he condemned anti-Semitism and honored the memory of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, praying that "humanity will never again witness a crime of such magnitude."

In a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Pope Benedict met with six Holocaust survivors and prayed silently before the eternal flame in the Hall of Remembrance. He said the

suffering of Jews under the Nazi extermination campaign must "never be denied, belittled or forgotten."

On May 12, the pope celebrated an open-air Mass in Jerusalem, prayed at the Western Wall and visited one of Islam's most sacred shrines. The events underscored his message that Jerusalem, a meeting ground for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, must again become a city of peace.

Visiting the West Bank city of Bethlehem May 13, Pope Benedict reiterated support for Palestinian statehood and urged young people to reject acts of violence and terrorism.

He celebrated Mass in the city of Christ's birth and encouraged Christians to be a "bridge of dialogue" and help build "a culture of peace to replace the present stalemate of fear, aggression and frustration."

Tomorrow's priest: Deacon Daniel Hoffman

Editor's note: This is the first of two profiles on the candidates who will be ordained priests for the Erie Diocese on June 12.

By Abby Badach
FaithLife

Deacon Dan Hoffman looks ahead to ordination day and can't believe it's nearly here.

"It's kind of surreal," he said. "I can't wait. My time in the seminary and being a deacon has gone by so fast."

Hoffman, along with Deacon John Miller, will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Donald Trautman on Friday, June 12 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie during a 7 p.m. Mass and ceremony.

Hoffman said his love of God and the church began at an early age. He said he always looked forward to attending Sunday Mass at his home parish of Our Lady of Peace in Erie with his family as a child and started going to daily Mass with his grandfather while in junior high.

It was during those early teenage years Hoffman said he began to feel the call to the priesthood.

"It kind of came out of nowhere," he said. "But my family was excited and supportive. They couldn't be happier."

During his high school years, he was a member of the Heart and Soul retreat team that led retreats at different parishes across the Erie Diocese. He became involved with TEC (To Encounter Christ) retreats during high school as well, making his in November 2000 and later serving on retreat teams.

One particularly powerful moment from

Deacon Daniel Hoffman

Age: 26
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Our Lady of Peace, Erie

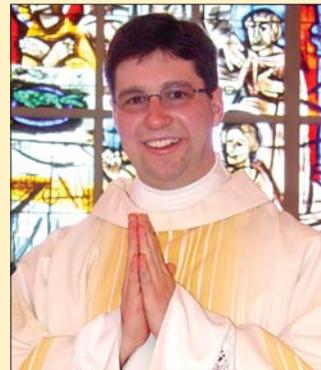
Family: Parents, Timothy and Patricia Hoffman; siblings, Sean and Megan; grandparents, John and Patricia Hoffman; grandmother, Helen Ficcardi.

Schools attended:

- Our Lady of Peace School, Erie (1997-2001)
- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie (1997-2001)
- St. Mark Seminary formation program, Erie (2001-05)
- Gannon University, Erie (2001-05)
- St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore (2005-present)

Deacon assignments:

- Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys
- Sacred Heart Parish, Glyndon, Md.



Deacon Daniel Hoffman

Hoffman's youth happened in 1998 during eucharistic adoration at a retreat in Steubenville, Ohio.

At that point in his faith journey, he said he was seriously considering the priesthood and wanted to take the idea before the Eucharist, which he calls "one of the great sources of strength" in his life.

"When I was praying before the Lord, I heard in my heart that this was the right path for me," he said. "And now, as a priest, I'm looking forward to giving that

gift of the Eucharist back to the people."

But the path to the priesthood – while rewarding – hasn't come without difficulty, Hoffman said. He remembers struggling a few years ago with the fact that if he were to become a priest, he would not be able to have children of his own.

"That's a sacrifice I came to terms with," he said. "And I

discovered the joy and peace of knowing I'll be a spiritual father to many."

While spending the past two years assigned as a deacon to Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys, Hoffman said he began to experience the deep fulfillment of establishing close spiritual relation-

See HOFFMAN, page 2

Diocese announces new leadership at DACS

Father Richard Tomasone, Father Marc Stockton named president, principal, respectively

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

DUBOIS — Several administrative appointments and changes at DuBois Area Catholic Schools were announced by Bishop Donald Trautman in DuBois on May 14 during an assembly of students, faculty and staff.

Beginning June 8, Father Richard Tomasone will become the president of all DuBois Central Catholic Schools—elementary, middle and high school. Father Marc Stockton will assume the duties of secondary school principal (grades 6-12).

"I'm very honored with the appointment and excited



Father Richard Tomasone

to get back into education," said Father Tomasone, who is currently the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Erie. "I've spent 21 of the 29 years of my priesthood in education."

Father Tomasone previously taught math, science and religion at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, as well as a number of classes at Cathedral Prep and St. John-Holy Rosary Eastside Catho-



Father Marc Stockton

lic in Erie.

As president, he will serve in a full-time administrative role with residency at Christ the King Manor in DuBois where he will assist as chaplain.

"I look upon Catholic education as a formation at work in that we seek to not only educate the entire person but

See NEW LEADERSHIP, page 2

Obama addresses ND amid protests

From staff and wire reports

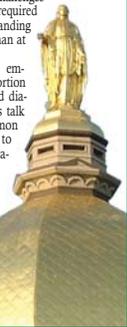
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — President Barack Obama took on the controversy swirling around his commencement address May 17 at the University of Notre Dame, urging those bitterly divided over abortion and other issues to adopt an approach of mutual respect and dialogue.

"We must find a way to live together as one human family," Obama said. "Moreover, no one person, or religion, or nation can meet these challenges alone. Our very survival has never required greater cooperation and understanding among all people from all places than at this moment in history."

Obama listed war, gay rights, embryonic stem-cell research and abortion among difficult issues that demand dialogue, but he spent the bulk of his talk emphasizing the need to find common ground and challenging graduates to rise to the challenges of their generation at what he called "a moment of great consequence for our nation and the world."

Critics of Notre Dame's decision to invite Obama, including more than 80 bishops, said the president's support of le-

See NOTRE DAME, page 2





IN THE U.S.

■ **In a recent poll, a majority of adults said their faith will help them weather the country's continued economic downturn** and more than half said they believe personal actions can play a strong role in helping to turn around the economy. The survey was conducted online in March by Harris Interactive, a national polling company, on behalf of *Our Sunday Visitor*, a Catholic publishing company. In the poll, 70 percent of respondents agreed with the statement: "Strong faith is one of the most important elements to help one persevere through an economic crisis." When asked how the economy has impacted their spirituality or their personal lives, less than 10 percent said they changed the amount of time they attended religious services, sought counsel from church leaders or read more spiritual or self-help books. Only 2 percent said they had lost faith in God or a higher power during the economic downturn.

■ **As the National Institutes of Health continued to gather comments on the draft guidelines that would permit federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research**, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a new campaign urging support for ethical cures and treatments "we can all live with." The "Oppose Destructive Stem-Cell Research" campaign at www.usccb.org/stem-cellcampaign also encourages Web users to contact Congress and NIH to express opposition to the draft guidelines. May 26 is the NIH deadline for public comment on the draft guidelines, which would allow the use of federal funds for stem-cell research on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and later discarded. More than 13,500 comments on the stem-cell guidelines had been received as of May 8. The home page for the new campaign outlines the reasons the proposed guidelines are considered

unacceptable and provides links to USCCB resources on stem-cell research in English and Spanish.

■ **U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent remarks expanding the definition of reproductive rights to include abortion** have sparked criticism and warnings from a U.S. church official and a Catholic congressman. Clinton's comments are a "real threat" to U.S.-based international aid agencies, such as Catholic Relief Services, which do not promote or provide abortions, said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. On Capitol Hill in late April, Clinton responded to a series of questions from Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., that were prompted by Clinton's praise of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger at an award ceremony in Houston March 27. "Reproductive health includes access to abortion," Clinton said. "We are now an administration that will protect the rights of women, including their rights to reproductive health care."

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **An Irish cardinal has made an unprecedented ecumenical gesture by attending a Church of Ireland service** and by preaching in a once-forbidden Anglican chapel. Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, became the first Catholic Irish primate or cardinal to attend a Communion service at the Church of Ireland General Synod and to preach in the chapel of Trinity College Dublin. The May 10 service marked the close of the Anglican Church's synod in Armagh. Cardinal Brady said the event was a sign of "the immense progress we have made on the journey of mutual respect and Christian solidarity between the Christian traditions of Ireland."

■ **The rampant piracy in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia's coast** has its roots in the encroachment into fishing zones by large fishing vessels from other countries, but that does not excuse the escalating violence launched by pirates against oncoming ves-

sels, said a priest who has a ministry to seafarers. Father Sinclair Oubre, president of the Apostleship of the Sea USA, made the comments at the group's annual convention in New Orleans. Speaking May 8, he said port chaplains first began hearing reports of piracy in the Gulf of Aden five to seven years ago. Those disputes mostly involved encroachment on fishing territories, but "because no big Western ships were getting hit, it was no big deal," Father Oubre said. "It's good that we are finally paying attention to it," he said.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Australia's first potential saint appears closer to canonization** after a Vatican medical board concluded that there was "no scientific explanation" for a cure attributed to the intercession of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Sister Anne Derwin, head of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, said in a May 11 statement that the medical board's conclusion is a "very encouraging step" in the process of Blessed MacKillop being recognized as Australia's first saint by the Catholic Church. Blessed MacKillop co-founded the Sisters of St. Joseph with Father Julian Tenison Woods in 1866 to educate poor children in Outback settlements. She was beatified by the late Pope John Paul II in 1995. The miracle attributed to Blessed MacKillop's intercession was the 1955 cure of a woman suffering from an invasive and inoperable cancer.



Blessed Mary MacKillop

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Msgr. Conrad Kraus had what he called "another vocation" prior to entering the priesthood. Msgr. Kraus, who died May 13, earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Detroit. Evidence of his work can still be seen in Erie, where he did the original design for City Hall. He was also the one who put the red panels on Gannon's Wehrle Hall, a design he admitted was not embraced by all in the beginning. Peggy Vommaro from St. George Parish in Erie was among the tens of thousands of pilgrims who attended the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square April 26 when Pope Benedict XVI created five new saints. We reported on event in the May 10 issue of *FaithLife*, archived at www.ErieRCD.org.

"It was a wonderful occasion," Vommaro says. "The crowd was chanting 'Benedictus' and 'Viva Papa!' They waved scarves as the saints were called. Countless priests gave Communion under yellow and white umbrellas. It was a once in a lifetime experience for me."

Vommaro attended with a group from Holy Trinity Monastery, an Olivetan Benedictine community in St. David, Ariz. They obtained seats in the front section, with the Holy Father only a few feet away as he processed in.

The Roman Catholic Chapel, located in the main concourse just outside of Bon Ton in the Millcreek Mall, will remain open after all, through at least Christmas according to diocesan officials, who had earlier announced the doors would close after Easter. Several donors interested in seeing the outreach continue have made the decision a bit easier.

The diocese's permanent deacons, under the leadership of Deacon Chuck Adamczyk, have taken on the outreach, ensuring volunteers staff the chapel whenever the mall is open. A rotation of both retired and active priests will continue to be available for the sacrament of reconciliation twice a week. They report that many people who have not been to their parishes in a long time find the chapel to be a neutral setting where they have felt welcome.

The chapel will remain open daily except for Sundays. Confessions are heard Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 7 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for the intentions of all the beneficiaries of the 2009 Catholic Services Appeal. As of May 6, more than \$5.4 million has been pledged. The appeal funds the diocese's services throughout the 13 counties of northwest Pennsylvania and bolsters parish-based projects each year.

Over at View from the Choir Loft (<http://viewfromthechoirloft.blogspot.com>), we've been blogging about the Chrism Mass, visiting seven churches on Holy Thursday and the encore First Communion celebration at St. Peter Cathedral. Come take a look!

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

Diocese announces new leadership at DACS

NEW LEADERSHIP, from page 1

also help people to identify and recognize their call from God," Father Tomason said. "In the sacrament of baptism, parents are called to be teachers of the faith. As Catholic educators, we seek to do the best we can and help parents with the formation process and really let our students know that God loves them."

Kathleen Kunkle, who has served as chief administrative officer on an interim basis for the past three years, will become dean of academics, and Deborah Heigel will move from middle school administrator to full-time guidance and counseling for the high school students.

During the assembly, Bishop Trautman thanked Kunkle for agreeing to serve as chief administrative officer three years ago at the request of the diocese and DACS's board of directors.

"The board and the diocese want to thank you for responding to the needs of the school,

for your steadfast leadership, for your love of the students, your professional integrity and your fidelity to the faith," he said. "As teacher and academic dean, you will bring some of your best gifts to the students."

In thanking Heigel, Bishop Trautman said Heigel has given her heart to the school for many years.

"As administrator of the middle school, you built it up and introduced innovative educational methods," he said. "We thank you for accepting the call to offer even more of your time to the high school students as guidance counselor, especially as they sort through their many options for college."

Bishop Trautman said the appointments capitalize on the strengths of each individual and match them with the needs of the students and the school. He also noted that Mary Mike Sayers and Father Ed Walk will continue their responsibilities as principal at DuBois Central

Catholic Elementary and assistant headmaster, respectively.

"I want to acknowledge and thank the teachers and staff here in DuBois," the bishop said. "Your bishop knows that, in addition to your expertise as educators, you put your heart and soul into this school. You care for the students and take steps so that the environment will be the best Christ-centered school it can be. A bishop couldn't ask for more."

Father Tomason has served as the pastor at St. John the Baptist since 2001. He has also served at St. Ann Parish in Farrell and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer.

Father Marc Stockton was assigned to DuBois Area Catholic Schools two years ago in preparation for his new role. He serves as an administrator at St. Bernard Parish in Falls Creek. In previous assignments, Father Stockton has also taught at Cathedral Prep and DuBois Central Catholic.

Tomorrow's priest: Deacon Daniel Hoffman

HOFFMAN, from page 1

ships with parishioners — particularly during baptisms and while preaching at weekend Masses.

"Being at Queen of the World confirmed my call," he said. "I loved getting to know the families and being a part of their lives. When I do have to leave, it will be very hard for me."

Hoffman added that he has been influenced by working with Father Michael Ferrick, pastor at Queen of the World, whom he described as a "really holy and joyful priest."

When he envisions his future as a priest, Hoffman said he is most looking forward to celebrating Mass and hearing confessions. He admits the administrative aspects of parish life — running meetings, establishing a budget — make him a little nervous, but he's eager to learn.

Hoffman said he is also eager to get involved in youth ministry and hopes to be a resource for young people who are discerning their vocations.

"My first piece of advice would be: don't be afraid," he said. "Just remain focused on Christ. Continue to take it to prayer, and be at peace wherever your joy and desires lie."

Obama addresses ND amid protests

NOTRE DAME, from page 1

gal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research made him an inappropriate choice to be a commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

Many were especially disappointed with the honorary degree in light of the U.S. bishops' 2004 request that Catholic institutions not give awards or honors to those who "act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

Prior to President Obama's commencement address, Bishop Donald Trautman issued his own statement.

"May 17 will mark not just a bad decision by university officials, it will mark a day of shame and blenish for the Catholic record and reputation of Notre Dame University," he said in a statement released May 12. "Its relationship to the

Catholic hierarchy and to the fundamental principles of the Church has been fractured and will take new leadership to rebuild."

To read Bishop Trautman's complete statement, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

The local Bishop, Bishop John D'Arcy of Forth Wayne-South Bend, announced weeks before he would not attend the ceremony, and a student group, Notre Dame Response, and other protesters held daily demonstrations. On commencement day, the student group also received permission to hold a vigil for life at the grotto on campus as an alternative graduation ceremony.

During the main commencement ceremony in the Joyce Center, a handful of hecklers were escorted out during Obama's talk — once with a student-led "We are ND" chant drowning out the protesters' shouts.

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ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES

cordially invites the public to attend the **Annual Memorial Day Mass**
Bishop Donald W. Trautman, celebrating **May 25th at 9 a.m.**
Gate of Heaven Cemetery
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Call (814) 838-7724 for more information. Also, visit our Web site www.eriecd.org for further information and announcements pertaining to the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries.

Travel to Italy-Switzerland; Ireland; Greece

(April 13-25) / April 18-26 / (June 6-18)
(June 27-July 5) / June 27-July 9 / July 18-26 / Aug. 1-9
(Sept. 5-17) / Sept. 19-27 / (Oct. 3-15) / Oct. 17-25
The Holy Land: Oct. 5-15
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Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

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

While a portion of the financial goal for the appeal benefits the ministries of the diocese, parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects. Here's a look at what some parishes are doing with their CSA coverage funds:

St. Marys Deanery

Holy Cross, Brandy Camp – Replacement windows for parish center

Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg – Energy-efficient doors for the church and school

Queen of the World, St. Marys – Conducting capital campaign

Sacred Heart, St. Marys – Utilities

St. Anne, Wilcox – Sealing stone on church building

St. Boniface, Kersy – Caulking of bricks and mortar on church, new church basement window, paint for church interior, new carpeting

St. Joseph, Force – Social hall restoration

St. Leo, Ridgway – Social hall restoration, new sound system

St. Mark, Emporium – No project listed

St. Mary, St. Marys – Renew vestments, renovate sanctuary

St. James Mission, Driftwood – No project listed



Briefly

'Finding God When You've Lost Your Job'

FAIRVIEW – Holy Cross Parish in Fairview will host a morning of prayer and reflection on Friday, May 29 from 9 a.m. to noon, focusing on how to discover the riches of God in our spiritual lives during difficult economic times. The reflection leader will be Deacon Bill Saborsky, who is the human resources consultant for the Erie Diocese. The morning of reflection is free, but reservations are required. Please call Holy Cross at 814.474.2605.

NOVA marriage prep June 6 in Erie

ERIE – NOVA is a one-day marriage preparation program for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church. Topics covered include expectations of remarriage, blending families, legal issues and others. Contact the Family Life Office at 814.824.1261 for information. The next NOVA is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Erie. Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit www.ErieRCDO.org/floprep.asp.

Hermitage to host adoration 'Gathering'

HERMITAGE – The 4th annual "Gathering," an evening of communal adoration, prayer and thanks to the Lord for the Blessed Sacrament, will take place Tuesday, June 9 at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. The event, sponsored by the Shenango Valley Eucharistic Adoration Committee, will begin at 7 p.m.

The program includes a talk on the Eucharist, evening prayer, exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and music provided by the Kennedy Catholic High School praise band. A social will run from 6-7 p.m. complete with refreshments and music.

Anniversary celebrations set for Aug. 2, 9

The 2009 diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversaries this year will be held in two locations in the diocese: Sunday, August 2 at St. Luke, Erie, and Sunday, August 9 at St. Leo, Ridgway. Bishop Donald Trautman will preside at the 2 p.m. liturgies which include the presentation of scrolls to each couple. A light reception will follow. To register, anniversary couples can contact their parish office or the diocesan Family Life Office at 814.824.1250 or 800.374.3723 Ext. 250. Registration forms are also available online at www.ErieRCDO.org.



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Four men to be ordained permanent deacons May 29

On Friday, May 29, Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain four men to the permanent diaconate during a 7 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

For the past five years, these men have participated in a program of academic, spiritual and pastoral formation. Meet the deacon candidates:

Joseph Cicero

Age: 57
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: St. John the Evangelist, Girard
Family: Wife, Betti; children, Eric, Rachel, Raymond, Rebecca and Joey; grandchild, David



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse:

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." — Matthew 5:16.
"People need to see outward signs of God's love. I hope to be one of those signs and in doing so bring others to Christ's healing touch."

Ministries/service organizations: Bereavement minister, 9th grade religious education instructor, eucharistic minister, lector, RCIA facilitator, parish pastoral council member, FOCUS minister, Curisillo member, Great Lakes Hospice volunteer, Kairos Prison Ministry volunteer and member of The Catholic Foundation Board of the Erie Diocese.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? The knowledge that God was working in my life, that I was being pruned to be a spokesperson for his love and grace. It was no bolt of lightning or angelic visitation that prompted me to embrace this ministry. Rather, it was the abiding belief garnered through years of discernment that the Lord wanted to use me to further his earthly kingdom. To that end he has been nurturing and guiding me, as only a loving father can. My trust in the Lord is complete and I hope I am worthy of the trust he has placed in me.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? I hope to offer to those in need a caring ear and my understanding of life's many challenges, whether they be spiritual, emotional or family related. I want others to share in the same peace of God that I've been blessed to enjoy; to give them hope where there is none.

Ronald Franzaglia

Age: 65
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: St. Francis Xavier, McKean
Family: Wife, Marsha; children, Amy, Damian, Shelby, Matthew and Kayla



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse:

"But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." — Romans 5:8.
"This quote shows the depth of God's love for all of his creation, for all of us. It helps me to remember and consider the sacrifice Jesus willingly made for the salvation of our souls."

Ministries/service organizations: Acolyte, eucharistic minister, lector, substitute cantor, current member of the parish finance committee, former catechist for religious education, former member parish council, Victorious Missionaries volunteer and greeter for the Roman Catholic Chapel at Millcreek Mall.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? Like Samuel, I heard a voice calling to me but did not recognize that it was the Lord's. The permanent diaconate has given me the opportunity to answer and accept the Lord's call and to be of service to his people in a more direct and sacramental fashion.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? I am looking forward to helping spread the "Good News" of the Gospel as well as working with people for justice, love and service to others. All deacons must be ready and willing to share their time, treasure and talent whenever and wherever they are needed.

James Kaschalk

Age: 47
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park
Family: Wife, Linda; children, Nicholas, Chelsea, Ryan and Joey



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse:

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." — St. Augustine
"Jesus said to (Thomas), 'Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'" — John 20:29

Ministries and service organizations: Lector, eucharistic minister, acolyte at parish; eucharistic minister at Twinbrook Nursing Home; Harborcreek Little League coach; Harborcreek Little Gridiron football coach; Erie Curisillo; and Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? My wife and I realized that we were missing something important in our relationship and our family life. That "something" was a closer relationship with God. We began to seek out opportunities to help others find God in their lives and became active in our faith. Even with all the renewed emphasis on faith in our lives, we felt there was something more to which we were being called. We prayed about and discussed the prospect of the diaconate at length. Every time we had a concern or an issue about entering the diaconate, God would place people in our lives to steer us in that direction.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? I think I most look forward to sharing God's Word with others, both in word and deed. I think deacon couples have the unique opportunity to bring an understanding of the message and love of God to others who might not be able to see God working in their lives.

Kevin Kunik

Age: 37
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Family: Wife, Tracy; children, Ruthie, Jonah, Katie and Simon



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse:

"What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together, we can do something beautiful for God." — Mother Teresa.

These powerful words remind us of the unique spiritual gifts that God gives to each of us. Working together, we combine our unique gifts to respond to the needs of all God's people.

Ministries/service organizations: Lector, eucharistic minister, baptism preparation class, Pre-Cana.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? I was attracted to the permanent diaconate because it provides me with the opportunity to deepen my relationship with Christ in so many ways including continuously learning about the Scriptures and the teachings of the church, serving others and sharing my faith with my children.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? I look most forward to working with others to respond to Christ's call to be of service to those in need.

DEATH NOTICE

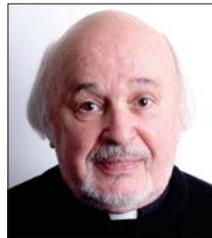
Msgr. Conrad Kraus dies at 76

Served as director of the Office of Worship for 25 years

Msgr. Conrad L. Kraus, 76, died May 13, 2009 in Collegeville, Minn., where he was participating in a sabbatical study program.
Born April 29, 1933 in Erie, he was the son of the late Leonard J. and Adele Shelton Kraus. He attended Sacred Heart School and was a 1951 graduate of Cathedral Prep. He studied at Gannon University from 1951-53 and at the

University of Detroit from 1953-56, where he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture. He studied at the School of St. Philip Neri in Boston from 1962-63, completing his seminary studies at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore from 1963-67.

Following ordination, he later continued his studies at Carnegie Mellon University, Fordham University and The Catholic University



Msgr. Conrad L. Kraus

of 25 years until his retirement in 2008. He resided at St. Peter Cathedral from 1983-89, briefly at St. John the Baptist and then was appointed parish administrator at St. Anthony Parish in Cambridge Springs from 1989-92.

Following a return from sabbatical studies, he resided at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard from 1993-2001, at which time he was appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish in Emlenton while continuing as director of the Office of Worship. He retired in May 2008.

Msgr. Kraus was named a prelate of honor with the title of monsignor in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

He served for many years in the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Consultants and was nationally recognized for his understanding of liturgical celebrations.

Msgr. Kraus volunteered his time and talent to Emmaus Ministries in Erie, particularly at Emmaus Soup Kitchen and his annual valentine making project with the students at the Neighborhood Art House.

His final endeavor was a project on the work of the Novy Dvur Trappist Monastery in the Czech Republic.

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Msgr. James E. Sperry dies at 93

Msgr. James E. Sperry, 93, died May 17, 2009. Look for a complete obituary in the June 7 issue of *FaithLife*.

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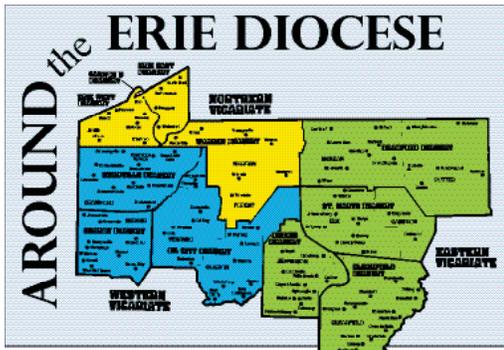
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



Cross project on abortion in Pa. comes to area churches

The 100 wooden crosses that were recently on display in front of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville are a stark reminder of the 100 babies whose lives are lost each day to abortion in Pennsylvania, said Dr. Amy Brooks. Brooks, along with her husband Brian and their children, has coordinated the cross project recognizing the loss of life to abortion. The family members are parishioners at St. Philip Parish in Linesville.



One hundred wooden crosses were recently on display in front of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville recognizing the approximate number of lives lost each day to abortion in Pennsylvania.

"We wanted to do something for the spring 40 Days for Life which happened to coincide with Lent," Dr. Brooks said. 40 Days for Life is a national community-based campaign that draws attention to the loss of life due to abortion through prayer and fasting and community outreach.

"We decided that making and displaying the crosses was something we could do to make the public aware of the number of abortions each day in Pennsylvania," Dr. Brooks said.

The project has caught on at several churches in Crawford County, Dr. Brooks said.

The Brooks family shared their idea with Ken and Theresa Novosel of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake. The Novosels, working with their pastor, Father Stephen Anderson, borrowed the crosses for display outside the church during Lent.

Another group, Crawford County Citizens for Life, has made an additional 100 crosses.

Originally displayed at St. Agatha, they are now arranged in front of St. Bridgid in Meadville. From mid-July to mid-September, the crosses will be featured at St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Cochranton.

Crawford County Citizens for Life has also made a second set of crosses to be used in the eastern part of Crawford County.

Holy Rosary dedicates prayer room

ERIE - Holy Rosary Parish in Erie held a blessing ceremony for its new prayer room during a recent Sunday morning faith formation session. "The room is a welcome addition to the faith formation experience of the children and youth of our Eastside parishes," said Kathleen Kutz, director of religious education.

Many of the catechists and, in particular the students preparing for confirmation, expressed how much they appreciate the quiet and prayerful space, Kutz said, where they can retreat and spend time in silent reflection. Some of the youth spend quiet time in the prayer room journaling, she said.

Featured is Father Jim Gutting, pastor of Holy Rosary, during a Sunday faith formation session in the new prayer room.



The prayer room is located in the former Holy Rosary School,

referred to as the Holy Rosary campus, which serves as a catechetical center for the Eastside parishes of Holy Rosary, St. John the Baptist, Holy Trinity, St. Patrick and Our Mother of Sorrows.

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Clearfield holds 32nd annual rosary march

CLEARFIELD - More than 500 people participated in the 32nd annual Clearfield rosary march which was held May 3 at the Clearfield Driving Park (fair grounds).

Father David Poulson of St. Michael in Fryburg led the rosary and Father Joseph Campbell of St. Francis of Assisi in Clearfield led the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The guest speaker for the event was Father Lester Knoll, CFO, from St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, who gave a reflection on Fatima.

Cecelia Moore, the daughter of Patrick and Tonya Moore of Clearfield, had the honor of crowning Mary during the rite of crowning, Cecilia, 7, is the youngest child chosen for the honor in the history of the march. She is a first grader at St. Francis School in Clearfield.

The march is held each year on the first Sunday of May.



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

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