

Milestones celebrated



Couples celebrating 25, 50 and 60+ year wedding anniversaries to be honored in August, page 3.

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FaithLife

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 26, 2013

Hatching a great idea

Students at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion welcome baby chicks, page 4.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



The Most Holy Trinity The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- May 26 The Most Holy Trinity
- May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- June 2 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
- June 7 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 8 The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- June 9 St. Ephraem

Confirmations

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

St. Andrew, Erie - Sun., June 9 at 11 am
Confirmation classes include St. Andrew, Sacred Heart and St. Paul, Erie.

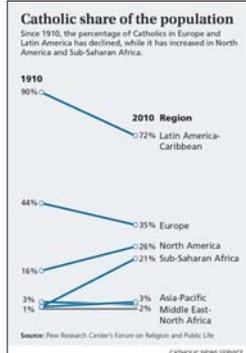
Ordination

The public is invited to attend the priestly ordination of Deacon David Renne on Friday, June 7 at St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th Street, Erie, beginning at 7 pm.



Annual Novena in honor of St. Anthony of Padua

The novena will take place on June 5-13 at 8:30 am on weekdays (Monday through Friday), 4:30 pm on Saturday and 10 am on Sunday at St. Paul R.C. Church, West 16th and Walnut streets. Services will include traditional hymns sung in Italian, the Litany of St. Anthony, Mass and homily. The concluding Mass on June 13 (feast day of St. Anthony) will be followed by a catered breakfast featuring St. Anthony's Bread. Donation is \$6. For reservations (by June 10) or more information call 814.454.7755, 814.838.9395 or 814.864.6610.



A heart filled with joy Deacon David Renne looks forward to priestly ordination

By Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife



Deacon David Renne

Deacon David Renne was in a particularly joyful mood the day he was interviewed for *FaithLife*. He had just completed his last final at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa., and was days away from graduation. He will be ordained to the priesthood for the diocese at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie on Friday, June 7.

The jubilation may have stemmed in part from the fact that he had had a particularly rigorous course of study. Deacon Renne earned not only the standard Master of Divinity degree, but also an MA in systematic theology. That meant writing two theses and taking two sets of comprehensive exams.

"I have always loved teaching," he said, "and the MA is a teaching degree. I had lots of support from good and patient professors, so I decided to take advan-

tage of the opportunity while I was in school."

It has meant sacrifice and dedication, but there was no trace of regret in his voice as he faced the final days before realizing a goal that has been in his heart since the eighth grade.

"I thank God for St. Cosmas and Damian grade-school," he said. "It was a just a great experience with great, faith-filled teachers and a wonderful pastor, Msgr. (Joseph) Riccardo." Deacon

"Holy priests and holy women religious led by example. I am grateful for them and for their friendship."

Renne's late grandmother, Carme, lived close to the church, so he attended daily Mass with her.

"She and I were inseparable," he said. "She was a woman of tremendous faith. I attribute so much to her." By the end of his elementary years, he felt certain God was calling him to the priesthood.

Without a Catholic high school in Punxsutawney, he considered making the daily 42-mile roundtrip trek to DuBois Central Catholic.

"But I knew if the call was from God, it would still be there for me, even if faith

See RENNE, page 2



Photo by Tim Rolerbach

Deacons often serve at Masses with their bishop during the year prior to ordination, but with the arrival of Bishop Persico in October, Deacon David Renne has had the privilege of being at the heart of many of Bishop Persico's "firsts" as our new bishop. Deacon Renne said he especially treasured having helped hold the book of Gospels over Bishop Persico's head during the episcopal ordination Mass.

Keeping up with the Holy Father

Judging by reports from the Catholic News Service, one would never guess the Catholic Church just went through an unexpected transition at the Vatican. Here's a look at some of the most recent activities with which Pope Francis has been or will be involved:

April 23

Pope Francis listened to a performance by the Swiss Guard band last month. On May 6, 35 new recruits were sworn in, a date chosen to commemorate the day 147 Swiss Guards died saving Pope Clement VII's life during the 1527 sack of Rome.

CNS photo/Paul Haring



May 7

After adjusting plans to suit the new pope, the Vatican announced May 7 that Pope Francis will meet slum-dwellers and powerful politicians, pay homage at a Marian shrine and celebrate with participants at World Youth Day when he visits Brazil in late July. The Argentine pope's first international trip, which will take him to his native Latin America, was planned under his predecessor, retired Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Francis will fly to Rio de Janeiro July 22 and spend his six-day visit in or around the city, except for half a day in Aparecida, where he will pray in the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, Brazil's principal patron saint. In Rio, the pope will visit a hospital and a notorious "favela" slum, meet Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, Latin American bishops and juvenile offenders, and address what the Vatican's official itinerary describes as the "ruling class of Brazil." The largest part of Pope Francis' time will be devoted to World Youth Day events, starting with a welcome ceremony on Rio's Copacabana beach — where he will later lead the Stations of the Cross — and culminating in an outdoor Mass 30 miles away in Guaratuba.



May 8

Performers in traditional Mayan warrior dress performed in front of St. Peter's Basilica during pope's weekly audience at the Vatican.

CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters



May 15

The pictures went viral when someone attending the May 15 weekly general audience handed Pope Francis a cage with several white doves inside.

Without hesitation, he did his patron saint proud by opening the door to the cage and releasing the doves, which promptly soared above the crowd filling St. Peter's Square.

CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters



May 17

An effort of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, the new smartphone app Missio features Pope Francis' daily homily and news from Rome and around the world in eight languages. "The app is a way for the church and our Holy Father to reach the growing number of the world's people who have access to handheld mobile devices, a way to connect as the body of Christ," Oblate Father Andrew Small, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, said in a statement. The pope activated the app by pushing a button marked "evangelizantur." Latin for "they have been evangelized." Download it for free.

CNS photo/courtesy of Little i Apps



Victorious Missionaries host annual retreat

Elizabeth Geary
Special to *FaithLife*

Members of the Victorious Missionaries chapter in Erie, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie, recently held a retreat led by Sister Teresa Okonski, RSM, titled "The Calming Effect of Christian Spirituality" at St. Mark Catholic Center.

The day-long event, held Saturday, April 20, included talks, reconciliation, lunch and fellowship. The retreat ended with a Mass celebrated in the chapel at St. Mark Center by Father Dan Hoffman.

Nineteen people, including four young men who are currently students at Penn State Erie and part of the campus ministry program at the college, were in attendance.

During her talks, Sister Teresa discussed the physical symptoms of stress and offered proven stress reducers and stress management tips. She also proposed leisure activities that relieve stress, especially when paired with prayer and reflection — well-established stress relievers.

The talk was well-received by those participating. Michael Adams, director of the Office of



Sister Teresa Okonski

See RETREAT, page 3



IN THE U.S.

Gosnell's conviction shows 'ugliness of abortion,' archbishop says

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Dr. Kermit Gosnell may have been convicted May 13 of murder at his Philadelphia abortion clinic, but "nothing can bring back the innocent children he killed, or make up for the vulnerable women he exploited," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia. And, he added, "the repugnance of his clinic conditions" must be remembered. A jury May 13 found Gosnell, 72, guilty of murder in the deaths of three babies born alive during abortions and acquitted him of a fourth similar charge. He also was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death by a drug overdose of a patient who had an abortion. Gosnell, 72, was charged with killing babies born alive during illegal late-term abortions. (Pennsylvania law prohibits abortions after 24 weeks of gestation.)



CNS/Reuters photo

Dr. Kermit Gosnell is shown in a courtroom artist sketch during his sentencing at Philadelphia Common Pleas Court in Philadelphia May 15.

Late May 14, prosecutors said the doctor agreed to give up his right to an appeal so he would not get the death penalty. The judge then gave him two consecutive life sentences with no chance for parole on two of three first-degree murder convictions. The next day, Gosnell received a third life sentence for the third murder conviction and another two and a half to five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter. Those sentences also are consecutive. He also was convicted of hundreds of violations of Pennsylvania abortion regulations.

Women religious uniting in nationwide effort to end human trafficking

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Human trafficking is so widespread that congregations of women religious are uniting in a nationwide effort to limit its reach. The effort will focus on broader education about sex and labor trafficking, legislative advocacy for stricter laws, penalties for traffickers and wider support for victims through much-needed social services and employment. "It's a stronger voice," said Mercy Sister Jeanne Christensen, justice advocate for the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community in Kansas City, Mo. "Coming together in one group helps to concentrate the voice and the power in a good sense." The collaborative campaign was formalized during a three-day meeting of representatives of a dozen congregations active in anti-trafficking programs in local communities and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in mid-April in Washington. Last year, five Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania and two associates became certified to present on the topic of human trafficking, an issue the sisters have embraced as a priority.

Annual audit shows number of abuse allegations in church dropped in 2012

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The annual audit of diocesan compliance with the U.S. Catholic Church's "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" found a drop in the number of allegations, victims and offenders reported in 2012. CARA, which gathers the data, found "the fewest allegations and victims reported since the data collection for the annual reports began in 2004." Most allegations reported last year were from the 1970s and 1980s with many of the alleged offenders deceased or removed from ministry. StoneBridge Business Partners, which conducts the audits, said six credible cases were found among 34 allegations of abuse of minors in 2012. Fifteen of the allegations are still under investigation. The Diocese of Erie, which conducts a self-audit each year, will have an on-site audit by StoneBridge this summer.

WORLD

Church is growing worldwide, especially in Asia, Africa, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of Catholics in the world and the number of bishops, priests, religious men and seminarians all increased in 2011, while the number of women in religious orders continued to decline, according to Vatican statistics. The number of permanent deacons is showing "strong expansion" globally, but especially in Europe and the Americas, it said. At the end of 2011, the worldwide Catholic population reached 1.214 billion, an increase of 18 million or 1.5 percent, slightly outpacing the global population growth rate, which was estimated at 1.23 percent, said a statement published May 13 by the Vatican press office. Catholics as a percentage of the global population remained "essentially unchanged" at around 17.5 percent. The statement reported worldwide church figures as of Dec. 31, 2011.

PEOPLE

Jesuit with Erie ties named president of U.S. conference

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The priest who heads the Chicago-Detroit province of the Society of Jesus, Father Timothy P. Kesicki—brother of Father Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary in Erie and vice president for mission and ministry at Gannon University—has been appointed president of the Jesuit Conference of the United States. Father Timothy Kesicki, 50, has been head of the Chicago-Detroit province since its creation in 2011. In a statement issued by the Jesuit Conference, Father Kesicki said the assignment comes at an exciting time for the church and the Jesuits. "Clearly, the election of Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope in history, has highlighted the Jesuit vocation," he said. "I look forward to helping the society continue its mission with a renewed zeal, strategic use of our resources and commitment to serving in Christ's name here and around the world." He will take the post Aug. 1, 2014.



Father Timothy P. Kesicki

By the Way...

As noted on the front page, it's official: Pope Francis will travel to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro July 23-28. While plans for the trip were set in place as early as last October, organizers are now scrambling to tailor it to "fit the ideas and style" of the new Holy Father. I'm looking forward to some great photos and video from what will surely be an energetic exchange between the pope and his young admirers.

Speaking of the pope, it seems as though every day there's a spontaneous remark or little aside that captures the attention of reporters. The morning homilies he's sharing with workers at the Vatican provide plenty of opportunity for insight.



Anne-Marie Welsh

"Pray for us bishops and priests," he said at a Mass in mid-May, celebrated in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, with the employees of Vatican Radio. "We need to remain faithful, to be men who watch over our flocks and over ourselves." Pope Francis then got very specific, asking those in attendance to pray that God would defend bishops and priests from the temptations of money and pride.

"If we follow the path of riches, if we follow the path of pride, we will become wolves and not shepherds," he cautioned. It's advice we can all certainly take to heart.

A few days earlier, I got a chuckle out of his comment that "sourpusses hurt the church's witness and mission." Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service said the pope used a phrase that translates literally as "the face of a pickled pepper" when referring to Christians whose faces don't communicate the joy of being loved by God. Pointing out that Christians should know a profound joy "that comes from the certainty that Jesus is with us and with the Father," he advised those who follow Christ not to allow themselves to get caught up in silly little annoyances, but instead, to always look to the horizon.

Here's some good news: the Carmelite nuns in the Diocese of Erie constantly receive requests for prayer. Mother Emmanuel and the sisters in the community are faithful to the requests and offer prayers for our priests and for the church of the Diocese of Erie essentially around the clock. But this month the sisters are especially grateful to have received word that Mother Emmanuel's second cousin—still a baby—has had successful esophageal surgery. The Polish military flew the child and his parents from Ireland to Poland for the surgery. We are so fortunate Archbishop John Mark Gannon invited the Carmelites to establish a cloister here in our diocese. Mother Emmanuel was among the very first group of nuns who came here in 1957, and has been praying for us ever since. Let's remember to return the favor. The Carmelites will soon be gearing up for their summer Days of Prayer held daily at 8 am July 11-16 with Benediction each evening but the 16th at 7:30 pm. Father Larry Richards of St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community will preside.

Anne-Marie Welsh is serving as interim editor of FaithLife. Contact her at amwelsh@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1167.

Deacon David Renne looks forward to priestly ordination

RENNE, from page 1

wasn't at the center of the school I attended," he said. "I went to Punxsutawney High School and it was a great experience. I grew a lot."

Although he had times of what he called "less fervor" during his high school years—mostly because he was interested in different career opportunities—by graduation Deacon Renne had applied to Gannon University and St. Mark Seminary.

There, he encountered men and women whom he called exceptional.

"They led by example," he said. "Holy priests and holy women religious. I am grateful for them and for their friendship." He recalled with fondness a number of trips during his years at St. Mark, including the Year for Priests pilgrimage to Rome during which he and his classmates served at a Mass celebrated by

Pope Benedict XVI. They also traveled to Quebec for a Eucharistic Congress and to New York City when Pope Benedict visited in 2008.

The trip to New York brought him face to face with a reality he had never experienced. He recalled being on the subway as someone made ignorant remarks to Father Michael Kesicki, seminary rector, who was wearing a collar, as well as Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, seminary faculty member, who was wearing her habit.

"I saw people hating us for what we stood for," he said, but looked back on the moment as one filled with grace.

"There will be challenges because we believe," he observed.

Deacon Renne has felt God's hand on his shoulder in this last year before his priestly ordination.

"In a sense, there was more anxiety before being ordained



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Deacon David Renne, right, assisted Bishop Lawrence Persico at the new bishop's first Chrism Mass during Holy Week in March, 2013.

to the diaconate," he said, "because the commitment. But now there is no more fear. I am so looking

forward to serving in a parish and administering the sacraments."

This final year presented a unique opportunity for Deacon Renne as he had the privilege of serving at the ordination of Bishop Lawrence Persico, who became the bishop of Erie on Oct. 1, 2012.

"It meant so much to me to be a part of that ceremony," he said. "I especially treasure having helped hold the book of Gospels over his head."

Deacon Renne said this final year in which a new bishop and a new pope have been named taught him a great deal. "It's not about us," he said. "We need to get out of the way and let the Lord work through us. Pope Benedict showed us the church is more important than any individual and that really spoke to my heart this year."

Deacon Renne's parents, Peter and Jennifer Renne, continue to live in Punxsutawney.

"They've been very supportive of my call, which is such a blessing," he said, particularly since he is an only child.

He plans to follow tradition, celebrating Mass with the Carmelite nuns at Holy Family Monastery in Erie the morning after his ordination. Then he will return to his home parish in Punxsutawney for his first public Mass on Sunday, June 9.

"It will be a privilege to say Mass in my home parish where my dad and my grandparents made all their first sacraments," he said. While he will miss his grandmother Carme, he will offer for his first Mass for her intention.

"God knows what he's doing," Deacon Renne said. "She will be there every time I celebrate the Eucharist."

Deacon Renne will also offer Mass at Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys, where he served as a deacon, on Sunday, June 23.

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Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
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Briefly

Major price reduction available for National Catholic Youth Conference



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2013 NCYC

Thanks to the Educational Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Erie, one hundred \$215 grants are available to students and chaperones who would like to travel by bus to the NCYC gathering in Indianapolis Nov. 21-23. The grants reduce the cost of the trip from \$450 to \$235. For details about this national gathering of more than 20,000 teens and leaders which is designed to help young people grow in their love for the Catholic faith, please visit www.ErieRCD.org/ncyc.asp. The schedule includes keynote presentations, prayer, workshops, liturgy and opportunities to participate in reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as recreational activities, concerts and exhibits. Grant applications must be received by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry no later than July 1. Contact Kathleen Peterson, coordinator for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, with questions at 814.824.1218.

ECCSS announces 2013 summer camp program

Elk County Catholic School System will once again host its summer camp program, "Adventures in Learning," during the summer of 2013. Camps are open to all students throughout the region and focus on the areas of religion, academics, sports, the arts and character-building. Faculty and staff look forward to offering the camps to all youth, believing learning is a lifelong process, not something that happens nine months of the year. All students, not just ECCSS students, are welcome. Booklets containing a complete listing of camps and registration forms can be found at all three ECCSS school offices, St. Marys area Catholic parishes and at www.eccss.org.

Bishop Emeritus Trautman to offer retreat for the deaf and hard of hearing

The Catholic Charities Ministry with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presents a day of reflection with the Most Reverend Donald Trautman, bishop emeritus of Erie, June 29 from 9 am until 3 pm at Saint Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. The day will include several sessions, lunch and Mass. For details or to make reservations, call Michael Adamus, director of the office, at 814.824.1257 or email madamus@ErieRCD.org.

Engagement Encounter

Couples planning to marry in the next year are invited to register for an Engagement Encounter weekend scheduled for Sept. 20-21 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Built on the belief that "a wedding is one day... marriage is for a lifetime," this program helps couples refine their thoughts as they prepare for married life. Engagement Encounter is a great alternative to Pre-Cana sessions, allowing couples more time for private, in-depth discussion, reflection and the chance to use communication techniques that will serve them throughout their marriage. For more information or to register, visit www.ErieRCD.org/ee.asp. Questions? Call the Family Life Office at 814.824.1250.

Calling St. John the Baptist alumni!

The third Tri-Annual Alumni and Friends Picnic Weekend alumni of St. John School in Erie is scheduled for the weekend of July 6 and 7. On Sat., July 6 from 7 to 11 pm, friends will gather at St. John School, 304 E. 27th Street, Erie for music and fun, while on Sun., July 7, an outdoor Mass and picnic with a catered dinner will be held at St. Nick's Grove from noon to 5 pm. Reservations for the picnic should be made with Mary Hoffman by June 22 at mymary14@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF THE CARMELITES ANNUAL LUNCHEON

July 17 at 11:30 am; Kalkwa Club, Erie; \$20.00 per person, other donation opportunities at event. Must purchase by June 30. NO tickets at the door. To receive an invitation, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Carmelite Tickets, c/o Susan Mehler-Bostick, 47 September Circle, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Checks payable to Susan. Prize donations: Ann Mehler, 814-864-9124.

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Msgr. James W. Peterson

Monsignor James W. Peterson, 89, of Erie, passed away Monday, May 13, 2013 at his residence. He was born on November 14, 1923, a son of the late Cornelius J. and Gertrude Ward Peterson. Monsignor Peterson attended St. John Parochial School, Erie; Cathedral Prep and Gannon College, Erie; Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Catholic University in Washington, DC and did further graduate work at Western Reserve University and Notre Dame. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 15, 1947 by Bishop John Mark Gannon. Monsignor Peterson's first assignment was Blessed Sacrament in Erie and then Gannon College from 1947-1975. While at Gannon, he taught English and was appointed director of Religious Activities and chairman of the Theology Department. He was also a resident chaplain at Wehrle Hall and moderator of the Saint

Thomas More Club. While at Gannon, he additionally served as chaplain at the Erie County Prison, as diocesan vocations director and was instrumental in bringing to Erie the Christian Family Movement, the Foundation for International Cooperation, the Serra Club and the Cursillo Movement. He was also spiritual director at Saint Mark Seminary. In 1975 he was named pastor of St. Teresa Parish in Union City. In addition to his pastoral work, he founded Maria House Project, a non-profit corporation which continues to provide small group living for



Msgr. James W. Peterson

men in need of growth in community for healing from drug and alcohol addiction, from the effects of imprisonment and from homelessness. He also helped establish the Avila House retreat center in Union City. In 1985, Monsignor Peterson took up residence at St. Stephen of Hungary Church, Erie and was assigned to special ministry to the marginalized. In this capacity, he worked in Catholic Charities, especially in spiritual counseling. He served as the head of the Office of Special Ministries and Trustee of Maria House Project, which today includes six houses with thirty to thirty-five residents and the Greg Leopold Prayer Center. From 1992-1995 he served as chaplain to the Holy Family Monastery, Erie. He was well known as a lecturer, retreat director, spiritual director and friend to the almost

friendly. He authored several books including "The Leisure of the Holy Spirit," "More I Could Not Ask" and "A Sweep of Saint John's Gospel." He was preceded in death by his siblings, Sister Gertrude Marie, SSI, John C. and Robert J. Peterson and his sisters-in-law Jacqueline, Mary and Dorothy Peterson. He is survived by brothers Paul Ward Peterson, Ph.D. and Thomas L. Peterson, sisters-in-law Virginia and Jean Peterson and fifteen nieces and nephews. His funeral Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, at St. Peter Cathedral. Condolences can be sent to www.kloeckerfuneralhome.com or leave a message on the diocesan Facebook page. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Maria House Project, PO Box 10682, Erie, PA, 16514.

Victorious Missionaries host annual retreat

RETREAT, from page 1

Disabilities Ministries for the diocese, believes that discussing spirituality as a technique for managing stress was a valuable topic.

He pointed out that navigating current changes in the healthcare system is adding a level of stress in the lives of those who are already dealing with the challenges of physical disabilities. Add this to the everyday demands of modern society and concerns about global issues, and the importance of the day is clear.

The Victorious Missionaries, or the VMs, is a long-standing group within the Diocese of Erie whose members are united in providing spiritual support for all people with disabilities and the chronically ill. The group also focuses on sharing their gifts with those in need through a variety of outreach efforts.

During the group's monthly meetings, Spiritual Director Deacon Ron Fronzaglia typically talks about the Mass readings



Photo by Anne-Marie Welch

Sister Teresa Okonski, RSM, leads a discussion in a retreat sponsored by the Office of Disabilities Ministries for members of the Victorious Missionaries at St. Mark Center on Saturday, April 20.

for the week and often a speaker is invited to discuss issues pertinent to the group along with time for fellowship.

For more information on the Victorious Missionaries and their monthly membership meetings, which are held on the first Sat-

urday of the month from 11:15 am to 1:15 pm (March through September) at St. Mark Catholic Center, contact Adamus in his Catholic Charities office at 814.824.1257 or by email at madamus@ErieRCD.org. The ecumenical group is open

to people with physical disabilities, including those with mobility issues. Religious men and women and laity are welcome. Please contact Adamus prior to attending a monthly meeting. For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org/vm.asp.

Invitation issued for all celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries

Couples celebrating 25, 50 and 60+ years of marriage are invited to mark their long-term commitment to each other at one of two diocesan anniversary celebrations to be held this summer. This year, Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie on August 4 at 2 pm and at St. Mary Parish in Crown on August 18 at 2 pm.

Since its inception in 1979, the Family Life Office of Catholic Charities has acknowledged and honored couples enjoying milestone wedding anniversaries according to Ann Badach, who directs the office. "Over the years thousands of couples have participated in this event," she said. This year's attendees will be honored at a special Liturgy, have the opportunity to affirm their marriage vows as a group and receive an anniversary scroll signed by Bishop Lawrence Persico.

"It's always wonderful to watch couples renew their vows after many years of working to keep their marriages healthy and happy," Badach said. "And it's a great opportunity for family members to attend in honor of their parents, grandparents or great grandparents."

Bishop Persico will celebrate



Photo by Anne-Marie Welch

Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman greets couples celebrating 25, 50 and 60+ years of marriage at a diocesan anniversary celebration. He and Bishop Lawrence Persico will offer Mass and invite couples to affirm their vows at St. Mary in Crown and Sacred Heart in Erie, respectively, in August.

the liturgy at Sacred Heart Parish while Bishop Emeritus Trautman will offer the Mass at St. Mary in Crown.

Reservations are necessary

for each celebration. Couples are asked to contact the Family Life Office at 814.824.1250 or visit www.ErieRCD.org to register. Couples celebrating a milestone

anniversary during 2013 who are unable to attend either celebration can contact the Family Life Office to request a scroll signed by Bishop Persico.

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