

## The numbers game

Stats give picture of Pope John Paul II's pontificate, page 2



# FaithLife

## Prayer shawls

Ministry wraps creators, recipients in warmth, page 3



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 28, 2006

## Confirmation Schedule

**St. Lawrence Parish, Albion** – Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Lawrence, Albion, and St. Philip, Crossingville.

**Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake** – Wednesday, May 31 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Philip, Linesville; St. Peter, Conneautville; and Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake.

**St. Peter Cathedral, Erie** – Saturday, June 3 at 5:15 p.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield** – Sunday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m.

**St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Sharon** – Sunday, June 4 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Trinity, Farrell; Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell; St. Adelbert, Farrell; St. Ann, Farrell; St. Anthony, Sharon; and St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sharon.

**St. Casimir Parish, Erie** – Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Family, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Holy Trinity, Erie; St. Ann, Erie; St. Casimir, Erie; St. Hedwig, Erie; St. John the Baptist, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; and St. Stanislaus, Erie.

**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Girard** – Saturday, June 10 at 5:15 p.m.

**St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie** – Sunday, June 11 at 11 a.m.

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Memorial Day – Monday, May 29



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

### Pentecost – Sunday, June 4

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." – Acts 2: 1-4



**Groundbreaking of new Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro** – Saturday, June 10 at 3 p.m.  
See story on Page 2.



## Clergy appointments

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

**Father J. Thomas Dugan**, reappointed as pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Fairview, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

**Father Gregory A. Kirsch**, reappointed as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Osceola Mills; St. Agnes Parish, Morrisdale; and St. Peter and Paul Parish, Hawk Run, known collectively as the Central Moshannon Cluster, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

**Father Thaddeus T. Kondzielski**, reappointed as pastor of St. Philip Parish, Crossingville, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

**Father David L. Poulson**, reappointed as pastor of St. Michael Parish, Fryburg, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012.

## Bishops urge support for marriage protection amendment

HARRISBURG — The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania, meeting May 10-11, issued the following pastoral appeal regarding the upcoming state and national legislative actions to support the protection of the institution of marriage through an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States:

**“D**eeply concerned about preserving and protecting the divinely ordained institution of marriage, as reflected in the natural order of creation, we, the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania, renew our call for the support of an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America, defining marriage as the exclusive union of one man and one woman. Marriage, so understood by diverse cultures and peoples throughout millennia of history, is a natural and universal institution, the foundation of family life, and the bedrock of our society and civilization. The preservation and protection of the identity of marriage, as it has always been understood, is a moral imperative of the highest order, and a requirement of the common good. We urge our legislators, both on the state and national levels, to support the marriage protection amendment. We appeal to our Catholic faithful and indeed all the citizens of our Commonwealth to make their voices heard and to contact their elected state and federal representatives to support these amendments.”



**Pennsylvania Catholic Conference**  
Information on contacting your legislators concerning this important matter can be found on the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Web site at [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org).



CNS photo illustration

### Why is the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment necessary?

Nationwide, activist groups are asking courts to redefine marriage as something other than a relationship between one man and one woman. The legalization of same-sex marriages in Massachusetts and the creation of "civil unions" in Vermont have created an urgent need for Pennsylvania to join 19 other states that have voted to protect the institution of marriage by amending their state constitutions.

### What the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment will do...

- Allow the voters of Pennsylvania to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
- Protect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- from having to legally recognize civil unions as "marriages" in Pennsylvania.
- Protect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from having to recognize alternative or nontraditional "marriages" performed in other states or foreign countries.
- Protect Pennsylvania's present marriage law (the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996) from court challenge.

### What the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment will NOT do...

- It will NOT take any existing rights away from anyone.
- It will NOT affect benefits offered by private employers.
- It will NOT affect wills, joint ownership of property, contracts or agreements between unmarried individuals.
- It will NOT unfairly discriminate against anyone.

## Permanent diaconate a ministry of service

### Number of deacons in diocese to increase to 45 after June 9 ordinations

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

Since the inception of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program in the Erie Diocese in 1994, 40 men have been ordained deacons. That number will grow to 45 on June 9 when Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain five new deacons.

"We have outstanding candidates," said Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general, who has served as the program's director since it began. "They serve as good models for how all of us should respond to God's call."

Presently there are 13 men in the diocesan five-year formation program and seven more who have applied and completed orientation and who will be considered for

admission to the program shortly.

The tripod of diaconal formation in the Diocese of Erie includes academic, spiritual and pastoral formation.

"It's a rather rigorous formation," said Msgr. Smith. "Over the course of five years, candidates see a good bit of the same academic and spiritual formation, albeit in miniature – given time constraints – that a fellow receives in pursuit of ordination to priesthood. It's far more than what most expect when they apply for admission to the program. It involves a notable commitment of time and energy and a great deal of sacrifice on the part of the candidate and his wife."

Deacons serve through the church's ministry of liturgy, Word (Scripture) and charity. They can officiate at baptisms, weddings, wakes and funerals and they can assist the priest at Mass by preaching and distributing Communion.

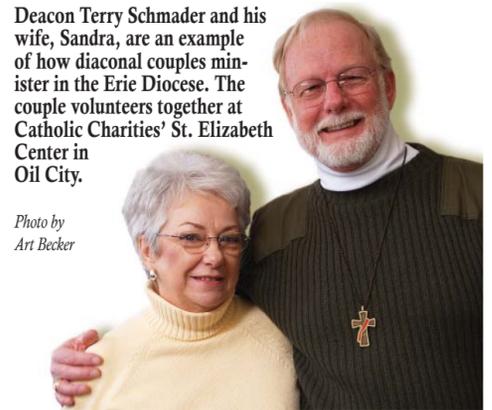
The word deacon comes from the Greek word "diakonia," which means service and is used throughout the New Testament. The deacon's call to service, Msgr. Smith said, is integral to his proclamation

### Ordination to the permanent diaconate Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m. St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

To learn more about the permanent diaconate in the Erie Diocese, visit [www.erieRCD.org](http://www.erieRCD.org).

**Deacon Terry Schmader and his wife, Sandra, are an example of how diaconal couples minister in the Erie Diocese. The couple volunteers together at Catholic Charities' St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City.**

Photo by Art Becker



of the Word and from the eucharistic liturgy.

"I like what John Paul II said of the deacon – that the deacon's ministry 'is the church's service sacramentalized.' That's an incredibly powerful statement," Msgr. Smith said. "You can spend the rest of the day unpacking its meaning."

In addition to assisting at parishes, deacons in the Erie Diocese are also involved in prison ministry, campus ministry, hospital chaplaincy, RCIA programs, community outreach and pre-cana and marriage enrichment programs. They also minister at nursing homes through visits and Communion services.

"They bring a Catholic presence that we might not be able to provide otherwise,"

Msgr. Smith said. "Many of our deacons outside of Erie travel great distances to visit people in hospitals. It's not unusual for them to travel 30 or 35 miles to visit sick parishioners. In the City of Erie, our deacons are blessed with having medical and convalescent facilities nearby. In other counties, our priests, deacons and many good and holy lay people have to travel great distances to minister to their people."

A unique aspect of the permanent diaconate is that most deacons are married.

Counting the five candidates to be ordained, 41 of the 45 deacons in the diocese have spouses.

"We look at diaconal ministry in the Diocese of Erie as a mutual vocation," Msgr. Smith said. "By that I mean for those married, it's a 'mutual calling' of husband and wife to ministry in the church. The wives of our candidates are great people and play a very important part in our program and the ministry in general. Many diaconal couples share ministry together."

## Meet the five deacon candidates who will be ordained June 9



**CHARLES ADAMCZYK**

**Age:** 48  
**Home parish:** St. James, Erie  
**Family:** He and his wife Kathy have three children, twin boys Carl and Rob, and Nicole.

**Interest in the diaconate:** "I believe my calling started years ago in high school. It was only recently, however, through numerous conversations with Msgr. Robert Conan (now deceased), I was completely convinced to enter into the diaconate formation process. Throughout my discernment, I also thought it would be a great way to share the good news with my children and grandchildren, by both word and action."



**ROBERT BALL**

**Age:** 59  
**Home parish:** St. George, Erie  
**Family:** He and his wife Patricia have four children, Kristen, Stacey, Brian and Michael and nine grandchildren.

**Interest in the diaconate:** "Having the privilege to be a member of several retreat teams for the Cursillo movement and prison ministry awakened my heart to share the good news with others."



**GERALD BEEMAN**

**Age:** 66  
**Home parish:** St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford  
**Family:** Widower, has four sons, Mark, Jay, Steven and John, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Interest in the diaconate:** "I have always been very active in any parish to which I belonged, teaching and ministering. It seemed logical to take the step to becoming a deacon, which would provide me more opportunities for service to the church."



**ROBERT BOAL JR.**

**Age:** 64  
**Home parish:** St. Patrick, Franklin  
**Family:** He and his wife Diana have two children, Robert III and Kimberly.

**Interest in the diaconate:** "I was looking for ways to better serve God. Five years ago, our pastor, Msgr. John Herbein, invited me and my wife to a meeting with Msgr. Robert Smith and Deacon Ralph DeCecco to discuss the diaconate. I was then sure that God was calling me to become a deacon."



**JEFFREY SWANSON**

**Age:** 37  
**Home parish:** St. Peter Cathedral, Erie  
**Family:** He and his wife Nicole have two children, Carine and Kaden.

**Interest in the diaconate:** "I first felt a calling shortly after graduating from Cathedral Prep. I went to Msgr. John Hagerty, my headmaster while at Prep, and explained I thought I was being called to the priesthood. He gave me the wise advice: 'You are being called by God but not to the priesthood. I don't know what you are being called to do. You need to keep praying.' When I heard about the formation program, it was like the lights came on and I knew what to do."

# The NUMBERS GAME

## Stats give picture of Pope John Paul's pontificate

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- Under Pope John Paul II's 26-year papacy, the Catholic Church grew by 45 percent, struggled to replace priests and religious and experienced a significant "graying" of its hierarchy, according to statistics released recently by the Vatican.

In a sense, the statistics complete a by-the-numbers portrait of Pope John Paul's pontificate. They cover the period from 1978, the year of his election, through the end of 2004, three months before he died.

The worldwide Catholic population increased by 342 million during that time, from 757 million to just under 1.1 billion.

That sounds huge, but it was actually slightly less than

the rate of general population increase. As a result, Catholics as a percentage of the world population decreased from about 18 percent in 1978 to about 17.2 percent at the end of 2004.

The continent-by-continent numbers are more significant than the global totals, confirming the church's demographic shift to the developing world.

The church in Africa grew by 172 percent under Pope John Paul, increasing from about 12 percent to 17 percent of the African population. By the end of 2004, Africans represented about 14 percent of Catholics worldwide, compared to 7 percent in 1978.

The number of Catholics in North and South America, where about half the church's members live, increased about 50 percent, virtually the same

as the general population growth.

Europe showed signs of stagnation. The Catholic population there increased by 13 million in the first 10 years of Pope John Paul's papacy, but over the last 16 years declined by more than 650,000. The overall European growth rate under Pope John Paul was 4.6 percent, the lowest by far of any continent.

The number of Catholics in Asia increased nearly 80 percent over the same period. The fact that Catholics still represent only 2.9 percent of the total Asian population explains why many Vatican officials see the continent as the great frontier of evangelization.

Oceania's tiny Catholic population managed to increase more than 50 per-

cent under Pope John Paul, slightly more than the general population increase.

When it came to priests, the Vatican statistics highlighted the "good news, bad news" picture that typified Pope John Paul's papacy. The good news was that the number of seminarians increased 77 percent from 1978 to 2004, with the greatest jumps in Africa, 304 percent, and Asia, 153 percent.

The bad news was that the number of priests worldwide has decreased about 3.5 percent since 1978 -- and with the Catholic population up 45 percent, that means the average pastoral workload is much heavier. The Vatican called the global figures "rather disappointing."

If church officials are looking for a silver lining in

those numbers, they may find it in the fact that over the last 16 years the number of diocesan priests has increased by 11,634, reversing a trend. The number of religious-order priests continues to decline, however.

Europe showed the greatest drop in the number of total priests, losing 20 percent under Pope John Paul. North America dropped 13 percent, South America gained 29 percent, Africa was up 84 percent and Asia up 74 percent. In the United States, the total number of diocesan and religious priests dropped nearly 20 percent in the period 1978-2004.

The Vatican also examined the numbers of priesthood candidates in relation to the

See THE NUMBERS GAME, page 4

## By the Way...

It's spring, which also means that it's graduation time for local college and high school students.



Jason Koshinski

**Gannon University** awarded 527 degrees at its spring commencement held Saturday, May 6 at Tullio Arena in Erie. The graduates included 22 students receiving associate's degrees, 333 students receiving bachelor's degrees, 154 students receiving master's degrees and 17 students receiving doctoral degrees. One student earned a post master's certificate.

**Kenneth L. Woodward**, who served as religion editor at *Newsweek* magazine for 38 years, delivered the keynote address and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by Gannon University President **Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D.**

**Mercyhurst College** graduated a total of 891 students as part of its 2006 commencement celebration the weekend of May 20-21.

The 543 bachelor's degree candidates received their degrees May 21 at Tullio Arena. The ceremony included the 16th annual march up State Street in Erie.

Of the 146 students graduating from Mercyhurst's adult and graduate programs at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center May 20, 99 received degrees from one of five master's degree programs, 46 received bachelor's degrees and two earned associate degrees.

Also May 20, 201 students at Mercyhurst North East earned associate's degrees, with a ceremony held at Ligouri Fieldhouse.

In 2006, 615 students from Catholic high schools in the Erie Diocese will graduate this spring and another 1,800 religious education students will receive their high school diplomas.

At the May 4 C.A.L.L. Banquet, the **Partnership of Women Religious (POWR)** was honored with the 2006 Monsignor Vincent L. Enright Justice Award. The Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and the Sisters of Mercy were each presented with a plaque in recognition of their collaborative effort establishing POWR.

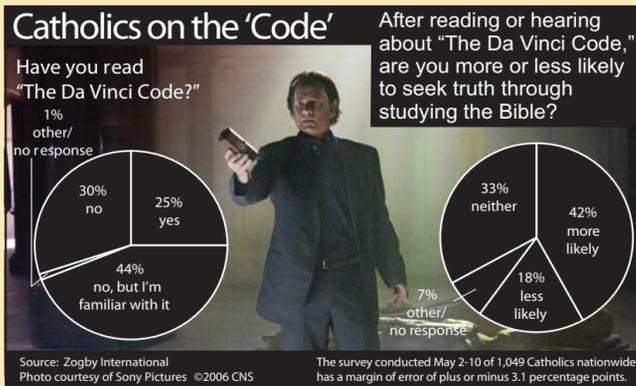
The **Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement** announces openings for their "short course in Christianity" weekends to be held in Crawford and Mercer counties in June and July, respectively. Visit [www.ericursillo.org](http://www.ericursillo.org) or call 814.456.2948 for more details.

Jason Koshinski is editor of *FaithLife*. Contact him at [JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org) or 814.824.1171.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Poll reveals Catholics not swayed by *Da Vinci Code*

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a poll released May 15, American Catholics aren't likely to be swayed by the fictionalization in the novel *The Da Vinci Code*. A nationwide telephone survey of U.S. Catholics found that 42 percent intend to "seek the truth" — one of the catch phrases in the book and in promotions for the film version which opened May 19 — by studying the Bible more closely. In the poll more people said they would consult the Bible than any other source. According to the survey, two-thirds of Catholics who were familiar with *The Da Vinci Code* story did not believe the book's premise that leaders of the Catholic Church understand the truth as portrayed in the novel but are suppressing it. Just 12 percent said they believed the book rather than church officials. Another 21 percent said they were unsure about the premise in the book. Among other things, the novel's storyline contends Jesus Christ was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered a child. The poll of 1,049 Catholics nationwide — a Le Moyne College/Zogby International/Contemporary Catholic Trends survey — was conducted May 2-10.



Tom Hanks stars in a scene from the movie *The Da Vinci Code*.

### U.S.

#### CRS praises Darfur agreement, expresses concern about sustained peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although a Catholic Relief Services statement commended the May 5 peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the largest rebel group in Darfur, the U.S. bishops' international relief agency said it was concerned with sustained peace and the continued shortage of resources. CRS said that unless the two other rebel groups involved in the three-year conflict also agree to peace negotiations "there is no guarantee that this momentous agreement will bring peace to the people of Darfur," a region of western Sudan. Shortages of resources dedicated to helping the 3.5 million people who depend on humanitarian aid for survival and the constant threat of violence limit the assistance that CRS aid workers can provide, the agency said in its May 5 statement. CRS has been in the region since 2004.



A woman and her son from the Darfur region of Sudan collect their monthly rations of oil and corn-soy blend from a food distribution center in eastern Chad May 5. Violence that has claimed the lives of at least 180,000 people and forced 2 million to flee their homes.

#### Sirius, New York Archdiocese to launch Catholic radio channel

NEW YORK (CNS) — Beginning this fall, the new Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio will air nationally seven days a week, 24 hours a day, featuring Catholic-oriented talk shows, music programming and live daily Masses from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The new channel is to be operated jointly by the New York Archdiocese and Sirius. Programming also will include human interest and inspirational stories, shows offering counseling and guidance and educational programs, as well as "regular and previously unavailable content from the Vatican," the New York-based Sirius said in a news release. Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York called it "a splendid opportunity for the church." Mel Karmazin, CEO of Sirius, said the company's partnership with the New York Archdiocese "is a significant step forward in our ... mission to provide our listeners with the finest and most distinctive Christian programming on radio."



**FaithLife**  
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie  
Volume 2, Issue 11  
General Information: (814) 824-1160  
Fax: (814) 824-1170  
E-Mail: [FaithLife@erieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@erieRCD.org)  
Editorial: (814) 824-1171  
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association. Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie. Subscription \$10/year. For more information, call (814) 824-1160.  
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1874. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

### WORLD

#### Vatican marks place in St. Peter's Square where late pope was shot

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican observed the 25th anniversary of the shooting of Pope John Paul II with a Marian pilgrimage and the laying of a marble marker at the place he was shot. In a message to participants, Pope Benedict XVI said the memorial stone in St. Peter's Square would remind visitors of that "dramatic event" that left his predecessor near death. The white stone was laid into the pavement where Pope John Paul was riding in his open jeep May 13, 1981, when Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca shot him in the hand and lower abdomen. The memorial recalled the date of the shooting in Roman numerals. A similar marker was placed inside the Vatican at the entrance to the Vatican's health center, where the pope received initial medical care before being rushed to a Rome hospital.



A marble plaque, placed in St. Peter's Square May 13, marks the spot of the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II May 13, 1981. The shooting took place on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, and the late pope always credited Mary with saving his life.

### PEOPLE

#### Bishop Wuerl named archbishop of Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Moving 250 miles east and south from Pittsburgh to Washington will in many ways bring Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, the new head of the Washington Archdiocese, into a different world. He's moving from one of the country's traditional industrial centers to the nation's center of political power. Head of the Pittsburgh Diocese since 1988, he was appointed to Washington by Pope Benedict XVI May 16. At a press conference where he was warmly welcomed by retiring Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop Wuerl fielded questions about politics and politicians, homosexual seminarians, immigration legislation and the film *The Da Vinci Code*. With almost two decades of experience in television as host of a long-running, nationally syndicated television catechesis program, and a history as the author of numerous catechetical books, Archbishop Wuerl time and again deftly answered reporters' questions by emphasizing the importance of teaching the church's history, morality and theology in addressing a wide range of issues they raised.



Archbishop Donald Wuerl was named May 16 by Pope Benedict XVI to succeed Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who is retiring. Archbishop Wuerl had headed the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 1988.

## CLOCK REPAIR

### Burdie's Clock Shop

238 South Main St.  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(814) 398-8263  
"We Make House Calls"



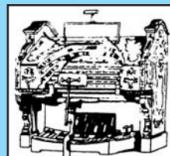
## 12-Day Pilgrimage to ITALY

\*\* Departing October 23, 2006 \*\*  
\$2,599.00 p/p double occupancy. Hosted by Fr. Tom Brown of Corry, PA. **Tour Features:** Roundtrip airfare from New York, Superior Tourist and First Class Hotels, Land transportation via deluxe motor coaches, Breakfast and Dinner daily, Professional English speaking guides, Entrance fees to all sites on itinerary.

For More Information and a Free Brochure  
Call Joan at St. Thomas Church (814) 663-3041

We sponsor **BUS TOURS** to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, North Tonawanda and Buffalo to hear *The Mighty Wurlitzers*

\$40 for members, \$45 for non-members



Price includes show ticket, and round trip bus.

Erie Area Theatre Organ Society  
Call Joe Luckey at 871-7276  
Leave your number for a return call.

## WEIGHT-LOSS Camp

Malibu, CA & Winston-Salem, NC  
Ages 8-18 residential & 4-18 day camp  
June 11 - Aug. 5, 4-8 week sessions

We offer personalized nutrition, exercise and meal plans for each child. Also specializing in type 2 diabetic care.

Every camp activity imaginable! Co-ed.

877-CAMP-GLU

E-mail: [campglucose@aol.com](mailto:campglucose@aol.com)  
or visit us on the web at: [www.campglucose.com](http://www.campglucose.com)

# New church approved for Our Lady of the Lake in Edinboro

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

EDINBORO – By Easter next year, parishioners at Our Lady of the Lake will be worshipping in a new church.

The Edinboro parish recently received approval from Bishop Donald Trautman and the diocesan finance committee to build a new church. Plans call for a groundbreaking ceremony June 10 at 3 p.m., with construction estimated to take nine months. Interior work is scheduled to be finished so the parish can celebrate Easter 2007 in the new church.

"This project is a long time coming," said Father John Jacquiel, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake. "Last weekend (May 6-7) when we read the letter from the bishop, we got some spontaneous applause from the Mass crowds."

The church will be adjacent to the current site on Maple Drive in Edinboro, south of Route 6N.

The existing church, originally built as a mission of St. Anthony Parish in Cambridge Springs in 1950, will be renovated and serve as the home of the parish's thrift store. The store is operated by the parish's Social Concerns committee and currently operates out of the former rectory.

"I will look forward to participating in the groundbreaking and to the eventual completion of what, I am sure, will be an excellent structure that addresses many of your needs," Bishop Trautman said in his letter to the parish. "While it has taken several years to reach this point, I now rejoice with you and all those who have been part of this significant undertaking."

Design elements for the

new structure include a bigger sanctuary, gathering space, a Eucharistic day chapel and permanent baptismal font. The parish currently uses a portable font purchased years ago by the Altar Rosary Society. Seating capacity will also double from 200 to 400, allowing the parish to gather more people for each Mass, reducing its weekend Mass schedule.

"In the future, the pastor here will likely be covering more than one parish," said Father Jacquiel. "Having a larger church will help alleviate the need for so many weekend Masses."

Some familiar items, including the church's hand-carved crucifix and furnishing from its former Newman Center, will make the transition to the new building.

Cost of the project is budgeted at \$1.6 million.



Photos courtesy of Building Systems Inc.

An architectural rendering of the front of the new Our Lady of the Lake Church. Inset, a rendering of the back of the church.

# Prayer shawl ministry wraps creators, recipients in warmth

By Andrea Baran  
Catholic News Service

ERIE – A knitter since 1972, Sister Ann Prisco pours love into every prayer shawl she creates.

A Sister of Mercy for 56 years, she is the coordinator of a group at the motherhouse in Erie that gathers the first Monday night of the month to knit or crochet prayer shawls. The shawls are then given to people with a physical, emotional or psychological illness, or to those who are grieving.

"We feel that the Sisters of Mercy have that compassion and concern for the grieving. It not only blesses them, but us, I'm sure," Sister Ann said.

The group takes the summers off, meeting from September to June. About 15 people participate in the group.

The ministry began in 2001 after Mercy Sister Peggy Gorman, of the order's Buffalo regional community, saw an article about women doing this work in Connecticut.

Sister Ann got the local group started after former Erie re-



Photo by Andrea Baran, Erie Sisters of Mercy

Mercy Sister Ann Prisco, a knitter for more than 30 years, coordinates a ministry in which people gather to knit or crochet prayer shawls, which are given to those with a physical, emotional or physical illness or to those who are grieving.

## Prayer shawl ministry to reconvene in fall

The Prayer Shawl Committee is taking a break for the summer and will resume its ministry on Oct. 2. The committee sends shawls to those they know would benefit from receiving one. If you would like to be considered for a shawl for yourself or a loved one, or if you knit or crochet and would like to help with the ministry, please call Edith Hudson at 814.824.2516.

gional president Sister JoAnne Courneen asked her to get involved. Sister JoAnne told her: "I have something you're going to enjoy."

More than 60 shawls have been given away so far. "One has gone as far out as Ireland," she said.

Sister Ann's shawl pattern resembles a family heirloom passed on by her sister, Theresa Shea of Elmira, N.Y. "My sister taught me and I use the same pattern again and again," she said.

A meeting night has an opening prayer, a review of prayer shawl progress and need for materials, and a report on people visited. Attendees then list recipients and who will deliver the shawls. The names of those who have received shawls are read.

put in a gift bag.

When a shawl is delivered, the scene is moving. Sister Ann said, "There are tears of joy and gladness."

And the emotion spreads to the giver, also.

"It chokes us up to deliver it. Such openness. It brings tears, a lump in your throat," Sister Ann said. "They think you've given them a cure. It's a comfort."

The group has received many thank-you notes from recipients. They are placed in a special book and saved.

She fondly remembers going with Sister Bernadette Bell, Sisters of Mercy regional president and fellow shawl creator, to present Bishop Donald Trautman with a prayer shawl. "He immediately stood up and accepted the shawl with a promise of prayer," she said.

As coordinator, Sister Ann spends hours organizing meetings and gathering materials. Her gift of time, as well as talent, flows naturally. "It's time consuming. But since I'm in charge of this project, I feel it's part of the giving," she said.

## People in the News

### VMA names Sister Mary Drexler new principal

ERIE—Villa Maria Academy has named Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ, as its new principal.

Sister Mary, a 1963 graduate of Villa Maria Academy and former VMA assistant administrator, is currently the campus minister at Penn State-Behrend, a position she has held since 1999. She has also been the diocesan coordinator for Catholic Campus Ministry since 2002.

"I am pleased to welcome Sister Mary Drexler back to administration at Villa Maria Academy and we look forward to her sharing her talents and gift of spirituality with our faculty and students," said Geri Cicchetti, president of VMA. "She is a great fit because she understands our core values and our mission."

As principal, Sister Mary's major responsibilities will be to facilitate a strong academic curriculum and effective student discipline.

Sister Mary earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and a master's of education in administration from Xavier University. She also has a certificate of advanced educational specialization from Boston College.

A former teacher, Sister Mary taught at several diocesan elementary schools and was a theology teacher at Villa Maria Academy from 1981-1983. She was promoted to the position of assistant administrator at VMA in 1983 and served in that position until 1993. In 1993, she studied for a year at the Catholic Theological Union in Washington and returned to Erie to teach part time at VMA and to serve as part-time novice director for the Sisters of St. Joseph. From 1990-2002, she was the vocation director for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

While campus minister at Behrend, she developed several new programs, including Soup for the Soul, ADVENTures and weekly Lenten



Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ

programs, a baccalaureate service and Meal in the Upper Room. She also coordinated joint Catholic Campus Ministry programs with several area colleges.

"I believe that my most recent experience in campus ministry has helped me broaden my skills in communication, leadership and spirituality, and I look forward to leading Villa Maria Academy as its next principal," Sister Mary said.

Her appointment is effective July 1. This coincides with the term of incoming board president Michael Edwards, CEO of Marquette Savings Bank. Edwards joined the board in July 2004 and most recently served as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Sister Mary assumes the role as principal from interim principal Sister Carol Morehouse, SSJ, who has served since March.

**STUMP REMOVAL**  
Back yards and tight spots are our specialty. Small trees and shrubs removed. Insured.  
Call for a free estimate.  
**Ken - (814) 474-2195**

To advertise in  
**FaithLife**  
call  
**(814) 824-1168**

**ReligiousTours**  
Oct. 1-9: Italy (Vatican, Rome, Assisi, Montecassino, Tivoli) Papal Audience  
Dec. 3-11: Christmas Markets of Germany and Bavaria (Munich, Heidelberg, Salzburg)  
Info Packet: 1-800-242-0728 or fax 724-543-2938  
e-mail: padre16201@yahoo.com (give address)  
St. Mary's Parish, 101 W. High St. Kittanning, PA 16201

**TOURS to Italy**  
June, Sept., Oct.  
See the best of Italy & the town of your family roots.  
Customized tours for clubs, churches & family groups are also available.  
CALL 1-800-829-2201  
www.italianheritagetours.com  
e-mail: italian tours@aol.com

**Director of Development for Venango County Catholic Schools**  
**Full-time Position Available**  
Responsibilities include recruitment, development, public relations, and the overall advancement of the schools' mission within their communities. Qualifications are a minimum of Bachelor's degree in a related field: Marketing, Communications, and Education. Good computer skills, communication skills and leadership skills are a must! Experience preferred.  
\*Qualified applicants send resume and cover letter to:  
Director of Development Position  
c/o 214 Reed Street  
Oil City, Pa 16301

**Director of Religious Education**  
Vibrant suburban parish of 2,500 families is on the lookout for a highly motivated DRE to continue leadership of an excellent program that includes elementary, secondary, Confirmation, and adult faith formation. Applicant should have a degree in Religious Education and the skills necessary to coordinate with the Pastoral Team, parish staff, and volunteers. Previous experience is preferred for this full-time position.  
Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience.  
Send resume by **June 9th, 2006** to:  
Search Committee: Director of Religious Education  
Our Lady of Peace Parish  
2401 West 38th St.  
Erie, PA 16506  
(814) 833-7701

**A SUMMER EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER.**  
Day and overnight camping for ages 4-16.

**OPEN HOUSE** Sunday, June 4  
1 to 4 p.m.  
Mass celebrated at Noon  
Refreshments • Wagon rides • Camp information  
**CAMP NOTRE DAME**  
400 Eaton Rd. • Fairview, PA • (814) 474-5001 • campnotredame.com

Since 1947  
**RAS AUTO BODY**  
All your collision needs.  
Special Wash & Wax...\$50  
**453-6185**

Dave Ras owner  
Amy Ras office  
Carol Ras office  
Jim Winarski mgr.

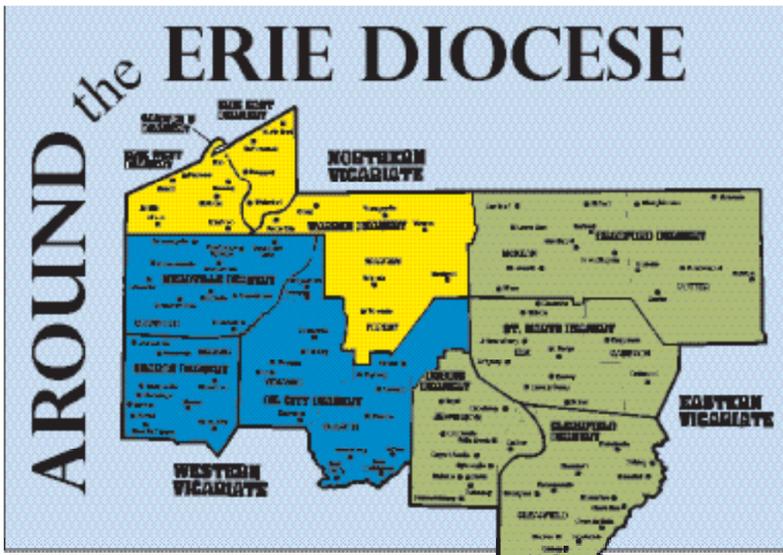
When Interest Income Counts, It's Time To Call Gen-See

**7.1% Annually**  
**Earn More Worry Less**  
Go with experience you can trust...

Since 1975, Gen-See investors have done better for 5 great reasons:  
• Regular monthly checks • No fees or commissions  
• Low minimum initial investment...\$5,000 • Term 3, 4 or 5 years  
• Rate of interest guaranteed for term of certificate

Make a fresh start...RIGHT NOW **7.1% Annually** **1-800-507-4393**

**GC** Gen-See Capital Corporation  
1-800-507-4393



Parish correspondents

E-mail your parish news

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to FaithLife.  
FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

### OLCS hosts children's author



ERIE—Our Lady's Christian School hosted nationally acclaimed storyteller and children's author Carmen Agra Deedy on April 25. Deedy, whose works include *The Yellow Star—The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*, *The Last Dance* and *The Library Dragon*, stopped to pose with second-graders as she passed out signed copies of her books.

### NASA aero bus visits St. Joseph School, Lucinda



LUCINDA — An aeronautics, space and environmental traveling exhibit—otherwise known as an aero bus—from the NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland visited St. Joseph School in Lucinda on April 27. The aero bus is a mobile educational vehicle for

spreading the environmental protection aspects of NASA's aeronautics programs and highlighting other research conducted at the Glenn Research Center. The bus driver that day was Howard Eakin, a retired mechanical engineering technician from the test fa-

cilities in Cleveland, who spoke to students about the center's research and then answered questions. Students in grades 4-6 were shown videos about the building, testing and landing of the Mars Land Rovers while pre-K-3 students viewed programs about living in space.

### Holy Family students protect their environment



Students Michael Martin, Paul Huff, Emily Mascaro, Caitlin Cooper and Sydney Seabrooke help out during Holy Family's Earth Day cleanup.

ERIE—Every year on or around Earth Day, Holy Family students participate in an outdoor clean-up effort. On April 26, students and teachers cleaned Ninth Street from Brandes to East Avenue, Ninth and Fulton to 10th Street, Pulaski Park, Brandes Street up to the lighthouse and Dunn Boulevard. Students filled many bags of garbage during the clean up. Throughout the year, students recycle cans and paper. Holy Family School is also involved with Earth Force, a program which reinforces the need to care for the environment.

## The numbers game

from page 2

Catholic population and found "greater dynamism" in Africa and Asia, which have more than 150 seminarians for every 1 million Catholics. Europe had 84 seminarians and North and South America about 67 for every 1 million Catholics.

The statistics confirmed two other widely known trends under Pope John Paul: the sharp decline in the number of women religious -- down about 23 percent, from 991,000 to 767,000 -- and the sharp increase in permanent deacons, up about 480 percent, from 5,500 to 32,000.

Not so widely known has been the aging of the episcopate, which was detailed for the first time by the Vatican.

Pope John Paul II appointed a great number of new bishops in his 26 years, and by the end of 2004 had increased the total number of bishops to nearly 4,800, about 29 percent more than in 1978. Africa led the way, with an increase of 46 percent in the number of bishops.

One might expect that, especially with a greater number of

Third World bishops, the average age would have decreased. In fact, during the period 1978-2004, the average age of bishops increased more than 5 years, from 62 to 67.4 years, the Vatican said. The oldest episcopate is in Europe, where the average age of bishops is now above 69. In North and South America, bishops average 67.8 years of age, in Oceania 67 and in Africa 63.6.

The Vatican said another indicator of the same phenomenon was the number of bishops age 65 or older, which rose from 39 percent worldwide in 1978 to 59 percent in 2004. In Europe, 64 percent of today's bishops are over 65.

But even in Africa, where some of the youngest church communities live, 46 percent of the bishops are now over 65, compared to only 22 percent in 1978. That trend may reverse itself as Africa's record numbers of Pope John Paul-era priests move into the age bracket from which new bishops are typically chosen.

# Parish Summer Events

#### All Saints Parish- Waterford Open House

July 29- Mass at 5:30pm  
Open House- 2-5pm & 6:30-8pm  
July 30- Masses at 8:15 & 11am  
Open House- Noon to 7pm  
(814) 866-6248

#### Holy Rosary- Erie 6th Annual Summer Festival

July 29, 4-10pm & July 30, 12-5pm: Fun for all ages, Food, Music, Games, Bake Sale & more! Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner served Sunday!  
(814) 456-4254

#### Holy Rosary- Johnsonburg 36th Annual Parish Festival

July 7th, 8th & 9th: 6-11pm  
Money Raffle Sunday, Booths, Games, Foodcourt, Nightly Entertainment, Chinese Auction  
(814) 965-2819

#### Holy Trinity- Erie Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival

Aug. 25th: 5-10pm, 26th: 1-10:30pm & 27th: 12-6pm  
Polka Mass- Sat. 5pm, Sun. 11am. Polish Kitchen & Bakery, Live Polka Music, Folk Dancers, Raffles, Chinese Auction, Kids' Activities  
(814) 456-0671

#### Our Lady of Mercy- Harborcreek SummerFest '06

July 9th, Noon - 5pm  
BBQ Chicken Dinner (served 12-5pm; takeouts 12-4pm), Bingo, Raffles, Kids' Games. Adults \$7/Kids \$3/5 & un. \$2  
(814) 899-5342

#### Sacred Heart- Erie Annual Parish Day

October 1, 12-6pm  
Beef Dinner, Prizes, Raffles, Drawing for '06 Ford Mustang GT  
(814) 456-6256

#### St. Bernard- Falls Creek Summer Festival

August 4, 5 & 6  
Polish, Slovak, Italian, American Food, Continuous Live Bands, Games, Kids' Entertainment.  
Polka Mass Sat. 4pm; Grand Raffle Sunday 2pm  
(814) 371-7419

#### St. Charles- New Bethlehem Chicken Noodle Dinner

June 25- Noon to 3pm  
Adults \$6/Children \$3  
Quilt Raffle  
(814) 275-3446

#### Ss. Cosmas & Damian- Punxsutawney Lawn Festival

August 4, 5 & 6  
Fri. & Sat. 6-11pm; Sun. 12-11pm.  
Polka Mass Sat. 5:30pm, Sunday Buffet Dinner- 12-4:30pm  
Grand Prize Raffle: '06 Chevy Cobalt LT Coupe or \$15K Cash!  
Games, Kiddyland, Food, Fun & Fellowship.  
(814) 938-6540

#### St. Eulalia & St. Augustine- Coudersport Festival & Int'l Food Fare

August 18 & 19  
Fri.: Bingo Night (St. Eulalia parish center); Sat. 10am-5pm: Food Booths, Adult/Kids' Games (parish grounds); Sat. 6:30pm Dinner Dance (parish center)  
(814) 274-8646

#### St. Hippolyte- Frenchtown Annual Ham or Chicken Dinner

July 30: Dinner 12-6:30pm; Games, Bingo, Chinese Auction, Grand Prize Drawing: 12-8pm. Adults \$8/Seniors \$7/Kids \$5  
(814) 789-2022

#### St. Joseph- Lucinda 67th Annual July 4th Festival Celebration

July 4- 11am to 5pm  
Dining Room 11am to 3pm; Takeouts 11am to 2pm  
Chicken, Ham, Soup w/ homemade noodles, Bingo, Booths, over 30 Quills, \$30K in Cash Prizes  
(814) 226-7288

#### St. Joseph- Oil City Festival

August 4th & 5th, 7pm-11pm  
Good Food, Kids' & Adult Games, Chinese Auction, Rosary Society Quilt and Bed & Bath Raffles, Roast Beef & Ham Raffles  
(814) 677-4004

#### St. Joseph School- Sharon 6th Annual Car Drawing

Drawing: Sept. 30, 2006  
Win a 2006 Corvette Convertible -OR- \$40,000 Cash!  
\$10/ticket, 3 for \$20, 10 for \$50, 25 for \$100. Order Online at www.winvette.com -OR- call 724-983-8382

#### St. Leo Magnus- Ridgway Summer Festival

July 22 & 23 at Ridgway Fireman's Carnival Grounds  
Games, Food, Crafts, Baked Goods, ATV Raffle, Live Entertainment, Polka Mass  
(814) 772-6487

#### St. Mary- Frenchville 136th Annual Frenchville Picnic

July 22 & 23- Family Night: Sat. w/ Mass @ 4pm. Games, Food, Bingo, Fireworks @ 10pm! Sun: BBQ or Chicken & Ham 12-5pm. Hayrides, Live Entertainment, Horeshoe Tournament, Sawdust Money Scramble  
(814) 263-4354

#### St. Mary- Meadville Garage Sale- June 9,

12-5pm; June 10, 9am-3pm: household items, furniture, toys, tools, etc.  
Chicken Bar-B-Q- Aug. 27, 11:30am - 6:30pm: Food, Raffles, Take-Outs Available.  
(814) 333-6161

#### St. Michael the Archangel- DuBois Annual Labor Day Weekend Polish Festival

Sept. 3rd, 1pm - 9pm  
Sept. 4th, 12pm - 7pm  
(814) 371-5773

#### St. Patrick- Franklin Parish Festival

June 15th  
Auction- 6pm; Barbecued Chicken Dinner- 4:30 to 6:30pm  
Adults \$7/Children \$3.50  
(814) 437-5763

#### St. Paul- Erie Italian Festival

October 11-13  
Friday- Pasta Fagioli Dinner; Sunday- Spaghetti Dinner; Nightly Entertainment, Grand Prize Trip to Italy for 2.  
(814) 459-3173

#### St. Stanislaus- Erie Annual Parish Day

October 1, 12-6pm  
Polish Platter Dinner- Polish sausage, cabbage roll, pierogie, etc., Awards, Theme Baskets, Chinese Auction  
(814) 452-6606

#### St. Stephen- State St., Oil City Heritage Festival

Thur., July 20th: 7-10pm  
Fri., July 21st: 5-11pm  
Sat., July 22nd: 5-11pm  
Food Booths, Refreshments, Games, Raffles, Great Prizes & fun for the whole family!

#### St. Teresa of Avila- Union City Lawn Festival

Thursday, July 27th  
4:00pm to 10:00pm  
Bingo starts at 6pm  
Food, Games, Prizes, Petting Zoo, Kiddyland, Bake Sale, Pony Rides & Entertainment  
(814) 438-2000

#### St. Thomas- Cory Summer Festival

July 28, 29 & 30th  
Fri., 8am: Yard Sale; Sat., 10am: Auction, Food, Games; Sun., 11am: Chicken BBQ, 2:30: Cow Patty Bingo, Games & Food 'til 4pm  
(814) 663-3041

### Success Story #6

Just 5 years ago, Tim was a new Penn State-Behrend graduate who had just begun the sales training program at Corry Publishing. Today he's one of the top salespeople at the \$11 million company. Tim's exceptional discipline and communications skills have enabled him to quickly play a key role for the Millcreek-based company and earn recognition from his co-workers.

**Write Your Own Success Story**  
Corry Publishing hires world-class employees with high character, drive, discipline, and a track record of success. In turn, the company provides them with career growth potential, a friendly work atmosphere, and excellent pay and benefits.

**We're hiring for the following positions:**  
**MANAGEMENT, SALES & SALES TRAINING**

Send your resumé today or call Jon Dudenhoefter at 868-9935, ext. 215 for more information.

**Corry Publishing**  
5539 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509  
JonD@CorryPub.com  
www.CorryPub.com

**CORRY Publishing**  
Publishers of National IT Magazines