

## Pope visits Portugal

Pope Benedict XVI calls for new style of evangelization, page 2.



# FaithLife

## Write on!

St. Joseph School in Lucinda has state, national handwriting winners, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 30, 2010

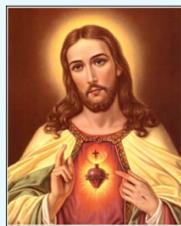
## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Boniface



Sacred Heart of Jesus

- May 30 Most Holy Trinity
- May 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- June 1 St. Justin
- June 2 Ss. Marcellinus and Peter
- June 3 St. Charles Lwanga and companions
- June 5 St. Boniface
- June 6 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
- June 9 St. Ephrem
- June 11 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 12 Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Confirmations

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

Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Friday, June 4 at 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield – Saturday, June 5 at 10 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bonaventure, Grampian; St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield; and St. Timothy, Curwensville.

St. Michael, Greenville -- Saturday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Michael, Greenville, and St. Margaret, Jamestown.

SCI Cambridge Springs – Saturday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m.

## A MINISTRY OF CHARITY

### Six permanent deacons ordained

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE – New life has come to the church in the Erie Diocese in form of six new permanent deacons.

Bishop Donald Trautman ordained six men to the permanent diaconate during a Mass and ceremony May 21 at St. Peter Cathedral in front of a crowd of relatives, friends, priests and deacons.

The new deacons include: Richard Brogdon (St. Jude the Apostle, Erie), Fred Keck (Holy Rosary, Erie), Doug Konzel (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie), Dick O'Polka (St. Patrick, Franklin), Rick Rueberger (St. Anthony of

Padua, Sharon) and Dennis Socash (Ss. Peter & Paul, Hawk Run).

For the past four years, these men have participated in the diocese's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, an instruction of academic, spiritual and pastoral formation. They will begin serving their respective parishes immediately as they await their ministry assignments from the bishop.

Bishop Trautman gave his homily directly to the deacon candidates who were seated in front of him. By sharing in the sacrament of holy orders, "You become accountable in a new way in the building up of God's kingdom on earth,"



Six men were ordained permanent deacons for the Erie Diocese on May 21 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Pictured (left to right) are Doug Konzel, Fred Keck, Dennis Socash, Bishop Donald Trautman, Dick O'Polka, Rick Rueberger and Richard Brogdon.

Bishop Trautman said. "The Lord sends you tonight on a mission of service to his people."

He then explained that the tri-fold ministry of the permanent diaconate is the service of the Word, the altar and charity. Deacons proclaim

the Gospel message, which includes preaching and teaching. Their service at the altar includes ministering at the Eucharist but also witnessing marriages, baptizing, presiding at wakes and funerals, conducting prayer services and bringing the Eucharist to

the sick and dying. "The service of charity is the principal theme, the essential meaning of your discipleship as deacon," Bishop Trautman said. "The service of charity entails serving the

See DEACONS, page 3

## Middle school students have fun with their faith at youth rally

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

GROVE CITY – Middle school students across the Erie Diocese recently found out something about their faith: It's cool to be Catholic.

More than 265 students and 75 adults participated in the annual middle school youth rally April 25 at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City.

"We wanted them to be able to leave the day with two things in mind. You can have fun with your faith and it's cool to be Catholic," said Bob Summers, the youth minister at Beloved Disciple who emceed the rally. "When you have a great event, it kind of gives them permission to have fun with their faith."

The theme of this year's event, "The Power of God's Love for You!" is based on the Scripture from Jeremiah 20:9, "Like fire burning in my heart."

The rally format changed in that the event was held on a Sunday and not the usual Saturday. And Mass was celebrated first instead of closing the rally.

Attendees came from Brockway, Brookville, Clearfield, Cochranton, Coalport, Emlenton, Erie, Fairview, Frenchtown, Grove City, Hermitage, Kane, Meadville, Mercer, Mt. Jewett, St. Marys and West Middlesex.

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated Mass, with Father Dan Hoffman preaching and encouraging students to become saints. In addition to the middle school students, parishioners and students from Grove City College also filled the church. Seminarians from the diocese served the Mass, and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, concelebrated. Music and vocals were provided by Gannon University students.

The weather was sunny and warm, which enabled some activities to be held outside including some under a large tent. The rally blended talks from guest speakers, ice breakers and activities and connected the theme at each possible turn.

Sister Carrie Ann, Sister Veronica and Sister Sophia Grace from the Franciscan Sisters, T.O.R., of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother in Steubenville, Ohio, spent the day with students and took part in vari-



ous events. They also spoke on conversion and vocation and offered and examination of conscience prior to confession. Many priests from Mercer County were on hand to hear confessions.

While the kids enjoyed an afternoon ice cream sundae break outside, students and youth leaders alike joined in an "Electric Slide" exhibition worthy of "Dancing with the

Stars." Chris Baker, a senior at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, offered a witness on the power of Christ's love in his life.

Siblings Isaac and Alicia Summers and a group of youth from Beloved Disciple performed a drama entitled "The Everything Skit."

See RALLY, page 3

## Pope Benedict XVI visits Cyprus – June 4-6

Ecumenism and the challenges facing Christians in the Middle East will be the main focuses of Pope Benedict XVI's trip to Cyprus June 4-6. The pope has chosen the Mediterranean island nation as the setting to release the working document for the special Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, which will be held at the Vatican in October.

Like many of its Middle Eastern neighbors to the south and east, the island is home to ancient Christian ruins that testify to its initial evangelization by St. Paul and St. Barnabas.

## 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie – June 6

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 50th anniversary Mass of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie on Sunday, June 6 at 11 a.m.

The parish was founded on June 12, 1960 with Msgr. Joseph Scheffner serving as its first pastor. Sunday Masses were initially celebrated at the Belle Valley Hose Company before an auditorium church was constructed in 1962. The parish school also opened at that time. Mass in the current church was celebrated in 1968.

## Ordination to the priesthood – June 11

On Friday, June 11, Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain five young men to the priesthood for the Erie Diocese during a 7 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The candidates for ordination include:

- Deacon Christopher Barnes (St. Venantius, Rouseville)
- Deacon Ross Miceli (St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois)
- Deacon Michael Polinek (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie)
- Deacon Matias Quimno (All Saints, Waterford)
- Deacon Matthew Strickenberger (St. Stephen, Oil City)

Meet tomorrow's priests in the June 13 issue of FaithLife.

## Clergy appointments

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



Father James Faluszcak, appointed pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Kersey, for a term of six years. Effective June 7, 2010.



Chp. Capt. Richard Allen, appointed pastor of St. Mary of Grace Parish, Meadville. Effective date contingent of his return states-side in June.



Father John Jacquel, appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie, and Holy Rosary Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective June 29, 2010.



Father Stephen Collins, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. Anthony Parish, Sheffield, and to chaplaincy ministry at Warren State Hospital. Effective June 7, 2010.



Msgr. Robert Malene, appointed to the office of Episcopal Vicar for the Western Vicariate. Effective June 15, 2010.

Msgr. John Swoger, granted retirement from active ministry. Effective June 15, 2010.

Father Richard Toohey, appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Warren, for a term of six years. Effective June 4, 2010.



## Catholic Services Appeal

### UPDATE

### Parishes exceeding goals; appeal slightly behind last year's pace

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The 2010 Catholic Services Appeal is slightly off last year's pace which netted a record amount for the annual appeal.

As of April 19, the appeal has resulted in a little more than \$5.4 million in pledged donations, which is \$33,000 less than last year's appeal at the same point. Also, this year's appeal currently has 750 fewer donors than a year ago.

The annual Catholic Services Appeal helps fund the Erie Diocese's ministries and provides support for health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services that serve 13 counties in northwest Pennsylvania.

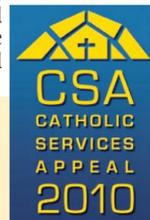
Parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects.

The 2010 appeal currently has 104 of the diocese's 136 parishes and missions exceeding their CSA goal; there were 107 parishes and missions that

had exceeded their goal at this time in 2009.

To date, more than \$1.8 million will be kept by parishes in 2010 for local projects.

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 13 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for the intentions of all



### 2010 CSA results (through April 19)

Compares 2010 results with 2009 at the same point last year

	2010 CSA	2009 CSA
Pledges/gifts to date	19,659	20,407
Total \$ pledged to date	\$5,400,319	\$5,433,175
Final pledges/gifts	To be determined	22,511
Final \$ pledged	To be determined	\$6,071,222

the benefactors of the 2010 Catholic Services Appeal.

Parishes throughout the diocese conducted Commitment Sunday the weekend of Feb. 13-14 to begin the appeal. But it's not too late to participate. To make a pledge or gift to the 2010 Catholic Service Appeal, contact your parish office or Joseph Hoag, director of stewardship and annual appeals, at 814.824.1192 or JHoag@ErieRCD.org for more information.



## IN THE U.S.

■ **Projects aimed at rebuilding church infrastructure damaged by the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile will receive nearly \$1 million** from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The allocations are part of close to \$2.8 million that the bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America approved for 128 projects in 23 countries. "The projects approved by the subcommittee show the church in action, supporting thousands of priests, sisters and laity working every day to bring the good news to some of our poorest brothers and sisters," said Archbishop Jose Gomez, coadjutor archbishop of Los Angeles and subcommittee chairman. In Haiti, the grants will provide temporary parish centers in 27 parishes, temporary classrooms and supplies to the national seminary and radio transmission equipment for Radio Soleil, a Catholic radio station in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital.



An interior view of the destroyed Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption is seen in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in early February. A team of engineers joined Bishop Thomas Wenski of Orlando, Fla., on a recent trip to assess damage to churches in Haiti and to determine which ones to rebuild as community centers.

■ **The Catholic Church Extension Society has created a fund to support the ministries of women religious around the country** and named it for a nun murdered during a robbery at her home on a Navajo reservation. The Sister Marguerite Bartz Fund honors the Blessed Sacrament sister who was found dead at her home in Novem-

ber 2009. The 64-year-old nun had served at St. Berard Parish in the Navajo Nation in northwestern New Mexico and northeastern Arizona since 1999. Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension, said the fund will supplement the nearly \$1.7 million the organization already is committed to distributing in 2010 to women religious and their ministries in the poorest and most isolated U.S. dioceses. "Sister Marguerite's life is an invitation to all of us to support the work of selfless women religious dedicated to doing God's work in the world," Father Wall said announcing the fund. "So many of us have wonderful memories of a sister who was a favorite teacher, a devoted nurse or community leader. This fund is for the women who are following in their footsteps."

■ **People in the Diocese of Nashville were stepping up to help move volunteers and supplies to those in need** after the unprecedented rainfall and flooding in middle Tennessee in early May. The torrential rains created the worst natural disaster in the modern history of middle Tennessee, causing unprecedented flood damage, killing 23 people and leaving thousands displaced. Professionals and volunteers alike will continue to be in high demand as the area recovers from the flood. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean has said the damage will easily exceed \$1.5 billion. A number of parishes have come to the rescue of flood victims. The situation has also given students at Catholic schools across the diocese the opportunity to put into action lessons about service and compassion as they have helped classmates, teachers and neighbors. At St. Henry Parish, which has a large percentage of parishioners affected by the flooding, a resource center has been set up on parish grounds.

## AROUND THE WORLD

■ **An estimated 120,000 people converged on St. Peter's Square** to express support for Pope Benedict XVI in dealing with the clerical sexual abuse scandal. Thanking the crowd for their presence and affection May 16, Pope Benedict said spiritual evil un-

fortunately sometimes infects even members of the church. "We Christians are not afraid of the world, even if we have to be careful of its seductions. Rather we must fear sin and, for that reason, be strongly rooted in God and solid in goodness, love and service," he said at his weekly Sunday blessing. With trust in the Lord and a renewed commitment to following him, he said, the church can become holier by going through "the trials" it is facing. The Italian National Consultation of Lay Groups, a Catholic organization, spearheaded the effort to bring Catholics to the square to join the pope and show their support. A variety of Catholic organizations and movements, labor unions and political groups joined them, filling St. Peter's Square and spilling onto the adjacent streets. Paola Dal Toso, secretary of the national consultation, told Vatican Radio that participants wanted to pray for the victims of sexual abuse, but also "to recall all the good that many priests do, which does not make the news."



A sign in Italian on the colonnade in St. Peter's Square says, "Together with the pope," after Pope Benedict XVI's "Regina Coeli" prayer at the Vatican May 16.

■ **With an estimated 12,500 people gathered on Parliament Hill, Canada's largest ever March for Life** May 13 gave a boost to what observers consider to be growing momentum within the country's pro-life movement. The crowd celebrated the recent defeat in the Canadian Parliament of legislation that would have legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide. Those gathered also were pleased by a recent parliament vote to exclude abortion in a Canadian-led maternal and child health initiative among the Group of Eight leading industrialized nations.

## By the Way...

More and more Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese are holding events to reconnect and strengthen ties with their alumni. It's also a way to help raise funds to keep these Catholic education communities vibrant.



Jason Koshinskie

St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools held their third annual Heritage Gala at the Red Fern Restaurant in St. Marys on April 20 (see May/June issue of *Faith* magazine) with nearly one-third of the PTO's annual \$150,000 commitment to the school budget raised at the event. St. Boniface School in Erie held its first-ever Alumni Gala on May 14 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie (see the June 13 issue of *FaithLife*) in which it hoped to raise \$20,000 for the school.

St. John-Holy Rosary School in Erie is hosting an alumni picnic on Saturday, July 3 at St. Nick's Grove where it's expected that 1,000 alumni and friends will join in the celebration.

"Our school has a large and very organized alumni association, and it could be the key to keeping our inner-city missionary effort alive," said Father John Jacquet, pastor of St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes in Erie.

The school will be honoring its oldest alumni as well as many sisters and priests who have gone on to serve the church. There will be an archive table and an alumni desk to update addresses and contact information. Photos will be taken of each class.

We offer our condolences to Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education, and his family for the death of his father, Dr. John Rouch, who passed away May 22. He was a long-time and beloved professor in the English Department at Gannon University.

A month before Pope Benedict XVI beatifies Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th century philosopher and educator, several hundred scholars and guests will convene in Pittsburgh to present their works on his life and influence. The Pittsburgh-based National Institute for Newman Studies will host the 2010 conference of the Newman Association of America Aug. 5-7.

The three-day gathering will generate much discussion on Newman's life, thought, and spirituality. Conference registration is available online at [www.newmanassociationofamerica.org](http://www.newmanassociationofamerica.org) until July 1.

The conference's opening Mass on Aug. 5 at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh at 5 p.m. is a public event and will be celebrated by Bishop David Zubik. Guest homilist for this opening Mass will be Deacon Jack Sullivan, the Massachusetts man who was healed from a serious illness through the intercession of Cardinal Newman, representing the first miracle in the road to his canonization.

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

# In Portugal, pope calls for new style of evangelization

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

PORTO, Portugal -- On a four-day visit to Portugal, Pope Benedict XVI turned the church's attention to Fatima and offered a new perspective on the continuing relevance of Mary's appearances and messages there.

But the larger purpose of his May 11-14 trip, a point enunciated at each of his three stops, was to prod Catholics to adopt a more forceful and direct way of evangelizing in a largely secularized society.

In talk after talk, the pope spoke about how to be a missionary in the modern world, challenging Portugal's Catholic majority — and its bishops — to stop acquiescing in a kind of silent surrender as the faith is marginalized and even ridiculed.

In the northern city of Porto May 14, in the final big event of the trip, the pope told 200,000 people at a Mass that their duty as followers of Christ was to announce his Gospel in every sector of society.

"We need to overcome the temptation to limit ourselves to what we already have, or think we have, that is safely our own: that would be a slow death for the church as a presence in the world," he said.

Pope Benedict has sometimes been presumed to accept the idea of a smaller but more militant church, supposedly to strengthen the church's identity. But he made it clear in Portugal that "pruning back" is not his strategic goal.

In Porto, the pope said that to reach out more effectively, the church's traditional idea of evangelizing must change. In today's increasingly multicultural societies, he said, the church needs to be able to mix dialogue with proclamation and witness of the faith.

He said the church's missionary map is no longer geographical, however. Those awaiting the Gospel message are "not only non-Christian populations and

distant lands," but entire social and cultural areas that cut across national or continental boundaries.

His words seemed to prepare the way for an announcement, expected in coming weeks, of the creation of a "Pontifical Council for New Evangelization" aimed precisely at promoting broader missionary outreach in traditionally Christian countries.

The 83-year-old pope made it clear from the moment he stepped off his airplane that his idea of "new evangelization" did not mean trying to reinstall Catholicism as the state religion. Arriving

in Lisbon May 11, he told civil authorities that the church was happy to live in a pluralistic society, which challenges its members to articulate their beliefs and put them into practice.

## Portugal

Predominantly Roman Catholic Portugal is home to the Marian shrine of Fatima, named for the town where Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children in 1917.



Population ..... 10.6 million  
Catholics ..... 88%  
Parishes ..... 4,830  
Priests ..... 3,800

Source: Vatican Statistical Yearbook ©2010 CNS

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July 17-29 / Sept. 4-16 / Sept. 18-30 / Oct. 2-14...

**Italy Regular:** June 26-July 4 / Sept. 18-26 / Oct. 9-17...

**Holy Land:** Sept. 9-19 / Sept. 20-30 / Oct. 7-17  
Oct. 18-28 / Nov. 8-18

**France / Spain / Portugal:** July 12-24 / Oct. 2-14

**Tuscany:** Oct. 7-17

**Ireland / Scotland:** May 29-June 10 / July 10-22

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# People in the News

## Archabbot Nowicki re-elected at St. Vincent

LATROBE – Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, OSB, the eleventh archabbot of St. Vincent Archabbey, was re-elected as the major superior of the Benedictine community in Latrobe on May 11.

In his role as the archabbot, Archabbot Nowicki serves as the spiritual leader of the first monastery established in the United States and one of the largest monasteries in the world. He is also the chancellor of St. Vincent College and St. Vincent Seminary, which serves as a major seminary for seminarians from the Erie Diocese.

The Benedictines have ministered in the St. Marys area for many years. They also operate the Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Ga., and the Campus Ministry Program at Penn State's University Park Campus.

In addition to his responsibilities in this country, the archabbot is also the spiritual leader of monasteries in Brazil and Taiwan.



Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, OSB

# Briefly

## Hermitage to host adoration 'Gathering'

HERMITAGE – Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage will host the fifth annual "Gathering," an evening of communal adoration, prayer and thanks for the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, on Tuesday, June 1. The event, sponsored by the Shenango Valley Eucharistic Adoration Committee, will begin at 7 p.m.

A social will run from 6-7 p.m. complete with refreshments and praise music.

The program will include a talk on the Eucharist by Father Dan Hoffman, parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish in Greenville, evening prayer, exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and music.



## St. Paul to hold annual St. Anthony of Padua novena

ERIE – St. Paul Parish in Erie will hold its annual novena in honor of St. Anthony of Padua June 5-13.

Services will be held at the church, located at West 16th and Walnut streets in Erie, and include traditional hymns sung in Italian, the litany of St. Anthony, Mass and homily. Service times are 8 a.m. on weekdays, 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

The concluding service June 13 with the feast day of St. Anthony Mass will be followed by a catered breakfast featuring St. Anthony's bread. Donation is \$5.

For reservations (by June 10) or more information, call 814.454.7735, 814.838.9395 or 814.864.6610.



St. Anthony of Padua

## Auditions announced for 10th annual all-school musical

The Broadway musical "Titanic" will be presented as the 10th annual all-school summer show at the end of July in the Hirt Auditorium of the Blasco Public Library in Erie.

Auditions are open to all area students, from those entering 4th grade next year through college age. Auditions are scheduled for two sites and students can come to either session: Thursday, June 3 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Mercyhurst Prep High School in Erie or Saturday, June 5 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Hirt Auditorium of Blasco Library on the Bayfront. Students auditioning should bring a song to sing. No experience necessary.

For more information or questions, call 814.825.4439 Ext. 235.

## Anniversary celebrations set for Aug. 8, 15 in Erie, Punxsutawney

Anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversaries in 2010 will be held in two locations in the diocese: Sunday, Aug. 8 at St. George Parish in Erie and Sunday, Aug. 15 at Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish in Punxsutawney.

Please note that this year the Erie liturgy will begin at 2:30 p.m. and the Ss. Cosmas and Damian liturgy will begin at 2 p.m.

Bishop Donald Trautman will preside at both liturgies which include a presentation of scrolls to the couples. A light reception will follow.

Anniversary couples can register by contacting 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.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

# Six permanent deacons ordained for Erie Diocese

DEACONS, from page 1

poor and marginalized, caring for the sick and the imprisoned, bringing Christ to the forgotten and the abandoned. Like St. Francis the deacon, you are to bring Christ's love and truth to the alienated and outcast."

After this class was admitted to the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, there was a break in the program for a period of three years.

"This was done in an effort to look at what we had done since our beginning and where we needed to go in terms of altering the program," said Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general, who oversees the diocese's permanent diaconate program.

The break was also an opportunity to make sure the program

was in line with the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, a document promulgated by the U.S. bishops in Nov. 2004 which addresses the model standards regarding formation.

"Quite honestly, much if not all that we were doing fit in well with the bishops' current directive for formation," Msgr. Smith said. "There were some consultative bodies that we needed to put in place, which we were in the process of doing anyway. Our current program reflects what it is that the bishops are asking in terms of diaconal formation."

Additions to the diocesan program include a deacon council and a deacon personnel board, both of which function comparatively to the diocesan presbyteral

council and priests personnel board. A mentoring program has also been put in place which assists newly ordained deacons in their first three years of ministry. An admissions committee, which includes several deacon couples, is now part of the effort to admit new candidates to the program.

The program is accepting 15 aspirants who will begin studying in September.

Approximately 15,000 deacons minister in the U.S. The six newly ordained deacons bring the total in the Erie Diocese to 65, an impressive number for a program that began in 1994.

"One of the advantages of the deacon program has been putting in a Catholic presence where we did not have the kind of ministerial presence before," Msgr. Smith said.

He noted that all prisons in the diocese have a diaconate presence. Other places include convalescent homes and outreach centers to the poor and marginalized. They also spearhead a number of ministries that involve married couples including Engagement Encounter, Retrouvaille and fellowship of the divorced and separated.

Deacons are meant to be a compliment to the ministry of the priest, Msgr. Smith said; they are not meant to take the place of lay ministry of the church but rather to encourage it.

"All charity begins at the altar," he said. "It is the Eucharist that feeds us with the body of Christ and in turn we are to feed our brothers and sisters physically and spiritually, as well. And deacons do that in their ministry."

# WEB OF FAITH

## USCCB launches new Web site to promote vocations

The Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington has launched a new Web site to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The site, [www.ForYourVocation.org](http://www.ForYourVocation.org), is meant to help people who are discerning a possible church vocation and educate Catholics about the need to encourage others to consider a vocation.

The site includes discernment resources for men and women, ideas for promoting a vocation culture within the home and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders and vocation directors, including prayers, videos, best practices, lesson plans and vocation-awareness programs. It also includes videos of priests and religious men and women talking about their vocations and testimonies from family members. The site has links to a Facebook fan page and a YouTube vocation channel.

## New Web site helps college students promote Catholic social teaching

A dozen Catholic organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have introduced a Web site to help college students and campus ministers promote Catholic social teaching.

Under the banner "Transforming Our World: Our Catholic Faith in Action," the site includes podcasts, videos, prayer materials, small-group resources and basic information on the social doctrine of the church. The Web site can be found at [www.usccb.org/campus](http://www.usccb.org/campus).

The site's development coincides with the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' statement "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching." It was developed in response to Pope Benedict XVI's World Youth Day 2010 message in which he identified several challenges facing the world, such as respect for the environment, the just division of goods, solidarity with poor countries, promotion of dignity in labor, building a culture of life and promoting peace.

# Middle school students have fun with their faith at rally

RALLY, from page 1

Dan Whittaker, a Beloved Disciple parishioner and father of four, led a multimedia praying of the luminous mysteries of the rosary.

Summers, who led the youth in a number of communitybuilding activities, provided lead vocals on a rousing rendition of "Singing in the Rain" and reflected on the spiritual energy God wants to

provide to young people.

"The Holy Spirit was there from the very beginning," Summers said. "The band was playing and you could feel the energy there. It was important to let the kids know that they have the power of God inside them. When you give them a chance to open up at an event like this, they really get into it."

## Youth and young adult activities

Here are a few upcoming offerings from the diocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministry. For more information, visit [www.onthevine.us](http://www.onthevine.us).

### Testify: A silent vocations discernment retreat for high school students

Date: September 10-12 (boys) and December 3-5 (girls)  
Place: St. Thomas More House of Prayer, Cranberry Township  
Cost: \$50 to cover room and meals  
Limited to 12 students. Participants should have attended either a TEC (To Encounter Christ) or CLI (Catholic Leadership Institute) retreat and must be recommended by a pastor or youth minister. Spiritual maturity and an openness to silence are essential.

### Let's Get Real Rally

Date: November 20  
Place: St. Michael Parish, Greenville  
Open to all high school students. Mass included.

### Middle School Rally

Date: April 10, 2011  
Place: St. Joseph Parish, Warren  
Open to all students grades 6-8. Mass included.

## Parish Summer Events

**July 4, 71st Annual 4th of July Celebration**  
St. Joseph Parish Grounds, 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda (along Rt. 66); 11 am-4 pm; Mass at 8:30 am; dinner tickets on sale at 10 am; dinner: 11 am-3 pm; takeouts: 11 am-2 pm; adults: \$7.50, children 6-12: \$3.50, 6 and under: free. Games, entertainment and over \$35,000 in cash and prizes including over 20 handmade quilts. Rain or shine, canopy covered, handicap accessible. [www.st-joseph-lucinda.org](http://www.st-joseph-lucinda.org), 814-226-7288.

**August 13-15 St. Paul Italian Festival**  
453 W. 16th St., Erie; Fri. and Sat., 6-10 pm; Sun., Noon-9 pm; Friday: 5:15 pm Mass. Pasta fagioli dinner and music by The Two Cousins from 7-10 pm; Saturday: 4:30 pm Mass and music by The Contels from 7-10 pm; Sunday: 11 am Mass followed by procession of the Virgin Mary statue, spaghetti dinner from 12-5 pm and music by Lindsay Vendetti from 6-9 pm. Daily activities include: home-made foods, games, prizes, bingo, games of chance and children's activities. Free trolley shuttle service from Erie Central Mall or from parking lot at 18th and Hickory St. 814-459-3173.

**July 11 SummerFest '10, Our Lady of Mercy**  
837 Bartlett Rd., Harborcreek  
Noon-5 pm; BBQ chicken dinner, something for everyone: raffles, game tables, Chinese auction, children's activities, hand-crafted items, bake sale. 814-899-5342.

**August 20 Holy Rosary Fun Night**  
2701 East Ave, Erie  
Fri., 4-10 pm; picnic-style foods including corn-on-the-cob, hot dogs, funnel cakes etc. Bocce tournament, Chinese auction, grand award, child games, music, theme baskets. Free admission. 814-824-5936.

**July 22 St. Teresa Lawn Festival**  
9 Third Ave., Union City  
5-9 pm; games, food, raffles, prizes, crafts, music and more! Grand prize drawing: \$500; other prizes awarded at 9 pm (need not be present to win.) For more information: 814-438-2000.

**August 27-29 Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival**  
Holy Trinity Church, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie; Fri., 5-10 pm; Sat., 1-10:30 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm; Polka Mass: Sat. at 5 pm, Sun. at 11 am. Polish kitchen and bakery, live polka music with 5 bands, raffles, theme baskets, auction, children's activities area, folk dancers, free admission! 814-456-0671.

**June 12, Our Lady of Lourdes Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Social Hall  
251 South Franklin St., Cochranton  
4-7:30 pm; ice cream, cake, strawberries, sloppy joes, chicken sandwiches and hot dogs available; Chinese auction. Cost: \$3.50. Call 814-789-2022.

**September 17-19 St. Patrick Annual Erie Irish Festival**  
Rainbow Gardens, intersection of 6th and 8th streets. Fri., 5-10 pm; Sat., 11:30 am-10:30 pm; Sun., 10:30 am-6 pm. adults: \$3/day, \$5 for weekend; under 16: free. 814-454-8085, [www.ErieIrishFestival.com](http://www.ErieIrishFestival.com).

**June 19, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church Chicken Dinner**  
Bethany Outreach Center, 254 E. 10th St., Erie  
12-5 pm; dinners include: fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad, green beans, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea and soda pop.  
For delivery during the event, call 814-456-6254. Ticket prices at the door, adults: \$8, children 12 and under: \$5. Parish: 814-452-2410.

**October 3 Sacred Heart Parish Day Raffle**  
816 W. 26 St., Erie; Noon-6 pm; raffle: 2010 Roush "Stage 3" Mustang or \$40,000; 540 horsepower; 49 of only 103. Tickets: \$10 each, 3 for \$20, 10 for \$50. Winner announced at dinner (need not be present to win), [www.winastang.com](http://www.winastang.com), 814-456-6256.

**June 27 St. Adalbert's Church Festival**  
Kennedy Catholic High School, Shenango Valley Freeway, Hermitage  
Noon-6 pm; food, beverages, music (Danny Klanica Band), bingo, Chinese auction, takeouts available. 724-342-7391.

**July 25 114th Annual Ham or Chicken Dinner**  
St. Hippolyte, 26012 N. Frenchtown Rd. Rte. 27, Frenchtown  
Noon-6:30 pm; ham or chicken dinner, takeouts available. 814-789-2022.

**August 1 St. Anthony of Padua Parish Picnic**  
804 Idaho St., Sharon  
Noon-7 pm; lamb, pork, chicken dinner, Veseljaci Band (Happy People) and Don Novak Combo. 724-342-7391.

**August 6-8 Ss. Cosmas and Damian Lawn Festival**  
616 W. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney  
Fri. and Sat., 6-11 pm; Sun., 12:30-11 pm. Grand prize: 2010 Chevy Malibu 2LT or \$15,000; 2nd prize: La-Z-Boy recliner; 3rd prize: home theater system with Blu-ray DVD; 4th prize: \$300 in gas cards; 5th prize: 8GB iPod touch with \$100 iTunes gift card. Sunday buffet, nightly entertainment, food, fun and fellowship. [www.sscdchurch.com](http://www.sscdchurch.com).

**June 19, St. Anthony Festival and Chicken BBQ**  
St. Anthony Parish Center, South Main St., Cambridge Springs. 4-10 pm; bingo, bake sale, basket auction, big basket raffle, games. BBQ chicken dinners: \$8, takeouts available. Tickets on sale now at St. Anthony's or by calling 814-398-4234.

**July 29 St. Stephen Heritage Festival**  
Church parking lot, corner of State and Front streets, Oil City  
Thurs. and Fri. 6-10 pm; Sat. 4-10 pm. Games, concession stands, quilts, money, basket raffles, bake sale, Chinese auction, food and fun for the whole family. 814-677-3020.

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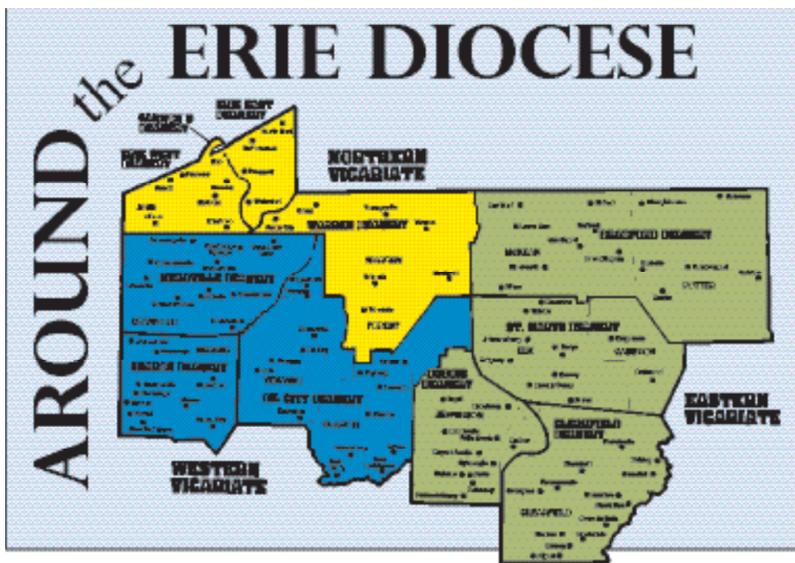
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AROUND the

# ERIE DIOCESE

## Knights and Ladies of St. Patrick installed

ERIE – Six people were installed as new Knights and Ladies of St. Patrick at St. Patrick Parish in Erie following the March 13 vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman.

Those inducted include (front row, left to right) Russell Vance Jr., PhD., J. Terrence Lynch, David Romanowicz, (back row) Linda Brunner, William Reinhold and Irene Nemergut.

The Knights and Ladies is an organization of Catholic men and women of all nationalities who have been recognized by the bishop of Erie for their contributions to the community in the name and spirit of Christ. In addition, they take as their special ministry, the Sister Mary Pascal Gray, SSJ, Food Pantry, giving of their time, talent and treasure in support of the food pantry's mission.

Currently there are 130 Knights and Ladies with 90 active members, said Michele Wheaton,



president of the Knights and Ladies of St. Patrick. Members are nominated, Wheaton said, adding that they must be active Catholics who are involved with parish and community activities and have a strong faith life.

Knights and Ladies also provide a hot breakfast during the colder months at the food pantry and gifts at Christmas for children. They also donate the proceeds from their booth at the parish's annual Irish Festival.

## St. Catherine of Siena joins in DuBois Clean Up Day

DUBOIS – St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois participated in Clean Up Day on April 10 sponsored by the Downtown DuBois Revitalization Group.

Volunteers from the parish picked up trash and pulled weeds from the church to South Main Street and a portion of West Long Avenue in downtown DuBois.

Pictured left to right are parish council member Mike Miklic, parish council member, Msgr. Richard Siefer, pastor, and parishioner Luke Walker.



## Our Lady of Peace breaks ground on new playground

ERIE – Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie held a groundbreaking ceremony April 27 for a long awaited playground for the church and parish school.

Students, faculty and staff, along with members of the parish family, gathered for the ceremony behind the school off Pacific Avenue after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Father Ted Marconi, pastor of Our Lady of Peace, served as emcee for the event. Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education, blessed the site where the playground will be built.

Pictured during the groundbreaking are: Father Marconi; Father Rouch; John Hamilton, school board president; Scott Barnes, parish council president; Ronette Schneider, PTC president; Jeff Lipiec, principal; Joe Buki, Knights of Columbus; Jake DeHart, student council president; and Ellie (preschooler) and Garrett Brugger.

Plans call for the playground to be built in time for summer enjoyment. The playground has been made possible through the generosity and support of the OLP parish family and the OLP PTC. It will also be available for all members of the community.

"We have been blessed with



A computer-generated image of the OLP playground.

wonderful people in our parish who are helping to make this project a reality," said Father Marconi. "We could not have done this without the generosity of their CSA (Catholic Services Appeal)

contributions." In future phases of the project, plans call for a picnic pavilion. In preparation for those plans, utility lines for future use are also being installed.

## St. Joseph School has state, national handwriting winners

LUCINDA – Two students from St. Joseph School in Lucinda have been named 2010 Pennsylvania state champions in the National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Education Publishers.

Sixth grader Sarah Schettler (left) and fifth grader Cassie Kriebel (right), students in James Steuler's (center) handwriting class, will both receive awards.

Kriebel has also been named the fifth grade grand national champion and will receive \$1,000 cash.

St. Joseph School has been awarded \$1,400 in Zaner-Bloser gift certificates.



## St. Boniface School receives grant for community service projects

ERIE – St. Boniface School in Erie was recently awarded a \$1,000 community grant from Sam's Club to support the school's effort and involvement in providing community services to a number of groups including the blind center, parish shut-ins, food drives and community reading programs.

Pictured left to right are: William Poolson, general manager of Sam's Club; Barbara Portner, principal of St. Boniface School; and Father Jay Schultz, pastor.



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