

From White House to Yankee Stadium

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Deacon candidates
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www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 4, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Pentecost



Our Lady of Fatima

- May 10 Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i
- May 11 Pentecost
- May 12 St. Nereus and St. Achilleus, St. Pancras
- May 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- May 14 St. Matthias
- May 15 St. Isidore
- May 18 Most Holy Trinity
- May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena
- May 21 St. Christopher Magallanes and his companions
- May 22 St. Rita of Cascia
- May 25 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Confirmation schedule

Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Sun., May 4 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Anthony, Sharon – Sun., May 4 at 3 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Anthony, Sharon; Holy Trinity, Farrell; St. Adalbert, Farrell; St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sharon; and Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell.

St. John the Baptist, Erie – Tues., May 6 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Family, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Holy Trinity, Erie; St. John the Baptist, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; and St. Stanislaus, Erie.

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

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Thurs., May 8 at 7 p.m.

Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg – Fri., May 9 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg, and St. Anne, Wilcox.

St. Mary, Sartwell – Sun., May 11 at 1:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Gabriel the Archangel, Port Allegany; St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Smethport; St. Raphael, Eldred; St. Theresa, Shinglehouse; St. Mary, Sartwell; St. Eulalia, Couderdport; and St. Augustine, Austin.

St. Jude, Erie – Mon., May 12 at 7 p.m.

Gannon University commencement with Cardinal McCarrick – May 10

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, will be the keynote speaker at Gannon University's spring commencement on Saturday, May 10. Cardinal McCarrick will receive Gannon's Ut Diligatis Invicem Award and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at Tullio Arena, 809 French St. in Erie. The event is open to the public. The university's Baccalaureate Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral.



Ordination of permanent deacons – May 16

Nine men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman during a 7 p.m. Mass on Friday, May 16 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. They include:

- Denis Coan (St. John the Baptist, Erie)
- Larry Caggese (St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway)
- Ray Ehrensberger (St. Mary, St. Marys)
- Frank Lombardo (Holy Rosary, Erie)
- John Mang (St. Francis Xavier, McKean)
- Tom Matusiak (Holy Trinity, Erie)
- Ken Reisenweber (St. Brigid, Meadville)
- Owen Wagner (Notre Dame, Hermitage)
- Tim Wren (St. Joseph, Oil City)

Look for profiles of the deacon candidates on page 3.

50th anniversary Mass of Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake – May 17

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 50th anniversary Mass for Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 followed by a reception. The parish has a year's worth of anniversary events scheduled. For more information, visit www.olqchurch.org.

In U.S., pope preaches message of HOPE built on faith

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — From the White House to the U.N. General Assembly hall and from ground zero to the Washington Nationals' baseball stadium, Pope Benedict XVI preached a message of hope built on faith and a joint commitment to defending the dignity of the human person.

He acknowledged the "evil" of the clerical sexual abuse crisis, met privately with a group of victims and encouraged the U.S. bishops to continue their work to restore trust in the church and its ministers.

Celebrating Mass April 19 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral with thousands of priests and religious, the pope urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose."

It is time, he said, to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society.

Repeatedly during his April 15-20 stay in Washington and New York, he made it clear that he believed the "genuinely religious spirit" of the American people had not been extinguished and could be strengthened.

Tailoring his message to each group he met, Pope Benedict urged the people of the United States to resist the temptations and trends of modern society, maintaining their traditional values, defending human rights and reaching out with solidarity.

The Vatican billed the trip as a visit to the United Nations — particularly to help mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — and as a pastoral visit to the United States.

Pope Benedict spent three hours April 18 at the United Nations, addressing the General Assembly and U.N. staffers separately and holding private meetings with the organization's top officials.

He told the General Assembly that fundamental human rights "cannot be applied piecemeal" and



CNS photos
Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowds at Yankee Stadium (above) and at Nationals Park in Washington (left, inset).

cannot be denied or diminished because of "different cultural, political, social and even religious outlooks."

And, he said, when human rights are violated it creates a breeding ground for violence.

"Indeed," he said, "the victims of hardship and despair, whose human dignity is violated with impunity, become easy prey to the call to violence, and they can then become violators of peace."

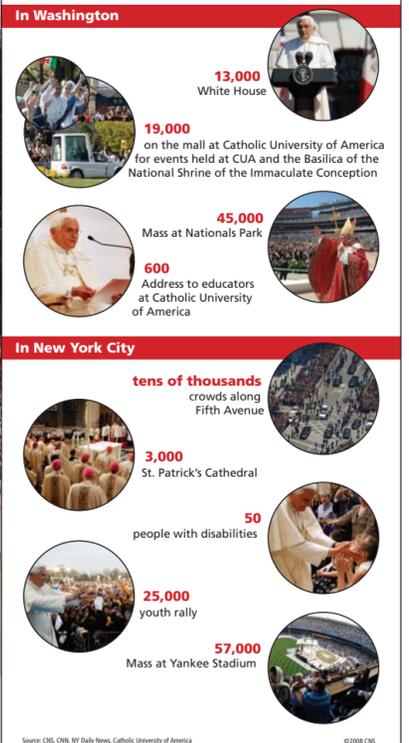
Hours before he left April 20, Pope Benedict celebrated an afternoon Mass in New York's Yankee Stadium.

"In this land of religious liberty," he said, "Catholics found freedom not only to practice their faith, but also to participate fully in civic life, bringing their deepest moral convictions to the public square and cooperating with their neighbors in shaping a vibrant, democratic society."

He urged U.S. Catholics "to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom in

Papal Crowds

Pope Benedict XVI's six-day trip to the U.S. in April attracted tens of thousands of people from all over the world.



Source: CNN, CBS, NY Daily News, Catholic University of America ©2008 CNS

order to build a future of hope for coming generations."

Meeting U.S. bishops in Washington April 16, the pope said secularism and materialism can influence the way people live out their faith, causing those who worship on Sundays to act contrary to church teaching the rest of the week.

Some people think they can pick and choose what they believe, he said.

"We've seen this emerge in an acute way in the scandal given by Catholics who promote an alleged right to abortion," he said.

While Pope Benedict carefully avoided appearances of taking sides in a U.S. election year, in his April 16 speech at the White House, he said it was important to preserve the traditional role of religion in American political and social life.

Religious values helped forge "the soul of the

See POPE, page 4

2008 Catholic Services Appeal update To date, CSA ahead of last year's record total

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

With more than \$5.8 million pledged, the 2007 Catholic Services Appeal was the most successful appeal ever for the Erie Diocese.

The good news is that to date, the 2008 CSA is a little bit ahead of last year's pace.

"So far, it's been very positive," said Joseph Hoag, director of the Office of Stewardship and Annual Appeals for the diocese. "People have been generous. We have some new donors, which is good. We hope that's the result of what they've been hearing about the Catholic Services Appeal."

The goal for the 2008 CSA is \$3.65 million. So far, the total amount pledged has exceeded \$5.2 million. To date, parishes have raised more than \$1.6 million over goal to be used for parish projects, which is slightly less than the amount at this point last year (\$1.7 million). However, nine parishes are conducting capital campaigns, which already include their CSA assessment. Because of their capital campaigns, those parishes are not grouped with the rest of the diocese.

"One thing that we've tried to stress is that the CSA means ministry," Hoag said. "It means helping people. And those ministries are provided by the larger church."

Some recently highlighted ministries, Hoag said, that are made possible through the Catholic Services Appeal include Retroville, the permanent diaconate formation program, youth rallies and youth ministry, campus ministry and the Family Life Office's new Ten Great Dates program.

"I think people better understand how their dollars are being used through these ministries and are willing to support the Catholic Services Appeal," he said. "On top of that, you have parishes that have their local projects."

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.

"A lot is done within our church as a result of this appeal, not just diocesan ministries but local efforts, as well," Hoag said.

Individual parish reports are available online at www.ErieRCD.org as a way to show people where their church is at, Hoag said, but also to remind people who have not yet participated that there is still an opportunity to do so.

"People have the opportunity to support the ministries of the diocese and the ministries and projects of their parish," he said.

To make a pledge or gift to the 2008 CSA, contact your parish office or the Office of Stewardship and Annual Appeals at 814.824.1192 or e-mail JHoag@ErieRCD.org.

2008 CSA results (through April 18)

Compares 2008 results with 2007 at the same point last year

	2008 CSA	2007 CSA
Pledges/gifts to date	19,331	19,201
Total \$ pledged to date	\$5,240,039	\$5,186,330
Final pledges/gifts	To be determined	21,702
Final \$ pledged	To be determined	\$5,861,575

Father John Dear speaks on 'The Beatitudes of Peace'

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Father John Dear wasn't sure if he was going to make it to his lecture April 3 at Villa Maria Academy, but he did.

He came to Erie from his New Mexico hermitage under probation from the U.S. Government stemming from his actions protesting the war in Iraq a year-and-a-half ago as part of the Declaration of Peace campaign.

"Nine of us went into the federal building in Santa Fe, New Mexico," said Father Dear, who is a Jesuit priest. "We were going to go up to the third floor to the office of our senator wanting him to sign this document, the Declaration of Peace. We got as far as the elevator and the police charged us. We were in the elevator and they pulled the plug on us."

There they stayed for seven hours with the doors open.

"We didn't do anything. We didn't even get to accomplish what we were there to do," he said. "We brought with us the names of every U.S. soldier killed in Iraq and some 10,000 documented Iraqis killed and we started reading them slowly out loud. Have you ever read out loud the names of 14,000 people who've been killed? It was an incredible, moving experience and within minutes we were all crying. We did this for seven hours."

They were arrested on federal charges, found guilty and sentenced to probation.

Father Dear, an internationally recognized voice for peace and nonviolence, spoke on "The Beatitudes of Peace."

"We live in a culture of war and violence," he said. "I'm so mindful of coming here tonight, which is part of why I picked this date, to take to heart tonight on this anniversary that the God of peace and justice and nonviolence and universal love sent us this beautiful, mighty prophet in Martin Luther King Jr."

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

"He said the choice is no longer violence or nonviolence; it's nonviolence or nonexistence," Father Dear said. "We live in a world of total violence. There are 35 wars going on tonight, not just the one in Iraq."

He said the Beatitudes, the beginning portion of the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus describes the qualities of the inhabitants of the kingdom of heaven, are like a "catechism of nonviolence" and are a core teaching lost on today's society.

"Did you know that Gandhi, the great Hindu, who was saying Jesus is the most spectacular person of nonviolence in history, read from the Sermon on the Mount every morning at 4 a.m. and every afternoon at 5 o'clock for the last forty years of his life? He said these were the greatest teachings on nonviolence in the history of the world. He's saying if I want to be a person of nonviolence, I have to read this every day. That's powerful, and he's not even Christian."

For more information about Father John Dear, visit www.fatherjohndear.org.



Father John Dear, SJ



IN THE U.S.

An expanded role for professional lay ministers is high on the list of possible models for pastoral leadership that emerged from an unprecedented gathering in Orlando of 1,200 Catholics — clergy, religious and laity — preparing for the future of a changing church. Ideas for recruiting, training, utilizing, valuing and rewarding lay ministers abounded in Orlando April 22, as representatives of six national organizations reached the midpoint of their first National Ministry Summit, aimed at setting an agenda for responding to new realities in parish life. The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project is a collaboration of six national Catholic groups: the National Association for Lay Ministry, Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development, National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, National Association of Diaconate Directors, National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association and National Federation of Priests' Councils.

Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh was among those who testified on behalf of Pennsylvania's proposed Marriage Protection Amendment at a hearing April 10 at the Allegheny County Courthouse. More than 200 people packed the chambers of the Allegheny County Council to hear the often-spirited debate. "That marriage must be considered truly sacred seems to elude us," Bishop Zubik said. "We have reached the point of a laissez faire view of marriage, a concerted effort to expand its definition so vaguely that marriage essentially becomes meaningless. At a time when we should be engaged in doing all we can to strengthen marriage, and strengthen especially the family, we are facing cultural forces that want to so water down the definition of marriage that it could apply to any human relationship, or to no relationship at all." The bishop's testimony came before the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by state Sen. Stewart Greenleaf.

The creator and the publisher of a board game called "Vatican: Unlock the Secrets of How Men Become Pope" said they hope players have fun with it but learn something along the way about how a pope gets elected. Stephen Haliczzer, the game's creator, is a research professor at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill. The history of the Catholic Church is one of his areas of interest. The game, available on the Web at www.vaticanboardgame.com, was published by the College of DuPage Press in Glen Ellyn, Ill. "Vatican" is for two to six players, who assume the roles of prominent, fictional cardinals viewed as possible papal contenders. To win, a cardinal must earn the support of at least two-thirds of the 150 cardinals voting in the simulated papal conclave.



AROUND THE WORLD

An English Catholic diocese will cut its ties with an adoption agency because the diocese cannot accept the government's new laws on homosexual rights. Bishop Malcolm McMahon of Nottingham said he and the trustees of the adoption agency, Catholic Children's Society, felt they had been forced into the decision by the Sexual Orientation Regulations, a law that bans discrimination against gays in the provision of goods and services. The law would compel the diocese to place children in the care of same-sex couples. "We have been coerced into this, I am not happy about it at all," the bishop said April 18. "The regulations have coerced the children's society into going

against the church's teaching, and we don't wish to do that." A Vatican directive issued in 2003 said it was morally wrong to place children in the care of same-sex couples. Bishop McMahon said that the agency will try "to salvage what it does best" by merging with the adoption agency of the Anglican Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham in October.

Brazil's National Health Council has recommended that stem-cell research on spare embryos from in vitro fertilization should continue to be legal in Brazil despite a constitutional guarantee of humans' right to life and dignity. The National Health Council voted 38-1 to uphold a 2005 law that allows research on stem-cell lines derived from in vitro fertilization embryos that have remained frozen more than three years. The lone dissenting vote came from Zilda Arns, sister of Cardinal Paulo Ernesto Arns, retired archbishop of Sao Paulo. Zilda Arns is a nationally respected pediatrician who has spearheaded various health initiatives for Brazil's Catholic bishops. The recommendation will be key as Brazil's Supreme Court considers a constitutional challenge to the 2005 law, which made human cloning illegal but allowed research on stem cells derived from the in vitro process.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, led church efforts to safeguard and promote a Catholic view of marriage and family life with untiring "zeal and passion," Pope Benedict XVI said. The 72-year-old Colombian cardinal died April 19 at Rome's Pius XI clinic, where he had been hospitalized since early April with a respiratory infection.



Jason Koshinski

The television premiere of "Meeting of the Waters," a documentary about the faith and vocation stories of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie, will air May 4 at 7 p.m. on Time-Warner Cable Channel 19. The hour-long program will be rebroadcast again at 10 p.m. and several other times in May on Channel 19, which is operated by Mercyhurst College. The airing will be available to all Time-Warner subscribers in Erie County.

Anne-Marie Welsh, editor of *Faith* magazine, was among the people from the Erie Diocese who traveled to New York to attend Mass at Yankee Stadium with Pope Benedict XVI. She is enjoying preparing her report on the event for the July/August issue of the magazine. Highlights include stories on the Mass, our seminarians' participation in the rally for young people the pope held in Yonkers; an interview with Father Ted Marconi, pastor of St. Leo Parish in Ridgway, who was lucky enough to wrangle an invitation to the pope's appearance at the White House and a behind-the-scenes look at the work of Msgr. Tom McSweeney, who spent the week at Rockefeller Center as a commentator for MSNBC.

In addition, she is preparing a piece on Matthew Strickberger's experience. Matt, who grew up in Oil City and is now studying for the priesthood at St. Marys Seminary and University in Baltimore, had the honor of serving as an acolyte during the Mass at Yankee Stadium. There will be plenty of photos to put readers front and center at many of these events.

The Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has asked each diocese to respond to a survey regarding the practice of eucharistic adoration. Clergy in the Erie Diocese have been asked to complete a brief survey to provide an accurate response to the Holy See. The survey is in preparation for the congregation's 2009 plenary session.

On Saturday, May 10, letter carriers throughout northwestern Pennsylvania will again help "Stamp Out Hunger" across America with your help. For the 14th year, Campbell's and the United States Postal Service are partnering with the National Association of Letter Carriers to co-sponsor "Stamp Out Hunger," the nation's largest single-day food drive.

Simply leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice or cereal next to your mailbox prior to the time of regular mail delivery on May 10. Food items should be in non-breakable containers, such as boxes and cans. Local letter carriers will then collect donations from homes across the city and deliver them to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania and its agencies. Second Harvest supports food pantries and agencies throughout the Erie Diocese.

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

Highlights of Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic visit to the U.S.

Editor's note: The following news items from Catholic News Service highlight many of Pope Benedict XVI's encounters during his April 15-20 apostolic visit to the United States.

In a meeting at the White House, Pope Benedict XVI and President George W. Bush discussed the problem of terrorism and how to confront it while respecting human rights. The two leaders also expressed their joint concern for the protection of human life, marriage and the family, according to a statement issued after a private meeting April 16. "The two reaffirmed their total rejection of terrorism as well as the manipulation of religion to justify immoral and violent acts against innocents," the statement said. "They further touched on the need to confront terrorism with appropriate means that respect the human person and his or her rights," it said.

Pope Benedict XVI held an unscheduled meeting with victims of priestly sexual abuse, shortly after pledging the church's continued efforts to help heal the wounds caused by such acts. The Vatican said the pope met privately in a chapel at the apostolic nunciature with "a small group of persons who were sexually abused by members of the clergy." The group was accompanied by Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, which was the epicenter of the abuse scandal. "They prayed with the Holy Father, who afterward listened to their

personal accounts and offered them words of encouragement and hope," a Vatican statement said. "His Holiness assured them of his prayers for their intentions, for their families and for all victims of sexual abuse." During the encounter, each of the victims had a chance to speak personally to the pope.

Celebrating Mass in a Washington baseball stadium, Pope Benedict XVI urged U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy at a time when American society is at a moral crossroads. The pope warned of "signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society" and said people need the church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel. He also confronted the question of clerical sexual abuse of minors, acknowledging the damage done to the church and asking all Catholics to help assist those who have been hurt. The Mass April 17 at a packed Nationals Park was the pope's first major encounter with the Catholic faithful on his six-day visit to Washington and New York.

Neither government nor religion has a right to change or limit human rights, because those rights flow from the dignity of each person created in God's image, Pope Benedict XVI said in his April 18 speech to the U.N. General Assembly. The pope insisted that human rights cannot be limited or rewritten on the basis of national interests or majority rule. But he



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates a Mass attended by approximately 60,000 people at Yankee Stadium in New York April 20.

also said the role of religion is not to dictate government policy, but to help their members strive to find the truth, including the truth about the dignity of all people even if their religious views are different.

Pope Benedict XVI urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose." The pope, celebrating Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19 with bishops, priests, religious and seminarians, once again addressed the damage and suffering caused by the clerical sex abuse scandal and called for a time of purification and healing. More generally, he said it was time to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society. The pope was celebrating the third anniversary of his election, and he arrived to congratulations from New York Cardinal Edward

M. Egan and an ovation from the 3,000 people who packed the cathedral.

Addressing a crowd of 25,000 young people and seminarians, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the "monster" that cast a shadow over his own childhood and urged the current generation to banish the darkness that exists today. Speaking April 19 at a boisterous rally on the grounds of



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the United Nations General Assembly after his speech at the U.N. headquarters in New York April 18.

the Archdiocese of New York's seminary in Yonkers, the pope said that while young people now enjoy democracy's freedom, "the power to destroy does, however, remain." Pope Benedict offered a personal reflection on his own

youth in Germany, "marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the answers." Nazism, he said, "banished God and thus became impervious to anything true and good." The pope was forced to enroll in Hitler Youth as a boy but soon stopped going to meetings. Last year he said at a youth meeting in Germany that he decided to become a priest after witnessing the Nazis' brutality. At St. Joseph's Seminary, the pope said the evils of substance abuse, poverty, racism, violence and the degradation of girls and women result in people being treated as objects and the denial of God-given human dignity. Pope Benedict called the manipulation of truth "particularly sinister."

In the most somber moment of his six-day visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI knelt alone at ground zero and offered a silent prayer. The cheering crowds were far away as the pope blessed the ground where the World Trade Center stood until terrorists forced planes into its twin towers Sept. 11, 2001. While the extraordinary security measures that surrounded the pope's entire visit tangibly demonstrated how the attacks changed the United States, the ground zero visit gave the pope an opportunity to speak to and console those whose lives were changed most directly that Sept. 11. Twenty-four people stood around a candle, a plot of earth and a tiny pond as the pope knelt in prayer; they were the survivors, the family members of the

dead and representatives of the New York Port Authority, police and fire departments — the first responders. At the bottom of the 70-foot crater where the towers stood, surrounded by steel construction rods, forklifts and steel beams, Pope Benedict did not read a speech. Instead, looking up past the skyscrapers shrouded in fog, he read a prayer.

At Yankee Stadium, trans-



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI prays at site of the destroyed World Trade Center towers in New York April 20. He spoke with family members of some of the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks and with those who were first responders to the disaster.

formed into an open-air church April 20, Pope Benedict XVI urged more than 57,000 Catholics to "move forward with firm resolve" in continuing the legacy of faith set in motion by the country's first Catholics. "Follow faithfully in the footsteps of those who have gone before you!" he told the stadium congregation. "Past generations have left you an impressive legacy," he said, adding that "on these solid foundations the future of the church in America, must even now begin to rise."

FaithLife

The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

Volume 4, Issue 9

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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) 824-1161.

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.

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Nine men to be ordained permanent deacons May 16

On Friday, May 16, Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain nine men to the permanent diaconate during a 7 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The ordinations will bring the total number of permanent deacons in the Erie Diocese to 53. Here are profiles of the deacon candidates.

Owen Wagner

Age: 55
Hometown: Hermitage
Home parish: Notre Dame
Family: Wife, Victoria; daughters, Sarah and Kathleen; son, Patrick



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high breaks upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace." It reminds me of God's mercy in sending forth his son to all of us to guide us to peace.

Ministries and service organizations: Religious education, Pre-Cana, Eucharistic minister, lector, court appointed special advocate, RCIA, Newman Club

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? At first it was the opportunity to continue in the ministries I was involved with, and it seemed like a logical step. But over time I have come to discern that God's call has been to humility and service in a way I have yet to totally understand. But I have been sustained by my community, classmates, family and others that this is a good fit for me.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? That I can serve the church and my community demonstrating Christ-centered values each day.

Lawrence Caggese

Age: 61
Hometown: Ridgway
Home parish: St. Leo Magnus
Family: Wife, Lauren; sons, Dominic and Michael



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: The Scripture reading of the transfiguration. Peter has a wonderful line in this reading. After Jesus is transfigured into brilliant light and Moses and Elijah appear, Peter says to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here." Whenever I have a wonderful experience with prayer or reach that higher level of understanding from a homily, reading or particularly rewarding personal experience, it just seems like the perfect way to wrap up the elation, "Lord, it is good to be here."

Ministries and service organizations: Eucharistic minister, lector, parish council, *Why Catholic?* group leader, fourth degree Knight of Columbus, PGK

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? I have been very active in the church for about 25 years in various ministries. After seeing and hearing a visiting deacon at our church, I felt a need to find out more about the diaconate program. It seemed to be a natural way to heighten and expand the expressions of my faith and to answer the deeper commitment that seemed to be echoing within me.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? At present, many of our parish priests seem to be caught in time crunches at times, and they just do not seem to have enough hands to do everything or find it difficult to be in two places at one time. I look forward to being able to offer relief to our priest and to add another dimension of service to our church and to my parish.

John Mang

Age: 45
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: St. Francis Xavier, McKean
Family: Wife, Tammie; daughter, Kaitlyn



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: Psalm 46:11, "Be still and know that I am God." This for me speaks volumes about the spiritual life, service and balance. I repeat a simple yet very beautiful prayer many times throughout the day from the Liturgy of the Hours, "God, come to my assistance. Lord, make haste to help me." This is a simple yet beautiful prayer which, unfortunately, is often rushed through.

Ministries and service organizations: Eucharistic minister, lector, acolyte, greeter, sacristan, altar server and FOCCUS program instructor, liturgy meetings, environment team, House of Healing, hospital, nursing home and home-bound visits, communion services at parish and nursing homes when needed.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? I've always had a sense of service to others—a desire to leave people a little better than I found them. Being a convert, I began the RCIA process in 1995 and made a decision at that time to spend at least some of my prayer time sitting and listening in silence. In a way I can't explain, I heard God speak to my heart and in a whisper ask me to "serve his people."

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? Growing ever closer to the Blessed Trinity and serving those souls placed in my path. To use my model, Jesus the deacon. It is my prayer that God will use me, in whatever way he chooses, to reflect the light of Christ in our world.

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Ken Reisenweber

Age: 55
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Grew up in Erie as a member of Sacred Heart. Lived in Meadville for past 30 years as a member of St. Brigid.
Family: Wife, Shirley; daughters, Emily and Meg; son, John



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: Psalm 46:11, "Be still and know that I am God." I have come to understand that all of life must be pointed toward God. God calls us to an intimate relationship, loving us as his children. It takes God's gifts of grace to even begin to appreciate how special that is. I truly enjoy quiet conversations, often just listening, to the loving thoughts and words of God's love.

Ministries and service organizations: Lector, eucharistic minister at Mass, Meadville Medical Center and Golden Living Center, Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement, Seton Catholic School Board, pastoral council.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? I have been drawn to the sacrament of holy orders since childhood, drawn by the desire to serve the Lord and his church. As an adult, I chose the married life and have been graced by a loving wife and children for years. Through the years, I have remained active in ministerial, service and leadership positions in the church. Several years ago, the Holy Spirit prompted me to seek a new level of commitment to the church and has guided me through this process to this special moment.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? Serving the Lord, both in the parish and in the world. I am blessed by the time I spend with people in the nursing home and hospital. In bringing Christ to them, I too am blessed by the presence of Christ. I have come to know some of the patients and residents over time and have developed many new friendships. During formation I have done some prison and jail ministry. In all of these cases, I have found people to be thrilled and very appreciative that someone would come to share Jesus in the Eucharist and in his word.

Denis Coan

Age: 54
Hometown: Born and raised in Sharon; Erie since 1973
Home parish: St. John the Baptist, Erie
Family: Wife, Mary Frances; sons, Christopher and his wife, Jill; and Denis; daughter, Kayla



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: Micah 6:8, "This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God." I started out saying this as a daily prayer in preparation for a Metanoia weekend at the Erie County Prison in 1998. They are simple but powerful words to live by.

Ministries and service organizations: Board member of House of Healing and Maria House Project, past president of Erie Cursillo Movement.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? I heard my call during a Metanoia weekend at the Erie County Prison with Msgr. James Peterson, affectionally known as Father Pete. He was assisted by a deacon during that weekend, and I admired his dedication. I did not act on the call until several years later. This time the call was very strong; I would attend Masses where the Gospel and homilies were speaking directly to my heart, stirring me to action.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? To serving God and the church in any capacity that I am called to do. I have been very blessed with a pastor, formation team and a church community that has supported me and my family with their prayers, words of encouragement and deep appreciation of my journey these past four years.

Thomas Matusiak

Age: 64
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Holy Trinity, Erie
Family: Wife, Frances; daughters, Mary and her husband, John, and Angela; sons, Mark and his wife, Nikki, and Steven; three grandchildren



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: "Be not afraid." These words, found in the bible more than 300 times, and the title of a book by Pope John Paul II, have come to mean so much to me. Too often we in our human nature fear making decisions and end up "treading water," so to speak, with our lives. These three words express my faith in God and his plan for me so that I was not afraid to enter the Permanent Diaconate Program.

Ministries and service organizations: Preparation and scheduling of eucharistic ministers, readers and altar servers; coordinating home and hospital visitations for the sick; conducting Communion services at the Anchor Inn, Niagara Village and Independence Court; Polish Falcons of America, Nest 123; Holy Trinity Ushers' Society; Pennsylvania Business Week.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? Having been involved with the church and diocese in various capacities, I knew of the existence of the permanent diaconate yet did not give it much thought because of other responsibilities. Father David Maciukiewicz, my former pastor, suggested that I look into the program during one of our conversations. Shortly after these conversations, Deacon Marty Eisert came to our parish. I asked many questions and through his answers and "modeling" of the diaconate, I decided to apply. He and his wife have become role models for my wife and me.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? Since a deacon is called to serve, I look forward to serving the people of God, first and foremost, at the faith-filled community of Holy Trinity Parish and trying to fulfill their needs and wants spiritually in whatever manner they may need. Secondly, fulfilling the needs of the greater community in whatever way that God may lead me.

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Raymond Ehrensberger

Age: 53
Hometown: St. Marys
Home parish: St. Mary, St. Marys
Family: Wife, Rose Anne; daughters, Jennifer Kemmerer and four grandchildren, Deanna Fleming and Melissa



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." As I visit nursing homes, I find that our presence complements the compassion and comfort of the caregivers. It gives the residents peace of heart knowing we will pray with them when they are in fear and listen to them when they are frustrated or have no one else to talk to.

Ministries and service organizations: Core member of Lifeteen, the youth ministry for ninth and 10th grade students in the St. Marys area; provide ministry to Pine Crest Manor, Elk Haven and Silver Creek Terrace nursing homes; St. Marys Ambulance Service, Crystal Fire Department.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? During the late 1980s while working for the ambulance, we transported residents to and from the nursing homes for various medical appointments. When leaving the home, there has always a tug in my heart to do something for the residents.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? The same, bringing comfort and Jesus to those who are in need.

Frank Lombardo

Age: 63
Hometown: Erie
Home parish: Holy Rosary, Erie
Family: Wife, Marie-Dianne; six children; seven grandchildren



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: My favorite prayer is the prayer of St. Francis. This prayer truly touches my heart. To be an instrument of Jesus' love and peace to one's brothers and sisters, it's a path that leads me to holiness in everyday life.

Ministries and service organizations: Lector, eucharistic minister, member of small faith-sharing group for 11 years, assist at Sunday Mass at Pleasant Ridge Manor.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? Early in my youth, the priesthood attracted my heart. I thought, one day I'm going to be a priest to serve God's people. Well, here I am becoming a deacon for Christ. Christ kept calling me to follow him. I remember standing on the steps of St. Mark's Seminary saying to our Lord, "If this is what you are calling me to, then let it happen. My life is in your hands." So the journey begins, and what a journey it's been.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? To radiate Jesus' love to my brothers and sisters and to be his instrument of that love, accepting the servant's towel. I want to reach out to people in gentleness and kindness and touch them, to let them know that they are loved and are precious in the eyes of Christ.

Tim Wren

Age: 54
Hometown: Oil City
Home parish: St. Joseph, Oil City
Family: Wife, Sue; sons, Ben and Nick



Inspiring quote, prayer or Scripture verse: One of my favorites is found in the Gospel of John 8:7 where a woman is caught in adultery, "But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.'"

Ministries and service organizations: Music ministry, eucharistic minister to home-bound on Sundays and First Fridays, lector, pastoral council, *Why Catholic?* facilitator, St. Elizabeth Food Pantry, funeral server.

What attracted or called you to the permanent diaconate? After making a Cursillo in 2000, I was consumed by learning more about my faith and participating more fully. In 2002, I made a TEC (To Encounter Christ) retreat. I became even more interested after several talks with my pastor. He asked me if I ever gave it a thought. At first I laughed, but now I am so grateful I listened.

What do you look forward to in becoming a deacon? Serving others, especially prayer groups, who desire services such as eucharistic adoration, Divine Mercy chaplet, praise and worship with youth and anything else that may help someone become closer to God.

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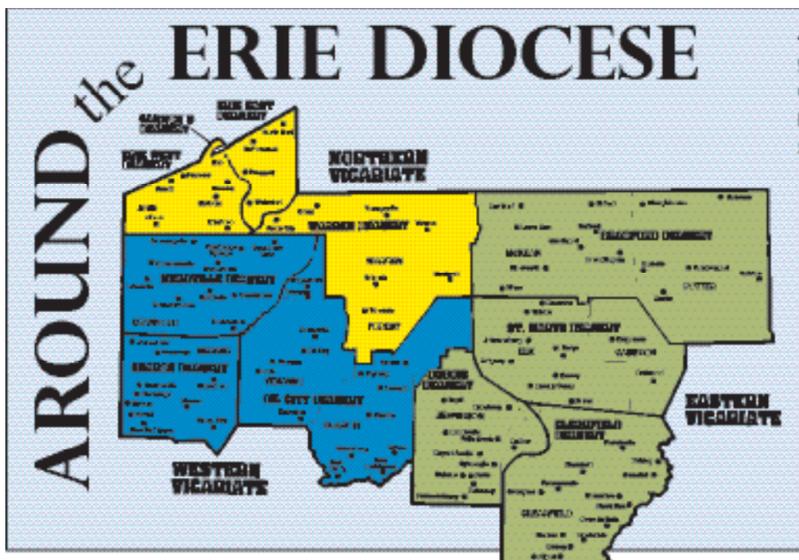
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St. James School celebrates 50 years of excellence

ERIE - St. James School in Erie celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 22 with a Mass with Bishop Donald Trautman at St. James Church, with students, faculty and parents in attendance.

"Today we give thanks to God for all the good that has been accomplished through this school," Bishop Trautman said in opening his homily. "What we celebrate is the presence of Christ—the way, the truth and the life—in this school for 50 years. You are a gifted Catholic school with the highest values and Catholic standards. A Catholic school is more than just a building; it's what's inside that counts the most. This is a Catholic school, and the risen Lord is inside."

Under the direction of Msgr. Francis Coughlin, pastor of St. James, St. James School opened in the fall of 1957 with 377 students. Formal dedication ceremonies were held in 1958.

Since its inception, St. James School has been staffed by the Sisters of the Divine Spirit, who continue their ministry at the school today.

After the anniversary Mass,



Bishop Trautman blessed the school's cornerstone before attending a cake and ice cream social with students.

DuBois Central Catholic sends 12 to PJAS competition



DUBOIS — DuBois Central Catholic sent 12 middle and high school students to compete in the Region 6 Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences competition held at Penn State-Altoona. DCC science teachers Renee Gressler and Brad Sweet sponsored the students.

From this event, four DCC students earned first place distinction and now will advance to the state level of competition in May at Penn State. Pictured from left to right are: (seated) Kate Wright, Megan Kephart, Sara Aravich, (standing) DCC Middle School science teacher Renee Gressler, Tom Decker and high school science teacher Brad Sweet.

Other Central students earning 2nd place distinction at Penn State Altoona were: Sarah Szczerba, Kelsea Palmer, Liz Heasley, Megan Corbet and Joe Schaffer on the high school level and Julie Fitzer, Brock LaBue and Olivia Philippone on the middle school level.

Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2008 Catholic Services Appeal, "Of One Heart and Mind," supports the Erie Diocese in helping to provide health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services throughout the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

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.

If you haven't yet made a pledge to the CSA, it's not too late. Contact your parish office.

Here's a look at what some parishes are doing with their CSA overage funds:



Erie West Deanery

Blessed Sacrament, Erie - Paint and replace cafeteria ceiling tiles, youth ministry, window replacement in sacristy, new church sound system

Holy Cross, Fairview - Seed money for replacing windows in education wing

Our Lady of Peace, Erie - Assist in start-up cost for new all-day preschool program

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro - Social hall kitchen renovations

Sacred Heart, Erie - Complete weatherization of remaining stained glass windows

St. Francis Xavier, McKean - Debt reduction

St. George, Erie - Updating of lighting in sanctuary

St. John the Evangelist, Girard - Remodel church lobby including addition of church level restroom

St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie - Continue electrical system update and addition of air conditioning

St. Jude the Apostle, Erie - Pave portion of parking lot, payment on parish debt

St. Julia, Erie - No project provided

St. Lawrence, Albion - Install new heating and air conditioning system in parish center

St. Stephen, Erie - No project provided

St. Andrew, Erie - Develop school annex into a parish center

St. Paul, Erie - Paint the church, replace broken gutters on church and rectory, install canopy over front doors of church

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie - Secure start-up funding for parish/school advancement person and office

All Saints, Waterford - Reduction of debt from building of new church

Catholic schools support Nueva Vida Girls Shelter in Mexico

Top right, Mission of Friendship's Nueva Vida Girls Shelter residents show their gratitude to the 101 students of St. Joseph School, Lucinda, who donated \$1258.98 to benefit the shelter in Mexico. Students raised the money during Lent with a penny war and sales of popcorn, floats and hotdogs.

At bottom, Nueva Vida girls sport T-shirts sent to them by St. Luke School in Erie. St. Luke's raised \$2000 for Mission of Friendship in Mexico by student donations during Advent.



Pope preaches message of hope built on faith

POPE from page 1

nation" and should continue to inspire Americans as they face complex political and ethical issues today, he said.

"Democracy can only flourish, as your founding fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation," Pope Benedict said before holding a private meeting with President George W. Bush.

The visit to the White House was the first official event on his calendar, and it coincided with his 81st birthday, when he heard dozens of versions of "Happy Birthday" sung in his honor.

That evening, at a boisterous rally with some 25,000 young people on the grounds of the New

York archdiocesan seminary in Yonkers, Pope Benedict not only fueled the youths' enthusiasm, he warned them of the dangers of thinking freedom could be divorced from responsibilities and from the truth about God and human beings.

Celebrating Mass April 17 at brand-new Nationals Park in Washington, the pope urged U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy at a time when American society is at a moral crossroads.

The pope warned of "signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society" and said people need the church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

"The world needs this witness. Who can deny that the present moment is a crossroads, not only for the church in America but also for society as a whole?" he said.

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The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or related field with a CPA and/or MBA preferred and have at least 10 years of directly related professional experience in a public or non-profit institution. The individual is required to be practicing Catholic in good standing with the church. Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Qualified candidates should send in confidence, a letter, resume and recent salary information by May 31, 2008 to CFO Search Committee, Diocese of Youngstown, P.O. Box 628, Youngstown, OH 44503. Information on the diocese is on the diocesan website at www.doy.org. (Resumes will be accepted via U.S. Postal only.)

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