

New evangelization

Pope wants U.S. Catholics to lead worldwide church revival, nuncio says, page 2.



FaithLife

'A Very Special Bouquet'

Erie woman pens book explaining rosary to children, page 2.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 6, 2012

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Damien de Veuster



St. Isidore

- May 10 St. Damien de Veuster
- May 12 Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras
- May 14 St. Matthias
- May 15 St. Isidore
- May 17 Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
- May 18 St. John I

Confirmations

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

- St. George, Erie – Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m.
- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway – Friday, May 11 at 7 p.m.
- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie – Saturday, May 12 at 5 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer, and St. Peter Cathedral, Erie.
- St. Stephen, Oil City – Sunday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Oil City; St. Venantius, Rouseville; Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City; and St. Stephen, Oil City.
- St. Titus, Titusville – Sunday, May 13 at 3 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Anthony, Titusville; St. John, Tidououte; and St. Titus, Titusville.
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Corry – Monday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Teresa of Avila, Union City, and St. Thomas the Apostle, Corry.
- Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m.
- Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m.

Religious Scouting Awards – May 20

Individual and group badges, patches, honors and awards will be presented to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies throughout the Diocese of Erie for their achievements in the areas of spiritual growth on Sunday, May 22 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, at 2 p.m.

For more information on scouting in the diocese, visit www.ErieRCD.org/scout.asp.

Clergy appointments

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

Msr. Casimir Bogniak, appointed chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy, Erie community. Effective April 18, 2012.

Father James Gutting, appointed chaplain (part-time) of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Erie, while continuing as pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Erie. Effective April 11, 2012.

Father Paul Panaretos, S.J., diocesan spiritual director, appointed residence at the rectory of St. Luke Parish, Erie.

Father Daniel Prez, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown, and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church, Cochranton. Effective April 27, 2012.

Msr. David Rubino, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. Andrew Parish, Erie, while continuing administrative duties at Mercyhurst University, Erie. Effective April 18, 2012.

Bishop reflects on 50 years of priesthood

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Preparing for the April 7 Easter Vigil, Bishop Donald Trautman was vesting for Mass in St. Peter Cathedral's Synod Hall, something he has done hundreds of times.

But that evening was different. On the church's great vigil, something else was adding to the emotion and importance of the occasion.

Bishop Trautman was ordained to the priesthood on April 7, 1962 in Innsbruck, Austria.

The day's milestone was not lost on one of the cathedral's altar servers.

"Bishop, 50 years—wow!" the server remarked. "That's half a century!"

"That young altar boy really put things in perspective," Bishop Trautman said. "But a half-century is really a short time to love and serve God."

Bishop Trautman celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a public Mass of thanksgiving April 17 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The gathered congregation included many priests, deacons and women religious, along with well wishers and friends.

The cathedral's combined children and adult choirs sang "This is the Day," a piece composed by Kevin Sadowski, during the entrance procession.

"Fifty years. Where have those years gone? They've gone to God," Bishop Trautman said in his homily. "All those years were fortified by God's mercy and goodness. No one deserves the priest-



Photo by Art Becker

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrates Mass April 17 at St. Peter Cathedral marking the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Bishop Trautman was ordained April 7, 1962 in Innsbruck, Austria.

hood. All priests can repeat St. Paul's words: "Through no merit of mine, God has lavished his graces upon me." During the half-century of

his priesthood, the bishop said he witnessed a new Pentecost in the church in the form of Vatican II, which brought dramatic liturgical and pasto-

ral changes for God's people. "I was consecrated a bishop 27 years ago yesterday in Buf-

See 50 YEARS, page 3

Seminarian ordained to diaconate

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Jennifer Renne beamed at the boyhood memory of her son, David, with aspirations of the priesthood.

"He always wanted to be a priest," she said. "He always used to say, 'These are the kinds of songs I'm going to sing at my church. When I get my church, I'm going to do this.'"

David Renne took another step closer toward the priesthood April 28.

"It's an exciting day for our family," Jennifer Renne said.

David Renne, a seminarian for the Diocese of Erie, was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman at St. Mark Seminary's chapel in Erie.

Renne, who is a native of Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney, is a third-year theology student studying for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. He is the son of Peter and Jennifer Renne of Punxsutawney.

Deacon Renne is scheduled to be ordained a priest in 2013.

"Today, David receives new sacramental life from the church," Bishop Trautman said during the ordination Mass. "The church receives new sacramental life, as well. Today is a day of thanksgiving and a day of rejoicing."

The congregation included approximately 300 people, including family members and friends from Ss. Cosmas and Damian and St. Vincent, as well as Queen of the



Bishop Donald Trautman and Deacon David Renne

World Parish in St. Marys, where Renne has been assigned.

Renne was invested with a deacon's stole and dalmatic by Father John-Mary Tompkins, OSB, vice rector of St. Vincent Seminary. As a deacon, Renne is authorized to preach the Gospel, baptize, assist at Eucharistic liturgies, officiate at weddings and funerals and bring the Eucharist to the dying.

Middle school youth rally



ERIE – More than 700 middle school students and adult leaders throughout the Diocese of Erie participated in the annual middle school youth rally April 29 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. The day was filled with faith and fun and included inspirational talks, confession, a scavenger hunt, Mass, adoration and praise, a tug-of-war tournament, sumo wrestling, a Velcro sticky wall and an extreme obstacle course.

The rally was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Look for a story on the rally in the May 20 issue of FaithLife.

Above, Jacob Sutter from St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville enjoys a jump on the Velcro sticky wall.

Erie's Catholic high schools announce iPad initiatives

Each student to receive iPad beginning in 2012-13

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Donning a black turtleneck and jeans and with round spectacles perched on his nose, Father Scott Jabo transformed into late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

The sales pitch was to the parents of his Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy students regarding the iPad. But it wasn't a hard sell.

The three Catholic high schools in Erie—Cathedral Prep, Villa and Mercyhurst Prep—recently announced that each student will receive his or her own iPad beginning in the 2012-13 school year.

The line of tablet computers designed by Apple is marketed primarily as a platform for audio-visual media including books, magazines, videos, movies, music, games, apps and web content. The iPad is heavier than a smartphone but lighter than a laptop computer.

Cathedral Prep and Villa unveiled plans to parents and students during a Feb. 20 event at Prep's H. David Bowes Auditorium.



Father Scott Jabo, president of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy, as the late Steve Jobs and Ryan Fasnemyer, Prep's director of technology, show off the iPad.

"Our mission is to be a Catholic college preparatory school and enable our kids to have the best college prep experience," said Chris Hagerty, director of advancement for Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy. "(The iPad) is the best educational tool in technology available to our students. It was really an easy call. Kids are so intuitive. The iPad is a very intuitive device, and train-up time is very short."

Father Jabo, president of Prep and Villa, said the schools are well positioned to make this transition. "We believe that this addition to our already renowned college preparatory curriculum will comple-



Sister Mary Ann Bader, RSM, (left) president of Mercyhurst Prep, announces the school's iPad initiative. Other staff members (left to right) include Sharon Hiegel, Ed Curtin, Dan Perfitto, Kathryn Donovan, Nancy Zimmerman, Nicole Wojciechowski, Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM, Michael Miller, Sister Teresa Okonski, RSM, and Chuck Stachera.

ment our newly renovated facilities and state-of-the-art classrooms," he said.

The announcement comes eight years after Prep instituted its Tablet PC program. Next year's seniors will be able to keep their Tablet PCs; the remaining Tablet PCs will be repurposed.

Prep and Villa students will be issued a third generation, Wi-Fi iPad, said Ryan Fasnemyer, Prep's technology coordinator. The schools are still deciding on whether the model will be 16 or 32 gig, Fasnemyer said. Students will be able to access their textbooks directly from their iPads; textbooks will still be issued for home use. The result is a lot less hassle of toting around heavy backpacks. Plus the textbooks are

searchable on the iPad. "The apps are the key," Fasnemyer said. "What it comes down to is when an app is running on the iPad, the iPad becomes that app. It's like having 500,000 devices in your hand."

Other capabilities will be at students' fingertips, including zooming in on science projects, creating music and digital video recording.

Hagerty said the schools will lease approximately 1,000 iPads on a two-year agreement.

"Because of the technology program we already have in place, there is no cost to families at all," he said.

"We're simply trading one device for another. It's part of tuition and

See iPad, page 3



IN THE U.S.

Catholics urged to invite inactive members to practice faith once again

A document on the new evangelization from the U.S. bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis exhorts Catholics at all levels in the church to step up and invite Catholics who have stopped practicing their faith to do so once again. "Bishops, parishes, pastors, catechists and indeed all Catholics reaching out to our missing brothers and sisters must touch the lives of others, interact with them and show them how the faith answers the deepest questions and enriches modern culture," said the document, titled "Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization." It said, "The new evangelization is a call to each person to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the Gospel, and possess a willingness to share the Gospel."

The document was issued April 16 in an online-only format. It is available on an interactive website — www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/disciples-called-to-witness. The document examines what the new evangelization is, its focus, its importance for the Catholic Church and how dioceses and parishes can promote it.

Religious liberty issue takes center stage at Catholic prayer breakfast

Religious liberty was topic A at the eighth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, held April 19 at a Washington hotel. "Never in the lifetime of anyone present here has the religious liberty of the American people been as threatened as it is today," warned Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, in remarks to the estimated 800 people in attendance.

"We must remind our fellow Americans, and especially those who exercise power, that religious liberty — the freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment — has been essential to the founding, development and improvement of the American republic," Anderson said. "Today we find a new hostility to the role of religious institutions in American life at a time when government is expanding its reach in extraordinary ways."

Besides the HHS mandate requiring that most health plans cover the cost of contraception, sterilization and drugs that can induce abortion, Anderson pointed to the Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC case, a court challenge to a Lutheran school's firing of a teacher. The attempt to more narrowly define who is a religious employee was unanimously rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. He also noted the revocation of a refugee resettlement contract with the U.S. bishops' Department of Migration and Refugee Services because MRS would not offer its clients the "full range of reproductive services," including abortion.



Carl Anderson

Pope wants U.S. Catholics to lead worldwide church revival, nuncio says

Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States said in Columbus. "The church in the United States should lead the entire church in the world" in a revitalization effort, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò said. "This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This I know is the vision of the Holy Father regarding the church in the United States." The archbishop was speaking to an audience of seminarians and benefactors of the Pontifical College Josephinum at its annual rector's dinner April 23. He called on the American church to go beyond its mission of evangelizing the United States and "to be missionaries not only to the Third World, but especially to the countries of Europe. Christianity (in Europe) in some way has lost its strength and needs an example," he said, noting "very positive signs of growth" in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the United States.



Pope Benedict XVI

AROUND THE WORLD

Citing doctrinal problems, Vatican announces reforms of U.S. nuns' group

Citing "serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life," the Vatican announced a major reform of an association of women's religious congregations in the U.S. to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality. Archbishop Peter Sartain of Seattle will provide "review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work" of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Vatican announced April 18. The archbishop will draw on the advice of fellow bishops, women religious and other experts. The LCWR, a Maryland-based umbrella group that claims about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women's communities as members, represents about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 women religious.

In Silver Spring, Md., the presidency of the LCWR issued a statement saying it was "stunned by the conclusions of the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Because the leadership of LCWR has the custom of meeting annually with the staff of CDF in Rome and because the conference follows canonically approved statutes, we were taken by surprise. This is a moment of great import for religious life and the wider church. We ask your prayers as we meet with the LCWR National Board within the coming month to review the mandate and prepare a response," the statement said.

By the Way...

It was a busy weekend for diocesan events April 27-29.

An early report had nearly 500 people attending the 17th annual **Catholic Charities Ball** April 27 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, a record for the event. While proceeds were still being tallied, grants will be sent out shortly to benefit families in need throughout the diocese. The ball is Catholic Charities' major annual fundraiser.

More than 1,000 people visited St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie April 28-29 for two unique occasions.

The St. Mark Seminary chapel was filled April 28 with approximately 300 family members and friends, priests, deacons, women religious, seminarians and well wishers for **Deacon David Renne's** ordination to the diaconate. After Mass, a reception was held in the seminary's refectory.

More than 700 middle school students, adult leaders and young adult chaperones gathered April 29 at St. Mark's for the annual **middle school youth rally**. Under blue skies, youth from all corners of the diocese met Christ in the Eucharist and in each other.

Bishop Donald Trautman offered Mass and hosted a dinner April 25 for seminarians and their families. The annual St. Mark feast day celebration is traditionally a time when seminarians graduating from Gannon University and St. Mark Seminary in Erie receive their major seminary assignments.

Joseph Janidlo from St. Patrick Parish in Franklin will continue studying for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe and **James Power** from St. Patrick Parish in Erie will further his studies at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore.

Beginning May 18 and running through Aug. 5, the **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage** in Cleveland will host, "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People," an interactive experience that allows visitors to follow in John Paul II's footsteps from his childhood to his role as pope.

During his pontificate, Blessed John Paul II greatly improved Catholic and Jewish relations. His most historic moment came in 2000 when, after visiting the national Holocaust memorial in Israel, he touched the Western Wall in Jerusalem, placing a letter inside it in which he prayed for forgiveness for the actions against Jews.

For more information on the exhibition, visit www.maltzmuseum.org.

While we aren't privy to any insider information regarding a new bishop, we anxiously await the appointment from Rome. However, should an announcement fall toward our *FaithLife* publication schedules, please turn your attention toward our other news outlets. Keep the diocesan website (www.eriecd.org) and Facebook page (Diocese of Erie at www.facebook.com) at your fingertips for all the latest developments and any breaking news.

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



Jason Koshinski

Prepare kids for first Communion with zeal, moderation, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Preparing children for their first Communion must be done with both great zeal and moderation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Around the world, many children receive their first Communion during the Easter season, he told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square April 22 for the recitation of the "Regina Coeli," a Marian prayer used in place of the Angelus from Easter to Pentecost.

The pope urged "priests, parents and catechists to prepare for this feast of faith well, with great fervor but also with sobriety."

"For many of the faithful, this day continues to be memorable as the moment when, even if in a rudimentary way, they first came to understand the importance of a personal encounter with



Jesus," he said quoting from his 2007 document on the Eucharist, "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("The Sacrament of Charity").

He stressed the importance of first Communion and prayed that

Mary would help everyone listen to God's word with greater attention and "take part worthily" in Communion in order to become "witnesses of the new humanity."

Mary would help everyone listen to God's word with greater attention and "take part worthily" in Communion in order to become "witnesses of the new humanity."

Erie woman pens book explaining rosary to children



Author Jean Heintzel poses with a copy of "A Very Special Bouquet," a book she has written which helps explain the prayer and mysteries of the rosary to children.

By Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife

ERIE — It all started at her mother's funeral. As they prayed the rosary, Jean Heintzel's niece asked her why they were reciting the same prayer over and over again. In an inspired moment, she says she explained that the prayers were like the flowers in her mother's bouquets.

"Different types of flowers were used over and over again," Heintzel said, "but put together, they

make a beautiful bouquet."

After the funeral, Heintzel, a parishioner at St. Julia in Erie, kept coming back to the idea that many young children and their families do not have a strong understanding of the rosary today. Her own adult children encouraged her to start writing down some of her thoughts, and over time, Msgr. James Peterson guided and encouraged her through the process of writing a book.

The result is "A Very Special Bouquet," which Heintzel authored, illustrated and published. The book opens with a story for little ones about a mother introducing her children to the rosary. But it also includes a bonus feature: a complete illustrated guide to praying the rosary, with the full text of each prayer, including the newly-translated Apostle's Creed. It also lists each of the joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious mysteries and the Scripture verses on which they are based.

Heintzel, who took on the project in response to a great deal of prayer, is now exploring various avenues for marketing her book. She sees it as an ideal fit for families with children who have recently made their first Communion. But her overall goal, both simple and profound, is summed up on the inside back cover of the book.

"It is my prayer," she wrote, "that you and your family will come closer to Jesus through Mary." Copies of the paperback book, which cost \$5 each, can be ordered by sending an e-mail request to jhh112@yahoo.com.

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Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@erieRCD.org
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Holy Land/Jordan/Egypt: November 8-21
Ireland/Scotland: June 24-July 6, June 30-July 12, September 8-20, September 15-27, September 22-October 4
Medjugorje/Lourdes/Fatima: September 02-13
Italy/Lourdes: Sept. 3-14, Sept. 29-Oct. 10, Oct. 2-13
Greece/Turkey: Sept. 8-20, Italy South: Sept. 8-20...

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Briefly

35th annual Clearfield rosary march



CLEARFIELD – The 35th annual Clearfield rosary march will be held Sunday, May 6, 3 p.m. at Clearfield Fair Grounds. The rosary march is sponsored by the Clearfield St. Francis Chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army). The guest speaker will be Father Ladis Czizk.

Small faith sharing groups: Getting ready for Sunday Mass

The diocesan Office for Small Communities is sponsoring an experience of prayer and reflection for all those involved in parish small communities—facilitators, group members, core teams, etc. The topic will be “Small Christian Communities and the Eucharist: Preparing for Sunday Mass.” This time of reflection will assist participants in their understanding of how gathering in small faith sharing groups deepens the experience of the Sunday liturgy. The program will be presented at the following locations. Events are scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- Monday, May 14 at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
 - Saturday, May 19 at St. Joseph, Sharon from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, May 22 at Notre Dame, Hermitage
 - Wednesday, May 23 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie
- Other sites may be scheduled at the request of a parish. Please contact presenters Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, at 814.824.1217 and Kathy Higgins at 724.704.7654.

Enrichment series at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE – The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will host “Evangelizing in a Postmodern World” as part of their Enrichment Series at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Road in Erie.

The presenter will be Father Scott Detisch, Ph.D.

His talk will explore what our era of Postmodernism has changed about us and our culture. It will especially examine the challenges it poses to fostering Christian faith and nourishing the experience of Christian community. As a sacramental church, Roman Catholicism faces unique challenges and opportunities in this endeavor. This event is free and open to the public.



Father Scott Detisch, Ph.D.

DEATH NOTICE

Sister Kathleen Ruskowski, OSB

Sister Kathleen Ruskowski, OSB, 63, died April 19, 2012 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

Born April 15, 1949, in Jersey City, N.J., Sister Kathleen was the daughter of Chester and Rosalyn (Saccette) Ruskowski. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1968, pronounced her perpetual monastic vows in 1973 and celebrated her silver jubilee in 1995.

Sister Kathleen held bachelor's degrees in English and fine arts from Mercyhurst University and a master's in theology from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.

She served as a secondary teacher in English and theology, St. Benedict Academy (1971-77);

director of religious education, St. Julia Parish, Erie (1977-79) and St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie (1979-1985); food service manager, Mount St. Benedict Monastery (1985-87); pastoral minister, St. George Parish, Erie (1987-89); associate director of worship for the Diocese of Erie (1990-93); adjunct faculty of religious studies, Mercyhurst University (1992); and director of the Mercyhurst Institute of Religious Education and Lay Ministry, Mercyhurst University (1994-96).

After earning her bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1999 and being honored with the Senior Art Award, Sister Kathleen was director of the monastery grounds from 1999-2003. In 2003 she became the director of religious education at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Bear, Del., a position she held until 2008. From 2008 until 2012, she served as pastoral associate at St. John the Beloved Parish, Wilmington, Del.



Sister Kathleen Ruskowski, OSB

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Bishop reflects on 50 years of priesthood

50 YEARS, from page 1

falo,” he said. “Anyone can steer the ship when the sea is calm. But the Lord asked bishops of my era to steer the ship of Christ in rough seas, times of major defections, abuse, scandals and demographic changes.”

“No matter what crisis erupted in the church, the Lord was always present with his grace and guidance. And his help was more than sufficient for the problem at hand. We need to redouble our trust and confidence in Jesus, who is the pastor of the church.”

Bishop Trautman emphasized that his anniversary was not about one person. He recalled Pope Leo the Great's words on preaching at his own anniversary of ordination, “To celebrate a shepherd's anniversary is to honor the whole flock.”

He offered words of encouragement to the faithful of the diocese:

“We must persevere in God's love and give witness of Christ in spite of government and cultural opposition to live our faith freely,” Bishop Trautman said. “Our present day is not dissimilar to when the Gospel was first preached. The Gospel preached

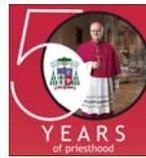
and lived today will be an intrusion in our society as much as it was in the days of the Caesars.”

He concluded his homily on a nostalgic note. When he was ordained to the priesthood, he designed his chalice. The inscription engraved on the bottom of the chalice reads, “This cup and this priest are from my mother and father for the service of God.”

“It was from this household of faith in Buffalo from which my vocation came,” Bishop Trautman said. “My parents, my brother, my sister are not here to give thanks with me. But you are here, and you are my spiritual family. You represent my loved ones. Together let us give thanks and praise to God for his abundant graces during half a century.”

Following the prayer after Communion and the singing of “Regina Coeli,” several people came forth to give a presentation.

Seminarian James Power spoke on behalf of the youth of our diocese, as well as the men studying to be priests at St. Mark Seminary.



Visit www.ErieRCD.org/50.asp to watch videos of Bishop Trautman's homily and heartfelt reflections by:

- Msgr. Robert Smith
- Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI
- James Power, seminarian

“We deeply appreciate your commitment to young people, your ongoing efforts to strengthen Catholic education, to reach thousands of religious education students and, of course, to support the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry,” Power said.

He mentioned that “we are inspired by your humble commitment—the long hours of ministry that you spend, both in the office and among the people.”

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, director of the Office for Religious, said Bishop Trautman has been a model of faithfulness to God and the church for women religious in the diocese.

“You have shown us by exam-

ple the importance of prayer and have witnessed to all the courage to speak up for the truth no matter what the cost,” Sister Nancy said.

Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese, said the congregation was gathered as the bishop's spiritual family.

“It's hard to believe that you came to be with us 22 years ago,” Msgr. Smith said to the bishop. “When I stop and reflect on those years, they have been years filled with graces beyond measure. What a joy and privilege it has been for all of us, your priests, your women religious, your deacons, and your priestly people.”

A public reception was held following the Mass at Gannon University's Morosky Center.

Erie's Catholic high schools announce iPad initiatives

iPAD, from page 1

will continue to be part of tuition of a Villa and Prep education.”

Mercyhurst Prep announced Feb. 7 that its iPad initiative was made possible by a donation from an MPS alumna as a legacy to her parents.

Bill and Betsy Vorcheck are making the donation in the memory of Betsy's parents, the late Bill and Audrey Hirt.

Audrey Hirt graduated from Mercyhurst Seminary which later became Mercyhurst Prep and also taught business at MPS in the early '70s. Betsy Vorcheck is also an alumna.

Marcia Gensheimer, public relations and alumni director at Mercyhurst Prep, said the \$500,000 donation will allow the school to distribute 650 iPad 3s (32GB, Wi-Fi model) to every student and faculty member beginning in the fall. Students will use them in class, at home while studying and doing homework, and they will be theirs to keep upon graduation. Intensive training is planned for the faculty, Gensheimer said.

Students and faculty will also receive Griffin Survivor cases to protect their devices. The school is also upgrading its Wi-Fi network to support additional traffic.

From the inception, MPS wanted to be able to give the iPads to the students rather than having them purchase them, said Deborah Laughlin, principal of Mercyhurst Prep. But the cost of the program is substantially greater than the cost of the iPads. Laughlin said the school will raise its technology fee—which has been fixed at \$150 for 10 years—to \$200. The funds will help pay for improvements to the school's technology infrastructure.



Justin Miknis, a 5th grade student at DuBois Central Catholic Elementary School, shows a video on his iPad explaining bat hibernation for science class.

The iPad program will allow MPS to create new opportunities for how students learn, communicate and collaborate, said Kristin Lynch, the school's iPad systems manager.

“With the iPad, students will be able to create more comprehensive and multi-layered presentations to demonstrate that they understand the subject matter thoroughly and can present that information effectively,” Lynch said.

The initiative will allow the school to incorporate digital textbooks into the curriculum, as well.

“They are a major component,” said Joyce Taylor, director of de-

velopment for DuBois Central Catholic schools. “It's expanding system wide, but iPad use started at the elementary level.”

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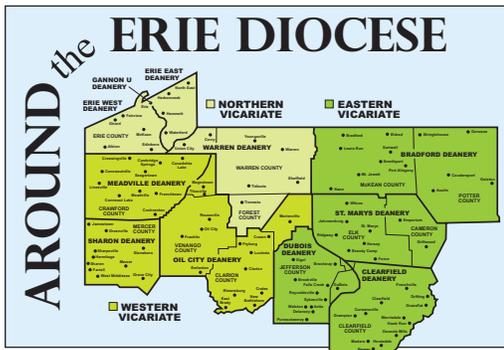
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St. Marys 1st grader named a winner in handwriting contest

ST. MARYS – Tessa Fledderman, a 1st grader at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, has been named a state grade-level winner in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest.

Fledderman, the daughter of Tom and Danielle Fledderman of St. Marys, was presented with an engraved Zaner-Bloser state winner medallion. Her teacher, Gerry Greer, received an engraved rosewood box and pens. St. Marys Catholic Elementary School was also given a \$200 Zaner-Bloser gift certificate.

Fledderman's contest entry will now be forwarded to the competition's national level.



Diocesan chapter of National Pastoral Musicians holds songfest

GROVE CITY – The Erie Diocesan Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians Association (NPM) met in Grove City April 22 for its annual songfest and dinner. This year's presenter was David Kauffman (pictured), who with his collaborator, William Gokelman, composed the award-winning Mass of Renewal. Kauffman shared some of his music for grief ministry and for retreats as well as his music for Mass of Renewal. Approximately 80 musicians from around the diocese attended.



A transition of NPM leadership occurred following dinner. Outgoing director Rita McConnell of Clearfield welcomed two co-directors, Lynn Nicklas of St. Marys and Gloria Richardson of Coudersport.

To conclude the day, a bobble-head of Bishop Donald Trautman was awarded in a drawing to Melissa Whitner of Meadville.

St. Michael, Immaculate Conception schools tie for 1st place in religion competition

CLARION – Sixth grade students at St. Michael School in Greenville and Immaculate Conception School in Clarion tied for first place in the Diocese of Erie's "To Know and to Serve" religion competition April 16 in Clarion.

Both teams correctly answered 57 out of 60 questions and successfully completed two tiebreakers.

Other schools participating in the competition included St. Francis School in Clearfield (second place), Kennedy Catholic Middle School in Hermitage and Seton Catholic School in Meadville.

For first place, St. Michael and Immaculate Conception schools each received \$250 (\$150 for a charity agency and \$100 for the school). St. Francis received \$150 (\$100 for a local agency and \$50 for the school). Kennedy Catholic and Seton Catholic each received \$75 (\$50 for a local agency and \$25 for the school).

St. Michael included the Good Shepherd Center along with support to a family in Mexico as its beneficiaries, and Immaculate Conception chose to benefit the Clarion Food Bank.



Pictured (left to right) are St. Michael students Sarah DelMaramo, Allie Suhar, Gina Maloney, Andrea Emmett and Abram Shannon with their certificates along with members of their class who helped prepare them for the competition.



Pictured (left to right) are Immaculate Conception students (front row) Kaden Bauer, Gabby Weaver, (back row) Ryley McMaster, Zak Bauer and Catherine Buchanan with their certificates.

St. Boniface students compete in Odyssey of the Mind

ERIE – For the past six years, St. Boniface School in Erie has participated in Odyssey of the Mind, an international academic program that challenges students from kindergarten through college to learn creative problem-solving and team-building.

This year, St. Boniface School sponsored three teams: a novice team of 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders, a Division II team of 5th and 6th graders and a Division II team of 7th and 8th graders. Teams competed at the Western Pennsylvania Regional event.

The novice team gained valuable experience and finished in the middle of their division.

The 5th and 6th grade team placed first in style in their long-term problem. In addition, they were nominated for the prestigious Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity for their prop, a five-foot tall animated ostrich. They placed fourth overall in their division.

The 7th and 8th grade team, addressing a problem titled "Weird Science," won first place overall in their division on the strength of a first-place award in the "spontaneous" category as well as second-place for their



Pictured left to right are all three teams: (first row) Ryan Kirby, Zac Randazzo, Katrina Reed, Izaak Bryson and Elizabeth Whiteford of the novice team (missing from photo is Christian Fuhrman); (second row) Rachel Praetzel, Sydney Elder, Joey Wilczynski, Matthew Trost, Erin Cox and Juli Wilczynski of the 5th and 6th grade team; (third row) Megan Davis, Susie Urash, Becca Praetzel, Courtney Stuckey, Eion Russell, Brett Cox and Noah Runser of the 7th and 8th grade team.

long-term problem: an explanation of strange cloud formations in Italy's Po Valley. As first-place winners, they will represent Western Pennsylvania in the state competition.

People in the News

Father Kesicki appointed Gannon's associate VP for Mission and Ministry

ERIE – Father Michael Kesicki has been appointed Gannon University's associate vice president for Mission and Ministry, effective July 1. The appointment was announced by Gannon University President Keith Taylor, Ph.D. As associate vice president for Mission and



Ministry, Father Kesicki will serve as the university's chief mission officer and will lead Gannon's Office of Campus Ministry, the Center for Social Concerns and the Chaplain's Office. Father Kesicki joined Gannon as a faculty member in 1997 and serves as rector at St. Mark Seminary in Erie.

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PRESENTED BY: FR. BRAD MILUNSKI, OFM CONV. Fr. Brad was ordained to the priesthood in 1993. He studied philosophy and Franciscan Studies at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby, Mass., and received a Master of Divinity degree from Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. In the year 2000 he was awarded a License in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, Italy. Fr. Brad is currently completing his Ph.D. in theology with specialization in Sacred Scripture at the University of Notre Dame.

He currently serves as Vicar Provincial for the Immaculate Conception Franciscan Province, and is Rector of the Franciscan Church of the Assumption in Syracuse, N.Y.

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For more information, CALL Bill Moore at (814) 765-0171