

Partial Birth Abortion Act upheld



Abortion opponents laud court, page 2.

FaithLife

Teacher Hallmark Awards

Sister James Francis Mulligan, 41 others honored for dedication to Catholic education, page 3.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Matthias

St. Isidore

- May 10 Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i
- May 12 Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras
- May 14 St. Matthias
- May 15 St. Isidore
- May 17 Ascension of the Lord
- May 18 St. John I

Confirmation schedule

St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown – Sun., May 6 at 10:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Cochranton, and St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford – Sun., May 6 at 4 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Lewis Run; St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bradford; and St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Bradford.

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway – Fri., May 11 at 7 p.m.

St. Joseph, Oil City – Sat., May 12 at 9:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include Assumption, Oil City; Our Lady Help of Christians, Oil City; St. Joseph, Oil City; St. Stephen, Oil City; and St. Venantius, Rouseville.

St. Michael, Greenville – Sun., May 13 at 11:15 a.m.

Notre Dame, Hermitage – Sun., May 13 at 4 p.m.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie – Mon., May 14 at 7 p.m.

St. Adelbert, Farrell – Tues., May 15 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Trinity, Farrell; Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell; St. Adelbert, Farrell; St. Ann, Farrell; St. Anthony, Sharon; and St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sharon.

Holy Trinity, Erie – Wed., May 16 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Family, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Holy Trinity, Erie; St. Ann, Erie; St. Casimir, Erie; St. Hedwig, Erie; St. John the Baptist, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; and St. Stanislaus, Erie.

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Thurs., May 17 at 7 p.m.

St. Michael, Fryburg – Fri., May 18 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Lucinda; St. Mary, Crown; and St. Michael, Fryburg.

St. Elizabeth, Smethport – Sat., May 19 at 11 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Elizabeth, Smethport; St. Gabriel, Port Allegany; St. Joseph, Mt. Jewett; St. Raphael, Eldred; and St. Theresa, Shinglehouse.

Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Sat., May 19 at 5:15 p.m.

The Ascension of the Lord – May 17 (Holy Day of Obligation)

This solemnity, celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:2. Also known as Ascension Thursday, this feast is a Holy Day of Obligation.



Clearfield rosary march celebrates 30 years

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

CLEARFIELD – For years, the Clearfield rosary march has been a public expression of faith, garnering attention for the Marian prayer of the Gospel. Gathering at the Clearfield Driving Park, marchers process throughout the fair grounds with rosary beads in hand, along with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Blessed Sacrament leading the way. "It's a statement to the community because it's in a public gathering space," said Msgr. Desmond McGee, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield.

"People are made aware that this is something different. A lot of times, something spiritual in public gets downplayed."

That is not the case with the Clearfield rosary march, which celebrates a milestone anniversary with the 30th annual march May 6.

Sponsored by the Clearfield Chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima/Blue Army, the march will begin at 3 p.m. inside the Expo I Building at the fair grounds with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by an outdoor rosary and

See ROSARY MARCH, page 3



Fatima, World Apostolate mark milestones in 2007

This year not only marks a milestone for the Clearfield rosary march, but also for the message of Fatima, as well.

In 2007, Fatima, Portugal, will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. Our Lady first appeared to three shepherd children on May 13, 1917. The apparitions continued monthly until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

Also this year, the World Apostolate of Fatima/Blue Army marks 60 years of promoting Fatima's message of praying the rosary. The apostolate, a worldwide association of the faithful, responds to the requests of the Blessed Mother at Fatima to pray the rosary daily.

On May 13, EWTN will air the film "The Call to Fatima," which is based on the book "Calls" by Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the shepherd children and principal seer of the apparitions. The book and movie are available exclusively on the official Web site at www.thecalltofatima.com.



Pope Benedict at 80

Blowing on the coals of faith

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — When Pope John Paul II turned 80 in 2000, it fueled yet another round of speculation about whether the ailing pontiff might break with tradition and resign.

In contrast, Pope Benedict XVI's 80th birthday April 16 finds him with the wind in his sails.

The pope's new book on Jesus was being released in several languages, an event that will no doubt launch the Christological themes of his pontificate into wider circulation.

In March the pope published a major document on the Eucharist, and sources said he was preparing to release a long-awaited decree liberalizing use of the Tridentine Mass.

Following a recent Vatican summit, the pope's announced letter to Chinese Catholics was anticipated eagerly in April, in hopes that it could offer a new path of dialogue with the government and help heal internal church divisions.

Meanwhile, the pope was preparing for his first papal trip to the Western Hemisphere, a mid-May journey to Brazil for a crucial planning session among Latin American bishops.

Pope Benedict, who marked the second anniversary of his election April 19, seems fit and energetic in public appearances. He glides through crowds and lingers with well-wishers and often delivers his most incisive remarks off the cuff.

Although the pope sometimes suggests he may have little time in office, he shows no sign of ill health or failing stamina. During Holy Week, he seemed unfazed by the heavy schedule of 10 major liturgies and encounters.

The pope is one of very few top church officials not obligated to hand in his resignation on or before the age of 80. For cardinal and bishop members of Vatican congregations, 80 is the mandatory retirement age. Bishops must offer to resign as heads of dioceses when they turn 75, and so must the heads of offices of the Roman Curia.

That leaves Pope Benedict as the oldest among chief Vatican officials, but the others are not far behind. Today's Vatican is a senior-citizen crowd: Of the heads of the 25 main Vatican agencies, only one is under the normal U.S. retirement age of 65.

The average age of top curial officials today is almost 73. That's more than 10 years older than the average age under Pope John Paul at the two-year mark of his pontificate. In part, that's because 80 percent of curial leaders are holdovers from the era of Pope John Paul. That could change significantly over the next 12 months, when 10 of the 25 current department heads will be of mandatory retirement age.

To a great extent, then, Pope Benedict has a chance to put his own mark on the Curia in the coming year. The changes could affect Vatican agencies dealing with liturgy and sacraments, ecumenism, sainthood causes, health care, justice and peace, inter-religious dialogue, Eastern churches and Vatican finances.

The fact that the pope has not already put his own team

Pope re-emphasizes Christ's divine nature in new book

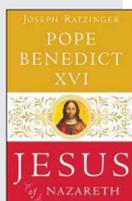
In his new book, "Jesus of Nazareth," Pope Benedict XVI said Christ must be understood as the Son of God on a divine mission, not as a mere moralist or social reformer.

Re-emphasizing Christ's divine nature is especially important in a world that tends to ridicule religious faith and that is experiencing a "global poisoning of the spiritual climate," the pope said.

Already available in Italian, German and Polish, the book will be available in English May 15.

The book, the first of two planned volumes on Christ's life, covers the public acts of Jesus from his baptism in the Jordan River to the transfiguration before his disciples. Its 10 chapters analyze Scriptural passages, but also explore commentary from early church fathers and modern scholars.

In a preface, the pope makes an unusual disclaimer, saying the book should not be read as an expression of official church teaching, but as the fruits of his personal research.



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The fact that the pope has not already put his own team

in place and has introduced few major changes at the Vatican has disappointed some of his strongest supporters in Rome.

"His problem is that he doesn't want to offend anyone," one Vatican official remarked recently.

Some journalists, too, have been frustrated that the "Ratzinger revolution" they predicted has failed to materialize, at least in the dramatic form they had foreseen.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the former Vatican spokesman under Popes John Paul and Benedict, tackled the issue

See POPE, page 3

Two seminarians ordained transitional deacons

Two seminarians have taken another step toward priesthood for the Erie Diocese.

Timothy Balliett and Johnathan Schmolt were ordained into the order of the diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman on April 28 during a Mass at the St. Mark Seminary chapel. As transitional deacons, Balliett and Schmolt will finish their final year of major seminary before ordination to the priesthood in 2008.

Deacon Balliett is studying at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore and is assigned to St. Tobias Parish in Erie. His home parish is Blessed Sacrament in Erie.

Deacon Schmolt is studying at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore and is assigned to St. John the Baptist Parish in Erie. His home parish is St. Basil the Great in Coalport.



Left, seminarians Timothy Balliett and Johnathan Schmolt lie prostrate during their April 28 ordination to the diaconate. They are scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood next year. Above, Schmolt, Bishop Donald Trautman and Balliett pose for a photo following the ordination ceremony.

Faith magazine offers "A vision of heaven"

"I have always had a suspicion that someday I would die," says Dale McKay, of Duck Lake, Michigan. "I'd just never had anyone put some numbers on it."

When Dale and his wife, Ellen, received his diagnosis of terminal cancer, they learned to rely on each other and on their faith in a whole new way. They also agreed to share their journey with readers of Faith magazine.

"We are very committed to stories and columnists from the Erie Diocese," says Msgr. Tom McSweeney, executive editor. "But when we read this particular cover story from our sister publication in Lansing, Michigan, we were deeply moved. It's very powerful and we felt compelled to share it with readers in the Erie Diocese."

The May/June issue, which also includes a per-



May/June cover of Faith

sonal conversation with Bishop Trautman and Vicar General Msgr. Robert Smith given the day Bishop Murphy passed away, will be mailed to all households registered at parishes in the Erie Diocese the week of May 13. If you are not receiving your free copy, please contact Brenda Williams, circulation manager at 814.824.1161 or bwilliams@ErieRCD.org.

IN THE U.S.

President George W. Bush praised Catholic schools and pressed for immigration reform in remarks delivered April 13 at the fourth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington.



Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond told an overflow gathering of students, faculty and families April 22 at Virginia Tech that rushing to experience the joy of the resurrection while they are actually feeling pain and confusion "would be terribly unrealistic."



U.S. President George W. Bush is expected to have his first formal audience with Pope Benedict XVI in early June, the Vatican spokesman said.

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Bishop John C. Nienstedt of New Ulm, Minn., as coadjutor archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

current head of the archdiocese. As coadjutor, Archbishop Nienstedt automatically becomes head of the archdiocese upon Archbishop Flynn's retirement or death.

AROUND THE WORLD

The U.S.-based Papal Foundation presented Pope Benedict XVI with a check for almost \$4.7 million. The foundation designated more than \$4.1 million for 75 charitable projects and more than \$575,000 for scholarships for priests, religious and laypeople studying at one of the pontifical universities or institutes in Rome.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and a committee of congregation advisers have urged the quick completion of the new English translation of the Mass. The Vox Clara Committee, a group of English-speaking bishops who advise the Vatican on English translations, met recently at the Vatican.

In the second year of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, almost 3.4 million people participated in his weekly general audiences, group audiences, liturgies and the recitation of the Angelus on Sundays and holy days.



Father Gallitzin

The sainthood cause for Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin — the second priest ordained in the United States and also a Russian prince who became known as the "apostle of the Alleghenies," — has been initiated by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.



U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invited Pope Benedict XVI to visit the United Nations headquarters in New York during a private meeting at the Vatican.

After several years of study, the Vatican's International Theological Commission said there are good reasons to hope that babies who die without being baptized go to heaven.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

The sainthood cause for Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin — the second priest ordained in the United States and also a Russian prince who became known as the "apostle of the Alleghenies," — has been initiated by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

By the Way...

National Catholic Reporter has a cover story on consecrated virgins in its April 27 issue. The story, an in-depth look on how a growing number of consecrated virgins in the U.S. attest to the vocation's appeal, includes a photo of Karen Hund, Bishop Donald Trautman and Sister Mary Rita Kuhn from Hund's consecration ceremony March 26.



Jason Koshinski

Hund, director of religious education and youth minister at St. Peter Cathedral, dedicated her virginity to Christ in a ceremony performed by Bishop Trautman.

Bishop Trautman engaged more than 40 young adults in conversation and discussion about finding faith in a messy world at the first Theology on Tap session April 13 at The Brewery at Union Station in Erie.

The gathered young adults appeared to be in the targeted age range of 21-40. Greg Baker, director of the Office of Young Adult Ministry, said the goal is to get these young Catholics plugged into parish life.

Even though the final figures are still being calculated, it's clear the 12th annual Catholic Charities Ball was a huge success. Dan and Kathy Dahlkemper, parishioners at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie, were honored with the second annual Helping Hands Award.

The Erie Serra Club is organizing a few happenings in the next couple of weeks. Serrans will honor priests and religious celebrating jubilee anniversaries in 2007 during a luncheon at the Erie Yacht Club on May 15.

The Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Valley Council in Hermitage is hosting a Communion breakfast on Sunday, May 20 to celebrate church vocations.

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

Statistics released on enrollment, staffing in U.S. Catholic schools

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — Enrollment figures for Catholic schools in the 2006-07 academic year show "a continued significant decline in the elementary school population and a slight increase in secondary school enrollment," according to a report by the National Catholic Educational Association.

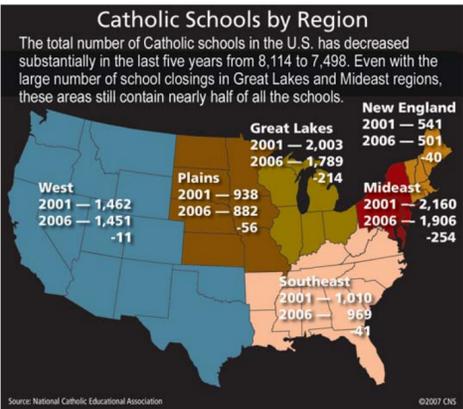
Total enrollment fell by 1.8 percent, or 42,569 students, said the annual statistical report. The 51-page report was released during the April 10-13 NCEA convention in Baltimore.

"While enrollment has declined in all regions of the country (12.5 percent since 2000), the largest decreases have been centered in the large urban areas (15 percent), principally in the Midwest and the Great Lakes, areas that were populated by high concentrations of Catholic immigrants in the late 19th and 20th centuries," said the report's executive summary.

"The good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools in areas of the Southeast and Far West," it added. "Waiting lists now exist in 34 percent of the schools, primarily in suburban areas."

The report put enrollment for the current school year at about 2.3 million, with 1.7 million students in elementary schools and 638,239 in secondary schools. With full-time professional staff members numbering 159,135, the average student-teacher ratio was 15 to 1.

The report also looked back at historical data on enrollment and staffing. In 1965, the peak year for Catholic school enrollment, there were nearly 13,500 Catholic schools enrolling 5.6 million students.



In the current school year, minority students make up more than 25 percent of the enrollment, and non-Catholics are 13.8 percent of the student body.

Since the last academic year, 36 new schools opened and 212 consolidated or closed, the report said.

More than 99 percent of Catholic elementary schools are co-educational, while about two-thirds of Catholic secondary schools educate both sexes.

Nearly 20 percent of Catholic secondary schools are all-female and 13.5 percent are all-male.

The states with the highest Catholic school enrollment in the 2006-07 academic year were New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Missouri.

The mean per-pupil tuition in Catholic elementary schools

is \$2,607, or approximately 62 percent of the actual costs per pupil of \$4,268, according to the NCEA report. In Catholic secondary schools, the mean freshman tuition is \$6,906, or about 80 percent of the actual costs per pupil of \$8,743.

Based on the average public school cost per pupil of \$8,310, as reported by the federal government last November, Catholic schools save the nation more than \$19 billion a year, the report said.

Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act upheld; abortion opponents laud court

What follows ruling coming into focus slowly

By Mark Pattison Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Abortion opponents lauded the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision April 18 upholding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

President George W. Bush, who signed the ban into law in 2003, called partial-birth abortion an "abhorrent procedure" in an April 18 statement from the White House.

"Today's decision affirms that the Constitution does not stand in the way of the people's representatives enacting laws reflecting the compassion and humanity of America. The partial-birth abortion ban, which an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed and I signed into law, represents a commitment to building a culture of life in America," said Bush.

While praising the decision, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said: "The court's decision does not affect the legal status of

the great majority of abortions, and does not reverse past decisions claiming to find a right to abortion in the Constitution. However, it provides reasons for renewed hope and renewed effort on the part of pro-life Americans," he said.

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that the federal ban on partial-birth abortion is constitutional, what's next?

Although it took 34 years since the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton Supreme Court cases that permitted abortion virtually on demand in the United States, one nationwide restriction on abortion has now passed both political muster and judicial scrutiny.

Will it take 34 more years to enact another federal abortion restriction?

"I can't make a prediction," said David Masci, a senior research fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. "This decision has certainly left open the possibility that states can go back and look at some of the abortion restrictions," he said.

Pro-life supporters argue that a health exception can be used to justify any abortion. The partial-birth abortion ban contains only an exception for the life of the mother.

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Advertisement for Hofmann's Church & Religious Goods featuring stuffed animals and contact info.

Advertisement for FaithLife newsletter with subscription details and contact information.

Advertisement for Howard Hanna real estate featuring Cheryl Wodecki and contact info.

Advertisement for Burdie's Clock Shop with contact information and address.

Briefly

Sister Catherine Delaney honored as Pleasant Ridge's Volunteer of the Year

Sister Catherine Delaney, RSM, was honored for her 20 years of service at Pleasant Ridge's annual volunteer dinner April 19.



Sister Catherine is pictured receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award from David Popowicz, administrator of Pleasant Ridge Manor East.

Popowicz noted that Sister Catherine was instrumental in helping Pleasant Ridge Manor form a relationship with Mercyhurst College and the Sisters of Mercy. He added that the residents and staff are grateful for her service as a Eucharistic minister, her assistance in a wide variety of activities and her ongoing support.

Memorial Day Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a 9 a.m. Memorial Day Mass on May 28 at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery and Mausoleum chapel, 5711 West Lake Road, Erie.



Good Shepherd Catholic Church

in State College, PA, is seeking a **part-time youth minister** to develop, coordinate and run our junior high and senior high youth ministry programs. A bachelor's or master's degree in youth ministry or pastoral ministry is preferred; a degree in a youth-related field such as education, child psychology or human development will also be considered. Significant experience working with youth in faith-based or other settings is also required. Send resume and references to: **Good Shepherd Youth Ministry Search Committee, Box 8186, State College, PA 16805.** Or e-mail to dirred@goodshepherd-sc.org. Application deadline is March 16, 2007.

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Beaufort, SC 29907
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Teachers honored for service, commitment to Catholic education

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Pope Benedict XVI's representative to the United States, opened April's National Catholic Educational Association convention in Baltimore by calling teachers "the greatest artists in the world."

He said many call Michelangelo the greatest artist ever because his sculptures such as The Pieta, which depicts Mary holding her son Jesus after his crucifixion. "But I think the greatest artists of the world are teachers, because you sculpt the best of what you are, not in a piece of marble but in human beings who are the glory of God," he said.

On April 20, the Erie Diocese honored its own Michelangelos.

Forty-two teachers from the Erie Deanery were honored for 860 years of service and commitment to Catholic education at the annual Teacher Hallmark Awards Dinner at the Maennerchor Club.

Sister Mary Ann Bader, RSM, emceed the event, with Bishop Donald Trautman giving the welcome. Father Nick Rouch, vicar for education, and the school principals handed out the awards, which honored teachers celebrating milestone anniversaries in Catholic education.

This year's top honorees were Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ, of Cathedral Prep, who is celebrating 60 years of teaching in Catholic schools, and Sister



Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ (center), one of 42 teachers honored at the Teacher Hallmark Awards, was honored for her 60 years of ministry in Catholic education. Pictured with Sister James Francis, from left to right, are: Sister Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ, Cathedral Prep principal; Bishop Donald Trautman; Father Nick Rouch, vicar for education; and Father Scott Jabo, Cathedral Prep headmaster.

Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ, of St. John-Holy Rosary for 50 years of service.

During the award introductions, Sister Mary Arnold Tann, SSJ, received a standing ovation from the crowd. When Sister Mary Ann introduced her, she said Sister Mary Arnold's "service to the ministry of Catholic education in our diocese needs no introduction."

In 2006, Sister Mary Arnold announced her retirement after spending 54 years in Catholic education as a teacher and administrator.

In his remarks, Bishop Traut-

man said Catholic school teachers play a pivotal role in handing on the faith.

"Your teaching ministry continues the work of Christ," he said. "Quality teachers help make a quality school, and the Diocese of Erie is blessed in you."

Throughout the diocese's history, he said, Catholic education has been a priority with schools offering a faith-filled environment, Gospel values, quality formation and education.

"You have made this possible. You are the instruments of God who bring the vision and values of Christ to our students."

Teacher Hallmark Awards

Schools and their honorees, with years of service included in parentheses:

- **Cathedral Center**
Patricia Andrychowski (10)
- **Cathedral Prep**
Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ (60), Joann Mullen (45), Frank Mezler (15), Lt. Col. Brian McGrain (10)
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**
Mary Marucci (25), Aimee Pursell (10), Cathy McWilliams (15)
- **Our Lady of Peace**
Susan Turowski (35), Barbara Sisti (30), Judith Pisano (15), Tammie Mang (15), Pamela Madara (15), Maria Ehrman (10)
- **Our Lady's Christian**
Susan Blecki (25), Tracy Wingerter (25), Fay Nelson (20), Pamela Verity (20)
- **Sacred Heart**
Ivajeen Coverdale (20)
- **St. Boniface**
Cynthia Srika (15)
- **St. George**
Heidi Arnold (40), Susan Morgan (35), Martha Foust (20), Barb Felix (15), Stephen Spizary (15)
- **St. James**
Melissa Keinath (10)
- **St. John-Holy Rosary**
Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ (50), Catherine Lochner-Trejchel (10)
- **St. Luke**
Christine Kapper (30), Patricia Arnold (10), Jessica Bengel (10), Gloria Garcia (10)
- **St. Thomas**
Victoria Stull (30), Thora Scott (20), Alan Vanderhoff (10)
- **Villa Maria Academy**
Geraldyn Meleason (20), Albert Braun II (10)
- **Villa Maria Elementary**
Joni Hall (25), Janet Rodney (20), Maureen Bell (15), Katie Parker (10), Colleen Van Hoozer (10)

Clearfield rosary march at 30

ROSARY MARCH from page 1 eucharistic procession.

The Moore family of Clearfield has been part of the march since the beginning. In 1977, Bud Moore formed a group that would participate in the International Rosary March, which started a year earlier in Anaheim, Calif.

Today, Moore, 88, is still involved, along with his family, which includes 15 children.

"With 15 of us, I always thought of each of us as a mystery of the rosary," said Bill Moore, one of the siblings. "If you went in order, I was always the crowning of thorns."

He said his father's devotion to the rosary caught on with him and his brothers and sisters after their teenage years.

"My dad has always been very faithful," he said. "We started getting interested in



Photos by Sherrie Surkovich

One of the highlights of the Clearfield Rosary March includes the crowning of the diocesan pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Above, Madison Moore crowns the statue in 2005 while assisted by her parents Rick and Linda Moore.

our faith and the devotion to Our Lady and wanted to spread it."

Including nieces and nephews, nearly 30 members of the family help organize the march each year.

"The march means a lot not only for our parish here, but Catholics come from all

over," said Msgr. McGee.

During the first 10 years of the march, Moore said it grew, with members of the faithful coming from areas throughout the Erie Diocese and even outside, including Altoona and Johnstown. Visitors have typically trekked from the bordering states of Ohio, New York and Maryland.

"We've been maintaining a crowd between 600 and 1,000 the last several years," Moore said.

To commemorate the march's 30 years, the family is putting together a booklet including a history and photos that will be available at the fair grounds.

This year's guest speaker is Dr. Thomas W. Petrisco. He is the founder of the Pittsburgh Center for Peace and St. Andrew's Productions, a Catholic book publisher and distributor. He has written 17 books and serves as editor of the Queen of Peace newspaper, which has a worldwide circulation of more than 10 million copies.

In the event of inclement weather, all ceremonies will be moved inside the Expo I Building.

Pope Benedict at 80

POPE from page 1

in a commentary written for the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The pope is certainly cautious, Navarro-Valls said, but that should not be confused with indecision or timidity. He said the pope is acutely aware that he's called to make serious judgments with lasting consequences for the church and that often need "the right timing and the right maturation period."

Navarro-Valls said the pope's style seems to embody an intellectual seriousness: the spirit of St. Thomas Aquinas' "diligent and subtle inquiry," which is never in a hurry.

The pope's patience also has been evident in his teaching style during his first two years. His back-to-basics approach has aimed at gently prodding people to question the values of today's dominant culture and to make space in their lives for the divine.

In his one encyclical and in



CNS Photo

Pope Benedict XVI gives the faithful his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world) in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8.

many talks, he has concentrated on the simple and positive core of the Christian message: love of God and love of neighbor.

When he has the world's stage, the pope tends to set aside intellectual sophistication and doctrinal complexity. At the recent

Way of the Cross procession on Good Friday, he summarized in seven easy sentences the relationship between Christ's passion and the suffering of today's world.

"This is the profound intention of the prayer of the Way of the Cross: to open our hearts and

to help us see with the heart," he said.

"Our God is not a distant God, untouchable in his blessedness: Our God has a heart," he said.

At 80, the pope is not wielding a flame thrower. He's blowing on the coals.

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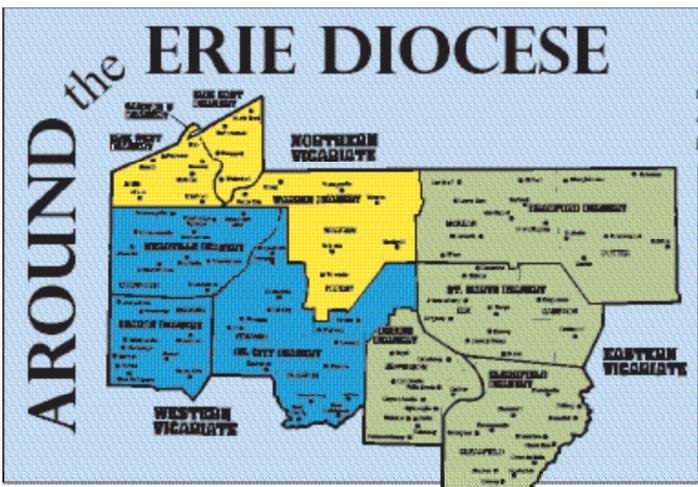
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St. Francis packs fruit boxes for Marian House families

CLEARFIELD — Each year on Palm Sunday, the 4th grade students of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield prepare fruit boxes to be distributed to families in the area through Marian House. Operated by Young People Who Care, Marian House provides temporary shelter and assistance for women and children in crisis in Clearfield County and surrounding areas. This year, students assembled nine boxes of fruit and Easter chocolate.



(Front row) Megan Irwin, Kevin Decker, Alex Shugarts, Morgan Young, Rachele Hale, Janelle Wallace and Sarah Aycock, (back row) Sarah Hale and A. J. Zelenky.

Gannon students spend spring break engaged in service

ERIE — Instead of hitting the beaches for spring break, more than 20 Gannon University students embraced the university's mission through voluntary participation in alternative break service trips to New York City, New Orleans, Douglas, Ariz., and Aqua Prieta, Mexico.

The students did not receive any academic credit for their work the week of Feb. 26-March 2.

In New York, eight students and two Gannon staff members spent the week working in a soup kitchen in the Bronx. In New Orleans, eight students and two staff members gutted homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They also participated in a panel discussion related to Hurricane Katrina, poverty and race. Seven students and two staff members went to Arizona and Mexico, where they helped young Mexican children learn English, and were involved with other community service activities. This trip included learning about immigration laws, the faith and cultures in Aqua Prieta and how its residents cope with extreme poverty and substandard living conditions.

The trips are sponsored by Gannon's Center for Social Concerns.



As part of their alternative spring break service trips, Gannon University students taught English to children in Mexico (top) and gutted homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (above).

Lenten activities help OLMC School prepare for Easter

ERIE — Our Lady of Mount Carmel students in Erie prepared for Easter Sunday throughout Lent by giving up snacks and treats to collect money for the Second Harvest Food Bank, as well as the school's own OLMC Food Pantry.

Daily student prayer services, weekly Mass, classroom stations and the sharing of the Sedar Meal all culminated with 7th grade students presenting the Stations of the Cross for the student body (right). Following the stations, 8th grade students using mime portrayed Jesus' birth, life and death as seen through the eyes of his mother, Mary (top).



Deacon DeNoon elected president of Pa. Society of Chaplains

DUBOIS — Deacon Robert DeNoon, the manager and a chaplain of the pastoral care department at DuBois Regional Medical Center, was recently elected to lead the Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains at the society's fall conference in Carlisle, Pa.

Deacon DeNoon is serving as president-elect of the society and will assume the office of president for a two-year term in October. The Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains consists of chaplains who serve in institutions throughout Pennsylvania as well as Maryland and New Jersey. The society is made up of chaplains of all denominations who serve in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, hospice organizations and other areas.

Its primary purpose is to exchange information, offer an opportunity for the professional growth of chaplains, develop and suggest minimum standards and sound practices for chaplain services and spiritual care and promote cooperation and maintain communication with nationally recognized chaplain organizations.

"I am deeply honored to be elected to serve in this position," DeNoon said. "One of my goals will be to reach out to every hospital and facility in Pennsylvania that utilizes chaplains and make them aware of the Society of Chaplains and the important role a chaplain plays in their organization."

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman in 1999 and has served as a chaplain at the DuBois Regional Medical Center since his ordination. In 2003, DeNoon was appointed an interim super-



Pictured from left to right are Charlene Lauer of DuBois, ordained transitional deacon in the Episcopal Church and volunteer chaplain at DRMC, Deacon Robert DeNoon, and Rev. Donald Drake, a retired United Methodist minister and also a volunteer chaplain at DRMC.

Deacon DeNoon is serving as president-elect of the society and will assume the office of president for a two-year term in October.

He and his wife, Sue, are members of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway where he assists with liturgy and other assignments.

St. Luke faculty certified in CPR



ERIE — Faculty of St. Luke School in Erie spent a recent in-service day being recertified in CPR techniques and reviewing

AED and EpiPen procedures. Millcreek paramedic Jeff Carter is pictured with faculty member Christine Kapper.

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