

## Transitional deacon

Seminarian Brandon Kleckner ordained to diaconate, page 3.



# FaithLife

## Good Shepherd Sunday

Special collection May 14-15 to aid in care of retired diocesan priests, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 8, 2011

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Our Lady of Fatima



St. Bernardine of Siena

May 10	St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i
May 12	St. Nereus and St. Achilleus, St. Pancras
May 13	Our Lady of Fatima
May 14	St. Matthias
May 15	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
May 18	St. John I
May 20	St. Bernardine of Siena
May 21	St. Christopher Magallanes and his companions

## Harborcreek Youth Services marks 100 years – May 11

Harborcreek Youth Services, an affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, will mark its 100th anniversary Wednesday, May 11 with an anniversary Mass and luncheon.

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The luncheon will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$30. For reservations or more information, call Mary Law at 814.899.7664 Ext. 365 or visit [www.hys-erie.org](http://www.hys-erie.org).

## Catholic Charities Ball – May 13



The Triple Crown Event, the 16th annual Catholic Charities Ball, will be held on Friday, May 13 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the \$75 per person ticket will directly benefit families in need of all faiths.

For tickets or more information, call 814.824.1250 or visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## 125th anniversary of St. Boniface School, Kersey – May 14

St. Boniface School in Kersey will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Saturday, May 14 with a Mass followed by dinner.

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Boniface Parish.

For tickets to the dinner, call the school at 814.885.8093.

## Religious Scouting awards – May 22

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.

## Clergy appointments

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



Father James Kennelley, reappointed as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mercer, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2017.

Father William Miller, reappointed as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2017.

Father Matthew Ruyechan, V.F., reappointed as pastor of St. Stephen Parish, Oil City, and administrator of St. Venantius Parish, Rouseville, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2017.

Father Thomas Suppa, reappointed as pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Union City, and administrator of Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Canadohta Lake, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2017.

# Blessed John Paul II

## Pope Benedict XVI beatifies Pope John Paul 'because of his faith'

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – “John Paul II is blessed because of his faith — a strong, generous and apostolic faith,” Pope Benedict XVI said May 1 just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

Italian police said that for the Mass more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican and in front of large video screens in several parts of the city.

Many in the crowd had personal stories about seeing Pope John Paul or even meeting him, and Pope Benedict ended his homily at the Mass sharing his own personal story.

“I would like to thank God for the gift of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II,” he said.

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1982 until his election in 2005, Pope Benedict said he worked at the pope's side “and came to revere him.”

“His example of prayer

continually impressed and edified me: he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry,” the pope said.

“Today his name is added to the host of those whom he proclaimed saints and blessed during the almost 27 years of his pontificate,” the pope said in his homily.

Pope John Paul during his pontificate beatified 1,338 people and canonized 482 — more than all of his predecessors combined. The beatification of Pope John Paul just six years and a month after his death in 2005 was the fastest beatification in some 500 years.

Pope Benedict said that even at the moment of his death people “perceived the fragrance of his sanctity and in any number of ways God's people showed their veneration for him. For this reason, with all due respect for the church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste.”

See BLESSED, page 2



People pack St. Peter's Square at the Vatican for the beatification Mass of Pope John Paul II May 1. Police said that more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican for the ceremony.

## At vigil, young and old remember Pope John Paul as spiritual model

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

ROME – With songs, videos, testimonials and prayers, Catholics of every age and many countries gathered in Rome to remember Pope John Paul II on the eve of his beatification.

“I feel him present here in the Circus Maximus,” the pope's former secretary,

Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow told the crowd in Rome's ancient racetrack April 30. “I feel him returning tonight.”

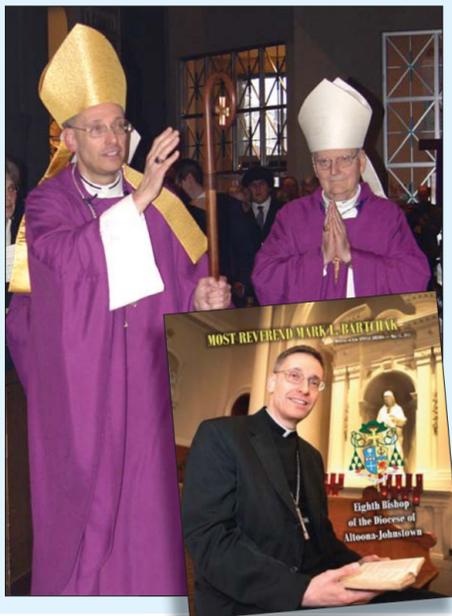
The vigil began with a two-minute video clip of Pope John Paul talking to young people in 2000, struggling at first to find the words and then bantering easily, to the delight of the crowd.

See VIGIL, page 2

## Bishop Bartchak ordained, installed

ALTOONA – Bishop Mark Bartchak gives his first blessings as bishop April 19 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona while Bishop Donald Trautman looks on. Bishop Bartchak, a priest of the Diocese of Erie, was ordained and installed as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Altoona during a Mass and ceremony.

A special edition of *FaithLife* commemorating Bishop Bartchak's ordination and installation will be available in parishes May 14-15. The issue also includes his biography, an interview, photos, and stories and comments from parishioners, colleagues and friends.



## Msgr. James Moroney to give Roman Missal talks in DuBois

DUBOIS – Msgr. James Moroney, an internationally-known lecturer on liturgical matters, will offer presentations on the new translation of the Roman Missal May 17 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois.

Msgr. Moroney will give presentations in two sessions:

■ First session from 1-4 p.m. for clergy only. For reservations, RSVP to Julie Pertz in the Office of Worship (814.824.1274 or [JPertz@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JPertz@ErieRCD.org)) or Eileen Gaither in the Office of Clergy Personnel (814.824.1195 or [EGaither@ErieRCD.org](mailto:EGaither@ErieRCD.org)).

■ Second session from 7-8:30 p.m. is open to religious, lay liturgy personnel and the public. No reservations are required.

There is no cost for either session. St. Catherine of Siena is located at 116 S. State St. in DuBois.

A priest of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., Msgr. Moroney was executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy (now called the Secretariat on Divine Worship) from 1996 to 2007.

He is executive director of Vox Clara, the Vatican committee appointed to oversee liturgical translations.

Pope John Paul II appointed him as the fourth American to serve as a consultant to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments since the Second Vatican Council. Pope Benedict XVI has reappointed him to the position.



Msgr. James Moroney

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

### Church must offer more encouragement, support for vocations, pope says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Catholics must be more courageous in highlighting and fostering vocations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Every Christian community, every member of the church needs consciously to feel responsibility for promoting vocations,” especially in an era when God's voice “seems to be drowned out by ‘other voices’ and his invitation to follow him by the gift of one's own life may seem too difficult,” he said in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Those who experience a clear call to priestly or consecrated life need encouragement, support and the possibility of feeling “the warmth of the whole community as they respond ‘yes’ to God and the church,” he said.

The papal message for the day of prayer, which will be observed May 15, was released Feb. 10 at the Vatican. The 2011 theme is “Proposing Vocations in the Local Church.”

In his message, Pope Benedict said proposing vocations on the local level means “having the courage, through an attentive and suitable concern for vocations, to point out this challenging way of following Christ which, because it is so rich in meaning, is capable of engaging the whole of one's



Five priests were ordained for the Diocese of Erie in 2010. One more is scheduled for ordination this year. “Vocations do not magically appear in the life of the church,” Bishop Donald Trautman said in his letter to parishioners in advance of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. “They require our active engagement. We, the clergy and people of God, must pray for vocations and encourage specific men and women with the proper talents to respond to the Lord's call.”

life.” The local church needs to become “more sensitive and attentive” to helping children and young people grow in their relationship with Christ through prayer and the sacraments, become more familiar with sacred Scriptures, be generous and loving toward others, and “understand that entering into God's will does not crush or destroy a person, but instead leads to the discovery of the deepest truth about ourselves,” he said.

The pope underlined the importance of having quality staff in every

diocesan vocations office, and he also called on bishops to help maintain “an equitable distribution of priests in the world.”

“Your openness to the needs of dioceses experiencing a dearth of vocations will become a blessing from God for your communities and a sign to the faithful of a priestly service that generously considers the needs of the entire church,” he told bishops.

The complete text of the pope's message is available online at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## St. Joseph/Bread of Life to host vocations monstrance blessed by John Paul II



ERIE – The perpetual adoration chapel at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie will receive a visit from a special monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II.

The Serra Club of Erie is bringing the monstrance to the chapel May 15-21.

The monstrance is one of six that was blessed by the late pope in 2004, each for a different continent, for use in Eucharistic adoration and prayers for vocations. It travels North America and is used by various dioceses.

St. Joseph/Bread of Life is located at 147 W. 24th St. in Erie. For directions, visit [www.stjoesbol.org](http://www.stjoesbol.org).

For more information, contact the parish at 814.452.2982.

# Pope Benedict XVI beatifies Pope John Paul 'because of his faith'

BLESSED, from page 1

After the Mass, Pope Benedict went into St. Peter's Basilica and knelt in prayer for four minutes before Blessed John Paul's casket, which was set in front of the main altar. After the pope left, the concelebrating cardinals filed up to the wooden casket, touching it lightly and kissing it.

Eventually, the Vatican opened the basilica to the general public and planned to keep it open either until the faithful stopped coming to pay their respects or until preparations had to be made for the official Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification May 2.

Thousands of people spent a chilly, damp night camped out near the Vatican in an attempt to find a place in St. Peter's Square when the gates were scheduled to open at 5:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. Mass. The crowds were so large that police began letting people in at 2 a.m., according to news reports.

Speaking briefly in Polish in his homily, Pope Benedict said of his predecessor: "By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, accompanied by great human charisma, this exemplary son of Poland helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to belong to the church, to speak of the Gospel."

"In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of liberty," the pope said.

Pope Benedict read the formula of beatification at the begin-



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates the beatification Mass of Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 1.

ning of the liturgy after Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, petitioned the pope by saying, "I humbly ask Your Holiness to inscribe the venerable servant of God John Paul II, pope, among the number of blessed."

The pope responded by saying that after consulting many bishops and members of the faithful and after having the Congregation for Saints' Causes study the matter, "the venerable servant of God, John Paul II, pope, henceforth will be called blessed" and

his feast will be Oct. 22, the anniversary of the inauguration of his pontificate in 1978.

The crowds burst into sustained applause, many people cried and brass players intoned a fanfare as soon as the pope finished reading the proclamation.

Polish Sister Tobiana Sobodka, who ran Pope John Paul's household, and French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for his beatification, carried

a relic to Pope Benedict and then to a stand near the altar. The relic was a clear glass vial of Pope John Paul's blood held in a reliquary of silver olive branches.

Reading a brief biography of the late pope, Cardinal Vallini said he "had lived through the tragic experience of two dictatorships" — Nazism and communism — "survived an assassination attempt on 13 May 1981 and, in his later years, suffered grave physical hardship due to the progression of his illness. However, his overwhelming optimism, based on his trust in divine providence, drove him to constantly look to the horizons of hope."

In his homily, Pope Benedict also spoke of Pope John Paul's suffering and his battle with Parkinson's disease, which eventually crippled him.

"There was his witness in suffering: the Lord gradually stripped him of everything, yet he remained ever a 'rock,' as Christ desired. His profound humility, grounded in close union with Christ, enabled him to continue to lead the church and to give the world a message which became all the more eloquent as his physical strength declined," the pope said.

Pope Benedict also reminded the crowd of how devoted Pope John Paul was to Mary and to following her example of complete faith.

"Blessed are you, beloved Pope John Paul II, because you believed," the pope prayed at the end of his homily. "Continue, we implore you, to sustain from heaven the faith of God's people."

# At vigil, young and old remember Pope John Paul as spiritual model

VIGIL, from page 1

The video set the evening's tone of remembrance, and it was followed by a torchlight procession to an image of Mary, evoking the late pope's special devotion to the mother of Jesus. The vigil featured a live satellite link-up to five Marian sanctuaries around the world, including the pope's former Archdiocese of Krakow, Poland.

Pope Benedict XVI closed the event with a prayer to Mary and a blessing, telecast live from the papal apartment at the Vatican.

The crowd on a wet evening in the Circus Maximus was small at first but swelled to an estimated 200,000, many of whom planned to pray the entire night in preparation for the beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square the next morning. One of the many homemade banners read in English: "Karol, we are here with you."

Thousands of candles glimmered in the darkness as a Philippines choir sang "Ave Maria." In an amateur video montage made by Rome students, young people said in simple language what they appreciated about the late pope — especially his spiritual depth and his ability to reach out to all kinds of people.

The crowd cheered French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for Pope John Paul's beatification. The nun beamed as she recounted her unexpected healing.

She said when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001 at the age of 40, she found it difficult to watch Pope John Paul, who



(CNS photo)

Pilgrims hold a sign that reads, "santo subito" ("sainthood now"), during a vigil on the eve of the beatification of Pope John Paul II at the ancient Circus Maximus in Rome April 30.

suffered from the same disease. "I saw in him the image of my illness. But I admired his strength and courage," she said.

When the pope died, she felt a great emptiness, as if she had lost someone who could sustain and support her. Two months later, her condition had worsened. Then, after prayers to the late pope, she awoke early one morning feeling well rested.

"I felt something had changed in me, and I was healed," she said. The crowd in the Circus Maximus erupted in applause.

Earlier, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Pope John Paul's spokesman, told the crowd that he would sometimes find the pope kneeling in prayer, surrounded by small pieces of paper, which he would read one by one. They were prayer intentions that arrived by the thousands — relatives of the gravely ill, parents of drug addicts, people looking for answers.

"All the pain of the world came

to him. And he nourished his prayer with the needs of the others. I don't think there was room in his prayer life for his own intentions," Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Dziwisz, the pope's personal secretary for some 40 years, said he knew he was living and working next to a saint — even before his election as pope in 1978.

The cardinal said he could remember only two times when Pope John Paul showed anger. One was during a trip to Sicily in 1993, when the pope vehemently denounced the Mafia in language that surprised even his close aides.

"It frightened all of us," Cardinal Dziwisz recalled.

The other time he saw the pope angry, he said, was just before the start of the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 2003, when the pope publicly warned that military action would never resolve the problems. "He was right," Cardinal



(CNS photo)

French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre addresses a crowd gathered at Rome's Circus Maximus on the eve of the beatification of Pope John Paul II April 30. She recounted her cure from Parkinson's disease, the same illness that affected the Polish pontiff. Her cure was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for his beatification.

Dziwisz added.

The vigil included recital of the luminous mysteries of the rosary, an innovation of Pope John Paul, led by pilgrims at the five sanctuaries connected via video, in Poland, Tanzania, Lebanon, Mexico and Portugal. The five mysteries were dedicated to intentions dear to the late pope: young people, the family, evangelization, hope and peace among peoples, and the church.

Eight churches in the center of Rome were being kept open all night so that people could pray until the opening of St. Peter's Square at 5:30 the next morning for the beatification Mass.

# By the Way...

In honor of the beatification of Pope John Paul II, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments announced that a Mass of thanksgiving may be celebrated in certain places and on certain days until May 1, 2012, one year from the beatification. Each diocesan bishop will establish the details of when and where this celebration will be permitted.



Jason Koshinski

Bishop Donald Trautman has determined that a Mass of thanksgiving may be offered, at the discretion of the pastor, in any parish in the Diocese of Erie on any Sunday in Ordinary Time with the exception of Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi and Christ the King.

Or, a Mass of thanksgiving might be offered in honor of Blessed John Paul II on any non-designated (ferial) weekday or a day designated as a memorial or optional memorial.

While thanksgiving Masses for a beatification — like the observance of a feast day — usually are limited to places where the person lived or worked, "the exceptional character of the beatification of the Venerable John Paul II, recognized by the entire Catholic Church spread throughout the world," led to a general permission for the thanksgiving Mass, said a decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Msgr. Gerald Orbanek has an episcopal shoe. Yes, that's correct—it's singular, not plural.

The longtime faculty member at Gannon University lives at the Bishop Michael J. Murphy Residence for Retired Priests, which is where Bishop Mark Barchak stayed for six weeks while recovering from foot surgery earlier this year. During a conversation, the then-bishop-elect, who had surgery on his right foot, said he purchased a pair of black loafers in size 13, much larger than his usual size 10 1/2. The bigger shoe would not only provide comfort because of the swelling from surgery but protection in case he would bump it.

Msgr. Orbanek, who had fractured his left ankle, asked him a natural question: "What are you going to do with the other shoe?" The bishop's spare loafer is now on the left foot of Msgr. Orbanek, who is hoping the larger clog will accommodate his foot and ankle, as well.

Bishop Barchak was the homilist at the funeral Mass for Father Greg Kirsch, who died April 28 after battling cancer. They, along with Father Jeff Lucas, are members of the diocese's ordination class of 1981.

In his remarks at his ordination and installation Mass April 19, Bishop Barchak mentioned Father Kirsch by name, noting that his friend and brother priest was too ill to attend but with him in prayer.

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

# Confirmations

Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake — Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Philip, Linesville; St. Peter, Crossingville; and Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake.

St. Francis Xavier, McKean — Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include All Saints, Waterford, and St. Francis Xavier, McKean.

St. Michael, Greenville — Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Margaret, Jamestown, and St. Michael, Greenville.

Notre Dame, Hermitage — Sunday, May 15 at 4 p.m.

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro — Monday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Lawrence, Albion; St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs; and Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro.

St. Luke, Erie — Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m.

St. John the Baptist, Erie — Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Rosary, Erie; Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; St. Stanislaus, Erie; Holy Trinity, Erie; and St. John the Baptist, Erie.

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway — Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg; St. Anne, Wilcox; and St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway.

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield — Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Timothy, Curwensville; St. Bonaventure, Grampian; and St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield.

St. Joseph, Oil City — Saturday, May 21 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Stephen, Oil City; Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City; St. Venantius, Rouseville; and St. Joseph, Oil City.

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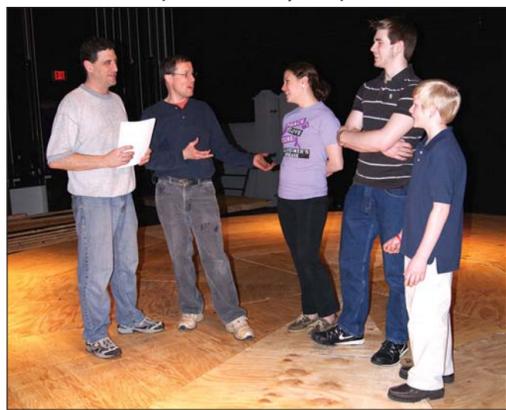
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Holy Land: May 26-June 5, June 18-28, June 30-July 10, Sept 1-11...  
Holy Land/Italy: May 9-22, June 20-July 3, Aug 29-Sept 11, Sept 12-25...  
France/Portugal/Spain: June 30-July 12, Sept 10-22, Sept 24-Oct 6...  
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## Briefly

### Les Miserables presented by Prep, Villa



ERIE – Father Michael DeMartinis (left), director/producer of *Les Miserables* school edition, which will be offered at Cathedral Prep in Erie this month, listens as Kevin Cooney discusses the 40-foot circular motorized stage he designed and built with the help of crew members. The platform, on which they are standing, is a key component of Prep's most ambitious theatrical undertaking to date. Also pictured are Kate Cooney, sophomore at Villa Maria Academy (Cosette), Prep freshman Nate Kaspar (Jean Valjean) and St. Peter Cathedral 5th grader Andy Kapsar (Gavroche). The musical production includes a full orchestra under the direction of Jake Malec.

Many major roles in the play are double-cast, allowing more of the 65 cast members from Prep and Villa opportunities to shine. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Performances are May 19-22 at 7 p.m. with additional matinees on May 21 and 22 at 2 p.m. A grade-school performance during the week has already sold out.

### Annulment seminars

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie will make seminar presentations on the annulment process at several locations throughout the diocese this spring.

Each seminar will begin at 7 p.m. Members of the Tribunal staff will be on hand to help answer any questions about annulments and the process.

Seminar dates and locations include:

- May 19 at Beloved Disciple, Grove City
- May 24 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie
- June 8 at St. Tobias, Brockway
- June 14 at St. Elizabeth, Smethport
- June 16 at St. Joseph, Oil City

For more information, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/tribunal.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/tribunal.asp).

### Family Honor presentation in Erie

ERIE – Family Honor of Northwestern Pennsylvania invites you to experience a sample of its currently-available program, "Real Love & Real Life."

This program, for 7th and 8th graders and their parents, aims to help young people understand the gift of sexuality, the virtue of chastity and helps parents support their children in making holy and healthy relationship decisions.

Highlights of this program will be presented on Sunday, May 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the auditorium of St. Mark Catholic Center, located at 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. Anyone interested (parents, catechists, DREs, pastors, principals, youth ministers, etc.) is most welcome to attend.

There is no cost. An RSVP is helpful but not required. For more information, contact Barb Pulice ([bpulice123@verizon.net](mailto:bpulice123@verizon.net) or 814.866.2775) or Father Chris Singer ([fathersinger@gmail.com](mailto:fathersinger@gmail.com) or 814.824.1135).

For more information, visit [www.familyhonor.org](http://www.familyhonor.org).

### Anniversary celebrations

Were you married in 1986, 1961 or 1951?

The Diocese of Erie's Family Life Office will sponsor anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 50 or 60 years of marriage in 2011. Celebrations will be held in two locations in the diocese:

- Sunday, Aug. 7 at Blessed Sacrament, Erie
- Sunday, Aug. 14 at Queen of the World, St. Marys

Bishop Donald Trautman will preside at both liturgies which will begin at 2 p.m. and include presentation of anniversary scrolls to the couples. A light reception will follow. Register online at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) or contact your parish office, the Family Life Office at 814.824.1250 or 800.374.3723 Ext. 250.

### Catholic Daughters biennial convention

SEVEN SPRINGS – Pennsylvania Catholic Daughters of the Americas will celebrate 100 years of service under the banner of "Unity and Charity" in conjunction with its 49th biennial convention at Seven Springs Resort, Seven Springs, Pa., May 20-23.

The convention will feature an opening Mass, reception for new members, banquet, seating of delegates, presentation of officers, memorial Mass for deceased members, cookout, election of officers and a Mass of installation.

For more information, visit [www.cdapa.org](http://www.cdapa.org).

## Administration announced for Elk County Catholic School System

ST. MARYS – Several administrators and department heads for the newly formed Elk County Catholic School System were announced at a news conference March 31 at the St. Marys Catholic Middle School cafeteria. Father Michael Ferrick, president of the school system and pastor of Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys, made the announcements.

"Today is a very exciting moment in the establishment of the Elk County Catholic School System," Father Ferrick said. "I look forward to working with these administrators and with each of you, a vital part of our school community, to move Catholic education forward here in St. Marys."

Sandy Florig, an administrator and educator over the years at both the elementary and high school level, was named principal of Elk County Catholic High School. Ted Hanes is the new assistant principal at the high school. Hanes will continue to teach and direct the school's drama program in addition to his administrative

duties. The principal for St. Marys Catholic Middle School will be John Schneider. Currently the assistant principal at Elk County Catholic High School, Schneider will begin his new assignment July 1 but will be involved with the preparations and staffing appointments taking place in the next few months.

Mary Beth Schaut is the new principal of St. Marys Catholic Elementary School. Schaut has served as an elementary school teacher and principal.

Bob Briendel was named the school system's director of finance, and Mary Meyer is the new director of advancement. Meyer has served as faculty member at Elk County Catholic High School, and previously worked in the high school development office until becoming the development/advancement director for the St. Marys Catholic Elementary/Middle School System.

At the conclusion of the announcements, Father Ferrick



Pictured left to right are administrators of the Elk County Catholic School System: (front row) Sandy Florig, principal at Elk County Catholic High School; Mary Meyer, director of advancement; Mary Beth Schaut, principal of St. Marys Catholic Elementary School; (back row) John Schneider, principal of St. Marys Catholic Middle School; Bob Breindel, director of finance; Father Michael Ferrick, president; and Ted Hanes, assistant principal at Elk County Catholic High School.

reminded those gathered that no decisions have been made about school buildings and that all grades and buildings will remain the same for the 2011-12 school year.

In November, school officials announced the combining of Elk

County Catholic High School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary School System to form a new entity, the Elk County Catholic School System (ECCSS), giving the St. Marys area a unified Catholic preschool through 12th grade school system.

## Seminarian ordained to diaconate

ERIE – Brandon Kleckner, a seminarian for the Diocese of Erie, was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Donald Trautman on April 30 at St. Mark Seminary's chapel in Erie.

Kleckner, who is from Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, is a third-year theology student studying for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. He is the son of Neal Kleckner Jr. and Cathy Kleckner.

Being ordained to the diaconate moves Deacon Kleckner another step closer to priesthood. He is scheduled to be ordained a priest in 2012.

During his remarks, Bishop Trautman noted that Deacon Kleckner is the first graduate of Villa Maria Academy to be or-



dained. Deacon Kleckner has been assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield.

Above, Bishop Trautman imposes his hands on Deacon Kleckner during the ordination rite.

## Good Shepherd Sunday Special collection May 14-15 to aid in care of retired diocesan priests

Do you remember the parish priest who heard your first confession, gave you your first holy Communion or prepared you for confirmation?

He was there again when you said "I do" or visited you or a loved one in the hospital.

Priests of the Diocese of Erie are active in so many aspects of the lives of those in their care, even after retirement.

There are 52 priests in the diocese who have reached retirement age. By their own choice, six of them still have a full-time assignment as a senior associate, temporary parochial administrator or pastor. Since their ordination, these retired and senior priests have served in the majority of the diocese's 117 parishes, 21 missions and five oratories.

Good Shepherd Sunday is an opportunity to say thanks to our retired diocesan priests for their many years of faithful service. On Good Shepherd Sunday May 14-15, a special collection will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese to assist with the needs of caring for retired diocesan priests.

The purpose of the collection is to help cover the escalating costs of assisted living and long-term health care expenses for those priests who have faithfully cared for the spiritual needs of others for many years.

For more information on the Good Shepherd collection, including a list of retired priests by parish, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).



## DEATH NOTICES

### Father Gregory Kirsch, JCL, VF

Father Gregory Kirsch, JCL, VF, 55, currently serving as pastor of Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Madera, died April 28, 2011 at Clearfield Hospital.

He was born May 29, 1955 in Clearfield, a son of the late Clair Joseph and Ruth Ermina (Feighner) Kirsch. He attended St. Francis School from 1961-1969. He then attended St. Francis High School, graduating in 1973. Father Kirsch attended the Pennsylvania State University from 1973-1975 and then entered St. Mark Seminary, Erie. He graduated with his bachelors' degree from Gannon University, Erie. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora,



Father Gregory Kirsch

N.Y. Father Kirsch was ordained to the priesthood on May 15, 1981. He served as assistant pastor of St. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney, from 1981-1987 and as assistant pastor of St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, from 1987-1991.

In 1991 he was appointed vice chancellor and the bishop's master of ceremonies for the Diocese of Erie. He continued in this capacity until 2000. During this time he received a licentiate degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Father Kirsch served as pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Morrisdale, from 2000-2008, after which time he became pastor of Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Madera. He also served in the diocesan Office of Matrimonial Concerns, the Presbyteral Council, College of Consultors, and as dean of the Clearfield Deanery. He was a member of the Canon Law Society of America and the Knights of Columbus.

### Sister Elaine Sandy, RSM

Sister Elaine Sandy, RSM, 80, of the Sisters of Mercy, died April 27, 2011.

She was born in Sykesville on September 9, 1930, a daughter of the late Cluey and Mary Sferro Sandy.

Sister Elaine entered the Sisters of Mercy on July 1, 1950 in Titusville from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Sykesville and professed her final vows on

August 2, 1956. She observed her diamond jubilee in September 2010.

Sister Elaine received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst College in 1968 and pursued additional studies at both Carlow University, Pittsburgh, and Clarion University, Clarion.

From 1950 to 1975, she taught at St. Walburga School, Titusville; St. Patrick School, Franklin; Immaculate Conception School, Brookville; St. Michael School, Greenville; St. Thomas School, Corry; and St. Luke School, Erie. She also served as a choir director for those schools. From 1976-1990 Sister taught English at Mercyhurst Prep School and then served as audio visual aids director from 1990-2005.



Sister Elaine Sandy, RSM

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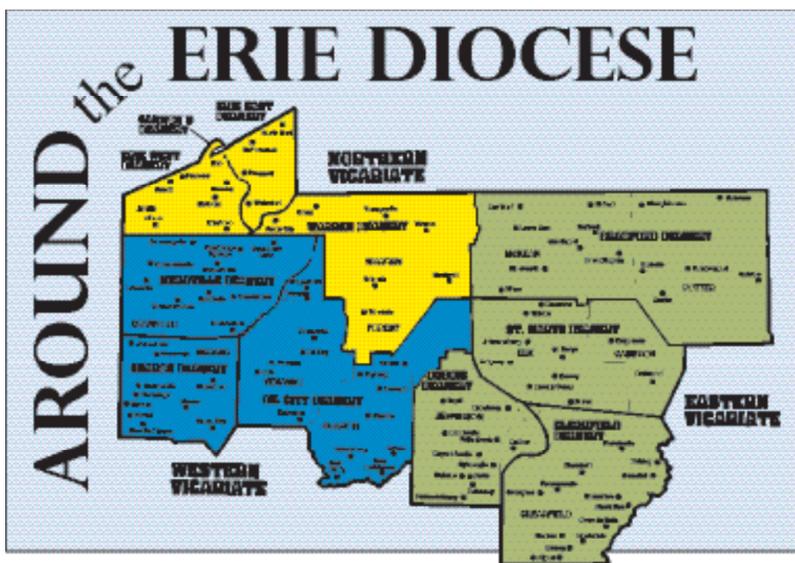
Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

**Good Shepherd Sunday**

We say thanks to our retired diocesan priests for their faithful service.

Provide them with the same love and generosity they gave us for generations.

**Good Shepherd Collection**  
May 14-15



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

Visit [ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp](http://ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp) to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



### Family Honor offers 'Real Love & Real Love' program in St. Marys

ST. MARYS – Thirty families from the Catholic parishes in Elk County participated in Family Honor's "Real Love & Real Life," a chastity education program for 7th and 8th grade teenagers and their parents.

On four Monday evenings in March, they met in the chapel at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys. Through participation in interactive skits, small group discussions and other informative presentations, families enjoyed an opportunity to learn together about sexuality, real friendships, true love, chastity and more and had fun in the process.

Family Honor is designed to assist families in learning a common language and practical tools to continue those chats about resisting peer pressure, future dating and becoming a happy, healthy and holy adult.

Family Honor offers programs throughout the Diocese of Erie with two presentation teams—one in St. Marys and one in Erie. Family Honor is also partnering



Thirty families attended Family Honor's "Real Love & Real Life" chastity education program at Elk County Catholic High School throughout March. After the program, many people commented on the positive experience their family had.

with the diocese to offer its web-based course, "The Truth and Meaning of Sexuality, Love and Family: Cultural Implications," for any interested teachers who are responsible for teaching the chastity curriculum in the Catho-

lic School system. For more information or a listing of upcoming programs, visit [www.familyhonor.org](http://www.familyhonor.org) or contact Laury Kraus 814.781.6746 or Father Chris Singer at 814.824.1135.

### Seminarian installed to Ministry of Reader

LATROBE – Thomas Trocchio, a seminarian from the Diocese of Erie, was installed to the Ministry of Reader on April 4 at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe by Bishop William Winter, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Trocchio is from St. Patrick Parish in Franklin and a native of Cooperstown. He is the son of Thomas T. Trocchio and the late Monica Sue Deer. He is a 2002 graduate of Plum Senior High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from Gannon University, Erie, in 2010.

Pictured from left to right: Father Michael Kesicki, rector



and director of diocesan seminarians, Diocese of Erie; Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector, St. Mark Seminary, Erie; Trocchio;

Bishop Winter; Deacon Michael Peck, Diocese of Pittsburgh; and Father Justin Matro, OSB, rector, St. Vincent Seminary.

### Knights of Columbus help welcome Catholics home

GROVE CITY – Knights of Columbus Council No. 3658 at Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City aided the parish in welcoming Catholics back to church during the Catholics Come Home campaign.

The Knights paid for the rental of two billboards featuring the Catholics Come Home logo and website information. The billboards were rented on U.S. Route 208 (by the Rescue Squad) and U.S. 173 South (near the I-80 Grove City exit).



### Edinboro University Singers perform at St. Callistus, Kane

KANE – The Edinboro University Singers performed a spring concert on March 27 at St. Callistus Parish in Kane.

Alexa Anderson, a local student, is a freshman member of the choir and the daughter of John and Amy Anderson.

"She has been and still helps us at St. Callistus as a cantor," said Father Philip Pinczewski, pastor.

The concert was the first stop on the choir's spring tour.

The University Singers are a 60-voice concert choir. Membership is by audition, and the singers must demonstrate a high



degree of musicality as well as technical vocal proficiency.

The repertoire of the University Singers is wide ranging and eclectic, spanning from 16th

century to the present and representing the mainstream of the choral repertoire. The singers are directed by Dr. Peter van den Honert.

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or at the church office  
147 West 24th St., Erie  
Buy \$50 worth of tickets now and receive a chance to win a \$50 Visa card. Drawing every two weeks.

### Fourth annual Science Expo at DACS

DUBOIS – DuBois Area Catholic Elementary School held its fourth annual Science Expo April 4.

The expo is a day-long display event of student-made science projects from kindergarten through 5th grade. All students demonstrate their work to fellow classmates. The evening portion of the expo includes parent volunteers manning hands-on science activities. Prizes are awarded to all participants.

Pictured (left to right) are 5th graders Connor Fitzwater, Meghan Graeca, Madison Nasuti (with her project on ice melts) and Maddy Barnett.



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