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# FaithLife

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www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 13, 2010

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Immaculate Heart of Mary



St. Aloysius Gonzaga

- June 12 Immaculate Heart of Mary
- June 19 St. Romuald
- June 21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga
- June 22 St. Paulinus of Nola, Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More
- June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

## Confirmations

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

## U.S. bishops spring meeting – June 14-19

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will hold its spring meeting and retreat June 14-19 in St. Petersburg, Fla.



## Religious Scouting Awards – June 20

Individual and group badges, patches, honors and awards will be presented to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies throughout the Erie Diocese for their achievements in the areas of spiritual growth on Sunday, June 20 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, at 2 p.m. For more information on scouting in the Erie Diocese, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/scout.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/scout.asp).

## Peter's Pence collection – June 26-27

Every year in June, near the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, the church throughout the world takes up the annual Peter's Pence collection to support the charitable works of the Holy Father as he responds to some of the world's most urgent needs.

These needs include sending relief to victims of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. The Holy Father also supports seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers and other medical treatment facilities in developing nations, as well as many other charitable works.

This collection will be taken up in parishes throughout the Erie Diocese during the weekend of June 26-27.



## Clergy appointments

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

Father Justin Pino, appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Oil City, for a term of six years. Also appointed diocesan archivist. Effective June 19, 2010.



Father John Malthaner, appointed to residence at St. Joseph Parish rectory, Oil City, while continuing as headmaster of Venango Catholic High School and administrator of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Oil City. Effective June 19, 2010.

Father Johnathon Schmolz, appointed parochial vicar of St. George Parish, Erie, for a term of three years. Effective June 25, 2010.

## Women of spirit, courage and vision

### Sisters of St. Joseph mark 150 years of service in the Erie Diocese

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God has been at the heart of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania for 150 years.

And while the times might change, the mission will always remain the same. The Sisters of St. Joseph are marking a historic jubilee of 150 years of service in the Erie Diocese and the 13 counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

"The hope is that this is really a year of thanksgiving for all the gifts we have been given and the people who have journeyed with us and have supported us in our ministries," said Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ, a member of the congregation's leadership team. "It's a year of gratitude and jubilee."

The community traces its beginning to the mid-17th century and Le-Puy-en-Velay, a village in France. Mother Agnes Spencer, who founded the local congregation, was one of the first sisters to arrive in the United States. She traveled from Philadelphia to Wheeling, W. Va., to Canandaigua, N.Y., to Buffalo and anywhere she was needed.

"She had strong character to answer the call of bishops up and down the East Coast," said Sister Leonie Shanley, SSJ.

Sister Leonie, along with Sister Mary Francis Becker,



Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ, was the first superior of the congregation in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

SSJ, are authoring and designing "Come to the Waters," a book on the history of the congregation which will be released in October.

Bishop Joshua Young invited Mother Agnes to the Erie Diocese in 1860. She then began direction of the St. Ann's Academy for Girls in Corsica.

Within 20 years after the sisters' arrival in the diocese, more than 2,000 students were under their instruction. The care of orphans and the sick shortly followed, first in Meadville then in Erie. They founded Spencer Hospital, Meadville; St. Vincent Hospital, Erie; St. Vincent School of Nursing; St. Mary's Home of Erie; Villa Maria Academy, Elementary School and Villa Maria College among numerous other ministries. They staffed schools throughout the diocese as well as St. Joseph Orphanage and Harborcreek Home for Boys.

"The ministries were very



The Sisters of St. Joseph and their guests celebrated the congregation's 150th anniversary May 23 with a Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

broad right from the beginning with very few sisters," Sister Leone said.

In the late 1800s, she noted that the administration of St. Vincent, St. Joseph's Home, Villa Maria Academy, St. Mary's Home and a number

of diocesan schools were under the care of just 35 sisters.

The Sisters of St. Joseph continue to be involved in health care and caring for the elderly, and education is still an important ministry, said Sister Mary Ellen.

"I don't see the mission changing," she said. "We're always open to new ministries and meeting the needs of people. We'll continue to be involved in the care of our neighbors wherever that leads."

During this anniversary celebration, Sister Mary Ellen said the sisters look forward to connecting and re-connecting with those they have ministered with and to throughout the years. They plan on holding events at places where they have had key ministries, including Bradford, Sharon, Meadville and Ridgway.

"Reconnection is a key to all of this," Sister Mary Ellen said. "We're a very relational group. It is neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God."

### SSJs to highlight anniversary year with special events

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania will mark their 150th anniversary with a number of special events. The anniversary will also be acknowledged during the congregation's annual endeavors. For details, visit [www.ssjerie.org](http://www.ssjerie.org).

**Anniversary Mass and reception – May 23**  
More than 800 sisters, associates and friends attended an anniversary Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie followed by a reception at the Bayfront Convention Center.

**Wreath laying ceremony – May 29**  
Community members visited Trinity and Calvary cemeteries in Erie and St. Ann Cemetery in Corsica where 455 deceased Sisters of St. Joseph are buried.

**Dedication and open house – June 26**  
The sisters will unveil the congregation's new administration building, which is located adjacent to the sisters' Community Living Center in Erie. The event is scheduled for 1:30-3 p.m.

**Summer concerts – July 30-31**  
The Erie Chamber Orchestra will host summer concerts on the lawn at Villa Maria Academy.

**Circle of Friends – Aug. 15**  
An annual summer highlight, the day includes an outdoor liturgy, picnic supper, children's games and activities and duck races.

**Book release and signing – Oct. 15**  
"Come to the Waters," a book on the history of the community, will be released during a book signing at the sisters' Community Living Center.

**SSJ Spirit of Courage – Oct. 5**  
This annual event honors individuals who have shown remarkable courage in recovery from an accident, injury, illness, addiction, economic adversity or who have shown courage in another way.

Former sisters will be invited to participate in the 150th celebration at a homecoming event in August. The sisters will also host appreciation events over the next several months at locations throughout the Erie Diocese including Crawford, Elk, Erie, McKean and Mercer counties.

### Sisters of St. Joseph timeline

To visit the Sisters of St. Joseph online archives, go to <http://ssjerie.memoriamuseum.com>. The Memoria Virtual Museum features a plethora of photos and information about the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph and their ministry to the people of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

- 1650** The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania trace their history to the founding of a vowed community of women religious in LePuy, France.
- 1836** After disbanding during the French Revolution, the community re-established itself in the early 19th century. Several sisters arrived near St. Louis, Mo., and American foundations began.
- 1860** On May 24, 1860, at the invitation of Bishop Joshua Young, Mother Agnes Spencer came to the Erie Diocese where she assumed the direction of St. Ann's Academy for Girls in Corsica.
- 1870** St. Joseph's Hospital was built adjacent to the convent in Meadville. It was later renamed Spencer Hospital in honor of Mother Agnes Spencer.
- 1875** Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Vincent Hospital becomes the Erie area's first hospital.
- 1982** The SSJ Associate program is established, allowing lay men and women to join the community in its mission, prayer and ministries.
- 2010** Nearly 350 sisters and associates in Northwestern Pennsylvania respond to the needs of neighbors through various ministries.

## Catholic Charities Ball raises more than \$68,000 for people in need

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The 15th annual Catholic Charities Ball was the most successful ever, netting more than \$68,000 in proceeds which will go to families and individuals in need throughout the Erie Diocese.

The ball, held April 16 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, topped last year's record total of \$53,000.

Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, director of development for Catholic Charities and president of The Catholic Foundation, said the increase of \$15,000 in proceeds from last year can be attributed to a number of factors including an increase in major sponsors, host couples and attendees.

All proceeds will go to individuals and families in need throughout the diocese, McCloskey said. Catholic Charities' board of directors will be responding to grant requests from affiliate agencies. She expects the funds to impact more than 20,000



James and Mary Ann Toohey

people in the diocese.

"Our agencies have seen a more than 30 percent increase from individuals for emergency assistance in the past year," she said. "Our Catholic Charities Ball proceeds are one of the ways we're trying to meet those needs across the diocese."

Nearly \$200,000 has been raised through the Catholic Charities Ball during the last four years.

The international theme of "World of Wonder" was reflected throughout the décor. Flags of different countries hung on the walls, and food stations provided a taste of famous dishes throughout the world.

Attorney James and Mary Ann Toohey were honored

with the Helping Hands Award. Created by Catholic Charities in 2006, the Helping Hands Award is given annually to an individual, family or organization that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community. The Tooheys were recognized for the service at their home parish of St. George in Erie and to the community.

Bishop Donald Trautman was also honored as the ball was held 25 years to the day that he was ordained auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo. Five years later he was named bishop of the Erie Diocese.

"We also wanted to recognize him for his fundamental concern for the poor and marginalized, for his passion for life at all stages and for his vision in establishing Catholic Charities as a diocesan network of collaborative services," McCloskey said.

View a photo slideshow highlighting the 2010 Catholic Charities Ball including the celebrity dance contest at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

## Benedictine Sisters of Erie elect new prioress

### Sister Anne Wambach to be installed July 11

ERIE – The Benedictine Sisters of Erie have announced that Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, was elected the religious community's 21st prioress on May 31 for a term of five years.

Sister Anne is currently the executive director of the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. She will be officially installed on July 11 at Mount St. Benedict in Erie during an invitation-only Mass and ceremony.

"In these challenging times, Jesus and St. Benedict demonstrate a radically different way of living in the world," Sister Anne said in a statement. "Aware of the global issues that confront us today and well into the future, I hope that we can be a prophetic voice calling all to wholeness and holiness."

Sister Anne succeeds Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, who has served as the com-

munity's prioress since 1998. A native of Philadelphia, Sister Anne began religious life as a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pa.

She earned her bachelor's degree in education and a master's in liturgy and liturgical music at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind. She ministered at several schools in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey and assisted in the parish liturgies as cantor, pianist and oboist. With her foundational years calling her to monastic life, she began the process of transfer in 1993 and became a full member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1997.

Sister Anne has served as an elementary teacher and principal for much of her professional life and is also a liturgical musician.

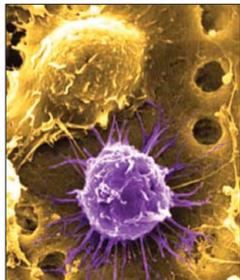


Sister Anne Wambach, OSB



## IN THE U.S.

■ **Foundations affiliated with the Pontifical Council for Culture and an international biopharmaceutical company** will work together to educate Catholics and others around the world about the benefits of adult stem-cell research. Father Tomasz Trafny, an official with the Vatican agency, and Dr. Robin Smith, chairman and chief executive of NeoStem, announced the collaboration at a May 25 news conference in New York. "Through educational initiatives with NeoStem and sponsorship of scientific research programs involving cutting-edge adult stem-cell science which does not hurt human life, we come one step closer to a breakthrough that can relieve needless human suffering," Father Trafny said. The culture council's foundation — called STOQ International, for Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest — had made an initial economic commitment of \$1 million, the priest said. NeoStem's involvement is through its Stem for Life Foundation. One of the first fruits of the collaboration will be an international, interdisciplinary conference at the Vatican in 2011 on adult stem-cell research.



■ **Hispanics are better represented among the nation's permanent deacons than in the U.S. priesthood**, although neither group is as diverse as the U.S. Catholic population, according to a new survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. Commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, the survey found that 14 percent of deacons are Hispanic or Latino,

compared with 3 percent of U.S. priests and about 26 percent of the U.S. Catholic population over 35, the minimum age for ordination to the diaconate. In other racial and ethnic categories, however, portraits of the U.S. diaconate and priesthood were similar, according to the CARA report. Eighty-one percent of deacons and 83 percent of priests are non-Hispanic whites, and 2 percent of each group is black. Two percent of deacons and 3 percent of priests are Asian-Americans or Pacific Islanders, while 1 percent of deacons and 9 percent of priests were of other ethnic backgrounds. CARA estimated that the U.S. Catholic population over age 35 was 67 percent non-Hispanic white, 26 percent Hispanic, 3 percent black and 4 percent "other" in April 2008. The survey results, made public by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in late May, also presented a portrait of the U.S. diaconate in terms of deacons' ministries, education and other demographic characteristics.

■ **A letter from the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** has stated the bishops' opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because of the bill's potential to "jeopardize our religious freedom to live our faith and moral tenets in today's society." The bishops added that the measure, known as ENDA, could be used to justify legal protection for same-sex marriage, based on similar state-based nondiscrimination laws. The bill would add sexual orientation to the list of individual characteristics that would bar employers from discriminating against. "We cannot support any bill — such as ENDA in its current form — that would legally affirm and specially protect any sexual conduct outside of marriage," said the letter, dated May 19 and sent to individual members of Congress. The bishops restated "two basic tenets" of the church — that "persons with a homosexual inclination" must be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity" and that under no circumstances can homosexual acts be approved.

## AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Catholics expect a lot from their priests and Pope Benedict XVI is no exception.** Some people might have thought the pope convoked the June 2009-2010 Year for Priests as a praise-fest for the church's collared class, but instead he highlighted the importance of priests in the life of the church by exhorting them to live up to their calling. In hundreds of speeches throughout the year and in a special three-part series during his weekly general audiences in April and May, Pope Benedict described the identity and mission of priests, asked Catholics to pray for their ministers and asked the men in black not just to be good priests, but to be holy.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **More than 110,000 people attended the June 6 open-air beatification Mass of a Catholic priest who was murdered by communist agents**, confirming his place as one of the church's most conspicuous modern martyrs. Polish church leaders hope the beatification will also recall values for which Father Jerzy Popieluszko gave his life and revive interest in a remarkable story of Christian courage and witness. "People are full of expectations here, especially those who directly experienced his work," said Archbishop Henryk Muszynski of Gniezno. "He wasn't a forceful speaker or political activist, but someone of deep conviction and integrity," he said. The bound and gagged body of 37-year-old Father Popieluszko, who was well-known in Poland for sermons defending human rights, was dredged from a reservoir on the Vistula River near Wloclawek Oct. 30, 1984, just 11 days after he was kidnapped while returning from a night Mass in Bydgoszcz. His murder was widely credited with helping discredit and undermine communist rule.



Father Jerzy Popieluszko

## By the Way...

For many couples who have participated in a Marriage Encounter over the years, Msgr. Edward Zeidler was the priest who guided them through the weekend-long program. Father "Z," a senior associate at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, will be celebrating his 80th birthday on June 26.



Jason Koshinski

Mary Beth and John Zdarko, coordinators of the diocese's Marriage Encounter program, are hoping that many will join them in wishing him a happy birthday. Their goal is for Father Z to receive 80 cards between now and his birthday. If you'd like to join in, please mail cards to: Msgr. Edward Zeidler "Fr. Z," Notre Dame Parish, 2325 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA 16148.

We offer our sympathy to Father Mark Mastrian, pastor of St. Timothy Parish in Curwensville and St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian, on the passing of his mother, Wanda Mastrian, of Warren. She died June 2 at Christ the King Manor in DuBois where she was a resident for the past three years.

Priests of the Erie Diocese will be attending their annual Emmaus Convocation which will be held June 21-24 at St. Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe. Those attending daily Mass should consult their parish bulletin for Mass times and Communion services.

Please remember to keep all our priests in your prayers during this important time of prayer and fellowship.

Five young women from across the United States gathered in Erie and Buffalo May 22-29 for Mercy Challenge, an experience for those who are interested in the lifestyle and ministry of the Sisters of Mercy.

In particular, participants found out how the Sisters of Mercy meet the needs of the people locally with a May 26-28 visit to Erie. Among the stops, they met with clients at the Mercy Center on Aging and the Mercy Center for Women.

Three of last year's seven Mercy Challenge participants have entered the Sisters of Mercy. Look for a story on Mercy Challenge in the July/August issue of *Faith* magazine.

With the Shroud of Turin now carefully put away, church officials said more than 2 million pilgrims came to venerate the linen cloth in the six weeks it was on display. During the April 10 to May 23 exposition, officials said 2,113,128 people from around the world passed through the Turin cathedral to catch a glimpse or say a prayer before the cloth revered by many Christians as the shroud that covered the body of the crucified Christ.

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

## DEATH NOTICES

### Sister Joanne Crawford, SSJ, dies at 73

*Longtime teacher ministered in Johnsonburg, St. Marys for 35 years*

Sister Joanne Crawford, SSJ, 73, died May 31, 2010 at the Sisters of St. Joseph convent in Johnsonburg. She was in her 56th year of religious life.

She was born in Kane on July



Sister Joanne Crawford, SSJ

20, 1936, the daughter of the late Laverne and Mary Calhoun Crawford. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Joseph Parish in Erie on February 2, 1955 and professed her final vows on August 15, 1960.

Sister Joanne earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College in 1965 and library science certification from Edinboro University in

1967.

Sister Joanne taught in diocesan schools including St. Patrick, St. Andrew, Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, St. John and Holy Rosary in Erie, as well as St. Brigid, Meadville; St. Bernard, Bradford; and Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg.

She ministered to the people of Johnsonburg and St. Marys for 35 years.

### Sister Mary Clare McWilliams, RSM, dies at 97

*Teacher, principal also served as nurse*

She entered the Sisters of Mercy on October 29, 1933, at Mercyhurst College, Erie. She professed perpetual vows on April 11, 1939.

In 1961 she celebrated her silver jubilee; in 1984 her golden jubilee; in 1994 her diamond jubilee; and in 2008 her 75th jubilee.



Sister Mary Clare McWilliams, RSM

DeLancey; and Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney. She also taught at St. Justin in Pittsburgh and served as principal at St. Michael, Greenville, and St. Patrick, Franklin.

During her nursing career, she ministered at St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh; DuBois Hospital, DuBois; and the infirmary of the Sisters of Mercy. She served at Chinle Hospital and Indian Health Service on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona from 1963-69. She also served as the general superior of the Sisters of Mercy, Erie.

Her ministries included teaching high school chemistry and mathematics in the Erie Diocese at St. Edward, Corry; St. Adrian,

## Pope brings message of peace to Cyprus, Middle East

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

PAPHOS, Cyprus — As tensions swirled just to the north in Turkey and to the south in Gaza, Pope Benedict XVI landed in Cyprus praying for peace.

The pope began his June 4-6 visit to Cyprus, in the far eastern Mediterranean Sea, by blessing an olive tree.

The trip began one day after the president of the Turkish bishops' conference was killed by his driver, who had been experiencing psychiatric problems.

And even as the pope was flying from Rome, international tensions were simmering over Israel's raid on a flotilla of boats trying to run the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Cyprus itself is not a stranger to tension; the island has been divided between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots since 1974. U.N. peacekeepers patrol a buffer zone between the two sides, and the Vatican nuncio's residence, where the pope was staying, is in the zone.

President Demetris Christofias told the pope, "Your presence here conveys a strong message of peace over hatred and war. We share with you the same vision for peace and social justice."

Pope Benedict went directly from the airport to the Church



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI blesses children during a ceremony at St. Maron Catholic School in Nicosia, Cyprus, June 5.

of Agia Kiriaki Chrysopolitissa, which stands in the midst of an archaeological park with the remains of a fourth-century Christian basilica.

Amid the cream-colored stones and ancient marble columns, the pope presided over an ecumenical prayer service honoring St. Paul and Barnabas, who preached the Gospel in Cyprus in about 45 AD.

According to the Acts of the Apostles, the pro-consul of the Roman Empire converted to Christianity as a result of the apostles' ministry.

"Thus it was from this place that the Gospel message began to spread throughout the empire" and take root in Europe, the pope said.

### FaithLife

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## PROXIMO TRAVEL 2010

**Italy / Switzerland:** June 26-July 8 / July 3-15  
July 17-29 / Sept. 4-16 / Sept. 18-30 / Oct. 2-14...  
**Italy Regular:** June 26-July 4 / Sept. 18-26 / Oct. 9-17...  
**Holy Land:** Sept. 9-19 / Sept. 20-30 / Oct. 7-17  
Oct. 18-28 / Nov. 8-18  
**France / Spain / Portugal:** July 12-24 / Oct. 2-14  
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# Tomorrow's priests

## Father Christopher Barnes

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

After many years of prayers and discernment and much encouragement of family, friends, priests and co-workers in Christ's work, I answered the call to serve Christ and follow him wherever he calls me.

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

I was working as a funeral director at a funeral home in Bradford and I encountered a priest who very much reminded me of the priests who had inspired me as a young boy. I just felt that the Lord was calling me toward that.

That process took four-and-a-half years of prayer, discernment and meeting with a spiritual director and just being open to what Christ was calling me to. After much encouragement from family, friends, priests and co-workers in Christ's work, I answered the call to serve Christ and follow him wherever he calls me.

What do you look forward to in becoming a priest?

To serving the people of God in the Diocese of Erie.

**Age:** 38

**Hometown:** Rouseville

**Home parish:** St. Venantius, Rouseville

**Family:** Parents, Charles and Martha Barnes; sister, Brooke

**Education:**

Rouseville Elementary School  
St. Stephen School, Oil City  
Oil City Schools  
Oil City Junior High School  
Oil City Senior High School  
Clarion University at Venango  
University of Pittsburgh at Titusville  
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (BS in biology)  
Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (associate degree in specialized funeral service arts and sciences)

Gannon University, Erie  
St. Mark Seminary, Erie  
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe (M.Div.)

**Deacon assignments:**

St. James, Erie  
St. Teresa of Avila, Pittsburgh



## Father Ross Miceli

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

It started when I received first Communion in second grade. That was the moment when I realized how important it was to be Catholic and how important the priesthood is for bringing Jesus to the world. I'm sure at the time my only understanding of priesthood was someone who could literally bring Jesus to others and show them the risen Lord through the sacraments and life itself – and I wanted to be a part of that – somehow, somehow.

Later on in life, people would suggest it, but it never really clicked until I entered seminary and took the time to really discern what God wanted for my life. After three years of seminary, I realized that I was following God's plan for me and was more open to pursuing this vocation of love and service.

What do you look forward to in becoming a priest?

Growing in faith, love and hope with the people of God throughout the diocese and world. Being able to share in peoples' joys and blessings as well as moments of sorrow and darkness; bringing a hopeful understanding of the love of God into their daily lives.

**Age:** 26

**Hometown:** Sykesville

**Home parish:** St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois

**Family:** Mother, Linda Miceli

**Education:**

St. Catherine Elementary School, DuBois  
Central Catholic Middle School, DuBois  
Central Catholic High School, DuBois  
Gannon University, Erie (BA liberal arts, minors in archaeology and business administration)  
St. Mark Seminary, Erie  
St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore (M.Div., S.T.B.)

**Deacon assignments:**

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield



I hope to serve those in most need of God's love and peace especially in building up the Christian community, liberating people from sinful structures and proclaiming a message of love modeled after the Holy Trinity.

## Father Michael Polinek

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

I never had any childhood moments about becoming a priest. It wasn't until I made a retreat called To Encounter Christ (TEC) in February 2001. TEC put me on an unknown life-changing path. It wasn't until April 2001 that I realized a seminary was sitting on that path.

That whole year, starting with TEC, was a pre-seminary formation year. I was working as a department manager at Wal-Mart, attending daily Mass, hanging out with seminarians, working youth rallies and retreats that summer and fall, and God began to put situations and opportunities in front of me such as seminary open houses and meeting new people.

I didn't feel called to be a priest when I entered the seminary. I couldn't see myself saying Mass, preaching or hearing confessions, but I did feel called to live in the seminary. So God wasn't showing me the whole puzzle but putting me together piece by piece.

It was probably the middle of my second year in seminary where I thought that this might be for me. And that is what seminary is all about: feeling it out but remaining faithful to the seminary rule of life and striving for holiness. The rest takes care of itself.

**Age:** 31

**Hometown:** Erie

**Home parish:** St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie

**Family:** Parents, Mark and Charlene Polinek; sister, Christine

**Education:**

Vernondale Elementary School, Erie  
Westlake Middle School, Erie  
McDowell High School, Erie  
Gannon University, Erie (liberal arts undergraduate degree, concentration in philosophy and theology)  
St. Mark Seminary, Erie  
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe (M. Div.)

**Deacon assignments:**

St. Joseph, Oil City  
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg

What do you look forward to in becoming a priest?

In the priesthood, I really look forward to being an extension of Jesus Christ, the one high priest, and reaching out to all people to lead them into a deeper relationship with God.



## Father Matias Quimno

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

I grew up in a Catholic family. We'd go to Mass together every week. My grandparents were very devoted. They'd go to Mass every day. I was involved with the church at a very young age. In the Philippines, we were served by missionaries. I was touched by their dedication and good example. They are very instrumental in spreading the Catholic faith and ministering in churches, hospitals and schools.

I entered seminary after high school but stopped because of problems in my family. My father died in prison, and I was really searching for answers. I was groping in darkness and in pain, but I wasn't open to anyone else. I was looking for answers to some deep questions and I became involved in the charismatic community. They helped me a lot to rediscover my vocation and put the pieces of my life back together until I was able to see the hand of God in all situations. It gave me a lot of perspective on suffering. And I went back to the seminary.

**Editor's note:** Father Quimno was aided by his charismatic community in coming to the United States. Once here, he applied to study for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J. He transferred to the Erie Diocese to be closer to his sister and family.

What do you look forward to in becoming a priest?

I did not expect I would have the fortune to one day come to the U.S. Like it says in

**Age:** 41

**Hometown:** Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines

**Home parish:** San Isidro Labrador, Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur; All Saints, Waterford

**Family:** Mother, Paulita Madera Quimno; Siblings, Salvador Quimno, Aida Anora, Paulita Latimer, Aproniano Quimno.

**Education:**

San Miguel Primary School, San Miguel, Maramag, Bukidnon, Philippines  
Baillihan Central Elementary School, Baillihan, Bohol, Philippines  
St. Columban College, Pagadian City, Philippines  
St. Vincent School of Theology, Quezon City, Philippines  
Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, N.Y.

**Deacon assignments:**

St. Agatha, Meadville  
Beloved Disciple, Grove City



the Gospel, I want to go forth and preach to all nations. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

## Father Matthew Strickenberger

When did you realize you might have a vocation to the priesthood? Was there a particular moment or event?

Under the example of the priests and religious sisters of my home parish and early schooling, I began to think about a vocation to the priesthood around 8th grade. These holy men and women showed me the joy and compassion of a life of faithful ministry in priestly and religious service.

As my own vocation journey unfolded, I spent several years in college seminary but eventually needed more time to consider the nature of this call. As I was working as the pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Oil City in 2005, I remember feeling a strong movement in my heart to return to seminary. Shortly after the death of Pope John Paul II, I knew that I needed to answer this deep burning in my own heart; it was the call to the priesthood. This was certainly an unexpected and unplanned moment, but it was most definitely the right thing to do.

What do you look forward to in becoming a priest?

I look forward to the opportunity to minister to and with the people of God in the Diocese of Erie; to offer the sacra-

**Age:** 32

**Hometown:** Oil City

**Home parish:** St. Stephen, Oil City

**Family:** Parents, Benjamin and Patricia Strickenberger

**Education:**

St. Stephen School, Oil City  
Venango Christian High School, Oil City  
Gannon University, Erie (BA in liberal arts)  
St. Mark Seminary, Erie  
St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore (M.Div. and S.T.B.)

**Deacon assignments:**

St. Brigid, Meadville  
Church of the Holy Apostles,



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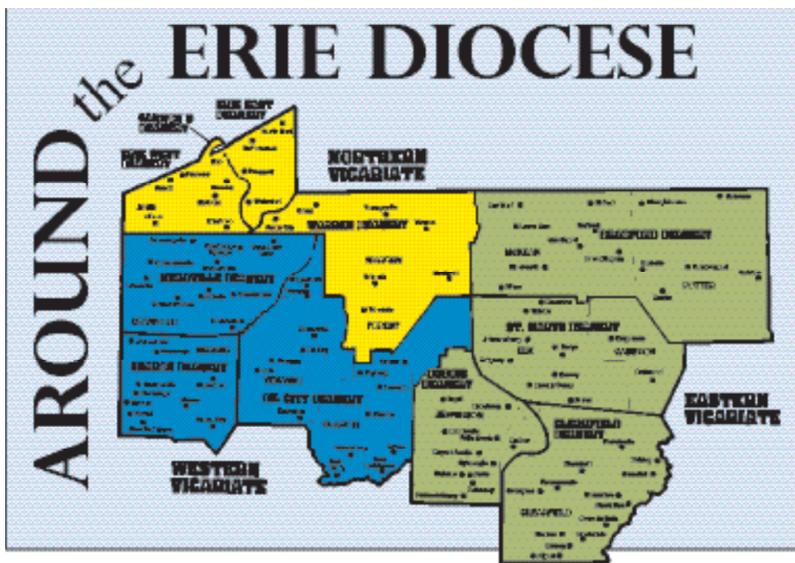
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Visit [ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp](http://ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp) to download quick and easy **photo tips** on a wallet-size card.



### Galeton Knights of Columbus clean up highway for 15th year

GALETON – Galeton Knights of Columbus Council 693 held a litter control trash pickup on West Branch Road recently. This is the 15th year that the council has participated in the Pennsylvania Litter Control Program. The four-man team collected eight bags of trash in the two-mile area. Participating in the pickup were knights (pictured left to right) Gene Pondo, Mark Germino and Curt Shadle. Not pictured is grand knight Andy Lychalk Jr.



Photo by Andy Lychalk Jr.

### Immaculate Conception's Catholic Daughters raise funds for Community Action

CLARION – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2454 of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion recently presented the local Community Action Inc. with a check for \$1,110. The funds are the proceeds from three book review luncheons sponsored by the court, which were held on the Wednesdays following Easter in the rectory meeting room.

Lutheran minister Rev. Harold Jacobson reviewed Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol"; Father Monty Sayers, pastor of Immaculate Conception, reviewed "A Gate at the Stairs"; and Dr. Deborah Sarbin, a parishioner and professor at Clarion University, reviewed "The Children's Book."

Book review attendees paid an admission fee of \$5. A luncheon was provided by the Catholic Daughters at each event.

Community Action Inc. is a non-profit agency serving Clarion and Jefferson counties. Its mission is to provide and coordinate activities which alleviate poverty, promote family self-sufficiency and advance



community prosperity. Pictured is court regent Jolene Cyphert presenting the donation to Robert Hanley, self-sufficiency coordinator of Community Action Inc.

### May crowning, Man of the Year at Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann

FARRELL – A May crowning was held at Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann Parish in Farrell on May 2 after the 9 a.m. Mass. A procession included members of the Altar Rosary Society, with Mary Vance (pictured) placing a crown of flowers on a statue of the Blessed Mother. Following Mass, more than 40 society members and their guests attended a breakfast in the parish's Marian Room.

Approximately 250 people attended a recent Holy Name Society breakfast held at Fatima Hall in Farrell. Father John Lynch (left), retired pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville, was the guest speaker. Also pictured are Angelo Settle, president of the Holy Name Society, and Father Donald Berdis, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann. Father Berdis, who was selected as the society's Man of the Year, received a standing ovation from those in attendance.



### St. Timothy religious ed students hold St. Joseph retreat

CURWENSVILLE – Students in the 4th and 5th grade religious education classes at St. Timothy Parish in Curwensville recently participated in a class retreat themed around St. Joseph, the patron saint of fathers.

Activities included baking bread in the shape of St. Joseph's staff and creating a traditional St. Joseph table that included items representing his life. Often times during hardships, people would pray to St. Joseph for intervention. When their prayers were answered, they would celebrate with different foods and breads.

The students dedicated the table and a display to their pastor, Father Mark Mastrian, in honor of the Year for Priests. They also shared many different kinds of bread with all the religious education classes and held a prayer ser-



vice during their Sunday classes. Pictured from left to right are: Kevin Shaffer, Danielle Warren, Macin Sheeder, Benjamin Dugo, Allison Hoover, Trianna Shope and Brennan McCracken.

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**Friday:** 5:15 pm Mass; Pasta fagioli dinner; Music by The Two Cousins from 7-10 pm

**Saturday:** 4:30 pm Mass; Music by The Contels from 7-10 pm

**Sunday:** 11 am Mass followed by procession of the Virgin Mary statue; Spaghetti dinner from 12-5 pm; Music by Lindsay Vendetti from 6-9 pm

**Daily activities:** games, prizes, bingo, games of chance, children's activities, home-made foods

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