



## Pope, Obama meet at Vatican

Bioethical issues get marked attention, page 2.

# FaithLife

## Wall of Fame



Venango Catholic honors past and current outstanding athletes, page 4.

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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

July 26, 2009

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Ignatius of Loyola



St. Bernard

- July 29 St. Martha
- July 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola
- Aug. 1 St. Alphonsus Liguori
- Aug. 4 St. John Mary Vianney
- Aug. 6 Transfiguration of the Lord
- Aug. 8 St. Dominic
- Aug. 10 St. Lawrence
- Aug. 11 St. Clare
- Aug. 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Aug. 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug. 20 St. Bernard
- Aug. 21 Pope Pius X
- Aug. 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Aug. 15

“Finally the immaculate virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her son, the Lord of Lords and conqueror of sin and death.” – *Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 966*



### Sisters of Charity anniversary

The 200th anniversary of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's founding of the Sisters of Charity will be observed throughout the nation on August 2. The Sisters of Charity are asking dioceses in which their sisters are now serving to ring church bells at noon (Eastern Time) on August 2 in observance of the celebration.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

The Diocese of Erie is blessed with the presence of several Sisters of Charity, and so Bishop Trautman is encouraging pastors throughout the diocese to ring the church bells at noon on Sunday, Aug. 2 in conjunction with the national celebration.

St. Michael Parish in Greenville will have a special anniversary Mass at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16. Several Sisters of Charity who serve in the Erie Diocese are located in the Greenville/Hermitage area.



Slideshow of the ordination of **Father John Miller** and **Father Daniel Hoffman**

Slideshow and streaming video of **Bishop Trautman's** Mass rededicating the crosses that sit atop St. Mary Church in Erie.

The second in a series of videos highlighting the "lock-in" overnight youth group at St. Andrew Church in Erie, youth minister **Jesse Spanogle** asks us to block out society's noise and use silence to look inside our hearts.

The women religious Web page features a profile on **Sister Michele Marie Schrock**.

## Charity IN TRUTH

AN ENCYCLICAL FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI

### In new encyclical, pope says moral values must be part of economic recovery, development

By Cindy Wooden  
*Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY — Ethical values are needed to overcome the current global economic crisis as well as to eradicate hunger and promote the real development of all the world's peoples, Pope Benedict XVI said in his new encyclical.

The document, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), was dated June 29 and released at the Vatican July 7.

The truth that God is the creator of human life, that every life is sacred, that the earth was given to humanity to use and protect and that God has a plan for each person must be respected in development programs and in economic recovery efforts if they are to have real and lasting benefits, the pope said.

Charity, or love, is not an option for Christians, he said, and "practicing charity in truth helps people understand that adhering to the values of

Christianity is not merely useful, but essential for building a good society and for true integral development," he wrote.

In addressing the global economic crisis and the enduring poverty of the world's poorest countries, he said, "the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity."

The global dimension of the financial crisis is an expression of the moral failure of greedy financiers and investors, of the lack of oversight by national governments and of a lack of understanding that the global economy required internationally recognized global control, Pope Benedict said.

"In the face of the unrelenting growth of global interdependence, there is a strongly felt need, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of the United Nations organization, and likewise of economic institutions and international finance, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth," the pope wrote.



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the United Nations General Assembly after his speech at the U.N. headquarters in New York in this April 18, 2008, file photo. In his encyclical,

"Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), the pope calls for the reform of the United Nations as well as of international bodies involved in economics and finance.

"To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority," he said.

Pope Benedict insisted that the idea of the world's richest nations scaling back development aid while focusing on

their own economic recovery overlooked the long-term economic benefits of solidarity and not simply the human and Christian moral obligation to help the poor.

"In the search for solutions to the current economic crisis, development aid for poor countries must be considered a valid means of creating wealth for all," the pope said.

The economic growth of poorer countries and their citizens' demands for consumer goods actually benefit producers in the world's wealthier nations, he said.

The pope said that "more economically developed nations should do all they can to allocate larger portions of their gross domestic product to development aid," respecting the obligations they made to the U.N. Millennium Development Goals aimed at significantly reducing poverty by 2015.

Pope Benedict said food and water are the "universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination" and are part of

See ENCYCLICAL, page 3

## Beginning Experience

### Diocese launches new ministry to help cope when a marriage ends

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife editor*

The grieving process that accompanies the loss of one's spouse is rather long. Experts estimate that it can extend from three to five years or longer.

The Erie Diocese is embarking on a new ministry to help heal the heartache for those who find themselves single again when a marriage ends through separation, divorce or death.

The Family Life Office of Catholic Charities will offer Beginning Experience, a program that helps persons deal with the natural grief process. A six-week "Coping With Life Alone" session will be held at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie beginning Sunday, August 16.

Ann Badach, director of the Family Life Office, said for those who have participated in the diocese's Fellowship of Divorced and Separated, Beginning Experience provides participants with an avenue toward healing and a new beginning in their lives.

"The journey of grief is very similar for those who are suffering a loss from death, divorce or separation," Badach said. "In looking to expand our ministry to people who are widowed, we came upon Beginning Experience."

BE is a national ministry based in South Bend, Ind. The program has two components:

■ "Coping With Life Alone" is a six-week program with sessions that explore a number of common

themes such as loneliness, stress, grief, trust and relationships with God, self and others. This is a peer-led program with facilitators themselves being widowed, separated or divorced.

■ Beginning Experience Weekend is held on a Friday evening through Sunday and is designed as a time of closure on the past and new beginning in the present.

"In 'Coping With Life Alone,' people find a lot of common ground as they are entering the world as a single person again," Badach said.

Beginning Experience is rooted in Christian theology but open to people of all faiths.

"We are hoping it will take off and we are able to offer this ministry in other parts of diocese," Badach said. "In order for any program to be successful anywhere in the diocese, we need volunteers."

### Beginning Experience

"Coping With Life Alone," a six-week peer-led program, will be held at St. Mark Catholic Center 429 W. Grandview Blvd. in Erie from 4-6 p.m. on the following dates:  
**August 16, 23 and 30**  
**September 13, 20 and 27**

To print a registration form, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

Contact the Family Life Office at 814.824.1265, 800.374.3723 Ext. 265 or e-mail [familylife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org).

Learn more about Beginning Experience at [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org).

## Clergy appointments

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



Father Bill Barron, appointed temporary parochial administrator of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie. Effective July 8, 2009 through August 12, 2009.

Father Ted Marconi, appointed pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective August 12, 2009.



Father Brian Vossler, appointed pastor of St. Leo Magnus Parish, Ridgway, for a term of six years. Effective August 12, 2009.



The following priests have been appointed to membership on the Presbyteral Council for a term of five years. Effective September 1, 2009:

- Father Michael Allison
- Msgr. Mark Barchak
- Father Scott Detisch
- Father Joseph Dougherty
- Father James Gutting
- Msgr. Charles Kaza
- Father Gregory Kirsch
- Father Meinrad Lawson, OSB
- Father Edward Lohse
- Msgr. Daniel Magraw
- Msgr. Robert Malene
- Msgr. Desmond McGee
- Father Mark O'Hern
- Father Walter Packard
- Father Matthew Ruyechan
- Father Nicholas Rouch
- Father Steve Schreiber
- Msgr. Robert Smith
- Msgr. Thomas Snyderwine
- Msgr. John Swoger
- Father Glenn Whitman
- Father Thomas Whitman

## Year for Priests opens

From staff and wire reports

Formally opening the Year for Priests June 19, Pope Benedict urged all priests to strive for holiness and said the ordained ministry was indispensable for the church and the world.

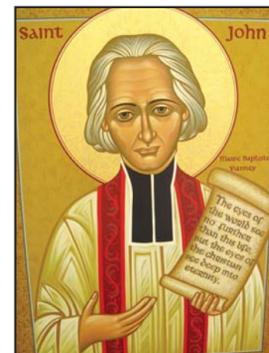
He said he hoped priests would use the year and its special events to deepen their commitment to their own renewal "for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world."

Since the beginning of his pontificate, the pope has many times noted the burdens carried by priests in the modern age, including their increasing workload and their responsibility to preach and witness to Gospel values in a world that often seems indifferent to them.

The pope proclaimed the year-long focus on priestly ministry to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests.

An icon of St. John Vianney (pictured), on loan from the National

Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, will spend a few weeks in the Erie Diocese. The icon was featured at evening prayer and the



priesthood ordinations June 11 and 12, respectively. It also traveled to St. Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe June 22-25 for the annual Emmaus Convocation where priests of the diocese gathered for fellowship and prayer.



## IN THE U.S.

■ **Liturgical matters, immigration reform and same-sex marriage** were among the topics discussed by the U.S. bishops in public sessions at their June 17-19 spring meeting in San Antonio. But the bishops also devoted time — in executive session — to the recent controversy over the University of Notre Dame's decision to award an honorary degree to U.S. President Barack Obama. They emerged from the meeting with a two-sentence affirmation of Bishop John D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., for his "pastoral concern" for the university. The only two liturgical texts receiving definitive approval from the bishops in San Antonio were a Spanish-language Lectionary and a Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life. Both now go to the Vatican for confirmation. But five sections of the Roman Missal being prepared for use in English-speaking countries failed to get the necessary two-thirds votes of the Latin-rite U.S. bishops during the meeting.

■ **The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said final guidelines for funding human embryonic stem-cell research** are "even broader" than the draft guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health and he asked Americans to contact their members of Congress, "urging them not to codify or further expand this unethical policy." In a statement issued late July 7, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia also criticized NIH for ignoring "the comments of tens of thousands of Americans opposing the destruction of innocent human life for stem-cell research." Even comments filed by the Catholic bishops' conference and others against specific abuses in the draft guidelines were not addressed, he said. "Existing federal law against funding research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed is not given due respect here." NIH acting director Dr. Raynard Kington said 30,000 of the approximately 49,000 comments received by NIH during a month-long period of public comment opposed any

federal funding of such research. But those responses were "deemed not responsive to the question put forth," Kington said. "We did not ask them whether" to fund such research, "but how it should be funded."

## AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Talk about a grand finale. The Vatican waited until the last day of the year of St. Paul to wow the world with two surprising scientific findings:** the presumed bones of the apostle and the oldest known portrait of the saint. During a vespers service at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls June 28, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the presumed tomb of St. Paul contains bone fragments from a human who lived between the first and second century. "This seems to confirm the unanimous and uncontested tradition that they are the mortal remains of the apostle Paul," the pope said. A fourth-century image of St. Paul the Apostle (pictured) that Vatican archeologists believe is the oldest in existence is seen on the walls of the Santa Thecla catacomb beneath Rome in an undated photo released June 29. Experts of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology made the discovery June 19 in the catacomb.



■ **Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa backed a Honduran bishops' conference statement** that seemed tolerant of the June 28 military coup and said deposed Honduran President Manuel Zelaya engendered "class hatred." In an interview with a Tegucigalpa journalist, published July 8 on elfaro.net, the cardinal denied that the church supported a coup d'etat. He said those who accuse the church of siding with Honduras' elite "are not listening." He said, "An unemotional person would read the church's message and would understand it." Cardinal Rodriguez said he has seen an unwelcome change in Honduras that he attributes to Zelaya's alliance with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. "Recently, I have observed something that did not previously exist in Honduras: class hatred," the cardinal said in the interview.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Cardinal John Henry Newman will be beatified in Birmingham, England, May 2,** a Catholic Church source told Catholic News Service. The date and venue have been proposed by the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes and are expected to be accepted soon by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the source told CNS July 15 on condition of anonymity. The source said the cardinal will be beatified in the Birmingham Oratory, which he founded following his conversion to Catholicism in 1845 at age 44. May 2 is seen as a favorable date because it is the feast of St. Athanasius, the fourth-century "champion of orthodoxy" admired by Cardinal Newman. Beatification is a major step in the Catholic sainthood process.



Cardinal John Henry Newman



Jason Koshinski

It seems like the warm weather has just started, but St. Martin Center in Erie is already thinking about kids going back to school. The center's annual Stuff the Bus drive will be held Thursday, August 6 at the Millcreek Mall. Stuff the Bus assists families who are struggling to provide adequate resources for their children as the academic year begins.

St. Martin Center will be at the Northwest Savings Bank entrance from 6-9 a.m. and then at the main stage from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. They'll be accepting polos, khakis, sneakers, bookbags, notebooks, pencils and other items for school.

We'll be in St. Marys this week for the latest stop on the Hope and Power Tour. St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys will host the latest gathering July 29 from 7-10 p.m. The Erie Diocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring the year-long tour for teens throughout the diocese, with monthly stops hitting all areas. Each tour stop is a mini retreat for teens (grades 9-12).

Intended to be a powerful and lively presentation of the Gospel, evenings include exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, talks on conversion, confession and examination of conscience, skits performed by local youth, time for reconciliation, praise and worship, Mass and fellowship. It's an innovative approach offered instead of the senior high youth rally this year.

Pope Benedict XVI, who is vacationing in the northern Italian Alps, underwent a procedure under local anesthesia to repair his right wrist, which he had fractured during the night of July 16-17, his personal physician said.

Vatican officials said that the pope simply slipped and fell in the bathroom, ruling out any illness or medical condition as the cause of the accident.

But the incident hasn't slowed down the Holy Father. His wrist in a cast, the pope recited the Angelus July 19 with visitors gathered outside the parish church in the town of Romano Canavese.

There's been a lot of buzzing and church chatter recently with many playing the guessing game of what priest will land where. As the slew of clergy appointments from our June 28 issue shows, this is the time of year when the term for priest assignments expires. They are then either reappointed or reassigned by the bishop. The only thing we can think of comparing it to at the moment is Major League Baseball's trade deadline when so many players wind up wearing different uniforms. In this case, the collar is still the same; it's just at a different parish.

The St. Severin picnic bonanza in Drifting, originally listed as being held August 22 in the parish festival listing in *FaithLife*, has been changed to August 15.

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

# Pope discusses bioethics, G-8 summit with Obama at Vatican

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- The church's position on bioethical issues got marked attention during Pope Benedict XVI's meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama July 10.

In addition to giving Obama a copy of his latest encyclical, which the pope had been presenting to visiting heads of state since its release July 7, the pope also presented a copy of the Vatican document on biomedical ethics, "Dignitas Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person").

When presenting the gifts after their 35-minute closed-door meeting, the pope gave Obama a signed, white, leather-bound copy of the encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), then indicated the light-green soft-cover instruction on bioethics issued last December by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Oh, what we discussed earlier," said Obama, referring to their closed-door discussions. "I will have some reading to do on the plane."

Obama was given the instruction to help him better understand the church's position on bioethics, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, papal secretary, told journalists in the pool covering the visit.

Obama arrived at the Vatican shortly before 4 p.m., and a squad of Swiss Guards saluted him in

the St. Damasus Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, prefect of the papal household, was the first to greet the president, and he accompanied Obama to a meeting with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

Pope Benedict and Obama sat at a desk in the papal library and discussed the Group of Eight summit — the meeting of the world's wealthy industrialized countries, which concluded that morning in L'Aquila, Italy. The summit focused on the economic crisis, climate change and global tensions.

After the pope welcomed Obama, the president said: "Thank you so much. It's a great honor for me. Thank you so much."

Pope Benedict told the president, "You must be tired after all these discussions."

Obama responded that the meetings were "very productive" and marked "great progress" and "something concrete," although the precise topic they were discussing at that point was unclear.

The pope and Obama discussed issues that represent "a great challenge for the future of every nation and for the true progress of peoples, such as the defense and promotion of life and the right to abide by one's conscience," according to a Vatican statement released after the audience.

The two men also discussed world issues addressed at the G-8



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI greets U.S. President Barack Obama in the pontiff's private library at the Vatican July 10.

summit, as well as immigration and the issue of reuniting families, the Vatican statement said.

The meeting with the pope and a separate 20-minute meeting with Cardinal Bertone also touched on international politics, such as the peace process in the Middle East, "on which there was general agreement."

"Dialogue between cultures and religions, the global economic crisis and its ethical implications, especially for Africa and Latin America — and the problem of drug trafficking" were discussed, the Vatican said.

"Finally, the importance of educating young people everywhere in the value of tolerance was highlighted," officials said.

At the end of the meeting, Pope Benedict told the president, "A blessing on all your work and also for you."

The president responded: "Thank you very much. We look forward to building a strong relationship between our countries."

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters after the audience that "great serenity and great cordiality" characterized the meeting.

Father Lombardi said he spoke

with the pope after the meeting and the pope "seemed extremely satisfied with how the meeting went."

He said the pope found Obama to be "attentive and ready to listen."

"The president explicitly expressed his commitment to reducing the numbers of abortions and to listen to the church's concerns on moral issues," he said.

Denis McDonough, deputy national security adviser for strategic communications and a member of Obama's entourage, later spoke to reporters about many of the points in the Vatican statement, adding that the two men also discussed Cuba, Honduras and outreach to Muslim communities.

"I think the president was eager to listen to the Holy Father, was obviously eager to learn more about his views" on issues such as abortion and stem cells, he said.

McDonough said the president asked the pope to pray for

his family and expressed his appreciation for the role Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was playing in trying to resolve the political crisis in his country after the June 28 coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya.

After their closed-door meeting, Obama introduced the pope to his wife, Michelle, their daughters, Malia and Sasha, and Michelle Obama's mother, Marian Robinson.

There was a private exchange of gifts and a moment for photographs. The pope gave each of the girls a silver key chain with a bas-relief image of the pope, and Michelle Obama and Robinson each received a papal medal.

Pope Benedict gave Obama a mosaic showing St. Peter's Basilica and Square and a medal marking the fifth year of his pontificate.

The president gave the pope a liturgical stole that had been on the remains of St. John Neumann, the first U.S. male citizen to be proclaimed a saint.

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**SAINT PAUL ITALIAN FESTIVAL**  
Date/Place: August 7-9; 453 West 16th Street, Erie  
Time: Friday & Saturday: 6-10 pm; Sunday: 12-9 pm  
Occasion: celebrating the Feast of the Assumption  
Daily activities: games, prizes, bingo, games of chance, children's activities, home-made foods  
Services: Free trolley shuttle from Erie Central Mall or from parking lot at 18th and Hickory St.  
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## Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2009 Catholic Services Appeal, "Of One Heart and Mind," supports the Erie Diocese in helping to provide health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services throughout the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

While a portion of the financial goal for the appeal benefits the ministries of the diocese, parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects.

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



### Oil City Deanery

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City – Update church electrical system
- Immaculate Conception, Clarion – Upgrade exterior lighting of church and school, invest in HVAC replacement, landscaping and signage for new parking lot, floor cleaning equipment, doors for school
- Our Lady Help of Christians, Oil City – Finish refurbishing pews, new carpet in church
- St. Charles, New Bethlehem – Repairs to steeple
- St. Eusebius, East Brady – General use
- St. Joseph, Lucinda – Church storm windows
- St. Joseph, Oil City – Continue to build up funds for building project
- St. Mary, Crown – Parish facilities
- St. Michael, Emlenton – Elevator for church
- St. Michael, Fryburg – To be decided after council meeting
- St. Patrick, Franklin – Parish building fund debt reduction
- St. Stephen, Oil City – No project listed
- St. Titus, Titusville – Air conditioning
- St. Venantius, Rouseville – No project listed
- St. Walburga, Titusville – No project listed
- Immaculate Conception, Mageetown – No project listed
- St. Nicholas Mission, Crates – Repairs to steeple
- St. Richard Mission, Rimersburg – General use

## Briefly

### Marriage prep in DuBois Aug. 30

DUBOIS – NOVA, a one-day marriage preparation program for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church, will be held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois on Sunday, Aug. 30. Topics include blending families, communication, legal issues and others. Pre-registration is required. Call the Family Life Office at 814.824.1265 or 800.374.3723 Ext. 265 to register.

### Support group to meet monthly at St. Andrew

ERIE – A spirituality and mental wellness recovery support group will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. at St. Andrew Parish Center, 1116 W. Seventh St. in Erie. The support group will continue the second Wednesday of each month at the same time and place. Sister Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ, spiritual director and counselor with Ecclesia Ministry, will be the facilitator. For further information, contact Jackie Johnson at 814.824.1257 or [JJJohnson@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JJJohnson@ErieRCD.org).

### SSJ Neighborhood Network helps start farmers' market in Erie's Little Italy

ERIE – With the help of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, a weekly farmers' market is now in place in Erie's Little Italy neighborhood. Thirty farmers have been invited to participate, although the small-scale beginning, with just a handful of farmers depending on what's in season. The market is open on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. in the parking lot at 349 W. 18th St. in Erie. The market will operate through Sept. 30.



### Fr. Cooper's 19th Annual Golf Tournament North Hills Golf Course, Corry PA

- Register: 7 am, Shotgun start: 8 am
- Members: \$50; Member including cart: \$60; Non-member including cart: \$65
- More details: Bill Saborsky Jr., 814.654.7580 or parish office, 814.663.3041. Proceeds benefit St. Thomas School!
- Four Person Handicap Scramble.
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2009



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# In new encyclical, pope says moral values must be part of economic recovery, development

ENCYCLICAL, from page 1

the basic right to life.

He also said that being pro-life means being pro-development, especially given the connection between poverty and infant mortality, and that the only way to promote the true development of people is to promote a culture in which every human life is welcomed and valued.

"The acceptance of life strengthens moral fiber and makes people capable of mutual help," he said.

He said the environment, life, sexuality, marriage and social relations are inextricably united.

If society does not respect human life from its conception to its natural end, "if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology," he said.

Development programs and offers of aid that encourage coercive population control methods and the promotion of abortion do not have the good of people at heart and limit the recipients' motiva-

tion to become actors in their own development and progress, the pope said.

In addition, he said, an anti-life mentality in the world's richest countries is related to the lack of concern for the poor.

"How can we be surprised by the indifference shown toward situations of human degradation when such indifference extends even to our attitude toward what is and is not human?" the pope asked.

"While the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human," he said.

Pope Benedict also emphasized church teaching that making money and being wealthy are not sins, but that the way the money is made and the way it is used can be.

The encyclical condemned corruption, the exploitation of workers, the destruction of the environment, the continuing practice of wealthy nations imposing such high tariffs on imports that they

Pope Benedict called for "a profoundly new way of understanding business," which recognizes that investors are not a company's only stakeholders, no matter how the business is structured and financed.

Employees, those who produce the raw materials, people who live in the communities where the company is based, where its products originate and where its products are sold all have a stake in the business, the pope said.

He also said that investing always has a moral as well as an economic significance.

"What should be avoided is a speculative use of financial resources that yields to the temptation of seeking only short-term profit without regard for the long-term sustainability of the enterprise, its benefit to the real economy and attention to the advancement — in suitable and appropriate ways — of further economic initiatives in countries in need of development," he said.

For the full text of "Charity in Truth," go to [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI signs a copy of his encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), at the Vatican July 6. The pope's social encyclical, released July 7, addresses the global economic crisis.

shut poor countries out of the international marketplace and, especially, an "excessive zeal" for enforcing patents, especially on medications that could save the lives of thousands of poor people if they were available at a reasonable cost.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Mother Patricia O'Connor, CSC

Founding superior of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit

Mother Patricia O'Connor, CSC, 92, founding superior of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Divine Spirit, died June 15, 2009.

A native of Chicago, Mother Patricia was born Oct. 22, 1916, the thirteenth child of the late Daniel and Elizabeth O'Connor.

A much-loved teacher, principal and counselor in Chicago, Mother Patricia came to Erie, and with Archbishop John Mark Gannon, founded the Sisters of

the Congregation of the Divine Spirit on the feast of the Sacred Heart in 1956. The congregation is the only religious community of women that has been founded in the Erie Diocese.

In addition to her parents, Mother Patricia was preceded in death by all of her brothers and sisters. Mother Patricia is survived by her religious community of sisters and by several nieces and nephews.

### Sister Mary Theno, SSJ

Taught art and history, worked in graphic arts

Sister Mary Theno, SSJ, 85, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died July 3, 2009. Formerly Sister Mary George, she was in her 66th year of religious life.

She was born February 27, 1924 in Erie, the daughter of the late George and Edna (Krug) Theno.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 5, 1943 from her home parish of St. Mary, Erie. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1949 and celebrated her 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph in 2003.

In 1955, she earned a bachelor's degree in history and art

from Villa Maria College, Erie, and an MFA in art from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Her many years of active ministry included working in graphic arts at Villa Maria College and Gannon University from 1978-95. During that time, Sister Mary also served on the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph research team that was conducting an extensive review and translation of the congregations' earliest documents dating back to 17th century France. Sister Mary also taught history and art at St. Andrew and Villa Maria Elementary schools in Erie and Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg.

Sister Mary is survived by the members of her community, a sister-in-law, Claire Theno; a cousin, Sister Mary Louise Eichenlaub, OSB, and a nephew, Jonathon Alorberstadt.



Sister Mary Theno, SSJ

### Travel to Italy Switzerland / Ireland / Greece France / Holy Land

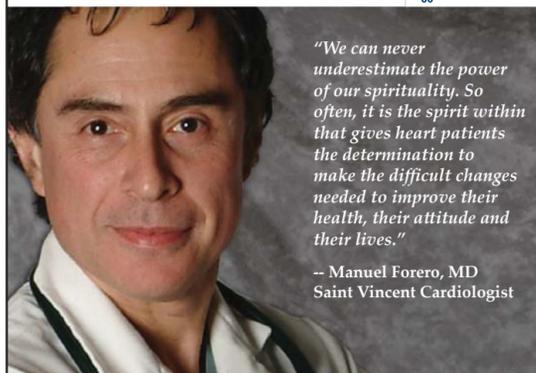
<b>COST</b> <b>\$3,300</b>	Rome Venice Tuscany Florence	<b>(\$3,890)</b> <b>Air Fare</b> <b>Included</b>	Milan Lake Como Amalfi Coast Capri Sorrento Pompeii
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(Sept. 5-17) / Sept. 19-27 / (Oct. 3-15)  
The Holy Land: Oct. 5-15 / Oct. 17-25 / Oct. 19-29

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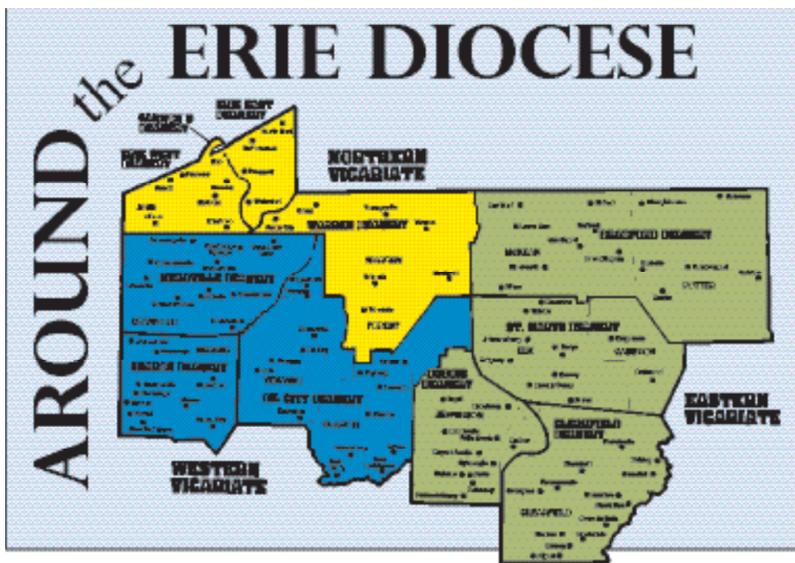
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### Warren religious ed students receive scholarships

WARREN – Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren recently awarded five scholarships from the Holy Redeemer Student Award Fund. Recipients, with Msgr. John Lucas, pastor, are (left to right): Drew Greenwald, Jill Guiffre, Abby Guiffre, Heather Graves and Michael Huya.



### Venango Catholic honors past, current outstanding athletes

OIL CITY – Venango Catholic High School recently honored some of its most talented athletes at its Wall of Fame inaugural celebration held June 18 in the school's Msgr. Antoun Gymnasium.

The Venango Catholic Wall of Fame began in 1972 and has since served to recognize athletes from VC named conference all-stars in their respective sports. The 2006-2009 inductees onto the Wall of Fame were: Eric Guth, (Class of 2008, basketball), Megan Lutz (Class of 2008, cross country), Eavan Martin (Class of 2008, cross country), Sarah McNellie (Class of 2008, basketball), Doug Barber (Class of 2009, golf), Chris Delaney (Class of 2009, cross country) and Maxx Rynd (Class of 2011, basketball).

Eleven former wall inductees also attended the ceremony including Jeremy Eisenman, Andy



Pictured are this year's inductees to Venango Catholic's Wall of Fame. From left to right, (front row) Megan Lutz, Sarah McNellie, Eavan Martin, (back row) Maxx Rynd, Eric Guth, Doug Barber and Chris Delaney.

Selker, Doug Phillips, Theresa Galletta, Sarah McIntyre, Abby Collins, Tom Pilewski, Ed Rhoades, Chris Guth, Mark Gammello and Max Dudzic.

Headmaster Father John Malthaner gave the opening and closing blessings, athletic director, faculty member and girls' basket-

ball coach Tom McNellie gave remarks and school board and booster club president and wall athlete Max Dudzic provided a brief history of the Wall of Fame, which was recently expanded to make room for future inductees.

The event was sponsored by the VC Booster Club.

### Fellowship at 25th annual Rosary and Altar Society dinner



Pictured from left to right are the presidents of the various rosary and altar societies that attended the annual fellowship dinner: (front row) Millie Mayersky, founder of the dinner; Bernadine Mostyn, Ss. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run; Jane Hollis, Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; Toni Roos, St. Agnes, Morrisdale; Agnes Flanagan, St. Timothy, Curwensville; Alice Padisak, St.

Severin, Drifting; (back row) Sherrie Surkovich, St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield; Janice Diehl, St. Bonaventure, Grampian; Janet Wilson, St. Basil the Great, Coalport; Toni Krupa, Christ the King, Houtzdale; Carolyn Royer, St. Marys, Frenchville; and Francine Christoff, Immaculate Conception, Madera.

CLEARFIELD – The Rosary and Altar Society of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield, hosted the 25th annual fellowship dinner June 10. The event was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Clearfield with 178 people in attendance including priests, deacons, women religious and lay women from throughout the area.

The annual fellowship dinner started back in 1984 with three parishes participating. During the past 24 years it has grown to include 13 parishes.

Attendees included representatives from St. Timothy, Curwensville; St. Bonaventure, Grampian; Immaculate Conception, Madera; St. Basil the Great,

Coalport; Holy Trinity, Ramey; Christ the King, Houtzdale; Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; Ss. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville; St. Severin, Drifting; Ss. Peter and Paul, Grassflat; and St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield. Invited this year was Ss. Peter and Paul, Philipsburg, of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

Each guest received a blessed metal of Pope Benedict XVI, a blessed prayer card of the pope and a chance to win one of more than 25 door prizes awarded.

The flower arrangements were done by Paul Yatta of Clearfield. The placemat design included photos of all the altars of each of the churches invited. The

dinner was catered by Central Catering of Curwensville. Entertainment was provided by the local Christian musical band, Heaven Bound.

This year, the Sisters of the Rosary and Altar Societies and St. Theresa Guild honored the founder of the banquet, Millie Mayersky. She was presented with a card and a colored collage of the pictures of the altars. She then honored each of the societies and their presidents, presenting them with a gift of appreciation.

The annual event is held each year on the second Wednesday of June, and the hosting parishes rotate. Next year, Christ the King in Houtzdale and Immaculate Conception, Madera, will host.

### Bid Around the Maypole auction benefits DCC

DUBOIS – Nearly 100 volunteers were involved in DuBois Central Catholic's 23rd annual "Bid Around the Maypole" spring auction May 1 at Lake View Lodge at Treasure Lake.

The auction, an established tradition in DuBois in support of Catholic education, raised \$22,700 for next year's school budget. Since its inception in 1987, the auction has raised \$546,100. The yearly proceeds are routinely applied to the next year's operating budget and benefit students from pre-school through grade 12.

This year's Key Club offered 150 keys with five prizes opened by the lucky key holders. The live auction consisted of more than 40 specialty items donated by parents, friends, local businesses and alumni.

Joyce Taylor, director of development for DuBois Area Catholic Schools, said the large number of volunteers is needed each year to make the auction a reality. "It is an enormous undertaking spearheaded by parents in support of the current operating budget of the DuBois Area Catholic School System," Taylor said.

Addressing invitations during a pre-benefit work session were volunteers: (seated, left to right) Beth Stoltz, Karen Schaffer, Matilda Illuzzi, Lisa Aucker, (standing) Valerie Armanini, Janie Marchioli, Luanne Vara-

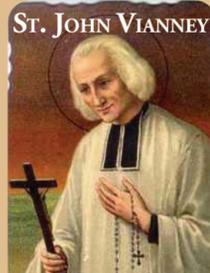


callo and Paula Fitzpatrick. Students from elementary through high school put together

theme baskets with numerous items for silent bidding.

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