



FaithLife

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie July 31, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

Catholic Services Appeal reaches \$4.4 million

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners in the Diocese of Erie, the 2005 Catholic Services Appeal can be deemed a success.

The total dollar amount pledged for this year's appeal is currently at \$4.4 million, according to a July report from the diocesan development office. The figure represents a 37-percent increase from the \$3.1 million pledged in 2004. The amount also surpasses this year's goal of \$3.55 million.

The number of 2005 pledge appeals, currently at 19,688, is also up from last year when the diocese received 12,989 pledges, an increase of 43 percent.

"We're very grateful for the parishes that have made such a

great effort to raise funds to help support the ministries of this diocese," says Joseph Hoag, director of stewardship and development for the diocese.

The services appeal is an annual fund drive that accounts for more than half of the diocese's income. Money from the appeal funds education programs in Catholic schools, religious education and youth ministry. A large percentage also goes toward ministries of Catholic Charities such as homeless shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens and thrift shops as well as spiritual programs including marriage support and preparation and after-school programs.

Themed "Faith for a Generation," this year's appeal began with commitment Sunday on Feb. 27.

An assessment goal is established for each parish in the dio-

cese. Most parishes have either exceeded their goal or are close, Hoag says. Of the 126 parishes in the diocese, 86 have exceeded their goal.

That's good news for the parishes. Any funds raised that surpass the individual parish's goal stay within the parish. In a sampling of several parishes, many have already committed the surplus funds to projects.

The church bells at St. Callistus in Kane are ringing again thanks to the generosity of parishioners.

"In the last year, they haven't been operational," says Fr. Philip Pinczewski. "We couldn't toll them and the angelus wasn't ringing at all."

The parish raised \$60,000 for the CSA, well above its \$20,000 goal. Using the extra funds, the parish installed new digital motors in the bells,

which are now functioning again.

"People really came through, especially after a three-year pledge we had for a building project," Fr. Pinczewski says. "We're very grateful."

St. Agatha Parish, Meadville, used its overflow CSA funds to repave the church parking lots and the road through the church cemetery.

"It was much needed," says pastor Fr. Richard Allen. "It looked like it had been hit by an earthquake. The people here have always been generous. They've been responsive to the stewardship appeal in the past, and I'm glad to see they've been responsive to the services appeal, as well."

St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, will use the extra money to pay its assessments for St. Stephen School and Venango Christian

School.

St. Catherine Parish, DuBois, is establishing a fund for an eventual new roof on the church. "It's probably two or three years out, but we have to start preparing now, so this helps," says pastor Msgr. Richard Siefer.

To show his appreciation, Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass on June 19 at St. Peter Cathedral for all the benefactors of the Catholic Services Appeal.

Looking at statistics for fundraising campaigns in other dioceses, Hoag says the average gift in the Erie Diocese is larger than places such as New York and other larger dioceses on the East Coast.

"Getting that perspective makes me appreciate even more how generous the people of our diocese are," he says.

Diocesan pilgrims to make trip to WYD

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

About 800,000 young pilgrims from around the globe are expected to join Pope Benedict XVI in Cologne, Germany, Aug. 11-21 for festivities surrounding the 20th World Youth Day. The event will also be attended by approximately 600 bishops and cardinals and covered by 4,000 international journalists.

The Diocese of Erie will be represented at the world youth gathering. Ross Miceli, a St. Mark Seminary student at Gannon University, has organized a trip through his home parish of St. Catherine Sienna in DuBois. Joining him will be a group from St. Catherine Sienna Parish, Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City, and students from Penn State-Behrend.

The group is attending with other pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Leaving Aug. 8, the group will spend a few days at the Vatican and in Paris before heading to Cologne. They will return Aug. 22.

"I think we're all looking at this as a really great way, especially for the youth, to see and meet the new pope," Miceli says. "Really, this will be his first message to the youth of the world."

Shortly after his election in April, Pope Benedict announced he would attend this year's World Youth Day celebration in his homeland. The pope is a native of Bavaria.

The motto of this World Youth Day is taken from the Gospel according to Matthew:



(CNS photos)

Young people carry the World Youth Day cross near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin April 4, 2004, during a service in preparation for this year's Aug. 16-21 gathering in Cologne, Germany.

"We have come to worship Him." Pilgrims will spend several Days of Encounter (Aug. 11-15) in dioceses all over Germany as parish guests before gathering with their hosts for the central events in the Archdiocese of Cologne.

Many of the people going on this trip also attended World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, Miceli says.

"I think we're all really excited because a lot of us went to Toronto," he says. "We all really enjoyed it and said we wanted to go to the next one."

Miceli says he remembers his Toronto experience well because it was his first pilgrimage of any kind and it was also the summer before he entered seminary.

"I had never gone to an event like that," he says. "I took it as a

very prayerful moment. It's a great time to be around people from all over the world who share one common faith."

The World Youth Day program includes Masses, a welcome by the pope, vigils and a closing Mass. There also will be morning catechetical sessions, a pilgrimage to the cathedral in Cologne, a youth festival and other activities planned by local groups.

An estimated 5,000 U.S. young people will participate in the diocesan Days of Encounter in Cologne Aug. 11-15. During this session the youths will attend Mass and prayer services and also



Behind the design

The official logo for World Youth Day 2005 was released by German organizers in mid-June. Drawing on Christian and local symbolism, a large red cross dominates the artwork. The German city of Cologne will host the international Catholic youth gathering Aug. 16-21 in 2005.

According to organizers, the cross is a reminder that the event is foremost an encounter with Christ; the star symbolizes divine guidance, as it had led the three Magi on the road to Bethlehem; the comet tail represents the star's route which comes from God; the two red peaks stand for the Cologne cathedral, a central point for the World Youth Day celebration and where relics of the Magi are held; the large blue ellipse symbolizes the universal communion of the church and the water of baptism. The motto for World Youth Day 2005, "We have come to worship Him," is from the Magi story in Matthew's Gospel.

(CNS photo)

enjoy local attractions. They will also take part in the Day of Social Engagement Aug. 12 which gives them a chance to participate in a number of social projects that are part of a nationwide campaign.

World Youth Day, started by Pope John Paul II in 1985, is intended for young people ages 16-30. The first official World Youth Day was held in Rome in 1986. Since then World Youth Days have taken place every two or three years in a different location around the world.

CNS contributed to this report.

NEWS BRIEFS

UNITED STATES

Cardinal urges federal funding for umbilical cord stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee has urged the Senate to support a bill funding research using stem cells from umbilical cord blood and to reject legislation that would fund embryonic stem-cell research, which destroys human embryos. "Umbilical cord blood stem cells have successfully treated thousands of patients with dozens of diseases," said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore in a July 11 letter to senators in support of a bill sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. The cardinal, chairman of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said stem cells obtained from umbilical cord blood have similar properties to embryonic ones. "They grow rapidly in culture, producing enough cells to be clinically useful in both children and adults; they can treat patients who are not an exact genetic match, without being rejected as foreign tissue; and they seem able to produce a wide array of different type cells," he said.

Nuncio to U.N. says Vatican gave about \$650 million in tsunami relief

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, said July 13 that agencies related to the Vatican had given an estimated \$650 million in relief to victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami in the Indian Ocean area. In addition, work is still being done by several organizations involved in projects throughout the region, he said. The nuncio made his comments in a statement to the U.N. Economic and Social Council, which was holding its annual meeting June 29-July 27 at U.N. headquarters in New York. He began by commending the U.N. agencies for their "swift response" to the "unprecedented crisis."

WORLD

Commission urges speedy completion of new translation of Mass prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An international Vatican advisory board said the sooner new English translations of Mass prayers are ready the easier they will be for Catholics to accept. Members of the Vatican-appointed "Vox Clara" Committee, which advises the Vatican on English translations, said they share the concerns of bishops about how the new texts will be accepted by their faithful, but they also "expressed their conviction that this reception would be impeded by delays in a timely completion of the project." The committee met July 5-7 at the Vatican to review "various and recent draft translations" of the Latin edition of the Roman Missal promulgated by

Pope John Paul II in 2002. The missal contains all the prayers and readings used for Mass in the Latin rite.

PEOPLE

Nominee would be fourth Catholic justice on court

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Judge John G. Roberts would become the fourth Catholic member of the current Supreme Court if he is confirmed by the Senate for the opening created by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's retirement. Roberts, 50, was nominated July 19 by President George W. Bush, who called him "a man of extraordinary accomplishment and ability" who has "a good heart." Roberts has been a judge of the federal appeals court for the District of Columbia for two years, after working in private practice in Washington and as a U.S. deputy solicitor general from 1989 to 1993. He also served as a clerk for Chief Justice William Rehnquist. During the Reagan administration, he was an aide to White House counsel Fred Fielding and to Attorney General William French Smith. While in private practice, he was among the legal advisers for Bush during the 2000 battle over Florida's disputed presidential election results. In private practice for Hogan and Hartson, and at the Justice Department, he regularly wrote briefs on cases before the Supreme Court and has argued cases there dozens of times.

Italian missionary bishop shot dead in Kenya

ISIOLO, Kenya (CNS) — An Italian missionary bishop who had just learned Pope Benedict XVI had accepted his retirement was shot July 14 outside the Isiolo pastoral center. Bishop Luigi Locati, who would have celebrated his 77th birthday July 23, died at the Isiolo hospital about an hour after being shot. A guard walking with the bishop was wounded, news agencies reported. The bishop was head of the Apostolic Vicariate of Isiolo in northeast Kenya. The region recently has been the scene of violence between the Gabra and Borana ethnic groups over cattle and access to water. "Bishop Locati had received threats on his life and, for this reason, always moved with two guards in the evening," Consolata Father Eugenio Ferrari, director of the Pontifical Missionary Works in Kenya, told Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency, July 15.

New center aims to educate people about Mother Teresa

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity religious order has announced the creation of the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center. The center is being established as a nonprofit organization to promote devotion to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, and authentic knowledge about her life, work, spirituality and message. It was incorporated in New York in June and will have facilities in Calcutta, Rome, the United States and Tijuana, Mexico.

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

One thing we knew about **Pope Benedict XVI** coming into his papacy was that he is a prolific writer. Apparently even on vacation.

According to Vatican Radio and Italian newspaper reports, the pope has started to write his first encyclical, taking advantage of the peaceful surroundings in the Italian Alps where he vacationed July 11-28. According to the report, the Holy Father began writing the text some weeks ago.

In October, Ignatius Press will publish the first book by Pope Benedict since his election entitled *On the Way to Jesus Christ*, which is about the true Jesus, the Jesus of the Gospels.

As then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he authored more than two dozen books that have been translated into English.

Going on vacation and need to find a church and Mass times? There is such a resource on the Web. The folks at www.massstimes.org have put together a search engine that lets you look up Mass times by city, state, zip code or country. The results give detailed information about the churches themselves, devotions and, most importantly, directions.

Some 5,000 expected seminarians attending **World Youth Day** will have a special meeting with Benedict XVI on Aug. 19. Seminarians from the Erie Diocese attending World Youth Day include **James Campbell, Joseph Campbell, Ross Miceli and Max Pawlowski.**

Cari Serafin and Marilyn Randolph, coordinators of the **Mission of Friendship** in our sister Archdiocese of Merida, Mexico, met with **Pat Marshall**, director of the Office of Diocesan and International Offices, in Erie last week. They made plans for the Sept. 17 day of reflection/workshop that will be held for the 16 parishes in the diocese that are paired with parishes in Mexico. Any parishes interested in forging a sister-parish relationship are invited to contact Pat at 814.824.1230.

Cari and Marilyn reported that Hurricane Emily had been downgraded to a level-2 hurricane by the time it reached the city of Merida, but outlying villages were hit harder. Many of the diocese's sister parishes are likely to have suffered damage.

A reminder that because August 15, the **Feast of the Assumption**, falls on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Many are sure to attend Mass on this feast day regardless.

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

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Gannon president awarded new contract

Dr. Antoine M. Garibaldi has been awarded an early renewal of his contract that extends him in his position as Gannon University's president through May 2009, according to Eric Bishop Donald W. Trautman, chairperson of Gannon's Board of Trustees.

"Dr. Garibaldi's original five-year contract would have taken him through May 2006, but in 2004, based on his first three years of exceptional leadership and sustained superior performance, the board voted on a five-year early renewal covering the period of May 2004-May 2009," Bishop Trautman said.

Garibaldi's tenure to date has been marked by growth and progress in all key areas, including improved quality of academic programs, increased undergraduate and graduate enrollment, sound fiscal management and fundraising, enhanced educational technologies, campus upgrades to improve student quality of life and extensive community and regional involvement. Gannon also has moved up several places into Tier One status in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2005." Additionally, Garibaldi was instrumental in securing Gannon's largest grant ever in the fall of 2004 — \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

"I appreciate the board's decision as well as their continuing support," Garibaldi said. "There is still much more to be done to raise Gannon University's stature even higher and to continue to fulfill the obligations of our mission statement, and I look forward to working with the board to do that."

Obituary

Sr. Mary Anne Martin, O.L.C., died July 8, 2005 at Twinbrook Medical Center. She was born August 11, 1914 in New Baltimore, Pa., daughter of the late Louis and Mary Cecelia Stummiller Martin. She entered the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Pittsburgh on Oct. 15, 1936 and in 1939 she transferred to the convent in Erie where she was involved in many aspects of the ministry at Gannondale.

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Fr. Levis stresses catechism at Q&A session

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

For an hour every day, Fr. Robert Levis answers questions from around the world on his favorite subject: the Catholic faith.

Whether they're questions for his "Web of Faith" TV show on EWTN or e-mail posts on the cable station's Web site, the retired Gannon professor answers both well-thought-out ponderings and beliefs on basic tenets of the faith.

Everyday his in-box is full with such questions as: "I'm going on vacation. Do I have to go to Mass on Sunday?" "Are you supposed to go to confession then Communion or is it Communion then confession?" "Is Jesus really God?" "Is there really a heaven and a purgatory?"

Fr. Levis spoke about the catechism and what keeps him going at a program called "Catholic Q&A: You've got questions, we've got answers" on July 13 at St. Joseph Parish, Erie.

"Most Catholics today are confused, and in the practical order, like how to go to confession," Fr. Levis told the audience. "They don't know what to think, they don't know what to do. I could be on the computer three or four hours and not get to all the questions."

He shared with the audience a

question he received this month that he says is typical.

"Father, I just don't know how to feel anymore about family members who just don't live their Catholic faith. I was at a family gathering yesterday and could not get over the fact that my sister and her family have completely fallen away from our faith. I found it difficult to be charitable in my thoughts and words. Father, please help me. I'm so broken hearted."

"This is where I've spent most of my energies in the last 30 years," the 84-year-old priest says.

He opened by saying he thinks the church is in a state of revolution, and there are sides.

"We have a very divided church," Fr. Levis says. "I basically take the side of the bishops. They are the ones who are responsible before God. They are the magisterium, and they're the ones to whom the keys are committed."

There is also a lot of dissent in the church, he says.

"I probably know more dissenting Catholics than I do orthodox Catholics," Fr. Levis says. "Some of you will say, 'Oh, you're a conservative.' I'm not a conservative; I'm an orthodox Catholic. Because I believe in the Apostle's Creed, the Our Father and the seven sacraments, people think I'm a conservative."

Much of the dissent, he says, started with the publication of the



Fr. Robert Levis on the catechism: "Our people simply don't know the treasure they have."

Dutch catechism in 1968 which went away from basic beliefs of the church. It contains proclamations indicating that the Gospels are not historical, we know very little about Jesus, the resurrection is a legend from the early centuries and the church came from society rather than being founded by Jesus.

"They just threw the Bible out," Fr. Levis says. "That's enough to destroy the church. And it's pretty well damaged the church in universities, certainly in my field of catechetics."

Orthodox Catholics amount only to a mere party or sect within the church today, he says.

"Today, an orthodox Catholic is looked down on by a good num-

ber of church leaders, lay church leaders especially," he says. "The bishops are really trying to get the church back from the modernists, from the dissenters."

Fr. Levis is also assisting in the effort. His book *Jesus, the Catechism and Me* has sold more than 40,000 copies. "I wrote it for 6th graders, but many priests use it for adults," he says. He's also developed a computer program called *Restless Teens* designed to enlighten teen-agers about Mass.

"Most everything we have in the catechism is full of definitive teaching," Fr. Levis says. "Our people simply don't know the treasure they have. It's meant to be more than a door-stop."

Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

Fr. Scott Jabo, reappointed headmaster of Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, for a term of five years. Effective July 13, 2005.

Fr. Michael Kesicki, reappointed rector of St. Mark Seminary and member of the faculty of Gannon University

for a term of five years. Effective July 13, 2005.

Fr. Nicholas Rouch, reappointed vice-rector of St. Mark Seminary and member of the administration of Gannon University for a term of five years. Effective July 13, 2005.

Fr. Mark Swoger, reappointed headmaster of DuBois Area Catholic School, DuBois, for a term of five years. Effective July 13, 2005.

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At 99, artist's skills and faith are undiminished

WHEELING, III. (CNS) — Retirement is not on 99-year-old Stanley Gorski's agenda. The artist-in-residence at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling still has much work to do.

He is too busy creating religious artwork for the Villa's Sunday bulletin. Gorski calls it "payback."

"The Lord has been good to me," said Gorski, who attends daily Mass. "He's put me on the earth for many years and I've had a good life. Now I want to pay back for all that I've received." He donates most of his artwork.

He and his late wife, Adeline, to whom he was married for 70 years, made church the center of their lives, along with their children — Jim, Ted and Judy — and became involved in many of its activities.

At St. Odilo Parish in Berwyn, Gorski first began sketching religious figures.

Then, when he and his family moved to Elmhurst, Gorski provided the artwork for his



Artist Stanley Gorski, 99, is pictured at his drawing table at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, III.

parish bulletins at Mary Queen of Heaven. A sign with pictures that Gorski once drew still stands outside the church. It lists Masses and activities. His painting of the Blessed Mother still hangs in the parish rectory. In 2003, that parish gave him its lifetime achievement award for his contributions.

Gorski drew illustrations for 43 years before retiring at 65 but continued as a freelance

artist doing special projects. His real love always has been his religious artwork.

"I love to draw our Blessed Mother and the Sacred Heart," he said. "My favorite is Jesus on Palm Sunday riding on a donkey." He said the drawing, done in acrylics, was created for a Benedictine missionary stationed in Taiwan.

"I combined two images — one of the Good Shepherd

and the other the Sacred Heart — into one picture," said Gorski.

He researches his subjects — saints — often with the help of his daughter and other family members.

When Gorski gets stuck on how to draw something, he said, he prays to the Sacred Heart for inspiration. It seems to work since his artwork is being used for holy cards and leaflets and has appeared in Catholic newspapers and in religious communities' informational material.

When Gorski moved to Villa Addolorata, he transformed the one bedroom in his apartment into an art studio. He sleeps in the living room.

Aside from working on his sketches, he still enjoys swimming and ice skating when time allows. But he said he seldom watches TV.

"It's too time-consuming and besides, there's not much of interest on it," he said. "My artwork makes me happy. I'm still alive and so far behind!"

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FaithLife

July 31, 2005

All eyes on COLOGNE for
WORLD YOUTH DAY

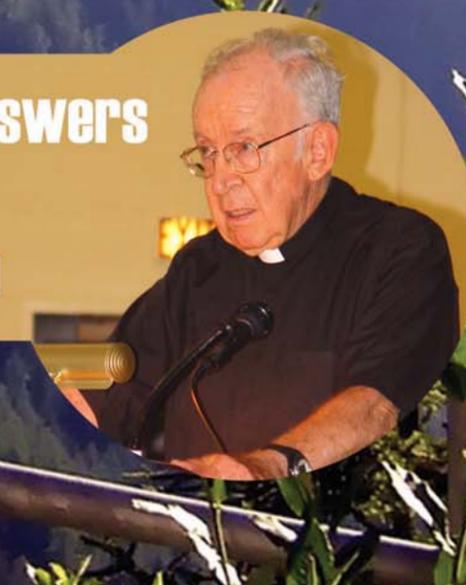


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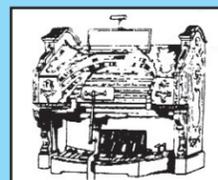
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