

Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz

Live drama on life of St. Maximilian Kolbe coming to Our Lady of Peace, page 3.



FaithLife

On a mission

Sharon youth group makes mission trip to Twin Cities, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 19, 2007

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary



St. Rose of Lima

- Aug. 20 St. Bernard
- Aug. 21 St. Pius X
- Aug. 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug. 23 St. Rose of Lima
- Aug. 24 St. Bartholomew
- Aug. 25 St. Louis of France, St. Joseph Calasanz
- Aug. 27 St. Monica
- Aug. 28 St. Augustine
- Aug. 29 Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

150th anniversary Mass at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Union City – Aug. 19

St. Teresa of Avila in Union City will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its establishment as a parish community on Sunday, Aug. 19. Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. anniversary Mass, which will be followed by a luncheon and reception.



St. Teresa of Avila

Vatican International Exhibition and Eucharistic conference – Aug. 24-25

St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie will host "Treasure of the Catholic Church," a Eucharistic conference, and the Vatican International Exhibition, a photographic display and walking tour of Eucharistic miracles spanning the history of the Catholic Church, on Aug. 24-25.



Father Bernard DuPont, O.P., a Dominican preacher from Kentucky, will be the presenter. Father DuPont will give three talks and celebrate two Masses during the two-day conference. Along with his talks will be opportunities for confession, meditation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, a procession and benediction.

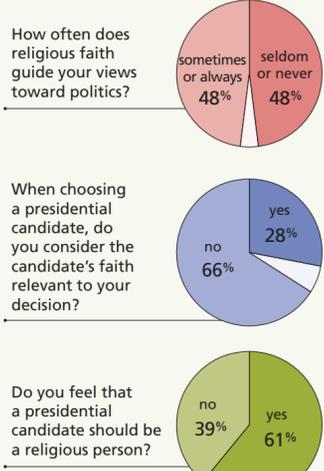
The conference and exhibition begins at 3 p.m. Aug. 24, ending with benediction after 8 p.m. On Aug. 25, the conference continues with 9 a.m. Mass and concludes with the regularly scheduled parish Mass at 5:15 p.m.

Teens of the Year Mass – Aug. 26

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass for the 2007 Faith magazine Teens of the Year, nominees and their families at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. The bishop will also offer a special blessing for the teens during the Mass.

ACCORDING TO A POLL from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., the faith of candidates and of voters may play an important role in the 2008 presidential election.

Faith & Politics



From interviews conducted May 14-26 with 958 U.S. residents. The sampling margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points. Source: Sacred Heart University Polling Institute ©2007 CNS

Filling plates for 25 years

Second Harvest marks anniversary with community partners, agencies

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — For 25 years, Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania has helped fill plates throughout this corner of the state.

On Aug. 4, Second Harvest held an anniversary dinner to recognize those who have helped them help others.

Three hundred people attended the dinner, which was one of the first events to be held at the new Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. Former First Lady of Pennsylvania Michele Ridge served as honorary chairperson of the event. Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, was the guest speaker. Bishop Donald Trautman gave the invocation.

"This was more of a friend-raiser rather than a fundraiser," said Karen Seggi, executive director of



Karen Seggi (left), executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, presents the first-ever Sister Augusta Hamel Leadership Award to Sister Christine Vladimiroff. The award was presented to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie for their role in establishing and developing the food bank, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Second Harvest. "We wanted to make it so that all of our community partners and agency representa-

tives from the last 25 years were able to join us and recognize those who have helped us. We'll need their assistance in the next 25 years."

During the program, the Benedictine Sisters were honored with the first-ever Sister Augusta Hamel Leadership Award, named after the Second Harvest's executive director from 1982-93.

"She was a wonderful woman. You don't meet too many people like her," said Seggi, who was hired by Sister Augusta. "She was really sincerely kind. She was the driving force behind what the food bank is today. She's still so instrumental just through her memory."

Sister Christine, who served as president and chief executive officer of the Second Harvest National Network in Chicago from 1991-98, accepted the award on behalf of the Benedictine Sisters for their role in establishing and developing the food bank.

"Tonight is an historic moment and needs to be celebrated," she said in her remarks. "This is not a celebration that hunger exists in our community, in our country and in the world. This is a celebration that a people of conscience gathered to make visible and concrete compassion for those who have no bread."

In 2006, Second Harvest distributed 6.5 million

See SECOND HARVEST, page 3

Second Harvest Timeline



MIXING Religion & POLITICS

Symbols of faith tucked into power city

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Washington is a city rich with powerful symbols.

It is known for its monuments, memorials and corridors of power. And its big landmarks, the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument, will always loom large because of an 1899 law stipulating that no private structures in the city can be higher than either of them.

In tourist season — early spring to late summer — visitors to the capital flock to the seats of government and monumental tributes to history with cameras always at the ready.

But what they might not readily notice or capture for their photo albums are the religious symbols tucked away all over the nation's capital.

Sometimes these symbols, often statues or paintings of religious figures, are embedded in the buildings them-



CNS photo

Moses is depicted with the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments on the pediment of the back of the Supreme Court building

in Washington. Moses is flanked by representations of the Chinese philosopher Confucius and ancient Greek lawmaker Solon.

selves, for example, Moses in a frieze over the back entrance of the U.S. Supreme Court. But other religious symbols are often located off the beaten track -- statues of saints in the U.S. Capitol or a painting of monks copying manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

The book "One Nation Under God" by Father Eu-

gene Hemrick, a priest from the Joliet, Ill., Diocese who works as a researcher in Washington, highlights a number of the religious symbols located within the halls of power and popular tourist spots.

Moses is practically a Washington insider because, according to Father Hemrick, he appears in several Washington locales — more than

any other person of faith. At the Supreme Court, he is on an exterior frieze, flanked by the Chinese philosopher Confucius and ancient Greek lawmaker Solon.

The Supreme Court's Web site notes that the three central figures were selected to represent three great civili-

See MIXING, page 3

Opening doors and building bridges

Sister Parish Day helps strengthen Mission of Friendship

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

HARBORCREEK — For parishes in the Erie Diocese participating in the Mission of Friendship sister parish program in Yucatán, Mexico, language isn't a barrier.

"It's about contact, not content," said Meg Allin with St. Julia's sister parish committee. "When you go with God, he steps out, leads the way and plans everything for you."

Allin joined about 40 others members of sister parish committees throughout the diocese Aug. 11 at the Mission of Friendship's third annual Sister Parish Day hosted by Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek.

The Mission of Friendship is a cooperative relationship between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatán, Mexico. Its sister parish program encourages an exchange between parishes in each diocese, enabling them to share spiritually and culturally. The Mission of Friendship also coordinates and provides volunteer staff for a number of projects that serve the poor.

St. Julia's sister parish commit-

tee and members of the parish youth group spoke about their recent visit to their sister parish of Santa Inés in Dzititá.

On their visit, they brought clothes, school supplies and other items collected through Catholic Charities' Mission Office to the Mission of Friendship in Merida, where they are distributed to various sister parishes and those in need. The group also brought the Stations of the Cross from the old Our Lady of the Lake church in Edinboro, which will go to a parish in the Archdiocese of Yucatán. They also participated in a First Communion service at Santa Inés.

Cari Serafin and Marilyn Randolph, the American coordinators of the Mission of Friendship (Misión de Amistad), located in Merida, spoke about the Mexican perspective of the mission, explaining cultural differences and practical ways to help the mission.

"The program has a lot of potential for our global church," Serafin said. "Learning how to be a friend or have a relationship takes work and ideas.

See SISTER PARISH, page 3

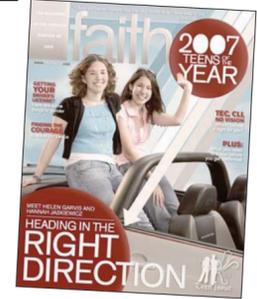
Faith magazine announces 2007 Teens of the Year

Helen Garvis, a 2007 graduate of Grove City High School and a member of Beloved Disciple Parish, and Hannah Jaskiewicz, a member of St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie entering her junior year at Harbor Creek High School, have been named Faith magazine's 2007 Teens of the Year.

"These two young women bring a very positive message to their peers and to adults as well," said Anne-Marie Welsh, editor. "We are very happy to showcase young people from throughout the diocese who are embracing their faith and building happy, successful lives."

Garvis and Jaskiewicz will be honored at a picnic lunch with Bishop Trautman after Mass at St. Peter Cathedral on Aug. 26. All of the teens who were nominated, as well as their families and the people who sent in the nominations, are invited to the event.

"These kids are making great choices and choosing to live by Gospel values in a culture where that takes real commitment," Welsh said. "The picnic will give Bishop Trautman an opportunity to let them know



their church is proud of them."

Named as Teen of the Year finalists this year were Nick Cain of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Sharon; Evan Ditty of St. Titus Parish in Titusville; Melissa Ehrensberger of St. Mary's Parish in St. Marys; and Sierra Green of St. St. Michael Parish in Greenville.

Also honored at the luncheon will be the two winners of the Jesse Spade Memorial Award: Carly Fleming of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Farrell and Becky Deeter, who attends Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cochranton.

Anna Lindell, a senior at Mercyhurst Prep and a member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, and Benjamin Hahn, a member of St. Mary Parish in Sartwell, will be honored as winners of the Editor's Choice Award.



IN THE U.S.

■ Upon hearing of the collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, priests from the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis traveled to the scene, as well as to nearby hospitals and medical centers, to see how they could help victims of the tragedy and their families. Although travel between the two cities has been virtually impossible since the disaster, hundreds turned out for two noon prayer services Aug. 2 — one in St. Paul at the Cathedral of St. Paul and the other at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis.

■ In contrast to the decision of the Irish bishops' conference to request Vatican permission to move the liturgical celebration of St. Patrick's Day in 2008 to avoid a conflict with Holy Week, the feast day "will not be commemorated liturgically" in most U.S. dioceses next year, according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy. Because March 17 falls on the Monday of Holy Week next year, the Irish bishops' conference requested and received permission from the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments to move the solemnity of St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, to the nearest Saturday, March 15. But an earlier decision by the Vatican congregation to transfer the feast of St. Joseph in 2008 from March 19, the Wednesday of Holy Week, to March 15 "impedes the transfer of the solemnity of St. Patrick to March 15" in the United States, said an article in the liturgy secretariat's newsletter for April.



St. Patrick

AROUND THE WORLD

■ The United Nations' decision July 31 to send a peacekeeping force to the Darfur region of Sudan drew cheers from Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based confederation of Catholic relief, development and social service organizations. The U.N. resolution, which authorized up to 26,000 peacekeepers in the long-troubled region, was hailed as a "welcome breakthrough" by Caritas in an Aug. 1 statement.

■ With a new director at the helm, the Vatican publishing house is turning a new page. Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, the recently appointed head of the Libreria Editrice Vaticana, said he wants to beef up the availability of Vatican publications around the world and expand the Vatican's offerings on art and culture. The Vatican publishing house also "is getting things ready for orders over the Internet," he said. Currently, international orders only can be made by fax, mail or through the Web site www.paxbook.com.



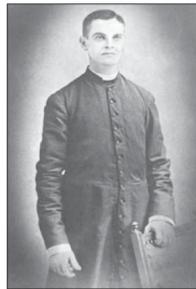
■ The late July arrest of three Catholic priests in China's Inner Mongolia region is part of a crackdown in several areas of the country against priests who are not part of the government-recognized Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, said a Rome-based news agency. AsiaNews, an agency sponsored by the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, said that at least 11 priests under arrest are experiencing harsher treatment since the publication June 30 of Pope Benedict XVI's letter to Chinese Catholics.

■ Contrary to what many may think, young people are strongly attracted to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, Pope Benedict XVI told thousands of Spanish youths. The pope urged some 5,000 pilgrims from Youth Mission of Madrid to continue to help their peers discover they are all loved by God and that

his is "the only love that never fails and never ends." The pope spoke to the young people packed inside the courtyard of his papal summer residence, south of Rome, Aug. 9. He also greeted thousands of young people who could not fit inside the confined courtyard and gathered outside the residence's entrance.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the second highest ranking official at the Vatican, told members of the Knights of Columbus that he is taking a personal interest in the beatification process for the order's founder, Father Michael McGivney. Cardinal Bertone gave the homily at the Aug. 7 opening Mass of the Knights of Columbus' 125th annual national convention in Nashville. The cardinal's comments on the sainthood cause of Father McGivney were met with applause from the Knights attending the Mass. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., in 1882.



Father Michael McGivney

■ Pope Benedict XVI has been ranked as one of the top "green" religious leaders by the online environmental magazine Grist. According to Grist, these leaders are spreading the "ecogospel." The pope and the other Catholic leaders managed to crack the list because they have spoken out on environmental issues. The pope's use of an electric-powered popemobile and solar-power-friendly Vatican City helped him land at No. 6 on the list. Grist said the pope has been increasingly vocal about the suffering that climate change will cause for the world's poor.

By the Way...

In his recent article in *America* magazine on the proposed Mass translations, Bishop Donald Trautman, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, asked the church to "speak up, speak up!" And the Church of God spoke. The bishop has received hundreds of letters in response to his request. A few excerpts from some of the online responses are available at www.ErieRCD.org.



Jason Koshinski

After 18 years of experience at Ecclesia Center in Girard, Sister Marilyn Zimmerman, SSJ, and Father Jerry Simmons are now offering spiritual direction and counseling to those who minister in the church. Their new offices are located at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie. For an appointment, call 814.454.0810.

Ecclesia Center, a non-profit facility which served as a retreat center for clergy and religious since 1982, ended its residency program for clergy and religious as of March 31.

St. Ann Parish in Erie will honor the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 22 with a 7 p.m. Mass and enrollment into the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. According to the Virgin Mary's promise to St. Simon Stock, "whosoever dies wearing this shall not suffer eternal fire." Since its first appearance in 1274, the brown scapular has been a popular devotion in the Catholic Church.

A correction from last issue's column: The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter leaders are Mary Beth and John Zdarko. Mark Zdarko is a cousin of John who lives in Erie.

For those wondering what rite of Mass the pope says privately, here it is: According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Pope Benedict XVI concelebrates his daily morning Mass in Italian using the current edition of the Roman Missal. Claims that the pope celebrates his private Mass using the Tridentine rite are incorrect.

A few days after Pope Benedict issued his letter and norms providing greater opportunity for the celebration of the Tridentine Mass, news reports claimed the pope already had been celebrating the old rite privately.

"The confusion probably was caused by our footage of the pope celebrating facing the altar, which is due to the fact that the altar is against the wall" in the private chapel of the Apostolic Palace, Father Lombardi said. With the altar against the wall, the concelebrants in the private chapel end up having their backs toward the congregation during the eucharistic prayer.

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

Collection for Latin American church exceeds \$7 million in 2006

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — The national collection to aid the church in Latin America received more than \$7 million in contributions for the first time last year and used the funds to assist 476 projects in nearly two dozen countries.

The annual report of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Church in Latin America, published in July in English and Spanish, included those statistics and also featured a photo tribute to the rural catechists of Huancavilca, Peru.

"The work of these catechists represents the dedication and love that all catechists throughout Latin America hold for Christ and his church," said Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, Calif., chairman of the committee, in a letter sent to his fellow bishops with the report.

The Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in May in Aparecida, Brazil, "brought to light many of the urgent pastoral challenges faced by our brothers and sisters," Bishop Soto added. "This report will reveal to you the vitality of many of our present collaborative efforts and the hope these efforts inspire for the future."

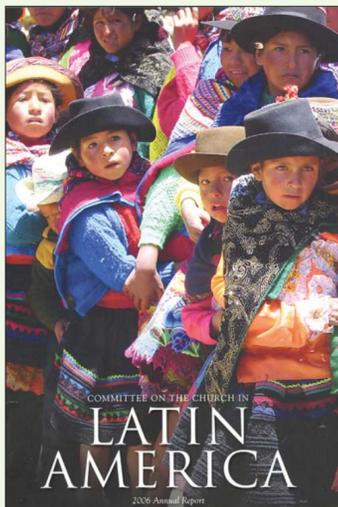
Contributions to the collection came from 159 dioceses in all 50 states and in U.S. territories and from the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

In 2006, the Diocese of Erie contributed \$15,000 toward the Collection for the Church in Latin America.

"When we contribute to this collection, we are actively living out our call to stewardship and are actively participating in a work of solidarity with our Latin American brothers and sisters," said Bishop Donald Trautman.

The collection, he added, also helps the diocese to continue responding to the basic needs of impoverished people in our Sister Diocese of Yucatan, Mexico.

The report also broke down the allocations from the collection by organizational type, region and category type, with nearly half (45.9 percent) of the grants going to pastoral programs and the second-largest number (14.6 percent) for the formation of



The national collection to aid the church in Latin America received more than \$7 million in contributions for the first time last year and used the funds to assist 476 projects in nearly two dozen countries. This is the cover of the annual report of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Church in Latin America. To view the full report on the Web at www.usccb.org, click on "Evangelization & Outreach" then "Church in Latin America."

seminarians and religious.

Other funded projects involved lay leadership training, evangelization and missionary activities, catechetics, religious education, multinational programs, training permanent deacons and research.

About a third of the allocated funds went to dioceses or archdioceses, but national bishops' conferences, seminaries, parishes, religious congregations, Catholic organizations, educational institutes and Catholic Relief Services also benefited.

A portion of the collection also funds the U.S. bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace, particularly its efforts to promote economic development in Haiti, debt relief, changes in the U.S.-Colombian Free Trade Agreement, the equitable distribution of Peru's natural resources and religious freedom in Venezuela.

The collection for the church in Latin America takes place in most U.S. dioceses on the fourth Sunday in January. It is scheduled for the weekend of Jan. 26-27 in 2008.

Volunteerism in America

6 million Americans donated 8.2 billion hours in 2006, study shows

By Joshua Garner
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Last year, nearly 6 million Americans donated 8.2 billion hours in volunteer work, according to a new federal study. That translated into \$152 billion in services and labor.

The study, conducted by the Washington-based Corporation for National and Community Service, surveyed the nation's top 50 metropolitan areas.

The corporation is a federal agency that oversees Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America, and AmeriCorps, which now includes Volunteers in Service to America and the National Civilian Community Corps. Its mission is to promote civic engagement through service and volunteering.

Bob Grim, director of research at the Corporation for National and Community Service, said the study, released in July, was the first of its kind, and that researchers wanted to localize the findings to promote volunteering in cities throughout the country.

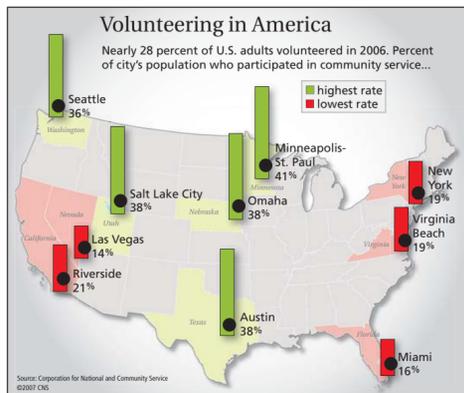
"Volunteering is an incredible force in America," he said.

That it's a force is true. The study found that communities with high numbers of volunteers will come closer to solving key challenges society is facing today. Communities with more volunteers also have lower crime rates, according to the study.

Minneapolis-St. Paul led the nation in a new federal study that ranked volunteer rates among the populations of the nation's major metropolitan areas.

But why the Midwest? Six of the top 10 cities in the study were right in the middle of the country. And why Minneapolis-St. Paul?

Among the Midwestern cities with a high percentage of volunteers were Omaha, Neb., 38 percent; Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan., 35 percent; and Milwaukee, 34 percent. Se-



attle and Portland, Ore., had a volunteer rate of 36 percent and Salt Lake City, 38 percent. Cities with the lowest rates included Las Vegas, 14 percent; Miami, 16 percent; Virginia Beach, Va., and New York, 19 percent; and Riverside, Calif., 21 percent.

Still, the Corporation for National and Community Service expects volunteer rates to increase in the coming years as baby boomers move into retire-

1,400 volunteers in the Erie Diocese, along with **830** full- and part-time staff, work to serve more than **56,000** people annually through Catholic Charities agencies throughout the **13** counties of northwest Pennsylvania and international missions.

To view Catholic Charities' 2006 annual report, visit www.ErieRCD.org and click on "Catholic Charities."

"We're likely to see an explosion in volunteers," Grim said.

Among other interesting points in the study was that young people tend to volunteer to learn skills, while older people want to apply their skills.

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"We Make House Calls"

Briefly

Live drama on St. Maximilian Kolbe coming to OLP Aug. 23



Leonardo Defilippis portrays St. Maximilian Kolbe in "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz."

ERIE — "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz," a live drama which includes set, lights, costumes and an original musical score and is now on a nationwide tour, will be performed Thursday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

Leonardo Defilippis, an award winning one-man drama actor and director of the recently released movie "Therese," poignantly portrays the life of Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the prison camp at Auschwitz.

In 1941, Father Kolbe spontaneously offered to take the place of a married man condemned to death by starvation. Forty-one years after that heroic act, he was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

Defilippis has become well-known throughout the U.S. and Canada for his dramas on the Gospels, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Augustine and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

This program is recommended for ages 10 years and up due to the heavy content, but all are welcome. Free child care will be provided.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Our Lady of Peace Parish office, 2401 W. 38th St., or at the door.

John Michael Talbot concert tickets now available

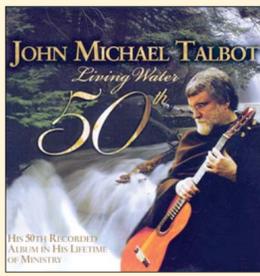
ERIE — Tickets for the John Michael Talbot concert Sept. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral will be made available beginning this weekend, Aug. 18-19. Admission is free, but a ticket is required to be admitted into the concert.

Tickets are available at Mount Calvary, St. Jude the Apostle and St. Peter Cathedral parishes and Hofmann's Church and Religious Goods in Erie.

A free will offering will be taken during the performance.

Talbot's latest album "Living Water" was released Aug. 15. It marks the artist's 50th recording.

The Sept. 20 concert, scheduled for 7 p.m., will be the last chance to see Talbot perform, at least for a little while. He has announced that after his current tour, he will take a break from recording and performing for an unknown period of time.



CNS photo

This is the cover of John Michael Talbot's newest album, "Living Water." It is the 50th album for the Catholic musician, who is now preparing to take a break from recording and touring.

The Sept. 20 concert, scheduled for 7 p.m., will be the last chance to see Talbot perform, at least for a little while. He has announced that after his current tour, he will take a break from recording and performing for an unknown period of time.

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Second Harvest marks anniversary with community partners, agencies

SECOND HARVEST from page 1

pounds of food, enough to fill 325,000 bags of food for its 239 charitable member agencies, 53 of which are Catholic affiliates through parishes or agencies. That is more than 14 times the amount of food provided in 1982 when Second Harvest was founded. At that time, a total of 444,916 pounds of food was distributed to 40 agencies.

Second Harvest serves 11

counties in northwest Pennsylvania, including 11 of 13 in the Erie Diocese. Local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, Kids Cafés and other non-profit organizations come to Second Harvest's warehouse to obtain products used for their food distribution and meal preparation. Counties served by Second Harvest include Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McK-

ean, Venango and Warren.

While Second Harvest has grown over the years, the mission has remained the same. To aid that mission, the food bank's board of directors has devised a plan for expansion. By the end of the year, Second Harvest will move into the former Grim Industries warehouse near Veshecco Industrial Park at West 12th Street and Greengarden Boulevard in Erie.

The move to the 60,000 square foot warehouse will double the food bank's storage space. Second Harvest has occupied the former Sears warehouse at 1703 Ash St. in Erie since 1983.

Want to help Second Harvest fill more plates? Visit www.erie-foodbank.org, call 814.459.3663 or toll free at 1.800.604.9186 or e-mail hunger@eriefoodbank.org.

Sister Parish Day helps strengthen diocese's Mission of Friendship

SISTER PARISH from page 1

That's what we're hoping to do here."

Overall, Serafin said the day is a reminder of what the mission is all about and a way to help make their relationships more real. She used the Spanish word "provecho," which when translated means to get the potential out of something.

"A lot of programs have a beautiful philosophy," she said. "When it comes down to the nitty gritty, you have to have some really good ideas on making all the beautiful stuff work. The beautiful stuff is that we are all brothers and sisters in the church and in Christ, no matter where we live, whether it's Erie or Mexico.

"Extending your openness, your friendship and your understanding to somebody who does things very much differently than



A display inside Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek celebrates the Aug. 15 feast day of its sister parish, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción in Peto, Yucatán, Mexico. Our Lady of Mercy hosted the Mission of Friendship's third annual Sister Parish Day Aug. 11.

you just opens you up differently, too."

Having other groups that have recently visited the Yucatán talk about their trip is encouraging for others to hear about and may

hopefully inspire others to do the same, said Pat Marshall, director of Catholic Charities' Diocesan and International Missions Office.

"I think the most valuable

thing to come out of this is the sharing of ideas between the sister parishes," Marshall said. "It's promoting the program from within itself. There is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement from the people who come here."

Our Lady of Mercy members also made a presentation on the parish's visit to its sister parish of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Assumption) in Peto, Yucatán. The groups also held a communications brainstorming session on how to better and more practically communicate with their sister parishes.

Now in its 36th year, the Mission of Friendship currently has 20 sister parish links between the two dioceses.

For more information on the Mission of Friendship and its sister parish program, visit www.EricRCD.org/missions.asp.

Mixing religion and politics

MIXING from page 1

zations. Moses is also on a frieze inside the courtroom, along with 17 other historic lawgivers. Although he is holding the tablets, the Hebrew inscriptions on them only include portions of the Sixth through Tenth Commandments, specifically chosen, according to the Web site, because they are not inherently religious.

Moses, the lawgiver who is esteemed in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions, is also portrayed on a sculptured medallion in the House of Representatives and represented as a bronze statue in the main reading room at the Library of Congress, near a statue of St. Paul — honored, fittingly at the library, for being a man of letters.

Statues are in full supply at the U.S. Capitol where one section, aptly named National Statuary Hall, is lined with statues along its perimeter that also spill out into adjoining corridors. When the hall was dedicated in 1864, Congress invited each state to contribute two statues of prominent citizens. Displayed among the group are five Catholic missionaries — four priests and a woman religious — and the only Catholic signer of the

Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll.

Although other faiths are also represented in these statues, Washington tourists considering a Catholic scavenger hunt should keep their eyes open for Blessed Damien de Veuster, Hawaii; Blessed Junipero Serra, a Spanish Franciscan in California; Jesuit Father Eusebio Kino of Arizona; Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette for Wisconsin, although he is not technically from the state; Mother Joseph, a Sister of Charity, for Washington state; and Carroll, a Catholic layman from Maryland, cousin of the nation's first Catholic bishop, Archbishop John Carroll.

Blessed Damien, represented in a modern-style sculpture, is honored for his work with people with leprosy. The statue of Father Kino, complete with a cactus, acknowledges the missions he established and his work on land reform. Blessed Serra, who founded missions in California, holds aloft a cross.

Father Marquette, who explored regions near the Mississippi River, is honored by Wisconsin, but it took a congressional resolution to do this since he was neither a Wisconsin

native nor a U.S. citizen. Mother Joseph, the only kneeling statue of the group, has her hands clasped in prayer and tools in front of her. After arriving in the Pacific Northwest Territories in 1856, she established 11 hospitals, seven academies, five Indian schools and two orphanages.

Another Washington statue of a woman is St. Joan of Arc in the city's Meridian Hill Park. Depicting St. Joan on horseback wearing battle armor, it is a replica of the statue at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Reims in France. It was a gift from the women of France to the women of the United States in 1922.

Beyond statues of faith-filled men and women, there are also words related to faith etched in the walls of historic buildings. In the Library of Congress, a quotation from the Book of Proverbs is etched in marble: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding."

And in the U.S. Capitol, over a niche just inside a main-entrance doorway, are words with the potential to be a subtle reminder to those who pass under them: "faith, hope, love and clemency."

DEATH NOTICES

Sister Aloysia Michel, SSJ, dies at 91

Served at Saint Mary's Home, taught in diocesan schools

ERIE — Sister Aloysia Michel, SSJ, 91, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died on August 1, 2007. She was in her 56th year of religious life.

She was born in Meadville on May 8, 1916, the daughter of the late Henry and Blanch (Perrey) Michel. A native of Meadville's St. Brigid Parish, Sister Aloysia always wanted to be a sister. "I always wanted to be a nun to serve God's people," she said.

She worked at Saint Mary's Home of Erie from 1977 until her retirement in 1998. She was a bookkeeper and a superior at the Harborcreek Home for Boys and also served as a secretary and housemother there. Sister taught at St. Francis School,

Clearfield; St. Patrick and St. Ann schools in Erie.

She graduated from Meadville High School in 1934. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie in 1966. In 1937, she became a junior accountant after attending Meadville Commercial College. She entered the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph on August 31, 1954 from St. Brigid Parish, Meadville, and professed her final vows on August 15, 1957. In 2001, sister celebrated her golden jubilee (50 years).

In her retirement, she lived at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center in Erie.



Sister Aloysia Michel, SSJ

Sister Mary Charles Weschler, RSM, dies at 87

Taught business, physics, chemistry throughout diocese

ERIE — Sister Mary Charles Weschler, RSM, died August 6, 2007 at St. Vincent Health Center in Erie. She was in her 67th year of religious life.

Born February 22, 1920, in Erie, Sister Mary Charles (Marion Estelle) was a daughter of the late Charles Leo and Florence Mary Illig Weschler.

On September 22, 1940, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent in Titusville from St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. She professed perpetual vows on January 2, 1946. In 1968, she celebrated her silver jubilee; in 1991, her golden jubilee; and in 2000, her diamond jubilee.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business education from Mercyhurst College in 1940 and a master's in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1951. She received her doctorate in physical chemistry from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1956. She participated in summer programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation from 1959-63: Wilmette College, Canisius College, Georgetown University, the University of Southern California and Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. She did post-doctoral study in environmental science at the Argonne National Laboratory from 1970-71.

From 1940-46, she taught business, physics, and chemistry in several high schools in the Erie Diocese: St. Joseph Academy (Titusville), Ss. Cosmas and Da-



Sister Mary Charles Weschler, RSM

mian (Punxsutawney) and Sacred Heart (Franklin). In 1946, she moved to Mercyhurst College where she taught accounting, economics, physics, and chemistry. In 1963, she was named professor of physics and chemistry and chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics where she remained until 1977.

Within the Erie congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, she served as councilor (1975-91), treasurer (1983-95), and trustee on many boards, including DuBois Regional Medical Center, Mercy Center for Women, Mercyhurst Preparatory School and Mercyhurst College.

She served as a consultant for the National Religious Retirement Office, aided the initiation of Hospitality House Services for Women and participated in the consolidation of the DuBois Regional Medical Center and in the formation of Hope House/Mercy Center for Women, SafeNet, and Mercy Terrace Apartments.

Sister Mary Charles was awarded as the Erie Engineering Societies Council's 1970 Person of the Year, as a 1997 Women Making History honoree by the Mercy Center for Women and was recognized as a 50-year member by the American Chemical Society in 2006. The science division of Mercyhurst College also inaugurated the Sister Mary Charles Weschler Lecture Series in her honor.

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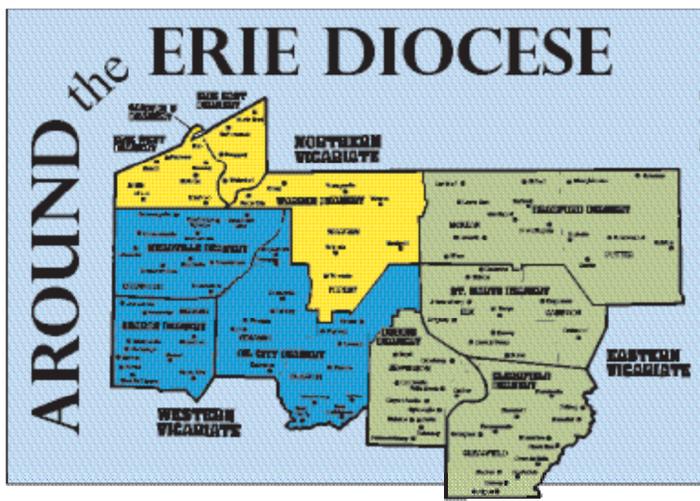
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Tionesta youth earn rank of Eagle Scout

TIONESTA — Four Scouts from St. Anthony Parish in Tionesta have recently received the rank of Eagle Scout. Their troop is sponsored by Tionesta Methodist Church.
 "All four of these young men are very active in our church," said Father Tom Aleksa, pastor of St. Anthony.
 Pictured from left to right are Seth Sneeringer, Ryan Weaver, Father Aleksa, Malachi Knauff and Ethan Paluh.



Sharon youth group makes mission trip to Twin Cities

SHARON — A group of 46 students from the youth group at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and Kennedy Catholic High School in Sharon spent June 10-16 in the Twin Cities as part of Catholic Heart Workcamp.
 A national mission network, Catholic Heart Workcamp empowers participants to live as disciples of Christ by serving others and fosters spiritual growth through the sacraments, faith sharing and prayer. The mission works with local agencies and schedules groups across the country to visit areas where help is needed.
 In the Twin Cities, CHWC serves the needy in the metro and suburban areas through housing rehabilitation and beautification, service in soup kitchens and food pantries and ministry in social service agencies.
 "Many times it's people who are lower income who are suffering or senior citizens who may not be economically struggling but may not have anyone to help them out," said Father Jeffrey Lucas, pastor of St. Stan's and faculty member of Kennedy Catholic, who was one of eight adults on the trip. This is the fifth year



Forty-six students from St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and Kennedy Catholic High School in Sharon recently went on a week-long mission trip to the Twin Cities as part of Catholic Heart Workcamp.

the youth group has participated in the mission trip.
 "It's amazing what these kids can do. If something is rundown, when they leave it looks like brand new."
 The group used DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis as a home base where they met up with 350 youth from all over the country. The work assignments were then given to the students in groups of five to seven. The students were split from their original traveling group and paired with five to seven others from other mission volunteers. Work teams stayed intact throughout the week.
 "The initial impact you always see is that, 'I'm very grateful for what I have and never realized what I've had,'" said Father Lucas. "They see first hand how those who are economically deprived live in pretty stressful situations."
 The experience also connects them with people their own age who likewise are taking a step in faith to help others, he said.
 The work groups also came together each morning for prayer and meal times. The week closed with a youth Mass with contemporary music.
 "They feel connected and supported in their faith by people their own age," Father Lucas said. "Many of them probably work harder at the work camp than maybe they have in their lives. They get their hands dirty. It's a good example of applying yourself to surprising tasks."

Sisters from St. Hedwig mark religious life milestone



ERIE — Three sisters originally from St. Hedwig Parish in Erie recently got together to mark a religious life milestone.
 Helen Dubowski of Erie and a parishioner of St. Hedwig has two sisters, Sister Teresa Marie Patora and Sister Mary Tyburcia Szymczak, who are Felician nuns in Buffalo. Sister Mary Tyburcia celebrated her diamond jubilee (75 years) during a May 6 Mass of thanksgiving at the Felician Sisters Health & Wellness Center Chapel in Buffalo.
 Sister Mary Tyburcia, 92, died on July 2 at the Health & Wellness Center.
 Pictured from left to right are Sister Mary Tyburcia (seated), Helen Dubowski and Sister Teresa Marie.

Confirmation at SCI Cambridge Springs

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS — Five inmates at the State Correctional Institution at Cambridge Springs recently received the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Donald Trautman during a service at the facility's chapel.
 Located in Crawford County, SCI Cambridge Springs is a minimum security facility for women, the majority of whom are nearing their release from prison. The facility houses more than 1,000 women.
 The five candidates took their first steps toward confirmation in September when they, along with their sponsors, began RCIA classes through the facility's chaplaincy program.
 The classes were taught by chaplain Father Daniel Prez, Deacon Harvey McQueen, de-

acon assistant at St. Agatha Parish in Meadville, along with his wife, Linda, and Ann Dence.
 "There is a lot of talk about people finding religion in prison, but I find that people who persevere and go through these classes, they really are sincere in their spiritual growth," said Sister Natalie Rossi, RSM, facility chaplaincy program director, who coordinates the prison's religious activities. She also serves as a pastoral counselor.
 "I feel that so many times women in prison who make the step to go deeper in their spiritual life, it's real. It's not a surface type of religion."
 Sister Natalie said their spiritual growth is nourished by attending Mass and the rosary at the prison chapel.



Pictured from left to right are: Father Daniel Prez, chaplain at SCI Cambridge Springs; Deputy Superintendent Martin Aubel; Bishop Trautman; and Sister Natalie Rossi, RSM, facility chaplaincy program director.

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Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz
Award winning actor, Leonardo DeFilippis, portrays the life of Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest arrested by the Gestapo and sent to the prison camp at Auschwitz.
 Thursday, August 23, 2007
 7:00 pm at Our Lady of Peace Church (2401 W 38 St, Erie, PA)
 Admission ~ Adults: \$10, Students & Seniors: \$5 (Advance tickets at the OLP Parish office or at the door).
 Free childcare provided also.

The Vatican International Exhibition
Eucharistic Miracles of the World: A walking tour of 126 Church approved Eucharistic miracles, spanning the centuries of the Catholic Church (Presented by The Real Presence Association)
 "Treasure of the Catholic Church" ~ August 24th
 St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Community, 147 W 24th St., Erie PA 16502

Friday, Aug 24th	Saturday, Aug 25th
3 pm - Exhibition opens	9 am - Mass
5 pm - Confession	9:30 am - Preaching service (Fr. DuPont)
5:30 pm - Divine mercy chaplet	10:30 am - Morning Refreshment
6 pm - Adoration/ Holy hour	11 am - View exhibition, Lunch
7 pm - Mass	1 pm - Adoration/Holy hour
8 pm - Preaching Service (Fr. DuPont)	2 pm - Preaching service (Fr. DuPont)
Closing - Eucharistic Blessing	3 pm - Divine mercy chaplet, Holy rosary
Procession & Benediction	4 pm - Parish Confessions
	5:15 pm - Mass (regular Mass time)

Questions? Contact Dominic at 814.398.8678, email: dcaggese@yahoo.com

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