

Remembering 9/11

Sept. 11 Blue Mass at St. Luke in Erie, page 3.



FaithLife

Building a garden

Eagle Scout dedicates community garden at House of Mercy, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 28, 2011

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Gregory the Great St. Peter Claver

Aug. 29	Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
Sept. 3	St. Gregory the Great
Sept. 5	Labor Day (national holiday)
Sept. 8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sept. 9	St. Peter Claver

Confirmation

Immaculate Conception, Clarion – Sunday, Sept. 11 at 11 a.m.

Clergy appointments

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



To the Office of Dean

Msgr. H. Desmond McGee, Dean of the Clearfield Deanery, effective July 27, 2011, to complete the term of Father Gregory Kirsch, for a term of four years.

Father Richard Toohey, Dean of the Warren Deanery, effective July 27, 2011, to complete the term of Father Tom Brown, for a term of four years.

Father Mark O'Hern, Dean of the Meadville Deanery, effective August 15, 2011, to complete the term of Father Raymond Gramata, for a term of four years.

To the College of Consultors

Father Matthew Ruyechan, member of the college, effective August 15, 2011, to complete the term of Father Greg Kirsch, for a term of three years.

WEB OF FAITH

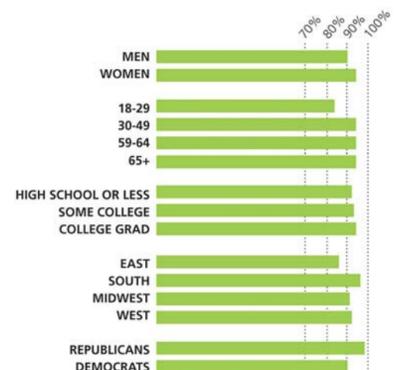
What's new at www.ErieRCD.org

What's new at www.ErieRCD.org, the official website of the Diocese of Erie:

- Information on the new Roman Missal
- Religious education resources for parents, students and educators
- Fall athletic schedules
- *On the Vine* for youth and young adults
- Pray for priests calendar

Belief in God

Belief in God appears to be generally high across most subgroups of the American population. Those who believe in God by demographic:



Source: Gallup poll

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Roman Missal

What are parishes doing to prepare?

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

As Catholics in the Diocese of Erie look toward Nov. 27, when the new edition of the Roman Missal goes into use in the United States, parishioners will find no lack of resources to help them prepare for the new sound and feel of the liturgy.

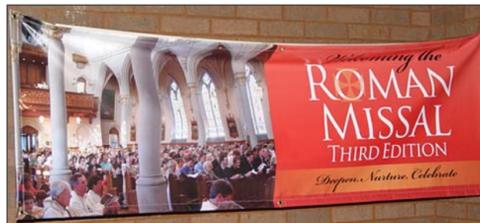
Parishes have been preparing for months—some beginning last year—for the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal. Brochures and pamphlets have been published along with many DVDs and video presentations aimed at specific audiences—from priests to teens to elementary school students.

While the implementation of all parts of the new Roman Missal must wait until the first Sunday of Advent, Bishop Donald Trautman has authorized the gradual introduction of the musical setting of the people's parts of the Mass beginning in September. This primarily affects the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy and the memorial acclamations.

Parishes in the diocese have taken a proactive approach to the new missal translation.

"They're excited and at the same time anticipating what these changes will really be like," Father Zab Amar, pastor of St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport and Holy Trinity Parish in Ramey, said of his parishioners. "There's an excitement in the air."

At both parishes, Father Amar said he has used the new translation as an oppor-



The Roman Missal banner at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie brings parishioners' attention toward a table of resources below it which includes articles, pamphlets and a copy of the current missal.

tunity to talk about the Mass in his homilies and at meetings with various parish councils and committees. At Holy Trinity, before each Mass a choir member will read a small portion from a publisher's guide to the new translation. That catechesis has been ongoing in weekly bulletins, as well.

"We've had a powerful push from the enthusiasm of our choir members," Father Amar said. "If the members of the choir are in tune with the new prayers, it will be easier to help lead people in singing and praying the new parts of the Mass. It rubs off on people."

And the parishes also include perhaps the most important part.

"We pray about it," he said. "It's helpful to prepare our hearts. The words of the church have been in our hearts for many years. The prayers will still be in our hearts. Once they get into actually praying the new prayers, I think it will be wonderful."

At Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, a large Roman Missal banner greets parishioners between the St. Joseph

and Sacred Heart altars. Underneath the banner is a table set up with articles, guides and a copy of the current missal.

The table has been set up since Christmastime. Even after the new translation goes into effect, it will still be up.

"We expect it to be up for two full years," said Father Ted Marconi, pastor of Our Lady of Peace.

Beginning last fall, the parish priests' and deacons' homilies were based on one particular item regarding the liturgy each month. The following week, a new article would be offered on the table.

"And people started taking the articles," Father Marconi said.

The parish is currently setting up its implementation schedule for the fall and incorporating the parish school and religious education classes. A few weeks ago, the music ministry began introducing a new piece each week. A video series on the new Mass and its relationship to Scripture will be presented after Christmas. The music ministry is making its own pew cards for pa-

See MISSAL, page 2

Roman Missal Checklist



Getting ready for the third edition of the Roman Missal

Prepare yourself

- Read the revisions of the people's parts online at the diocesan Roman Missal website: www.ErieRCD.org. Click on Roman Missal box; then, USCCB resources.

- Review "Faith magazine articles on the Roman Missal." Same link as above.

- Reflect on how you might deepen your prayerful engagement at Mass.

- Go deeper — click on "commentary" in USCCB resources above.

At Mass

- In addition to revised responses, be aware of updates on posture, gesture, silence and music.

Gestures

- During the Confeitor, strike your breast 3 times while saying, "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault."

- Bow from the waist during the Creed at "was incarnate."

- Stand after the priest washes his hands, ready to respond to "Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable..."

- Stand and sing Communion song (as you are able) until all have received.

- Stand for the Prayer after Communion

Silence

- Reflective silence after "Let us pray." The priest gathers together our prayers when he speaks the public prayer.

- For a brief time after the readings, psalm and homily

- Prayerful silence following the end of the Communion song

Music

- Be attentive as new Mass settings are taught.

- Support your musicians who lead the new Mass settings.

- Sing the acclamations, the psalm and the songs and hymns.

- Follow the Order of Mass in your hymnal, missalette or pew card to learn and internalize the new translation of the prayers.

— From the Office of Worship

Service award honors 'unsung heroes of the church'

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ST. MARYS — Last year, Bishop Donald Trautman laid out plans to affirm the many hard working volunteers throughout the Diocese of Erie who year after year have served their parish and community.

In doing so, Bishop Trautman established the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award.

This month, he conferred the honors to recipients at three ceremonies in the diocese representing each vicariate.

"At this ceremony, we recognize individuals who have served the Lord's church with dedication and zeal, individuals with have given exemplary witness as disciples of Christ by their faith and charity," the bishop said to honorees at the Aug. 14 ceremony at



St. Mary Parish in St. Marys.

Ceremonies were also held Aug. 23 at St. George Parish in Erie and Aug. 24 at Church of the Good Shepherd in West Middlesex. At the three ceremonies, 27 awards were conferred in the form of a medal and certificate

to individuals, married couples and a parish group.

In his message to honorees, Bishop Trautman recalled what he said was one of his favorite prayers in the Mass, which occurs just prior to the exchange of the sign of peace. With

Bishop's Commendation for Service Award: See the Eastern Vicariate honorees on page 3.



his arms extended the priest prays to the Lord, "Look not on our sins but on the faith of your church."

"I look out at you and I see faith and good works," he said to the honorees. "I see years of service and sacrifice. I see years of patient, humble hard work done for Christ's church—work done behind the scenes without any notoriety. I see disciples who have generously loved Christ and the church, disciples who have put their gifts and talents at the service of God's

See AWARD, page 2

World Youth Day



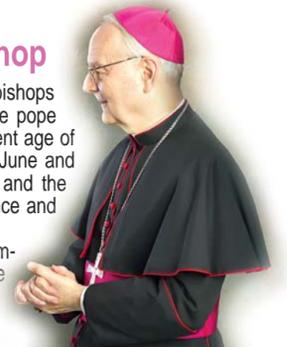
CNS photo

The popemobile carrying Pope Benedict XVI makes its way through a throng of young people as the pope arrives to celebrate the World Youth Day closing Mass at Cuatro Vientos airfield in Madrid Aug. 21. "The Lord loves you and calls you his friends," the pope told the 1.5 million pilgrims attending the finale. He also announced that the next World Youth Day will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

Prayer for a new bishop

Canon law states that diocesan bishops must submit their resignation to the pope on reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75. Bishop Trautman turned 75 in June and has submitted his resignation. He and the diocese await word on its acceptance and the appointment of a new bishop.

Bishop Donald Trautman has composed the following prayer to be prayed while the Diocese of Erie waits for the next bishop.



Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and pastor of the church, you have guided our Erie Diocese in 13 counties for 158 years. In your love and care for this flock, guide your vicar on earth, Pope Benedict XVI, in the selection of our new bishop. We pray that our diocese will be blessed with a holy shepherd and servant. May he be a courageous teacher of the faith and a humble, wise, prudent, collaborative leader.

May he be caring and compassionate and endowed with the gifts your church needs at this time. Lord Jesus, we trust in your providence and love. Help us to welcome with prayer and open hearts our new shepherd. This we ask in your name. Amen.

— Composed by Bishop Donald Trautman



IN THE U.S.

Knights will buy cultural center, establish shrine to late pope
 Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced Aug. 2 that the Knights of Columbus will purchase the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. The announcement came during the business session of the Knights' 129th annual convention Aug. 2-4. Anderson, delivering his annual report, said that over the next year, the fraternal organization will build a shrine to Blessed John Paul and put up related exhibits on the property. The center, which went up for sale about 18 months ago, sits on 12 acres just steps from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America. It cost \$75 million to build and the property has been valued at \$37.7 million. The Knights bought the property for \$22.7 million, according to a letter from Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron to priests and laypeople of the archdiocese. The center opened in 2001 with financial backing from the Detroit Archdiocese.



State contraceptive mandates widespread, not as broad as HHS plan
 In more than half of the states, Catholic officials have been living for years with mandates that health insurance plans must cover FDA-approved contraceptives in their prescription drug plans. Seventeen of the 28 states that require contraception coverage have some sort of religious exemption for employers, but few of the exemptions are quite as narrow as the one proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services when it announced Aug. 1 that contraceptives and sterilization will be among the mandated preventive services for women under the new health reform law. Under the proposal, only religious employers meeting certain stringent criteria would be exempt from providing contraceptives and female sterilization through their health plans.

AROUND THE WORLD

Catholic agencies part of aid campaign in Horn of Africa
 Catholic agencies are reported to be among the leading organizations providing humanitarian aid to the drought- and famine-ravaged

Horn of Africa. The Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa reports that Jesuit Refugee Service, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Ethiopia and Caritas Kenya have helped thousands of refugees in northern Kenya and internally displaced people in Somalia since the water crisis hit in November. AMECEA spokesman Father Chrisantus Ndaga told Catholic News Service that Catholic humanitarian agencies also have worked in Djibouti and Ethiopia, running programs that address agricultural and water needs. Despite the efforts, Father Ndaga expressed concern that the drought's severity and insufficient funding are overwhelming the agencies' ability to make much progress against what the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs calls the region's worst food crisis in 60 years. About 12 million people across Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya are in dire need of food, clean water and basic sanitation, while about 3.7 million people are at risk of starvation in southern Somalia, the worst hit area. Father Ndaga said teams from Catholic organizations are on the ground, particularly in eastern Kenya, home to the sprawling camp at Dadaab that houses about 390,000 refugees and sees 1,300 people arrive each day from drought-stricken Somalia.

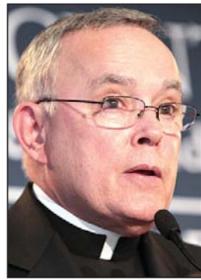


A girl carries a sibling through a settlement camp in Hodan district of Mogadishu, Somalia, Aug. 18.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Archbishop Chaput succeeds Cardinal Rigali; Savannah bishop retires
 Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput will succeed Cardinal Justin Rigali as archbishop of Philadelphia. Pope Benedict XVI accepted the 76-year-old cardinal's resignation and named the Denver archbishop, who is 66, as his successor July 19. In introducing Arch-

bishop Chaput in a news conference at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia offices, Cardinal Rigali also offered an apology "if I have offended" and "for any weaknesses on my part," but said he saw no particular connection between the timing of the Vatican accepting his resignation and turbulence in the archdiocese over a February grand jury report on how sex abuse cases were handled. Archbishop Chaput is scheduled to be installed as Philadelphia's new archbishop Sept. 8 at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.



Archbishop Charles Chaput

Archbishop Sambì, US nuncio since early 2006, dies at age 73

Italian Archbishop Pietro Sambì, the Vatican nuncio to the United States, died late July 27 at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore after a hospitalization that began with lung surgery. He was 73. On July 22, the apostolic nunciature in Washington announced that the archbishop had been "placed on assisted ventilation to attempt recovery of his lung function" two weeks after undergoing "a delicate lung surgery." A veteran Vatican diplomat, Archbishop Sambì was appointed as U.S. nuncio, or ambassador, in December 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI. A memorial Mass for Archbishop Sambì will be celebrated Sept. 14 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.



Archbishop Pietro Sambì

By the Way...

The interior church renovations at St. Callistus Parish in Kane are nearing completion, according to pastor Father Phil Pinczewski. The three-month project, which began in June, includes the refinishing of pews, new flooring and new lighting, among other projects. During the renovations, Masses have been moved to the parish hall and devotional chapel.



Jason Koshinski

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a rededication Mass at St. Callistus on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Father Harold Spacht, CSSR, a native of St. Gregory Parish in North East, returned home July 30 to celebrate his jubilee—50 years as a priest. The Mass was followed by a reception in the St. Gregory School gym. Father Spacht has served in Puerto Rico ever since his ordination in 1961.

Each summer when he comes home for vacation he assists the priests at St. Greg's with Sunday and daily Mass as needed. Father Spacht's family members have been strong supporters of the parish for many years. He is the brother of Sister Irene Spacht, OSB, of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

Lila Rose, the 23-year-old pro-life activist whose undercover investigations of Planned Parenthood have received national attention, will be the keynote speaker at People for Life's 34th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast on Jan. 7.

Rose's undercover videos can be found on YouTube. Learn more about Rose from her organization's website www.liveaction.org.

St. Mark Seminary in Erie welcomed six new seminarians Aug. 21 for the fall semester. They were joined the following day by 16 returning seminarians making for the largest enrollment in almost 30 years, according to Father Michael Kesicki, rector of the seminary. St. Mark's is now home to students from the dioceses of Erie, Greensburg, Scranton, Altoona-Johnstown and Buffalo, N.Y.

At the end of Mass with 6,000 seminarians Aug. 20 at World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI gave them a new role model: St. John of Avila, who will become the Catholic Church's 34th doctor of the church. The pope announced he would soon add the 16th-century Spanish saint to the short list of saints formally recognized for making a big mark on Catholic theology through their teaching and writing. A date for the formal proclamation has not been set.

It was at World Youth Day in 1997 that Pope John Paul II announced St. Therese of Lisieux as the 33rd saint honored with the title.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, described St. John of Avila, who lived 1500-1569, as "a great master of priestly spirituality," and an important influence on Spanish Catholic luminaries like St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

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

What are parishes doing to prepare?

MISSAL, from page 1

rishioners to use in September, personalizing them with the new parish Mass settings.

"The majority of people understand that something is coming and they've been given enough information to know what's coming," Father Marconi said.

Like anything, he added, a key to the new missal's success is embracing it.

"We're all on the same page—the music ministry, the liturgy committee, everyone," Father Marconi said. "From the beginning, we've been consistent and positive."

During Lent, Our Lady Queen

of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake hosted a series of five talks for the entire Meadville Deanery. Nearly 100 people attended each evening. On Aug. 8, the parish held an event for musicians and parishioners to hear and learn the new and revised Mass settings, with 70 people from the deanery attending.

"Those were real successes for our parish," said Father Stephen Anderson, pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Americas. "We have a strong liturgy committee and choir, so they are making it very easy to do this."

In addition to the regional and parish sessions, Father Anderson said he has used his homilies and

church bulletins as an opportunity to talk about the Mass—places for silence in the liturgy, what the missal is about and music and its connection to the Mass. The parish pew cards will be arriving shortly. The parish will also hold an evening with religious education teachers on how to involve their classes.

Father Anderson said parishioners have been on top of things and are readily embracing the changes.

"I think it's a great opportunity to give a great impetus to the Mass," he said. "It's become such a habit and so rote for us. This is a chance for people to enliven their participation and faith more at Mass."

Service award honors 'unsung heroes of the church'

AWARD, from page 1

people."

The bishop said the award is to thank people who have made a significant contribution in some specific way in the church.

"They are the unsung heroes, and often their good works go unnoticed," he said.

Nominations were accepted earlier this year through the nominee's pastor. The pastors and local vicars then reviewed the nominations to determine which ones were sent to the bishop for final selection.

Bishop Trautman said the honorees exemplify different gifts, ministries and good works in the diocese.

"You have labored to build up the kingdom of God," the bishop said. "I pray, Lord, don't look on our sins and mistakes and wrong choices. Don't look on the darkness in our culture. But look at the faith and goodness of these disciples. Look at their persevering, humble faith. Look at their faith expressed in concrete deeds for their brothers and sisters. See the faith lived. It is that faith that we recognize and celebrate this evening."

He called the honorees "faithful disciples and co-workers of Christ."

The Lord admonishes us that we should not seek perishable

honors and treasures of this world, Bishop Trautman said, but rather we should store them up in heaven.

"But the Lord also taught us to say thank you," he said, "and that is what we are doing this evening."

He said honorees should view their medals as a sign of encouragement and affirmation.

"May you, our honorees, see in your medals the gratitude of Christ's church for your service and witness," the bishop said.

"May your faith continue to produce good works. May your good works bear fruit for God's people."

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FaithLife
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Briefly

Austism event in Oil City

OIL CITY – Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish in Oil City will host a Living with Autism information event for parents, teachers and anyone interested in learning more about autism. The event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch included) at the Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish social center, 580 Colbert Ave. in Oil City.

Featured speakers include Janet Pawlowski, RN, MA, LMFT, family therapist and founder of Erie's KaleidACScope which provides support and advocacy for persons with autism; Jennifer Denardo of Hand in Hand Christian Counseling in Franklin; and others with experience and expertise who will explore ways to understand and live with autism in our families, schools and society.

E-mail your reservation to autismmeeting@yahoo.com by Sept. 7. For more information, contact Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, or Sister Marian Wehler, OSB of Catholic Rural Ministry at 814.677.2032. Free will offerings will be accepted.

Sept. 11 Blue Mass in Erie

ERIE – The John Mark Gannon Assembly No. 0943 of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Blue Mass honoring safety personnel at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11 at St. Luke Parish, 421 E. 38th St., Erie.

The Mass is being celebrated to honor those who serve our communities as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. Holding it on this date will also pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and just outside Shanksville.

For more information or questions, call Michael Adamus at 814.434.0560.

Rainbows — for children experiencing loss

ERIE – Rainbows is a program for children experiencing loss from divorce, separation, abandonment or death. It consists of 12 weekly peer support group meetings that assist children and families in coping with difficult life transitions.



The first session at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie, is set for Sept. 12 from 7-8 p.m.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Erin Landini-Grogan at 814.824.1254 or 1.800.374.3723 Ext.254 or e-mail ELandini@ErieRCD.org.

Family Honor — 'Real Love and Real Life'

Family Honor invites you to experience its "Real Love and Real Life" program in several areas of the Diocese of Erie.

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



The program will be presented on the following dates:

- Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Sept. 16-17. Contact Emily Zgonk at 724.748.6700.
- St. Tobias, Brockway – Oct. 3, 10, 19 and 24. Contact Kathy Matson at 814.268.3655.
- Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Nov. 18-19. Contact Joanie McCoy at 814.566.2351.
- Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys – Feb. 20 and 27 and March 5 and 12. Contact Laurey Kraus at 814.781.6746.

For more information, visit www.familyhonor.org.

Day of reflection in Erie

ERIE – The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a day of reflection for all Christians on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 1-4:30 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

The theme is "Spirituality: The Manifestation of God's Life in Us."

Msgr. Dan Arnold, pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence Park, is offering this opportunity for spiritual enrichment as part of his doctoral studies project.

Mass will be celebrated in the St. Mark Seminary chapel immediately following the conclusion of the retreat at 4:30 p.m.

There is no cost for the day, but a free will offering will be accepted to cover cost of the meal that will be served.

To RSVP or for questions, contact Msgr. Arnold at 814.397.1528 or Beth Legler at 814.454.2486 or e-mail sjcash@verizon.net.



Msgr. Dan Arnold

Mercyhurst Prep to honor alumni

ERIE – Mercyhurst Preparatory School will hold its third annual alumni recognition dinner, "Traditions in Excellence," on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the school, located at 538 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

The following outstanding alumni will be recognized:

The Honorable Elizabeth "Libby" Kelly ('76) will receive the Distinguished Alumni Career Award for her success during her career as an attorney and judge in Erie County. Art Martone ('80), a current MPS faculty member, will receive the Distinguished Alumni Service Award for his exceptional service to the school and the Erie community. The Alumni Association President's Award is presented this year to the Sisters of Mercy for their dedication and support to the school.

The 20th and 25th anniversaries of several athletic state championships will be celebrated at the awards dinner including the 1986 girls' basketball team, the 1991 girls' and boys' basketball teams and Kelly Ervin's 1986 girls' tennis state championship.

For ticket information, contact Marcia Gensheimer at 814.824.2067 or e-mail at mgensheimer@mpslakers.com.



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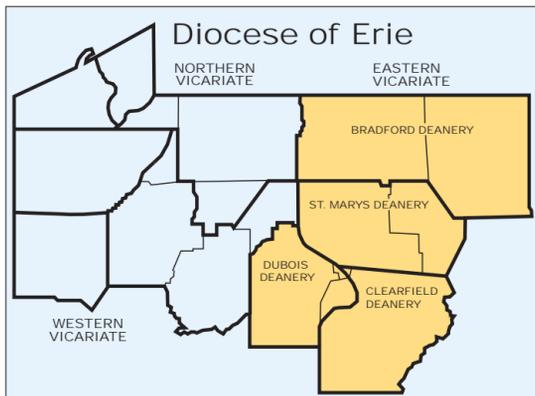
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Bishop's Commendation for Service Award

Eastern Vicariate honorees



By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Editor's note: The following are short biographies of those who received the Bishop's Commendation for Service Award in the Eastern Vicariate of the Diocese of Erie, which includes the Bradford, Clearfield, DuBois and St. Marys deaneries. Bishop Donald Trautman conferred the honors Aug. 14 at St. Mary Parish in St. Marys. Look for the Northern and Western Vicariate honorees in the next two issues of *FaithLife*.

Thomas Dornisch
Sacred Heart, St. Marys

One of the primary sources of maintenance at his parish, Dornisch's work has not been limited to the church building. He has functioned on the parish council and various committees for fundraisers and other events. He has served as the head of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and worked with the youth of St. Marys as a scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America for many years. He served with the Crystal Fire Department, St. Marys' volunteer fire company, until retirement. He and his wife, Susan, are daily communicants and have raised nine children.



Yolanda Jeselnick
Sacred Heart, St. Marys

Jeselnick is the mother of 12 children, all of whom were educated in Catholic schools. For many years, she has been involved in establishing senior centers and assisted living facilities. In her work with the Pennsylvania Housing Authority in Elk County, she was instrumental in securing housing for the poor and elderly. She also served on the advisory board of the Elk County Regional Medical Center. At her parish, she installed a loop induction system for the hard of hearing, which enables people with hearing aids to plug in directly to the church sound system.



Josephine Lauer
St. Callistus, Kane

A lifelong member of her parish, Lauer volunteers at the rectory for whatever needs to be done, from counting coins from Operation Rice Bowl to folding and stuffing newsletters. In her ministry to the homebound, she takes Communion weekly to a number of parishioners, visits them during the week and grocery shops for those unable to do it themselves. She also spends time with residents of the Lutheran Home at Kane. She is a longtime volunteer at the Salvation Army Thrift Store and Kane Area Food Pantry where she serves on the board of directors.



Aaron and Ann Marie Pfoutz
St. Mary, St. Marys

The Pfoutzes have supported Catholic education by enrolling their children and actively participating. Both have served on a number of To Encounter Christ (TEC) program teams and led teenagers on numerous retreat experiences. They have participated in and led several mission trips and are currently planning an adult mission trip to serve the poor in Jamaica. He has served as the youth minister for the combined St. Marys parishes, for many years as a Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) team member and on the board of the St. Marys affiliate of the Family Honor program. She is a member of the parish's support staff. Both have been active leaders in the St. Marys LifeTeen program and diocesan Cursillo movement, World Youth Day participants and supporters of the pro-life cause.



Anthony and Beatrice Pitrone
St. Catherine of Sienna, DuBois

The parents of six children educated in the DuBois Catholic school system, the Pitrones have been supportive and involved in the life of Catholic education. They are well-known volunteers at many school and parish events. They have served their parish as eucharistic ministers, members of the RCIA team, in local efforts to promote vocations, on the parish bereavement committee and at the local hospice. They are also involved in DuBois community programs such as the Salvation Army, Agape Community Services and the parish food pantry.



Helen Marie Rohr
St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway

Helen, known by many as Sis, retired this year after 35 years of service as parish secretary. She and her husband, Ted, raised seven children, all of whom were educated in Catholic schools. They worked in the Elk County Catholic High School cafeteria for many years, organized parish bingo games as a fundraiser and volunteered at numerous parish dinners, fundraisers and functions. She has run the Lucky 13 fundraiser for many years, helping to bring in funds for the church. She sells produce from her vegetable garden at the farmer's market in Ridgway and St. Marys with the proceeds given to help promote vocations.



Thomas and Judy Tarcson
St. Joseph, DuBois

The Tarcsons have been committed to Catholic education, with each of their four children attending DuBois Catholic schools. They are active in local pro-life efforts and the rosary chain. They are Natural Family Planning instructors and have served as a presenter couple at Pre-Cana events for many years. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a cantor at the parish. She is a member of the parish choir.



Dr. Albert Varacallo Jr.
St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois

The father of six children, all educated through the DuBois Central Catholic, the late Dr. Varacallo was a member of the Central Catholic school board. A family physician, he was a volunteer at the Free Medical Clinic in DuBois and served as medical director at Christ the King Manor in DuBois. He served as a eucharistic minister at St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville and a member of the parish finance committee for many years. He was a board member of DuBois Regional Medical Center and helped organized retreats for Catholic physicians. His award was given posthumously.



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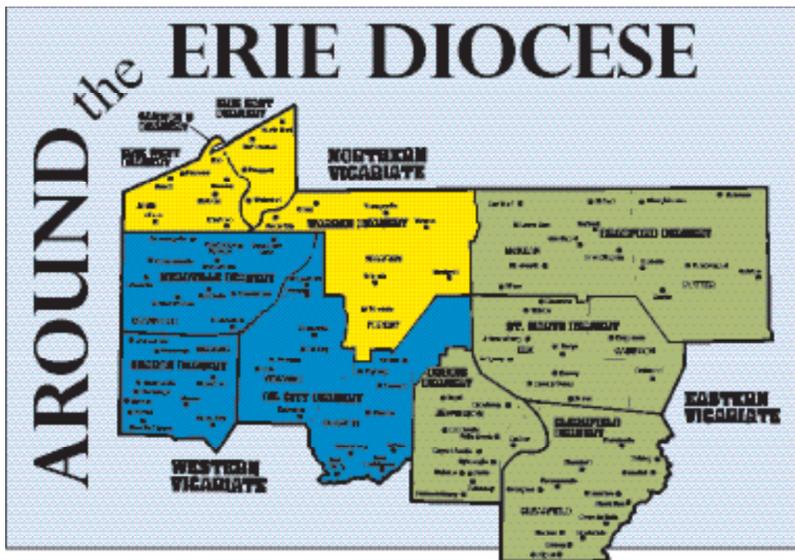
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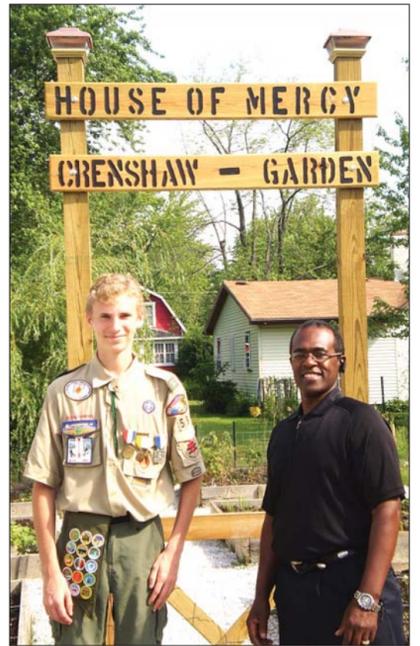
Eagle Scout dedicates community garden at House of Mercy

ERIE – Timothy Whitman, a member of Boy Scout Troop 59 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which was the creation of a community garden at the House of Mercy.

The project, known as the Mercy Crenshaw Garden, is located in an empty lot across the street from the Sisters of Mercy ministry at 2005 Woodlawn Ave. in Erie. Don Crenshaw, a local developer, donated the land for the community garden. The garden includes six raised beds with strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and a variety of vegetables. The garden area is enclosed with a rabbit fence and handmade gate with a sign bearing the garden's name. Scout volunteers, family members and House of Mercy youth worked on the garden project, which was dedicated June 18.

"This enclosed garden gives an opportunity for children and families in the neighborhood to plant, care for and harvest healthy food," said Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, director of the House of Mercy. "It serves as a beacon of hope and reminder to keep our neighborhood beautiful."

Whitman, 15, is a sophomore at McDowell High School. He said he chose the House of Mercy for his garden project because he had volunteered with the youth programs during the year and wanted to help the families plant a garden. He is also the nephew of Sister Michele.



Tim Whitman and Don Crenshaw

St. Mary parishioners celebrate pastor's jubilee

CROWN – On May 22, the parishioners of St. Mary Parish in Crown and St. Ann Mission in Marienville celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of their pastor, Father Gregory Passauer.

The 2 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Parish was celebrated by Father Passauer. His brother, Deacon Fred Passauer, proclaimed the Gospel reading and gave the homily. Father

Passauer's parents and family also were in attendance.

Following the liturgy, a catered dinner attended by 200 people was held at Stutz Hall.

After the dinner, remarks were given by visiting clergy and Father Passauer's classmates including Msgr. Richard Mayer, Father Bill Miller, Father John Jacquel, Father Paul Siebert and Father Mark Mastrian.



Father Gregory Passauer

Mercer County parochial league chess tournament

GREENVILLE – The Mercer County Parochial League chess tournament was held at St. Michael School in Greenville at the end of the 2010-11 school year. Mary Jo Lipani, principal at St. Michael, coordinated the event. Donna Rodgers, Mercer regional coordinator for the Diocese of Erie, presented each winner with a gift card. Eight students from St. Michael School, St. Joseph School in Sharon and Notre Dame School in Hermitage participated. The first chess match between Adam Clark and Luke D'Amore lasted one hour and 45 minutes.



Pictured left to right are: Adam Clark, St. Michael (1st place); Mary Jo Lipani, St. Michael principal; Abram Shannon, St. Michael (2nd place); Luke D'Amore, St. Joseph (3rd place); and Alex Harpst, St. Michael (4th place).

Catholic Foundation provides grants for schools, parishes

ERIE – The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie recently awarded more than \$22,500 to four Catholic elementary and secondary schools for improvements in technology and strengths-based leadership training.

Pictured left to right are: Father Scott Jabo, president of Erie Catholic Preparatory School; Julia Strzalka, principal of Seton Catholic School, Meadville; Mary Hajduk, principal of St. Stephen School, Oil City; Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation; and Father Nicholas Rouch, Vicar for Education.

In addition, three parishes also received funds:

- Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, for music ministry training through the National Pastoral Musicians convention with a focus on singing as it relates to the new Roman Missal.
- Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, for applied biblical studies



and instruction in Steubenville, Ohio.

■ St. Stephen Parish, Oil City, for mission experience through post-Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Founded in 2007, The Catholic Foundation supports religious, education, social and

pastoral ministries of the diocese through the generosity of donors and those who participated in the 2001-2003 diocesan Capital Campaign.

For more information on The Catholic Foundation, call 814.824.1236 or e-mail emccloskey@eriercd.org.

DCC students complete school's first EMT class

DUBOIS – The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently granted certification to nine DuBois Central Catholic High School students and staff as state certified EMTs following completion of the year-long science course offered at DCC.

DCC has the distinction of being the only school in the six-county region to offer the EMT course for certification. The director of the program is Don Fortney, EMMCO East, who also serves as education director. John Weidow is the executive director, with Robbin Cessna serving as EMS program specialist.

Other instructors included paramedics Pat Cooley, Leo Pernesky and Dawn Buck along with Kathy Schaffer, manager of DuSan AMSERV of DuBois.

According to DCC teacher Jenn Graeca, EMMCO East provided the equipment, additional supplies and educational materials needed to make the course happen for students at Central.

Completing the year-long course, the practicum and then passing the written test are, left to right, (first row) Julianna Ingham, Alyssa Marchioni, Katlyn Yebertsky, (second row) Mill-



er Hopkins, BryAnna Gornati, Kathleen Garred, (third row) DCC teacher Jenn Graeca, Haley Hallowell and Jules Moran. Missing from the photo is Megan Hassan.

In the final stages of the EMT

course are Amanda Burns, Olivia Clement, Domenica DeSantis, Abby Kolash and Taylor Pentz.

Meadville Knights of Columbus honor priest's jubilee

MEADVILLE – The Knights of Columbus, Dr. Harry C. Winslow Assembly No. 1927 in Meadville, honored Father Robert Fedor, faithful friar, for the 50th anniversary of his priesthood on June 1 at St. Bernadette Parish in Saegertown with a Mass and reception. Mass was celebrated by Father Fedor and Father David Poulson, pastor of St. Bernadette. St. Bernadette's Altar Rosary Society provided a reception following Mass.

Pictured left to right are: (front row) Ralph Anlauf, Richard Albaugh, Jeff Choffel, Father David Paulson, Father Robert Fedor, Don Schroll, Ned Reilly, Steve Steider, (back row) Gaynell Mailiard, Jim Dillaman, Theodore Jastromb Sr., Theodore Jastromb Jr., Steve Philips, William Leffingwell and Scott Hamilton.



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 to Fr. Jeff Noble and Fr. Monty (LaMounte) Sayers, both native sons of our parish;
 Fr. Paul Siebert, former resident and our parochial vicar; and Fr. David Foradori, our neighbor!
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