

Faith, FaithLife need your support

Catholic Communications Appeal is Aug. 11-12, page 3.



# FaithLife

New Benedictine sister

Sister Katherine Horan makes perpetual monastic profession, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 5, 2007

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Transfiguration of the Lord



St. Maximilian Kolbe

- Aug. 6 Transfiguration of the Lord
- Aug. 7 St. Sixtus II and his companions, St. Cajetan
- Aug. 8 St. Dominic
- Aug. 9 St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)
- Aug. 10 St. Lawrence
- Aug. 11 St. Clare
- Aug. 13 Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
- Aug. 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Aug. 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Aug. 16 St. Stephen of Hungary
- Aug. 18 St. Jane Frances de Chantal

### Anniversary celebrations Aug. 5 & 12

Bishop Donald Trautman will offer Masses for couples who are celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversaries in 2007 at two locations:

- Our Lady of Peace, Erie — Aug. 5 at 2 p.m.
- Immaculate Conception, Clarion — Aug. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

The Masses will be followed by a light reception for anniversary couples and their families.

The Erie Diocese's annual anniversary celebrations are sponsored by Catholic Charities' Family Life Office.

For more information, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Aug. 15 (Holy Day of Obligation)

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

### 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.

Young people of the parish are putting together a presentation on parish history, along with artifacts and memorabilia. The newest edition of the parish directory will also be released at this time.

## Clergy appointment



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

Father Walter E. Packard, reappointed as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Warren, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2013.

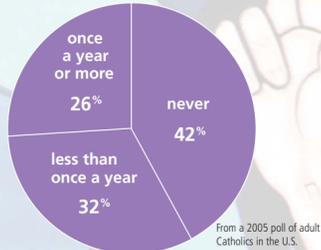
### Confession study:

An early 1980s study found that 74 percent of Catholic adults participated yearly in the sacrament of reconciliation; recent data shows that number has dropped to 26 percent.

### Avoiding Confession

Most Catholic adults admit to infrequent or no participation in the sacrament of reconciliation.

those who go...



## RULES of ENGAGEMENT

Gallup survey helps churches measure spiritual health, parishioner engagement



By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Al Winseman put it bluntly. Nobody is coming to church for kicks anymore. Winseman, the global practice leader for The Gallup Organization's Faith Division, recently visited the Erie Diocese for a series of two-day seminars to help parishes create an impact plan for growing an engaged church. He consults with congregations of different denominations throughout the country trying to help them improve their effectiveness in engaging the people in their communities.

"People have a God-sized hole in their lives, and they're coming to church to get whole again," he said. "They're not coming for kicks anymore."

Several parishes in the diocese have completed Gallup's ME25 impact seminar, which measures levels of parishioner engagement and spiritual health.

Winseman's visit helped explain what the survey results meant and gave direction toward applying those results.

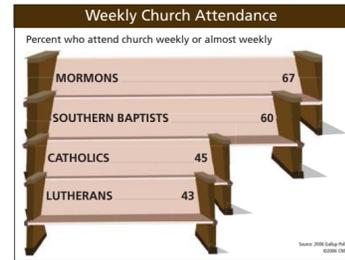
"While your results may look like a sheet of numbers, those numbers tell a story," Winseman said. "The stories are about people. We're trying to help people become more fulfilled in their lives by becoming more engaged in their parish."

Parishes participating in the ME25 survey and Gallup seminar include: Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Canadaota Lake; St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Joseph and St. Michael the Archangel in DuBois; Blessed Sacrament, St. Boniface and St. Jude in Erie; Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek; St. Callistus, Kane; Sacred Heart, St. Mary and Queen of the World in St. Marys; and St. Teresa of Avila, Union City.

Winseman is the author of "Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop 'Doing Church' and Start Be-

ing the Church Again" and coauthor of "Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community." Prior to joining Gallup, he was a pastor in the United Methodist Church for 15 years.

In the past, Winseman said parishes typically have measured three things in order to attempt to gauge spiritual health: membership, attendance and giving. He added that those three are the easiest to measure.



"But those are outcomes, not causes, of spiritual health," he said. "Conventional wisdom tells us to focus on these outcomes to influence spiritual health. But that doesn't work."

The reality, he said, is that the outcomes are the result of causes. Focusing on the causes will influence the outcomes.

"It's a matter of getting the order right," he said. The formula Gallup uses to measure the spiritual health of parishes is spiritual commitment plus member engagement. And there are differences between health and engagement, Winseman said.

See GALLUP, page 2

## Exhibition of miracles, conference to promote Eucharist

### St. Joseph / Bread of Life to host Vatican International Exhibition, Eucharistic conference Aug. 24-25

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

In the year 1330 in Cascia, Italy, a priest bringing Communion to a gravely ill peasant neglected to place the host in a ciborium, instead putting it in the pages of his breviary. When the priest reached the peasant, he opened his prayer book to find the host stained with blood and marking the pages between which it was placed.

In 1263, a German priest making a pilgrimage to Rome celebrated Mass at the Basilica of Bolsena, Italy. During the consecration, the host was transformed into flesh. The miraculous act strengthened the wavering belief of the priest in the real Eucharistic presence of Christ.

These are just two of the 126 Eucharistic miracles from the Vatican International Exhibition, a photographic

display and walking tour spanning the history of the Catholic Church, which makes its way to St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie Aug. 24-25.

The exhibit was originally put together by the Institute of St. Clement, Pope and Martyr, in Italy and authorized by the Vatican's Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. In the United States, the exhibition has been translated into English and is sponsored by The Real Presence Association. Located in Chicago, the association promotes Eucharistic education and adoration.

St. Joseph/Bread of Life will also host a Eucharistic conference titled "Treasure of the Catholic Church" during the exhibition. Father Bernard DuPont, O.P., a Dominican preacher from Kentucky, will be the presenter. Father DuPont will give three talks and celebrate two Masses dur-



Photo by Art Becker

St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie has been the home of a perpetual adoration chapel since 2004. It will host a Vatican-approved exhibition of Eucharistic miracles Aug. 24-25.

ing 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 whole thing is to

highlight the importance of the Eucharist in our faith," said Dominic Caggese, who is the coordinator of the perpetual adoration chapel at St. Joseph/Bread of Life.

The miracles are presented

on a series of posters, which are displayed on 150 panels that are each five feet tall and three feet wide.

"They're really beautifully done," Caggese said. "They did a great job with the pictures and artwork, showing the description and history of each miracle."

With an extensive assortment of photographs and historical descriptions, the exhibition presents some of the principal Eucharistic miracles that took place throughout the ages in various countries of the world and which have been recognized by the church.

The exhibition has already visited more than 500 parishes in Italy and in other countries and has been translated into numerous languages.

"Most Catholics have no idea about these miracles," said Sister Kathleen Marie of the Archdiocese of Chicago and The Real Presence Association. "Our goal is to teach people about the Eucharist and let them know that Jesus is present there."

While this is the first year

See EXHIBITION, page 3

## Protecting God's children

### Child Protection Office to update policy, training DVD

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The Erie Diocese's Office for Protection of Children and Youth is getting ready to update its policy and a facilitator training DVD which will be released this fall.

The updates are part of the office's continuing process, its directors say, to improve its efforts to protect children.

"It's imperative that we sharpen our skills on how we might best protect our children," said Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese, who serves as the office's director. "From time to time, we will update our training and education and renew our efforts."

In 2002, when the U.S. bishops issued its "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the Office for Protection of Children and Youth was established in the Erie Diocese to comply with the bishops' charter and norms.

Since 2004, dioceses have undergone an audit each year regarding its efforts to comply with the charter. Each year, the Erie Diocese has been found in full compliance with the bishops' charter.

This is the first update to the diocesan policy and facilitator training DVD since the establishment of the bishops' charter. While not mandated, the office is always looking at ways to improve its services.

"After three years, there were some things that we learned and more information that we wanted to get out there," said Karen Streett, coordinator of the diocesan office.

The updated edition of the policy will include information regarding the new mandates of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, which recently took effect. The law has expanded its requirements to include persons receiving claims of abuse as mandated reporters.

"If there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused and that information comes to you second hand and that child is under your supervision or care, you must report the abuse," Msgr. Smith said.

State law still mandates the reporting of abuse when victims come forward themselves.

See PROTECT, page 3

## Sisters of Mercy communities unite at Buffalo assembly

From staff and wire reports

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Festive singing, cheering, the raising of joined hands, the ringing of bells and sisters swaying to music greeted the emotional proclamation July 20 of the newest community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Mercy Sisters and associates based in Erie, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Rochester, N.Y., and the Philippines — a community founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo — have united to form The New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community. The new community will become official Jan. 1.

Some 300 Sisters of Mercy, including 22 from the Philippines, met at an assembly in Buffalo July 17-22 to form the new community, adopt a plan for governance, elect leadership and set new goals. Forty-two lay associates also attended the assembly.

Sister Nancy Hoff, president of the Buffalo Mercy Sisters since 2000, is the newly elected president of the community. Sister JoAnne Courneen from the Erie community was also named as one of four sisters joining the community leadership team as councilors.

Sister JoAnne said forming the new community will allow the sisters to combine their administrative efforts so

they can direct more of their energies and resources toward ministry.

"We want to keep looking at ways we can meet the needs of people today," she said.

Between 30 and 40 sisters from Erie attended the assembly.

"It was a really wonderful experience for all of us," Sister JoAnne said. "Now it's official. The assembly was an opportunity to celebrate and do some business. This was the first time we've gathered collectively to arrive at common decisions, and that went very well."

It was not, however, the first time the sisters have worked together. In moving toward forming this new community, the sisters already share a common justice network and formation program.

At the assembly, sisters voted to:

- Have one president for the community and a councilor from each geographic site to form the community

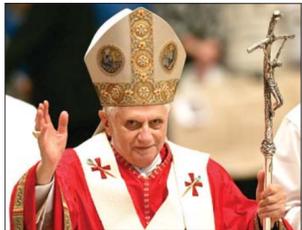
See SISTERS OF MERCY, page 3



Sister JoAnne Courneen



## IN THE U.S.



Pope Benedict XVI

■ The Archdiocese of New York said it was delighted that Pope Benedict XVI "will be addressing the United Nations here in New York this coming spring." A statement issued July 16 by the archdiocese was the first official indication that such a visit would take place in the spring. Earlier reports only had the pope possibly coming sometime next year. An archdiocesan spokesman told Catholic News Service July 16 that unnamed sources said the pope would be visiting in the spring instead of late September, when the new session of the U.N. General Assembly opens, because of next year's presidential elections.

■ A survey released by the Pew Research Center shows a disconnect between marriage and parenthood, a trend Catholics involved in marriage and family ministry said they have observed over the past few decades. H. Richard McCord, executive director of the Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the separation of marriage from parenthood has continued and intensified. The Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan, self-described "fact tank," surveyed more than 2,000 U.S. adults in 2007. Just 41 percent of the survey respondents said children are "very important" to a successful marriage.

■ Nearly 3,000 liturgical musicians from across the country gathered in Indianapolis July 9-13 to improve the skills of their craft, ponder the relationship of their ministry to

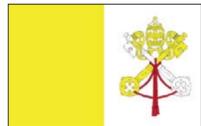
the broader life of the church and grow in their life of faith through concerts and common worship. The event was the 30th annual convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, commonly known as the NPM.

■ The Georgetown Center for Liturgy has launched a new online interactive resource to explore the relationship among art, architecture, liturgy and spirituality in the Catholic tradition. Jesuit Father Lawrence Madden, director of the center, said the EnVision-Church Web site, [www.envisionchurch.org](http://www.envisionchurch.org), is meant for everyone, but will be especially useful as a forum for pastoral leaders involved in building or renovating places of worship, commissioning artwork or planning liturgical ministries. Plans are under way to create a digital library of more than 10,000 images of artwork and sacred space.

## AROUND THE WORLD

■ Catholics in Ireland will celebrate the feast of St. Patrick two days earlier next year after the Vatican gave permission to move the feast day to avoid a conflict with Holy Week. Traditionally St. Patrick and all things Irish are celebrated March 17. However, in 2008, March 17 falls on the Monday of Holy Week and, according to church law, the days of Holy Week and Easter rank above all others, so the solemnity of St. Patrick must be moved to another date.

■ The Vatican state has unveiled its own Web site — [www.vaticanstate.va](http://www.vaticanstate.va) — and is linked to and works closely with the Vatican's main Web site, [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), but provides more information about the offices that help run the state, as opposed to the church. The site includes live pictures from Pope John Paul II's tomb, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and the Vatican Gardens. The site is set up for e-commerce, but online



shoppers will have to wait until sometime in 2008 to order their Vatican stamps, books and posters from the Vatican Museums.

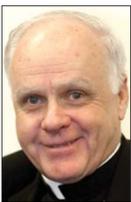
## PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop David A. Zubik of Green Bay, Wis., to head the Diocese of Pittsburgh, where he once was an auxiliary bishop. The appointment was announced in Washington July 18 by Msgr. Martin Krebs, charge d'affaires of the Vatican nunciature. Auxiliary Bishop Paul J. Bradley has been administrator of the Pittsburgh Diocese since June 2006. He was elected to the post after then-Bishop Donald W. Wuerl was installed to head the Washington Archdiocese. Bishop Zubik, 57, is a native of Sewickley, Pa.



Bishop David A. Zubik

■ Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler July 12 and named Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the Archdiocese for the Military Services to succeed him. Archbishop O'Brien will be formally installed as archbishop of Baltimore Oct. 1. Cardinal Keeler, 76, has been beset with health problems in recent years, including a total knee replacement in 2005, a broken ankle resulting from a car accident in Italy in 2006 and brain surgery in June, believed to be related to head trauma during the accident. He has been a bishop since 1979 and had headed the Baltimore Archdiocese for more than 18 years. Archbishop O'Brien, 68, was named an auxiliary bishop of the New York Archdiocese in 1996 and archbishop of the U.S. military archdiocese in 1997.



Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien

## By the Way...

Mary Beth and Mark Zdako of Warren have volunteered their time and talents to become the next area leaders for Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) in the Erie Diocese. The Zdaros take over for Joyce and Mark Kulyk of Fairview, who have served as area leaders since 2005.



Jason Koshinskie

Also recommitting to the leadership team is Msgr. Ed Zeitler, senior associate at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. Father 'Z' has been a part of WWME for more than 30 years. He recently retired as pastor of Beloved Disciple in Grove City but says "without a doubt" he will continue to be a part of Marriage Encounter weekends.

Marriage Encounter is a unique weekend experience designed to help revitalize Christian marriage. Couples commit to an entire weekend together during which they are invited to devote concentrated time and energy to their relationship. The focus of the program is communication, and couples learn the technique of dialogue.

The next Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled for Sept. 28-30 at the Edinboro Inn in Edinboro and Nov. 9-11 at the Lake Chautauqua Retreat Center in Bemus Point, N.Y., about 30 minutes east of Erie.

For more information, contact the Family Ministries Office at 1.800.374.3723 or 814.824.1265 or visit Catholic Charities' Marriage and Family Life Web site at [www.erieccd.org/marfam.asp](http://www.erieccd.org/marfam.asp).

For those still planning summer vacations and looking for a church near your destination of choice, have no fear. [Masstimes.org](http://Masstimes.org) is a free Web site that helps Catholics on the road find a Mass or other worship service. And for those visiting the Erie Diocese, it might be helpful to make sure your parish is listed, as well.

Speaking of vacations, Pope Benedict XVI is dedicating part of the holiday he is spending in the Italian Alps to writing the second part of his book, "Jesus of Nazareth," and reflecting upon his next encyclical "which will have a social theme," says Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See press office.

Good luck to "Dazzlin' Deacon" Tony Alleruzzo from Our Lady of Peace, who will compete in the annual Faster Pastor Race at Lake Erie Speedway on Saturday, Aug. 11. In addition to giving local clergy and fans a thrill, the eight-lap event is also a fundraiser for participating churches.

The Gallup engagement survey outlined in this issue is interesting in the fact that it helps parishes measure what was once thought of as intangible information. Parishes interested in finding out more about the survey and Gallup's Faith Division can contact Joseph Hoag, director of the diocese's Stewardship and Development Office at 814.824.1192 or e-mail [JHoag@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JHoag@ErieRCD.org).

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

## Gallup survey helps churches measure spiritual health, parishioner engagement

GALLUP from page 1

"Spiritual commitment is about believing," he said. "Engagement is about belonging. Conventional wisdom says focusing your efforts mainly on increasing the spiritual commitment of your members will lead to increased levels of both commitment and engagement."

"But you know what? Membership keeps going down. While population goes up, the percentage of people belonging to a faith community is going down. We find that it works the other way around. The reality is, more often than not, engagement leads to commitment."

He added that the driving factor behind spiritual health is engagement.

"Engagement is not the same as involvement," he said. "Involvement is what I do in my parish;

Engagement is how I feel about my parish. Engagement is not a program or a better way to 'do church.' It's about rediscovering how to be the church. We want to be invited into a relationship. Engagement is about how to bet-

**"People have a God-sized hole in their lives, and they're coming to church to get whole again."**

— Al Winseman, global practice leader for The Gallup Organization's Faith Division, speaking on parishioner engagement.

ter be the church describe in the Acts of the Apostles."

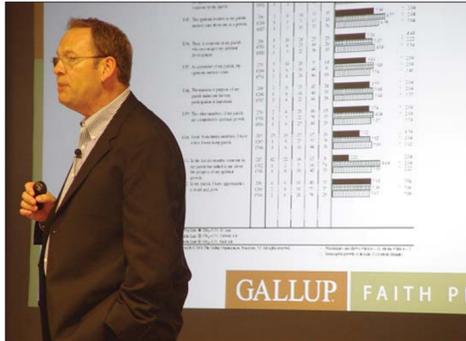
Gallup research has discovered that there are 12 items divided into four dimensions that most effectively measure a congregation's engagement, spiritual commitment and ministry outcomes. Those dimensions include: What

do I get?; What do I give?; Do I belong?; and How can we grow

Coming out of the two-day seminar, parishes had the beginnings of some plans to address the issues that were identified in the survey. Next year, parishes will have the opportunity to conduct another survey to measure their progress.

Father Thomas Suppa, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Union City, attended a Gallup seminar in Washington several years ago.

"It really struck a cord with me," Father Suppa said. "It's one of the rare things you can find in the church, trying to measure the intangibles. It's very helpful in many ways. What it attempts to do is help give the pastoral team an idea of what are the needs of the parish." More than that, he said, the



Al Winseman, with The Gallup Organization's Faith Division, conducted a series of two-day seminars in the Erie Diocese in June detailing the results of its ME25 impact survey on parishioner engagement. Thirteen parishes and missions from the diocese recently completed the survey.

Gallup process provides a way for parishioners to discover their own gifts.

The principle of Winseman's

on overcoming their weaknesses. The topic has spun off its own seminars, which helps train people to help others identify their strengths.

"Once you help them develop them, they can find their place in the church and be more fruitful," Father Suppa said.

Three lay people from St. Teresa have attended a "Strengths" seminar, he said. They will now help other members of the parish build on their own strengths.

"What I'm excited about, when they find their role, they begin to experience the deeper presence of Christ. There is an awakening and a renewal that takes place. It's not just finding things for people to do. I think a lot of good growth is going to take place in the spiritual lives of people."

For more information on the Gallup Faith Division and the ME25 impact survey, visit [www.gallupfaith.com](http://www.gallupfaith.com).

## Vatican tradition brings flurry of summer decisions, documents

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Before Pope Benedict XVI took off for his summer vacation in the Italian Alps, he engaged in a time-honored Vatican tradition: clearing his desk.

That resulted in a flurry of decisions and documents, some long-awaited and some complete surprises. Their common denominator, apparently, was that no one wanted to deal with them again when they returned to their offices in September.

Topping the list was the pope's July 7 apostolic letter on wider use of the Tridentine Mass. The document had been floating around so long that the Latin term "motu proprio," which refers to the form of the text, actually was making it into mainstream news reports.

The pope began consulting on the Tridentine question in late 2005, and in early 2006 he discussed a draft text with members of the Roman Curia and the world's cardinals. The document then went into hibernation, and some people are still wondering why. After all, very few changes were made in the course of its preparation, according to Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, a strong supporter of the pope's decree.

In the end, the pope acknowledged some apprehensions about his decision but made it abundantly clear that he wanted wider latitude shown to traditionalist groups who desire Mass in the old rite.

The outcome was not surprising to reporters covering the Vatican. What seemed a little odd was that such a sensitive document was not

unveiled at a Vatican press conference.

Before his election, Pope Benedict participated in many such press conferences as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. At best, these media events can head off confusion and resolve doubts about a document; at worst, they add unnecessary verbiage and risk veering off into irrelevant controversies.

Perhaps the pope weighed the option and decided that his voice — in the Tridentine Mass letter and an accompanying explanatory letter — was enough.

The lack of a press conference was also noticed on three other recent occasions: the release of the pope's letter to Chinese Catholics, a change in papal conclave rules and a doctrinal document insisting that the Catholic Church was the true church of Christ.

The letter to Chinese Catholics was so finely tuned that a press conference was probably never even considered. Again, the Vatican decided not to bury what the pope was saying in a lot of extraneous comment.

The China letter also had been expected for months and went through an ample review process involving Vatican departments and others.

In contrast, the pope's one-page letter changing the conclave rules dropped out of nowhere. Clearly, this was something the pope did not feel needed broad or lengthy consultation. The pope's move effectively restored the two-thirds majority for all circumstances of papal election, eliminating a simple majority option.

The latest document to drop out of the Vatican pipeline was a statement reaffirming that the Catholic Church is the one true church, even though "elements" of truth can be found in other Christian communities. It was personally approved by the pope.

Although it agitated the ecumenical waters, the document said nothing new, raising the question of why it was released at this particular moment. The Vatican said it was because of possible confusion in theological and ecumenical circles.

Those who see a grand design in Vatican actions, however, suspected it may have been another olive branch to the breakaway traditionalist followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre — just three days after the Tridentine Mass decree. In this reading, the Vatican has delivered a double demonstration, liturgical and doctrinal, that answers some of the Lefebvrites' strongest objections about the modern church.

## Motu Proprio

Latin for "on his own initiative," it appears in documents coming directly from the pope signifying his personal interest in the topic. The first was issued by Innocent VIII in 1484.

### NUMBER ISSUED BY

Benedict XVI	5
John Paul II	24
Paul VI	43
John XXIII	2
Pius XII	3



### DOCUMENTS ISSUED 'MOTU PROPRIO'



**John Paul II**  
"Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela" establishing new guidelines for dealing with priests accused of sexual abuse. Jan. 10, 2002



**Paul VI**  
"Ecclesia Dei" excommunicating Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and four illicitly ordained bishops for their disobedience. July 2, 1988



**Paul VI**  
"Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem" restoring the permanent diaconate in the church. June 18, 1967



**Pius X**  
"Tra le sollecitudini" outlining regulations for sacred music. Nov. 22, 1903

Source: CNS reports and [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

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### FaithLife

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## Communications Appeal supports Faith, FaithLife and more

The annual Catholic Communications Collection will be taken in parishes August 11 and 12.

"It's a very important collection because it allows us to keep reaching out to every Catholic household that's registered in the Erie Diocese with Faith magazine," said Msgr. Tom McSweeney, director of the Office of Evangelization for Communications. The magazine, which is sent to all registered Catholics in the Erie Diocese free of charge six times a year, was introduced in January 2005 as part of a revamped communications effort.

In a survey last year, 97 percent of respondents said they read the magazine, which is designed primarily to inspire and to enhance spiritual formation. FaithLife news bulletin, published every other week and distributed through parishes, provides a succinct look at international, national and local events of interest to Catholics. The office has also made a commitment to the diocesan Web site, [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org), which serves as a resource for connecting to diocesan offices, schools and parishes as well as national and international resources.

"We're hoping people make the connection between the publications they receive and the Communications Appeal this year," Msgr. McSweeney said. "They can use either the envelope they received in our direct mail campaign or the one included with their regular envelopes. The important thing is that they consider the impact of the outreach and do the best they can to help us spread the faith."

## Briefly

### Honduran cardinal to visit Mercyhurst College Sept. 7

ERIE — Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB, the first cardinal from Honduras, will pay an exclusive visit to Mercyhurst College on Friday, Sept. 7.

Cardinal Rodríguez has accepted an invitation from Mercyhurst President Dr. Tom Gamble to celebrate the college's Mass of the Holy Spirit, a time-honored tradition that welcomes the start of each academic year. Cardinal Rodríguez will be the homilist at Friday's 11:15 a.m. Mass in Christ the King Chapel, which is for the Mercyhurst College community. Later that evening, he will deliver an open public lecture at 8 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free but are required. Call 824.3000 for more information.

The archbishop of Tegucigalpa and the first cardinal in history from Honduras, Cardinal Rodríguez is one of the most influential Catholics in the world. As one of the papal contenders from which Pope Benedict XVI was chosen in 2005, Cardinal Rodríguez is widely seen as a moderate committed to social justice whose campaign for human rights and the impoverished have won him widespread praise.



Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga

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## Child Protection Office to update policy, training DVD

PROTECT from page 1

Also, Pennsylvania's Act 114, which applies to schools, now requires anyone who is a newly hired school employee to have an FBI check, including fingerprinting, in addition to previously required checks.

Facilitators, who do the in-service training in parishes, will themselves be inserviced again following the completion of the updated training DVD. Originally done in 2004, the updated DVD is due out in the fall.

"Essentially it's about using the knowledge we've gained during the past three years and incorporating it into the training," said Msgr. Smith.

The DVD defines sexual abuse while reporting facts and debunking myths. It is viewed by all facilitators who are trained to present the diocesan inservice to any adults who work with children in parishes or schools.

The office's Web site at [www.erieRCD.org/protectyouth.htm](http://www.erieRCD.org/protectyouth.htm) has also been updated to become more user friendly, Streett said.

In addition to the policy revision, a poster will be sent to each parish depicting artwork from the U.S. bishops' "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal" campaign. The posters will include contact information for local victim as-

### Inservicing in the Erie Diocese

July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007:

■ **4,395** adults who work with children, including educators, employees and volunteers have been inserviced according to the Child Protection charter and had background checks completed.

■ **23,167** children and youth in religious education programs and Catholic schools who have been inserviced.

■ **13,600** parents were inserviced or sent information.

Source: Erie Diocese's Office for Protection of Children and Youth

sistance.

Magnets with the Pennsylvania Childline phone number will be sent to school and parish personnel for easy access.

These updates are all steps the diocese is taking to facilitate the reporting of any abuse, Msgr. Smith said.

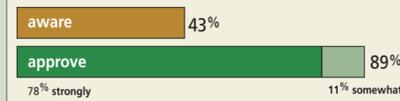
"We constantly monitor the things that we do," he said. "In the first three years under the bishops' charter and our updated policy, we have learned from our experiences. We're not sitting on our policy; we're always looking at ways we can improve it."

### Policy Awareness

Fewer than 50 percent of U.S. Catholics know of different policies adopted by their bishops to handle sex abuse charges against clergy.

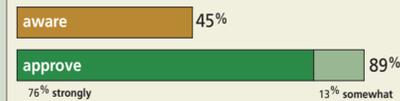
#### ZERO TOLERANCE

Anyone credibly accused of abusing a minor is removed from ministry



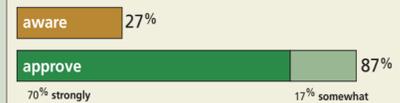
#### REPORT TO AUTHORITIES

Dioceses are to report allegations to public authorities, comply with civil laws and cooperate with investigations.



#### BACKGROUND CHECKS

Dioceses are to utilize resources of law enforcement to evaluate the background of clergy and other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include unsupervised contact with minors.



From interviews with 1,048 self-identified adult Catholics in the U.S. The data has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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## Exhibition of miracles, conference to promote Eucharist

EXHIBITION from page 1

for the Vatican International Exhibition in the U.S., it is already a success, Sister Kathleen Marie said.

"It's huge," she said. "We have volunteers all over the country who are promoting this exhibition."

Hosting the Vatican Exhibition and Eucharistic conference is a natural fit for St. Joseph/Bread of Life. The parish community is also the home of the Erie Diocese's only perpetual Eucharistic adoration chapel. Since Ash Wednesday 2004, the Blessed Sacrament has been adored 24 hours a day, seven days a week—except for Easter Triduum when the Blessed Sacrament is reposed.

"The chapel is doing great. There are peaks and valleys, as far as participation for certain hours, but it has been consistently attended," said Caggese, who has coordinated the adoration schedule for two years. "There's never been a time when the chapel has been empty."

Caggese said he is hopeful that the exhibition and conference will encourage people to sign up for an hour each week in the adoration chapel to deepen their own faith and take that back to their respective parishes.

"The Eucharist is the source, center and summit of our faith, as is well known and described by the church," he said. "And when you actually make that your reality and elevate the Eucharist to such a high importance, God takes over."

### "Treasure of the Catholic Church" — a Eucharistic conference

St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community  
147 W. 24th St. in Erie

Aug. 24	Aug. 25
3 p.m. Exhibition opens	9 a.m. Mass
5 p.m. Confession	9:30 a.m. Father DuPont talk
5:30 p.m. Divine Mercy chaplet	10:30 a.m. Morning refreshment
6 p.m. Adoration holy hour	11 a.m. View exhibition, complimentary lunch
7 p.m. Mass	1 p.m. Adoration holy hour
8 p.m. Father DuPont talk	2 p.m. Father DuPont talk
Closing Eucharistic blessing, procession & benediction	3 p.m. Divine Mercy chaplet & rosary
	4 p.m. Parish confessions
	5:15 p.m. Mass (regularly scheduled parish Mass)

For more information on the Vatican International Exhibition or The Real Presence Association, visit [www.TheRealPresence.org](http://www.TheRealPresence.org).

## Sisters of Mercy communities unite at Buffalo assembly

SISTERS OF MERCY  
from page 1

leadership team.

■ Allow this team to appoint a local leader for each geographic area from a list of sisters nominated from that area. Local leaders will have administrative and pastoral responsibilities.

■ Adopt initiatives to begin a program to support grandparents who are raising their grandchildren; create a nonviolence task force to reflect on the principles of Jesus, Mahatma Gandhi and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; and set up a sustainability task

force to promote protection of the environment.

Sister JoAnne said the councilors will begin the process of choosing local leaders this month and hope to name them by the end of October.

Under the new arrangement, the Mercy Center in Buffalo will be the main office with the other locations considered "sites." Erie will continue to host the community's large gatherings at Mercyhurst College. Ministries at each geographic area will continue as before with administrative functions pooled together as mutually decided.

"We're obviously proud of our facilities," said Sister JoAnne, adding that Mercyhurst College has successfully accommodated past gatherings of the communities. "That's good for the Erie Sisters because it's more at home for them."

With fewer sisters than in years past, the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 2001 announced plans to gather 25 regional communities and missions into six communities to strengthen their ministries and mission. The New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community is the third community to be formed.

"I think one of the things that

each area has to do is broaden its horizons," Sister JoAnne said. "We need to take responsibility for the Erie area, which we have always done, as well as for other areas. We need to learn how we can share and exchange our resources from other areas."



For more information on the Sisters of Mercy, visit [www.mercyerie.org](http://www.mercyerie.org) or [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org).

### DEATH NOTICES

#### Sister Nora Curran, OSB, dies

Served as longtime teacher

ERIE — Sister Nora Curran, OSB, died July 15, 2007 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery after a long illness.

She was born in Oil City, a daughter of the late Frank and Mary Anna Kresinske Curran.

She received her early education in St. Joseph Parish schools in Oil City. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1943 and graduated from St. Benedict Academy the following year. Sister Nora made her final profession as a Benedictine Sister on August 28, 1947 and has celebrated her 25th and 50th and 60th anniversaries of profession.

She was a teacher whose education included bachelor's degrees in social studies, English and Spanish from Villa Maria College and a master's degree in Spanish literature from the International University, Saltillo, Mexico, where she later served as dean of women. Her post graduate studies included work at Gannon, Fordham and George-

town universities. She also received a Fulbright grant for study at the Cartagena University, Bogota, Columbia.

Sister

N o r a taught in several parish elementary schools: St. Mary, Erie; St. Joseph, Oil City; St. Joseph, Sharon; and St. Gregory, North East. She later taught at St. Joseph and Venango Catholic high schools in Oil City and at St. Benedict Academy, Erie.

After her service in education, Sister Nora's ministry came to be centered in her deep concern for the poor, especially for the poor in Latin America whom she served for nearly 30 years in Saltillo, Mexico, and in Cali, Columbia, as teacher, mentor and friend. She returned in recent years to Mount St. Benedict where her love for the poor continued to be manifested in her monastic life.



Sister Nora Curran, OSB

#### Sister Rene Stewart dies at 75

MHSH sister grew up in Erie

BALTIMORE — Sister M. Rene Stewart, 75, a member of Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, died July 5, 2007 at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore of brain cancer.

Sister Rene was in her 51st year of ministry and had served as a catechist, parish visitor, and director of religious education in New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts and Florida.

Born June Beryl Stewart in Chicago to James Aloysius and Ada Strand Stewart, she was raised in Erie and was first introduced to the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart there through a course that trained lay people to teach religion to public school children in the parish.

She entered the Mission Helpers Community in Baltimore in 1956 and began her ministry teaching classes in Fairport, N.Y. This was followed by several years in rural North Carolina visiting missions throughout the state. She held positions as director

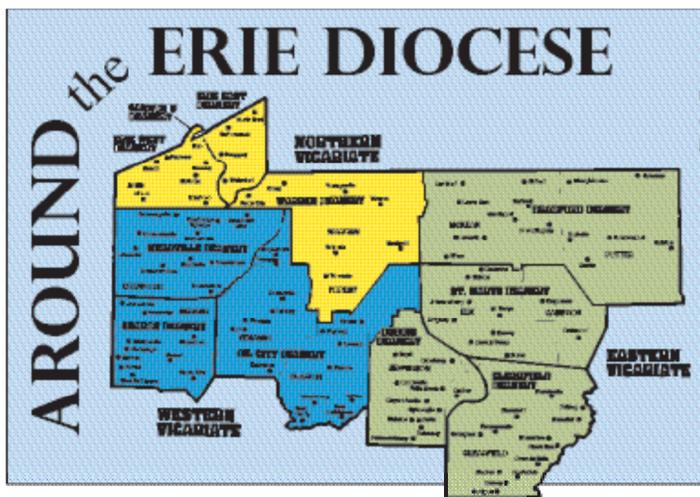
of religious education in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, N.C., and in West Newton, Mass. Sister Rene earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and a master's degree in religious education from University of Detroit.

Sister

Natalie DeLuca, MHSH, who knew Sister Rene from their days in Erie, commented, "Sister Rene had a quiet elegance about her that permeated all that she did. Her ability to listen, to reach out at the first inking of a need for help was tremendous."



Sister M. Rene Stewart, MHSH



Parish correspondents

FaithLife encourages all parishes, missions, schools and groups to choose a correspondent who regularly submits news items to *Around the Erie Diocese*.

E-mail your parish news

Many parish correspondents have found e-mail to be a quick and easy way to send news to FaithLife.  
FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Sister Katherine Horan, OSB, makes perpetual monastic profession

ERIE — Sister Katherine Horan, OSB, professed her perpetual vows on Saturday, July 7 in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery during Evening Prayer at 3:30 p.m.

Sister Kathy had a long relationship with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie before she became a postulant. As an oblate of the community, she worked actively with the community's environmental programs at Glinodo Center and was a member of the sanctuary committee.

In October 2001, she made a year's commitment in the Benedicta Riepp Program. In the midst of that year, she asked to become a postulant with the desire to become a permanent member. During her scholastic years, Sister Kathy studied and discerned the possibility of perpetual monastic profession.

Sister Kathy is devoted to her students in her ministry as a middle school teacher in Erie. She is



Sister Katherine Horan, OSB, left, signs her vows before Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress, the Benedictine community, family and friends.

also actively involved in a number of activities at the monastery including Benedictines for Peace and liturgy planning and preparation.

Following the ceremony, Sister Kathy welcomed friends and family at a reception in the dining/community room at the monastery.

Rosary & altar societies hold fellowship dinner



From left to right are the attending rosary & altar society presidents: (front row) Jane Hollis, Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; Bernie Mostyn, St. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run; Jane Diehl of the St. Theresa Guild, St. Bonaventure, Grampian; (back row) Toni Roos, St. Agnes, Morrisdale; Marge Havey, St. Severin, Drifting; Carolyn Royer, St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville; Dorothy Sklar, Christ the King, Houtzdale; and Sherrie Surkovich, St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield.

FRENCHVILLE — The rosary & altar societies from parishes in the Clearfield Deanery held their annual fellowship dinner June 12 at St. Mary of the Assumption reception hall.

Attending members came from the following parishes: Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; St. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run; St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville; St. Timothy, Curwensville; St. Bonaventure, Grampian; St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield; Christ the King, Houtzdale; Immaculate

Conception Mission, Madera; St. Basil the Great, Coalport; Holy Trinity, Ramey; and St. Severin, Drifting.

More than 130 members of the societies, as well as priests from many of the parishes attended.

The meal was followed by skits performed by members of the Mary of the Assumption Rosary & Altar Society, with Sister Ruthanne Madera and Sister Suzanne Thibault from the Community of Anawim (Young People Who Care). Carolyn Royer,

president of Mary of the Assumption Society, was the main blessing. Father Samuel Bungo gave a blessing for those in attendance.

The annual event was started 23 years ago by Millie Mayersky of St. Timothy in Curwensville. The tradition continues on the second Wednesday of June each year. Next year, the Societies of St. Timothy and St. Bonaventure will host the event at St. Timothy's social hall. The 25th anniversary gathering will be hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Rosary & Altar Society in 2009.

St. Marys students visit St. Joseph Monastery

ST. MARYS — Ninety-two 8th grade students at St. Marys Catholic Middle School recently had an opportunity to meet and spend time with the Benedictine Sisters at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys. For each of the four classes, a brief tour of the facility was followed by an enjoyable lunch.

A few students sat at each table along with several of the sisters. The students and sisters had the opportunity to discuss aspirations in the life of a sister, as well as the daily happenings that are part of life in a convent. The students discovered that life at St. Joseph Monastery is about more than prayer; it is also service to others through teaching and social work, running the ceramic and gift shops, caring for the grounds and taking care of maintenance. Animated conversations con-

At right, from left to right are: Sister Mary Bernard, Kyle Wolfe, Patrick Nellis and Sister Jacinta.

Below, from left to right are: Sister Evangelist, Taylor Frank, Sister Dolores, Rebecca Dornisch, Sister Marg-oreta.



continued through lunch leaving the students wanting to spend more time with their newfound friends.

Harborcreek Youth Services receives \$670,000 foster care grant

HARBORCREEK — Harborcreek Youth Services, a psychiatric residential treatment facility under the auspices of Catholic Charities in the Erie Diocese, will receive \$670,000 over four years to fund a new Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) program servicing youth in Erie and Crawford counties.

The money comes from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. It will be used to address the needs of severely delinquent adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17. For many young people, in-home therapy is not an option. In addition to providing them with foster parents, the MTFC program includes access to a team consisting of a child psychiatrist, a program supervisor, an individual therapist and a skills trainer.

Studies of the MTFC program, launched in Oregon in



Harborcreek Youth Services

1983, have shown tremendous success, increasing the chance of a teen returning to live with his or her biological parents. Key elements include a consistent environment that builds on individual strengths, clear structure, well-specified consequences, close supervision and guidance in building healthy peer relationships.

Harborcreek Youth Services, founded in 1911 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, maintains five on-campus treatment units and three community-based group homes as well as a specialized

school, a chapel and recreational facilities. Under the direction of CEO John Petulla, the facility was recently accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international independent agency dedicated to promoting top-quality child and family services and behavioral healthcare.

Those interested in serving as a treatment foster parent are invited to contact Ann Daley, director of Community Programs and MTFC program supervisor, at 814.899.7664, ext. 356.

SSJ Neighborhood Network, Catholic Charities sponsor art show

ERIE — The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and Catholic Charities sponsored an art show in April at St. Paul Center in Erie. The art lessons are held at 425 W. 18th St. and are free. Pictured are some of the students who entered pictures: (back row) Nicole Lippert; Sister Mary Herrmann, director; Carolyn Collichio, art therapist; Sister Carol Wilcox, program director; (front row) Jeremy Aldrich; Elizabeth Shultz; Michael Shultz; Daniela Shultz, and Sandy Shultz.



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