

Get your bobblehead
Bishop Trautman bobbleheads now available to order, page 3.



FaithLife

Bishop's Commendation for Service Award

See the Northern Vicariate honorees, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 11, 2011

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Our Lady of Sorrows St. Pio of Pietrelcina

- Sept. 12 Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sept. 13 St. John Chrysostom
- Sept. 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- Sept. 16 St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian
- Sept. 17 St. Robert Bellarmine
- Sept. 18 Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 19 St. Januarius
- Sept. 20 St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and companions
- Sept. 21 St. Matthew
- Sept. 23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Confirmation

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

St. Andrew, Erie - Sunday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include Sacred Heart, Erie, and St. Andrew, Erie.

Memorial Mass for Archbishop Pietro Sambi - Sept. 14

A memorial Mass for Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who died July 27, will be celebrated Sept. 14 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be the main celebrant of the noon Mass. The 73-year-old Italian archbishop, apostolic nuncio to the United States since February 2006, died at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore from complications related to lung surgery performed approximately three weeks earlier.



Archbishop Pietro Sambi

Pope Benedict XVI to visit Germany - Sept. 22-25

Pope Benedict XVI will address the German parliament, meet with Jewish and Muslim groups, hold a prayer vigil with youths and celebrate Mass in Berlin's Olympic Stadium during a Sept. 22-25 visit to his homeland.

It's a heavy schedule for the 84-year-old pope, who will preside over 28 events and deliver 17 talks during the visit.

It will be Pope Benedict's third trip to Germany since his election in 2005, but his first visit to Berlin, the German capital. After landing in Berlin Sept. 22, the pope will meet with government leaders, give a major speech to the federal parliament, meet with Jewish representatives and then celebrate an evening Mass in the Olympic Stadium — the facility Adolf Hitler had built for the controversial 1936 Summer Games.

The new Roman Missal

Changes can be a positive experience

Change is always difficult for us. We are comfortable with the ways we have, and any change challenges us to let go of the familiar. Change may help us grow, bring us new in-sight and enable us to be creative and responsive in new ways. The changes to the Mass (especially the prayer texts and people's responses) can be a positive experience of deeper liturgical prayer, encounters with Christ and sense of the mystery and sacredness of the liturgy.

COUNTDOWN:

There are **77 days** to the implementation of the new Roman Missal (as of Sept. 11)

- Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) clergy workshop kit



Anniversary prompts reflection on tragedy's spiritual dimension

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Beneath a bridge of ladders formed by two fire trucks, Dr. Frank Foti and his wife, Suzanne, will mark the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by placing a wreath in memory of his brother, Robert.

Robert Foti, a member of F.D.N.Y. Ladder 9, Engine 16, lost his life in the south tower of the World Trade Center while saving others from the terrorist attacks.

"The fact that it's 10 years really strikes a note," Dr. Foti said. "It gets a little easier, but it's still hard. It's a sad time for our family. We miss him. Every year it's 9/11.

"We can never forget."

Dr. Foti, who grew up in Manhattan, and his family reside in Fairview and belong to Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. Dr. Foti's mother, Rosemarie, still lives in Manhattan and watched the twin towers burn from her kitchen window.

Robert Foti, 42, had been a firefighter for 12 years. "He was on the job at work and never came home," Dr. Foti said of his brother. "They never found anything of him."

Dr. Foti said his faith helped put the tragic loss in perspective.

"I was angry at the people who did this, but I never got angry with the Lord," he said.

"You have to hope that there's a better time and a place and this is a part in getting there."

Since the loss of his brother, Dr. Foti said his family has become more important to him.

"I've grown in a good way," he said. "It makes you think about life and how fragile and how wonderful it can be."

He's said he's also thankful for the support of his parish, which has hosted a number of fundraisers for the families of 9/11 victims including his brother's three children and planted a tree in his memory.

Our Lady of Peace will hold a 9/11 memorial on Saturday, Sept. 10 outside the church's east entrance at 6 p.m.

9/11 costs hard to count

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Quantifying the costs of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States is a bit like trying to get your hands around the ocean.

Where to start is the first hurdle. Some costs can be tangibly measured in human lives lost, number of injuries, dollars spent and jobs changed or lost. They can be tallied in numbers of people who have fled their homes for safer lands or the amount of government funding diverted to or away from certain programs.

Then there are the intangibles: human rights in the United States and abroad that were weakened or ignored in the interest of security; the moral standing of a nation diminished by the acts of waging preventative war or engaging in torture; the loss of people's sense of well-being and peace; the

suspicion with which some people now view Muslims or Arabs.

Even the facts that one might expect to be easy to measure — how many people have been killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for instance — are difficult to nail down. A website called <http://icasualties.org> keeps fairly up-to-date figures of U.S. and coalition deaths for the two wars, including government contractors. As of mid-August, it had a count of 4,792 U.S. and coalition military deaths in Iraq and 2,672 in Afghanistan.

But, as pointed out in a comprehensive report, "Costs of War," published by Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies this summer, it's harder to pin down how many civilian contractors, Iraqi and Afghan troops have been killed or

See COSTS, page 2

At St. Tobias in Brockway, Sept. 11, 2001 was the final night of the parish's Forty Hours devotion.

One of the things that immediately started to happen was that priests originally scheduled to attend began calling to say they could not be present, recalls Msgr. Charles Kaza, who was in his first year as pastor of St. Tobias at the time. The priests were simply too busy with people coming to the churches where they were assigned.

But St. Tobias' church was full anyway. More than 300

people gathered for the evening.

"People were just looking to pray together," Msgr. Kaza said. "There was a spirit of prayer with people throughout the United States and the world."

Although he's never been to Ground Zero, Msgr. Kaza said he visited the crash site in Shanksville where he saw an open field surrounded by fencing where visitors left mementos.

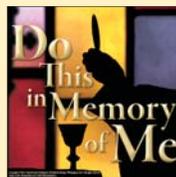
"Actually seeing something See ANNIVERSARY, page 2

Catechetical Sunday — Sept. 18

Each year, the third Sunday of September has been designated by the U.S. Catholic bishops as Catechetical Sunday, a national celebration which honors those involved in catechetical ministry.

This year, Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 18, will focus on the theme, "Do This in Memory of Me." Those who have been designated by their parish community to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

Approximately 1,800 will serve religious education programs throughout the Diocese of Erie during the 2011-12



school year. More than 20,000 students participate in religious education programs in the diocese each year.

About Catechetical Sunday

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God.

The Word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life. (National Directory for Catechesis, No. 17)

For more information and resources, visit the U.S. bishops online at www.usccb.org/catecheticalSunday.

Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. It is also an opportunity for all to dedicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Longtime vicar for religious Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ, retires

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

After 27 years of service as the Diocese of Erie's vicar for religious, Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ, is retiring.

Her final day in the position was Sept. 1.

A longtime teacher and principal at a number of Catholic schools, Sister Mary Rita was appointed vicar for religious by Bishop Michael Murphy in 1984.

She was the first woman to serve as vicar for religious in the history of the diocese, as well as a member of the diocesan administrative cabinet.

The vicar for religious assists the bishop in service to members of religious communities in the diocese.

"When I first came into this, one of the things the bishop wanted to have done was to bring communities together for dialogue," Sister Mary Rita said. "That very much aided an understanding among all those people about what they did. It was wonderful for us to see how religious fit in the overall



Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ

makeup of the diocese." In her years of service, she said she has seen many people contributing to the life of the church in different ways.

As the needs of the church, society and the religious communities have changed, Sister Mary Rita said the communities themselves adapted well.

"The dedication that I saw then, I still see today," she said. "I think that shows by the way religious communities never seem to run out of ways to serve people in need that are occurring in contemporary

society. Those needs maybe weren't present 20 years ago but have somehow turned up. And they look for ways to meet those needs."

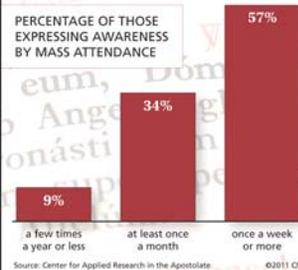
Sister Mary Rita has overseen a number of committees that address current issues. Some of the active committees include the national and local Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, vocation awareness for women religious, diocesan jubilee celebrations and the annual Mass for deceased religious.

"I am grateful to Sister Mary Rita for representing the interests of all the religious women of our diocese on our diocesan cabinet," Bishop Donald Trautman said. "She has coordinated and planned numerous programs and liturgies to assist me in serving women religious. I personally thank her for all she has done for our diocese."

In consultation with the major superiors of religious communities, Bishop Trautman said he will name a new vicar for religious from within the diocese to continue the services of that office.

Awareness of Missal Changes

Attendance at Mass makes a difference in whether respondents are aware of the missal changes coming in November.



Want to win an iPod Touch?

Youth in the diocese are invited to visit www.OnTheVine.us, the website of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Complete a brief online quiz by Oct. 15 and be entered for a chance to win an iPod Touch. No purchase necessary.



IN THE U.S.

Arizona court affirms state abortion limits; seven clinics to stop them

The Arizona Court of Appeals ruled Aug. 19 that restrictions on abortion passed by the state legislature were both reasonable and constitutional. Following the Court of Appeals decision, Planned Parenthood announced that effective Aug. 22, it would no longer perform abortions at seven of its Arizona clinics. That leaves Glendale, Tempe and Tucson as the only sites where Planned Parenthood will provide surgical abortions. One of the key provisions of the law that was upheld by the Court of Appeals is that only a physician may perform an abortion. With so few doctors willing to perform the procedure, that left nurse practitioners to do so. Not anymore, at least not in Arizona. Planned Parenthood has until mid-September to appeal the court's decision. The Arizona Supreme Court was expected to decide by the end of the year whether to consider the appeal.

New policy on deportation reviews could allow some to stay in US

An Obama administration announcement that new discretion will be exercised in whether to deport immigrants who do not have criminal records was hailed by advocates for immigrants and supporters of comprehensive reform. The new policy announced in letters to senators Aug. 18 could mean some people facing deportation will be allowed to remain in the United States and get work permits, a development praised by Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. "This could help keep families together and give hope to young persons who know only America as their home," he said in a statement. Others also expressed support for the policy, but like Bishop Wester were quick to add that comprehensive immigration reform would be the best approach to fixing the nation's broken immigration policy.

Parishes fare well though many areas hard hit by Irene

From the Carolinas up the Atlantic Coast into Canada, the trail of Hurricane Irene was one of dramatic floods, wind damage and other disruptions. More than 40 people in various states were reported to have been killed by floodwaters, falling trees, car accidents and powerful waves. Irene hit the Carolina coast

Aug. 27 and skirted the coastline, causing destruction in a dozen states before dumping inches of rain and causing at least two deaths in Canada. The storm knocked out power to more than 3 million homes and businesses along the East Coast. Damages were estimated at more than a billion dollars. An early survey of some of the dioceses where the worst effects were felt found few significant problems at church properties, though the communities around them suffered serious losses.



An uprooted willow tree lies in front of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Smithtown, N.Y., after Hurricane Irene swept through the New York metropolitan area Aug. 28.

USCCB attorneys: HHS mandate unprecedented, must be rescinded

The federal government's mandate that all health insurance plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge "represents an unprecedented attack on religious liberty" and creates "serious moral problems" that require its rescission, attorneys for the U.S. bishops said in comments submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services. In a 35-page comment submitted Aug. 31, attorneys for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called the HHS mandate "unprecedented in federal law and more radical than any state contraceptive mandate enacted to date." They also said: "Only rescission will eliminate all of the serious moral problems the mandate creates. Only rescission will correct HHS' legally flawed interpretation of the term 'preventive services.'" The mandate and a proposed religious exemption to it were announced Aug. 1 by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and are subject to a 60-day comment period.

certainly comes from us that he exists, he's present and he is the greatness that everyone is waiting for," the pope said. The pope presided at a Mass Aug. 28 in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, during his annual meeting with students who did their doctorates with him when he was a professor in Germany.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Baltimore archbishop named to head Knights of Holy Sepulcher

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of Baltimore as pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order (Knights) of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, appointed in Rome. The appointment was announced simultaneously in Rome and in Washington Aug. 29. The order is a chivalric organization dedicated to promoting and defending Christianity in the Holy Land, supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and responding to the needs of Catholics in the region. Its origins date back to the First Crusade, when its leader, Godfrey de Bouillon, liberated Jerusalem. He succeeds U.S. Cardinal John Foley, who resigned and retired in February as head of the international order for health reasons.



Archbishop Edwin O'Brien

AROUND THE WORLD

Cradle Catholics haven't done enough to evangelize, pope says

Cradle Catholics haven't done enough to show people that God exists and can bring true fulfillment to everyone, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of his former students. "We, who have been able to know (Christ) since our youth, may as well ask forgiveness because we bring so little of the light of his face to people; so little

Anniversary prompts spiritual reflection

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1
like that always makes it real for a person," he said.

While 9/11 has changed our lives in terms of travel and security measures, Msgr. Kaza said the passage of time alleviated initial fear.

"My perception is that the U.S. has moved on," he said. "It's amazing the way we just seem to keep going forward. It has helped us go beyond living in fear."

The challenging work, he said, still lies ahead for Catholic and Muslim leaders to continue to educate the faithful about the true beliefs of each other's religion and about the fact that it is blasphemy to invoke God's name in the commission of violence.

"We are stereotyping people," Msgr. Kaza said. "That's still something that we as a nation and as Christian people haven't perfected yet."

Msgr. Thomas Snyderwine, pastor of St. Luke Parish in Erie, has served as chaplain to Erie firefighters since 1987. After 9/11, Msgr. Snyderwine said there was

a lot of empathy for the New York firefighters among the Erie group. "There is sensitivity among firefighters countrywide," he said. "And if there's a disaster in one part of the country, everybody feels it."

The John Mark Gannon Assembly No. 0943 of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Blue Mass honoring those who serve as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel at 2 p.m. on Sept. 11 at St. Luke. The Blue Mass will also pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks. Msgr. Snyderwine will be the celebrant.

He described this year's anniversary as "a time to remember, a time to heal, a time to move on."

"In the Old Testament, the book of Ecclesiastes tells us a lot about that," Msgr. Snyderwine said. "It describes all the highs and lows, the happy and the sad, the times and seasons of life. In the end, God puts the timelessness of our hearts without us ever understanding his will."

9/11 costs hard to count

COSTS, from page 1

he said. A growing American isolationism, typified by "a defensive attitude toward the world, a narrowing of the vision of this country to 'us vs. them,'" has betrayed the best of our foreign policy tradition," Appley said.

Some of the rhetoric and tone of U.S. response immediately following the 9/11 attacks helped create the impression that the United States was now at war with Islam, Appley said. "It was 'us vs. them,' and 'you're with us or against us,' and 'Operation Infinite Justice' that set an unfortunate tone," he said.

(Operation Infinite Justice was the original name of the U.S. military response to the 9/11 attacks. Muslim groups complained that the title too closely resembled the Islamic teaching that only Allah can provide "infinite justice," however, and the program name was changed to Operation Enduring Freedom.)

Though some of the official government rhetoric "was eventually retracted, that set the tone for a lot of the news coverage," Appley continued. Radio and television talk-show hosts played

up that approach, "then Islamophobes seized on 9/11 and its consequences to hammer their opponents politically," he said. "Eventually President (George W.) Bush got on the right talking points, that we are not at war with Islam," Appley said, but the effects of that initial backlash at Muslims have never gone away.

President Barack Obama has shown some "political courage" in reaching out to Muslims internationally and within the United States, said Appley, "but unfortunately that has been swamped by the vitriolic political culture, so he's been unable to fulfill the promise of his efforts. That's partly not his fault. We need more political leaders to call the haters out."

Source: Brown University's conference.org and the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. ©2011 CNN

By the Way...

The summer parish festival season is coming to a close, although parishes are gearing up for their Oktoberfests, Columbus Day dinners and more.

Holy Trinity's Zabawa festival, featured in the cover story of the July/August edition of Faith magazine, was a great success once again this year. Perfect weather added to the spirit of celebration, and new records were broken in both attendance and funds raised.

Msgr. Tom McSweeney, pastor, was especially pleased to welcome more visitors from outside of Erie. New this year was a guest book and wall map on which visitors could put a star to indicate their hometowns. (One visitor even came from Brazil!) He was also pleased to see members from parishes in Warren and Sharon who had come to see how they might incorporate ideas into their own events.

Gannon University opened its new five-story, \$17 million dormitory to students this fall. All units at North Hall, located at 143 W. Fourth St. in Erie, feature suites that include kitchenettes and full bathrooms. The dorm also houses a convenience store, multiple study lounges and fitness areas.

Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the building Sept. 24 at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Keith Taylor presided over his first convocation as president of Gannon Aug. 20. Like the members of this year's freshman class, Dr. Taylor said he is also experiencing a transition. He began his journey as the seventh president of Gannon University in July and will officially be inaugurated in November.

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie and founder of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, is getting ready to publish another book. "Surrender! The Life-Changing Power of Doing God's Will" is scheduled for release on Sept. 30 from Our Sunday Visitor. "Surrender" outlines concrete steps readers can take to dwell in God's peace.

Father Larry's previous book on male spirituality, "Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be," is a best-seller from Ignatius Press.

The Diocese of Erie's Permanent Diaconate Program has one more stop on its "on the road" tour. St. Callistus Parish in Kane will host an informational event and question-and-answer session on the deacon program Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. This event is for men who are considering a call to ordained ministry in the church.

The diocese's next permanent diaconate formation class will begin in September 2012.

The 17th annual rosary march, sponsored by the diocese's World Apostolate of Fatima, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 9. All are invited to gather at St. Peter Cathedral, West Tenth and Sassafras in Erie, at 2 p.m. to begin a walk through downtown.

The rosary procession will extend through the downtown area before returning to the cathedral. For those unable to participate in the march, the rosary will also be prayed in the cathedral.

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

COST OF 9/11 and the WARS



207,000 LIVES LOST

172,000 CIVILIANS IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN; 18,678 IRAQI & AFGHAN FORCES; 6,051 U.S. MILITARY MEMBERS; 3,520 PAKISTANI FORCES; 2,977 IN THE 9/11 ATTACKS; 2,300 U.S. CONTRACTORS; 1,192 OTHER ALLIED FORCES; 130 JOURNALISTS



\$2 TRILLION

property, economic, labor and insurance losses due to the attacks

OTHER HUMAN COSTS

Hundreds of thousands have been maimed or injured. Others were forced to leave their homes and country.

\$4 TRILLION

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Source: Brown University's conference.org and the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security. ©2011 CNN

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
Volume 7, Issue 14
General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association.
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie.
Subscription \$10/year.
For more information, call (814) 824-1161.
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

CLOCK REPAIR
Burdie's Clock Shop
238 South Main St.
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
(814) 398-8263
"We Make House Calls"

Active Aging Foundation presents
Turn Up the Music Tour
SUNDAY, OCT. 2ND
2:30PM
Allegheny College
Shaler Auditorium
in Meadville, PA
Reserved Seats:
\$25 • \$27.50 • \$30
Day of Show Tickets add \$5/ticket
Available at the Community Center of Crawford County
1034 Park Avenue, Meadville, PA
or by phone at 814-336-1792 or online at www.activaging.org
Proceeds benefit ACTIVE AGING, INC.

17th Annual Rosary March
Sunday, October 9, 2011
Assemble at 2:00 pm at St. Peter Cathedral
Pray the Rosary with us (Rain or shine)
More information: John Walsh, 814-868-1100
Sponsored by The World Apostolate of Fatima

2011 ERIE IRISH FESTIVAL™
Rainbow Gardens at Waldameer Park
Fri., September 16th (5-10:30 pm)
Sat., September 17th (11:30 am-10:30 pm)
Sun., September 18th (11:30 am-6 pm)
Plenty of continuous Celtic live entertainment, dance, food, bakery and family fun!
Adult Daily Admission: \$5 with donation of canned/dry good to support Saint Patrick Food Bank; Children under 16 are Free!
WWW.ERIEIRISHFESTIVAL.COM
814-454-8085

Briefly

Bishop Trautman bobbleheads available to order

ERIE – Want to get your own bobblehead of Bishop Donald Trautman? Now you can thanks to Father John Detisch, who is making them available due to overwhelming demand. The bobbleheads are \$40 each. Make check or money order payable to Sacred Heart Church then send to 816 W. 26th St., Erie, Pa., 16508. Please include your name and address. The deadline to order is Thursday, Sept. 15.



House of Prayer marks 40 years

ERIE – The House of Prayer in Erie will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 18 with a 1 p.m. Mass at Gannon University's Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel located on Peach Street just north of the Erie Club. A light lunch will follow in Gannon's Upper Lounge in the same building. The public is invited.

The House of Prayer was founded in 1971. Sister Rita Panciera, RSM, a certified spiritual director, directs what is now one of the oldest ongoing houses of prayer in the United States. "We offer a praying presence in the city and spiritual and physical refreshment," Sister Rita said.

The House of Prayer, located at 159 W. Fourth St., offers spiritual direction, Mass on Saturdays at 9 a.m. and centering prayer on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8-8:45 a.m.

From September to May, programs include weekly Scripture study on Wednesdays from 9:30-11 a.m., a monthly centering prayer renewal day on the third Sunday of the month from 1-4:30 p.m. and a monthly book discussion.

For more information, contact Sister Rita at 814.456.1802 or prayerhouse71@gmail.com.

Genocide survivor to speak in Ridgway

RIDGWAY – St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway will present an evening with Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwanda genocide survivor and author, on Sept. 15 at Ridgway High School's auditorium, 1403 Hill St. in Ridgway.

A VIP reception begins at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 7 with the presentation beginning at 7:30. A book sale and signing session will immediately follow the presentation. General admission is \$10.

For ticket information, visit www.immaculeeridgway.org. To learn more about Immaculee Ilibagiza's story, visit her website at www.immaculee.com.



Immaculee Ilibagiza

Marriage Encounter enrichment day

GROVE CITY – Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WVME) will host a Marriage Encounter enrichment day on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Beloved Disciple Parish's Knights of Columbus Hall in Grove City.

The program is for Marriage Encounter couples and will include presentations, dialogue, fellowship, optional sharing, music, skits and a flash mob at Grove City Premium Outlets. Participants should bring dialogue books.

Registration is at 9 a.m. with the program running from 9:30 to 5 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 5:15 at the church.

Cost is \$15 per couple and includes continental breakfast and lunch. The Knights of Columbus Hall is located at 1310 S. Center St. in Grove City.

RSVP to Jim and Betty Dalessandro by Sept. 17. Call 814.833.7929 or 814.602.8045 or e-mail jimdale2@verizon.net. Checks made out to Worldwide Marriage Encounter can be mailed to Jim Dalessandro, 1424 Asbury Road, Erie, Pa., 16505.

Catholic Charismatic Conference Oct. 7-8

ERIE – The Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center is sponsoring its annual Catholic Charismatic Conference Oct. 7-8 at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

The theme of the conference is "Streams of Living Water." Father Michael Polinek, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Warren, will be the presenter.

The conference begins Friday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. and ends with a healing service at 9 p.m. Saturday's schedule begins at 9 a.m. with Mass and includes praise and worship and talks by Father Polinek.

For more information or to register, contact the Word of Life Center at 814.824.1286.



Father Michael Polinek

Diocesan high school youth rally — Nov. 19

ERIE – Save the date for the diocesan high school youth rally which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 4-10 p.m. at Villa Maria Academy in Erie.

The rally will include the anticipated Mass for the feast of Christ the King. The theme will be "Take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

Information on speakers will be available soon. All students are welcome.

St. Hedwig Family Pancake Breakfast

Annual all-you-can-eat breakfast includes sausage, fruit cup and beverages. Also a wonderful Chinese auction!

Sunday, Sept. 25 at Polish Falcons Club (E. Third St., between Parade and Wallace)

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children ages 3-10
Sold at the door, but advance reservations for pick-up would be appreciated.

St. Mary of Grace Church Annual Columbus Day Spaghetti Dinner

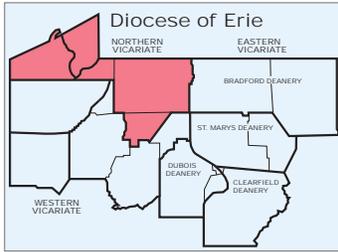
Social Center, 1085 Water St., Meadville
Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011, 11:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Pasta dinner features homemade Italian sauce, meatballs, salad, beverage and dessert. Cost: \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10. Dine in or take out. Unique gift baskets, used book sale and bake sale (homemade cannoli available for purchase).

EXCITING RAFFLES! CASH DRAWING!
THEMED GIFT BASKETS! BAKE AND BOOK SALE!
Come enjoy a great day of Italian cuisine and hospitality.

Bishop's Commendation for Service Award

Northern 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 Northern Vicariate of the Diocese of Erie, which includes the Erie East, Erie West, Gannon University and Warren deaneries. Bishop Donald Trautman conferred the honors Aug. 23 at St. George Parish in Erie. Look for the Western Vicariate honorees in the Sept. 25 issue of *FaithLife*.

Helen Bell

St. George, Erie
Bell has been a dedicated sacristan for more than 30 years. She is the first to open the church for daily Mass at 6:45 a.m. She shovels the entryways and walkways in the winter so that the priest and Mass-goers don't have to walk in the snow. Bell makes sure that all materials needed are ordered, votive candles are refreshed daily and altar cloths and towels are cleaned and stacked. She stuffs inserts and files into the church's weekly bulletin—all 1,600 of them. She is watchful of the altar servers, making sure they look their best before they assist the celebrant.



Phyllis Bellucci

Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Bellucci and her husband, Ed, have been parishioners at Blessed Sacrament for 50 years. She is a regular at 7 a.m. Mass where she serves as a lector, sacristan and Eucharistic minister. She also assists as a sacristan/Eucharistic minister at Sunday Mass. She takes Communion to the residents at Sarah Reed where her mother was once a resident and leads the rosary with them each week. She also takes Communion to the parish shut-ins every Sunday following Mass. Each Tuesday, she is one of two people who clean the church. Bellucci is the contact person for the parish prayer line and has been involved in Scouting for nearly 40 years.



Mary Ann DeVore

St. Luke, Youngsville
DeVore has been dedicated in supporting her parish in numerous ways. She is currently president of the finance council and Altar/Rosary Society. She has also served as an altar server and Eucharistic minister and member of one of the parish's faith sharing groups. She visits an area parish every other Saturday. She has remained a faith-filled Catholic through a number of trials the past few years including the loss of her father, mother and husband to cancer and illness. She is also raising her 4-year-old granddaughter in the faith.



Dave Evans

Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Evans volunteers his time to provide Catholic services, including distributing Communion and setting up for weekly Mass at Golden Living Walnut Creek and Presque Isle Rehab. He supports and nurtures the residents through weekly services. He spends time getting to know the residents, remembers their names and prays with them. His presence helps spread the word of Christ into the lives of residents.



Teresa Guyton

St. Julia, Erie
Guyton has been at The Regional Cancer Center (RCC) in Erie since 1993 when the center was seeking volunteers to visit with patients and their families in its waiting and treatment areas. She has volunteered three to four hours weekly with RCC patients and now visits every other week. When her husband, now deceased, was dealing with cancer himself, he encouraged her to return to volunteering at RCC.



Carol Hoffman

St. Andrew, Erie
Hoffman has many years of experience in religious education. She has served her parish and the diocese as a mentor and reviewer of religious education programs. Through her intervention, St. Andrew has developed a religious education program for special needs children that also assists children from other parishes. She has also served her parish as a pastoral minister by guiding families through sacramental preparation and the planning of funeral rites.



John Timon

Holy Cross, Fairview
In his 45-plus years as a member of his parish, Timon has served in numerous roles including: religious education teacher, RCIA instructor, pro-life coordinator, parish council president, lector, Eucharistic minister. A daily Mass attendant, he has also distributed Communion to patients at UPMC Hamor. He has participated on multiple fundraising committees and served as the parish's Eucharistic and Good Samaritan coordinator. He is a former board member of Harborcreek Youth Services.



Irene Smerick

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Erie
Smerick is active in the parish's service projects and faith sharing groups. She recently became a member of pastoral council. Smerick has a heart for the elderly, sick and disabled. She was instrumental in organizing the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Erie and served as its president for many years. A colleague of Dr. Gertrude Barber, Smerick was with her in the beginnings of the Barber Center in 1952 where she worked for 57 years so that children and adults with disabilities would have the opportunity to develop to their fullest.



In Uncertain Times, Put First Things First

Don't forget to put first things first, your family's financial future. We have safe, stable & secure life insurance, long-term care, disability income & annuity products.

Contact me today:
TY FORD
814-761-1256
TYRON.FORD@KOFI.ORG
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

STUMP GRINDING

By Ken Eaton
Back yards - tight spots - No problem
Free estimates. Insured. Shrubs and small trees removed. Prompt service
Ken (814) 474-2195 or
(814) 397-0384 LICENSE PA 08667

TURKEY AND HAM DINNER AND QUILT SHOW

Sunday, October 9, 2011
Serving 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Hall, Lucinda
Adults: \$7.50, Children: \$3.50
Preschoolers: Free
Takeouts are available!
Raffle 1st prize: quilt

WHY GANNON?

"So I could get teaching experience in my freshman year."

- real-life experience through school district partnerships

"So I could be more than a number."

- 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio provides personal attention

"To play for a winning team."

- 18 NCAA DII varsity teams with an average GPA of 3.4

GANNON

UNIVERSITY

Believe in the possibilities.

WWW.GANNON.EDU

5th Annual
St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community
24th and Sassafras Streets, Erie

Oktoberfest

October 7th, 8th and 9th
Free parking • Free admission
Heated beer tent

BENZ drawing: Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m.
www.winanevbenz.com

Proceeds benefit restoration of Saint Joseph Church and Maria House projects.

YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY

B.J. Moon, R.Ph.
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.

3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510 814 / 898-2085 Fax 814 / 898-2086

Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

ProximoTravel

Your Catholic Tour Company

Quality trips, tours and vacations to memorable and sacred locales starting at \$3,390
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE W/ Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy/Switzerland: Oct. 1-13, Oct. 8-20, ...
Italy Regular: Oct. 1-9, Oct. 8-16, Oct. 15-23 ...
Italy South: Oct. 15-27
Holy Land: Oct. 6-16, Oct. 20-30, ...
Holy Land/Italy: Last date of the Season! Oct. 10-23
France/Portugal/Spain: Oct. 8-20, Oct. 15-27
Italy/Lourdes/Fatima: Oct. 12-23

Visit our website www.proximotravel.com for more information and dates!

www.proximotravel.com Anthony Nacheil, PhD
email: anthony@proximotravel.com 877-994-8259 (Theology) Owner

