



# FaithLife

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie September 11, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

## Diocese announces collection for Katrina relief

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

In the wake of the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, Bishop Donald Trautman has authorized a special collection that will benefit victims in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast. The collection will be taken up in parishes located in the 13-county Erie Diocese at the discretion of pastors within the next several weeks.

All proceeds sent to the diocesan Catholic Charities Office will be forwarded to Catholic Charities USA. No portion of these funds will be used for local administrative costs.

"All of us have been deeply moved by the tragedy that continues to unfold in New Orleans and all along the Gulf coast," Bishop Trautman said. "I ask you to join with me in offering prayers and making personal sacrifices on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are suffering greatly in the face of a very long and difficult journey to recovery."

In addition to authorizing the collection of relief funds, Bishop Trautman announced he has writ-

ten Archbishop Alfred Hughes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, who is currently in Baton Rouge, inviting him to consider sending his college seminarians to St. Mark Seminary in Erie where they would be able to attend Gannon University.

"We're all members of the Body of Christ," Bishop

### Hurricane Katrina relief

Donations should be sent to:

**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie**  
429 E. Grandview Blvd.  
P.O. Box 10397  
Erie, PA 16514

Attn: Katrina Collection

Trautman said. "We all say we are brothers and sisters of the Lord. This is an occasion for us to prove that identity that we are one in the Lord. We grieve with our own hearts. We offer our prayers. We reach out to those who are suffering. But we are family; we want to respond to our family members."

Bishop Trautman said it is not easy for a bishop to come to his



CNS photo from Reuters

An aerial view taken Aug. 30 shows the devastation caused by high winds and heavy flooding in greater New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina ripped into the U.S. Gulf Coast area Aug. 29. Floodwaters poured into low-lying New Orleans through levees battered by the powerful hurricane.

people time and again asking for support, acknowledging many people throughout the diocese face their own economic hardship. But he says he is encouraged by the record-breaking response of the people in the diocese to

those affected in December by the tsunami in southeast Asia and by the recent donations to help those facing starvation in Niger.

"For those who are able to give I say thank you in the Lord's name," Bishop Trautman said. "I

thank you in advance for your generosity. But again, I ask everyone to consider the deep need for prayer and fasting and other acts of sacrifice at this time, so that we are truly in solidarity with those in need."

## Catechetical Sunday Sept. 18 themed 'Life is Christ'

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

"Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ." (Phil 1:20-21)

Each year, parishes across the country set aside time during the weekend liturgies of Catechetical Sunday to recognize those men and women who have accepted the church's call to serve as catechists. As part of this annual celebration, those involved in this ministry are often asked to stand and come forward to the altar. There, in front of the Catholic community, these men and women are commissioned in the name of the church to teach others what it means to follow Christ. This public commissioning also reminds parishioners of their responsibility to be witnesses of Jesus' Good News. Many parishes also recognize parents as the primary catechists of their children and for their efforts to raise them in the faith.

The theme for Catechetical Sunday 2005 Sept. 17-18 is Life is Christ, which is taken from the Letter to the Philippians (1:21), the second reading for Sept. 18. This theme is rich in imagery and reminds us of the abundance of God's gifts and the wonder of Christ's loving presence among us. — USCCB

FaithLife profiles several catechists from the Erie Diocese this

week, showing a glimpse of how catechetical ministries have increased the faith of those to whom they minister.

**Sylvia Smith, coordinator for religious education, Holy Cross Parish, Fairview**

After teaching catechetics from 1985 to 1999, Smith became coordinator of the religious education program at Holy Cross Parish, Fairview. In this role she ministers to everyone "from womb to tomb," she says.

She enjoying imparting the faith to all ages, but those enrolled in confirmation and adult education programs bring her a special joy.

"You can converse with them, you can share Scripture," she says. "It's neat to be able to share at that level and hear their questions."

Smith says her ministry is going on every day, not just Saturday or Sunday or when programs are running.

"Talking with people after Mass, you form friendships," she says. "I gain more than I give, probably twice as much, I know that."

Her work is realized in seeing those whom she has ministered to now minister to others.

"When you see people who have gone through RCIA who are now the catechists, musicians and lectors, you feel they are a part of the parish family," she says. "They're becoming the stronghold

### Accredited religious education programs in the Erie Diocese

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Erie are continuing to work on accreditation of their religious education programs, a designation which indicates a parish meets diocesan quality standards. The diocesan goal is to have each parish accredited every six years. The following listing includes parishes that have been accredited to date:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| All Saints, Erie                              | St. Hippolyte, Guys Mills         |
| Beloved Disciple, Grove City                  | St. John the Evangelist, Girard   |
| Good Shepherd, West Middlesex                 | St. Joseph, Force                 |
| Holy Cross, Fairview                          | St. Joseph, Lucinda               |
| Holy Rosary, Erie                             | St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway           |
| Immaculate Conception, Clarion                | St. Mark, Emporium                |
| Immaculate Conception, Brookville             | St. Mary, St. Marys               |
| Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills          | St. Mary, Reynoldsville           |
| Notre Dame, Hermitage                         | St. Mary, Crown                   |
| Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochranon                | St. Michael, Fryburg              |
| Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek                | St. Patrick, Erie                 |
| Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake | St. Philip, Linesville            |
| Queen of the World, St. Marys                 | St. Raphael, Eldred               |
| Sacred Heart, St. Marys                       | St. Severin, Drifting             |
| St. Ann, Marienville                          | St. Teresa, Union City            |
| St. Basil the Great, Coalport                 | St. Theresa, Shinglehouse         |
| St. Bonaventure, Grampian                     | St. Timothy, Curwensville         |
| St. Brigid, Meadville                         | St. Tobias, Brockway              |
| St. Callistus, Kane                           | Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Punxsutawney |
| St. Francis Xavier, McKean                    | Ss. Peter & Paul, Grassflat       |

of the parish. It's pretty special."

**Aaron Phoutz, youth minister, Queen of the World, Sacred Heart and St. Mary parishes, St. Marys**

As the youth minister for three parishes, Aaron Phoutz works with many high school and middle school students. His task, he says, is to bring the Gospel message and make it alive for teens.

"It's a life-changing experience," he says. "To take them to Christ in the Eucharist, in others and in their community, they become alive."

In the five years he's been involved with youth ministry, he says he's always amazed to watch teens witness to others about their faith.

"We have some kids in public schools who kneel at their lockers

to pray," he says. "Others invite friends to catechesis and youth groups. They wear Catholic T-shirts to public high schools and write Christian music. They want to take Christ to others."

**Marialyce Garvis, outreach and sacramental preparation coordinator, Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City**

Ever since she got married 20 years ago, Marialyce Garvis has been involved with religious education programs in her parish.

She and her husband started out volunteering as 7th grade catechists. Over the years, she has worked with many spectrums of the faith including sacramental preparation and adult and youth formation.

"I have to say that I learn as much as I teach," she says. "I'm always pleasantly pleased how much I take away from it."

She enjoys working with parents in the sacramental program, watching them share their faith with other parents.

"It's rewarding to see that what you're bringing to the forefront for them or what they're learning for the first time, they're able to pass along to their family," she says.

She's been touched by the faith of many of her students she has contact with but knows others are also out there living the Gospel.

"The seeds you plant sometimes you don't see," she says.

## Clergy Appointments

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

**Fr. Matthew Ruyechan**, parochial administrator of St. Venantius Parish, Rouseville, while continuing as pastor of St. Stephen Parish, Oil City for a term of six years ending June 30, 2011. Effective Aug. 21, 2005.

**Fr. William Miller**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2011. Effective Aug. 29, 2005.

**Deacon William Sproveri**, deacon assistant at St. Joseph Parish, Warren, for a term of five years. Effective Aug. 29, 2005.

### News Briefs

#### U.S.

#### Apostolic visitation of all U.S. seminaries to start this fall

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican-run apostolic visitation of U.S. Catholic seminaries and houses of priestly formation will begin late this September. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, who will coordinate the visits, announced details of the plan Aug. 19. Sparked by the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church in 2002, the visitations will pay special attention to areas such as the quality of the seminarians' human and spiritual formation for living chastely and of their intellectual formation for faithfulness to church teachings, especially in the area of moral theology. The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, which oversees seminary formation around the world, has appointed 117 bishops and seminary personnel as visitors. They are to visit each college- or theology-level institution, working in teams of three for smaller programs or four for the larger ones. The apostolic visitation of St. Mark Seminary in the Diocese of Erie is scheduled for Jan. 22-27.

#### Liturgical music publisher offers hymns on digital downloads

FRANKLIN PARK, Ill. (CNS) — World Library Publications has entered into agreements with several digital downloading services to offer selections from its liturgical music library. World Library, a division of J.S. Paluch Co., said it also expects its downloaded music to be available soon as cellular telephone ring tones through additional downloading services. Firms with which World Library has agreements include iTunes, MSN Music Service, Napster, Rhapsody, eMusic, Ecstasy, Audio Lunchbox, Koodoo Music, MusicMatch, MusicNet and MusicNow. Currently, about 150 songs have been made available to the services, with additional songs being delivered weekly, according to World Library's Lisa Bagladi, who coordinates the digital referral.

#### WORLD

#### In synagogue, pope recalls Holocaust as 'darkest period' in Germany

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — In a visit to a synagogue in his native Germany, Pope Benedict XVI recalled with sorrow the Nazi persecution of the Jews as "the darkest period of German and European history." The pope warned of new signs of anti-Semitism today and said the Catholic Church has a duty to remember the Holocaust and to teach its lessons to younger generations who did not witness the "terrible events" that took place before and during World War II. Toward the end of his Aug. 19 speech, he said Christians and Jews have to respect each other and added, off-the-cuff, "and love each other." The pope spoke to some 500 Jewish representatives in Cologne, in a synagogue destroyed during the 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom and rebuilt in 1959. The Jewish community in Cologne is the oldest in Europe north of the Alps and was decimated during World War II.

#### Pope, in spotlight, outlines priorities, style of emerging papacy

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — On a trip he inherited from his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI stepped into the world spotlight and outlined the priorities and the style of his emerging papacy. To young people gathered for World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany, the pope brought an intensely spiritual message during his Aug. 18-21 visit, telling them that living their faith and imitating the saints were the only ways to transform the world. That seemed to make a connection with many young people in Cologne. In the words of one young U.S. pilgrim, youths came for religious inspiration, and they got it. To bishops in his native country, where secularism has put down deep roots, he called for new efforts to stem the decline in church influence, but said it must be done without "watering down" the Gospel. That was a point he echoed in remarks to civil authorities, reminding them that Germany, in the heart of Europe, remained "indelibly" marked by Christian traditions that are still valid today. The pope's comments underscored what is shaping up as a primary goal of his papacy, re-evangelizing Europe.

#### For first time in years, numbers increase at Irish national seminary

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — For the first time in years, numbers are up at Ireland's national seminary, St. Patrick's College in Maynooth. Nineteen first-year seminarians began their studies for the priesthood Aug. 27, bringing the total number of seminarians at St. Patrick's at the start of the new academic year to 75, compared with 63 last year. Church officials say the small increase is good news for a country that has seen vocations shrink from thousands to dozens. Since the 1940s, when Ireland was ordaining more than a thousand priests per year, Irish vocations have decreased steadily. Today, only one diocesan college — St. Joseph's College in Belfast, Northern Ireland — continues to train priests; students study philosophy and earn a basic degree before completing advanced studies elsewhere. In the last decade, six Irish colleges have stopped serving as seminaries.

#### PEOPLE

#### 2,000 gather in pope's home town to greet him on flight back to Rome

MUNICH, Germany (CNS) — Some 2,000 people gathered in the market square of Pope Benedict XVI's home town, Markt am Inn, to greet the pope as he flew back to Rome from World Youth Day activities in Cologne. The Lufthansa Airbus A-321, named "Regensburg," flew low enough for all those on the ground to see the aircraft clearly. "We could see them coming at around 8:15 pm," said Josef Riedhofer, who works for the Markt community and was in the market square. "It had rained until then, but when the papal plane approached, it suddenly stopped, and we did not need our umbrellas." He said the plane turned on its cabin and landing lights. "We all lit up our candles and flashlights and shone them for the pope. The birth house was lit up clearly for the pope to see," said Riedhofer. He said Mayor Hubert Gschwendtner was in contact with the cockpit, where the pope sat beside the pilot.

## By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

The Erie Diocese has close ties to the Catholic Charities USA relief effort for Hurricane Katrina victims. Cheryl Weber, who heads St. Martin Center in Erie, is the disaster response liaison for the diocese. She's also the chair of the disaster response committee of Catholic Charities USA and is in daily contact with the national disaster offices as well as Catholic Charities and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reps in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans area.

"We're working on immediate services now, and then we'll begin focusing on long-term recovery efforts and rebuilding," Weber says.

Last week, Weber helped coordinate the hand delivery of five \$100,000 on-the-spot emergency grants to dioceses that have been severely affected. Once funds come in from diocesan collections across the United States, they will be forwarded immediately to relief efforts, she says.

"After the collection, we anticipate a minimum of \$500,000 allocated to each of the five dioceses affected by the disaster," Weber says. "That's a minimum of \$2.5 million."

Already, Weber says she's touched by the generosity of the people of this diocese. On Sept. 2, one of her caseworkers received a call from an Erie woman who offered the use of her house to a family in need.

Dr. Antoine Garibaldi concurs with Bishop Trautman's offer to house seminarians from the Archdiocese of New Orleans at St. Mark Seminary so they may attend Gannon University. The Gannon president is also a New Orleans native.

"I know that there are a large number of seminarians in New Orleans," Dr. Garibaldi says. "We certainly could accommodate students in our classes so that they would not have to take a break from school."

His relatives, most of whom live in New Orleans, were safely evacuated, including his 90-year-old mother. His wife Carol's family is mostly from New Orleans, as well.

Gannon students Keith Demerest and Semaj Vanzant, president of the Student Government Association, are coordinating fundraising efforts by the student body. Vanzant is a New Orleans native, and Demerest has family living in that area.

Vanzant says all of his immediate family has evacuated to Houston where they will make a decision on where to settle. To get through the last two weeks, he says he's been looking toward Romans 8:28 (*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose*). "That's definitely a Scripture that I cling to," he says.

Demerest says his family in Bay St. Louis left several days before the storm. They're currently at a campground in northern Mississippi. "My uncle doesn't expect to go home ever again, but they're OK and that's the most important thing," he says.

The students helped organize fundraising effort across the campus. The Waldron Center held two days of activities and events put on by student organizations. All proceeds will go toward Red Cross relief efforts.

Jason Koshinski is editor of FaithLife. Contact him at [JKoshinski@erieRCD.org](mailto:JKoshinski@erieRCD.org) or 814.824.1171.

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#### FaithLife

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### Briefly

#### Gannon to host lecture series on Eucharist

A priest from the Diocese of Cleveland will use song and humor to explore the meaning of Catholic Mass during a Sept. 13 guest lecture at Gannon University.

The lecture, to be given by Fr. J-Glenn Murray, S.J., will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Yehi Room of the Waldron Center, 124 W. 7th St. It is free and open to the public.

Fr. Murray will discuss how the celebration of the Eucharist is meant to be a passionately engaging and powerfully transforming experience.

Fr. Murray's lecture is the first (of three parts) in Gannon University's Fall 2005 *Lecture Series on the Eucharist*. Fr. Murray will be followed on Sept. 20 by Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., president of St. Bonaventure University; and on Oct. 4 by Fr. Scott Detisch, Ph.D., a member of the faculty at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. and a former Gannon faculty member.

#### Family Day set for Sept. 26

Did you know that eating dinner frequently with your children reduces their risk of substance abuse?

Research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs.

CASA created *Family Day* — *A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children* in 2001, as a national effort to promote family dinners as an effective way to reduce substance abuse among children and teens. The Office of Family Ministries of the Erie Diocese is encouraging participation in this year's Family Day, Sept. 26.

For more information on Family Day celebrations, visit [www.casafamilyday.org](http://www.casafamilyday.org).

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## Catholic Education Collection to aid REEF grants

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Since 1991, the Religious Education Endowment Fund (REEF) of the Diocese of Erie has distributed nearly \$900,000 in funds for schools, religious education and parish projects.

As in the past, this year's Catholic Education Collection coincided with Catechetical Sunday. This year's annual collection will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese the weekend of Sept. 17-18.

"It ties in with the theme of education within the parish," says Fr. Jay Schultz, vicar for education of the Diocese of Erie. "The fact that we've been able to distribute close to \$1 million is amazing."

Half of what parishes collect stays in the parish and goes toward schools and religious education funding. The other half goes to REEF, which funds various projects for parishes and schools.

REEF grants provide seed

money for parishes and schools to begin new projects.

"Funds go toward one-time projects or if parishes are planning something that will become annual, REEF will help pay for the first year," says Fr. Schultz.

Since 1991, REEF has distributed \$249,856 to 48 schools and \$67,389 to 46 parishes for various projects.

REEF grants also provide money to educators for religious and continuing education such as principal and catechist certification and religious education degrees. Area colleges and universities supported through REEF grant work include Allegheny College, Clarion University, Edinboro University, Gannon University, Penn State-Behrend and Westminster College among others.

Application forms and funding criteria may be obtained from the Religious Education Office, Catholic Schools Office or the Office of Education at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie.

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**Communion Breakfast for Men and Boys**  
**Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie**  
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Msgr. William E. Biebel will preside and preach at the eucharistic liturgy. Rev. Jerome Simmons will be the speaker at the breakfast. He will speak on the need for Christian men and boys to foster a "spiritual life" that is based on integration of prayer, exercise, education and in making healthy emotional responses in their daily lives.  
Men — \$10 Boys under 12 — \$5.  
Limited seating — Call 453-6677 for reservations  
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## REEF grant distribution 1991-2004

	REEF grants distributed to schools and parishes	REEF grants for college/university related programs	Combined REEF grants totals
1991	\$22,295	\$25,201	\$47,496
1992	\$22,079	\$42,430	\$64,509
1993	\$37,573	\$21,823	\$59,396
1994	\$32,975	\$37,760	\$70,735
1995	\$22,378	\$45,896	\$68,274
1996	\$11,906	\$59,285	\$71,191
1997	\$18,629	\$73,514	\$92,143
1998	\$39,486	\$48,939	\$88,425
1999	\$15,542	\$52,347	\$67,889
2000	\$20,629	\$47,908	\$68,537
2001	\$15,725	\$29,749	\$45,474
2002	\$23,192	\$34,555	\$57,747
2003	\$16,067	\$29,772	\$45,839
2004	\$18,769	\$33,443	\$52,212
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$317,245</b>	<b>\$582,662</b>	<b>\$889,907</b>

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\*Awards are distributed over four years to full-time undergraduate students. Minimum academic performance required for annual renewal of grants and scholarships.

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## Word of Life presents charismatic conferences

Fr. Bob Bedard's message to those gathered at a recent charismatic conference at St. Mark Catholic Center was simple.

"You and I need to understand what this baptism of the Holy Spirit is all about," Fr. Bedard told the audience. "If you can get someone's ear, try to explain this whole Holy Spirit thing. It's perfectly spelled out in the New Testament. Living in the experience, the blessing, is holiness. Your task is to bring people into the experience."



Fr. Bob Bedard

Fr. Bedard, founder of Companions of the Cross, a group of Spirit-filled priests in Canada, was the featured speaker at a charismatic conference called A Great Gathering Aug. 20. The event

was sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center of the Erie Diocese.

Fr. Bedard spoke about his own experiences with the Holy Spirit.

"There was a time when I just didn't pray, not even the breviary," he said. "Now I pray without distraction for an hour-and-a-half. The Lord has changed my whole personality."

Word of Life will sponsor the 15th annual Catholic Charismatic Conference Oct. 7-8 at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie. This year's theme is "Moving in the Power of the Holy Spirit." The featured speaker is Fr. John Gordon of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

Registration for this two-day conference is \$35 for adults, \$10 for students. Contact the Word of Life Center at 814.824.1286 or e-mail [wolccrc@aol.com](mailto:wolccrc@aol.com).

## Women religious should be 'oaks of justice,' says LCWR head

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — Serving God by correcting the world's inequalities requires women religious to be "oaks of justice" even if it means suffering and death, said Sr. Christine Vladimiroff, president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

The Old Testament taught that to proclaim the sovereignty of God "allegiances had to be shifted from the structures, systems and institutions that characterized the older order of oppression to a new way of living," she said on the opening day of the conference's Aug. 19-23 annual assembly in Anaheim.

Sr. Vladimiroff noted that this year's assembly marks the 49th year of the organization's founding and that in the Old Testament the 49th year was considered a jubilee year which, she said, "beckons us to make real God's dream for our

world here and now."

The conference was founded in 1956 as the Conference of Major Superiors of Women. It changed its name to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in 1971. Its approximately 1,000 members represent about 95 percent of the 73,000 women religious in the United States.

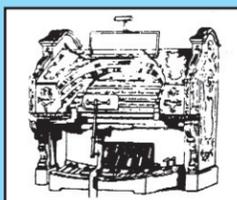
"Jubilee is not a time to paternalistically 'take care of the poor,' but rather to dismantle the structures of injustice that render people poor," said Sr. Vladimiroff.

She said that the term "oaks of justice" comes from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah who said they were people "planted by the Lord to show his glory."



Sr. Christine Vladimiroff

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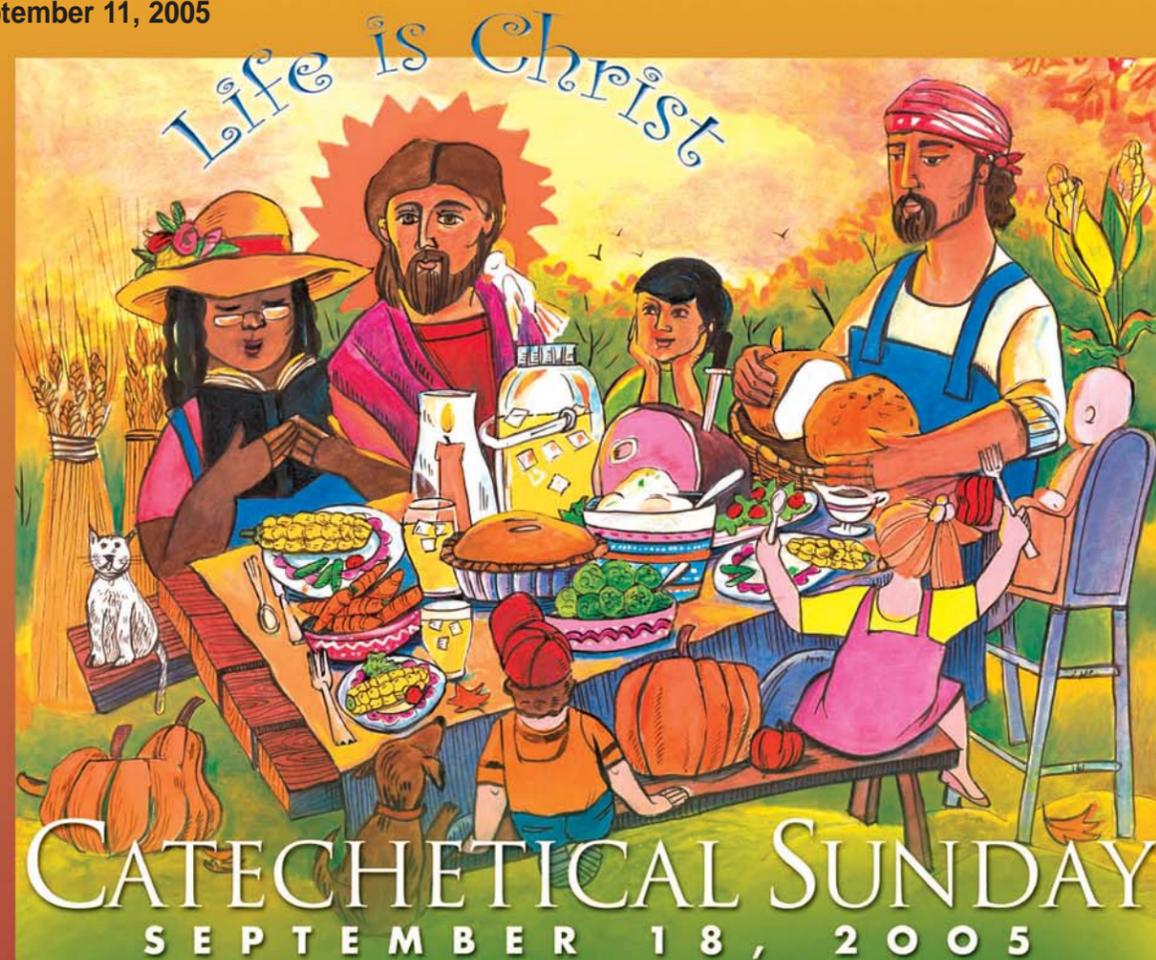
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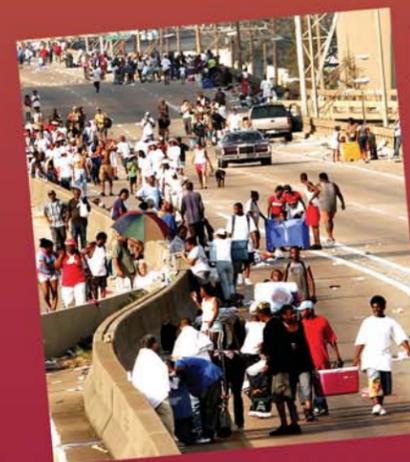
Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

# Faith Life

September 11, 2005



Department of Education • United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



**Diocese announces collection to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims**

**Catholic Education Collection to aid REEF grants**