

## Election Day is Nov. 7

Amy Beisel of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference explains faithful citizenship, page 2.



# FaithLife

## Office of Education appointments

Father Nicholas Rouch named vicar for education, page 3.



[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

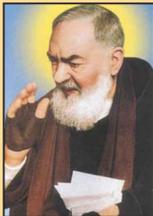
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 17, 2006

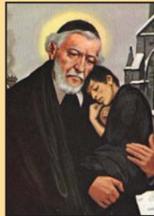
## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



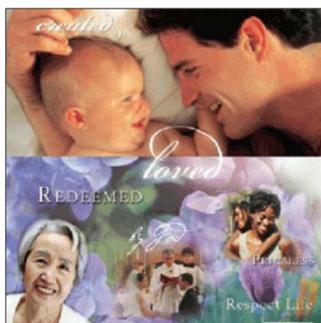
St. Padre Pio



St. Vincent de Paul

- Sept. 19 St. Januarius
- Sept. 20 Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and their companions
- Sept. 21 St. Matthew
- Sept. 23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
- Sept. 26 Ss. Cosmas and Damian
- Sept. 27 St. Vincent de Paul
- Sept. 28 St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions
- Sept. 29 Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
- Sept. 30 St. Jerome

## Respect Life Sunday – Oct. 1



Celebrated on the first Sunday of October, Respect Life Sunday was started by the U.S. bishops in 1972 to focus on many critical concerns of the day — abortion, euthanasia, marriage and family life, capital punishment, poverty, immigration issues, chastity, natural family planning, post-abortion healing and reconciliation, the culture of life, biotechnology, children, teens, persons with disabilities, the elderly, those who are dying and more.

The bishops ask the members of the church to recommit themselves to fashioning a culture of life. In the words of Pope John Paul II from *Evangelium Vitae*, "We are the people of life and for life, and that is how we present ourselves to everyone." (No. 78)

## 12th annual Blue Army rosary march – Sun., Oct. 1

The 12th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Erie Diocese's Blue Army chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima, is scheduled for Sun., Oct. 1.

The march will begin at 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, 10th and Sassafras streets in Erie. Those joining the march are asked to gather outside the cathedral at 2 p.m. For those unable to participate in the walk, the rosary will be prayed inside the cathedral while the march is taking place.

Following the march, a prayer service will be held at the cathedral. Father Jerry Priscaro will be the guest homilist.



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

**Father Gregory P. Passauer**, appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish, Crown, and St. Ann Mission, Marienville, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012. Effective Sept. 12, 2006.

**Father Nicholas J. Rouch**, appointed vicar for education of the Erie Diocese while continuing his assignment as vice president for Mission and Ministry of Gannon University and as vice rector of St. Mark Seminary. Effective Sept. 29, 2006.

**Father John M. Schultz**, appointed pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Erie. Effective Sept. 29, 2006.

**Father Dennis J. Veltri**, appointed pastor of St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown; Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Cochran; and Ss. Peter and Paul Oratory, Pettis, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2012. Effective Sept. 12, 2006.

# Catechetical Sunday: 'Who do you say I am?'

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Today, on Catechetical Sunday, parishes throughout the Erie Diocese will commission 1,800 catechists for their religious education programs and the 2006-07 school year.

The third Sunday of September is celebrated as Catechetical Sunday in the United States in order to acknowledge, appreciate and commission those who are catechists. In his encyclical letter *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope John Paul II says: "Among the laity who become evangelizers, catechists have a place of honor ... Catechists are among those who have received Christ's command to 'go and teach all nations.'"

Among the catechetical duties for parish priests is the task to "foster a recognition and appreciation for catechists and their mission" (General Directory for Catechesis, 225). The celebration of Catechetical Sunday provides a means to do so.

The theme for this year, *Who do you say that I am?*, is taken from today's Gospel reading in Mark 8:27-35. Jesus

asks his disciples who other people say he is then poses the same question to them. Peter responds by saying, "You are the Christ."

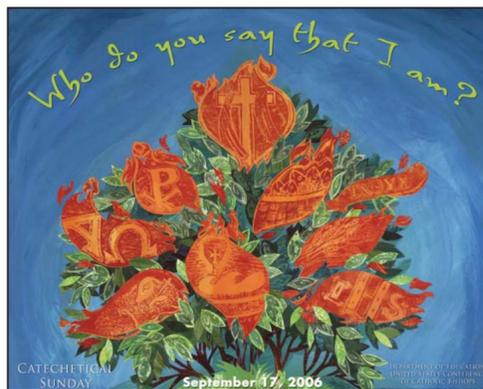
To help energize their ministry, the Office of Religious Education recently held nine conferences throughout the diocese for catechists, youth ministers and religious education leaders. The programs included keynote talks from national speakers.

Donna Glaser, a national speaker with Resources for Christian Living, spoke at St. Mark's Center on Aug. 26. She explained that the word catechist comes from the Greek word "echo," and that catechists are people who echo the word of God.

"We all as catechists need to have an understanding of the spirit of welcome," Glaser said. "And when it comes to any ministry we always look to Jesus as an example."

In a world where so much is against children and youth today, she said they need to know that God is for them.

"At a time when so many children are unwanted, they need to know that God cares," she said. "You can bless



them with your time, your attention and your affection. You can bless them with your words and example. You can bless them by bringing them all to Jesus, the one who loves them most of all."

offer the faith so that others may glorify him.

"When God calls you to become a catechist and you respond to that call, the lives of others are affected for good in a way that never would have happened if you had not been there," she said.

## Erie Diocese goes Back to School

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

### Teachers, principals use summer to prepare for new school year

While students in the Erie Diocese clung to the final days of their summer vacation, principals and teachers used the hiatus to prepare themselves for the 2006-07 school year.

The diocese's Office of Education sponsored numerous speakers and in-services throughout the summer.

- Approximately 175 teachers attended a program with Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacob, an internationally known writer and speaker who talked about the importance of curriculum mapping.
- Dr. William DeMeo, a neuro-psychologist and specialist on brain-based learning and brain research, spoke to a group of teachers in Clarion.
- Dr. Kathleen Bukowski of Mercyhurst College and Michele Kulecza of Intermediate Unit 5 (IUS) spoke to teachers on effective communication between parents and schools.
- Education consultant Dr. Bernard Hoffman spoke to teachers on the importance of confidentiality in school records.
- In Warren and Punxsutawney, Lori Verdorsosa returned to the Erie Diocese to present a program called "Get Real about Violence," which is a follow-up to her previous visits. Her talks ad-



On the second day of school, the student body and faculty of the St. Marys Catholic Elementary School gathered at the new playground on the second day of school for a blessing before the playground is used for the first time. Father Michael Ferrick, pastor of Queen of the World Parish, gave

the blessing. The playground will be used during the day for physical education classes and recess and will be open to the general public for use after school hours. For a roundup of what's new at other schools in the Erie Diocese, see our story on page 3.

ressed issues such as bullying, violence and safety.

- The Office of Education also held workshops on math, science, astronomy, writing assessments and performance assessments.

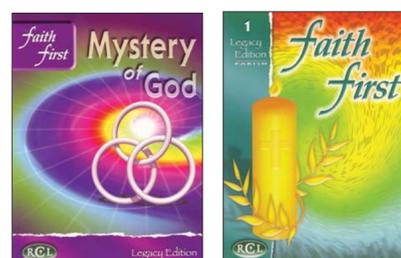
### Faith First series to provide consistency in religious education

Beginning this year, religious education classes in parishes and schools across the Erie Diocese will all be using the same textbook series. An initiative of Bishop Donald Trautman, religious education programs will fol-

low the *Faith First* series published by Resources for Christian Living (RCL).

"We wanted to create a greater consistency in the quality and the content of religious education in the schools and in parish religious education programs," said Darlene Kovacs, director of curriculum and teacher personnel for the diocese's Office of Education. "We also wanted to provide a book that a student can take home so there is some source of Catholic reading in the household."

In the *Faith First* series, the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are taught on every grade level every



The covers to the *Faith First* series for religious education, which are now being used in all schools and parishes in the diocese.

year. Parent pages in the student books reach into the home every week and provide ideas for family prayer, faith

sharing and activities. For more information on this series, visit [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com) and [www.rclweb.com](http://www.rclweb.com).

## Catholic Education Collection

September 16 & 17, 2006

Each year you are asked to support Catholic education. Passing on the faith is an ongoing mission of our church. Your help is vital; each contribution will make a difference in the lives of the children of the Erie Diocese.

Half of every dollar donated to the Catholic Education Collection stays in your local parish to support its educational program; the other half is invested in the Religious Education Endowment Fund (REEF) to benefit future generations.

Since REEF's establishment in 1991, this endowment has provided more than \$1 million in grants. Almost every parish and school in the diocese has benefited from these grants.

Please use the offertory envelope supplied by your parish or mail your contribution using the envelope enclosed between pages 16 and 17 of the September issue of *Faith* magazine.

## Papal Audience

### Being Christian means knowing Jesus personally as a friend, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being Christian is not just about listening to God's word and understanding his teachings, it is also about getting to know Jesus as a friend and personally discovering who he really is, Pope Benedict XVI said. Jesus "in fact is not only a teacher but is a friend, indeed, a brother. How can we know him from afar? Intimacy, familiarity, routine are what help people discover who Jesus really is," the pope said. The pope's remarks came during his Sept. 6 weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI, wearing a Roman "galero" to shade himself from Rome's intense sunlight, offers a kiss to a child at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sept. 6. The wide-brimmed red hat, often worn by Popes John XXIII and Paul VI, had not been worn since Pope John Paul II's trip to Mexico in 1979.

U.S.

### U.S. seminaries get new Program of Priestly Formation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Program of Priestly Formation has been issued for use in all U.S. Catholic seminaries. It places more emphasis on the human formation of seminarians, and especially on formation for celibacy, than did the fourth edition of the program, which had been in effect since 1992. The 98-page revised version of the program, the fifth edition, has been posted on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org. The Program of Priestly Formation has governed seminary formation in the United States since the bishops issued the first edition in 1971. The new version, reflecting the bishops' recent response to the scandal of clergy sexual abuse of minors, says explicitly for the first time that no seminary applicant is to be accepted if he has been involved in sexual abuse of minors. It also incorporates stricter norms, adopted by the bishops in 1999, on evaluating an application for seminary admission from someone who previously left or was dismissed from a seminary or a formation program for religious life.

### Church can play positive role in post-Castro Cuba, says expert

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church can play a positive role in Cuba during any transition period after the death of ailing President Fidel Castro, said a foreign policy expert on Cuba. The church can provide a "safe space" for Cubans to work during any transition period, said Julia Sweig, director of Latin American studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of the 2002 book, "Inside the Cuban Revolution: Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground." The church "is an institution that is respected by the people in Cuba," she said during a recent telephone news conference organized by the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonpartisan think tank based in New York. The Cuban and U.S. bishops could also form a bridge between the Cuban exile community in the United States and the Cubans inside the island nation, she said.

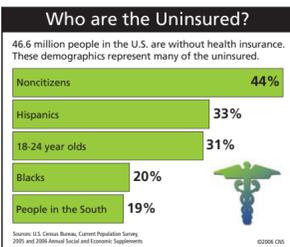


A photograph of Cuban President Fidel Castro hangs on the wall of a church as people pray for his recovery in Havana Aug. 7. A foreign policy expert on Cuba said the Catholic Church can play a positive role in Cuba during any transition period after Castro dies.

### Make better health care coverage election priority, says CHA head

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Improving health care insurance coverage should be a major campaign priority in November's elections, said the head of the Catholic Health Association, noting that 46.6 million people in the U.S. are uninsured. "We hope that as the mid-term election approaches, people across the country will demand that their candidates for office explain how they will work to expand coverage and access," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity. "No one should be denied the opportunity to pursue and achieve the American dream because they were sick and could not afford treatment. This great nation can do better. It must do better," she said. Sister Carol, CHA president and CEO and former head

of Providence Hospital in Washington, was commenting on 2005 figures released last month by the U.S. Census Bureau. The bureau reported that 46.6 million people in the U.S. are uninsured. This includes 8.3 million children.



WORLD

### Exorcist says demonic influence is strong in today's world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An Italian exorcist said demonic influence is strong in today's world, affecting individuals and sometimes entire societies. While it is very rare for a person to be possessed by a demon, history reveals some likely examples — including Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin, said Pauline Father Gabriele Amorth. Father Amorth, who works as an exorcist in the Diocese of Rome, made the comments in an interview with Vatican Radio. Father Amorth said every culture in history has shown an awareness of the existence of evil spirits. With the Bible, he said, these spirits were identified as rebellious angels who "tempt man to evil out of hatred for God."



Pauline Father Gabriele Amorth

### Retiring secretary of state's book illustrates Vatican's world role

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nearly one week before Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano was to retire, he published a book highlighting key addresses he made during 15 years of service as the Vatican secretary of state. Titled *The Leaven of the Gospel: The Presence of the Holy See in the Lives of Peoples*, the 138-page hardcover volume is a sort of memoir meant to show the Vatican as an advocate promoting and protecting human dignity and trying to save souls. The book, released Sept. 7 at a Vatican press conference, is written in Italian and contains 12 speeches the Italian cardinal made representing the pope and the Vatican at various national and international venues, including the United Nations.



Cardinal Angelo Sodano

### Czech church sells properties to cope with dropping attendance

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Czech Catholic Church has begun selling its properties at low prices to cope with plummeting church donations and membership. "The reason is simple — we just don't have the money to maintain them," said Martin Horalek, spokesman for the Prague-based bishops' conference. "Some priests are spending most of their time on the upkeep of their churches when they should be providing pastoral care for the faithful." Horalek said property sales by the country's eight dioceses had been approved at the church's synod in 2005. However, he said church officials hoped local municipalities would still allow occasional use of the churches for Mass.

## Faithful citizenship: Election Day is Nov. 7

By Amy L. Beisel  
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

America's Catholic bishops remind us that, "in the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active and responsible participants in the political process." (*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops statement, 2004)

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, Catholic voters in Pennsylvania get the chance to practice faithful citizenship when they cast their votes for one U.S. senator, members of congress, Pennsylvania governor and all the representatives and half of the senators of the Pennsylvania general assembly.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 10. To qualify, individuals must be a citizen of the United States for at least one month; a resident of Pennsylvania and the election district in which the individual desires to register and vote for at least 30 days; and at least 18 years of age on or before Election Day.

Voters may register in person at a county voter registration office or other county designated site(s) such as voter registration drives around the community; or by mail. A voter registration application may be downloaded, printed and mailed or completed online at the Pennsylvania Department of State website, [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

The polls in Pennsylvania are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Registered voters with a disability or who are 65 or older may vote by absentee ballot if their polling place has been deemed to be inaccessible.

Absentee ballots are available to persons in the armed forces, their spouses and dependents, other citizens in federal service attached to the armed forces, persons absent from their municipality the entire time the polls are open, those who cannot attend the polls because of illness or disability, county employees whose Election Day responsibilities prohibit them from going to the polls and persons who will not go to the polls because of observing a religious holiday.

The deadline to apply for an



Amy L. Beisel

absentee ballot is Oct. 31. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the county board of elections no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

The issues facing Pennsylvania now and in the coming years present serious moral, ethical and social justice questions. As faithful citizens, it is important to ask ourselves, how do we protect human life and dignity? How do we fairly share our blessings and confront the challenges we face?

What kind of nation or commonwealth do we want? What kind of world do we want to help shape?

We can answer those questions by registering and voting our informed consciences.

Amy L. Beisel, APR, is communications director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference — the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

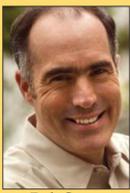
### Pennsylvania Catholic Conference 2006 General Election Candidate Interviews



Ed Rendell



Lynn Swann



Bob Casey



Rick Santorum

In anticipation of Pennsylvania's upcoming election, the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor and U.S. Senator were invited to meet with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) for an interview regarding issues of importance to Catholic voters.

Individually, all four statewide candidates participated in a face-to-face interview with PCC staff. The interviews took place over several weeks in July and August.

To read an individual transcript, visit [www.paccatholic.org](http://www.paccatholic.org) and click on "Election 2006."

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## By the Way...

On Sept. 8, the students, faculty and staff at Villa Maria Academy celebrated the 114th anniversary of the school, which was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1882. The day began with a paralyturgy followed with birthday cake for all in the cafeteria.



Jason Koshinski

Richard Sukitsch, a longtime administrator at Gannon University, has been named the school's dean of enrollment services. Sukitsch has been serving as interim dean of enrollment since July. In his service at Gannon, he has also held the titles of director of admission, dean of enrollment management, director of institutional research, associate provost and special assistant to the president. Over the years, Sukitsch has also taught undergraduate marketing and advertising classes as an adjunct faculty member in Gannon's Dahlkemper School of Business.

Sister Theresa Massello, SSJ, celebrated her 103rd birthday on Sept. 8. She is the oldest living woman religious in the Erie Diocese. The day included a luncheon celebration at Marycrest, located at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center in Erie where Sister Theresa resides.

Sister Theresa, formerly Sister Aloyse, is a native of St. Paul Parish in Erie and was the first member of the parish to enter the convent. Her extensive ministry in education included teaching and administration stints in Bradford, Erie, Meadville and Ridgway.

Catholic colleges and universities across the country once again made the list of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of the nation's best colleges, which includes Gannon University and Mercyhurst College.

Gannon University has maintained its Top Tier ranking and for the second consecutive year has been named a "Best Value" in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual college guide, *America's Best Colleges 2007*. Gannon is ranked 10th in the list of Best Values in its category within the northern region of the United States.

Gannon welcomed 700 new students for the fall semester including 620 freshmen and approximately 90 transfer students. The freshman class includes 17 high school valedictorians.

For the seventh year in a row, Mercyhurst College has earned a place among the Top 20 Comprehensive Colleges in the North, this year at No. 14 in the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings.

Mercyhurst opened the academic year with a record enrollment of more than 1,500 new students and 4,000-plus students enrolled on three campuses this fall. Mercyhurst has 18 valedictorians and salutatorians in its freshman class, six of whom are graduates of Erie area high schools.

Freshmen on the Erie campus spent Aug. 28 as "A Day of Service." More than 800 freshmen, faculty and orientation leaders boarded buses and headed to 24 sites around Erie to perform more than 2,000 hours of community service, from park cleanups to outdoor walks with senior citizens.

Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie will be spending the next nine months praying a novena for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. On Sept. 8, the feast of the birth of the Blessed Mother, Father Tom Brooks blessed a picture of Our Lady of Peace created by parish artist Jeri Klein. Following Mass, the picture was transported to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Langer and family. Each week, a different parish family will host the picture in a place of reverence in their homes.

Father Tom, Father Matt Kujawinski or Deacon Tony Alleruzzo will visit each host family during their week with the picture to pray the rosary. Family members will pray a special prayer for vocations each day of the week.

The response so far has been great. The first sixteen weeks are already taken with only one opening remaining this year.

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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Volume 2, Issue 18

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## Briefly

### Celebrate Family Day Sept. 25

Family Day, a national day to eat dinner with your children sponsored by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 25.

A Columbia University study shows the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs.

CASA created Family Day in 2001 as a national effort to promote family dinners as an effective way to reduce substance abuse among children and teens. Last year, 1.3 million families made the pledge to share dinner together on Family Day.

The Family Life Office of the Erie Diocese is encouraging participation in this year's Family Day Sept. 25. For more information on Family Day celebrations visit [www.casafamilyday.org](http://www.casafamilyday.org).

### TEC retreat Nov. 10-12

TEC, or To Encounter Christ, is a three-day encounter with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the context of community. The next TEC retreat begins on Fri., Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m. and ends on Sun., Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. and will be held at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie.

It is open to adults and to youth who have completed at least their sophomore year of high school. There is no application deadline, but TEC weekends are filled up to one month in advance.

For more information, visit the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Web site at [www.eriecd.org/youth.asp](http://www.eriecd.org/youth.asp) and click on Programs & Events.

### Gannon University awarded \$4 million state capital grant

ERIE - Gannon University has been selected for \$4 million in state capital grant money for the university's Erie Technology Incubator (ETI), a project that has been in the planning stages since 2001.

Gov. Ed Rendell was in Erie on Aug. 25 to announce that Gannon had been selected for the capital grant. During a morning press conference, held on the steps of the Erie Art Museum, the governor also announced capital grants for four other local economic development projects. Gannon's grant was the second largest of the five, which totaled \$17 million.

The ETI will be housed in the former Boys & Girls Club Building at 130 W. Eighth St. and will house high-tech, start-up companies.

The project has the potential to create 10 new companies and 600 new jobs every five years. The ETI will assist any company using advanced technology, but will focus on three technology sectors that parallel the strength of Gannon's academic programs and faculty expertise: information technology, engineering design and scientific technology.

Over the last four years, Gannon has secured \$1,105,000 in federal, state and local funds for the incubator, in addition to an industrial software program valued at more than \$5 million. The software program will be available to tenants in the ETI.

Now that state funding has been secured for renovation of the building, the university will initiate a search for an executive director for the ETI. After the building undergoes a complete renovation, its doors are expected to open in fall 2007.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Sister Mary Albert Yates, SSJ, dies at 86

Sister Mary Albert Yates, SSJ, 86, died Sept. 1, 2006 at the Villa Maria Community Living Center. She was in her 70th year of religious life.

She was born on Aug. 13, 1920 in Erie, daughter of the late Albert and Lillian Benson Yates. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Gregory Parish, North East, on Sept. 8, 1936 and professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1942. Sister Mary Albert celebrated her 60th jubilee in 1996.

She graduated from Saint Vincent school of nursing in 1941 and from the St. John Hospital school of anesthesia in Springfield, Ill., in 1944. She later earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Villa Maria College, Erie, in 1960. She had also attended numerous anesthesia workshops.

Sister Mary Albert ministered for more than 45 years at Saint Vincent Health Center (1941-1989) as a nurse, a nurse anesthetist in the operating room and as an IV therapist. From 1989-1991, she served as a volunteer. In her retirement, she served as a driver and a companion for many of the Sister at Marycrest, the Sisters of St. Joseph infirmary.



Sister Mary Albert Yates

### Sister Mary Joachim Stabler, RSM, dies at 83

Sister Mary Joachim (Carolyn) Stabler, RSM, died Sept. 4, 2006, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse. She was in her 54th year of religious life.

Sister Joachim was born July 26, 1923, in Clairton, daughter of the late David R. and Dorothy E. Parker Stabler.

On Sept. 8, 1952, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at Titusville, from St. Paulinus Parish, Clairton. She professed perpetual vows on July 31, 1958. She celebrated her silver jubilee in 1980 and her golden jubilee in 2002. Prior to entering the Sisters of Mercy, she served two years in the hospital corps of the U.S. Navy.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in education from Mercyhurst College in 1960 and a master's degree in education from Edinboro University in 1971. She studied at Terry Art Institute, Miami, Fla., and added studies at Carnegie Institute of Technology, Gannon University, Wayne State University and the University of Notre Dame. Throughout her life, Sister Joachim was a teacher. She taught elementary school and art in secondary school at numerous Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese: St. Titus, Titusville; St. Patrick, Franklin; St. George, Erie; St. Thomas, Corry; Mercyhurst Prep School, Erie; and Central Christian High School, DuBois. She served a term on the Mercyhurst College board of trustees, instructed art at Mercyhurst College and the Mercy Center on Aging, as well as in private lessons.



Sister Mary Joachim Stabler

## Father Nicholas Rouch appointed vicar for education

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Father Nicholas J. Rouch, S.T.D., has been appointed vicar for education of the Diocese of Erie by Bishop Donald W. Trautman. The appointment is effective Sept. 29.

Father Rouch replaces Father Jay Schultz, current vicar for education, who will assume the pastorate of St. Boniface Parish in Erie, also effective Sept. 29.

As vicar for education, Father Rouch will oversee the coordination of Catholic elementary and secondary schools, religious education programs for youth and adults, youth ministry and campus ministry. In addition to his new post, Father Rouch will continue to serve as vice president for Mission and Ministry of Gannon University and as vice rector of St. Mark Seminary. Ordained a priest in 1989 for



Father Nicholas J. Rouch



Father Jay Schultz

the Erie Diocese, Father Rouch is a 1979 graduate of Cathedral Preparatory School. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Gannon University in 1983 and Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degrees from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore in 1988.

In 1993, Father Rouch earned a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University. He received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) and Doctor of Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) degrees from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome in 1998 and 2000, respectively.

Father Rouch has assisted at parishes since his ordination, including his current weekend assistance to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie. In his ministry in the Erie Diocese, he has served as parochial vicar of the Church of Notre Dame, Hermitage (1989-90); theology teacher and campus minister of Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys (1990-93); resident priest of Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg (1990-93); theology instructor and associate campus minister at Gannon University (1993-97); Gannon's university chaplain (1994-97); vice president for Mission and Ministry and assistant professor of theology at Gannon (2000-present); vice rector and associate director of seminarians for St. Mark Seminary (2000-present); co-chaplain of the Serra Club of Erie (2000-present); and

co-chaplain of Holy Family Carmelite Monastery (2001-present).

In other appointments for the Office of Education, Patricia McLaughlin has been named director of Catholic schools and Ronald Fronzaglia has been named special assistant to the vicar for education.

McLaughlin has been working within the Erie Diocese for 29 years. She taught at the former St. Andrew School in Erie for 17 years and served as principal for eight years. As principal, she led the school through Middle States accreditation in 2001.

She has worked for the Erie Diocese's Office of Education for four years beginning in 2002 as director of teacher/principal personnel. In 2005, she became the director of educational services and principal personnel.

In 2005, McLaughlin formed an educational council with elected members consisting of principals, pastors and community members to begin studying the recommendations of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the current needs of diocesan schools.

She is an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph and a member

of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. She is also a member of NCEA and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

She is an alumnus of Sacred Heart School in Erie and Villa Maria Academy. She graduated from Villa Maria College in 1974 and received her master's degree in administration from Ursuline College in 1999.

Fronzaglia joins the diocese's Office of Education after a lengthy career in the Erie School District. He has served as its director of operations (2000-2002); coordinator of federal programs (1994-2002); elementary principal (1985-94); supervisor of the Adult Education Learning Center (1969-85); and an elementary teacher (1966-69).

Fronzaglia is a 1961 graduate of Cathedral Preparatory School. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Gannon University in 1965, as well as a master's degree in education from Gannon in 1971 and administrative certification in education from Edinboro University in 1976.

He is a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in McKean.



Patricia McLaughlin



Ronald Fronzaglia

## Erie Diocese goes Back to School

**Editor's note:** The following submissions are included in the roundup of what is new at Catholic schools throughout the Erie Diocese for 2006-07. Look for part 2 of our roundup in the Oct. 1 issue of FaithLife.

### Villa Maria Academy, Erie

New principal Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ, started the school year with her own "Deal or No Deal" assembly. Sister Mary prepared attaché cases with prizes in them for students to deal with. The students passed on more homework but came away with a pizza party, dress down days, free homework nights and a cookie day in the cafeteria.

### St. Patrick School, Franklin

For the second year, the school is partnering with Clarion University to place some of its graduate assistants in St. Patrick classrooms. Last year, two student teachers were made available to the multi-age classroom for grades 5 and 6. Four graduate assistants will teach on the multi-age level, as well as other classrooms, during the school year. According to principal Carol Long, the university has been impressed with St. Patrick's use of the multi-age concept.

### Ss. Cosmas and Damian School, Punxsutawney

SSCD reports growing preschool numbers for 2006-07 and welcomes Joe Lesnick as its new music teacher. Lesnick was formally associated with the Pittsburgh Catholic Schools.

A preschool orientation day was held the week prior to the beginning of classes. The children brought with them a finished activity which was sent home over the summer to complete. The finished product was hung up on the preschool wall to greet the children when they arrived.

### St. Leo School, Ridgway

A pink flamingo perched on the front steps welcomed students back with a sign which read "Merry Christmas Everyone!" reminding students of the excitement, much like the anticipation before Christmas, principal Mary Detwiler feels on the first day of school.

Also greeting students was a life-size cutout of our friend Jesus made by first grade teacher Jeanne Kenawell. The cutout will travel the school throughout the year, visiting classrooms, the playground and even the principal's office as a reminder of Jesus' ever-present love.



### Seton Catholic School, Meadville

Seton Catholic School students attend weekly Mass at any one of its three churches, St. Agatha, St. Brigid or St. Mary of Grace parishes as well as occasionally in the school gymnasium.

Once a week a different student in every classroom is chosen to receive a special postcard to let their parents know that their child was "caught" doing something good.

In an effort to promote good health and well-being, Seton Catholic School is also developing a school wellness program. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in an early morning walking program. Wellness speakers and assembly programs on nutrition, physical fitness, perseverance and living a balanced life are being planned.

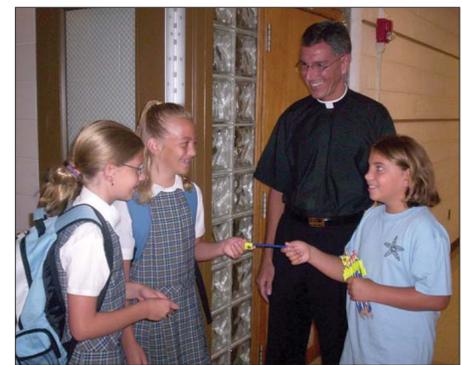
### St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools

At the elementary school, the computer lab hosts 30 new computers upgraded to the OS X operating system, one currently found in many offices. At the middle school, the primary computer lab contains 26 new flat-panel Windows XP computers. An auxiliary lab was also opened this year at the middle school.

Because health emergencies require urgent attention, all faculty members of the St. Marys Catholic Elementary School System were recertified in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) during a recent in-service day. Teachers also learned how to use the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Each school will soon be equipped with an AED for added assistance.

This is the second year for the homework Web site at the St. Marys Catholic Middle School, but it is the first year that all teachers will be utilizing it on a daily basis. The daily homework listings will be an excellent resource for parents and students, particularly when students have been absent from school or a particular class within a school day. Students and parents can go to [www.stmaryscatholicsschools.org](http://www.stmaryscatholicsschools.org) and click on the link to the homework page to check on daily assignments.

The St. Marys Catholic Elementary preschool program has expanded and is now offered five days a week. Parents indicated an interest in having their children involved in a five-day program, and so the preschool curriculum is being enhanced to accommodate the additional instruction.



Father Michael Ferrick, the new pastor at Queen of the World Parish, and Natalie Reichard, a new Starfish student ambassador at St. Marys Catholic Elementary, greet students Nicole Schneider and Carli Schneider at the door on the first day of school.

### Venango County Catholic Schools

New this year to the Venango County Catholic Schools is the hiring of Tina McMahon as director of development. McMahon will work with St. Patrick, St. Stephen and Venango Catholic schools, as they work together to improve Catholic education. The faculty from the three schools have come together to create a more cohesive staff. Parents, faculty and pastors have come together to create a task force and are working diligently to ensure that Catholic education continues to grow and remain a viable option in the area.

### Blessed Sacrament School, Erie



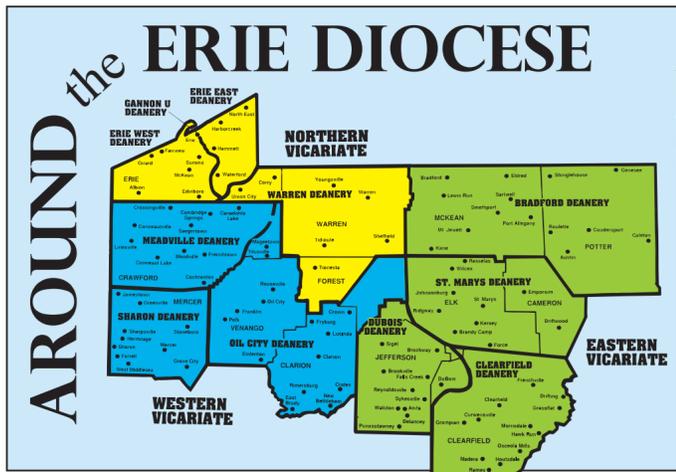
Blessed Sacrament's preschool program is beginning its 19th year with a record-high enrollment of 110 students. The school offers classes for three, four and pre-kindergarten children. The pre-kindergarten class began in 2004-05 to meet the needs of students that need an extra year in preschool and the students that turn five in the fall. Pictured are Blessed Sacrament preschool students Michael Mizikowski, Megan Rosenthal and Angel Kurczewski.

### Cathedral Center School, Erie

Cathedral Center is in the third year of the Ophelia Project CASS (Creating a Safe School). School-wide norms and grade-level norms have been established to create an atmosphere where all student, staff, faculty and parents have a mutual respect for each other.

Once a month parents will be invited to join their child to eat a catered lunch. Each month a different grade level of parents will be invited.

Assemblies based on Gospel values will be held each month. This month, fourth graders will be presenting a skit or a few songs that tie in with the Gospel value of community.



**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.  
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**Couple celebrates 60th anniversary with family Mass**



BROCKWAY — Francis and Mary Camuso (center) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11 and were honored with other couples throughout the Erie Diocese at a special anniversary Mass and celebration Aug. 13 at St. Cosmas and Damien Parish in Punxsutawney. Prior to the Mass for anniversary couples, the Camusos wanted to celebrate with their family. They were joined for a Mass of thanksgiving, celebrated by Msgr. Charles Kaza at St. Tobias in Brockway on Aug. 12, with their 14 children, 32 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Rosary Society gives \$1,000 for St. Boniface fitness center**

KERSEY — The Rosary Society of St. Boniface Parish in Kersey recently gave a gift of \$1,000 to St. Boniface School to use toward the building of a fitness center next to the school. Construction will begin in September with the help of parishioners and parents. Pictured from left to right are Marie Giazsoni (principal), Joan Verbka (treasurer), Nini Tamburini (vice president), Audrey Cesa (president) and Marie Ginther (secretary).



**Erie area volunteers to work with Mercy Corps**

ERIE — Four persons with connections to the Erie area were commissioned recently as Mercy Volunteer Corps and are now working in their assignments.

John Buettler and Sundei Mobley, who graduated this past spring from Mercyhurst College, are working at St. Michael's Association for Special Education in St. Michael's, Ariz. Buettler will work at the high school; Mobley will minister at the special school.

Skip and Dottie Glover of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, are working in Philadelphia. Dottie Glover, a Mercyhurst College alumnus, is working in AIDS ministry at Calcutta House, while her husband, Skip, is assigned to Bethesda Project, a men's shelter.

The four, who made one-year commitments, joined other volunteers for a commissioning service Aug. 12 at Gwynedd Mercy Academy, Gwynedd Valley, Pa. Also, Vicki Evans, who was a Mercy Corps Volunteer at the House of Mercy in Erie for the past year, has returned home to West Milton, Ohio.

Corps volunteers commit to a year or two of "compassionate service, a simple lifestyle in



Two recent Mercyhurst College graduates and a husband and wife from Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, were commissioned recently as Mercy Volunteer Corps members and are now working in their assignments. From left to right are John Buettler, Sundei Mobley and Dottie and Skip Glover.

community, and spiritual growth."

Ministries to which volunteers are called include: caring for those living with HIV/AIDS, teaching music to children, reaching out to men and women living on the streets, providing life-skills instruction for those in recovery from addiction and developing after-school programs.

Volunteers must be at least 21 years old, be motivated by the Gospel and comfortable with the Catholic Church. Applicants need to be in good health and have a high school diploma or college degree, depending on the ministry for which they will volunteer.

For more information, call Sister Michele Schrock at 814.897.0376.

**Sisters of St. Joseph host fourth annual Circle of Friends celebration**

ERIE — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania hosted their fourth annual Circle of Friends Celebration on Aug. 26 at the Villa Maria Community Living Center on West Ridge Road in Erie. More than 400 "friends of the SSJs" attended the outdoor liturgy and picnic.

The event was initiated in 2003 as a means of celebrating and reconnecting with the many individuals who've been part of the sisters' lives and ministries throughout the years. Invited guests included friends, family members, employees, SSJ associates, benefactors, neighbors and many others.

The theme for this year's event was *Focus on Friends*. The celebration included an outdoor liturgy followed by a picnic on the grounds of the Community



From left to right, Sister Mary Herrmann, SSI, Phyllis Johnson and Judy Minichelli at the Circle of Friends picnic.

Living Center. Photographs and other items highlighting the sisters' 144-year history in the Erie Diocese were on display inside the building.

"This event gives us a great

opportunity each year to join with family and friends to pray and celebrate," said Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSI, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

**St. Bonaventure students receive scholarships**



Vanessa Johnson and Johnny Sutika

GRAMPIAN — Two 2006 graduating seniors from St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian were recently awarded memorial scholarships presented at a parish breakfast hosted on their behalf by St. Theresa's Guild.

Receiving the Father Howard Neibling Memorial Scholarship

given by the parish was Vanessa Johnson, daughter of Michael and Barbara Johnson of Grampian.

The Andrew Sutika Memorial Scholarship given by Veryl Sutika was presented to Johnny Sutika, son of John and Cheryl Sutika of Grampian.

**Local sisters part of national conference**

Several sisters from the Erie area were among the 800 who attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) assembly in Atlanta recently.

Those attending from the Benedictine Sisters of Erie were: Sisters Joan Chittister, conference keynote and past LCWR president; Christine Vladimiroff, prioress and past LCWR president;

Mary Jane Vergotz, subprioress; Linda Romey; Maureen Tobin; and Anne McCarthy.

Sisters Bernadette Bell, president, and Lisa McCartney, vice president, represented the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of Erie.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania who attended were Sisters Ricarda Vincent, Rosemary O'Brien and

Mary Ellen Dwyer, all members of the congregation's leadership team.

In her talk, Sister Joan challenged participants to be moral and faith-filled leaders in both church and society. She called on women religious to be prophetic congregations as defined by the Second Vatican Council.

"We must be those who live at the center of society to leave it,

at the bottom of society to speak for it, and on the edge of society to critique it," she said.

The Aug. 18-21 assembly marked the LCWR's 50th anniversary year.

Today, the LCWR has approximately 850 members who are elected leaders of their religious orders, representing approximately 67,000 Catholic sisters.

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