

Marking 125 years of faith

Ss. Cosmas and Damian celebrates milestone anniversary, page 3.



FaithLife

Vocations to religious life

Sisters of Mercy receive candidate; sister professes first vows, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

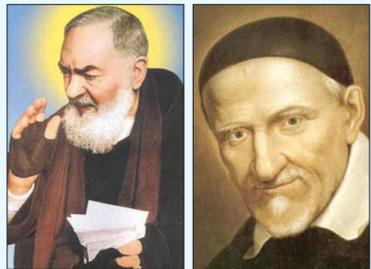
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 19, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Pio of Pietrelcina St. Vincent de Paul

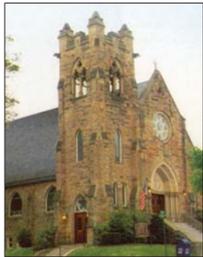
Sept. 20	Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions
Sept. 21	St. Matthew
Sept. 23	St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Sept. 27	St. Vincent de Paul
Sept. 28	Ss. Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz and companions
Sept. 29	Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (Archangels)
Sept. 30	St. Jerome
Oct. 1	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
Oct. 2	Guardian angels

100th anniversary of St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs – Sept. 19

St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs will begin its 100th anniversary celebration with Mass on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. Bishop Donald Trautman and Msgr. Lawrence Spice, pastor, will celebrate.

The theme for the year-long celebration is "100 Years of Faith and Family." A schedule of events for the year is available in the church's gathering space.

The present church was constructed under the direction of then-Father John Mark Gannon, the parish's first resident pastor. It was dedicated on Sept. 25, 1911.



St. Anthony of Padua, Cambridge Springs

'Drops of Memory' art show at Mount St. Benedict Oct. 3-31

ERIE – "Drops of Memory," an art show of digital photographs and stained glass by artist Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB, will run Oct. 3-31 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

The show will open on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapter 57 Gallery at the monastery, 6101 East Lake Road in Erie.

Hours coincide with Chapter 57 gift shop hours: Sundays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

"Drops of Memory," inspired by tears of sorrow and memory at the death of loved ones, represents a collection of various types of water in nature, said Sister Margaret Ann.

"This is a significant show for me since I lost my Dad and brother-in-law last year," she said. "The water is not only from rain, but also tears of sorrow and memory. Water is such a life source that in sorrow new life does emerge in many forms. The movement of our life journey is to the light and beyond. These works represent part of that journey."

Sister Margaret Ann is the program director for the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House and the manager of Chapter 57.



Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski

KICKOFF!

Cathedral Prep Events Center opens in downtown Erie

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – The rust color of Erie's 12th Street corridor now pops a bit with Cathedral Prep orange and black.

The Catholic high school officially unveiled its sparkling new Cathedral Prep Events Center, a multi-purpose athletic complex in downtown Erie, on Sept. 11. In the facility's first-ever event, the Ramblers' varsity football team defeated the Central Tech Falcons, 55-8.

In April 2007, the school announced it had purchased an eight-acre parcel that was formerly the EMI Foundry Building on the southeast corner of 12th and Cherry streets and three acres on the west side of Cherry.

The athletic complex, which is within proximity of Prep's 10th Street campus, includes a multi-sport A-Turf field and an orange eight-lane all-weather track. Bleacher seating can hold 1,800 spectators, however, standing room along the track and south side grass can bring the capacity to 2,500. The two-floor building houses locker rooms, meeting space, concessions and restrooms.

"It's extremely reward-

ing," said Chris Hagerty, Cathedral Prep's director of advancement. "There were a lot of ups and downs. We're just very happy that these three years have felt like three days. The best part is the kids get to play on the field, and that's what it's all about."

Hagerty said the events center is fully ready for fall sports, which will include Prep's junior varsity and varsity football and soccer teams, parochial junior varsity football and Villa Maria Academy's varsity soccer. In the spring, the facility will be

home to Prep and Villa's track and field and lacrosse teams.

"It's a dream that's become a reality," said Father Scott Jabo, president of Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy. "It's exciting for the school. This is a dream that has been decades in the making."

Long before he came to Prep, Father Jabo said there has been a desire to have an athletic facility.

"One of the reasons we're called the Ramblers is because we had to ramble all over the place, travel all over the place

Spectators making their entrance from the Cherry Street pedestrian bridge are greeted to an elevated view of the track and field from the west end zone.



At right, the 12th Street entrance to the Cathedral Prep Events Center.



to play any of our sports because we never really had our own fields. We have a practice field but it was never set up to be an actual place for spectators to play at the events center. It's exciting. It meets a need for our school, but it also meets a need for the community."

A number of Erie's parochial schools are already scheduled to play at the events center, he said, while other teams are looking at having banquets inside the building. In addition to beautifying the 12th Street corridor, he said it

will also bring people to town for events who might not otherwise travel to Erie.

"I think it's all very positive for Erie and certainly for Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy," Father Jabo said. "It's a beautiful looking field, but what really makes it beautiful is when you see the kids on the field running around, playing and competing. That's what it's built for."

During the opening ceremony, Father Jabo announced

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Catechetical Sunday, September 19

nated by the community to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

Approximately 1,800 catechists will serve religious education programs throughout the Diocese of Erie during the 2010-11 school year. More than 20,000 students participate in religious education programs in the diocese each year.

Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of baptism, in handing on the faith and be-

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* [NDC] [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005], no. 17)

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

ing a witness to the Gospel. It is also an opportunity for all to rededicate

themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Sister Parish Day

Parishes share experiences with Mission of Friendship counterparts

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – The world of mission work is a two-way street. We just have to be open to receiving its gifts.

Approximately 40 people came together Aug. 7 at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie for the sixth annual Sister Parish Day sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's Mission Office. The day's events focused on the diocese's Sister Parish Program and the Mission of Friendship, a cooperative relationship with the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that the Sister Parish Program is a mutual endeavor," Pat Marshall, director of Catholic Charities' Diocesan and International Missions, told the gathered audience. "It is much easier to understand what we give in the relationship because that is often concrete, like monetary donations. But there is potential for us to receive much more if we are open to it."

Those things include a better understanding of our role in the universal church and a deepening of faith through experiencing the faith of others, Marshall said.

"We came up with Sister Parish

Day as an opportunity to bring people who are involved in the program together to share ideas as well as to renew enthusiasm," she said.

Currently there are 20 parishes in the diocese involved with the Sister Parish Program.

The day's events began with prayer followed by a presentation on the Mission of Friendship's history from Cari Serafin and Marilyn Randolph, Sister Parish coordinators for the mission.

The Mission of Friendship began in 1971. Its programs include mobile and permanent clinics; Nueva Vida (New Life), a home for young girls; Little Friends Day Care Center, which provides care for children whose mothers must work to support their family and the Amigos Program, which provides a connection between sponsors and a needy child or family.

Kim Lytle, director of curriculum and teacher personnel for the diocese's Office of Education, spoke to participants about blogging on a Sister Parish trip. In January, Lytle accompanied the Mission Office's annual trip to the Merida. She blogged about her visit to Catholic school students throughout the diocese.

Lytle suggested that parishes spon-



Photo by Art Becker

Holy Rosary Parish in Erie and Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion Parish in Chichimila, Mexico (above) became sister parishes in 2006. Through the Mission of Friendship there are 20 formal sister parish arrangements between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan.

soring trips to visit sister parishes in Mexico might use blogging to keep those at home interested and informed. After inviting readers to log on, she advised posting on the blog twice a day and including photos with each experience.

To read her blog from January's trip, visit <http://eriemission.wordpress.com>.

Kris Gosnell from Our Lady of the

See SISTER PARISH, page 3

Looking Ahead

U.S. adults looking ahead to the year 2050 see a future full of promise and peril.

- 72% believe the world will face a major energy crisis.
- 68% believe race relations will improve.
- 65% say religion in the U.S. will be about as important as it is now.
- 50% believe life will be found elsewhere in the universe.
- 41% expect Jesus Christ to return to Earth.

From a survey of 1,546 U.S. adults taken April 21-26. The sample has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press ©2010 CNS



IN THE U.S.

More than 3,000 people packed the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 5 to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, attend a memorial Mass and witness the unveiling of a commemorative stamp in honor of the nun. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, was the principal celebrant of the memorial Mass in the upper church that preceded the U.S. Postal Service's unveiling of its commemorative stamp in honor of the centennial of Mother Teresa's birth. In his homily, Archbishop Sambi recalled the nun's "infectious and untiring work for her spiritual children," and said, "Mother Teresa loved God more than herself. Mother Teresa loved the church more than herself. Mother Teresa loved the poorest of the poor more than herself." He also praised her for "her passion in defense of life. She said the greatest disease is not being wanted and the greatest destroyer of peace is abortion."



People applaud as the U.S. Postal Service unveils a stamp of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta after a Mass in her honor at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 5.

The Catholic Church Extension Society has provided more than \$14 million in grants to help Catholic communities recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina five years ago. The grants provided by the Chicago-based organization have been primarily earmarked to support church-related projects and encourage faith in the devastated region. Although grants for the Gulf Coast dioceses support a wide range of work — from salary subsidies to area stu-

dent ministries — the most pressing need has been repairs to hurricane-damaged churches. Nearly \$7 million has been specifically designated to rebuild these churches and facilities.

Pope Benedict XVI's call for a new evangelization offers a special opportunity for all Catholics, Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington said in a new pastoral letter titled "Disciples of the Lord: Sharing the Vision." The archbishop wrote in the pastoral, released Sept. 9: "What we call the new evangelization is all about retelling the story, this time awakening a sense of meeting Jesus." He encouraged clergy, religious and laypeople to embrace the pope's call, to renew their own love for Christ and then to share their faith with others who may have drifted away from the faith or who have never heard the Gospel message. Catholics can help transform the world by reaching out to others with Christ's message of hope and love, the pastoral noted. "We can help people we know, neighbors, co-workers, even, in some cases, family members, hear all over again the good news," the archbishop wrote. To read the full text online, visit www.adw.org/pastoral/pdf/ADW_PastoralNewE_Eng.pdf.

AROUND THE WORLD

St. Hildegard of Bingen, the 12th-century German mystic, used her gifts to build up the church at a time of trouble similar to today, Pope Benedict XVI said. St. Hildegard is relevant today because of "her love for Christ and his church, which was suffering in her time, too, and was wounded also then by the sins of priests and laypeople," the pope said. She also is a good model for today because of her "love for creation, her medicine, her poetry and music that is being recreated today," the pope said Sept. 1 at his weekly general audience in Castel Gandolfo. Holding his general audience for the first time in the town square outside the papal summer villa, Pope Benedict began by thanking women for the im-



St. Hildegard of Bingen

portant role they "have played and still play in the church." Even in the Middle Ages, he said, "various feminine figures stand out for their holiness of life and the richness of their teaching."

PEOPLE OF FAITH

A Jesuit priest who is former president of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., has taken to YouTube and his blog to rebut arguments raised by British physicist Stephen Hawking, who says in a new book that God had no role in creating the universe. "Though Dr. Hawking is an outstanding physicist, his metaphysical skills are less than honed," said Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer, now president of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith in Irvine, Calif., who headed Gonzaga from 1998 to 2009. He made the comments in a seven-minute YouTube video titled "The Curious Metaphysics of Dr. Stephen Hawking." Hawking, a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences since 1986, said in his new book, "The Grand Design," that "because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason why there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist," Hawking added. Father Spitzer, author of the recently published "New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy," said Hawking's "fundamental assumption about the universe" is "that it came from nothing." But the priest said "what many term the first principle of metaphysics" is "From nothing only nothing comes."



This image from the Hubble Space Telescope shows intricate spiral arms containing areas of new star formation in a dusty galaxy about 100 million light-years away.

By the Way...

By now Father Edward Lohse, former chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, has settled into his apartment in Rome. At the request of the Congregation for Clergy in Rome, Father Lohse was released of his diocesan duties effective Aug. 4 to serve as an official for that congregation.



Jason Koshinski

Father Lohse celebrated a farewell Mass Sept. 12 at his home parish of St. Francis Xavier in McKean before leaving for his new assignment Sept. 13.

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Break of Life Community in Erie and a classmate of Father Lohse, is at the top of the bestseller list. His book, "Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be," which is aimed at helping men rediscover the importance of the spiritual life, has been the No. 1 seller by Ignatius Press since it was published in Oct. 2009.

Bishop Donald Trautman will be honored with the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award by the French Creek Council of the Boy Scouts of America during a dinner Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W. Eighth St. in Erie. This event is open to the public. For tickets, call 814.868.5571. Sister Catherine Manning, vice chancellor of the diocese, is a past recipient of the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award.

College campus ministry leaders are hoping the Sept. 19 beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman will make the British scholar, philosopher and writer more familiar to today's college students.

Cardinal Newman, who died in 1890, always held universities close to his heart. He spent much of his life at Oxford University as both a student and a fellow. Many of his ideas on higher education are in his book "The Idea of a University" based on lectures he gave in the 1850s.

The cardinal is often associated with campus ministry because of his emphasis on students developing and integrating their faith and intellect. He also advocated that Catholic students who attend public universities be given a place to gather to support and encourage one another in their faith.

In 1893, three years after Cardinal Newman's death, the University of Pennsylvania formed the first campus Newman Club as a tribute to his ideas. Today, Newman centers — where Catholic college students meet for liturgies, prayer, service work, discussion groups, social events and often food — are located on the campuses of many public university campuses.

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

Cathedral Prep Events Center opens in downtown Erie

CATHEDRAL PREP, from page 1

that the field would be named Dollinger Field after Msgr. John Dollinger, who served as Cathedral Prep's headmaster from 1972-84. He also taught at Prep from 1957-60 as was assistant headmaster from 1971-72. Msgr. Dollinger passed away March 22 at the age of 81.

Msgr. Dollinger left a bequest in his will to Cathedral Prep. One of his former students, who wishes to remain anonymous, made a donation to cover the remaining cost for the field's naming rights.

Total cost of the events center is \$9 million. The development is part of the school's comprehensive capital campaign, which also includes renovations to the school's auditorium and science wing, endowment growth and contributions to the annual fund. Prep launched the campaign in Oct. 2009 with a goal of 18.3 million. The campaign is currently at 12.7 million in commitments, Hagerty said.

The school hopes to develop the events center site in future phases. Plans call for an indoor facility that will house a 1,800-seat gymnasium, a 400-seat natatorium a wrestling room and a weight room. However, there is no timetable.

"When the economy and donors are ready to do it, it will happen," Hagerty said.



Bishop Donald Trautman blesses the new Cathedral Prep Events Center during its dedication Sept. 10.

During the dedication ceremony, it was announced that the field would be named in honor of Msgr. John Dollinger, who served as Prep's headmaster from 1972-84.



Bixby Bowl

The end of an era

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — The Bixby Bowl at Blessed Sacrament, which has hosted diocesan football games for 50 years, has seen its final touchdown.

Beginning Sept. 11, all junior varsity and varsity Parochial League games will be played at the Cathedral Prep Events Center. The schedule calls for Saturday and Sunday triple-headers and a featured game of the week on Monday nights.

"It's a bittersweet thing," said Rick Demski, co-athletic director at Blessed Sacrament School. "There's a lot of history here. A lot of kids grew up playing football here. We hate to see it go. But it will be nice for the kids to play in a different atmosphere under the lights every Monday night. I think the kids will get a big thrill out of it."

In celebration of those who had played at the Bixby Bowl, a number of former players and



The Bixby Bowl hosted its final games Sept. 5 with Blessed Sacrament defeating Our Lady of Peace in the junior varsity contest and OLP beating Blessed Sacrament in the varsity division.

coaches from the past 50 years were invited to bid the bowl a final goodbye.

The field was named after Dr. Chester Bixby, one of the founding members of Blessed Sacrament Parish. Football was one of the keys in his effort to start an athletic program at the

school. Working with the City of Erie at the time, he helped transform and empty lot into a football stadium complete with bleachers. The field was dedicated in 1966.

For a complete fall football schedule, visit www.ErieRCD.org/athletics.asp.

FaithLife

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General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170

E-Mail: FaithLife@erieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
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Diocesan Position: Religious Education Department

The department is seeking a highly organized, people-oriented person to function as a Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator works with three directors in the department to ensure that programs planned by Department Directors run smoothly and efficiently. Programs provided through the department include youth rallies, leader's retreats, student retreats, leader training sessions and occasionally, national conferences held in the diocese including managing travel. This is a high contact position requiring excellent phone and computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Publisher are essential, Microsoft Access a plus). Familiarity with Catholic parish life and youth culture is essential. The successful candidate will be a self-starter who can function with minimal supervision. This is a 30-hour per week part-time position and requires the ability to work a flexible schedule including some evenings, weekends and occasional overnight stays as needed. Attendance at certain events is an expectation resulting in some weeks where the number of hours may exceed the 30 noted above. Travel within the diocese is also required and a certain amount of light lifting is necessary. Applicants may send a resume to Mr. Joseph Streett, Diocese of Erie, PO Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514 or to jstreett@erieRCD.org by September 23.

St. Hedwig Family Pancake Breakfast



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

Sunday, Sept. 26 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.

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October 3-7, 2010

A Parish Mission Experience at St. Jude the Apostle Parish presented by

Fr. John McGowan, C.S.S.R.
& **Fr. Patrick Woods, C.S.S.R.**

7:00 pm Mission Presentations

Sunday, October 3 - Faith In Our Loving Creator God
Monday, October 4 - Faith In Our Forgiving Savior
Tuesday, October 5 - Our Faith Response
Wednesday, October 6 - Faith In Our Risen Savior
Thursday, October 7 - Mission Mass, Mary As The Model of Faith

2801 West 6th Street, Erie / 833-0927 for more details

16th Annual Rosary March

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Assemble at 2:00 pm
at St. Peter Cathedral
March begins at 2:30pm
Pray the Rosary with us
(Rain or shine)

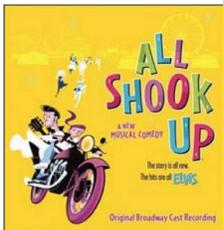
More information: John Walsh, 814-868-1100
Sponsored by The World Apostolate of Fatima

Briefly

'All Shook Up' at OLP Playhouse Oct. 1-3

ERIE — The Our Lady of Peace Playhouse presents "All Shook Up," the Broadway musical inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. Enjoy the music and dancing of a cast of 50 plus a few surprises and mystery cast members.

Shows will be Oct. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 2 p.m. at the OLP Daley Center, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. Tickets, available at the door, are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children and senior citizens.



Tajci concerts Oct. 3-4 in Erie, Warren

Billed as "a concert event you will not forget," Marriage Encounter is pleased to announce international singing star Tatiana (Tajci) will perform at St. George Parish in Erie and Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren Oct. 3 and 4, respectively. Families, couples and individuals are invited to enjoy a special evening during which the star promises to "transport people through music to a place of closeness with our Lord."



Tajci

Tajci, who grew up to become a pop music superstar in Communist Central Europe, abandoned her fame at age 21, moving to the United States where she eventually began performing in churches. She will offer her "I Do Believe" concert at St. George, 5145 Peach St., Erie, on Sun., Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. and her "Let it Be—Mary's Story" concert Mon., Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at Holy Redeemer, 11 Russell St., in Warren. The events are free and open to the public; a free will offering will be taken.

For more information about the Erie performance contact Jim and Betty Dalessandro at 814.833.7929; call Mary Beth and John Zdarko at 814.723.9580 concerning the Warren event. Tajci's music can be previewed on iTunes.

Healing service in DuBois Oct. 10

DUBOIS — Father Ralph DiOrio of Worcester, Mass., will be at DuBois Area Middle School on Sunday, Oct. 10 from 1-5 p.m. for a healing service.

"The Hour of Healing is Here for Us" will offer an opportunity for many who cannot travel a long distance to attend one of Father DiOrio's services.

For tickets or information, call Tillie at 814.371.4116, Marie at 814.375.4667, Bill at 814.371.1765 or Jeff at 814.541.4913.

To learn about Father DiOrio, visit his Web site at www.fatherdiorio.org.

Refugees need your help

Are you looking to deepen your faith through action? Are you being called to experience God in a new way? Why not serve the poor like Jesus did?

The Catholic Charities Resettlement Program and Refugee Ministry (supported by the Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Service of Erie) depends on parish volunteers to help serve refugees. Refugees can be any oppressed people who are compelled to leave their home country or face continued oppression, persecution and even death.

When refugees arrive in Erie, this ministry is responsible for welcoming them by providing them with the tools and resources they will need to survive. There is a place for your unique gifts in refugee ministry. Whether you are an individual, a small group or a parish, we need to hear from you. No matter where you live within the Diocese of Erie, your personal gift is needed and valued.

Contact Deacon John Brophy at 814.528.3623 or 814.459.2091 or e-mail jbrophy@cccas.org to learn more about the many ways you can help refugees.

Erie Diocesan Cemeteries monthly Mass

ERIE — Join the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries for a 9 a.m. Mass at the Gate of Heaven Chapel, 5711 West Lake Road in Erie, on the third Saturday of each month. For any schedule changes, please visit the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries' Web site www.enedc.org or pick up a brochure at Calvary Cemetery office, Gate of Heaven lobby or Mary, Queen of Peace mausoleum lobby.

Ss. Cosmas and Damian celebrates 125 years

PUNXSUTAWNEY — For the past year, Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney has been looking back on its history and legacy of faith in anticipation of its 125th anniversary.

Toward the end of the 19th century, there was a massive influx of immigrants from Europe. Punxsutawney and surrounding communities saw these immigrants principally from Eastern Europe and Italy. The explosion of the railroad and mine industries had brought many to Jefferson County—Hungarians to work the trains and Italians to man the mines in Walston.

Within a few years, a permanent church for the Catholics of Clayville and Punxsutawney became a necessity.

On Aug. 26, 1885, Msgr. Herman Clement Wienker, the first pastor, blessed and laid the cornerstone of the first church. Msgr. Wienker named the new church after the name his brother, who was a Benedictine monk in Great Britain, had chosen in religious life—Cosmas.

St. Cosmas and St. Damian were twins and early Christian martyrs. They are regarded as the patrons of physicians and surgeons.

A new church (the current building) was built during the war years (1941-42). In 2008, in anticipation of the 125th anniversary, the church began undergoing a series of renovations, which included a new gathering space and a complete renovation to the church interior including painting and carpeting.

The observance of the 125th anniversary of the parish began Sept.

19, 2009 with the placement of statues of Ss. Cosmas and Damian on the front façade of the church.

"Niches were built into the new church but statues were never placed," said Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, who has served as pastor of Ss. Cosmas and Damian for 17 years. "After 64 years, the statues have found a permanent home."

Included in the year-long celebrations were numerous prayer services and guest speakers; a pilgrimage to Rome with parishioners and a visit to the Basilica of Ss. Cosmas and Damian; a White



Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney

of historical artifacts and photographs. The 71st annual Lawn Festival Aug. 6-8 also celebrated the parish's anniversary.

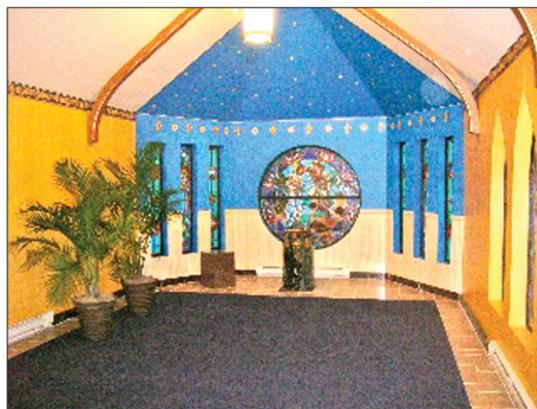
ish Web site at www.sscdchurch.com. It also includes a parish directory.

"It's been a wonderful year remembering the accomplishments of the past, affirming the present and looking to the future," Msgr. Riccardo said. "We mark the passage of time with events and personalities that have contributed to who we are and hope to become, but the one constant in our faith journey is the powerful transforming presence of God."

The anniversary year will close on Sunday, Oct. 3 with a 3 p.m. Mass at the church. Bishop Donald Trautman will be the main celebrant. Approximately 20 priests and deacons from around the diocese are also expected to attend.

Following Mass, the congregation will gather in the courtyard for fellowship followed by dinner in the auditorium and remarks from the bishop and invited guests. Father Pino will serve as master of ceremonies. There will be presentations made by local officials and guests.

For tickets, contact the parish at 814.938.6540.



The new gathering space at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish

Mass for medical professionals;

the re-entombment of Msgr. Wienker at Calvary Cemetery; a visit from the Sisters of Mercy who taught at Ss. Cosmas and Damian School for 100 years; and the establishment of a heritage room, which includes an archival display

Msgr. Riccardo and Father Justin Pino, a former parochial vicar who is now pastor at St. Joseph and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishes in Oil City, have collaborated on an extensive history of the parish that is available in book form and on the par-

Parishes share experiences with Mission of Friendship counterparts

SISTER PARISH, from page 1

Lake Parish in Edinboro made a presentation about Mexico's devotion to the Altar of the Dead. The Day of the Dead, celebrated Nov. 1-2, is a Mexican holiday that corresponds to the feasts of All Saints and All Souls in the United States.

Parishioners from Our Lady of the Lake learned about the devotion when they visited their sister parish of St. Augustine in

Tekanto, Yucatan, Mexico, in November. They witnessed some remembrances that were prayerful while others were more humorous.

Gosnell noted that the altar is built honoring the life of one individual and includes his or her picture. Traditional items as well as favorites of the deceased adorn the altar, which is typically built in three layers representing the

Trinity.

To share this part of the culture with the rest of the parish, they built their own altar of the dead.

"It was received very positively," Gosnell said. "It was something concrete that they could actually see, and it made it very real for people here."

Sister Claire Hudert, OSB, will lead a group from St. Patrick Parish in Franklin to visit sponsored families from the Amigos program Oct. 8 through Nov. 8. The group made a previous visit in Feb. 2009.

"One of the aspects that I

think draws people is the fact that in a different culture we can share so much in terms of our faith, our hopes, aspirations and our trust in God," Sister Claire said. "There is so much that is the same even though our cultures are different. When people take a trip and visit other cultures, they learn to see the world with a broader scope."

She said there is a tremendous relationship that happens even from a distance.

"It's amazing how close people feel to one another," she said. "But to go and visit them and see them face to face is a real blessing for both sides."

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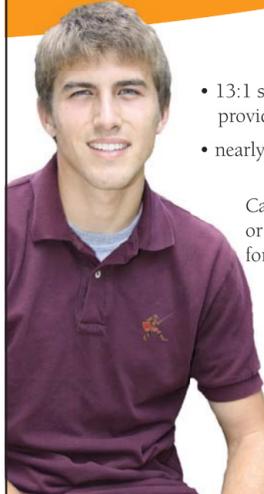
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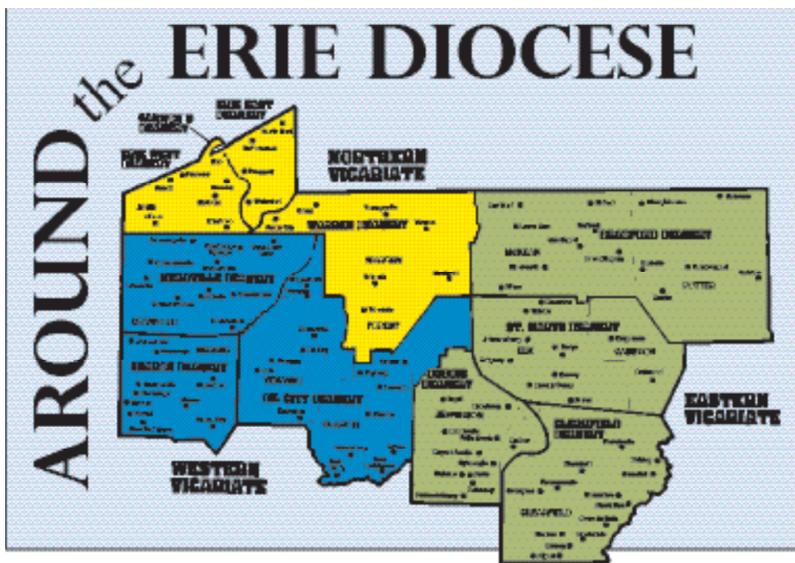
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Our Lady of Mercy makes service trip to Romero Center

HARBORCREEK – An inter-generational group of 10 people from Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek traveled to the Romero Center in Camden, N.J., for a week of service and to participate in its ministries.

"We had a desire to serve the needs of one of the poorest urban communities in the United States," said Irene Lucas, director of Lifelong Faith Formation at Our Lady of Mercy.

Romero Center volunteers work at a number of sites including schools, hot meals programs, drop-in centers for persons affected with HIV and AIDS, child care centers for the underserved, residential facilities for those with mobility impairments, the South Jersey Food Bank and several other agencies in Camden and the Philadelphia area.

Each day, the group was split into smaller teams and sent to different service sites. They returned to the center each afternoon for prayer, sharing and discussions



on how to implement Catholic social teachings.

"Although our service called to provide for the physical needs of people, we were challenged to recognize the importance of the ministry of presence," Lucas said.

In the evening, the center hosts discussions on urban poverty and social and economic justice. Volunteers also toured the city and listened to people from the community tell their stories about living in Camden.

This trip was funded in part by the Religious Education Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Erie.

Pictured left to right are volunteers from Our Lady of Mercy: Chuck Arnold, Irene Lucas, Jordan Johnson, Devin Dalton, Kathi Brophy, Bob Dalton, Shannon Brophy, Ellie Richardson, Brittany Barko and Jim Skarzenski.

Sisters of Mercy receive candidate; sister professes first vows

ERIE – The Sisters of Mercy in Erie recently welcomed a new candidate while another woman professed her first vows.

Nordia Brusola was accepted as a candidate at a service Aug. 16 at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, Erie. Sister Nancy Hoff, community president, and Sister Patty Moriarity, incorporation minister for the community, presided.

Brusola, 47, a native of the Philippines, graduated in May with a master's degree from Mercyhurst College's Organizational Leadership Program. She came to Erie in 2007 to explore the possibility of entering the Sisters of Mercy community. Before coming to the United States, she spent 23 years as owner of a handicraft business in Legazpi City, Philippines. Currently, she is managing the bookstore at Mercyhurst Prep and working in the office at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Lawrence Park.

As a candidate, she will begin a two-year period of discernment in which she will live as a lay woman in community with the Sisters of Mercy. During that time, she will learn more about the spirit, tradition and charisma of the Sisters of Mercy and their foundress, Catherine McAuley.

Sister Jennifer Wilson professed her first vows as a Sister of Mercy on Sept. 4 at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Sister Jennifer, 33, was accepted as a novice for the Sisters of Mercy in 2008. She became interested in becoming a Sister of Mercy while working as a Mercy Corps Volunteer in Guyana, South America, from 2003-05. She was accepted as a candidate in 2006.

Since becoming part of the Mercy community, she has worked with refugee families, ministered as a child advocate at a shelter in Erie and taught religious education to undocumented children while living in Laredo, Texas. After making first vows, she will undergo further theological



Mercy Sister Nancy Hoff, president of the Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, left, and Mercy Sister Patricia Moriarity, incorporation minister for the community, pray over Nordia Brusola, who was welcomed as a candidate for the religious community on Aug. 16.



Sister Jennifer Wilson professed her first vows as a Sister of Mercy on Sept. 4. She is pictured in the center with Sister Donna Conroy, left, a member of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community who was Jenny's novitiate minister during her stay in Laredo, Texas, and Sister Cynthia Serjak, minister for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy New Membership Office.

study and experiences in ministry. This fall, she will begin studying for a master's degree in special education at Carlow University, Pittsburgh. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Akron, Ohio.

There are four steps in the process to become a Sister of Mercy. Candidacy is a two-year period of prayer, education and discernment in which a lay woman lives in community with the Sisters of Mercy. During the two-year novitiate, a woman receives the title

of "Sister" and embarks on a journey of discernment, prayer and study of the vows. Temporary, or first, vows include further theological study and experiences in ministry. And at least three years later, a sister is eligible to take the last step: final vows.

The Sisters of Mercy in Erie are part of the Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, which also includes Buffalo, the Philippines, Pittsburgh and Rochester.

Tech 21 taking off at DuBois Central Catholic

DUBOIS – The Tech 21 initiative, beginning this year at DuBois Central Catholic High School, involves integrating technology into the curriculum on a daily basis to ensure that students are learning the higher level thinking skills necessary for 21st century living.

As part of the initiative, students in Tech 21 at the 9th grade level are asked to procure or purchase a netbook or laptop to use at school and at home. All subject areas in the 9th grade curriculum at DCC are required to meet the Tech 21 goals. All 41 freshmen are part of the program.

At right, freshmen biology students at DuBois Central Catholic use the Titan Pad to reinforce questions being posed by DCC science teacher Jenn Graeca. Student answers, typed from the stu-



dents' own notebooks, are then projected on the screen and used for further classroom discussion. According to Graeca, the biology textbook is routinely referenced

during this activity as well. Using all three learning channels (audio, visual, kinesthetic/tactile) makes this an exciting learning experience, she said.

St. Francis statue blessed at Mary, Queen of Peace



ERIE – A statue of St. Francis of Assisi donated by Kristina Parker in memory of her husband Jim Parker was blessed by Father Tom Fialkowski, the bishop's liaison to Erie Diocesan Cemeteries, on Aug. 21 at Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery in Erie.

The statue is located in the meditation area overlooking the pond as well as the mausoleum and cemetery section.

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