

Pet blessings

Find out where your pet can receive a St. Francis of Assisi blessing, page 3.



FaithLife

Financial aid

Mercyhurst College, St. Gregory School partner for scholarship program, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 20, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Pio of Pietrelcina



St. Therese of the Child Jesus

- Sept. 21 St. Matthew
- Sept. 23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
- Sept. 26 Ss. Cosmas & Damian
- Sept. 28 St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz & companions
- Sept. 29 St. Michael, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael (archangels)
- Sept. 30 St. Jerome
- Oct. 1 St. Therese of the Child Jesus
- Oct. 2 Guardian Angels
- Oct. 3 St. Theodore Guerin
- Oct. 4 Respect Life Sunday

Confirmations

St. Timothy, Curwensville - Sunday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bonaventure, Grampian, and St. Timothy, Curwensville.



Diocesan Respect Life Mass - Oct. 3

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a special liturgy to begin Respect Life Month, which focuses on the dignity of all individuals from conception to natural death. The Mass will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie at 5:15 p.m.



EVERY CHILD BRINGS US GOD'S SMILE



RESPECT LIFE



WEB OF FAITH

What's new at www.ErieRCD.org

- "Walking the Walk Amidst the Health Care Talk" by Sister Mary Ann Walsh, RSM, director of media relations for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Fall athletic schedules
- Resources for the Year for Priests

A ministry of presence

Catholic Rural Ministry celebrates 10 years in McKean, Potter counties

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

When Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB, and Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, came to McKean and Potter counties in 1999, they didn't know a soul.

Ten years later, they are rooted in the community offering Christ's presence wherever they go.

From being present when babies are baptized to comforting families through the loss of a loved one, Catholic Rural Ministry has been a very personal ministry for both the sisters and those they serve.

"We've gotten to know the families here intimately," said Sister Phyllis. "We see the needs, sorrows and joys they have. It's been very rewarding."

To mark the 10th anniversary of this ministry, Evening Prayer will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20 at St. Eulalia Parish in Coudersport. Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, will offer reflections.

The purpose of the celebration is to bring people together in prayer and thanksgiving for what the ministry has been able to accomplish, said Sister Phyllis.

"It's important for the people of these different churches to come together," she said. "And we've seen that happen. One of the blessings is they've been able to pray and share their faith in a community a little larger than their parish."

Preceding this event at 1:30 p.m. in the parish center, Sister Joan will moderate a



Photo by Art Becker

Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, (left) and Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB, helped establish Catholic Rural Ministry in McKean and Potter counties 10 years ago. In that time, they say they have gotten to know many parish families intimately.

roundtable discussion which is open to all who have attended a Reflection Day for Women sponsored by Catholic Rural Ministry during the past 10 years.

Sister Phyllis and Sister Mary serve as co-directors of Catholic Rural Ministry which began as a pilot project and collaborative effort of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Sisters of Mercy and the Diocese of Erie.

Included in their multi-faceted ministry are 14 parishes in two counties on the eastern side of the diocese.

When they first arrived, the sisters laid the groundwork by speaking at churches and introducing themselves throughout the towns.

Through their presence, the sisters have established a number of pastoral outreach and support programs that had not been available locally in the past, including reflection days for women and a vocation awareness program for youth.

See CATHOLIC RURAL MINISTRY, page 3

Catechetical Sunday • September 20, 2009

Catechesis

and the

Proclamation of the WORD

Catechetical Sunday • September 20, 2009

Catechetical Sunday includes commissioning of catechists

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

This year Catechetical Sunday, September 20, will focus on the theme, "Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word."

In parishes throughout

the Erie Diocese, those who have been delegated by the community to serve as catechists will be called forth and commissioned for their ministry. Approximately 1,800 catechists will serve religious education programs during the 2009-10 school year.

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

Diocese distributes more than \$1.5 M in tuition grants for 2009-10

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Diocese of Erie has distributed more than \$1.5 million in tuition grants to students in its 40 schools for the 2009-10 academic year.

The tuition grants were made available through the STAR (Student Tuition Assistance Resource) Foundation and additional tuition aid provided by the diocese.

More than \$1 million was distributed through the STAR Foundation (Student Tuition Assistance Resource), a non-profit scholarship organization established by the diocese made possible by donations from businesses that participate in Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Since its inception in 2001, the STAR Foundation has distributed nearly \$7 million in financial assistance to students attending Catholic schools in the diocese.

The STAR Foundation helps underprivileged children and their parents afford the opportunity for a Catholic educa-

tion, said Charles Banducci, diocesan director of school finance.

"It helps kids who would not otherwise be able to attend a Catholic school," Banducci said.

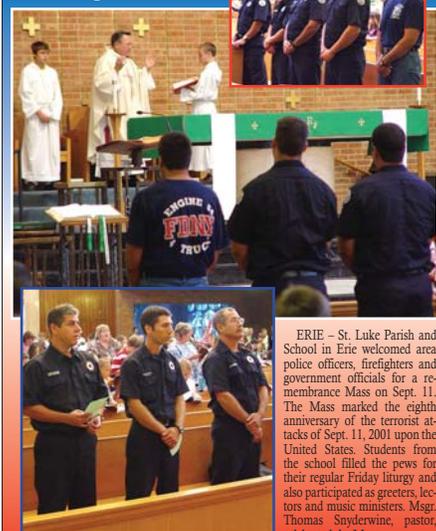
In March, the diocese announced it would double the amount of financial aid dollars available to parents enrolling their children in Catholic elementary schools for the coming academic year. Banducci reports that in addition to the distribution of the STAR Foundation funds, the diocese doubled the amount of tuition aid awarded to \$500,000.

All children entering kindergarten in the diocese this year received a \$200 incentive; the remaining \$400,000 was distributed to families in need of tuition assistance.

The partnering between the diocese and its Catholic schools was very successful, Banducci said.

"We worked hard to meet a portion of the tuition for as many families as possible," he said, "rather than covering the entire amount for a smaller number of people."

Not forgotten



ERIE - St. Luke Parish and School in Erie welcomed area police officers, firefighters and government officials for a remembrance Mass on Sept. 11. The Mass marked the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 upon the United States. Students from the school filled the pews for their regular Friday liturgy and also participated as greeters, lectors and music ministers. Msgr. Thomas Snyderwine, pastor, celebrated the Mass.



IN THE U.S.

■ **Confusion about the Catholic Church's current funeral practices is common**, as evidenced by a wave of discussion over whether Sen. Edward Kennedy should have had a Catholic funeral because of his public disagreement with the church's teaching against abortion. Father John Ditzian, a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., who has for nearly 35 years fielded questions from the public about the church, said he receives many queries about who can and cannot have a church funeral. Many of those questions are rooted in practices that have long since gone by the wayside, he said. He said the most common funeral-related topic he hears about is suicide. The commentary with the Code of Canon Law says that people in irregular marriages or people who committed suicide are not included among those who are automatically denied funerals, "since deprivation of a church funeral not infrequently causes as much if not more scandal than granting it."



Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley presides over the prayers of final commendation during the funeral Mass for Sen. Edward Kennedy at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston Aug. 29.

■ **The Springfield Diocese announced parish reconfigurations and 19 parish closings during Aug. 29-30 weekend Masses.** Bishop Timothy McDonnell of Springfield, Mass., met with the pastor of each parish that will be affected and wrote a letter for each parish to be read at the Masses. "There's going to be hurt, and I wish there weren't," the bishop told reporters. "But, at the same time, we are a pilgrim people. And church is meant to be a pilgrim people. Church is meant to be people

on the move." Msgr. John Bonzagni, director of the diocese's Pastoral Planning Office, said the changes are needed because of a change in demographics, a decline in the number of clergy and financial pressures.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **In response to numerous requests for how the Catholic community could increase its attention toward the deaf**, the Vatican has organized an upcoming conference focusing on the role of deaf people in the church. The Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry decided to dedicate its annual international conference this year to the condition, needs and experiences of deaf people, including deaf religious and laypeople and their families. The theme of the Nov. 19-21 Vatican gathering, "Ephphatha: Deaf People in the Life of the Church," recalls the Aramaic word meaning "be opened" that Jesus used to heal a deaf man.



A Catholic parishioner signs during a Mass interpreted in American Sign Language.

■ **Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics to give generously this year to the church's missionary agencies**, saying that young church communities need the funding at a time of economic crisis. The pope made the comments in his message for World Mission Sunday, observed Oct. 18 in most countries. The pope said missionary zeal has always been a sign of church vitality. He asked all Catholics to pray for an increase in missionary passion and to support missionaries who work on the front lines of evangelization, often under hostile condi-

tions. "I ask everyone, as a credible sign of communion among the churches, to offer financial assistance, especially in these times of crisis affecting all humanity, to enable the young local churches to illuminate the nations with the Gospel of charity," he said.

■ **About a million people prayed for terrorists' change of heart during Pakistan's most popular Marian pilgrimage**, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. "We place the rehabilitation work for attacked Christians at the feet of Mother Mary. Let us pray and fast for the transformation of terrorists involved in the recent anti-Christian violence," Father Emmanuel Asit told Marian devotees. "We are a complete part of this country and want to become instruments of peace," added the priest, who is executive secretary of the Catholic Bible Commission of Pakistan. More than a million people attended the Sept. 4-6 program, the 60th annual pilgrimage to the national Marian shrine in the Christian village of Mariamabad, literally the "city of Mary." The Marian shrine in the Lahore Archdiocese traditionally draws several hundred thousand of Pakistan's 1.6 million Catholics, as well as some Muslims.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The music-loving Pope Benedict XVI will be featured on a new CD singing and reciting Marian hymns and prayers.** "Alma Mater," Latin for "nourishing mother," will be released worldwide Nov. 30 by Gefen Records, which is part of Universal Music Group. Using material recorded by Vatican Radio, the album will feature Pope Benedict singing the "Regina Coeli" hymn to Mary as well as prayers and snippets of talks in Latin, Italian, Portuguese, French and German. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman and director of Vatican Radio, said the radio authorized use of about 10 minutes of the pope's voice for the project, which was developed by Gefen and by the multimedia production company of the Pauline Fathers. Gefen said proceeds from the sale of the CD would be used to provide music education to underprivileged children around the world.



By the Way...

Alice Kenawell says she has always prayed for priests.

Now Kenawell, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois, is making it easier for others to do so as well.

On a trip to Boston several years ago, she came across a calendar which listed a different priest of the archdiocese on each day. She has now created a similar calendar with the names of our priests, and during the Year for Priests, she's hoping it will catch on throughout the Erie Diocese.

"I thought it was a great idea," says Kenawell. "People say it's a good idea and take them. Some people will say, 'I always pray for priests.' Hopefully it catches on."

The daily listing includes both active and retired priests. Once the alphabetical listing is complete, Kenawell says she simply begins running the names again.

"Up in Boston, it takes five years to get through all the priests," she said. "It won't take that long here. When you get done with the names, you just start the list again."

She has forwarded copies of the prayer requests to many parishes in the diocese but would like to get more of them involved. A copy of the calendar is also available on the Erie Diocese's Web site at www.ErieRCD.org.

"Hopefully we can get more people praying for our priests."

For more information on the monthly prayer request for priests on the Web visit www.mprpapistate.com.

There's something new at Mall Chapel.

Father Bill Sutherland, pastor of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig parishes in Erie, has procured a small set of the Stations of the Cross for those who would like to make the devotion during their visits to the chapel, located near Bon-Ton at the Millcreek Mall in Erie.

Also, a prayer request box is set to arrive by next week. Visitors can write down their prayer intentions and place them in the locked box. People visiting the chapel are asked to remember all the intentions in their prayers.

The Mall Chapel is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Priests are available for confession or conversation on Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pope Benedict XVI plans to visit Malta next April to commemorate the 1,950th anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck on the Mediterranean island.

The trip will give the pope a chance to highlight once again the figure of St. Paul, who according to tradition shipwrecked on Malta in the year A.D. 60 while on his way to Rome to stand trial. Scriptures recount that the inhabitants showed "extraordinary hospitality" to St. Paul, who healed sick people on the island.

Pope Benedict presided over a special jubilee year for St. Paul in 2008-2009, to underline the saint as a model of missionary energy in the church.

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



Jason Koshinski

Catholics, others give perspectives on new health insurance data

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — New statistics on health insurance, poverty and income released Sept. 10 by the U.S. Census Bureau "affirmed the economic and moral arguments President Obama made (Sept. 9) about our nation's need for good, meaningful health reform," according to the president of the Catholic Health Association.

"As 46.3 million people went without any health insurance last year, median household income dropped 3.6 percent between 2007 and 2008, creating greater challenges for hard-working families. This explains clearly why the president and many in Congress have been highlighting how middle-class families so urgently need reform," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is the CHA's president and CEO, in a Sept. 10 statement.

"As we know too well by now, losing health insurance — especially during a recession — comes with an enormous financial and human cost for families, commu-

nities and our nation as a whole," she added.

According to the census report, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008," the 46.3 million without health insurance represented an increase from 45.7 million the year before. Americans who had health insurance at any point during the year were counted as having health insurance.

The number of Americans with health insurance also increased. Part of that was due to the U.S. population increasing, according to David Johnson, chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, who led a Sept. 10 briefing on the figures, compiled from information collected in early spring for the bureau's 2009 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Also, "the number of people with private insurance fell while the number with government insurance rose," he said, including an estimated 3 million children who got health insurance through

Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The number of uninsured children declined from 8.1 million (11 percent) in 2007 to 7.3 million (9.9 percent) in 2008, according to the Census Bureau, the lowest figure since data on children started being collected in 1987. Children were the only age group where the rate of the uninsured went down, although Johnson said they were still "less likely to be insured" than adults.

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, in a Sept. 10 statement offered an example of the strains that Catholic Charities faces in helping the uninsured.

"In Pittsburgh, Catholic Charities' free health care center is adding about 100 patients per month,"

he said. "According to Diane Redington, the clinic's administrator, the kind of people they are seeing tend to be new people who were not uninsured before."

"It's scary for them; they're not used to asking for help," Father Snyder said. "There are also more than 800 people on a waiting list for the center's dental program." The Census Bureau's Johnson said 30 percent of all children without health insurance live in households making less than \$25,000 a year.

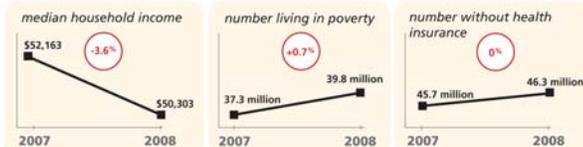
The percentage of Americans who get health insurance as a job benefit has declined each year this decade, from 64.2 percent in 2000 to 58.5 percent last year.

The numbers are likely to get worse before they get better. The affordability of health care may become more of an issue as median U.S. household income dropped 3.6 percent from 2007 levels, the first drop since 2004, the biggest since 1991, and what Lawrence Mishel of the Economic Policy Institute called the

steepest drop for the first year of a recession since the Census Bureau started compiling these statistics following World War II.

Further, last year's average unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, Mishel said during a Sept. 10 conference call with reporters. This year, he said, unemployment will average about 9 percent.

The 2008 poverty rate was 13.2 percent, up from 12.5 percent in 2007, with 39.8 million Americans now in poverty last year — up 2.6 million from the year before.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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15th Annual Rosary March

Sunday, October 11, 2009
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

St. Stanislaus Church Annual Parish Day

Sunday, October 4, Noon-6pm
Parish Hall: 520 E. 13 St. (handicap accessible)

"Polish Platter Dinner"

(includes kielbasa, gołabki, pierogi, and more)

Adults: \$8, Children 6-12: \$4, 5 and under: FREE

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Briefly

'Sound of Music' coming to OLP Playhouse Sept. 25-27

ERIE - To celebrate its 10th anniversary and with permission from Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatricals, OLP Playhouse will present "The Sound of Music" Sept. 25, 26 and 27.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. All performances will be held in the Our Lady of Peace Daily Center at 2401 W. 38th St., Erie.

Advance sales tickets began Sept. 15. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids and seniors. It is suggested that large groups should reserve tickets early, as large crowds are anticipated for each performance. Group tickets can be reserved by calling Bob Pfister at 814.218.9703.



Allegheny Forest Ministries sponsors fall retreats for women, men

This fall, Allegheny Forest Ministries is sponsoring separate retreats for women and men.

A day-long retreat for women will be held Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is "Opening Your Heart to Change." Paw Hawley Grady, an associate spiritual director with the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality in Charleston, W. Va., will be the facilitator.

The registration fee is \$15. An overnight retreat for men will be held Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17. The theme is "Walk Worthy." There will be time for Bible study, prayer, singing, fellowship and free time.

Registration fee is \$40 with lodging and meals included. To register for either retreat, contact Darrell Meyers at 814.450.3697 or e-mail dmeyers@roadrunner.com.

Allegheny Forest Ministries Retreat Center is located adjacent to the Allegheny National Forest in McKean County. Located just off Route 59 between Warren and Bradford, it is accessible from all areas of Northwest Pennsylvania and Western New York. The retreat house is a rustic lodge located near the Kinzua Reservoir and Recreational area. Nestled in the village of Marshburg, just off State Route 59 near State Route 770, turn at Eschrich Road.

For more information, visit www.alleghenyforestministries.org.



Pet blessings

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, is celebrated October 4. Many parishes throughout the diocese will hold pet blessings on or near the feast day. As a reminder, please make sure all animals are leashed, caged or restrained.

■ Our Lady of Peace Parish and School, Erie Friday, Oct. 2 at 2:15 p.m. near St. Francis shrine in front of school

■ St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. in front of church; rain location is church hall

■ St. Tobias Parish, Brockway Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10:15 a.m. on church lawn

■ St. Michael Parish, Greenville Saturday, Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. in the grass near the north parking lot. Participants will receive a certificate to commemorate the blessing.



■ Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City Sunday, Oct. 4 immediately following 11 a.m. Mass (about noon) near bell tower

■ St. Brigid, Meadville Sunday, Oct. 4 at 12:30 p.m. at church entrance

■ Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. in church parking lot

■ St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Linesville Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. in upper parking lot

■ St. Thomas Parish, Corry Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. behind church

■ St. Titus Parish, Titusville Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m.

■ St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield Sunday, Oct. 4 at 3 p.m. in church parking lot

■ Holy Rosary, Erie Sunday, Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. in parking lot between church and school building; rain location is gym

For more information on St. Francis of Assisi and Franciscan features, stories and spirituality, visit www.americancatholic.org/features/francis.

Mercyhurst College, St. Gregory School partner for scholarship program

Eligible students to receive 75 percent reduction in college tuition

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Mercyhurst College in Erie and St. Gregory School in North East have partnered to offer a scholarship program that will provide a 75 percent college tuition reduction for qualifying students.

Beginning this fall, the St. Gregory-Mercy Scholarship will be offered to students enrolling in Level 1 (grades 1 and 2) at St. Gregory School. Students enrolled who graduate from St. Gregory's must gain admittance and graduate from Mercyhurst Preparatory School, a co-ed Catholic high school. Finally, to complete the K-16 cycle, those who graduate from Mercyhurst Prep and are accepted at Mercyhurst College will qualify for the tuition reduction.

The scholarship is an opportunity to reward not only students but also parents who are committed to Catholic education, said Dr. Phillip Belfiore, vice president for academic affairs at Mercyhurst College.

"Catholic colleges have a lot of potential

and opportunity to work with Catholic education," Belfiore said. "There are a number of ways we do this. Typically we do this through the professional development and training for teachers. This opens up another door to work with parents and students. This recognizes that parents are sacrificing to send their children to Catholic education."

Under the scholarship agreement, students are still eligible to receive merit-based and need-based financial aid. The scholarship's 75-percent discount would be applied to the balance owed to Mercyhurst College for tuition and fees after subtracting all other assistance for which a student may be eligible.

As an example, if annual tuition and fees are \$25,000 and the student qualifies for \$12,000 in financial aid, the balance owed would be \$13,000. The scholarship would be valued at 75 percent of \$13,000 or \$9,750, and the student would owe \$3,250. The approximately 20 students enrolled in St. Gregory's Level 1 (grades 1 and 2) this

fall will be the first ones eligible for the scholarship.

Father Nicholas Rouch, the Erie Diocese's vicar for education, said it is optimistic about the program possibilities.

"What I like is that it encourages continuity in Catholic education and also recognizes the sacrifices made by parents who remain committed to a Catholic education K-16," Father Rouch said.

Belfiore, who had recommended a number of years ago that St. Gregory's move to multi-age classrooms, said partnering with the small rural elementary school was a natural fit.

Nancy Pierce, principal at St. Gregory School, said there is a buzz about the new scholarship program. She says she's heard from interested parents who say it's a nice incentive to keep their children in Catholic education.

"We hope to continue to educate people about the scholarship," Pierce said. "It's an enticing proposition for parents and students. If you're planning on your child going to college, it's certainly something to look at."

Catholic Rural Ministry celebrates 10 years in McKean, Potter counties

CATHOLIC RURAL MINISTRY,
from page 1

Funding from Catholic Charities and a number of donors also enables them to help individuals and families in need of food and clothing or financial assistance for utility bills and rent.

"The people have grown very accustomed to having us around," said Sister Mary. "It has been very gratifying to know and meet and be with all our friends here and be part of the community."

Msgr. Charles Kaza, pastor of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway and vicar of the diocese's Eastern Vicariate, said the idea of Catholic Rural Ministry began with the intention of having women religious minister in a place where they were non-existent.

"It gives the sisters an opportunity to minister but also be a presence of the church," Msgr. Kaza said. "Many of the people in those parishes call them 'our sisters.'"

Their efforts have been so well received that in 2007 a second Catholic Rural Ministry was launched in Clarion and Venango counties with Sister Clare Marie

"We've gotten to know the families here intimately. We see the needs, sorrows and joys they have. It's been very rewarding."

— Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB



The sisters visit the sick, go to wakes and funerals, distribute food and assist with religious education. They're also deeply entrenched in the community as a whole.

They're involved with the Potter County Agency on Aging; ACTS of Potter County, an inter-denominational agency that provides transportation and home repairs; A Way Out, an organization that provides emergency services for abused women; and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program

of Potter County.

They also work closely with the Salvation Army, Port Allegheny Community Services, the Potter County Office of Human Services, Christmas House Youth Retreat Center.

"It's been very rewarding, knowing these people like we have," said Sister Phyllis.

Added Sister Mary, "It's been very fulfilling."

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St. Hedwig Family Pancake Breakfast
Annual all-you-can-eat breakfast
Sunday, Sept. 27 at Polish Falcons
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9 am to 1 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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Knights of Columbus help diocese promote vocations, aid retired religious

ERIE – The Knights of Columbus recently visited with Bishop Donald Trautman to present him with two checks. One was for the promotion of vocations for \$985.37. The second was for retired religious in the amount of \$2,137.18. Pictured left to right are Raymond Barber, Pennsylvania state secretary, Knights of Columbus; Wayne Freet, Knights of Columbus state deputy; Bishop Trautman; and Michael O'Connor, Knights of Columbus board of directors. The fundraising efforts are part of several projects that the Knights take on annually.



Galeton baby bottle campaign aids pregnancy care center

GALETON – Galeton Knights of Columbus Council No. 693 sponsored a baby bottle campaign at St. Bibiana Parish for the Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center.

The center is a non-denominational, non-profit, Christ-centered organization that provides free and confidential support – emotional, spiritual and physical – to individuals involved in pregnancy and has locations in Canton and Towanda.

The campaign started on Mother's Day and ended on Father's Day. Families took home empty baby bottles and filled them with loose change during that time. More than \$700 was collected for this effort. Pictured are Mark Germino, chairman of the campaign, and Father Joe Dougherty, pastor of St. Bibiana.



Photo courtesy of Andy Lychalk Jr.

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NFP presents Volunteer of the Year award to St. Marys couple

ST. MARYS – Andy and Cathy Dornisch of Sacred Heart Parish in St. Marys were presented with the Volunteer of the Year award at the annual appreciation celebration on July 25 held in conjunction with Natural Family Planning Awareness Week.

Commissioned as NFP teachers for the diocesan NFP program in 2004, they quickly added speaking on NFP at Pre-Canas and to high school groups to their list of tasks on behalf of the program's mission.

"Their energy, positive attitude and warm friendly manner make them ideal speakers to groups both large and small," said Barbara Burkett of the diocese's Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education program. High praise from their NFP students and repeated requests from pastors and youth leaders prove they are well liked and effective, she said.

Cathy recently joined the Family Honor Team in St. Marys having completed the educational training for that program. The program helps youth and their



Ed and Barbara Burkett, co-directors of the diocese's Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education program, present the Volunteer of the Year award to Andy and Cathy Dornisch and their family.

parents learn about chastity and experience new ways of communicating and building trust within the family.

New technology projected for OLMC School

ERIE – With the 50th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and School in Erie on the horizon, the Parent-Teacher Council, the Athletic Association and Mount Carmel Parish recently committed to a long-term program of enhancing the level of technology available to the faculty and staff of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

With an eye to the future shape of classroom instruction, the school administration recently purchased Toshiba laptop computers for every classroom teacher and the school office. In addition, Hitachi LED projectors recently arrived for all classrooms in Grades 4-8. Additional projectors are already available for the use of primary grade teachers.

Work has also begun on the installation of access points to make the building completely wireless for Internet access. Teachers will be able to take advantage of the wealth of educational material available to them from anywhere in the building, including the gymnasium for large group presentations and in the faculty lounge and offices for lesson



preparation. Students will also be able to employ this new classroom equipment for power point presentations and class projects.

Father Raymond Hahn, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, said the recently formed Parish Long Term Planning Committee, which includes members of the School Advancement Committee, will be working on ways to continue and expand the opportunities available to students and identify ways to evangelize.

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St. Mary of Grace Annual Columbus Day Spaghetti Dinner
 Social Center, 1085 Water St., Meadville
 Sunday Oct. 11, 2009, 11:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
 Pasta dinner includes homemade Italian sauce, meatballs, salad, beverage and dessert.
 Cost: \$7 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10
 Dine in or take out. Carniol will be available for purchase.
 Unique gift baskets, used book sale, bake sale and "A Taste of St. Mary's" cookbooks will be available.
 EXCITING RAFFLES! CASH DRAWING!
 Come enjoy a great day of Italian cuisine and hospitality!

Sacred Heart Parish Day
Annual Roast Beef Dinner
 Sunday, Oct. 4, serving from 12:53-3:30 p.m.
 \$7.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children
 Baked goods, theme baskets, instant bingo
 Win a Sony 46" Flat screen HDTV!
 Win a Stang or \$40,000!
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