

The Reason For Our Hope

Fr. Larry Richards' foundation relaunches Web site to better evangelize, page 3.



FaithLife

Spirit of Courage

10th annual awards to honor four nominees, Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 3, 2006

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Peter Claver



St. John Chrysostom

- Sept. 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sept. 9 St. Peter Claver
- Sept. 12 Most Holy Name of Mary
- Sept. 13 St. John Chrysostom
- Sept. 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- Sept. 16 Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

Confirmation schedule

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Erie – Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Andrew, Erie, and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Erie.

Installation of Dr. Thomas Gamble – Sept. 16

Mercyhurst College will celebrate the official inauguration of Dr. Thomas Gamble as its 11th president on Sept. 16. Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate an installation Mass at the college's Christ the King Chapel at 10 a.m. An inauguration ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.



100th anniversary Mass of St. Joseph Parish, Force – Sept. 17 at 1 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish, Force, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of its church the weekend of Sept. 15-17. Events begin Friday with evening prayer followed by a tureen dinner and entertainment, a dinner dance on Saturday and Sunday Mass with a public reception to follow. Historical photos and artifacts will be on display in the social hall.

The celebration will conclude with evening prayer and burial of a time capsule on Sunday. The newly installed church chimes will be played for first time during evening prayer and the first-ever parish pictorial directory will be made available.

National Catechetical Sunday – Sept. 17

The third Sunday of September in the United States is celebrated as Catechetical Sunday in order to acknowledge, appreciate and commission those who are catechists. Look for a feature story in the Sept. 17 issue of *FaithLife*.

Clergy appointments

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

Father Michael DeMartinis, appointed to a full-time position on the faculty of Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, with residence at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie, for a term of five years ending June 30, 2011. Effective Sept. 1, 2006.

Father Shane Mathew, reappointed as a part-time faculty member at Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage, while continuing as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Sharon. Effective Aug. 18, 2006.

Father Stephen Schreiber, reappointed as campus minister and faculty member of Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage, for a term of five years ending June 30, 2011. Effective Aug. 18, 2006.



For fall athletic schedules including football, girls basketball and cross country visit the diocesan Athletics Department Web site at www.erieRCD.org/athletics.asp.

PARISHES SET TO BEGIN WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Approximately 5,000 people in parishes throughout the Erie Diocese participated in the first six-week session of *Why Catholic?* during Lent. And they're getting ready to do it again.

The second six-week session begins the week of Oct. 8. Sign-ups will be held in parishes beginning Sept. 17.

Why Catholic? is a four-year program that focuses on Scripture related to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Small faith-sharing groups will meet once a week during two six-week sessions each year.

"All the comments that we have received from those participating in the first session have been very positive," said Sister Nancy Fischer, director of community formation and lay minister training for the Erie Diocese. "We're using the format of small faith-sharing communities for adult education. We're hopeful to continue faith formation in small groups. This is something

that we want to see as ongoing."

Four sites are scheduled to host facilitator training: Notre Dame, Hermitage (Tues., Sept. 12); Queen of the World, St. Marys (Thurs., Sept. 14); St. Mark Center, Erie (Tues., Sept. 19); and St. Brigid, Meadville (Thurs., Sept. 21). All training sessions will run from 7-9 p.m. There are approximately 500 facilitators involved with *Why Catholic?*

It's not too late!

If your parish is not conducting the *Why Catholic?* program and you would like to be part of a small faith-sharing group, contact Sister Nancy Fischer, diocesan director of community formation and lay ministry training, at 814.824.1217 or e-mail NFischer@ErieRCD.org.

Why Catholic? schedule for fall

Sun., Sept. 17 sign-up in parishes throughout the diocese
Sun., Oct. 1 prayer commitment

Book 1: The Profession of Faith — What We Believe
Six weeks of small group meetings:

Week of Oct. 8	Session 7 The public life of Jesus
Week of Oct. 15	Session 8 The paschal mystery
Week of Oct. 22	Session 9 The Holy Spirit and the church
Week of Oct. 29	Session 10 One church with diverse roles
Week of Nov. 5	Session 11 Mary, mother of Christ
Week of Nov. 12	Session 12 We believe in life everlasting

Parish retreat: Discovering God in the Ordinary

All parishioners of *Why Catholic?* parishes are invited

Sat., Dec. 2	St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 3	Queen of the World, St. Marys, 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 5	Our Lady of Peace, Erie, 7 - 9 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 6	St. Mary of Grace, Meadville, 7 - 9 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7	St. Joseph, Sharon, 7 - 9 p.m.

Young People Who Care celebrates 30 years of service

By Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife executive editor

FRENCHVILLE – Hundreds of former volunteers, area residents and friends of the Young People Who Care Center (YPWC) traveled to the organization's hub in rural Frenchville the weekend of Aug. 18-20 to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

"I try to imagine the thousands of people who have come here over these 30 years," Msgr. Charles Kaza, episcopal vicar, said during a reflection at the end of the Mass he celebrated Aug. 19. "I speak from my own volunteer work here when I say I'm convinced that the experiences people have had at YPWC never leave them."

He referred to Michael Narvensnik, a young man from Germany



Burning a mortgage for one of the buildings at YPWC was a highlight of the 30th anniversary reunion celebration. Sister Therese Dush, CA, did the honors.

who had spent a year volunteering at the center in the late '90s. Narvensnik not only returned to the center for the reunion but also contacted some of the volunteers he had worked with, convincing them to make the trek from Oregon and California for the reunion as well.

"The sisters don't always see the effect of their work, but it has

fanned out across the country and the world," said Msgr. Kaza.

Founded in 1976, the center was established in response to *This Land is Home to Me*, a pastoral letter written by the bishops of Appalachia.

During the past 30 years, Young People Who Care has provided a variety of outreach efforts focused on service to the poor and margin-

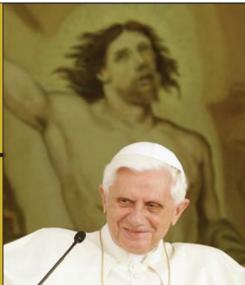
alized. It remains committed to its original goal of meeting the needs of people in the region not addressed by government or social service agencies.

Today, YPWC, Inc. includes Marian House, providing temporary housing and assistance for women and children in crisis; Life

See YPWC, page 4

An interview with the pope

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service



'Accentuate the postive'

VATICAN CITY — In a lengthy TV and radio interview, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to fighting in the Middle East and said he hopes to travel to the Holy Land "in a time of peace."

The pope also explained some of the priorities of his papacy, saying he was convinced the church needs to frame its moral teachings in a positive way and shed the image of an institution that always says "no."

The interview with German media was broadcast Aug. 13, eight days after it was recorded at the pope's summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. It was aired in advance of the pope's scheduled visit to his native Bavaria region of Germany Sept. 9-14. Translations of the German transcript were made available by the Vatican.

The pope addressed a wide range of topics, including ecumenical cooperation, the role of women in the church and the unifying function of the papacy. He also offered some personal insights into the burdens of being pope.

"It really is tiring," he said of his schedule. But the 79-year-old pontiff said he enjoyed the continual encounters with bishops, politicians and other personalities "who want to talk to me personally."

Despite having to live behind the Vatican walls, he said, "to tell the truth, I'm not that lonely."

Seated on a gilded throne, the pope looked at ease as he fielded questions from four reporters, including a correspondent from Vatican Radio's German program.

Asked about the situation in Lebanon, the pope said everyone has to realize that "war is the worst solution for all sides." He expressed concern about the Christian community in Lebanon and warned of the danger of the emigration of Christians from the entire region.

"I'd like to visit the Holy Land, and I hope to visit it in a time of peace," he said.

See POPE, page 3

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

faith magazine announces 2006 Teen of the Year Awards

Gordon Lung, a sophomore at Cathedral Prep High School in Erie, and Michael Rodgers, a 2006 graduate of Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, have been named *Faith* magazine's 2006 Teens of the Year. The Sept./Oct. teen edition of the magazine featuring the winners will arrive in homes across the diocese this week.

"Sixty-three nominations came to us from throughout the Erie Diocese expressing both astonishment and pride in how much these teens have already accomplished in loving service to others," Msgr. Tom McSweeney, executive editor, writes in the issue's opening column.

In addition to the Teen of the Year Awards, the magazine created two new awards this year: The Jesse Spade Memorial Award and the Editor's Choice Award.

"With all the great kids who were nominated, we wanted to put the spotlight on a few more of them," said Anne-Marie Welsh, editor. "So with the blessing of his parents, we created an award in honor of Jesse Spade, who was one of our first two teens of the year last year." Readers may remember that Jesse lost his battle with cancer last December.



"We had several nominations for teens who have faced great difficulty," said Welsh, "so this award recognizes teens who have met challenges with grace and courage." This year's winners are Willie O'Rourke, a 2006 graduate of St. Bernard Elementary/Middle School in Bradford, and Sonia Rosales, a senior at Villa Maria High School in Erie.

The Editor's Choice Award, designed to celebrate teens showing



great promise and a positive spirit, went to Jake Mayers and Maria Zafuto, 2006 graduates of DuBois Central Catholic Middle School.

Last year's teen edition of *Faith* magazine was one of the publication's two issues that received national awards from the Catholic Press Association at its convention

See TEENS, page 3

U.S.

Labor Day statement emphasizes challenges, rights of immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With immigrants accounting for 15 percent of U.S. workers, the challenge for Labor Day is to “consider who we are as a nation, how our economy treats all workers, how we welcome the ‘strangers’ among us,” said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Policy in an annual Labor Day statement. “The challenge of immigration today is not just at the borders, but in our labor markets,” said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn in the statement released Aug. 23 in advance of Labor Day, Sept. 4. “The simple fact is many parts of our nation’s economy have become dependent on immigrant workers,” he said. Agriculture, meat and poultry processing and the hotel and restaurant industries count on immigrant workers. “We have come to depend more and more on international migration to fill our workforce,” he said. “Without them our economy would have huge gaps.” To read the full text of the U.S. bishops’ Labor Day statement, visit www.usccb.org.

WORLD

Priest says Pope John Paul I’s cause will be at Vatican by year’s end

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the 28th anniversary of Pope John Paul I’s brief pontificate approached, one of the priests working on his sainthood cause said the paperwork would be sent to the Vatican by the end of the year. Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice, Italy, was elected Aug. 26, 1978, to succeed Pope Paul VI. As Pope John Paul I, he served just over a month, dying Sept. 28. The diocesan phase of his cause for sainthood formally opened in 2003 in his home Diocese of Belluno and Feltre, Italy. Vatican Radio reported that Msgr. Giorgio Lise, vice postulator of the cause, said Aug. 17 that 170 witnesses already had been interviewed about the late pope’s life and ministry, and the last remaining interviews would be conducted by early November. A formal biography and the witnesses’ testimony will be sent to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes by the end of the year, he said.



Pope John Paul I

CNS photo

FDA permission to sell Plan B over the counter called unacceptable

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Food and Drug Administration’s Aug. 24 decision, with the apparent support of President George W. Bush, to allow over-the-counter sales of Plan B, the “morning-after pill,” to women 18 and older defies common sense and is “completely unacceptable,” according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, urged pharmacists “not to confuse FDA approval with a right to access” and said they should “refuse to stock this potent drug for distribution on demand.” Plan B uses large doses of birth-control pills to prevent conception up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. Over-the-counter sales of the drug were expected to begin before the end of the year. In its Aug. 24 announcement the FDA said that, “when used as directed, Plan B effectively and safely prevents pregnancy.” But McQuade said that ignores the “potentially abortifacient” effects of the drug.

In Bavaria, pope to visit hometown, university where he taught

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a homecoming visit to the German state of Bavaria, Pope Benedict XVI plans to stop in the town where he was born, lecture at the university where he once taught and celebrate Mass in the city where he was a bishop. The pope also will meet with political leaders, speak with priests and religious and hold an ecumenical prayer service with representatives of other churches. The official schedule of the pope’s Sept. 9-14 visit to Bavaria calls for him to celebrate Mass the day after his arrival in Munich, where he was bishop 1977-82. He will celebrate Mass and lead a procession at a Marian sanctuary in Altötting and stop briefly at the parish church in the town where he was born, Markt am Inn. The pope is scheduled to address representatives of the scientific community at the University of Regensburg, where he was a professor of theology for many years.



By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

St. Mark Seminary welcomed seven members of its freshman class at the end of August for the fall semester. They are joined by six returning seminarians.

The freshman class includes: **Cody Bienkowski** (Sacred Heart, St. Marys); **Jonathan Halter** (St. George, Erie); **Robert McDonald** (St. Brigid, Meadville); **Michael Rodgers** (Good Shepherd, West Middlesex); **Patrick Wiler** (St. Luke, Erie); **Brandon Wiley** (Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell); and **Jacob Williamson** (St. Mary, Kittanning, Diocese of Greensburg).

Seminarians returning to St. Mark are **Tyler Bandura** (Christ Prince of Peace, Ford City, Diocese of Greensburg), **Jason Feigh** (St. Basil the Great, Coalport); **Brandon Kleckner** (Sacred Heart, Erie); **Phil Pochatko** (Holy Family, Erie), **Matias Quimno** (All Saints, Waterford); and **David Rene** (Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney).

Surely they’ll all appreciate our prayers.

Erie Benedictine **Sister Mary Lou Kownacki**, founder of the Inner City Neighborhood Art House and its executive director from 1995 through 2005, has been awarded the 2006 Social Entrepreneurship Award from the Manhattan Institute headquartered in New York City.

The initiative honors five nonprofit leaders who have found innovative, private solutions for some of America’s most pressing social problems with little or no government financial aid. The award will be presented at a banquet in New York City in the fall. The art house will also receive a gift of \$10,000 from the institute.

For more information on the award, visit www.manhattaninstitute.org.

Schools throughout the Erie Diocese have officially opened the 2006-07 school year. For a roundup of what’s new this year, look for our Back to School feature in the Sept. 17 issue of *FaithLife*.

Just a reminder with schools and religious ed programs back in session that the diocesan **senior high youth rally** is scheduled for Sun., Nov. 19 at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage.

Msgr. William Biebel and **Father Larry Richards** were recently interviewed by an HBO camera crew that has been following **Justin Fatica** around for several weeks filming a documentary. Fatica, a Cathedral Prep grad, is the founder of **Hard as Nails Ministry**, a faith-based organization which helps youth and young adults build personal relationships with Jesus Christ. Fatica credits the two priests with helping bring him back into the fold, so to speak. No word yet on when the footage will air. Read more about Fatica’s ministry at www.hardasnailsministry.org.

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

Adult catechism is new faith resource with view to U.S. culture

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When U.S. Catholics celebrate Catechetical Sunday Sept. 17, they will have a new resource available to help them deepen their understanding of the faith — the *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

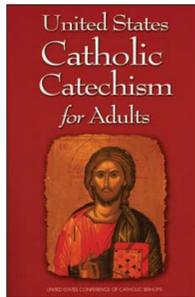
Within two weeks after it went on sale July 31, the 664-page adult catechism had sold more than 25,000 copies according to USCCB Publishing, the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Adopted by the U.S. bishops in November 2004 and recently approved by the Holy See, the *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults* is the first official catechism produced by the nation’s bishops since the creation of the Baltimore Catechism, first published in 1885 and revised in 1941.

Unlike the Baltimore Catechism, which was aimed primarily at the religious education of children, the new adult catechism is intended chiefly as an instrument for adults. Those entering the church can use it to learn about the Catholic faith, while adults who were born and raised Catholic can use it to deepen their understanding of Catholic teachings that they learned about more superficially as children.

The bishops intended the book for a wide audience, but especially for “young adult Catholics whose education in the faith was inadequate or incomplete in any way.” USCCB Publishing said in a release about the new publication.

The adult catechism was written in response to a Vatican re-



quest that bishops’ conferences develop such national texts to complement the universal *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The adult catechism is adapted to U.S. culture, providing comprehensive and authoritative church teaching but with a view to the American culture and experience. Like the universal catechism, its contents are arranged under four themes: “The Creed: The Faith Professed”; “The Sacraments: The Faith Celebrated”; “Christian Morality: The Faith Lived”; and “Prayer: The Faith Prayed.”

Each chapter addresses aspects of Catholic faith and their application in U.S. culture and closes with discussion questions, a brief summation of the doctrinal points in the chapter, a meditation and a prayer.

At the end of the book are a scriptural index, a topical index and several appendices — a glossary of religious and Catholic terms, traditional Catholic prayers and a reference guide on official Catholic teachings.

The theme for Catechetical Sunday this year is “Who do you say that I am?” — a question

that calls on Christians to reflect on their understanding of Jesus Christ and their relationship to him.

Another new catechetical resource adult Catholics have this year is the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Written in question-answer format, the compendium is a summarized version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

It was produced at the request of Pope John Paul II by a commission of cardinals, headed by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who is now Pope Benedict XVI. When the compendium was completed and released by the Vatican in June 2005, Pope Benedict said it “contains, in concise form, all the essential and fundamental elements of the church’s faith.”

USCCB Publishing published the 200-page English and Spanish editions of the compendium in March 2006, and by the end of July had sold more than 125,000 copies.

Either book may be ordered online at: www.usccbpublishing.org, or by phone at: 800.235.8722. The *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults* is available in paperback for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. The *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* costs \$24.95 in hardcover or \$14.95 in paperback, plus postage and handling.

Catechism talks about Catholics who made a difference

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the new *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults*, those not very familiar with American Catholic history may find some interesting stories about U.S. Catholics who contributed to that history.

Each of the book’s 36 chapters begins with a brief biographical sketch.

Some of them are about historical figures known worldwide such as Moses, Jesus, St. Augustine, St. Thomas More and Blessed Pope John XXIII.

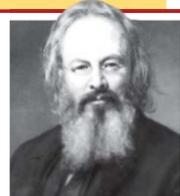
Others are American saints, well known to most American Catholics, such as Ss. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Katharine Drexel, John Neuman and Frances Cabrini.

But there are still other American Catholics, not declared saints, whose names could serve as a test of how well acquainted a person is with U.S. Catholic history. Among these are:

- Irish-born **John Boyle O’Reilly**, social reformer and editor of the Catholic newspaper *The Boston Pilot*, who in the last quarter of the 19th century was the foremost influence on the assimilation of Irish immigrants into American culture.
- Archbishop **Fulton J. Sheen**, whose nationally broadcast “Catholic Hour” program on radio and later “Life Is Worth Living” on television made him a household word in America in the middle decades of the 20th century.
- **Dorothy Day**, a 20th-century pacifist and founder of the Catholic Worker movement.
- Mother **Henriette Delille**, a freeborn black woman in 19th-century New Orleans who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a congregation of black sisters, and whose sainthood cause is being considered by the Vatican.
- **Cesar Chavez**, a 20th-century labor leader who organized migrant workers and founded the United Farm Workers of America.
- Holy Cross Father **Patrick Peyton**, who led the Family Rosary Crusade from the early 1940s to his death in 1992, making him known around the world as “the rosary priest.”



Father Isaac Hecker, an adult convert to the faith who in 1858 founded the Paulist Fathers.



Orestes Brownson, a 19th-century Unitarian minister whose religious searching led him to the Catholic Church and a long career as one of the most prominent and influential Catholic laymen in the country.

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Nena Henningsen 602-4972
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Briefly

Scott Hahn to present three talks in Hermitage Sept. 9

HERMITAGE — Dr. Scott Hahn, noted author, speaker, professor and theologian, will present three talks: "The Lamb's Supper," "Letter and Spirit," and "First Comes Love" on Sat., Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage.

The talks will deal with the beauty and power of the Mass as heaven on earth, the richness of Sacred Scripture, and the plan of God for marriage and family life.

Advance tickets are \$10. To order tickets, send a check to Brian Beal, 3580 McConnell Road, Hermitage, Pa. 16148 and include your name and the number of tickets requested. Pre-paid tickets can be picked up at the door. Tickets will be available at the door for \$12. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, call 724.813.3298.



Scott Hahn

Eating disorder support group starting at St. Joseph

ERIE — There will be a support group starting at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie for those who suffer from eating disorders on Tues., Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. The group will be based on principles of NANAD (National Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders) and is free and confidential. For more information, call Joanne at 814.838.9680 and leave a message or call after 2 p.m.

Erie Irish Festival to benefit St. Patrick Parish

ERIE — St. Patrick Parish in Erie is sponsoring its Erie Irish Festival Sept. 15-17 at Rainbow Gardens. The weekend offerings will include Irish music, entertainment and food. The Presque Isle Art Association will be running an art show throughout the weekend. On Saturday the Notre Dame vs. Michigan game will be broadcast on a large-screen TV at the outside pavilion. Sunday will include Irish dance lessons for children. Father Bill Sutherland will celebrate Mass on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with music by the St. Patrick choir. Admission is \$2 or \$3 for a weekend pass. Kids admitted free. Festival hours are as follows:

Fri. Sept. 15 - 5 to 10:30 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 16 - 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 17 - 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Catholic Rural Ministry sponsors reflection day for women in Kane

KANE — A reflection day for women, sponsored by Catholic Rural Ministry, will be held on Sat., Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Callistus Parish Center, 342 Chase St., in Kane. The program, titled "Accepting Self - Our Life's Work," will be presented by Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB.

For more information or to register, call Margaret French at 814.945.6245 or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814.544.8017 or e-mail cm@zitomedia.net. Reservations are due Sept. 20. A donation of \$15 includes lunch and materials.



Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski

Diocesan Boy Scout retreat Sept. 30

HARBORCREEK — The diocesan Boy Scout retreat will be held on Sat., Sept. 30 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek. Sign-ins will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please register with Linda Kuhn at 814.824.1210 or e-mail lkuhn@erieRCD.org. Registrations will be accepted until Sept. 24. Do not allow your Catholic Boy Scouts to miss this day filled with fun, team-building, faith development and great food. Formal invitations are being sent to all Catholic units.



Annual Blue Army rosary march set for Oct. 1

ERIE — 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. 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 with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, investiture of the brown scapular and benediction. Father Jerry Priscaro will be the guest homilist.



FaithLife file photo

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The Reason For Our Hope: Foundation relaunches Web site to better evangelize

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

1 Peter 3:15 says "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

For Father Larry Richards, that reason is Jesus Christ. He wants to share that reason with as many people as possible, and a good way to do that has been through The Reason For Our Hope Foundation.

Father Larry, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, started the foundation nearly two years ago as a way to evangelize nationally and internationally. Through its presence on the Internet, the foundation has been able to reach many people. Now he wants to reach even more.

On Sept. 8, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, the Web site [TheReasonForOurHope.org](http://www.thereasonforourhope.org) will relaunch with all new content.

"My main thing is that we exist to evangelize. My goal always is to bring people to Christ and lead them into a relationship with him," Father Larry

said. "I've tried to help people make that real, to live a life of Christ. The foundation was a way to preach the love of Christ and help people to make that relationship real."

On Friday, Web surfers will get their first chance to peruse the new interactive site. Visitors will be able to download Father Larry's talk, "The Truth," for free. The foundation is hoping to give away 15 million downloads of the hour-long talk within three months. Users will be able to download MP3s, send e-card messages to friends, get some insight on the daily readings, send prayer requests and order CDs and DVDs of 120 of Father Larry's talks such as "The Mass Explained" and "Confession" archived online. The newest talk, "Knowing God's Will," which is about discernment, will be available shortly. There's also a video greeting from Father Larry.

"We wanted to launch it for a bigger audience," said Greg Schlueter, whose company ID Genesis has developed a marketing campaign for the foundation. "A lot of people know the name Jesus Christ but they don't know



www.thereasonforourhope.org will be relaunched on Sept. 8.

Jesus Christ."

The foundation is involved with several Catholic missions, which are detailed on the site. Visitors can also securely make a donation. There is also a link to Relevant Radio, a national Catholic radio network.

"We want people to get to the site and use it as a tool to evangelize their peers," Father Larry said. "We want to reach a whole audience so we can all become disciples of Jesus Christ. The Web is the vehicle we use to help spread the word."

SSJs announce 10th annual Spirit of Courage honorees

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania have announced the 2006 SSJ Spirit of Courage (formerly Courage to Come Back) honorees. They are: Kayla Withers, Michael Adamus, Charles Locke and Cheryl Meyer.

This year's winners will be recognized at the 10th annual SSJ Spirit of Courage dinner that will be held on Tues., Oct. 10 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center. At this year's dinner, special recognition will be given to Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ, who has been an integral part of the SSJ Spirit of Courage event.

The SSJ Spirit of Courage Awards honor individuals who have shown remarkable courage in overcoming adversity. Secondly, the event raises funds to support various ministries and community service projects of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"We're looking for those individuals in our own community who have beaten the odds, who have overcome incredible obstacles and persevered," said Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ. "It's those people - the ordinary people who refused to give up in the face of illness, injury or other adversity - who represent courage in its truest form. They are the heart of The SSJ Spirit of Courage."

Born blind because of an underdeveloped optic nerve, Kayla



Sister Margaret Ann Hardner

Kayla Withers

Michael Adamus

Charles Locke

Cheryl Meyer

Withers never let her blindness stop her from doing anything. A member of the National Honor Society, three bands and a composer of piano compositions, this humble young woman believes she has been blessed because it has allowed her to live her life much differently. This recent graduate of Meadville High School has been a finalist in the National Spelling Bee twice, participated in the National Braille Challenge and attended Space Camp.

Michael Adamus was diagnosed at birth with osteogenesis imperfecta, a disease that affects the entire skeletal structure of the body and leaves bones brittle. His family introduced him to life like any other child. They stopped counting his bone fractures at

40 and watched as he excelled in grade school, high school, college and graduate school. Through dozens of employment setbacks and discrimination instances, he has persevered. He believes, "You just have to trust God's plan."

More than 30 years ago, Charles Locke began to lose his sight. A diagnosis of macular degeneration was given followed in the 1990s by stage III melanoma and prostate cancer detections. With courage, grace, humility and humor, he prides himself on living a "positive life" and is an inspiration to his family and friends.

Cheryl Meyer's medical care for her recurring breast cancer is enough to demonstrate her courage. Add to the mix that her daughter was diagnosed with leu-

kemia, her husband was in a car accident leaving him with brain damage and in a nursing home and she suffers from bi-polar disorder and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Through these and financial setbacks she still believes she is able to make a difference in the lives of her children and others. She says, "If I still have a breath to breathe, I will be doing something and most of all loving my children."

"You just have to trust God's plan."

Michael Adamus

Tickets for this year's dinner are available for \$30 each by contacting Kristina Huber at 814.836.4202. For more information on the SSJ Spirit of Courage dinner, nominations for 2007 or sponsorship opportunities, go to www.ssjerie.org or call 814.836.4202.

Pope discusses Middle East, morality

POPE from page 1

The pope said that although he's never felt strong enough to plan many long trips he would do so if he feels he can "communicate a message." He confirmed that he would visit Brazil next year for a meeting of Latin American bishops, saying his presence there would help "strengthen the hope that's so alive in that part of the world."

Asked why, during a recent visit to Spain, he didn't specifically address hot-button issues like gay marriage or abortion, the pope said he wanted to present a positive message and not overemphasize the negative.

"Christianity, Catholicism, isn't a collection of prohibitions: It's a positive option," he said.

"We've heard so much about what is not allowed that now it's time to say: We have a positive idea to offer, that man and woman are made for each other," and that marriage develops as a "joyful and blessing-filled encounter between a man and a woman," he said.

When the church does oppose social or political developments, he said, it should "say it first in a positive way" and make sure people understand, for example, that marriage between a man and a woman "is not a Catholic invention" but a value shared by all cultures.

The pope said the church's basic challenge in modern society is to try to bridge the gap between technological progress and morality.

"I believe that the real problem of our historical moment lies in the imbalance between the incredibly fast growth of our



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful gathered for recitation of the Angelus at the pontiff's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 20. The pope, reflecting on the 12th-century writings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, said that working too hard was never a good thing — not even for a pope.

technical power and that of our moral capacity, which has not grown in proportion," he said.

"That's why the formation of the human person is the true recipe, the key to it all, I would say, and this is what the church proposes," he said.

He said teaching "know-how" is never enough.

"If we only teach how to build and to use machines and how to use contraceptives, then we shouldn't be surprised when we find ourselves facing wars and AIDS epidemics. Because we need two dimensions: simultaneously we need the formation of the heart," he said.

In the battle against AIDS and other social ills, the pope suggested that the church's role is misrepresented or misunderstood as a negative one.

others. So I think we should correct that image that sees the church as spreading severe 'noes,'" he said.

The pope said a basic problem afflicting Western society was a new wave of secularization and a loss of the sense of the sacred. Some African and Asian cultures, he said, are "horrified" by the West's rational approach and its coldness toward God.

He said the church needs to underline that "believing is beautiful" and show that the Christian faith in the West is an integrating force in society and not part of "the trash of history."

THERE'S MORE
To read the entire interview with Pope Benedict XVI visit www.erieRCD.org

Faith magazine announces 2006 Teen of the Year Awards

TEENS from page 1

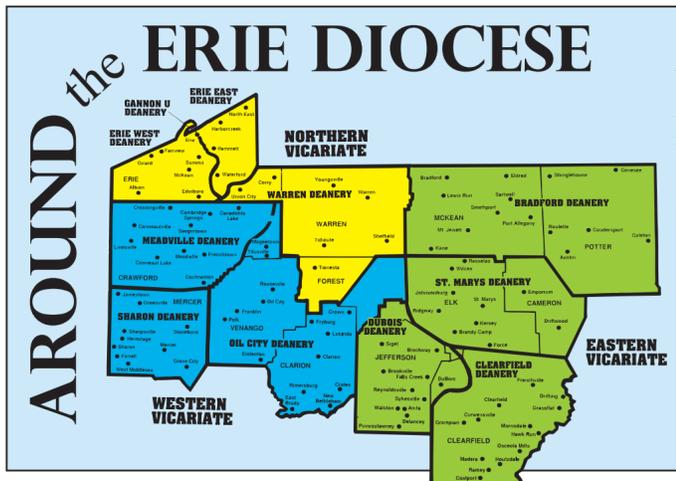
in Nashville last spring.

"The judges commented that our enthusiasm in the teen issue was contagious and that we obviously care for the young people in our audience," said Welsh. "That meant a great deal to us because it's true. And there's no denying they have genuinely inspired and energized us again this year."

Finalists for the Teen of the Year Award include Shannon Berdis of All Saints Parish in Waterford, Leah Bronson of St. Brigid Parish in Meadville, Greg Castiglione of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway, John Hill of St. Jude Parish in Erie, Andy McClaine of St. Eusebius Parish in East Brady and Mary Nientimp, also of St. Jude Parish.

All registered Catholic households in the Erie Diocese receive Faith magazine, free of charge, on a bi-monthly basis. If you are not receiving a copy, please contact Brenda Williams, circulation manager, at 814.824.1160.

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Concerts raise more than \$1,800 for Diocese of Lake Charles, La.



ERIE – Two benefit concerts by the combined choirs of Selah Praise Band from Our Lady of Peace Parish and The Christos from Holy Rosary Parish in Erie raised \$1,883.50 for Hurricane Rita relief. The parish music groups recently held a “Go Make a Difference” concert at each church. The funds have been forwarded to the Diocese of Lake Charles, La., which was severely impacted by the hurricane and continues to work toward recovery.

Benedictines receive grant from Erie Community Foundation

ERIE – The Benedictine Sisters of Erie received the largest grant awarded by the Erie Community Foundation on July 28. The \$100,000 grant will go toward the sisters' Heritage of Hope Capital Campaign's Ministry Fund and will be used for the window replacement project at St. Benedict Education Center and for the construction of new classroom space at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. Accepting the check from Mike Batchelor, executive director of the foundation, from left, are Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress; Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, executive director of the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House;



and Sister Miriam Mashank, OSB, executive director of the St. Benedict Education Center. The sisters were one of 19 grant-recipients from the Erie Community Foundation.

Young People Who Care celebrates 30 years of service



The Community of Anawim (left to right), Sister Karen Willenbring, Sister Therese Dush, Sister Ruth Ann Madera and Sister Suzanne Thibault welcomed scores of former volunteers, neighbors and friends during the 30th anniversary celebration of Young People Who Care in Frenchville Aug. 18-20.

YPWC from page 1
 Line, offering free assistance to pregnant women, parents and infants in need; Bethany Retreat Center for those seeking renewal and a deeper relationship with God and week-long service/leadership programs for teens. Sister Karen Willenbring, M.D., also operates the Susquehanna Rural Free Clinic in Frenchville, a community-based health care clinic for the uninsured.
 The center was founded by a group of middle and high school students from the Sharon area under the direction of Sister Therese Dush, who has since also founded a religious community based at the center. Four sisters

have taken permanent vows as members of the Community of Anawim, which is open to both men and women.
 Anniversary weekend events included a reunion with music and dancing on Friday evening, a day of thanksgiving including the Mass celebrated by Msgr. Kaza with Father Jerry Simmons offering the homily on Saturday and Mass celebrated by Father Edward Walk with Father John Jacquel, homilist, on Sunday. The weekend concluded with a bonfire used to burn the paid-in-full mortgage for one of the center's buildings, the culmination of the first phase in a fundraising drive the center has recently undertaken.

“Today we gather together to ask what the Lord would have us do with the tomorrows of our lives,” Sister Therese said on Sunday morning. In a reflection focused on the future, she announced that among other things, the center plans to develop a youth ministry team and more youth and young adult retreat opportunities; to offer a diverse retreat program at its Bethany Adult Center and to become debt free by 2010. The center also plans to develop its 140 acres with new hermitages and woodland trails and to recommit its efforts to provide direct service for unmet needs in Clearfield County, especially those of teens at risk, the lonely and the marginalized.

Tour of Poland

ERIE – Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie, recently led a group from Erie on a 12-day visit to Poland. The tour included visits to Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin, Erie's sister city. The trip included private Mass celebrations at Poland's most venerated Shrine of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa and at the Shrine of St. Stanislaus; a private meeting with the Archbishop of Lublin; personal guided tour of Catholic University in Lublin and visits to Pope John Paul II's boyhood home and Majdanek Concentration Camp.



Msgr. Urbaniak's group is welcomed to the modern St. Andrew Boboli Church by Pastor Jerzy Wazny and its artist/architect Mr. Baginski who shared with the group his inspiration for design.



The tour ended with a dinner reception hosted by the mayor of Lublin and a visit with the Sisters at Holy Family of Nazareth Convent.

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