

## Enflamed by the Spirit

17th annual Catholic Charismatic Conference Oct. 5-6, page 3.



# FaithLife

## Blue Mass

St. Luke honors those in uniform, remembers Sept. 11, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 30, 2007

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Therese of the Child Jesus



St. Hedwig

Oct. 1	St. Therese of the Child Jesus
Oct. 2	The Guardian Angels
Oct. 4	St. Francis of Assisi
Oct. 6	St. Bruno, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
Oct. 9	St. Denis and his companions, St. John Leonardi
Oct. 15	St. Teresa of Jesus
Oct. 16	St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
Oct. 17	St. Ignatius of Antioch
Oct. 18	St. Luke
Oct. 19	Ss. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and their companions
Oct. 20	St. Paul of the Cross
Oct. 23	St. John of Capistrano
Oct. 24	St. Anthony Mary Claret

### Confirmation schedule

St. Mark, Emporium – Sunday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m.  
Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Sunday, Oct. 21 at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Timothy, Curwensville – Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bonaventure, Grampian, and St. Timothy, Curwensville

### Deirdre McQuade lecture at Clarion University – Oct. 9

Deirdre McQuade, spokesperson for the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference on Life Issues, will speak at Clarion University's Hart Chapel on Tuesday, October 9, at 7:30 p.m. The talk will be entitled, "Roe Reality Check: Taking A Second Look at Abortion."



Deirdre McQuade

Currently serving as the director of planning and information for the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, McQuade has been invited by Students for Life at Clarion University, thanks to a generous grant from the Immaculate Conception Council of the Knights of Columbus.

### 13th annual Erie Diocesan Rosary March – Oct. 14

The 13th annual rosary march, sponsored by the Erie Diocese's World Apostolate of Fatima, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 14 beginning at 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The intentions of this year's devotion will be in celebration of the 90th year of the Fatima apparitions and the 60th anniversary of the World Apostolate of Fatima. Other intentions include the increase in religious vocations.

The rosary procession will extend through the downtown area before returning to the cathedral. For those unable to participate in the march, the rosary will also be recited in the church.

Those participating in the march should report north of the cathedral no later than 2 p.m. for formation of the march. Groups may bring their flags or banners. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside the church.

The guest homilist is Father Edward Krause, STD, Ph. D., who is an assistant professor of theology at Gannon University and administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Erie.

The program also includes exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

### 150th anniversary of St. Boniface parish and school

St. Boniface in Erie is celebrating the 150th anniversary of both the parish and school. Both were founded in 1857.

Anniversary events include:

- An all-parish, all-family garage sale on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the parish's Coleman Center
- Forty Hours Oct. 21, 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m.
- Anniversary auction Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in Coleman Center, doors open at 6
- Mass with Bishop Donald Trautman at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28 followed by lunch

## Respect Life Sunday honors children as a gift, blessing

### Annual program also focuses on spectrum of Catholic life issues

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

Respect Life Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday in October, annually kicks off the year-long Respect Life Program sponsored by the U.S. bishops.

Since its inception in 1972, the country's Catholic bishops have concentrated on all aspects of respecting life: abortion, euthanasia, marriage and family life, capital punishment, poverty, immigration issues, chastity, natural family planning, post-abortion healing and reconciliation, the culture of life, biotechnology, children, teens, persons with disabilities, the elderly, those who are dying and more.

This year's theme has a single focus. "The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy" is taken from Luke 1:41-45 during Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

"The Old and New Testaments are filled with such passages extolling children as gift and blessing," according to the introduction of the U.S. bishops' campaign. "It is disheartening, then, to see how far our culture has diverged from this view. To be sure, most parents love their children generously and even unconditionally. But today the inherent, priceless value of every child—as a unique individual created and loved by God—is no longer universally accepted. Before birth at least, a child's worth seems to depend on his (or her) parents' attitude toward him (or her)."

Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Catholic Charities' Respect Life Office, said it was interesting to see a large focus of this year's campaign on children and infants.

"But then it dawned on me that January of '08 will be 35 years of the outcome of Roe v. Wade in our country," Landini-Grogan said.

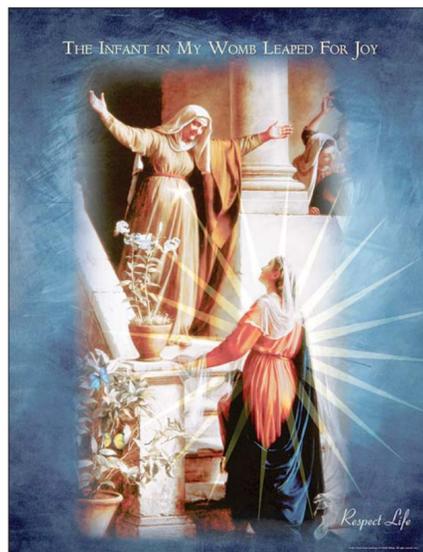
That, coupled with the fact that embryonic stem cell research is a hot topic, she said, seems to bring about a natural focus.

"I think there's a good reason why the theme is very prevalent," she said. "One of Catholic Charities' agencies that has had quite an impact in helping people respect life is its Counseling and Adoption Services. One of its programs is Project WIN, which stands for Women in Need. Project WIN is aimed at encouraging individuals who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy to choose life through parenting or adoption."

"We help them make an informed decision whether to parent or to place in adoption," said Bob McCroney, director of Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services.

McCroney said Project WIN is part of a larger state program called Real Alternative to Abortion.

The agency works with both the birth mother and pregnant women or parents of young children regardless



The theme for Respect Life Sunday is taken from Luke 1:41-45 during Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

provides free testing for pregnancy, supportive counseling and material assistance to

See RESPECT LIFE, page 4

## U.S. poverty down slightly, but Americans with no health insurance up

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans living in poverty went down slightly last year, according to the Census Bureau's annual report, but the number of uninsured Americans rose a bit.

The dip in the poverty rate — the first this decade — brought the percentage of Americans living in poverty from 12.6 percent in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2006. The number of people in poverty — 36.5 million — was "not statistically different" from 2005 levels, the Census Bureau said in an announcement. The child poverty rate stayed the same, at 17.4 percent, while the poverty rates for adults and senior citizens declined. Both the number and percentage of Americans without health insurance rose from year-to-year levels — from 44.8 million to 47 million, and from 15.3 percent uninsured to

15.8 percent. The number of uninsured children increased from 8 million, or 10.9 percent in 2005, to 8.7 million, or 11.7 percent, last year.

"Catholic Charities USA is extremely troubled that the number of uninsured, including children, continues to increase," said Father Larry Snyder, the organization's president, in a statement issued shortly after the numbers were released. "We firmly believe that there is no excuse for any child in our nation to go without access to health care, which is critically important to the well-being and development of all children."

In a separate statement, Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, decried the fact that "in a supposedly strong economy, millions of people are still struggling for life's basic necessities, including health care."

"Whether we are talking about children, minorities, or middle-class parents working

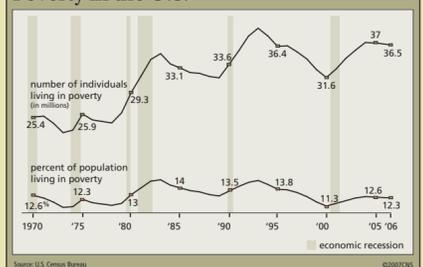
hard to provide for their families, millions of people are being left out of our health care system," she added. "This is unforgivable and embarrassing for our nation."

The increase in the number of uninsured Americans coincided with a dip in the percentage of people who have private health insurance. In 2005, 65.8 percent had private health insurance; in 2006, 64.8 percent did.

Texas led with 24.1 percent of its residents uninsured. Minnesota was lowest with 8.3 percent of its residents uninsured. As of 2006, more than one-third of all Hispanics, and one-fifth of all African-Americans, lacked health insurance.

While household income increased — by 0.7 percent in 2006 — for the second year in a row, American income has yet to match its 1999 peak, said David Johnson, head of the Census Bureau's Household and Household Statistics Division, during an Aug. 28 teleconference.

### Poverty in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Even though household income is up, individuals' earnings are lower. The disparity, Johnson said, is "mainly driven by the fact that there are more full-time, year-round workers in the country."

"Any time the poverty rate decreases, we should celebrate," Father Snyder said in his statement. "However, we must never lose sight of the fact that in one of the world's wealthiest nations, 36.5 million people living in poverty, including 12.8 million chil-

dren, continue to struggle to make ends meet."

Among large cities of 250,000 or more population, the highest poverty rates were recorded in Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami, St. Louis and Buffalo, N.Y. The lowest percentage of people in poverty in big cities was in Plano, Texas.

The annual report by the Census Bureau includes details on every metropolitan area of at least 65,000 and takes in every congressional district.

## PET Blessings

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, is celebrated October 4. 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.

St. Brigid, Meadville  
Sunday, September 30 at 12:30 p.m. at church entrance

Our Lady of Peace, Erie  
Thursday, October 4 at 2:15 in school parking lot. In case of inclement weather, blessing will be in gym.

St. Callistus, Kane  
Thursday, October 4 at 6 p.m. on the lawn behind rectory. In case of inclement weather, blessing will be in parish social hall.

St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois  
Thursday, October 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro  
Sunday, October 7 at 1 p.m. outside parish social hall

Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake  
Sunday, October 7 at 1 p.m. in church parking lot

St. Bonaventure, Grampian  
Sunday, October 7 at 9:15 a.m. at parish center

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield  
Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m. in church parking lot

St. Leo, Ridgway  
Sunday, October 7 at 1 p.m. in front yard of church

St. Titus, Titusville  
Sunday, October 7 at 12:30 p.m. at church. Treats for pets and a small gift for owners

Holy Rosary, Erie  
Sunday, October 14 at 1 p.m. in parking lot next to church. In case of inclement weather, blessing will be in gym.

For more information on St. Francis of Assisi, visit [www.americancatholic.org/features/francis](http://www.americancatholic.org/features/francis) by St. Anthony Messenger for Franciscan features, stories and spirituality.

## John Michael Talbot brings his music ministry to Erie

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

On his tour bus recently, John Michael Talbot listened to John Rutter's Requiem and was almost moved to tears.

"When I went into the church at the next stop, just dipping my hand in holy water was a profound experience," Talbot said. "Genuflecting in front of the Blessed Sacrament was a profound experience."

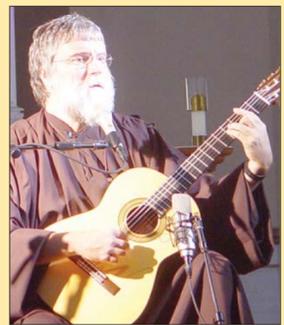
Talbot said Rutter's piece awakened in him a sense of awe and the eternal.

"Good sacred music is able to do that," he said. "It is a sacramental, in a sense, in that it's mysterious. Melodies, tones evoke realities that are beyond mental understanding or description."

And what Rutter's music does for Talbot, Talbot's music does for others. Talbot, the Catholic singer, guitarist, internationally known recording artist and founder of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity, a secular third order monastic community, made a stop on his latest tour playing to a full crowd Sept. 20 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The concert was sponsored by Mount Calvary, St. Jude and St. Peter Cathedral parishes and Hofmann's Church and Religious Goods.

The tour is in promotion of his 50th recording, "Living Water," which was released Aug. 15. After doing two elec-



John Michael Talbot

tric records, Talbot said he felt it was time to get back to his roots.

"When the 50th recording came around, I wanted to do something that went back to the tradition that people expect from me, which is kind of neo-classical, folk, sacred songs," Talbot said. "But I also wanted to do something new."

Some of the songs on "Living Water," such as "You Have Drawn Near," were written 15 years ago and have been recorded for the first time. "Lord Send Forth Your Spirit" is a piece Talbot said he's used for the Easter Vigil at his community's Little Portion Hermitage in

See TALBOT, page 3



## IN THE U.S.

■ The U.S. government should provide resettlement aid for 25,000 Iraqi refugees in the next fiscal year, 10 times the number expected to arrive by the end of the year, said one recommendation of a new report by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Iraqi refugee crisis in the Middle East. "Iraqi refugees with relatives in the United States should be considered for U.S. resettlement on the basis of family reunification, dropping the requirement that they enter as refugees or migrants," said the report, "Escaping Mayhem and Murder: Iraqi Refugees in the Middle East." The report, issued Sept. 10 in Washington, was based on a seven-member USCCB fact-finding mission undertaken July 2-13. Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria currently host an estimated 2 million Iraqi refugees.



Iraqi refugees wait for assistance in the Caritas office in Amman, Jordan.

■ Calling human trafficking "a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person," Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., said the Catholic bishops "pledge to use the resources of the church to help end this affliction. We also pledge to use our teaching authority to educate Catholics and others about human trafficking," said Bishop Barnes, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. "As many as 700,000 persons are trafficked globally each year," the bishop said, including an estimated 17,500 trafficked each year into the United

States. Human trafficking, Bishop Barnes said, is "a modern-day form of slavery, and it is the largest manifestation of slavery today."

## AROUND THE WORLD

■ A meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir ended with hopes that upcoming peace talks for Darfur would "put an end to the suffering and insecurity" in that region, said the Vatican. In a statement following the pope's Sept. 14 meeting with al-Bashir, the Vatican said expectations were high that peace talks between the Sudanese government and the Darfur region's rebel leaders in Libya Oct. 27 would guarantee that humanitarian assistance would get to those in need and would lead to the start of rebuilding and development in the region.

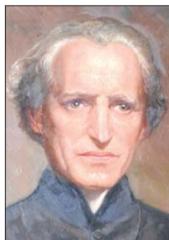
■ An international liturgical committee that advises the Vatican reported progress in its work on the new English translation of the Mass. After meeting at the Vatican Sept. 2-6, the Vox Clara Committee said it hoped the English translation of the Roman Missal would be completed and approved by the end of 2009. It was the first time a specific date had been anticipated for the completion of the lengthy project. The third edition of the Roman Missal was promulgated in Latin by Pope John Paul II in 2002, and work on the English translation began soon afterward.

■ Pope Benedict XVI said that although the Sept. 11 terror attacks "darkened the dawn of the third millennium," God's mercy is still stronger than evil. The pope made the remarks Sept. 16 during a Sunday blessing. The pope spoke about divine mercy as illustrated in Gospel parables, especially shown to those who "stray from the right

path." In our time, he said, "humanity needs the mercy of God to be proclaimed and witnessed with vigor." He said his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, had been an "apostle of divine mercy" and understood its importance for the modern world. "After the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, which darkened the dawn of the third millennium, he (Pope John Paul) invited Christians and people of good will to believe that the mercy of God is stronger than any evil, and that only in the cross of Christ is found the salvation of the world," he said.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ The founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Basile-Antoine Marie Moreau, was beatified Sept. 15 in a liturgy in his home Diocese of Le Mans, France. Blessed Moreau established two Holy Cross societies — one for men and one for women — as missionary congregations of educators in the mid-1800s. Among the schools operated by the Holy Cross family is the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. In 1840, he sent Holy Cross missionaries to Algeria, and in 1841 a group went to the United States. In 1847, Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters arrived in Canada. Blessed Moreau was known for his dedication to unity, his trust in divine providence and his zeal for the order's educational mission. In his book, "Christian Pedagogy," he spoke of the importance of educating both heart and mind and of preparing "citizens for heaven" as well as citizens for this world. Today, there are 1,670 Holy Cross priests and brothers working on four continents.



Father Basile-Antoine Marie Moreau

## By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

In honor of the 90th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to the three shepherd children at Fatima, a goal of 1,000 or more public rosary rallies has been set to take place across the country on Saturday, Oct. 13. One of these rallies will take place in Mercer County, with Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage as the designated site.

This gathering will take place by the Blessed Mother statue in the church garden. The rally will begin at 11:30 a.m., and the ceremony is expected to finish at noon. A small procession will take place at the end, and all children attending will be asked to participate. Those attending will receive a blessed medal. In addition, Our Lady of Fatima rosaries will be available for a small donation. For questions or more information, contact Tina Scoccia at 724.962.3231.

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting an order-wide "BLITZ" program in parishes throughout the diocese on the weekend of Oct. 6-7. The purpose of the program is to provide information about the Knights to families and collect as many prospective member's names and telephone numbers as possible.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic organization with more than 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Central America and Poland. Last year, the Knights gave more than \$139 million in charitable and benevolent contributions. Along with the charitable giving, they volunteered more than 64 million hours in service to the church and local communities.

The Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association will present a Rat Pack tribute show—including Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.—on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 3 p.m. at Erie's Warner Theater. Proceeds from the show, which is direct from Las Vegas, will benefit Msgr. James Peterson's Maria House Project. Maria House provides housing, second chances and a taste of community life for men who are working hard to re-establish themselves after drug or alcohol addiction, which in many cases has led to time in prison. Reserved seating is \$25. For tickets, call Ticketmaster at 814.456.7070.

"Faithful Servants," a special edition of *FaithLife* honoring the sisters and priests of the Erie Diocese celebrating jubilee anniversaries, will arrive in parishes the weekend of Oct. 13-14. The stories about this year's jubilarians are truly inspirational. The next regularly scheduled issue of *FaithLife* will hit parishes Oct. 28.

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

## Vatican says food, water must be provided to vegetative patients



By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In a brief document approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican said it was generally a moral obligation to provide food and water to patients in a vegetative state.

Nutrition and hydration, even by artificial means, cannot simply be terminated because doctors have determined that a person will never recover consciousness, the Vatican said Sept. 14.

Exceptions may occur when patients are unable to assimilate food and water or in the "rare" cases when nutrition and hydration become excessively burdensome for the patient, it said.

The text was prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the form of a response to questions raised by the U.S. bishops' conference. It was signed by U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the

doctrinal congregation, and approved by the pope before publication.

The congregation's document strongly reaffirmed points made by Pope John Paul II in a landmark speech in 2004, when he said nutrition and hydration, even by "artificial" means such as feeding tubes, should generally be considered ordinary care and not extraordinary medical treatment.

That was a key point, because the church teaches that "extraordinary" means of treatment for unresponsive patients can sometimes be discontinued.

The late pope's speech prompted questions in the theological and medical communities, and the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine submitted questions to the congregation in 2005 to clarify the issues.

After a lengthy study, the congregation released its responses to two basic questions. First, it said, administering food and water to a patient in a vegetative state is morally obligatory "to the extent to which, and for as

## Nutrition text not a ruling on specific cases: official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican's document saying it is a moral obligation to provide hydration and nutrition for individuals in a vegetative state is not meant to adjudicate specific cases but to provide moral guidelines, said an official with the U.S. bishops' pro-life secretariat.

The brief Vatican document approved by Pope Benedict XVI "doesn't directly answer" some specific questions that might arise in specific cases, said Richard M. Doerflinger, deputy director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. The debate surrounding end-of-life issues "is a debate that goes far more broadly than any one case," he said. Giving the example of documents that were released in 1992, 1998 and 2004, Doerflinger said the debate "has been going on for years."

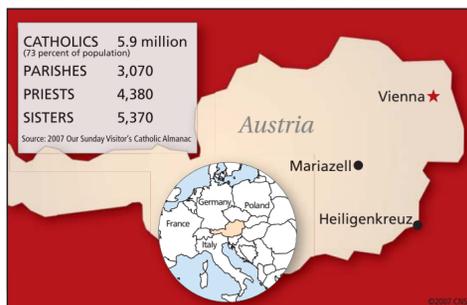
The outcomes of individual circumstances, such as that of Terri Schiinder Schiavo, "depend on disputes of facts" involved in the cases, he said. For example, he said, there were debates on whether or not Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who died in March 2005 after a court ordered her feeding tube be removed, was in a persistent vegetative state.

The U.S. bishops refer people to the local Catholic Church when such issues arise, he said.

long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient."

"In this way suffering and death by starvation and dehydration are prevented," it said. Second, the congregation said it was not morally acceptable to discontinue such care even when physicians judge that the patient will never regain consciousness.

## In Austria, pope sticks to core themes of Christian values



By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VIENNA, Austria — On a three-day pilgrimage to Austria, Pope Benedict XVI brought a core theme of his pontificate to Central Europe, warning that a drift away from Christian values is leaving society unfulfilled, less charitable and without a real future.

Although the pope's events during the Sept. 7-9 visit were low-key, his message was not.

To diverse audiences of Catholic faithful, politicians, church ministers and volunteers, he argued that Europe risks adopting a godless vision that will inevitably lead to a spiritual, social and demographic dead end.

One of the pope's most telling speeches came in Vienna on the first day of his trip, when he addressed a group that included scores of international diplomats

and representatives. Instead of covering the usual list of global trouble spots, the pope made a strong pro-life appeal, zeroing in on the problems of abortion and euthanasia.

Beyond the moral issue of the taking of innocent life, the pope raised a wider question: whether Europe, with its low birth rate and rapidly aging population, is "giving up on itself."

His sermon at Mariazell also focused on the modern tensions among religious truth, interreligious sensitivity and the fear of intolerance. It's an issue he raised a year ago in Regensburg, Germany, in a speech that drew criticism because of comments about Islam.

This time, the pope avoided specific remarks about other religions, but insisted that the church can and must proclaim Christ as the universal savior.

**St. Stanislaus Church**  
**Annual Parish Day**  
Sunday, October 7, Noon-6pm  
Parish Hall: 520 E.13 St. (handicap accessible)

**"Polish Platter Dinner"**  
(includes kielbasa, gołąbki, pierogi, and more)  
Homemade czarnina and noodles for sale as takeout  
Adults: \$8, Children 6-12: \$3.50, 5 and under: FREE

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## Briefly

### Theology on Tap returns to The Brewerie at Union Station on Wednesdays in October

ERIE — *Theology on Tap* is returning to The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. in Erie, on the first four Wednesdays of October at 7 p.m.

Are you looking for fellowship with other Catholic young adults? Do you sometimes feel as if you are the only Catholic out there between 21 and 40? Do you just feel like you are missing out on something in life? The Erie Catholic Young Adult Ministries would like to invite all young adults, single or married, to its second *Theology on Tap* lecture series where the hustle and bustle of life meets Christ.

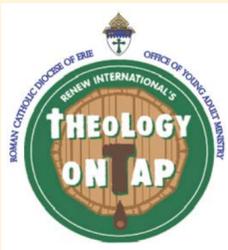
The theme for this four-speaker series is "Living Love in a Complex World." The weekly schedule includes gathering at 7 p.m., the speaker's presentation at 7:30, discussion at 8 and social at 8:30. This series is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

■ Oct. 3: Inter-Faith Relationships with Dr. Dave Roncolato. Dave is the director of community service and service learning at Allegheny College. He holds a doctorate in theology and is a lifelong Catholic. Dave is happily married and has four children with his wife, Sarah, who is an ordained United Methodist minister.

■ Oct. 10: The Religions of Abraham with Dr. Thomas Forsthoefel. Dr. Forsthoefel is the chair of the Religious Studies Department at Mercyhurst College and specializes in world religions. Learn about the major religions which trace their roots from the Biblical figure, Abraham—Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

■ Oct. 17: Centering Prayer and Meditation with Sister Mary Ann White, SSJ. Sister Mary Ann works with adolescent girls at Gannondale and doubles as a youth minister and spiritual director. She will offer some insights into prayers of centering and meditation.

■ Oct. 24: The Catholic Approach to Scripture with Father Jason Glover. Father Glover is a professor at Gannon University who recently completed his licentiate in Sacred Theology. He will talk about God's book of loving self-communication—the Bible—a book which serves to both unite and divide many.



### Fall cleanup for Erie Diocesan Cemeteries

All potted plants, empty pots and containers must be removed from Trinity, Calvary, Gate of Heaven and Mary, Queen of Peace Cemeteries for the winter by October 31. Winter decorations and holiday wreaths are permitted through April. Your assistance and kindness will help keep the cemetery grounds clean, safe and beautiful during the winter months. Winter visiting hours are 8 a.m. until sunset through March 31.



### World Mission Sunday – Oct. 21

By baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the church, called to share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America. The funds from this special collection gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society.

To find out what happens to your World Mission Sunday donation, visit [www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org/spof](http://www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org/spof) and click on "World Mission Sunday."



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## Arms and spirits high, charismatic Catholics mark 40 years of praise

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

For most organizations, 40 wouldn't be a big anniversary calling for special celebrations. In the Catholic charismatic renewal, however, 40 is taking on biblical importance.

The number 40 appears in the Bible nearly 200 times. For 40 years the Israelites wandered in search of the Promised Land; for 40 days Jesus prayed in the desert; Pentecost came 40 days after Jesus' resurrection.

Sister Gerry Olon, SSJ, believes that God might have a similarly dramatic action in mind to mark 40 years of the Catholic charismatic renewal.

"Charismatic renewal is a grace for the whole church," said Sister Gerry, executive director of the Erie Diocese's Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center. "It's not for a particular group; it's the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and the church needs that empowerment."

With many conferences around the world this year marking the anniversary, Word of Life is sponsoring the 17th annual Erie Catholic Charismatic Conference Oct. 5-6 at St. Mark Catholic Center.

There is a transformation that takes place when people receive the Holy Spirit, Sister Gerry said. And for those that have questions about Catholic charismatic renewal, she shares with them her own experience.

Raised by devout Catholic parents, she spent 12 years in Catholic schools. In high school she attended Mass and was a daily communicant. She entered the convent, made her vows and began teaching.

### 17th Annual Erie Catholic Charismatic Conference

"Be Enflamed by the Fire of the Spirit"

Sponsored by Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

October 5 & 6

at St. Mark Catholic Center  
429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie

Music by "Shalom" with Bart Foradora and friends

Featured speakers are:

Gene Kobal — director of evangelization, adult education and small groups at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie

Theresa Ann Walkiewicz — spiritual director to women, involved in small groups for 30 years, member of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie

Conference runs Friday evening from 6:30-9:45 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Conference fee is \$25 and includes a book, plus \$5 for optional lunch.



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For a detailed conference schedule, to register or for more information, contact the Word of Life Center at 814.824.1268. Make checks payable to Word of Life Center and send to: Word of Life Renewal Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie PA 16514

"I thought I had it all," she said. "I had all the sacraments that I could receive."

After being in the convent for 20 years, she attended a Life in the Spirit seminar in St. Marys. At the seminar, she said she prayed for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to be released in her life.

"It changed my whole life," she said. "The Scriptures became alive for me. The prayers at Mass were so beautiful. As many times I had been at Mass, I never realized how powerful they were. I was awakened to all of this with new eyes. It was a whole new experience."

Forty years ago, with the country in upheaval over the Vietnam War and the church

grappling with the changes prescribed by the Second Vatican Council, a dozen or so Catholic students and teachers at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh came away from a retreat saying their lives had been changed. About half of the two dozen Duquesne retreatants felt a call in the middle of the night to go to the chapel. There they had an overwhelming spiritual experience that they came to describe as having been "baptized in the Holy Spirit." Their enthusiasm soon spread to other U.S. college campuses and parishes as well as around the world.

See CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE, page 4

## John Michael Talbot brings his music ministry to Erie

TALBOT from page 1

Berryville, Ark., for a few years. Others such as "Kyrie" are new.

"We used a lot of different orchestrations on this album," Talbot said. "It's a cross section of straight ahead songs and some that are between impressionism and minimalism, like 'Born Again.'"

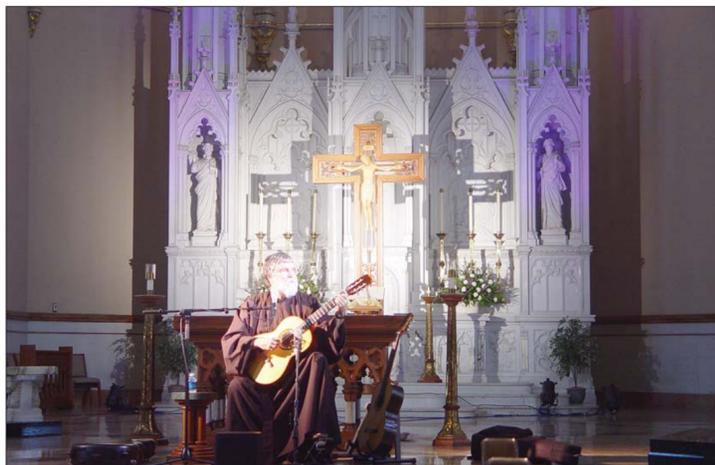
When asked what he likes best about playing live, Talbot said, "All of it, from the acoustics of the room to interacting with the audience. You can feel the audience. You can tell whether they're with you or not."

For the past 15 years, he has performed in four concert tours a year, traveling back and forth across the country numerous times and also visiting Europe.

When he's home at the hermitage, he spends three days a week in his leadership capacity. He said the community has been understanding, also, in letting him take three days a week in strict reclusion.

"It's an ancient form of hermitism, particularly found in monasticism," he said. "As leader of the community, I'm not only drawn to it but I also want to lead the way there, so that other members, if they've been so led, can move into that experience of Christian reclusion."

In the world of Christian mu-



John Michael Talbot performs at St. Peter Cathedral on Sept. 20.

sic, Talbot said, his music in general is unique because he does not follow the trends of popular music.

Instead, he listens to a variety of music — from chant to rock 'n' roll — and then sits down with his guitar and "the music that comes out is the music that comes out," he said.

While Talbot said he will take a break after the current tour, he'll continue with his music ministry under certain criteria.

"Basically, my approach to making music is I'll keep doing it as long as God gives me the songs and people want to hear it," he said. "And if God stops giving me the songs, that'll be it. And if people no longer want to hear

it, I'll write them but may not put them out."

Judging from the success of this latest tour and the crowd's reaction at St. Peter Cathedral, the later part is something Talbot doesn't have to worry about.

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**Parish correspondents**

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**FaithLife@ErieRCD.org**

**Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB, makes perpetual monastic profession**

ST. MARYS — On August 11, Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB, made her perpetual monastic profession before a full chapel at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, officially joining the community of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County.

Sister John Paul's ceremony included the rite of sprinkling as a reminder of baptismal vows, the lighting of the Paschal candle; proclaiming the monastic profession with Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County, and signing a copy of the profession.

The ceremony concluded with the sisters giving Sister John Paul the kiss of peace, a sign of acceptance into the Benedictine community.

The Mass was celebrated by priests of the St. Marys area including Father Stephen Schreiber, Father Frank Ziemkiewicz, OSB, Father Meinrad Lawson, OSB, Father Daniel Wolfel, OSB, Father Michael Ferrick and Father



Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB, signs her profession while Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County, looks on.

James Faluszczyk.

In 1842, the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County were the first Benedictine monastic community established in the United States. Today there are 21 sisters who

serve in a variety of ministries including care giving, education, music, art and ceramics, gardening and recycling. The sisters also run Trifles and Treasures, a gift shop at St. Joseph Monastery.

**Gannon University opens year with Mass of the Holy Spirit**

ERIE—On Oct. 6, the Gannon University community welcomed the new academic year during the Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrated at Friendship Green, located outside Gannon's Waldron Campus Center. Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated the Mass, along with Father Jason Glover (right), who is an instructor in the university's Theology Department and an assistant with University Mission and Ministry.

Gannon's fall enrollment is the largest since 1992. 4,134 students are enrolled for the 2007-08 academic year, which includes 1,405 graduate students, which is Gannon's largest graduate student enrollment ever. The 2007 freshman class includes 613 students, which marks the third consecutive year the first-year class has topped 600 students.



**Blue Mass at St. Luke honors those in uniform**

ERIE—Fire trucks, ambulances and police cars filled the parking lot of St. Luke Parish in Erie on Sept. 9, but there was no emergency.

The John Mark Gannon Assembly of the Knights of Columbus sponsored a Blue Mass at the church to honor those in uniform and to remember those who gave their lives Sept. 11, 2001 to help others.

Firefighters, police and EMS workers gathered in uniform and were led in procession by the Knights of Columbus. The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Tom Snyderwine, chaplain for the Erie Fire Dept. and pastor of St. Luke, and Msgr. Dan Arnold, friar of the 4th



Msgr. Tom Snyderwine offers a blessing to those in uniform while officers, firefighters and EMS workers stand in prayer.

degree assembly. The Blue Mass—referring to the blue uniforms worn by many public safety and law enforcement agencies—began on Sept.

29, 1934, the feast of St. Michael, patron of police officers, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where officers attended Mass in their blue uniforms.

**Mock trial finds students worthy of confirmation**



Pictured from left to right: (front row) students Ashlee Fye, Jolene Wesesky, Senior High Religious Education Director Shelly Cowder, confirmation class teacher Jessica Bisko, (back row) Judge Paul Cherry, students Theron Bisko, Nicholas Zimmerman, Michael Folmar, Timothy White and acting Judge Father Samuel Bungo. Missing from photo is student Brittney Orwick.

DRIFTING — As part of the confirmation class requirements at St. Severin Parish in Drifting and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Grassflat, students were taught to know their Catholic faith well enough to be able to defend it and explain why they are Catholic. Students were placed "on trial" to see if there was enough evidence to convict them of be-

ing Catholic and worthy of being confirmed, said Jerome Nevling, religious education teacher for the confirmation class.

Clearfield County Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Cherry and Acting Judge Father Samuel Bungo presided over the trial held at St. Severin parish hall in Drifting. The students were placed on the witness stand and

questioned by the prosecution (teachers Jerome Nevling and Jessica Bisko) about their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Parents and parishioners attended as jury members, and at the end of the trial found the students all guilty of being practicing Catholics, allowing them to proceed with confirmation from Bishop Donald Trautman.

**Charismatic Catholics mark 40 years of praise**

CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE from page 3

What was initially called Catholic Pentecostalism has evolved into a global Catholic charismatic renewal movement with an estimated 3 million members in the United States, according to the Council on Faith in Action, a Latino evangelical organization, and perhaps hundreds of millions worldwide, involved in a wide range of ethnic, national, community-based and program-based organizations. Life in the Spirit seminars, covenant communities, parish missions and healing or

retreat ministries are among the tendrils of the far-reaching, loosely defined charismatic renewal.

Several of those Duquesne students came to the Erie Diocese for large seminars. Over the years, those larger gatherings have given way to smaller parish groups, Sister Gerry said.

Charismatics are known for their impassioned expressions of praise—arms and voices raised, eyes closed, bodies swaying peacefully or trembling with tears.

"I know a lot of people get concerned about the charisms, especially speaking in tongues,"

Sister Gerry said. "That scares a lot of people. But they don't understand that that is a very beautiful prayer language you receive when you receive the release of the Holy Spirit. When we don't know how to pray or what to say, our English language is so inadequate that we allow the Holy Spirit to speak through us. It's nothing scary. You can decide when you want to speak and when you want to stop. It's not like you're being taken over by any power or anything."

She said all the charismatic charisms are important to the church because they are needed

to minister to one another and to pray in such a way to receive revelation from God.

"We pray for healing and discernment," Sister Gerry said. "With everything today, what we read, what we hear—is it of God or not? That's a really important gift."

Another hallmark of charismatics is praise and worship.

"Sometimes it's just nice to enjoy the presence of God and to worship him for who he is, not for what he could give me," Sister Gerry said.

Catholic News Service contributed

**Respect Life Sunday honors children as a gift, blessing**

RESPECT LIFE from page 1

of income levels. "We've had individuals come in and one of the questions we ask them is are they considering an abortion," McCreary said. "In some cases the mother is thinking about that but though the support of the agency has decided against it."

In 2006, there were 700 individuals who used Project WIN's services for the first time in the Erie Diocese. Counseling and Adoptions Services has offices located in Bradford, Clarion, Clearfield, DuBois, Erie, Greenville, Grove City, Meadville, Oil City, St. Marys, Sharon and Warren.

"We're very respectful toward the clients in all of our programs, whether it's Project WIN or drug and alcohol counseling, we do

not make a judgment on them," McCreary said. "We have to remember that God is present in each an every one of us."

Every year since the Supreme Court handed down its decision which legalized abortion, pro-lifers have gathered in Washington on the anniversary of the court's ruling. The next March for Life, scheduled for January 22, 2008, marks the 35th anniversary of that decision. This year's theme is "Build Unity on the Life Principles throughout America. No Exception! No Compromise!"

There is already a steady outpouring, particularly from youth, who are already making plans to attend.

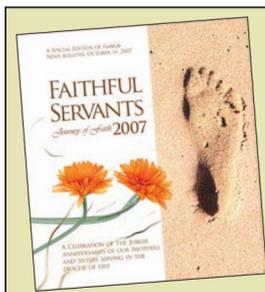
"We have a lot of groups throughout the diocese that go every year," said Greg Baker, director of the diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry. "What's nice is that there are a variety of

groups, some of which are family based, which I really like. People can go with their own parish or youth group. It's nice to have those pockets of groups go from all areas of our diocese."

The feedback Baker said he's received shows that marchers are opened up to the idea of the

broad spectrum of people uniting in the cause of supporting life on the abortion issue.

"We also try to encourage people to show others the full Catholic spectrum of life issues, from capital punishment to how we treat the poor to end of life issues."



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