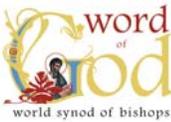


Leading more people to read the Bible, page 2.



Four new principals named for 2008-09 school year, page 4.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Peter Claver Our Lady of Sorrows

- 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 St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian
- Sept. 17 St. Robert Bellarmine
- Sept. 19 St. Januarius
- Sept. 20 St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and their companions
- Sept. 21 Catechetical Sunday

Confirmation schedule

Sacred Heart, Erie — Sunday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Andrew, Erie, and Sacred Heart.

St. John the Evangelist, Girard — Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.

St. Michael, Emlenton — Saturday, Sept. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Opening Masses of the Holy Spirit — Sept. 11

Gannon University and Mercyhurst College will host their traditional Opening Masses of the Holy Spirit, marking the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year for students, faculty and school communities.

Bishop Donald Trautman will preside at Mass at 11 a.m. on Sept. 11 at Gannon's Friendship Green.

Father Jim Piszker, chaplain of Mercyhurst, will celebrate Mass at 11:10 a.m. on Sept. 11 at the college's Christ the King Chapel.

Prince of Peace Center 25th anniversary celebration — Sept. 11

The Prince of Peace Center in Farrell is celebrating 25 years of operation as a faith-based source of support for the poor and marginalized in the Shenango Valley. To commemorate this accomplishment, the center's board of directors is hosting a dinner at the Avalon Country Club at Buhl Park in Sharon at 6 p.m. on Sept. 11. This celebration will be the center's only major fundraiser for the year.

For information on event tickets, levels of sponsorship or commemorative program advertising information, contact the Prince of Peace Center at 724.346.5777

30th anniversary Mass for Avila House, Union City — Sept. 15

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a 30th anniversary Mass for Avila Retreat House at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15 at the center located at 61 E. High St., Union City.

175th anniversary Mass at St. Bonaventure, Grampian — Sept. 21

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a 175th anniversary Mass for St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m.

There was a Catholic community, mostly Irish immigrants, in and around Grampian Hills as early as the 1830s with the St. Bonaventure parish community established in 1833. The parish's first church was blessed in 1840. In 1897, the current church was completed and dedicated.

Clergy appointments



Father Howard King, accepted resignation as pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, West Middlesex, and granted diocesan faculties for retired priests. Effective October 17, 2008.

Deacon Robert Walker, appointed deacon assistant at St. Mary Parish, Erie, and chaplain to the Erie Diocese's Fellowship of Separated and Divorced for a term of three years. Effective July 1, 2008.

Catholics encouraged to pray novena in weeks leading up to election

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace before the November election.

An Aug. 19 news release said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has made available for download from the Internet a podcast of a "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" at www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts. It will be available until the Nov. 4 election.

The special novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions," said Joan Rosenhauer, associate director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

The bishops adopted the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility" in November 2007.

The "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" runs for nine

days and can be used consecutively, one day each week, for nine days prior to the election, or "in any way that works best for a community or individual," said Rosenhauer.

"Novena" comes from the Latin word "novem," meaning nine, and the prayer form first appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain. A novena is usually held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.

Examples of where recent novenas were announced to the public and their intentions include: the Diocese of Hong Kong, prior to the Beijing Olympics, for the Catholic Church in China; for life, leading up to the feast of the Visitation; and the Indianapolis Archdiocese, for all the sick, after Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of the year.

The USCCB Web site suggests ways Catholics can pray the "Novena for Faithful Citizenship":

- Start Sept. 2 and pray for nine consecutive Tues-



Devotional Novena

- + Prayer repeated in public or private for nine successive days.
- + Held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.
- + Comes from the Latin word novem, meaning nine.
- + First appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain.

RECENT PUBLIC NOVENAS

| Intention | Held before | Called by |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Church in China | Beijing Olympics | Diocese of Hong Kong |
| Life | Feast of the Visitation | U.S. Bishops |
| All the sick | World Day of the Sick | Indianapolis Archdiocese |
| Life, justice, peace | U.S. election | U.S. Bishops |



days, up until the general election.

- Start the novena on any day of the week, whenever people gather, and pray on that day every week.
- Begin praying the novena Oct. 26, nine days before the election, and continue

each consecutive day.

- Create any combination "and feel free to pray the novena more than once."

Helen Osman, USCCB communications secretary, expressed hope the novena could help "Catholics enter into prayerful reflection as

they prepare to vote."

Osman said the USCCB wants to support Catholics as they weigh pre-election issues and that "providing a prayer resource on the Web can help us focus on our common values and identity as Catholics."

Catholic Education Collection is Sept. 13-14

Half of every donation stays in local parish

Each year, the Catholic Education Collection helps pass on the faith in the Erie Diocese.

This special collection, which will be taken at Masses during the weekend of Sept. 13-14, also gives back to local parishes. Half of the collection stays in the parish, and the other half goes to the diocese, the majority of which goes toward education endowments.

The endowments fund parish and school initiatives, providing assistance to religious education personnel, tuition assistance grants and continuing education opportunities for Catholic school teachers.

The Catholic Education Collection is the primary source for bolstering the endowments, said Father Nicholas Rouch, the diocese's vicar for education.

See EDUCATION, page 3



Diocese names Father Stephen Schreiber director of youth and young adult ministry

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife

After an exhaustive national search for the director of youth and young adult ministry, the Diocese of Erie found the perfect candidate in its own backyard.

Father Stephen Schreiber, the diocese's associate director of vocations, has been tabbed for the position, which had been vacant since November 2007.

After interviewing a number of final candidates, the diocese was still left

with an opening for its top youth ministry post. At the suggestion of Bishop Donald Trautman, the position was offered to Father Schreiber, whom the bishop said was a natural fit.

Ordained a priest in 1999, Father Schreiber was a faculty member of Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage from 2001-08 while serving as the school's campus minister from 2004-08. In June, he was named the diocese's associate director of vocations, a position he will continue to hold as director of youth ministry.

"Although I was surprised by my appointment, I'm excited by the challenge," Father Schreiber said. "I've been blessed throughout my priesthood to encounter incredible Catho-



Father Stephen Schreiber

See SCHREIBER, page 3

Seeing with the eyes of faith

Woman who was born blind makes final profession as Benedictine Sister of Elk County

ST. MARYS — Blind since birth, Sister Dolores Dean, OSB, sees with the eyes of faith.

Sister Dolores professed her final vows as a Benedictine Sister of Elk County during a Mass on Aug. 16 at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys.

"This was the most glorious day of my life," said Sister Dolores. "I feel like I've come full circle."

Born in Brooklyn, Sister Dolores spent the greater part of her life in the New York area. For many years she was employed as a vocational rehabilitation instructor and a library assistant at the Helen Keller Services for the Blind located in Hempstead, N.Y.

She was educated at a school for the blind and then went off to a small Catholic college. She says that her vo-

calation to the religious life came during her college years. Most of her professors were Sisters of the Divine Compassion. Their kindness, generosity and academic challenges greatly influenced her.

However, after attempting to enter various communities dedicated to teaching and meeting with discouragement, she wrote to the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County. She's found that the Benedictine motto, "ora et labora," a Latin phrase meaning pray and work, is not limiting, and Sister Dolores says she's found her niche here.

She was warmly welcomed into the monastery, helped to braille her breviary and made any necessary adaptations to make her life easily comfortable to that of her sisters.

All Benedictines have their special ministries, and Sister



Sister Dolores Dean, OSB, seals her vows at the altar with Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County. Sister Dolores professed her vows Aug. 16 at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys.

Dolores has hers, which is unique to the community. She transcribes textbooks and novels into braille with the use of a scanner or volunteer reader. She proofreads textbooks and books for children for two agencies for the blind, and she scans religious books to be uploaded to another program for the visually impaired.

In addition to this apostolate, Sister Dolores has become part of a knitting group working to make sweaters for children all over the world. Each knitter endeavors to make at least one sweater a month.

"I am humbled at the gifts she is bringing to our community," said Sister Jacinta

Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County.

Sister Dolores says she strives to live out another Benedictine motto in her daily life, just like all her sisters, "That in all things God may be glorified."

"I've found my place here," she said.



IN THE U.S.

■ **Figures released Aug. 26 by the U.S. Census Bureau** revealed that, while the number of Americans in poverty last year rose over 2006 levels, the percentage increase was not statistically significant.

Try telling that to America's newly poor, said Candy Hill, senior vice president for social policy and government affairs at Catholic Charities USA. "We have 800,000 more people living in poverty, including 500,000 more children and 200,000 more senior citizens. Hill said shortly after the figures were released. The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and its American Community Survey, both issued Aug. 26, had a margin of error of 0.2 percent, so percentage changes in either direction from 2006 to 2007 are regarded as being "statistically unchanged." David Johnson, chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, said that changes of 0.3 percent or more are recognized and reported in the surveys.

■ **The Diocese of Scranton continues to make progress in the plan to close or merge numerous parishes**, according to the *Catholic Light*. Parish core and cluster teams have been working with the Reid Group to provide recommendations to a Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission. Prayer, study and conversation have been key components of the process. Parishes are being asked to take a look at attendance numbers, population changes, distance between parishes, Mass attendance as well as the size, age and condition of their buildings. The diocese developed an 8-step process; couples planning to marry next year are being told they will

have a definite time and location no later than Feb. 1, 2009.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **At least 200,000 pilgrims are expected to attend the Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI** during his September visit to the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes, said Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes. "We will be outside the holiday period, so there'll probably be fewer pilgrims from the central Paris area," Bishop Perrier said. "We are expecting 200,000 people for the main Mass, but one is always in for surprises when popes come to France." He added that each day of the papal visit Sept. 13-15 will be different — "at first international, then for young people, and then for the sick." The bishop said that the visit would be "totally different" from the 2004 pilgrimage to Lourdes by Pope John Paul II, who was "already very sick."



A statue of Mary is seen at the grotto of the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France.

■ **Heaven is not an abstract idea or an imaginary place**, but heaven is God, Pope Benedict XVI said. Celebrating an early morning Mass Aug. 15, the pope said the feast of the Assumption of the blessed Virgin Mary "urges us to raise our gaze toward heaven, not a heaven of abstract ideas nor an imaginary heaven created in art, but the true reality of heaven which is God himself. God is heaven." The pope said that while Mary's assumption is "totally unique and extraordinary" it also

assures believers that their destiny is to be with God forever. God is "our goal. He is the dwelling place from which we came and toward which we are called," he said.



Mary is shown being taken up to heaven in a painting inside a dome of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The beatification of Louis and Marie Zelle Guerin Martin**, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, has been approved by Pope Benedict XVI. The couple will be beatified Oct. 19, World Mission Sunday, during a Mass in the Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux, France, the Vatican announced Aug. 19. St. Therese and St. Francis Xavier are the patron saints of the missions. The Vatican did not say who would preside at the Martins' beatification Mass. With beatification, the diocese where the candidate lived or the religious order to which the person belonged is authorized to hold public commemorations on the person's feast day.



Louis and Marie Zelle Guerin Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux.

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

During its 25th anniversary celebration Sept. 11, the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell will recognize several local advocates and supporters whose help has been essential to the fulfillment of the center's mission to support the poor and marginalized in the Shenango Valley since its creation.

Honorees, along with their category of recognition, include the Sisters of St. Joseph, especially Sister Benita Repasky and Sister Clare Marie Beichner (visionaries), John Hudson (builders), the Kavanaugh Family Foundations (sustainers), Adrienne Ward (leadership) and Otis Whitman (volunteers), who will be commended posthumously.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence Park recently welcomed Deacon Fred Weaver and his wife, Kathleen, who moved here from the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. The Weavers, whose two daughters and five grandchildren live in the Erie area, wanted to be closer to family.

Ordained a deacon in 1992, Deacon Weaver served most of his ministry at St. Peter Parish in Somerset, Pa., where he was on the pastoral staff, involved with hospital chaplaincy and made nursing home visits. He also served as a state prison chaplain for three years. As a deacon assistant at St. Mark, he will minister to the elderly and the homebound.

With the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act taking effect Sept. 11, smoking is not permitted in any public place or in any workplace in the state. In order to comply with this new law, all church buildings, schools, social halls, catechetical centers and any other facilities open to the public must be smoke free. This includes Bingo games and any other social activities, whether they are sponsored by the parish/school or not.

These spaces must have signs at the entrances indicating that smoking is not permitted. It is not necessary to have such signs at the doors of the church or worship space.

Just an update; St. Anthony has answered the prayers of St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie. A Book of the Gospels and chalice cover that were stolen from the sanctuary July 15 are back where they belong safe and sound.

According to Msgr. William Biebel, rector of the cathedral, a resident at the Lodge on Siss found the book near the residence the day it was taken. The man kept it safe until returning it.

After thinking that the chalice veil might have been left nearby, Msgr. Biebel took a walk to the Lodge area, just north of the cathedral. He looked under a hedge and found the valuable chalice cover. Neither item suffered any damage.

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

A challenge for Pope Benedict: Leading more people to read the Bible

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — When Pope Benedict XVI chose the Bible as the topic for this fall's Synod of Bishops, he turned the church's attention to an area he has long considered crucial and in need of revitalization.

The pope's concern touches several levels. For one thing, despite an upsurge in biblical interest after the Second Vatican Council, only a minority of Catholics read the Bible regularly. The pope views the lack of scriptural formation as part of a wider crisis of catechetics in the church.

At a more academic level, the pope sees a danger in modern biblical interpretation that he believes diminishes the meaning of Scripture and erodes the bond between Bible and church.

In particular, he has warned that various modern-day methods of interpreting the Bible are too limiting; for instance, some scholars read Scripture as if they are seeking to break a code and pluck out answers on by one.

Instead, Pope Benedict believes the Bible must be seen as a whole and as the word of God, in which everything relates to everything else and offers the possibility of a spiritual journey, rather than being seen as a textbook on divine

matters. So in convoking some 250 bishops for the Oct. 5-26 synod, the pope did not intend to host a forum for scriptural analysis. His primary interest is pastoral, and a main challenge is to lead more Catholics to the Bible.

As he told synod planners earlier this year, reading, interpreting and living the words of Scripture are fundamental to the faith life of Christians. Without that, the church's great works in the modern age — including evangelization and ecumenism — are



bound to stall, he said.

Nor does the pope believe that scriptural expertise comes before the simple experience of reading the Bible. As a cardinal, he once said that he shares the view of liberation theology that the Bible belongs to the people, not the scholars.

And while specialists are needed, he said, "the real and essential meaning of the Bible is something the simple believer can grasp just as well."

That's something the pope has been promoting as universal pastor since his election in 2005. The

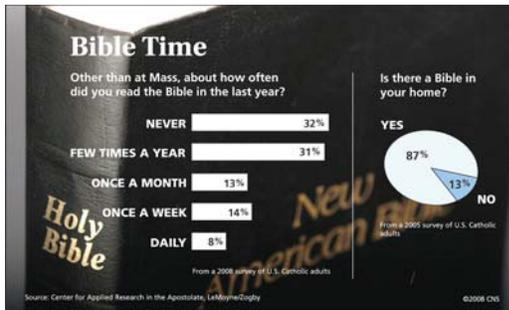
very first words of his pontificate were a quote from Scripture — a greeting from the First Letter of Peter — and his talks and sermons over the last three and a half years have included some 3,000 references to scriptural passages.

The pope once said the Bible would be one of two books he would take with him if marooned on an island (the other was St. Augustine's "Confessions.") His own familiarity with Scripture is evident in the way he cites passages even in off-the-cuff remarks.

His written works seem to breathe Scripture. His first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), was typical. It began with a citation from the First Letter of John and on practically every page drew from the Old and New Testaments, often making connections between the two. In his discussion of unjustified suffering, for example, he begins with a lesson from the Book of Job, then weaves in several Gospel passages.

One of Pope Benedict's primary convictions is that the New Testament offers the key to understanding the Old Testament and that, as a whole, the Bible necessarily leads to Christ.

But he believes this traditional Christological approach has



been threatened by some modern schools of interpretation that would limit the meaning of any biblical book to the author's historical context.

In a 2001 essay, he described in dramatic terms how such interpretation jeopardized the "internal harmony" of the Bible as understood by Christians through the centuries.

By presuming that Old Testament writers could not have intended to refer in advance to Christ and the New Testament faith, he warned, this new line of biblical study would "sound the death knell" for the Christian un-

derstanding of Old Testament-New Testament unity.

As early as the Second Vatican Council, the pope — then Father Joseph Ratzinger — was involved deeply in a debate over the relationship among Scripture, tradition and the church's magisterium, or teaching authority. Here, too, the future pope identified a dangerous trend in biblical interpretation that saw Scripture as the entire deposit of the faith.

As a council expert, Father Ratzinger wrote that this approach was not balanced and that "revelation ... is greater

even than the words of Scripture."

Much later, he expanded on this point in the book, "God and the World," saying that when it came to the authorship of the Bible it was clear that "God did not just dictate these words." Instead, the words of Scripture bear the impression of a history guided by God, a history that directly involves the church, he said.

Pope Benedict always has emphasized that this history continues, and that the Bible, far from a piece of literature or a historical record, is a living book that touches the present.

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(May 2-14) / (May 17-29) / (June 27-July 9)

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Anthony Nachev, PhD (Theology)
508-340-9370, Toll free: 877-99-Italy
e-mail: an@catholicteachings.org
web: www.TourOfItaly.us

Annual financial report shows 'healthy' result for 2007

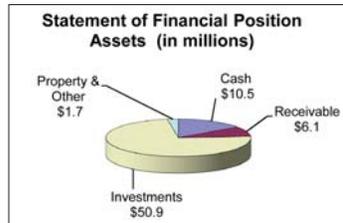
FaithLife staff

The recently-completed audit of the central administrative offices of the Diocese of Erie for the 2007 calendar year indicated that the diocese's finances remain stable.

"Our financial condition continues to be healthy," said David Murphy, chief financial officer for the diocese.

For the 2007 calendar year, support and revenue of \$18.2 million exceeded expenses by \$2.3 million. Murphy indicated that this positive result was attained "despite a decrease in the amount of income earned on the diocesan investment portfolio as compared to the prior year along with what we might call stagnant economic conditions," he said.

The \$3.6 million brought in to the diocese from the Catholic Services Appeal was again the largest source of revenue for funding the continuing operations and programs administered through the central offices. The appeal proved to be successful at the parish level as well by providing an additional \$1.2 million for local

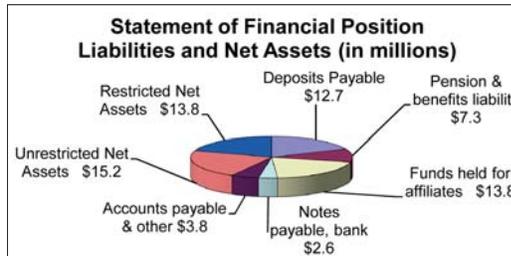


projects. During the past year, contributions to offertory collections throughout the diocese also went up by approximately 3.25 percent, according to Murphy.

Of the diocesan revenues and expenses which are earmarked for special purposes, those associated with the property and casualty and group health insurance programs continue to be the largest amounts.

Excluding the insurance programs, expenses for education—including both subsidies and tuition assistance for secondary and

elementary schools—represented the largest expense category. This was followed by allocations to Catholic Charities agencies—including funding for Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services, St. Martin Center, Prince of Peace Center and several other charitable programs. Clergy services expenses, primarily for medical care and retirement, also continued to increase. Murphy noted that the expenses of all offices and programs included in the central administration of the diocese are monitored



on a continuing basis and compared with the amounts included in their approved budgets.

The amounts reported on the year-end statement of financial position were affected by several non-recurring transactions that took place during 2007. A total of \$7.3 million in diocesan investments was transferred over to The Catholic Foundation and Catholic Charities. Although the diocese continued to oversee the investment of those funds, they are now

treated as assets of those affiliated entities.

Overall, there was little change in diocesan total assets which amounted to \$69.3 million. Total liabilities, however, increased by \$6 million to \$40.2 million. The latter amount also included an increase in the liability for the priests' retirement plan which was necessitated by the adoption of a new accounting standard. The cumulative affect of these changes resulted in total net as-

sets of just over \$29 million being reported at year-end.

The financial statements were audited by Malin, Bergquist & Company, L.L.C. As specified by canon law, the statements, together with the auditors' opinion letter and supplemental financial information, were presented to Bishop Donald Trautman and the Diocesan Finance Council. For the first time, the complete audit report may also be found on the diocesan Web site at www.ErieCatholic.org.

Briefly

Foreclosure event with housing experts planned for Erie Sept. 12

ERIE — Erie County, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and local housing counseling agencies including St. Martin Center are co-sponsoring an event to mobilize community leaders and more effectively reach out to families facing foreclosure.

All are welcome to attend the event on Friday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m.-noon in the Yehll Ballroom at Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center. On the agenda are Mark DiVecchio, Erie County executive, who will provide an overview; former Olympian Bruce Baumgartner; and Cheryl A. Kobel, executive director of St. Martin Center.

To register, visit www.phfa.org and click on Web Updates, Conferences, "Foreclosure Mitigation Events."

Cantor workshop Sept. 13 in Edinboro

EDINBORO — A cantor workshop will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 1-4 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 128 Sunset Drive, Edinboro.

Titled "Leading the Sung Prayer of the Assembly," this hands-on workshop is open to all cantors and those singers who would like to become a cantor. This will include vocal technique, spirituality, breathing, posture and diction.

Matthew Clark of the Erie Diocese's Office of Worship will be the instructor.

Cantors, please bring something to sing.

"A Handbook for Cantors" by Diana Kodnar will be available for \$8.

For more information or to register, contact Bernie Connelly at 814.734.5446.

'Come and See' Benedictines Sept. 13

ERIE — The Benedictine Sisters of Erie invite women ages 20-45 who are interested in learning more about Benedictine community life, prayer and ministry.

"Come and See: A Snapshot of Our Monastic Life," a day of reflection, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. The day begins at 7:45 a.m. and concludes at 7 p.m. Lunch and dinner will be served.

Those interested should contact Sister Janet Goetz, OSB, at 814.899.0614 Ext. 2424 or e-mail vocations@mstbenedict.org.

Parish missions

St. Brigid, Meadville – Sept. 14-17

Father Angelus Shaughnessy, OFM, will present a four-day mission at St. Brigid Parish in Meadville September 14-17.

The mission schedule is as follows:

■ Sept. 14 – Father Angelus will speak at all Sunday Masses

■ Sept. 15, 16 and 17 – Father Angelus will speak at the morning Masses with confession following. Confessions will also be heard each day at 3 p.m. followed by the evening mission services at 7 p.m.

A Capuchin Friar, Father Angelus was with EWTN from 2001-07. He is currently the national executive director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers in Pittsburgh.

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Sept. 28-30

Our Lady of Peace in Erie welcomes the team of Ed and April Laughlin, national speakers in the areas of stewardship, family life and effective faith communities, who will present "Faith, Hope and Love, and the Greatest of These is Love—A Spiritual Approach to Living Your Lives," a three-day mission Sept. 28-30.

The program will include talks, music and Eucharistic Benediction. Afternoon sessions Monday and Tuesday are from 12:45-2 p.m.; evening sessions Sunday through Tuesday are from 7-8 p.m.

All events will take place in the church, located at 2401 W. 38th St. in Erie.

All are welcome to join in the mission.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
 11:00AM – 6:00PM
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COME JOIN THE FUN!

Catholic Education Collection is Sept. 13-14

EDUCATION from page 1

"There is a giving back with this collection," Father Rouch said.

There were several significant projects that were funded out of the endowments during the past year.

■ **Advancement Counsel**, a series of seven workshops that was presented to schools during the 2007-08 academic year. The workshops engaged school leaders in a comprehensive approach to school viability that involves not just fundraising but also enrollment efforts, retention of students, building a network of supporters and establishing a relationship with community partners.

"Those workshops were very well received and they wouldn't have happened without the support of the endowment," Father Rouch said.

The diocese's Catholic Schools Office is planning a continuation of the Advancement Counsel this year.

■ **"Beginnings and Beyond,"** a national RCIA workshop held this year in Villa Maria, Pa., was sponsored by the diocese, with approximately 45 local RCIA leaders participating with the help of funding from the endowment.

■ **Family Honor groups** in Erie and St. Marys have been aided in their efforts to teach concepts of chastity and Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body."

■ **Religious Education Parish Data Systems (PDS)**, where the endowments helped purchase of a computer for religious education leaders and the installation of PDS software that supports religious education.



Photo by Art Becker

Diocese names Father Stephen Schreiber director of youth and young adult ministry

SCHREIBER from page 1

lic youth in our diocese—holy youth, zealous youth, youth on fire with the love of Jesus Christ. They are powerful witnesses to the Gospel."

But there are also many other young people who simply do not know the Lord, he said.

"They are being drowned in a culture increasingly hostile to Christ. And it is our challenge, all of us—parents, pastors, peers—to reach out to them, to pray for them, to speak the name of Christ to them."

As director of youth ministry,

he will coordinate adolescent catechesis and diocesan youth and young adult ministry programs, including supporting the formation and training of parish youth leaders.

"I thank God for the parents and grandparents, youth ministers and clergy, religious educators and religious sisters who have been hard at this task much longer than I have," Father Schreiber said. "And I look forward to the work ahead, knowing that the Holy Spirit is alive and well—and ever young—in our church."



As director of youth and young adult ministry, Father Stephen Schreiber will be responsible for coordinating diocesan events such as middle school and high school youth rallies.

DEATH NOTICE

Sister Ellen Porter, OSB, dies at 60

Ministered as a nurse, served in pastoral ministry

ERIE — Sister Ellen Porter, OSB, 60, died at her home, Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, on August 22, 2008 after a long illness.

Sister Ellen, a daughter of the late Alvin and Caryl Selinger Porter, was born in Pasadena, Calif. She was baptized at All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena, and confirmed in St. Luke Episcopal Church, Monrovia, Calif.

After high school in Monrovia, Sister Ellen completed an associ-

ate degree in nursing at Pasadena Community College, graduating with honors. She received a bachelor's degree from California State University, again with honors, in 1986. She also studied psychology at the Pacific Graduate Institute.

Her nursing career began at the Southern Inyo Hospital, Lone Pine, Calif., where she was part of the emergency services



Sister Ellen Porter, OSB

staff from 1971-73. Since the tiny town of Lone Pine lies between Mt. Whitney and Death Valley, Sister Ellen was able to hike and climb in places where the beauty of creation is especially vivid. She also loved the beauty of the sea, and so she later lived and worked near it as a nurse in Monrovia and Ventura until 1983 when she served in pastoral ministry at St. Andrew Parish, St. John's Regional Medical Center and, again as a nurse, at United Blood Services.

Sister Ellen came to Erie in 1995 for a retreat at Mount St. Benedict. She stayed to become a Roman Catholic and a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, entering the novitiate on January

1, 2001. She made her initial monastic profession on January 19, 2002 and her perpetual monastic profession on January 23, 2005.

A remarkable nurse, Sister Ellen cared for sick and elderly sisters and was a staff member of the Alliance for International Monasticism. She was a published poet—her mother was also a writer—whose work reflects her search for God and her delight in the beauty of nature.

Preceded in death by her parents, Sister Ellen is survived by her Benedictine community and by her sister, Caryn Porter of Hillsboro, Ore., her niece, Valerie Robbins-Vickers, and her grandniece, Grace, of Forest Grove, Ore.

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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



Four new principals named for 2008-09 school year

Four new principals have been named at diocesan schools for the 2008-09 academic year.

Karen Beer, who taught for 12 years at St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie, is the new principal at St. Thomas School in Corry. Beer received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Edinboro University and her master's in education leadership and principal certification from Gannon University.

"This year we have 50 students in multi-age classrooms," Beer said.

St. Thomas, in its 114th year, will have a focus on service to go along with the Catholic Schools Week theme. Many projects will focus on raising money, writing cards and providing supplies for St. Thomas' sister parish of San Antonio in Chetumal, Mexico, Beer said. A group from the parish will visit St. Anthony in January.

Marla Dalessandro is the new principal of Notre Dame School in Hermitage, but the school itself is hardly new to her. Dalessandro has been at Notre Dame for 26 years, mostly teaching fourth grade. She received her master's degree in education from Westminster College.

"We have some new faculty and staff members this year and are concentrating on getting off to a good start," Dalessandro said. "Our goal is to run smoothly." All classrooms at Notre Dame will be doing service projects this year, she said, with middle school students taking enrichment mini-courses. Also, the school is starting a choir for students in grades 3-8.



Karen Beer

Mary Hoffman is the new principal at St. John-Holy Rosary Eastside Catholic School in Erie. A graduate of St. John, St. Benedict Academy and Mercyhurst College, Hoffman taught special education in the Millcreek Township School District for 34 years.

"Now I'm back at St. John's out of love," Hoffman said. "I'm totally connected to the basics the school gave me years ago. I just feel like I'm home. I'm very proud and happy to be here. Being able to teach Catholic formation is the frosting on the cake."

St. John-Holy Rosary's theme this year is "We are all pencils in the hands of God," which comes from Mother Theresa.



Mary Hoffman

Faye Nelson is the new principal at Our Lady's Christian School in Erie. Nelson, who begins her 22nd year with Catholic schools, served as OLC's interim principal last year.

Prior to becoming principal, she taught 7th and 8th grade science at OLC. She also taught 7th and 8th grade science, social studies and religion at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Erie.

"I'm looking forward to serving the school community of OLC. We are celebrating our 50th year this year and we hope to continue the quality education that they've experienced here for a long time," she said.

Nelson has bachelor's degrees in science and secondary education from Clarion University and earned a master's degree in education leadership from Gannon University. Her principal certification is also from Gannon.



Faye Nelson

St. Mark welcomes new seminarians

St. Mark Seminary in Erie welcomed six new seminarians on Aug. 24 for the 2008-09 academic year. All are enrolled at Gannon University for the fall semester.

Three seminarians are from the Diocese of Erie: Rob Hensch (St. Luke, Erie), Joe Janidlo (St. Patrick, Franklin) and Wesley Wheeler (St. Stephen, Oil City).

Seminarians from the Diocese of Buffalo include: Jerry Pasnik (Holy Trinity, Medina, N.Y.), Rob Paul (Immaculate Conception, Ransomville, N.Y.) and Luke Uebler (St. Vincent de Paul, Springbrook, N.Y.).

The Diocese of Buffalo is new to St. Mark's formation program. The new seminarians join three returning from the Erie Diocese and five returning from the Greensburg Diocese for a total of 14 in house this year.

Returning seminarians include from the Erie Diocese: David Renne (St. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney), Michael Rodgers



Pictured from left to right are new St. Mark seminarians (front row) Jerry Pasnik, Rob Paul, Luke Uebler, Rob Hensch, (back row) Joe Janidlo and Wesley Wheeler.

(Good Shepherd, West Middlesex) and Thomas Trocchio (St. Patrick, Franklin).

Returning from the Greensburg Diocese are: Tyler Bandura (Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City), Eric Dinga (Christ, Prince

of Peace, Ford City), Christopher Manderino (Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen), Matthew Morelli (St. James, New Alexandria) and Jacob Williamson (St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Kittanning).

Catholic elementary schools receive fitness, nutrition grants totaling \$91,000



Seventeen Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie have been awarded a Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge grant totaling \$91,000 to implement the project "Dance Around the World for Fitness and Fun." This project will have two major components: physical fitness and nutrition.

The physical fitness aspect will encompass the use of the Dance Date Revolution (DDR) video gaming system. Through DDR, students in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to use the system in physical education classes, on inclement weather days for recess and for after school/before school programs. The students in these 17 schools combining their efforts will take enough dance steps to travel around the world each month.

The nutrition component will involve healthy eating attitudes and behaviors. Each school will host a school-wide kick-off wellness event. Monthly newsletters and nutritional activities will educate students and parents about how to adopt healthy habits. St. Vincent Health Systems and Gannon University are partners with the Catholic schools in this project. The Highmark Healthy

High 5 School Challenge grants are an initiative of the Highmark Foundation.

Pictured are the principals of the schools which received the Highmark grants. From left to right, (front row) Regina Merritt (Seton Catholic School, Meadville); Mary Jo Lipani (St. Michael, Greenville); Marietta Stalsky (St. Luke, Erie); Mary Hoffman (St. John-Holy Rosary Eastside Catholic, Erie); Sheri Kurczewski (Blessed Sacrament, Erie); Mary Agnes Marshall (St. Marys Catholic Middle School, St. Marys); Kim Lytle, director of curriculum and teacher personnel for the diocese's Catholic Schools Office; (second row) Marie Gazzoni (St. Boniface, Kersey); Donna Gaydash (Immaculate

Conception, Clarion); Jeff Lipiec (Our Lady of Peace, Erie); Lawrence Neubauer (St. George, Erie); Veronica Antoske (Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie); Mary Beth Schaut (St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, St. Marys); Kim Mooney (St. Bernard, Bradford); Kathleen Lane (St. Peter Cathedral, Erie); and Sister Colette Hilow, CDS (St. James, Erie).

Principals and schools not pictured include Barbara Portenier (St. Boniface, Erie) and Darlene Kovacs (Villa Maria Elementary, Erie).

Benedictines and friends take first place in Relay for Life

ERIE — Two teams of Benedictine Sisters of Erie, oblates, family and friends participated in the 2008 Relay for Life to raise money in support of the American Cancer Society's mission to find a cure for cancer. The Benedictine Sisters and friends have been a part of the Relay for Life for 15 years, having participated in the very first relay. This year's relay was July 19-20 at McDowell High School in Millcreek.

This year's teams were made up of 12 sisters, seven oblates and 10 friends, and they jointly raised more than \$14,461. Team number one surpassed all expectations by winning the number-one spot in online and overall fundraising. Oblate Jo Clarke, herself a cancer survivor, won first place as top individual fundraiser online and overall. The team raised more than \$12,860. Clarke is the director of annual giving in the Benedictine Sisters Development Office.

Team members not pictured include: Sister Marlene Berke; Sister Laura Bechner; Sister Marla Bleil; Ann Daugherty, oblate; Sis-



Photo by Stan Zimowski

ter Kathy Horan; Sister Norma Jean Kingsley; Sister Rosanne Lindahl-Hynes; Sister Rosanne Loneck; Sheila McLaughlin, oblate; Sister Marcia Sigler; Maureen Sabol; Shelly Miller; Mark Biley; Sister Dianne Sabol; Cathy Anderson; Margaret Kloecker, oblate; Jo Clarke, oblate; Kelsey Kresse; Sharon Kresse. Front row, from left: Dave Sineway; Nancy Sabol, oblate; Penny Hanes; Corinne Schaffer; Michelle Kephart.

ter Sister Mary Daniel Meah; Sister Mary Miller; Cindy Liotta, oblate; Sister Ann Muczynski; and Sandy Sutton, oblate.

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