



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Paul of the Cross St. John of Capistrano

- Oct. 19 World Mission Sunday
- Oct. 20 St. Paul of the Cross
- Oct. 23 St. John of Capistrano
- Oct. 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret
- Oct. 26 National World Youth Day (U.S.), Priesthood Sunday
- Oct. 28 St. Simon and St. Jude
- Nov. 1 All Saints
- Nov. 2 All Souls

Confirmation schedule

St. Callistus, Kane – Sunday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Mark, Emporium – Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

Bread for the World Sunday – Oct. 19

This year's observance of Bread for the World Sunday takes place at a time when soaring prices for food and fuel have created an urgent hunger crisis – both in our own country and overseas. An additional 100 million people have fallen into poverty and are at risk of hunger and starvation.

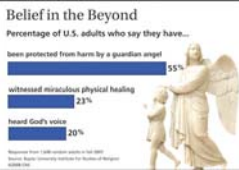
Bread for the World Sunday is an opportunity for churches to renew their commitment to overcoming hunger and poverty in God's world. On October 19 and other Sundays this fall, worshipping communities across the country will join together in lifting up their voices on behalf of hungry people.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. For more information, visit www.bread.org.



Belief in the beyond

A majority of U.S. adults say they have been helped by a guardian angel in the course of their lives. The feast day of guardian angels was Oct. 2.



Theology on Tap in Erie

Visit www.ErieRCD.org for a list of topics and speakers



A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States

What's new

- Media resources/articles
- Listen to Podcasts
- 11-week scripture study
- Novena for Faithful Citizenship

Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org

Diocese announces plans, events for Year of St. Paul

St. Paul in Erie, St. Leo in Ridgway named pilgrimage sites

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

The Diocese of Erie has announced its plans for the Year of St. Paul, which includes two pilgrimage destinations and several diocesan Masses.

Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated a special jubilee year to St. Paul from June 28, 2008 through June 29, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

The jubilee year will feature numerous special liturgies and events in Rome but should also be celebrated in local churches and in the sanctuaries, religious orders and other institutions that have a special link to St. Paul, the pope said.

"The diocese has put in place a special program for this Year of St. Paul, and it is my hope and prayer that our people will come to know St. Paul and his writings in a much better fashion," said Bishop Donald Trautman. "St. Paul continues to teach, continues to reach out to us with the revelation he has received. St. Paul is the greatest Christian mis-



St. Paul Parish in Erie (left) and St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway have been designated as pilgrimage destinations in the Erie Diocese by Bishop Donald Trautman during the Year of St. Paul.



sonary of all time and the first major theologian of the church. We have much to learn from Paul, much that can help us in these contemporary times."

Two churches have been selected as pilgrimage desti-

nations during the Year of St. Paul:

- St. Paul, Erie
- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway

St. Leo was recommended because of its central location in the eastern half of the diocese, said Father Ed Lohse, chancellor of the Erie Diocese.

Each location will have a simple shrine to St. Paul and provide a prayer booklet which pilgrims can use individually or in a group setting when visiting the church outside of scheduled Mass times. A plenary indulgence is also attached to these pilgrimages (see sidebar, page 3).

The shrines are expected to be set up at each location

See YEAR OF ST. PAUL, page 3

World Mission Sunday

On October 19, every Catholic in the world will unite and celebrate World Mission Sunday—all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus.

Each of us as a baptized Catholic has a role to play. World Mission Sunday is a day for all Catholics to recommit to the church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

This is the United States' 100th anniversary of "mission independence." In 1908, the Holy Father declared that the United States would no longer be classified as mission territory. Today, the Catholic Church in the U.S. helps support missionary activity in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout the world, most notably Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania.

By contributing to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith taken up Oct. 18-19 in the Erie Diocese, the church can continue to support the missions and help to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



A woman religious sits with a child in Thailand.

Feasts of All Saints and All Souls

Weekend liturgies accommodate feast days

Two feasts for the faithful departed are approaching on the Catholic calendar. Saturday, Nov. 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints (All Saints Day). Normally a Holy Day of Obligation, that distinction is left off this year because the feast falls on a Saturday. However, the faithful are encouraged to attend Mass; all Masses on this day are for the feast of All Saints.

Mass after 4 p.m. on Nov. 1 does fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.

Sunday, Nov. 2 is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day).

In addition to All Souls Day, November 2 is also Catholic Cemetery Sunday, sponsored nationally by the Catholic Cemeteries Conference. The conference encourages all to join the Catholic faithful by visiting the cemetery where family and loved ones are buried.

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate Mass on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel, 5711 West Lake Road in Erie in celebration of All Souls Day and Cemetery Sunday, sponsored by Erie Diocesan Cemeteries.

Because Cemetery Sunday is the first Sunday in November, it falls on the same day as All Souls Day only once every seven years.



Father Ron Witherup connects St. Paul to Eucharist in Franklin visit

Franklin native was elected superior general of Sulpicians in July

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

FRANKLIN — A native of Franklin, Father Ron Witherup, SS, was elected as superior general of the Society of St. Sulpice (Sulpicians) on July 11. The former head of the American Province of the Sulpicians recently returned to his home parish of St. Patrick to preach at the parish's Forty Hours devotion Oct. 5-7.

Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie in 1976, Father Witherup taught at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage and was a weekend assistant at Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon prior to joining the Sulpicians.

Sulpicians are members of a society, not a religious order. Priests typically become members of the society after ordination and several years of pastoral work. Sulpician fathers also retain incardination in their own dioceses, even after joining the society. As its mission, the society is involved with the education and formation of priests.

For more information on the Society of St. Sulpice, visit www.sulpicians.org.

During his visit, Father Witherup sat down with FaithLife for an interview about his election as superior general, coming back to his hometown and the Year of St. Paul.



Father Ron Witherup

Q: How did you become a member of the Sulpicians?

A: "I was a seminarian for the Diocese of Erie studying at Christ the King Seminary in New York. After I completed my degree in theology, I was assigned to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, which was founded by the Sulpician fathers and I was taught by them there. I had several Scripture classes at the time, one of which was Hebrew, and I loved it. I fell in love with the Bible, and through that, I fell in love with the society. I would be able to combine teaching Scripture and priestly formation. Bishop (Alfred) Watson knew that a number of priests in the diocese were taught by the Sulpicians, and he felt it was appropriate to give back."

Q: What was the experience of being elected superior general like?

A: "Our general assembly was held at our seminary just outside of Paris. There were 37 delegates from around the world. I was participating as a provincial and an ex officio member. In my 11 years as provincial, I had participated in many international gatherings. I knew my name was being considered, but I didn't think I would be elected. Twelve years earlier, they elected the first non-Frenchman as superior general in the society's history. On the second ballot, I was elected on a one-to-two-thirds majority. I was pleased on one level. On another level, it was sacrifice. That's why I became a Sulpician, to teach. I felt I had to be open to the will of the assembly and the guidance of the Spirit."

Q: What are your duties as superior general?

A: "It is definitely an international ministry. I consider it a ministry of presence to the programs, seminaries and members. The superior general is present and you reinforce the Sulpician pedagogy and spirituality and keep the focus to make sure we are true to our charism, which is the ongoing formation of priests. Half of the year, I'll be on the road. It's a broader ministry, promoting the Sulpician vision and all of our ideals and making sure they're held up around the world. I will represent the society to the Holy See and work with congregations in Rome. We have an office in Rome, and we run the Canadian College of the Sulpicians. Fortunately, the U.S. province will allow me to have a place here. But in reality, my home will be in Paris."

Q: As a native of Franklin and St. Patrick Parish, what's it like to come back home and preach for a devotion such as Forty Hours?

A: "I've always enjoyed coming back here. These are my roots. Up until my father's death five years ago, I came back regularly. It's great to come back and see friends and family. Some of the people I've seen are classmates from Catholic grade school who are still here. St. Patrick's has had a series of great pastors and priests that nourished my faith. But I think it's been a great witness to the Catholic faith, too. It's been a wonderful and affirming experience."

Q: Your talk at St. Patrick will focus on St. Paul and the Eucharist. Can you give a synopsis of what you'll present and how the two are connected?

A: "In St. Paul, First Corinthians, we get the oldest account of the Last Supper. St. Paul is the one who records the account of the Last Supper and uses it to call the community of Corinthians to

See FR. WITHERUP, page 3



IN THE U.S.

■ On the opening day of its fall term Oct. 6, the Supreme Court declined to hear four cases dealing with abortion or abortion-related protest efforts. It let stand lower court rulings that require Arizona to issue "choose life" license plates to those who request them; uphold a multimillion-dollar verdict against abortion activists who used "wanted" posters that identified four abortion doctors in Oregon; reverse a Missouri Department of Corrections policy that said prisoners could not be transported by prison authorities to have abortions, which are paid for by the prisoners themselves; leave intact the New Jersey Supreme Court's ruling that an abortion doctor had no legal obligation to advise a patient that the 6- to 8-week-old fetus she sought to abort was "a complete, separate, unique and irreplaceable human being."



A pregnant pro-life demonstrator stands before the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Oct. 6. As the nation's highest court began a new term, pro-life groups from around the country gathered on the steps of the Supreme Court to remember Roe v. Wade.

■ All Catholics are called "to help build a culture of life in which every human life without exception is respected and defended," the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said in a message for Respect Life Sunday Oct. 5. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia invited Catholics to build a culture of life and to "rededicate ourselves to defending the basic rights of those who are weakest and most marginalized: the poor, the homeless, the innocent unborn, and the frail and elderly who need our respect and our assistance" in a statement released Sept. 30. The statement outlined the cardinal's immediate concerns regarding assisted suicide, embryonic stem-cell research and abortion. Cardinal Rigali's full statement can be found online at www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2008/08/141.shtml.

■ A three-year process to determine how the Diocese of Lansing will look in the future has resulted in a plan to trim the number of parishes from 97 to 80. Unveiling the plan at a recent press conference, Bishop Earl Boyea said it does not mean the closing of 17 churches, but it does call for the merging of several. "If everything were to be implemented, say, within four or five years, then what we would anticipate is a reduction from the current 97 parishes to 80," Bishop Boyea said. "Now that doesn't mean there would be 80 churches. A lot of those parishes would have two churches." The plan was set in motion in August when the diocese closed three Flint parishes.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ At a Mass to open the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said knowledge of Scripture was essential to the church's evangelizing mission in an increasingly godless society. "It is indispensable that the church know and live that which she proclaims, so that her preaching is credible, despite the weaknesses and poverty of her members," the pope said Oct. 5 at the Roman Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. "Only the word of God can profoundly change the heart of man," he said.

The need for such conversion is great in today's confused society, in which human beings sometimes proclaim themselves "the only masters of creation," he said. The pope convoked the 12th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." He was to preside over most of its twice-daily sessions and accept its conclusions as the basis for a likely papal document.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ The bishop of Worcester has given official recognition to an association seeking the canonization of a young Massachusetts woman, Audrey Santo, who spent most of her life unable to speak or move but inspired thousands who flocked to her bedside before she died in 2007. Unexplained phenomena that seemed to happen in her presence drew thousands of visitors over the years to her family's home, where she was cared for. Many felt she could heal others. The association's recognition by Bishop Robert McManus will now enable it to present its findings to the Vatican. Bishop McManus told The Catholic Free Press, Worcester's diocesan newspaper, that he had no comment about the possibility of "Little Audrey," as she is called, being named a saint. Audrey gained worldwide attention after falling into her family's pool in 1987, at age 3, and ending up in a nonmoving, nonspeaking state, surrounded by consecrated hosts, statues and pictures said to ooze blood or oil. She died April 14, 2007, at age 23.



Audrey Santo lies in a room at Christ the King Church in Worcester, Mass., during a children's healing service in 2003. Audrey, who died in 2007, could not speak or move but inspired thousands who flocked to her bedside. Some have claimed she could heal others.

By the Way...

The 2008-09 academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of St. Mark Seminary. It was the crowning joy of Archbishop John Mark Gannon's episcopal career. The idea of a local seminary was something Archbishop Gannon conceived early on in his tenure but did not realize until his declining years.



Jason Koshinski

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of John C. Peterson Sr. of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie, who passed away on Oct. 8. He was the brother of Msgr. James Peterson ("Father Pete") and the late Sister Gertrude Peterson, SSI, and father of Deacon Jerry Peterson.

Next Sunday, Oct. 26, is both World Priest Day and Priesthood Sunday. Make sure to thank your local priests for all they do.

St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie will hold a pro-life Holy Hour on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. including a litany for life and a pro-life prayer. A homily will be given by Msgr. Bernie Urbanik.

A couple hundred people attended "Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholder: Humanae Vitae Today—A Blossoming Truth," a celebration in on of Pope Paul VI's encyclical Oct. 4. Mary Ellen Stanford, MTS, of the John Paul II Institute for the Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, was the keynote speaker at a banquet at Gannon University's Yehll Room.

"The core of my message is that the human person is called to fulfill themselves in love, in relationships of love, ultimately in love with God for eternity," Stanford said. "But that love, as defined by John Paul II and others, is the gift of self. It's a meditation on the meaning of gift and all of the elements that are involved in a gift. The most important thing is that there is giving and receiving."

She added that couples who practice Natural Family Planning are ultimately able to sustain this true dynamic of gift in their marriage.

"They are truly giving because they're not compelled by desires because they have to master their desires," she said. "And they are still receiving of the other in their body and soul totality, fertility being part of that."

Part of the evening, sponsored by the diocese's NFP/Chastity Education Office, included attending the 5:15 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral with Bishop Donald Trautman.

To learn more about Natural Family Planning in the Erie Diocese, visit www.ErieRCDO.org/nfp.asp.

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

Fourteen parishes in Greensburg Diocese to close by Oct. 30

By Catholic News Service

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Fourteen parishes will close and two others will merge into one new parish by Oct. 30 under a plan announced by Greensburg Bishop Lawrence Brandt.

In addition, 26 parishes will begin a new or modified partnership arrangement in which one priest provides pastoral care and administration for two or more parishes, Bishop Brandt said at an Oct. 6 press conference.

Parishioners in the affected parishes were told of the decisions at Masses Oct. 4-5.

Bishop Brandt, formerly a priest of the Erie Diocese, said the changes will allow the diocese to better position priests in parishes where the populations are growing.

Citing the aging and declining numbers of priests and parishioners, the bishop explained the diocese faced moving from a "historical model" to a "pastoral care model" with both diocesan and religious-order clergy serving the diocese.

"Understand that the number of parishioners in the closing parishes represents approximately 2.5 percent of our Catholic population, yet they are being served by nearly 20 percent of our clergy in our parish ministry," the bishop said. "I cannot in good conscience continue to justify this disproportionate use of our resources."

The Greensburg Diocese, located east of Pittsburgh, has 83 active priests. The diocese projects that within five years that number will decline to 60 and in 10 years to 49.

After the closings and the merger, 85 parishes will remain open to serve the diocese's 165,000 Catholics, said diocesan spokesman Jerry Zuleft.

Bishop Brandt's announcement came at the end of a strategic planning process that began in December 2005 and included 85



Bishop Lawrence Brandt of Greensburg Diocese addressed the media Oct. 6 regarding the restructuring and closing of parishes in the diocese. Parishioners in the affected parishes were informed of the decisions at Masses Oct. 4-5.

meetings across the four counties of the diocese. He said the changes became necessary in part because of the aging and declining number of priests and parishioners.

"I know that people are mentally and emotionally attached to their parishes and their churches in a way they identify with no other building or entity," the bishop said. "They are baptized, married and buried there, and they have life-changing experiences there that mark them for life."

"When parishes are closed, he said, "it is understandable that (parishioners) feel a part of themselves has been lost forever."

"We want to believe that the parish in which we were baptized and where we received the sacraments will be there until the day we die. That is a guarantee I cannot make," he said.

"I can guarantee, however, that with prayer, trust in God and trust in each other, we can work together to help each other through these changes knowing that these decisions are being made to ensure that the faith will continue to be passed on to future generations."

Pope canonizes four saints including India's first

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI canonized four new saints, including the first native-born saint from India, where Christians recently have come under attack from Hindu gangs.

After the two-hour liturgy in St. Peter's Square Oct. 12, the pope made a pointed appeal for an end to violence against India's Christian minority.

He spoke after declaring sainthood for St. Alphonsa Mutthathupadathu, a nun from southwestern India who was known for her holiness during a lifetime of suffering. The other new saints included an Italian priest, a Swiss missionary sister and an Ecuadorian laywoman.

The pope said their lives of faith and sacrifice should inspire contemporary Christians in all walks of life. As he pronounced the canonization decree, enthusiastic pilgrims waved flags and held up pictures of the new saints.

The liturgy marked a special moment for Indian Catholics: Thousands of Indian pilgrims, including many nuns and priests, applauded and cheered as the brief biography of St. Alphonsa was read aloud. An Indian government delegation also was present.

After the liturgy, the pope called for an end to violence against Indian Christians, in the wake of attacks on church personnel and institutions.

Since August, anti-Christian violence by Hindu mobs in the Indian state of Orissa has left about 60 people dead, hundreds injured and thousands displaced. The Indian government met in early October to discuss the growing problem.

The pope, dressed in gold vestments on a cloudless Sun-



CNS photo
A nun waves a flag with a portrait of Sister Alphonsa Mutthathupadathu during the canonization ceremony in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 12. Pope Benedict XVI canonized four new saints, including Sister Alphonsa, the first native-born saint from India who was known for her holiness during a lifetime of suffering.

day morning, spoke in his homily about St. Alphonsa's life of extreme physical and spiritual suffering before her death.

"This exceptional woman, who today is offered to the people of India as their first canonized saint, was convinced that her cross was the very means of reaching the heavenly banquet prepared for her by the Father," the pope said.

"She wrote, 'I consider a day without suffering as a day lost.' May we imitate her in shouldering our own crosses so as to join her one day in paradise," he said.

St. Alphonsa was born in 1910, and at a young age was determined to become a nun after reading the lives of the saints. When a marriage was arranged for her at the age of 14, she deliberately burned her foot so that her disfigurement would allow her to avoid the engagement.

She joined the Franciscan Clarist Congregation at age 17 and taught for a while, but was

soon confined to her convent because of a succession of illnesses, including typhoid fever, pneumonia, skin infections and a wasting disease.

At the same time, her life also was marked by periods of great spiritual joy. As for her distress, she said she was convinced that God had destined her to be a "sacrifice of suffering." She died peacefully and happily in 1946.

The others canonized were: ■ St. Narcisca de Jesus Martillo Moran, a 19th-century Ecuadorian known for her deep prayer and penitence. At a young age, she made private vows of virginity, poverty, obedience and self-mortification.

She remained a laywoman, serving as a catechist while working as a seamstress. According to a Vatican biography, her penitential mortifications were severe, and when she died at age 37 in 1869, doctors said they were amazed she lived so long on so little food.

The pope said St. Narcisca's

dedication to prayer and her acceptance of spiritual direction, as well as her dual dedication to work and faith, deserve imitation today. She "shows us a path of Christian perfection accessible to all the faithful," he said.

■ St. Gaetano Errico, an Italian priest who founded the Congregation of Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the 19th century. He was known for the many hours he spent in the confessional, and for seeking out the sick, the abandoned and the spiritually afflicted in his native area of Naples. He died in 1860 at the age of 69.

"The street and the confessional were the privileged places of pastoral action for this new saint," the pope said.

"How many wounds of the soul did he heal in this way!" he said.

■ Sister Maria Bernarda Butler, a Swiss nun who founded the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary, Help of Sinners.

As a young woman, she broke off a marriage engagement and intended to live as a contemplative sister. But she was convinced instead to embark on a missionary journey to Ecuador, where she formed her new order, which worked especially among native families.

She told her sisters to open their houses to the poor, and to give them preference over all their other activities. A violent persecution caused her to flee with her community to Colombia, where she died in 1924.

The pope said her devotion to the Eucharist, as the best way to become close to Christ, was the key to her spirituality and the stimulus to her missionary drive.

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Briefly

Senior high youth rally Nov. 15 at Our Lady of Peace, Erie

ERIE — High school youth, grades 9-12, will be offered a unique chance to gather with other young Catholics from around the Erie Diocese on Nov. 15 at their senior high youth rally held at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie.

With the theme of "I Send You as Servants," the rally is intended to remind youth of their dignity and importance to the church and to call them into a deeper relationship with Christ. The rally will also highlight the relationship between discipleship and service and bring students together with their peers from throughout the diocese.

Doug Tooke and David Casey will make keynote presentations, and music will be provided by the popular band, Who Do You Say I Am. Father Jason Glover will preach a challenging and Christ-centered message during the closing Mass. In addition, priests will be available to hear confessions.

Registration forms are due to your parish or school office by Oct. 27. For additional information, contact your parish youth leader or Linda Lecce, program coordinator for the diocese's Department of Religious Education at 814.824.1218 or visit www.ErieRCD.org/youth.asp.



PALS (People After Loss from Suicide)

ERIE — PALS (People After Loss from Suicide) meets Tuesday, October 21 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. No reservations are needed. Use front entrance. For more information, call Marjorie at 814.864.2428.

St. Vincent offers class on healing

ERIE — Area residents dealing with illness or injury, as well as their loved ones, can learn more about the healing power of the soul in a class presented by Saint Vincent Health Center titled, "Me Sick? How about it, God?" Presented by Saint Vincent Chaplain Father Dennis Martin, the class will take place at McGarvey Learning Center in the health center at 232 W. 25th St. on Wed., Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. The class will also feature the personal testimony of an individual whose spirituality played an important role in his healing journey. Free and open to the public. To register, call 814.866.4817.

Erie Book Store hosts Benedictine writers

Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, and Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, will attend a book signing at the Erie Book Store, 137 E. 13th St. in Erie on Wed., Oct. 29 from 5-7 p.m.

Sister Joan's publication, "In My Own Words," contains a series of inspiring selections from her prolific writings and speeches. It is the latest in a series by Liguori Publications highlighting the works of spiritual teachers. The meditations in Sister Mary Lou's offering, "A Monk in the Inner City: The ABCs of a Spiritual Journey," have been called "searing, insightful and painfully honest...allowing each of us to look more deeply into our own hearts and experiences," by author Paul Wilkes.

For more information, visit www.Benetvision.org.

NOVA, one-day marriage prep, coming to Erie

ERIE — NOVA is a one-day marriage preparation program designed for couples free to remarry in the Catholic Church. Topics covered include Expectations of Remarriage, Blending Families, Communication and others. Call the Family Life Office at 814.824.1261 for information. The next NOVA is scheduled for November 1 in Erie. Pre-registration is required.

Diocese announces plans, events for Year of St. Paul

YEAR OF ST. PAUL, from page 1

by Nov. 1, Father Lohse said.

Diocesan events will include four major celebrations of the Mass with Bishop Trautman presiding:

- Saturday, January 24 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville (Western Vicariate)
- Sunday, January 25 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie (Northern Vicariate)
- Sunday, February 15 at 10 a.m. at St. Leo, Ridgway (Eastern Vicariate)
- Sunday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at St. Paul, Erie (closing Mass for the Year of St. Paul)

Bishop Trautman is transferring the Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul from Monday, June 29, 2009 to Sunday, June 28, 2009 (13th Sunday of Ordinary Time) so that the conclusion of the Pauline Year may be celebrated at Sunday liturgies throughout the diocese.

For other local events, it is recommended that parishes and other communities consider the following:

- Observe the dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul (Nov. 18) with greater attention than usual, e.g., the celebration of an evening Mass so that more people can attend.
- Host an ecumenical prayer gathering during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25).
- Occasionally celebrate the Votive Mass of St. Paul when it is permitted.

For spiritual renewal, the diocese will provide a short reflection guide that can be used during Lent by individuals or small groups to reflect on how well they are continuing the work of St. Paul today.

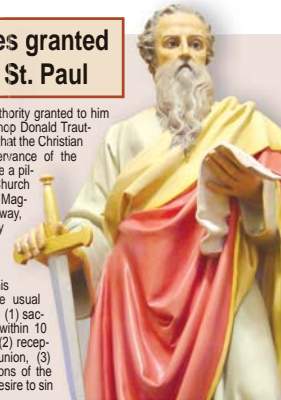
The diocesan Web site www.ErieRCD.org lists a compilation of materials and resources that are recommended, including pamphlets, books and prayer services, as well as links to the U.S. bishops' resource page.

Indulgences granted for Year of St. Paul

By virtue of the authority granted to him by the Holy See, Bishop Donald Trautman has established that the Christian faithful who, in observance of the Year of St. Paul, make a pilgrimage to St. Paul Church in Erie and/or St. Leo Maganus Church in Ridgway, may obtain a plenary indulgence for themselves or for the faithful departed.

They may obtain this indulgence under the usual conditions, which are: (1) sacramental confession within 10 days before or after, (2) reception of Holy Communion, (3) prayer for the intentions of the pope, and (4) a firm desire to sin no more.

Catholics impeded by sickness or other serious cause, as long as they have the intention of fulfilling the other conditions as soon as possible, can obtain a plenary indulgence by joining spiritually in a jubilee celebration in honor of St. Paul and offering their prayers and suffering for Christian unity.



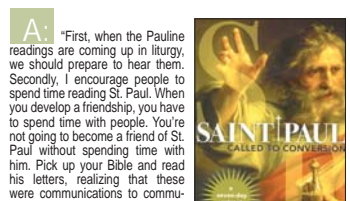
The shrine of St. Paul at St. Paul Parish in Erie.

Father Ron Witherup connects St. Paul to Eucharist in Franklin visit

FATHER WITHERUP, from page 1

unity. The description of the church and the symbol of the church as the body of Christ is Paul's great ecclesial image. In addition, though, many of the formulas used in liturgy are standard Pauline greetings and prayerful wishes from his letters. Many of these are out of the Bible. Most importantly, it's his understanding as both a meal and a sacrifice of what Jesus did for us. When we participate in it, we have to properly prepare ourselves to be in a receptive mode. When people weren't up to the task, Paul challenged them on it. It's a very appropriate attitude for today about our proper attitude when it comes to Mass. Using the body of Christ, it's not just the human body, but he was also talking about the body of people given an identity as a city state. It would've had a political meaning for those back in the day. There's a unity to the whole human race. Divisions no longer count."

O: You've written many books, including three on St. Paul. In the Pauline year, what advice would you give to those looking to delve a little deeper into the saint's life and writings?



"First, when the Pauline readings are coming up in liturgy, we should prepare to hear them. Secondly, I encourage people to spend time reading St. Paul. When you develop a friendship, you have to spend time with people. You're not going to become a friend of St. Paul without spending time with him. Pick up your Bible and read his letters, realizing that these were communications to communities he loved. Third, get a helpful and reliable guide to Paul. I've written all my books for a lay audience. My '101 Questions & Answers on Paul' is a good one. 'Saint Paul: Called to Conversion' is a seven-day retreat with Paul that includes meditations and activities. Use it throughout the year. By the end of the year, when you're reading Paul, you'll notice he doesn't tell stories; he explains things and brings people to task. Make him a more spiritual companion."

A letter to pastoral caregivers

Dear Pastoral Caregivers,

The week of October 20-26 has been proclaimed Pastoral Care Week and will be celebrated throughout the world. It is a celebration of you! You are vital and vibrant signs of Christ in our midst.

I am deeply grateful for your ministries in diocesan parishes and in education, as well as in specialized settings throughout the diocese. You are the voice of advocacy for many. In the true spirit of the Gospel, you bring hope and joy and comfort to the poor, to the lonely, to the ill and to all who are especially burdened with life's challenges. To others, especially youth, you take messages of faith and spirituality.

Through your faith-filled ministries, you are willing to demonstrate your discipleship with Christ. It is because of this that you inspire the confidence and trust that brings healing and peace to those in need. We all understand only too well the message in Luke's Gos-

pel that the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.

During this week, let us joyfully celebrate the gifts we have been given. I encourage you to keep your spirit and energy alive by taking time to be refreshed through prayer, reflection and study. In this way, you will continue to make a lasting impact that will reach far beyond the boundaries of our diocese.

Be assured of my prayers and gratitude. You are a blessing in our midst. May God give you peace and love and courage always!

Sincerely in Christ,

Donald W. Trautman

The Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L.
Bishop of Erie



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Sunday October 19: Noon until 6 pm
Parish cafeteria, 2401 W. 38th St.

Our Lady of Peace Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Children \$3
Includes: spaghetti w/ meatballs, bread, salad, drink and dessert—all served to you by our youth.

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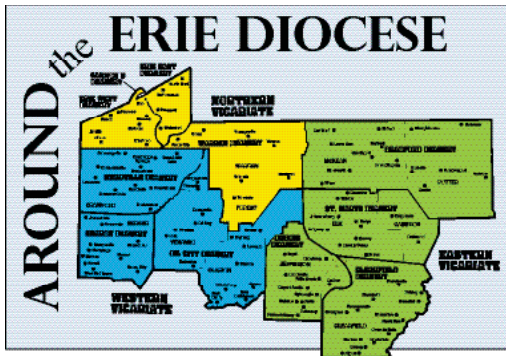
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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



Science courses at DuBois Central Catholic receive 'AP' certification from college board

DUBOIS — The Administration of DuBois Central Catholic High School recently received notification from the College Board's Advanced Placement Program that the school's biology and environmental science courses have both received authorization to use the AP designation.

Trevor Packer, vice president of the Advanced Placement Program, contacted the school with the news. Packer wrote, "Thank you for all that you do to provide your students with a rigorous, college-level experience. This designation grants you permission to use the 'AP' designation on your students' transcripts."

The College Board, established in 1900, is a not-for-profit membership association committed to the principles of excellence and equity and is also known for its SAT, PSAT and National Merit Scholarship programs.

Donna Chollock, science chair, is responsible for these courses and for participating in the mandated AP course audit. Her coursework was completed



AP biology students (front) Josh Zimmerly and Joe McNally; (row 2) Emily Miknis, Jenna Levin and Nicole Feix; (row 3) Emily Peck, Alex Goldbach and Seth Gould use the school's laptops to research a question posed by their science instructor Donna Chollock.

over two summers of study at Allegheny College, Meadville. The Advanced Placement Summer Institutes provided the development workshops for Chollock to complete the needed course work to secure this designation for Central's science curriculum. The authorization is an official recognition by the College Board that each course meets or exceeds expectations.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi brings pet blessings to parishes

Many churches throughout the Erie Diocese held pet blessings on or near Oct. 4, which is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology.

Pictured are several people bringing their pets to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Erie for Msgr. Bruce Allison to bless on Oct. 4.

"St. Francis showed his love for all animals," Msgr. Allison said during the blessing. "We ask him to bless our pets with his love and care and to keep them safe from injury and live their lives to reflect God's glory."



St. George students participate in Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome

ERIE — More than a dozen of Marielle Lafaro's 7th and 8th grade religion students at St. George School recently participated in the Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome at Liberty Park in Erie.

"Students are required to do hours of community service for class, and I try to help them find meaningful things to do," Lafaro said.

To celebrate October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Buddy Walks throughout the country promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. Students are pictured with Lafaro and her friend, Jason Middleton, a member of L'Arche Erie.



PNC Bank donates more than \$100,000 to Catholic education through EITC program

ERIE — Marlene Mosco, regional president of PNC Bank, made a check presentation to Bishop Donald Trautman Oct. 9 on behalf of the bank for more than \$100,000 in tax credit money that will go toward education grants for Catholic school students in the Erie Diocese.

The tax credits are made possible through Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program. Through the STAR (Student Tuition Assistance Resource) Foundation, the diocese distributes tuition grants from EITC, which provides state tax credits to businesses that contribute toward education.

Mosco greeted Bishop Trautman at a meeting of the diocese's Advancement Counsel, which included principals and school leaders. She presented a check for approximately \$57,000 to be used for preschool education, scholarships and educational improvement. But she had more news.

"Because PNC was a good earner, we were able to increase tax credits and scholarships to the three area Catholic high schools in Erie—Villa Maria Academy, Cathedral Prep and Mercyhurst Prep—to \$15,000 each," Mosco said.



Combining the high school scholarships with the \$57,000, PNC Bank's donation totaled nearly \$102,000.

"In the name of our young people, our students who will benefit, I thank you," Bishop Trautman told Mosco in front of the audience. "We are very proud to be in partnership with PNC, and we are proud of all that you do for the church and our community."

Businesses interested in

learning more about tax credits currently available through the EITC program should contact Charles Banducci, director of school financial services for the Erie Diocese, at 814.824.1188.

Catholic Daughters welcome new members

ERIE — The September meeting of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Erie 515, took place at St. Andrew Parish on Sept. 17. New officers installed for two-year terms included (pictured from left to right): Carla Krott, vice regent; Linda Snyder, treasurer; Kathleen Levis, regent; Mary May, financial secretary; Jeanette Ditch, district deputy; Emma Schaeffer, recording secretary, and Msgr. Richard Sullivan, chaplain.

The court will gather for an 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 19 at St. Andrew. A reception of new members will take place at that time. October 19 is designated as the National Catholic Daughters of America Day.

The Erie Court is actively seeking new members to develop their God-given talents in a meaningful way to positively influence the welfare of the church and all people throughout the world. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Daughters is



encouraged to call Mary May at 814.459.8372 for more information.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, founded in 1903, has grown and developed into the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas. Under the patronage of the Blessed Mother, its members are united by their faith in Jesus Christ and their devotion to the church and the Holy See. Members strive to

embrace the principles of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

www.erieRCD.org
The website of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

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