

OLC gets \$13,000 grant
What's new in Catholic schools, page 3.



Champs!
St. John-Holy Rosary beats Blessed Sacrament for football title, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 11, 2007

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



- Nov. 12 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov. 12 St. Josaphat
- Nov. 13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
- Nov. 15 St. Albert the Great
- Nov. 16 St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude
- Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov. 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Nov. 22 St. Cecilia
- Nov. 23 St. Clement I, St. Columban, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro
- Nov. 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions
- Nov. 25 Christ the King

Confirmation Schedule

St. Mark, Lawrence Park - Sat., Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall meeting - Nov. 12-15

The U.S. bishops will consider approving an updated statement on liturgical music when they convene Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore for their annual fall general meeting. They will also vote on two catechetical documents, a framework for high school religion classes and guidelines for catechetical instruction in human sexuality for elementary and high school students, as well as a document on Catholic political engagement. See preview stories on page 2.



National collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, is awarding more than \$9.5 million in grants this year to support local projects that work to eliminate the root causes of poverty in the United States.

The grants totaling \$9,578,000 will be distributed to 314 projects in 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. According to the U.S. Census Bureau report released in August, 36.5 million Americans live at or below the poverty line.

CCHD's efforts are funded almost entirely through an annual parish collection. This year's appeal will take place on Nov. 17-18. The Erie Diocese sends 75 percent of the donations to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the U.S. Twenty-five percent stays in the diocese.

Last year, more than \$45,000 was distributed in the diocese to directly impact those in poverty through St. Martin Center, Erie; Prince of Peace Center, Farrell; St. Elizabeth Center, Oil City; House of Healing, Erie; SSI Neighborhood Network, Erie; Mercy Center for Women, Erie; and the Susquehanna Rural Free Clinic, Frenchville.

Clergy appointments



Father Thomas Hoderny, granted a medical leave of absence and approval to reside at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. Effective November 1, 2007.

Msgr. William Karg, reappointed to the Erie Diocese's Clergy Continuing Education and Formation Committee for a term of four years ending in November 2011.

Father Mark Nowak, appointed parochial administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish, McKean. Effective November 17, 2007.

Father John Walsh, appointed pastor of St. Philip Parish, Linesville, for a term of six years while continuing as pastor of St. Peter, Conneautville. Effective November 17, 2007.

Father Thomas Whitman, reappointed to the Erie Diocese's Clergy Continuing Education and Formation Committee for a term of four years ending in November 2011.

Making connections and growing in faith

Erie Catholic Young Adult Ministry springs out of Theology on Tap sessions

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Kent Kuholski heard about Theology on Tap through word of mouth and knew it was just the kind of thing he was looking for.

"That's basically how I got into it," Kuholski said. "Hearing about it for the first time, I fell in love with the idea. I always wanted something that would help me meet new people and push me further in the same thing he was."

He went to the Theology on Tap sessions in the spring sponsored by the diocese's Young Adult Ministries. At the first Tap session with Bishop Donald Trautman, he met a number of young adults who were looking for the same thing he was.

Through the Theology on Tap series, speakers presented discussions to an average of 40 young adults. Now those young adults are meeting together on their own. Many of them have built a close community and meet for spiritual, service and community gatherings.

The newly named Erie CYAMs (Catholic Young Adult Ministry) first met informally at a local coffee shop after the spring series of Theology on Tap to see how they could keep sharing their faith with one another. Through an e-mail chain, the group has kept in touch about other events such as Theology on Tap events in Buffalo and area retreats. Word of mouth has also worked well with each other.

The Catholic Church defines young adults as people between the ages of 21 and 40, a demographic which makes up about 40 percent of the Catholic population. "We kind of get lost in the shuffle a lot of times," said Kuholski, 28, who attends Holy Cross Parish in Fairview. "Getting involved in this is a way to show there are a lot of great young people who are out there striving to learn about their faith."

Being active with young adults while living in the metro Washington, D.C., area, Theresa Walsh wanted to find something similar when she moved back to Erie.

"I barely knew anybody, but the people I met here had the same mentality that I had: we're young and we care about the faith," Walsh said.

In its short existence, CYAM has already conducted several events, thriving in its own faith community. Their activities are geared around the concepts of community, prayer and service. The group planned the recent Theology on Tap series, which was hosted at The Brewerie at Union Station in downtown Erie the first four Wednesdays in October. They also went on a rosary-and-a-hike near Woodcock Dam and participated in



Young adults listen to Father Jason Glover's discussion on the Catholic approach to Scripture Oct. 24 at a Theology on Tap session in Erie.

a Habitat for Humanity build in the Erie area.

"Our numbers are still small, but we keep in touch and shoot e-mails to each other," Walsh said. "It's about building good friendships and doing fun things. We're looking forward to having people with us on that journey."

The group is planning a number of activities including a coffee shop discussion series, an Advent retreat at Mount St. Benedict, a winter silent directed retreat and a spring 2008 Theology on Tap series.

"I think we made connections with people and planted the seed of future growth," Walsh said. "We want to let people know we're here, and there are lots of young people out there who want to grow in their faith together."

About two dozen young adults attended the most recent Theology on Tap discussion Oct. 24 given by Father Jason Glover, a professor in Gannon University's Theology Department, on the Catholic approach to reading Scripture.

"I think a lot of people our age have a lot of questions," said Theresa Waters, a second-year medical student at LECOM originally from Syracuse, N.Y., who has been attending the series. She also attends Mass at St. George in Erie. "This has been great because the speakers give a lot of answers here."

The group is happy overall with what it has been able to do so far.

"I think we made connections with people and planted the seed of future growth," Walsh said. "We want to let people know we're here, and there are lots of young people out there who want to grow in their faith together."

Erie CYAMs

For more information on Erie CYAMs and their activities, visit their Web site at www.ErieCYAM.org or contact the diocese's Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1216.

Child Protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

For the fourth time in four years, the Diocese of Erie has complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse.

The diocese's Office for Protection of Children and Youth was found to be in full compliance of the Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children during its recent audit by the independent Gavin Group, working under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As part of the process, the diocese established its own Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in 2004. It is under the direction of Msgr. Robert Smith and coordinator Karen Streett.

During their visit, auditors used the bishops' charter as a measuring stick, said Msgr. Smith, who also serves as the diocese's vicar general. Using it as a guide to direct the audit, they look at any new cases or allegations of abuse since the last audit.

"They look very carefully at our efforts to create a safe environment," Msgr. Smith said. "They look at the number of children who have been educated and the numbers of educators, volunteers, priests, deacons and anyone who has regular contact with children to see how many have been trained in the policy requirement of the diocese."

The audit showed that 23,402 children and youth in the Erie Diocese received safe environment training and inservicing from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

"They look at all the documentation, everything we say and claim has to be documented," Msgr. Smith said.

All of the materials are prepared and submitted to the Gavin Group in advance of the audit.

Auditors also spoke with Bishop Donald Trautman

From July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 in the Erie Diocese, safe environment inservices were conducted with 23,402 children and youth.

The number of people working with children who have been inserviced, not necessarily completed this year. They have had background checks completed and are cleared:

- 175 priests
- 44 deacons
- 40 candidates for ordination
- 778 educators
- 737 parish employees
- 2,878 volunteers



Source: Office for Protection of Children and Youth

and other diocesan representatives including the chancellor, judicial vicar, seminary rector and members of the Diocesan Review Board. Other interview subjects included Erie County District Attorney Brad Foulk and Dr. Robert Nelsen, who serves as the diocese's victim assistance coordinator.

"He's a key individual throughout this process," Msgr. Smith said of Nelsen.

Nelsen, who is in private practice, serves as the chairperson of Gannon University's Psychology Department.

"We've always been found to be in full compliance," Msgr. Smith said. "That's a credit to the bishop. We haven't been deficient or negligent in any areas."

He described the number of people that have been trained through the diocese's efforts over the years as "pretty exceptional."

"And that's a positive step," he said. "I think the importance of all of this is that the church is not quietly sitting back and accepting the reality; we're admitting it and taking positive steps toward the safety of our children."

Surviving abortion



Gianna Jessen, 30, who lived after her mother aborted her in 1977, tells her story to about 600 students and adults at Queen of the World in St. Marys Nov. 4. Medical records state that she was born during a saline solution abortion. Doctors predicted she would be "no more than a vegetable." Although Jessen has what she says is "the gift of Cerebral Palsy," she has run in two marathons and is a singer in Nashville, Tenn. She travels the country sharing her story. "My biological mother thought she was making a decision affecting only women's rights, then what were mine?" Look for more on Jessen's story and visit in the January/February issue of Faith magazine.

Study finds South is most charitable region, Northeast least

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Americans in the South contributed a far greater portion of their incomes to charity than those in the Northeast in 2005, according to a new book on church giving.

And when the calculations of charitable giving are limited to those made to churches and religious organizations, the average annual expenditures by Southern households in 2005 was nearly twice that of households in the Northeast.

"The State of Church Giving Through 2005," which was to be published Oct. 15, is the latest in a series of analyses produced by Emory

Tomb, an Illinois church stewardship research and consulting company.

Husband and wife researchers John and Sylvia Ronsavalle analyzed data on charitable giving from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey 2005, which put total charitable giving by Americans that year at \$114.86 billion.

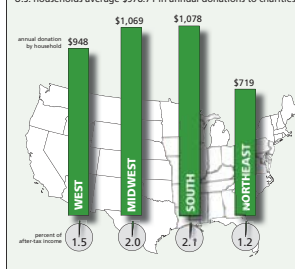
Looking at charitable contributions as a percentage of after-tax income, the researchers found that Southerners gave 2.1 percent of their available income to charity, those in the Midwest 2 percent, those in the West 1.5 percent and those in the Northeast 1.2 percent.

In terms of dollars, that came to an average annual donation by U.S. households of \$978.71. Households in the South gave \$1,077.70 each, followed closely by Midwesterners at \$1,068.80 per household. Those in the West gave \$948.28 and those in the Northeast gave \$718.61.

The total giving includes four categories—charities and other organizations, churches and religious organizations, educational institutions and gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds to people outside one's own household. Contributions to churches and religious organizations was the largest category by far in all four regions.

Charitable Giving

U.S. households average \$978.71 in annual donations to charities.





IN THE U.S.

■ In view of a priest shortage, the Diocese of Wilmington has approved 17 recommendations made by priests of the diocese designed to help the shrinking number of priests better serve the growing number of Catholics in the diocese. The recommendations address areas such as the role of the priest, deacons and lay collaboration among parishes; and better distribution of priests and deacons.

Under the recommendations, the diocese will "develop strategies by which the deacons and lay can fully assume their roles and responsibilities"; study the implementation of a "geographic cluster model" to encourage parishes to collaborate with one another; and develop a "general ministry description" for parish priests that will be tailored to each parish. The recommendations most likely to affect the Catholic in the pew is the geographical cluster model whereby parishes close to one another could work together, and the development of a set of collaborative practices that parishes would be encouraged to use.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Women religious from around the world have formed a global network aimed at combating human trafficking. More than 30 nuns from 26 nations launched the initiative called the "International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons" during a conference on human trafficking Oct. 15-19 in Rome. The U.S. Department of State funded the conference and training seminar, which was organized by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican and the Italian Union of Major Superiors. The International Organization for Migration helped design a program for workers to assist women forced into prostitution to

leave and get off the streets. Public awareness campaigns have brought more awareness about this \$12 billion business, which in 2005 was built on the forced labor of at least 12 million people.

■ Pope Benedict XVI has completed his second encyclical, a meditation on Christian hope, Vatican sources said. The text, tentatively titled "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), is about 65 pages, sources said. No release date has been set for the document. The working title comes from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, in which he wrote: "For in hope we have been saved." The encyclical is said to explore the Christian understanding of hope, with reference to modern philosophy and the challenges of disbelief. The pope worked on the encyclical this summer, when he had time to write during his sojourns in northern Italy and at his villa outside Rome. At the same time, he was working on a third encyclical that deals with social themes, Vatican officials said. The pope published his first encyclical in late 2006.

■ Where the European Union ends and the former Soviet Union begins, a strong, steady stream of vocations is evidence that the Catholic Church has surged following the collapse of communism nearly 20 years ago. For example, the Diocese of Iasi, Romania's second-largest city with a long history of educating Christian leaders in southeastern Europe, is one of six Latin-rite Catholic dioceses in Romania. Though it is not the diocese with the most parishioners—only 256,000 members out of a nationwide population of 1.9 million Catholics—it is one of Europe's most bountiful sources of young priests and women religious, said a U.S. church official familiar with the church in Eastern Europe. The most recent crop of priests were conse-

crated in June. Of the 30 new priests, 27 are between the ages of 25 and 29. Ten are Franciscans, an order with 13 friaries in Romania, all opened or renewed since the fall of communism.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

A Vatican cardinal beatified Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer who was beheaded in 1943 after he refused to fight in Hitler's army. Presiding over the beatification Mass in Linz, Austria, Oct. 26, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins said Blessed Jagerstatter offered an example of how to live the Christian faith fully and radically, even when there are extreme consequences. Blessed Jagerstatter was beatified as a martyr, which means he was killed out of hatred for the faith. Many Austrian church leaders attended the beatification liturgy, and the Austrian bishops' conference recently called Blessed Jagerstatter "a shining example in dark times."



Franz Jagerstatter

■ As a mother, widow and woman religious, Blessed Celina Borzecka of Poland reminds today's faithful that even an ordinary life can be holy if it is lived fully for God, Pope Benedict XVI said. Blessed Borzecka, who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection, is "the silent and heroic witness of many Christians who live the Gospel without compromise, fulfilling their duties and generously dedicating themselves to serving the poor," the pope said. Blessed Borzecka was beatified Oct. 27.



Blessed Celina Borzecka

By the Way...

Nancy Irwin of the Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council called with the good news that Girl Scouts from the former troop at Sacred Heart School in Erie have been placed with other troops. She took the opportunity to note that it is not necessary for parishes to have a school in order to have a troop; anyone interested in more information can call her at 800.445.9170.



Jason Koshinski

Holy Trinity Parish in Erie is offering its new "Tastes of Tradition" parish cookbook for sale. This edition contains more than 350 recipes submitted by parishioners for contemporary family favorites as well as traditional Polish dishes and desserts. The cookbook is available at \$10 per copy at the church office or by mail at \$13 per copy, including postage. Contact the Holy Trinity office at 814.456.0671 for ordering information.

John Thavis, Catholic News Service's Rome bureau reporter, posted some interesting updates Nov. 1 about the pope's spring visit to the U.S. at www.cns.com. Rumors are buzzing about a papal Mass in New York's Central Park or Yankee Stadium. Here are some details:

"Sometime over the next two days, Pope Benedict will receive a dossier with the proposed program for his visit to the United Nations and the United States next April.

"Much has been circulated about the papal visit in recent weeks, including detailed plans about liturgies in New York and Washington, encounters with New York seminarians and U.S. bishops, and of course the pope's expected address to the U.N. General Assembly. But all those plans are tentative at this point—and it bothers the Vatican that they've prematurely made their way into blogs and news reports.

"The pope's advance team was on the East Coast last week putting together a definitive program for a trip that focuses on two stops, Washington and New York. But even this 'final' program is not final, because the pope hasn't sat down and reviewed it yet. The ultimate decisions are indeed up to him, and it's quite possible that the pope could change things, either tweaking the schedule or deciding to add a city.

"Typically, papal trip planning goes through several drafts. The host country usually announces the main events a few months ahead of time, and the Vatican doesn't release the pope's official schedule until about six weeks before the trip. But in this case, media interest and logistical demands may move all that up. With no other papal travel on the horizon, excitement is already building for B16's first UN/US encounter—even if it's nearly six months away."

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

Bishops to vote on catechetical, political guidance documents

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops will vote on two catechetical documents, a framework for high school religion classes and guidelines for catechetical instruction in human sexuality for elementary and high school students, as well as a document on Catholic political engagement, when they convene Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore for their annual fall general meeting.

Both catechetical documents were prepared by the Committee on Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The 80-page document on high school religion curriculum sets the framework for material that should be covered in high school religion classes in Catholic high schools, parish religious education or youth ministry programs and for home-schooled Catholic teenagers. The format includes core topics covering six semesters and five elective topics.

The core curriculum, outlined in the document, includes a format for teaching about who Jesus is, how he is revealed in Scripture, his mission and how the church continues it, encounters with Jesus in the sacraments and how to follow the example of Jesus in modern life.

The other educational document to be presented to the bishops this fall is a 21-page set of guidelines on catechetical instruction on human sexuality for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. This document has been worked on since 2003 in

response to catechetical publishers who have been seeking guidance and direction on this topic.

Its introduction states that the guidelines should not only help publishers, but parents, catechists and teachers "in their respective roles in this crucial and delicate task." The introduction adds that in teaching young people about sexuality "modest reference to human anatomy or physiology is to be made only to the degree necessary to teach morality and virtue."

The document is in two parts. The first part focuses on elements of the church's teaching that should be included as components in teaching about human sexuality, beginning with the scriptural account of human beings created in God's own image and created for love.

The second part of the document points out the specific roles of pastors, parents, teachers and catechists, as well as publishers in training young people to follow church teaching on sexuality.

Rejecting a "political climate based on 'powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype,'" the U.S. bishops are calling Catholics to "a different kind of political engagement" with "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

In the document, the bishops admit that "Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the church's comprehensive commitment to the dignity of the human person."

Bishops to consider new liturgical music statement

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops will consider approving an updated version of a 35-year-old statement on liturgical music when they convene Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore for their annual fall general meeting.

The proposed document, which like the original is named "Music in Catholic Worship," deals with many of the issues the 1972 statement addressed. But it also promises to have within three years a directory of liturgical songs for use in U.S. parishes.

The planned directory is an outgrowth of the 2001 Vatican instruction "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy"), which called on each bishop's conference to compile a "directory or repertory of texts intended for liturgical singing."

While "greatly blessed" by the contributions of composers and the hymnody that has resulted since Mass in the vernacular was first permitted in 1964, the proposed document says, "the use of liturgical songs has not, however, been without certain challenges."

Liturgical songs it adds, "should be doctrinally sound, pointing to 'tendencies toward doctrinal compromise' in individual songs, such as:

■ "The doctrine of the blessed Trinity should never be

compromised through the consistent replacement of masculine pronominal (a grammatical term meaning having the function of a pronoun) references to the three divine persons."

■ "The elimination of archaic language should never alter the meaning and essential theological structure of a venerable liturgical song."

"Liturgiam Authenticam" gives the directive that "if (liturgical songs) are used widely by the faithful, they should remain relatively fixed so that confusion among the people may be avoided," the proposed document says.

According to the norms outlined in the proposed update to "Music in Catholic Worship," "the approval of liturgical songs is reserved to the diocesan bishop in whose diocese an individual song is published."

The "Common Repertoire of Liturgical Songs," as the core repertory would be called, is to be included in all commercially published participation aids in English used in U.S. dioceses.

"Charity, justice, and evangelization are thus the normal consequences of liturgical celebration," the proposed document says. "Often our participation in the liturgy is imperfect. Sometimes, our voices do not correspond to the convictions of our hearts. At other times, we are distracted or preoccupied by the cares of the world. But Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations and to give our entire selves

Pope says liturgical music should evolve with the times

By Catholic News Service

ROME — The church's "ancient treasure" of liturgical music should not remain frozen in time, but evolve with appropriate modern-day adaptations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Sacred music and song are a 'necessary and integral part of solemn liturgy' that 'stir hearts and lifts them' to such heights that one can experience, 'in a manner of speaking, the same intimacy of the life of God,'" he told staff and students of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music.

During an Oct. 13 visit to inaugurate and bless recently restored areas of the institute, the pope recalled Pope John Paul II's observations that sacred liturgical music has three defining characteristics, "holiness, true art, universality," enabling it to be offered to "any people or type of assembly."

The Second Vatican Council affirmed that the church's sacred musical tradition "is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art," Pope Benedict said, quoting from the council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

Church authorities and institutes must work hard at "wisely guiding the development of such a discriminating genre of music, not 'freezing' the treasure, but seeking to insert valid modern-day changes into the past heritage in order to obtain a synthesis worthy of the high mission reserved for this divine service," he said.

— Catholic News Service



to the hymn of his paschal sacrifice."

The pope's document adds, "Singing is one of the primary ways that the assembly of the faithful participates actively in the liturgy." It adds elsewhere that "musical instruments in the liturgy are best understood as an extension of and support to the more basic instrument which is the human voice."

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Briefly

St. George alumni Mass Nov. 24

Alumni of St. George School are invited for a special Alumni Mass on Saturday, Nov. 24 at St. George Parish, Erie, at 5:30 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish multi-purpose room. Reminiscence about your school days as a St. George Lancer, catch up with old classmates and share memories with friends and family.

Theology of the Body mini-course

Explore the true meaning of life, love, relationships and human sexuality through the Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. This three-part mini-course will be offered by Father Chris Singer at Mercyhurst College Heritage Hall from 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 12.

For more information or to register, call 814.824.1259 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 259. Registration is appreciated, but not required.

OLP praise band releases Christmas CD

Selah Praise Band of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie will perform a concert on Wed., Nov. 14 at 7:30 to celebrate the release of the group's second CD recording, "Love Has Come," which is a collection of traditional and contemporary songs for the Christmas season. The concert will be held at the church and is free and open to the public.

Selah will perform selections from the CD at the concert. All proceeds from the sale of the CD will support music ministry at Our Lady of Peace. The new recording will be available for the first time at the concert.

Selah Praise Band released its first CD, "We Are One Body," in 2005. Selah provides music ministry each week at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Peace.



Selah Praise Band

Cathedral Prep Headmaster's Dinner

Every other year, the Cathedral Preparatory School community gathers to recognize and honor the accomplishments of individual alumni, faculty members and/or friends of Prep and induct them into the Headmaster's Hall of Fame during the Headmaster's Dinner.

The 12th Headmaster's Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on Wed., Nov. 14 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. This year's inductees include: Chris Cooney '59, Brian Jackman '59, Msgr. Robert Brugger '60, Atty. Dan Brabender '70, and Rob Doyle '73.

The dinner also serves as a fundraiser for the school with proceeds directed toward tuition assistance. Reservations are required and can be made through the school's Advancement Office by calling 814.453.7737 ext. 243.

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What's new in Catholic schools

The following submissions include a look at what's new and activities at Catholic schools throughout the Erie Diocese.

St. Marys Catholic Middle School, St. Marys

At St. Marys Catholic Middle School, the library research center was recently upgraded with new computer hardware, as were the administrative offices. A computer station was added to each homeroom to complement the two fixed labs and mobile lab.

Both basic and accelerated English programs have been added to meet the needs of each student at his or her level in language arts. The curricular offerings have also been expanded to give geography more prominence.



Students are getting to know Father Meinrad Lawson, OSB, the new pastor at St. Mary Parish. Student Council members with Father Lawson include, left to right, Kevin Kraus, Kevin Kronenwetter, Jena Struble, Alexa Meholic and Madelyn O'Leary.



Father Edward Lohse, chancellor of the Erie Diocese, gave brief remarks during Venango Catholic High School's gymnasium rededication ceremony Oct. 8 at the school in Oil City. The school replaced the bleachers and the floor and repainted the gymnasium during the summer.

Our Lady's Christian School, Erie

In September, GE Volunteers gave a grant of \$13,000 to Our Lady's Christian School (OLC) to support the school's Mandarin Chinese language program. The funds were awarded during a "Mandarin Night" celebration at the school, during which volunteers from GE's China Development Team and OLC presented an evening of Chinese language and culture for 400 students, parents and friends of the school. The grant money is being used to purchase Mandarin textbooks and classroom materials for kindergarten through eighth grade. All 380 K-8 students enrolled at OLC learn to speak, read and write Mandarin. Even preschool students learn some common Mandarin phrases. The program was initiated in 2006.

Also this year, OLC increased its enrollment, welcoming 55 new families to the school. OLC initiated an all-day preschool program for 4- and 5-year-olds this year and enrolled 24 students before the first day of class.

Our Lady's Christian School families received a record \$70,000 in tuition assistance through the Diocese of Erie Star Foundation this year. Seventy families received \$1,000 each.

Our Lady's Christian School is a regional elementary/middle school serving the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Jude the Apostle and St. Julia. The school will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2008.



Msgr. Robert Brugger, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Erie, accepts a check from Ray Nicolia, GE Volunteer leader and a member of St. Jude and OLC parent. GE Volunteers gave a \$13,000 grant to OLC to support its Mandarin Chinese language program.

St. John-Holy Rosary School, Erie

Father Rick Tomasono, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, is teaching the new Accelerated Algebra I class at St. John-Holy Rosary School in Erie. Study Buddies, a peer tutoring program, meet weekly as an after school activity. Eighth graders took a nature retreat to scenic Presque Isle State Park while 5th graders took a field trip to the Flagship Niagara and Dobbins Landing.



Father Rick Tomasono's Accelerated Algebra I class.

St. Stephen School, Oil City

St. Stephen School in Oil City reports an increase in enrollment for both Pre-K and K-8 this year. Five additional students joined the Pre-K program and the student body increased by 10 from 174 to 184. The school purchased 19 new computers for its computer lab and updated the server for faster and safer Internet access.

The carpeting in the Kindergarten room was replaced with a new tile floor in primary colors. The walls also received a fresh coat of paint.



Pictured clockwise are Samuel Puleo, Alex Finch, Ashley Barletta and Matthew McQuaide sitting on the cross in the center of the new Kindergarten floor at St. Stephen School in Oil City.

DEATH NOTICE

Father Joseph A. Ciaiola dies at 86 Served as longtime pastor in Farrell, Brookville

Father Joseph Ciaiola, 86, a retired priest in residence at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Farrell, died on Wednesday, October 24 at Sharon Regional Health System.

He was born May 3, 1921 in Titusville, a son of the late Michele and Mary Rose D'Agostino Ciaiola. He attended St. Titus Grade School and the former St. Joseph Academy, Titusville, graduating in 1939.

Father Ciaiola earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1943 from St. Bonaventure University and completed seminary studies at Christ the King Seminary, both in Olean, N.Y., earning a master's degree in sacred theology in 1947.

He was ordained as a priest May 15, 1947 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie by Archbishop John Mark Gannon.

His home parish was St. Titus, Titusville.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Anthony Parish in Farrell, from 1947 to 1952. When the parish merged with St. Elizabeth in 1952 to form the new Our Lady of Fatima Parish, he was appointed assistant pastor of the new church by Pope Pius XII.

During his time at Our Lady of Fatima, Father Ciaiola was instrumental in building the parish school, Fatima Hall, the convent and the addition to the rectory.

He served Our Lady of Fatima until 1963 when he was named administrator and then pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookville.

He served as pastor in Brookville for 34 years, until his retirement in 1997. During his time as pastor, Immaculate Conception underwent a major renovation. Father Ciaiola also

helped develop mission churches in Sigel and Corsica. While in Brookville, he also served as episcopal vicar for priests and on the priest senate from 1967 to 1973. Upon his retirement in 1997, he returned to Our Lady of Fatima in Farrell, where he resided until his death.

In 1954, Archbishop Gannon named the Ciaiola family as the Catholic Family of the Year in the Erie Diocese. In addition, Father Ciaiola was named Man of the Year in 2006 by Our Lady of Fatima Holy Name Society.

He was active with United Way in Brookville and was a member of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Wagner Council, Brookville.

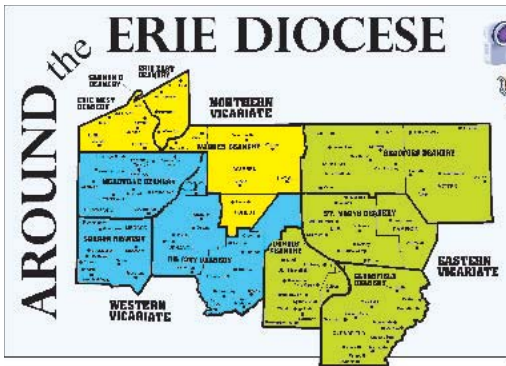
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings including Father Ralph Ciaiola, former pastor of St. Michael Parish, Greenville.



Father Joseph Ciaiola

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St. John-Holy Rosary claims championship

ERIE — The Knights of St. John-Holy Rosary Eastside Catholic topped the Bulldogs of Blessed Sacrament 34-6 in the Parochial League football championship Oct. 30 at Erie's Veterans Stadium.

Joseph Oduho got the Knights on the scoreboard with a 34-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. He added another touchdown, a 3-yard run, early in the second. Sniheal Page then scored the first of his three touchdowns for St. John-Holy Rosary.

Blessed Sacrament scored with less than a minute remaining in the first half on a 35-yard pass from Chris Francis to Matt Fiorenza to cut the lead to 22-6. But that was as close as the Bulldogs would get.

Page tacked on two touchdown runs of 46 and 53 yards in the fourth quarter to help secure the win for St. John-Holy Rosary.

The Knights and Bulldogs both finished the season with an 8-2 record.

In semi-final action Oct. 25 at Gannon University Field, St. John-Holy Rosary beat St. Luke 28-8, and Blessed Sacrament got an 8-0 victory over Our Lady of Peace.



At top, Blessed Sacrament (gold pants) gets ready to run a play against St. John Holy Rosary. Both St. John-Holy Rosary (middle) and Blessed Sacrament (bottom) had plenty of fans in their respective cheering sections.

Bishops' cathedral crypt rededicated

ERIE — On Nov. 2, the feast of All Souls, the resting place for the diocese's deceased bishops was rededicated.

The bishops' crypt in the basement of St. Peter Cathedral was

refurbished over the summer. The doorway has been widened and the old wooden door replaced with glass doors and a glass enclosure. The brick and mortar entrance has been replaced with a marble exterior.

The crypt redesign was done by architect Dick Weibel, a Cathedral parishioner who also oversaw the cathedral's renovation.

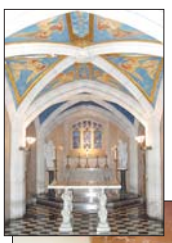
"The idea was to let people see inside the crypt even if its doors were closed," Weibel said.

Bishop Trautman also talked about the bishops who are buried there.

"These men gave the diocese the best years of their lives," he said. "They survived great hardships and made many sacrifices."

"It is most appropriate that we rededicate this crypt today, the feast of All Souls," Bishop Trautman told the gathered crowd of Cathedral Prep and Cathedral Center students and parishioners. "The bishops of our diocese now have a proper resting place."

Below, Bishop Donald Trautman cuts the ribbon on the newly renovated crypt at St. Peter Cathedral.



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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Are you pictured in this issue? Share this page with family and friends online by visiting archived issues of *FaithLife* at: www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp

Erie Mercy community welcomes new associates

ERIE — Mercy Associates renewed their yearly covenant for Mercy-related service during a liturgy at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse Oct. 7. Also, nine new associates were welcomed at the Mass at which they made their first covenant commitment.

New associates pictured in the first row, from left, are: Peggy Brace, Terry Dever, Debbie Butler and Deneen Skarupski. In the back row, from left, are: Lou Giordano, Ann Cuzola, Mary Daly, Joseph Grogan and Dan Zimmer.

Associates are lay women and men who make a formal commitment to live the Gospel and the traditions and values of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters



of Mercy, through community service and prayer. There are 49 associates in the Erie Mercy community.

St. Marys youth group goes on scavenger hunt for food bank

ST. MARYS — The St. Marys Life Teen youth group recently had a scavenger hunt to find items needed for the local Christian Food Bank. The efforts of the teens yielded 236 pounds of food which was collected and donated to the food bank. Also donated were 138 bags of personal items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and razors, which were bought with money raised by teens who went on a mission trip over the summer.



St. Patrick in Franklin gets new steeple

FRANKLIN — St. Patrick Parish in Franklin recently completed a renovation of the church steeple. Parishioners contributed \$104,000 for the much-needed repairs.

The Bob Boal Steeple Fund was set up in remembrance of Deacon Bob Boal of St. Patrick Parish who passed away in May.

Work began in June and finished in early October. A formal dedication is in the planning stages.

Msgr. John Herbein (left), pastor, and Msgr. John Snyder (right), pastor emeritus, take a ride on the lift to make a final examination of the work.



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Sister Therese of the Infant Jesus Daughters of the Sacred Heart Carmelite Nun
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