

Securing the future

Cathedral Prep kicks off capital campaign, page 3.



'To Know and to Serve'

Schools vie in religion competition, page 4.



www.ErieCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 15, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Elizabeth of Hungary

St. Andrew

- Nov. 16 St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude
- Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov. 18 Dedication of the Basilicas of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
- Nov. 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Nov. 22 Christ the King
- Nov. 23 Pope Clement I, St. Columban, Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro
- Nov. 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions
- Nov. 25 St. Catherine of Alexandria
- Nov. 30 St. Andrew
- Dec. 3 St. Francis Xavier
- Dec. 4 St. John of Damascus

Confirmations

St. Mark, Lawrence Park - Saturday, Nov. 21 at 5 p.m.

Mass and blessing of new units at Christ the King Manor - Nov. 22

Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the new short-term rehabilitation unit at Christ the King Manor in DuBois on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. and celebrate Mass in the manor's chapel.

School Mass at St. Thomas, Corry - Dec. 4

Bishop Donald Trautman will celebrate a school Mass for the students of St. Thomas School in Corry at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 4 at St. Thomas Parish.

Installation of permanent diaconate candidates - Dec. 5

Bishop Trautman will install seven men as candidates for the permanent diaconate at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at St. Mark Seminary Chapel, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. These men are fourth-year students in the diocese's permanent diaconate formation program and are scheduled to be ordained deacons in May:

- Dick Brogdon - St. Jude the Apostle, Erie
- Fred Keck - Holy Rosary, Erie
- Doug Konzel - St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie
- Dick O'Polka - St. Patrick, Franklin
- Jim Owens - Blessed Sacrament, Erie
- Rick Rueberger - St. Anthony, Sharon
- Dennis Socasch - Ss. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run

Clergy appointments

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

Msgr. Henry Kriegel, appointed pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Erie, and St. Hedwig Parish, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective November, 16, 2009.



Forming disciples of Christ

St. Mark's Seminary celebrates 50th anniversary



The dedication of St. Mark's Seminary on June 2, 1960. At right, Archbishop John Mark Gannon addresses a crowd of more than 1,600 clergy, as well as women religious, students and faithful from the Erie Diocese.



By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE - It was Archbishop John Mark Gannon's dream.

For years, the master architect of the Erie Diocese longed to build a seminary.

The late archbishop founded new parishes, built schools, expanded business institutions. He conceived a master plan in his later years that included the construction of five regional high schools and a seminary.

In 1959, with the overwhelming support of the people of the diocese, his dream became a reality.

On Nov. 30, the diocese will celebrate 50 years to the day that St. Mark's Seminary officially opened its doors at its current location at 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

The seminary was the project closest to Archbishop Gannon's heart. On the occasion of his 25th anniversary of his priesthood in 1925, he said there remained "one great deed to crown

the golden labors of the past," - the creation of a preparatory seminary. The seeds were planted with the founding of the Cathedral Preparatory School for Boys in 1919, he wrote.

In 1945, St. Mark's Hall on East Third Street was designated by the bishop as a place of residence for boys studying for the priesthood and attending classes at Cathedral Prep and then Gannon College. The building formerly housed a convent and an orphanage. Enrollment grew from 20 the first year to 93 in 1957.

It was in 1958 that the archbishop announced a \$5 million drive to cover the cost of building a new seminary along with five regional high schools. What happened next was nothing short of amazing. In just two months, the final pledges reached a staggering \$9.5 million.

Built at a cost of \$3.5 million, the new St. Mark's Seminary was dedicated in 1960 with more than 1,600 clergy, as well as women religious, students and faithful from the diocese in attendance.

Enrollment continued to increase. In 1962,

there were 217 young men studying for the priesthood. The following year in 1963, sixteen priests were ordained for the Erie Diocese, the largest class in its history.

"We had a great number of students," said Msgr. John Hagerty, who served as dean of studies among the members of the seminary's first faculty and administration. "We had so many in fact that we had to put extra cots on the stage in the gymnasium and where we could fit them."

One of Msgr. Hagerty's former students, Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, R.I., an alumnus of St. Mark's, will deliver the homily at the seminary's invitation only anniversary Mass Nov. 30. The public is invited on Sunday, Nov. 29 for evening prayer at 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel.

At its peak the seminary had approximately 230 students, Msgr. Hagerty said, with 70 of them enrolled in the college program at Gannon

See ST. MARK'S, page 3

A new beginning for Erie DAWN

Agency opens office on Villa Maria campus

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE - After unpacking and putting away all the moving boxes, Erie DAWN is ready to show off its new home.

Erie DAWN (Dwellings and Advocacy for Women in Need), which is in its 15th year, has moved from the St. Benedict Education Center to the Villa Maria Campus. The agency hosted a community open house Nov. 5.

Since its founding in 1995, the agency, in partnership with area landlords/realtors, has provided safe, affordable, independent, transitional housing for low-income women and children. Advocacy and support services are provided so that the women

can become productive members of the community.

"Just like we say, this is a new beginning," said Maureen Dunn, executive director of Erie DAWN.

Dunn said the agency is thankful for the years it has been housed at the St. Benedict Education Center and that it simply outgrew the space. The new space at 2549 W. Eighth St. in Erie includes offices and classrooms in the former Villa Maria College administration building.

"We'll be able to provide a number of new opportunities," Dunn said.

"We've implemented a youth mentoring component of our program. The moms all have mentors. Now we're matching up mentors for the kids."

She's hoping those mentors are nearby at Villa Maria Academy.

The campus' green space and ball fields allow for some recreational time, as well, Dunn said.

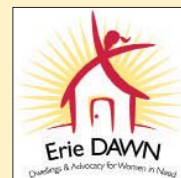
"At any one time, we're working with 20 moms and their children," she said. "We're working with lots of intensive issues. This space will help us deal with a lot of those issues."

Erie DAWN will maintain its outreach center at the Erie City Mission's family center on French Street.

One of the things that will continue is using graduates who have successfully completed the program as ambassadors.

"We find that works really well for them because they're so proud of themselves and they're really speaking from experience and from the heart," Dunn said.

A shared ministry of the Sisters



of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy and Benedictine Sisters, Erie DAWN offers a two-year program of subsidized housing, case management, mentoring and advocacy, helping women transition back into independence by giving them the tools to maintain self-sufficiency.

For more information about Erie DAWN, visit www.eriedawn.org.

Advent - a season of joyful waiting

Advent, the season of expectation leading up to the celebration of Christmas, begins Nov. 29. To help enhance this joyful period that prepares us for the commemoration of the Incarnation, the following resources are available.

Advent calendar

An Advent family calendar from Catholic Charities will be available on the diocesan Web site at www.ErieCD.org beginning Nov. 20. The printable calendar includes a Scripture verse, reflection and activity for every day of the season.

Jesse Tree

Faith magazine has created Jesse Tree ornaments to help reflect on the story of salvation from the creation of the world through the birth of Jesus.

Download a free, printable set of Jesse Tree ornaments at www.ErieCD.org/jesstree.htm. Each of the 28 ornaments is accompanied by a Scripture verse and explanation of what the symbol represents. The ornaments are available in both small and large sizes.



Child Protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

For the sixth time in six 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 diocesan 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 most recent audit.

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, vicar general, and Karen Street, coordinator.

The audit showed that more than 23,000 children and youth, 1,500 parish and school employees (including teachers and educators) and 2,700 volunteers in the Erie Diocese received safe environment training, educating and inservicing from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

This latest audit was a self-conducted

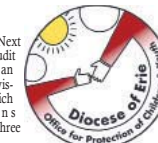
audit. Next year's audit will be an on-site visit, which happens every three years.

"It's basically our self-reporting on questions based on the Bishops' Charter," Msgr. Smith said.

Auditors look for a number of things, he said, including:

- Allegations brought to the attention of the diocese during the year.
- The diocese's response.
- Questions related to safe environment programs including background evaluations and training programs.

Any allegations go to Dr. Robert Nelsen, the diocese's victim assistance coordinator, who is in private practice and serves as a



See AUDIT, page 3



IN THE U.S.

■ **Life issues from the test tube to the deathbed** are on the agenda for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general assembly. The Nov. 16-19 meeting in Baltimore also will include what the bishops hope will be their final consideration of action items related to the Roman Missal and debate and vote on a lengthy document offering support to married couples and affirming that true marriage can only involve a man and a woman. The meeting agenda also will feature a preliminary report on the causes and context study on clergy sexual abuse of minors conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a report by the National Religious Vocation Conference on a recent study of religious vocations. The bishops will hear the final presidential address by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, who is beginning the third year of his three-year term as USCCB president, and will choose chairman-elect for five committees.

■ **"Families are struggling. Faith is calling"** is the theme for this year's national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which will be taken up in most U.S. Catholic churches including those of the Erie Diocese, the weekend of Nov. 21-22. "This year, our call as Catholics to bring glad tidings to the poor... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free is more important than ever before," said Bishop Roger Morin of Biloxi, Miss., who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' CCHD subcommittee. He made the comments in a letter to parishes asking Catholics to be as generous as possible during the annual collection that is the primary source of support for the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds support projects in the diocese where the funds are collected. "The mission of CCHD is crucial in 2009 — to uplift and embolden all who are one layoff or one medical scare away from the poverty line — and all who are already there," the bishop said.

■ **Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence strongly criticized remarks by Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I.,** about the U.S. bishops' role in the health reform debate. In an interview with Cybercast News Service Oct. 22, Kennedy said the bishops were fanning "the flames of dissent and discord" by insisting that health reform not include abortion funding. "I can't understand for the life of me how the Catholic Church could be against



Bishop Thomas Tobin

the biggest social justice issue of our time, where the very dignity of the human person is being respected by the fact that we're caring and giving health care" to the millions of people who are currently uninsured, Kennedy said in the interview. Bishop Tobin called his comments "irresponsible and ignorant of the facts" in an Oct. 23 statement and said the congressman "owes us an apology." "The bishops of the United States are indeed in favor of comprehensive health care reform and have been for many years," the bishop said. "But we are adamantly opposed to health care legislation that threatens the life of unborn children, requires taxpayers to pay for abortion, rations health care, or compromises the conscience of individuals." Bishop Tobin has invited Kennedy to engage in a discussion about the issue of health care reform.

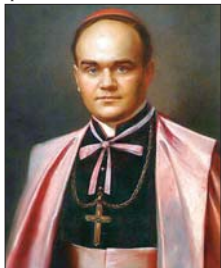
AROUND THE WORLD

■ **More than 260 painters, sculptors, dancers, actors, playwrights, musicians, architects and other artists** have accepted a Vatican invitation to meet Nov. 21 with Pope Benedict XVI. The gathering under Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel will bring the artists together to mark the 10th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's letter to artists and the 45th anniversary of Pope Paul

VI's meeting with artists. With the help of an international committee, the Vatican chose artists from around the world to invite to the gathering based on leadership in their fields and not on their religious backgrounds.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Hungarian Bishop Zoltan Meszlenyi, who froze to death in a Hungarian prison in 1951,** has been beatified as a martyr for the faith. "His readiness to apply the church's love was shown clearly when he was dragged away and kept in inhuman conditions, barefoot through the winter, in solitary confinement without medical help," said Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, who preached the homily at the Oct. 31 beatification Mass in Esztergom. "For many years, a deep, sepulchral silence descended over this bishop's fate, but God's wisdom and steadfastness ultimately proved greater than man's," the cardinal said. Born in Hatvan, Hungary, in 1892, Bishop Meszlenyi studied at Rome's German-Hungarian College after being ordained a priest in 1915. He was made auxiliary bishop of Esztergom in 1937. He was arrested at his cathedral office by agents from Hungary's secret police in June 1950 because of his sermons criticizing communist abuses of power. He died in Kistarcsa internment camp near Godollo March 4, 1951, after being locked for months in a cell with open windows.



Hungarian Blessed Zoltan Meszlenyi

By the Way...

Do you have a memory or story to share about a Sister of St. Joseph?



Jason Koshinski

In preparation for the community's 150th anniversary in the Erie Diocese in 2010, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are inviting people to share stories and memories of the sisters. They would be grateful for any memories, anecdotes or inspirations you are able to share.

The Sisters will consider your stories and memories for use in their publications and Web site during their anniversary year and beyond. Please limit your story to 250 words and include your name and contact information when submitting. Stories can be e-mailed to prdr@sjerie.org (please indicate "Share a Story" in the subject line) or mailed to Public Relations Office, Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506-1249. Corresponding photos are also appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Hall, director of communications and public relations at 814.836.4203.

Bishop Donald Trautman's Oct. 22 speech at The Catholic University of America in Washington has garnered much attention from the national Catholic press. He critiqued what he called the "slavishly literal" translation into English of the new Roman Missal from the original Latin. He said the "sacred language" used by translators "tends to be elitist and remote from everyday speech and frequently not understandable" and could lead to a "pastoral disaster."

The bishop, former chairman of the U.S. bishops' liturgy committee, made his remarks as part of the Msgr. Frederick R. McManus Lecture Series. A noted liturgist, Msgr. McManus served as an expert during Vatican II.

Our bishop will also be profiled in a feature story in the Nov. 15 edition of the *Erie Times-News*, as well as an upcoming issue of *ErieLife* magazine, along with other local religious leaders.

The Catholic Foundation will host an "Estate Planning at Any Age" luncheon seminar Nov. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

Atty. Colleen Stumpf of Quinn Law Firm will give a presentation on wills, living wills and health care power of attorney. Visit The Catholic Foundation at www.TCFRCDO.org. Registration is necessary. Call 814.824.1236, as seating is limited.

On Nov. 22, the feast of Christ the King, more than 65 members of the combined children, young adult and adult choirs at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie will provide music ministry for the 11 a.m. This feast day marks the end of the church year.

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

African synod closes with message, Mass and final proposals

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — After three weeks of discussion and strategizing, the Synod of Bishops for Africa ended with calls for spiritual conversion and social reforms on the African continent.

The more than 200 participating bishops published a message to the world Oct. 23, appealing for a fairer global order based on Gospel values and telling corrupt Catholic politicians in Africa to "repent or resign" in the name of the common good.

At a closing Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 25, Pope Benedict XVI said if the church wants to change hearts and minds in Africa it must itself be a model of unity with "no divisions based on ethnic, language or cultural groups."

The pope, who presided over most of the synod sessions, received 57 final propositions from the synod, to be used as the basis for a papal document on pastoral directions in Africa.

The propositions called for a new spirituality to counter bad government, ethnic tensions, disease, exploitation by multinational

companies and the cultural agenda of foreign aid organizations.

The pope encouraged the bishops to return to their African dioceses and broadcast their 11-page message, which denounced moral and social ills while reminding Africans of their traditional values, particularly regarding the family.

The message said poverty, misery, war and chaos are most often caused by "a tragic complicity and criminal conspiracy of local leaders and foreign interests."

Africa needs "saintly politicians who will clean the content of corruption, work for the good of the people and know how to galvanize other men and women of good will from outside the church to join hands against the common evils that beset our nations," the message said.

The bishops called on international corporations operating in Africa to stop "their criminal devastation of the environment in their greedy exploitation of natural resources." They lamented that no international body or world leader has come forth to



(CNS photo)

Choir members play instruments during the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops for Africa in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 25.

stop "these crimes against humanity" that "foment wars in order to make fast gains from chaos at the cost of human lives and blood."

The synod's message noted the church's valuable work in fighting HIV and AIDS and caring for those affected, and expressed

agreement with Pope Benedict that condoms would not beat the pandemic. It asked people to recognize the success obtained by prevention programs advocating abstinence and fidelity within marriage.

The synod's propositions also spoke about AIDS, calling for efforts against anything "that helps the spread of the disease, such as poverty, the breakdown of family life, marital unfaithfulness, promiscuity and a lifestyle that is devoid of human values and Gospel virtues."

One of the strongest synod propositions condemned a section of the 2003 Maputo Protocol, adopted by the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, on women's rights in Africa for encouraging the continent's governments to provide abortion services in cases of rape, incest or danger to a woman's physical or mental health.

While thanking international aid agencies for their assistance, the bishops also criticized aid programs that come with strings attached that violate the recipients' moral and cultural values.

The propositions said the family in Africa is threatened today by the practice of abortion, the denigration of childbearing, "the distortion of the notion of marriage and the family itself," and divorce. The bishops called for better education of Catholics in the meaning of Christian marriage, improved marriage preparation programs and better support for families.

The propositions condemned all acts of violence against women, including "the battering of wives, the disinheritation of daughters, the oppression of widows in the name of tradition, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, trafficking in women and several other abuses such as sex slavery and sex tourism."

Synod members promised to promote the education of girls and women, open shelters for those who are abused and bring women into church decision-making structures.

The closing Mass was celebrated by more than 200 African bishops, and the liturgy continued in Roman and African elements.

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Advent-Christmas Events

Advent vigils at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE – The public is invited to attend the 7 p.m. Advent vigils observed each year at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, in the chapel. As part of the vigils, the following sisters will offer reflections each Saturday.

- Nov. 28 – Sister Christine Kosin, OSB
- Dec. 5 – Sister Ann Muczynski, OSB
- Dec. 12 – Sister Judith Trambley, OSB
- Dec. 29 – Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress

Holiday open house at St. Joseph Monastery

ST. MARYS – The Trifles and Treasures Gift Shop at the St. Joseph Monastery, 303 Church St. in St. Marys, will kick off the Christmas season by hosting the convent's fifth annual holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One of the largest religious gift shops in the area, Trifles and Treasures offers a wide selection of gifts, specialty items and baked goods.

Lunch (\$5 per person) will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Briefly

Annual WICU/Second Harvest Food Drive Nov. 18

WATERFORD – WICU-TV and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania will partner for their annual food drive on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

All Saints Parish, located at 11264 Route 97 N in Waterford, is one of the food drop-off sites for non-perishable food items.

Other sites include: WICU, 3514 State St. in Erie; The Meadville Tribune, 947 Federal Court in Meadville; Northwest Savings Bank on Liberty Street between Second and Pennsylvania avenues in Warren; Northwest Savings Bank, 80 W. Columbus Ave. in Corry; Country Fair, 103 S. Perry St. in Titusville; Nick's Place, 12246 Edinboro Road in Edinboro; and Federated Church, 11995 Main St. in East Springfield.

This drive supports Second Harvest, which supplies food for 239 charitable member agencies, 53 of which are Catholic affiliates through parish or agencies. Second Harvest serves 11 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania, including 11 of 13 in the Erie Diocese.

For more information, visit www.eriefoodbank.org.



Mercyhurst Prep presents 'Babes in Arms'

ERIE – Mercyhurst Prep's Performing Arts Department presents Rodgers and Hart's musical comedy "Babes in Arms." The play runs November 19, 20 and 21 at 7 p.m., and Sunday November 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for students. The school is located at 538 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

Clarion talk focuses on how men are hurt by abortion

CLARION – Theo Purington will present a talk titled, "I Didn't Have a Voice; I Had to Kiss My Child Goodbye," on Thursday, Nov. 19 at Clarion University.

Purington's talk will focus on how men are also pained by abortion and raises issues concerning the implications of reducing a baby to property wherein one parent has all the rights.

In October 2006, Purington discovered that his girlfriend at the time was pregnant with his child. After pleading with his girlfriend to protect the life of their unborn baby, he was told in December 2006 that the baby had been aborted.

The events helped him fully embrace his Catholic faith. He opened United Choice for Life crisis pregnancy center in Manchester, New Hampshire, where he counsels expectant young mothers and helps refugees transition to American life.

The event is co-sponsored by Students for Life, Clarion Campus Ministry and the Newman Club.



Theo Purington

Cathedral Prep kicks off capital campaign

ERIE – Cathedral Prep High School officially kicked off the public phase of "Transforming Lives: The Campaign for Cathedral Prep" Oct. 29. The campaign is an \$18.3 million initiative that includes the renovation of the school's science wing (\$1 million), the renovation and construction of the H. David Bowes Auditorium (\$1.8 million), the construction of the Cathedral Prep Events Center on the corner of 12th and Cherry streets (\$9 million), increasing Prep's endowment by \$2 million and growing the school's annual fund (\$4.5 million).

The progress of the campaign and updates of the various projects were discussed as part of the President's Leadership Council reception in the Prep library.

Father Scott Jabo, president of Cathedral Prep, announced that to date, the school has already received commitments for \$10.3 million.

'Coping with Life During the Holidays'

Whether this is the first or the twenty-first holiday you are spending without your spouse, Beginning Experience can help. If you are widowed, divorced or separated, you are cordially invited to attend a special event, "Coping with Life During the Holidays," hosted by Beginning Experience, a ministry for persons who find themselves single again.

The event will be held Sunday, Nov. 27 from 4-6 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. Light refreshments will be served. Beginning Experience is a program made possible by Catholic Charities.

Please RSVP by Nov. 18 by calling 814.824.1265 or by e-mail at familylife@ErieRCD.org.



St. Mark's Seminary celebrates 50th anniversary

ST. MARK'S, from page 1

University.

"It was one of the first seminaries that had women teachers—sisters and lay people," he said.

The high school functioned like any other. It was accredited by Middle States and had its own sports teams.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm to continue to produce large numbers of students and priests," Msgr. Hagerty said. "Then the numbers started to fall."

Father Michael Kesicki has served as rector of St. Mark's Seminary since 2000. He and Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector, share the administrative responsibilities and run the formation program. Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, directs the music ministry, and Father Stephen Schreiber serves as the resident spiritual director.

Father Kesicki attended St. Mark's for eight years—four years each in the high school and college programs. He saw the enrollment diminish. In 1983 when he was a senior in college, the seminary's high school program closed.

"We still get high school alumni who want to come visit the seminary," he said. "One of my favorite moments is every year in May we get an anonymous spray of roses for the altar in the chapel from one of our graduates."

The enclosed card typically reads, "In gratitude for some of the best years of my life."

The seminary currently operates a four-year college program, which began in 1972. Originally it offered a two-year program, and students finished their degrees at other seminaries. Now seminarians get their diplomas from Gannon University.

The diocese eventually relocated its central offices to St. Mark's. The seminary now houses the ad-



At its peak St. Mark's Seminary had 230 students enrolled in its high school and college program. Seminarians are pictured with Archbishop John Mark Gannon in the chapel. At right, the cornerstone of St. Mark's Seminary.

ministration of the diocese under the banner of St. Mark Catholic Center.

Today it is home to seminarians from the dioceses of Erie, Greensburg and Buffalo. In the past, students also came from the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Altoona-Johnstown.

Father Kesicki remembers some of the larger ordination classes.

"I remember when I was in 8th grade, there must have been at least 14 priests ordained that year."

In June, five men are scheduled to be ordained priests for the Erie Diocese, the largest class

since he became rector.

"The seminary is a place of discernment, but it is also a place of human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation," Father Kesicki said.

"Underneath the discernment, what we're looking for from a man who comes here is a clear sense that he wants to give his life away in service to Jesus through the church. Now as to how that will happen—will he end up a priest or going to a religious order, or will he end up leaving the seminary and living in the world as a single man or as a husband

and father?"

"But the main thing is that he will recognize his freedom that comes from God to make his decision in God. That has to be the common denominator for everyone who comes here."

Information from "That You Love One Another—The Life and Times of Archbishop John Mark Gannon" by Msgr. Robert Barcio (1996, Meridian Creative Group), was used in this report.



Child Protection audit finds diocese in full compliance

AUDIT, from page 1

chairperson of Gannon University's Psychology Department. All allegations that come to the diocese are reported to the Erie County district attorney, Msgr. Smith said.

"All of our allegations go back years and years," Msgr. Smith said. "There is nothing current or even remotely current. We take every allegation seriously, even though in some cases the alleged perpetrator may be deceased. No allegation goes without some response from the diocese."

The diocese is in the process of auditing its parishes, Msgr. Smith said. He and have been meeting with the diocese's deans to explain the process.

"The process that we go through with them, the deans in turn will go through with the

pastors in their deanery," Msgr. Smith said. "By the time we're ready for our on-site visit, hopefully all the parishes will be audited."

He said the purpose of the parish audit is to see if parishes are complying with what the U.S. bishops and the diocese requires

of them in implementing the diocesan policy, as well as the Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children.

"So far, the parishes have been really magnificent in implementing every facet of our diocesan policy, whether it's with background checks, the training of fa-

cilitators or the education of our children," Msgr. Smith said.



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Mark and Joyce Ravnikar-Kulyk

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Religious education leaders honored for years of service



ERIE - The Erie Diocese's Department of Religious Education honored 26 religious education leaders throughout the diocese for their more than 415 collective years of service Oct. 29 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie at its leader recognition dinner. Parish religious education leaders were recognized for 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 years of service.

Honorees are pictured, from left to right, and noted by their years of service and parish. Seated: Sue Dahrouge (30), St. Cosmos and Damian, Punxsutawney; Lia Ghering (10), All Saints, Waterford; Cheryl Godak-Nothum (10), St. Theresa of Avila, Union City; Karen

Hund (10), St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; Sister Sandy Pedone, HM (10), St. Joseph, Sharon; Elaine Shearer (10), St. Michael, Greenville; Mary Beth Jones (10), St. Joseph, Sharon; and Carol Hoffman (30), St. Andrew, Erie.

Standing: Ann Enderle Liska (10), Immaculate Conception, Clarion; Kathleen Kutz (10), East Side Catholic Faith Formation Ministry, Erie; Dawn Kennedy (10), Immaculate Conception, Clarion; Bishop Donald Trautman; Pat McAllister (15), St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois; TC Marshall (10), St. Patrick, Franklin; Sister Marie Stephen Keboit, SSJ (15), St. Patrick, Erie; Dianne Phillips (25), St.

Joseph, Oil City; Jo Anne Bruno (15), St. Tobias, Brockway, and Anne Osborn (15), St. Jude the Apostle, Erie.

Honored but not pictured were: Barb Murray (25), St. Mary, Reynoldsville; Bernice Strauser (20), St. Michael, Fryburg; Elaine Fike (15), Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville; Cindy Zemick (15), St. Francis Xavier, McKean; Kathleen Clement (10), St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois; Molly Fernan (10), St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway; Pat Marshall (10), St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie; Penny Rakovan (10), Immaculate Conception, Brookville; and Amy Toth (10), St. Charles, New Bethlehem.

Schools vie in 'To Know and to Serve' religion competition

ERIE - Six teams from elementary schools in the Erie Diocese that won their regional "To Know and to Serve" religion competitions met at St. Mark Catholic Center Oct. 28 for the diocesan competition.

"To Know and to Serve" combines religious education and service for sixth grade students in the Diocese of Erie's Catholic school system. The project encourages students to enhance their knowledge of the Catholic faith through a competitive setting.

According to Kim Lytle, director of curriculum for the diocese's Office of Education, one of the project's goals is to increase the interaction between sixth grade students and social service agencies in an attempt to provide additional opportunities for service projects.

Each elementary school in the diocese created a five-member team of sixth graders and competed at the regional level. The entrance "fee" had each class adopt a social service agency. At the local and diocesan levels, winning teams received \$100 to donate to their sponsored agency. The team winning the diocesan competition received an additional \$100 for its agency and \$50 for its school.

The six teams that won their regional competition included: St. Marys Catholic Middle School,



From left to right are members of the winning team from St. Marys Catholic Middle School: Jack Wolfe, Rachel Keller, Angela Mosebarger, Ashley Lenze and Abbey Gerg. Each team member received a blessed rosary, as well as a plaque of the Blessed Mother for the school.

St. Marys, Immaculate Conception, Clarion; St. Michael, Greenville; St. James, Erie; St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; and Blessed Sacrament, Erie.

The diocesan competition featured six rounds of 10 questions. The winning team from St. Marys Catholic Middle School missed only two questions, scoring 58 out of 60. The second-place team from St. James answered 57 of the 60 questions correctly.

For winning, St. Marys Catho-

lic Middle School received \$100 for its service agency, Gifts for Kids of Elk County, which provides new toys for infant children through age 10 for Christmas. All material for the questions came from the fifth and sixth grade RCL textbooks.

Each student received a blessed medal of St. Paul for participating in the diocesan competition. At the regional level, participants received a holy card and small statue.

Victorious Missionaries serve others at Emmaus Soup Kitchen

ERIE - The Victorious Missionaries, an organization of people with physical disabilities who meet monthly for spiritual support and socialization and provide service to those less fortunate, prepared and served a meatloaf dinner at Emmaus Soup Kitchen on Oct. 17. Serving dinner are, from left to right, YM members Jeanne Reinfield, Jason Roodkiewitz, Jackie Johnson, Jan Rapoza, Joyce Rzodkiewitz and Pat Fronzaglia.



'In God We Trust' theme for St. Leo class trip to Washington

RIDGWAY - Eighth grade students from St. Leo School in Ridgway traveled to Washington, D.C., Oct. 18-22 for their class retreat and trip titled "In God We Trust." The trip was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holz from Falls Church, Va., at whose home the students and chaperones stayed.

The students visited Arlington National Cemetery and the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Smithsonian Institute of Natural History and Air and Space Museum, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, rode a double-decker bus to tour the city area as well as visiting the major monuments on the National Mall, the United States Capitol, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court.

Students experienced the Metro system each day riding into Washington from Virginia, as well as returning each day on the Metro.

Each day the students prayed



Pictured at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception are St. Leo School 8th graders, from left to right: (front row) Katie Robuck, Leah Kucenski, Gabby Benninger, Olivia Ceroni, Claire Grazioli, (back row) Dillon Hodgdon, Danielle Healy, Matt Bobby, Alise Pura and Maddie Foringer. Missing from the photo are the chaperones Father Ted Marconi, Deacon Larry Caggese, Mary Detwiler and Sharlene Marconi.

and reflected on a particular theme, concluding the day with a quiet hour and sharing how the theme was revealed in their experiences. A major highlight of the trip was the basilica visit where

the group had a guided tour and celebrated Mass with Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the basilica, along with many other students from the surrounding area in attendance.

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