

Grandparents asked to pray for youth

Special invitations available at www.OnTheVine.us, page 3.



FaithLife

Pro-life prayer breakfast

Pro-life leader Lila Rose to speak Jan. 7 in Erie, page 3.



Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Our Lady of Guadalupe



St. John of the Cross

- Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13 St. Lucy
- Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross
- Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius
- Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty
- Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas
- Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Lessons and Carols at St. Mark Seminary – Dec. 13



The public is invited to join Bishop Donald Trautman and the seminarians of St. Mark Seminary for an evening of lessons and carols on Tuesday, Dec. 13 beginning at 7 p.m.

This reflective meditation on the Advent season includes music and Scripture. The program will be presented in the St. Mark Seminary chapel, located at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

St. Peter Cathedral combined choirs Christmas concert – Dec. 18



St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th St. in Erie, will host a Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

The program, entitled "A Woman Wrapped in Silence," will feature 65 voices of the combined children and adult choirs of the cathedral. Featured soloists will include Joseph Greulich, Cathy Kerner, Paul Kerner, John Myers and Marilee Warner. William Herring, organist and choir director, will conduct the performance.

This event is free and open to the public.

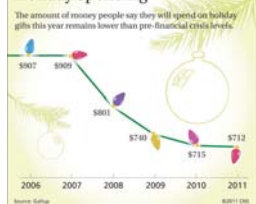
Midnight Mass on WJET-TV – Dec. 24



For the 16th straight year, WJET-TV 24 will broadcast Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve live from St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The broadcast will begin at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24 with a feature on Catholic education.

Holiday Spending



"Take courage, I have conquered the world"

High school youth gather for fun, fellowship at rally

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE – For a day, the traditional Catholic school uniform was replaced by a sea of purple T-shirts. Actually, they were eggplant, but more on that later.

Approximately 400 teens and youth leaders throughout the Diocese of Erie gathered Nov. 19 at Villa Maria Academy in Erie for a day of faith, fun and fellowship at the annual high school youth rally.

Upon arrival, everyone had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, with eight priests hearing confessions in the gym.

Pat Brown and Co. provided music throughout the day and got things started with live band karaoke. In groups, students approached the microphone to belt out the lyrics to a variety of tunes including "Love Story" by Taylor Swift, "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash and Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer."

Father Steve Schreiber, director of youth and young adult ministry for the diocese, welcomed the students to the rally and explained the

rally's theme, "Take courage, I have conquered the world," from John 16:33.

"Jesus is in the upper room with his Apostles and he's talking about returning to the Father," Father Schreiber said. "He tells them to take courage. There's not one of us here that entered this school today without some trouble, without something weighing upon us, something weighing our heart down. And the Lord said we're not alone. He's with us in the middle of all that."

Elizabeth Nawrocki, Kim Maas and Ann Neville, three students from Villa Maria Academy, served as emcees and provided some on-stage silliness.

For a majority of the teens, this was their first youth rally. When Nawrocki asked the crowd for a showing of who had never been to a high school rally before, most of the hands went up.

The 13 counties that make up the diocese were well represented. When their town's name was called, students gave a shout out and made themselves heard. They came from Fairview, DuBois, Conneautville, Warren, Conneaut



Clockwise from top: Teens compete in a spirited game of extreme sports giant volleyball. Students receive Communion during the vigil Mass for the feast of Christ the King. Girls gesture during the song, "Trading My Sorrows."



Andre and Jennifer Calabretta, a young married couple, gave a powerful witness on marriage, family life and God's blessings and miracles both big and small. The Calabrettas, who met at a young adult retreat, said there are graces in marriage.

"There is a grace in that moment where you're able to take people for who they are, faults and all, and keep going," Jennifer Calabretta said. "Now is a good time to start praying for your future spouse or your vocation if you're feeling called to the priesthood or religious life."

Having a son soon after they were married, the Calabrettas said they initially had plans for a large family.

"We had this image in our heads of what our lives together were going to look like," Jennifer said. "Everything had really gone like clockwork up to that point."

When their second child, See YOUTH RALLY, page 3

Despite 'clumsy' start, Catholics adapt to new missal translation

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Years of planning went into the new English translation of the Roman Missal. That was followed by catechesis over the past several months via workshops, classroom and video presentations, small group discussions, parish bulletin inserts and countless stories in the Catholic and secular media.

All of it was done in preparation for everyone, from clergy to the people in the pews, for the first use of the missal as Advent began with Masses Nov. 26-27.

Early responses in the

Diocese of Erie indicate some rough spots, but members of the faithful are adapting to the newness of it all.

At St. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Painsawaway, the congregation received a pep talk from their pastor, Msgr. Joseph Riccardi, prior to Mass.

"I said don't be embarrassed that you have to look at the pew cards," Msgr. Riccardi said. "I have to look at them myself."

In the weeks leading up to the implementation, he said parishioners were anxious to begin.

"The responses were somewhat clumsy at first, relying

on the cards and books," Msgr. Riccardi said. "At the same time, people seemed to be a little more attentive and the atmosphere seemed to be a little more reverent."

He said the missal would require more attention on the prayers at Mass, adding that nothing has changed with the Order of Mass.

"I think people understand that it's going to take time to adjust and feel comfortable with it," he said.

At Sacred Heart Parish in Erie pastor Father John Detisch reported that "It went fine."

"A few people caught on, and some didn't," Father



A page from the new Roman Missal shows a change in the people's response when the priest says, "The Lord be with you." The congregation responds, "And with your spirit."

Detisch said. "We are challenging ourselves to be prayerful and not have a motor response."

On a personal note as a cel-

ehrant, he said he found the new translation difficult in many areas.

See MISSAL, page 3

Sisters of St. Joseph install new leadership

Special to FaithLife

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania formally installed Sisters Mary Herrmann, SSI, Clare Marie Beichner, SSI and Mary Ann White, SSI as the congregation's new leadership on Nov. 13.

The congregation discerned these women to leadership on Sept. 17, and they were affirmed during a liturgy on Oct. 15. As leadership for the Sisters of St. Joseph, these women serve in a participative form of governance of which each chose her respective areas of responsibility which includes the duties of president, treasurer and secretary.

Sister Mary Herrmann will serve as president of the congregation. Sister Mary's most recent ministry was at the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network where she was the founding director and served for 11 years.

"This is a challenging, yet exciting, time to begin serving in the ministry of leadership," said Sister Mary. "We



The new leadership team for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Pictured left to right are Sister Mary Ann White, SSI, Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSI, and Sister Mary Herrmann, SSI.

are called to a new vision of living our mission of unity that includes more collaborating and connecting with others throughout the world. As always, we remain open to the action of God in our lives to enable us to meet the needs of our time and place."

Sister Clare Marie Beichner will serve as treasurer of the congregation. Sister Clare Marie has served in ministry as a teacher and social worker

in various parts of the Diocese of Erie. Most recently, she was called to partner with another sister and pioneer the development of Catholic Rural Ministry to lend support to the 18 parish faith communities in the Oil City Deanery.

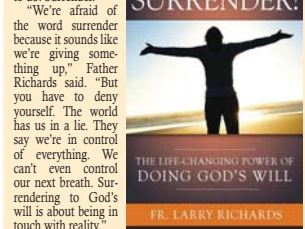
Sister Mary Ann White will serve the congregation as secretary. Sister Mary Ann's most recent ministry was in pastoral care at Saint Vincent Health Center.

'Surrender!'

Book by Erie pastor discusses 'The Life-Changing Power of Doing God's Will'

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

In his new book, Father Larry Richards goes against the grain of our never-give-up culture by asking of us what many are unwilling to do: Surrender.



"We're afraid of the word surrender because it sounds like we're giving something up," Father Richards said. "But you have to deny yourself. The world has us in a lie. They say we're in control of everything. We can't even control our next breath. Surrendering to God's will is about being in touch with reality."

"Surrender! The Life Changing Power of Doing God's Will" was released in September by Our Sunday Visitor. The publisher approached Father Richards, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, about writing a book based on one of his talks and CDs, "Knowing

IN THE U.S.

■ Catholic seminary enrollment up

In his first months as rector of Theological College in Washington, Father Phillip Brown has been confronting a problem that the national diocesan seminary for the U.S. Catholic Church "has not had for a long time" — it is bursting at the seams. Enrollment is maxed out for the 2011-12 academic year at 90 seminarians. "If I had to start with a problem, that's the problem I'd like to have," Father Brown said. "It's a very healthy sign, a positive sign for Theological College and for the U.S. priesthood." The trend of rising seminary enrollment is being duplicated around the country: At the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, 40 new seminarians arrived this year, bringing total enrollment to 186, the highest level since the 1970s; St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., welcomed 30 new graduate-level seminarians, making its class of 100 seminarians the largest since 1980. At the Pontifical North American College in Rome, a class of 76 new men brought enrollment this fall to a full house of 250 seminarians. At St. Mark Seminary in Erie, 22 students from five different dioceses are enrolled, which is the highest number in nearly 30 years.

■ Justice groups work on 'common good' platform for 2012

With the first votes of the presidential primary season set for Jan. 3 at the Iowa caucuses, Catholic social justice organizations are asking local communities to help draft platforms rooted in church teaching that they hope will enter the discussion on the campaign trail next fall. Called Election 2012: Catholics Vote for the Common Good, the effort is taking place nationwide, but is specifically targeting six states with significant Catholic populations that political observers expect will play a key role in the election: Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. Organizers of the effort said that the polarization that dominates American politics is fueling their plan to put the spotlight on the needs of people struggling under the depressed economy. The program is being tested in Iowa, where groups of voters are being invited to discuss what they think presidential and congressional candidates should address in their push for votes.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Pope praises efforts to ban death penalty

Pope Benedict XVI gave a special greeting of encouragement to delegations meeting in Rome — including a group from Illinois — to promote the abolition of the death penalty. During his weekly audience Nov. 30 at the Vatican, Pope Benedict said he hoped the work of the delegations would "encourage political and legislative initiatives being promoted in a number of countries to eliminate the death penalty" and promote progress in penal law that speaks equally to "the human dignity of prisoners and the effective maintenance of public order." Illinois became the 16th state to abolish the death penalty in March. The

Nov. 29-30 Rome meeting, sponsored by the Sant'Egidio Community, encouraged people in cities around the world to join a public demonstration of opposition to the death penalty. In Rome, for example, the Colosseum was lit up Nov. 30 to show the city's adherence to the initiative.

■ Shakespeare was Catholic, Vatican newspaper says

There is "little doubt" that William Shakespeare was a Catholic who was forced to hide his faith in Protestant England while leaving hints about his faith throughout his vast body of work, said an opinion piece in the Vatican newspaper. Taking a cue from renewed speculation about Shakespeare's true identity sparked by the film "Anonymous," *L'Osservatore Romano* wrote: "There may be questions regarding his identity, but not his religious faith." The Nov. 18 op-ed piece said that this view was at least partly shared by the leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, who said Shakespeare "probably had a Catholic background and had Catholic friends." It also pointed out that shortly after the Bard of Avon's recorded death in 1616, Anglican Archdeacon Richard Davies wrote, "He died a papist," a pejorative term Protestants used to refer to Catholics. The editorial said that Shakespeare's work "is full of open references to the Catholic religion." These references are especially evident in the play "Hamlet," it said.



PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ Man carries cross 630 miles

For some, Father Emil Kapaun may be a footnote in a conflict many have come to know as the "Forgotten War," but for John Moore of Gallup, N.M., the Korean War chaplain's heroic exploits deserve the attention of congressional and Vatican officials in a movement to have the Kansas priest honored with the Medal of Honor as well as sainthood. For his part, Moore, 61, embarked on the 630-mile pilgrimage Sept. 11 from the National Cemetery in Santa Fe to Pilsen, Kan., Father Kapaun's rural hometown in the Wichita Diocese, where Moore arrived the morning of Nov. 11, Veterans Day. He carried a handmade wooden replica of the cross that has come to represent Father Kapaun, the Army chaplain who saved the lives of dozens of soldiers and died as a prisoner of war in Pyoktong, North Korea, May 23, 1951.



John Moore

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Things did not initially go smoothly for Bishop Donald Trautman during his ad limina visit to Rome. On his way to the Eternal City, Bishop Trautman encountered difficulty with dehydration, which led to an infection. Upon his arrival, he was admitted to a hospital for testing and observation. This prevented him from participating in the Dec. 1 meeting of the Pennsylvania bishops with Pope Benedict XVI.

Bishop Trautman met with the Holy Father Dec. 5 along with the bishops of New Jersey, who are making their ad limina visits at the same time as the Pennsylvania bishops. The bishop then celebrated a Mass for all the Pennsylvania and New Jersey bishops at Saint Mary Major, one of Rome's four major basilicas. As of this writing, he was scheduled to return to Erie on Dec. 6, several days short of his original plans.

Anne-Marie Welsh, editor of *Faith* magazine, is in Rome covering the bishop's ad limina visit for the March-April 2012 issue. She met with Bishop Trautman Dec. 4 and reported that the bishop was in "very good spirits."

Having very much looked forward to the fourth and final ad limina visit of his episcopacy, she said the bishop was disappointed in the turn of events but put it in a spiritual perspective. He pointed out how everything seemed to go wrong for Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem.

"But in God's plan," he said, "everything was just right and Mary and Joseph in their simplicity and humility understood and accepted God's will. In our own lives we can have unexpected circumstances. We may not understand it at the moment, but we will ponder it and I hope, see God's plan. We need to focus on the simplicity of that crib and see the lessons that are there for us."

Many thanks to Villa Maria Academy in Erie for hosting the diocesan high school youth rally Nov. 19. Nearly 400 teens and youth leaders packed the school's first floor for the event. It was also a chance for the school to showcase some of its recently completed renovations.

The gym was home to an extreme sports giant volleyball game, as well as confessions. Students visited the new chapel and had dinner in the remodeled cafeteria. Most of the rally's events, including Mass and guest speakers, took place in the auditorium, which was renovated over the summer.

"We have our school Masses in the auditorium, but this was really the first big experience that we've had the chance to use it," said Sister Mary Drexler, SSI, principal of Villa Maria Academy.

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

Bishops discuss marriage, finances

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — During their Nov. 14-16 fall assembly in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops discussed a number of issues including efforts to support traditional marriage and the need to keep a close eye on health care issues.

They were also updated on the new U.S. ordinarate to bring former Anglicans into the Catholic Church.

The bishops approved a \$217.4 million budget for 2012 and a 3 percent increase in diocesan assessments for 2013. They also overwhelmingly approved a five-year extension of a resolution calling bishops to adhere to sound financial reporting within their dioceses and OK'd priorities and plans for 2012 for the USCCB with a 219-6 vote.

On the first day of the gathering, the bishops voted to establish a permanent Subcommittee on Health Care Issues under the Committee on Doctrine's jurisdiction.

The new subcommittee will address such issues as guidance in implementing the bishops' "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" and in addressing non-Catholic hospitals in Catholic health systems, for-profit Catholic health care, canonical status of Catholic health facilities, conscience protection and health care reform.

The bishops approved Oct. 22 as an optional memorial for Blessed John Paul II in the U.S. liturgical calendar. They also approved an optional memorial for Blessed Marianne Cope, with the date to be determined.

Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl announced Nov. 15 that a new ordinarate — functionally similar to a diocese — will be created Jan. 1 to bring Anglicans into the Catholic Church.

The cardinal said that 67 An-

Meeting Highlights

2011 USCCB fall general assembly

APPROVED

- Optional memorials for Blessed John Paul II and Blessed Marianne Cope for U.S. liturgical calendar.
- Budget of \$217.4 million for 2012 and a 3 percent increase in diocesan assessments for 2013.
- Establishment of Subcommittee on Health Care Issues under Committee on Doctrine.
- New guidelines for administering USCCB national collections in dioceses.

HEARD REPORTS ON

- Threats to religious liberty in the U.S.
- Efforts to strengthen marriage.
- Situation in Iraq.
- Expanding the Project Rachel post-abortion healing program.
- New Roman Missal translation.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Heard Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, in his first presidential address, encourage efforts to restore the lustre, credibility and beauty of church in eyes of its members and others.
- Chose Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle as secretary-elect.
- Learned that a new ordinarate will be created 1 to bring Anglicans into the U.S. Catholic Church.
- Welcomed Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò as new apostolic nuncio to the United States.

glican priests have submitted their dossiers seeking ordination in the Catholic Church, and 35 of those have received the initial approval from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. That means they can move to the second stage of approval, which includes a criminal background check, psychological evaluation and a recommendation from the Catholic bishop where he lives and from his Anglican ecclesiastical authority.

Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., announced the launch of a new website — www.marriageuniqueforarcason.org — aimed at educating Catholics on the meaning of marriage as the union of one man and

one woman. The website corresponds with a new DVD, guide, and booklet.

In a related report, Bishop Salvatore Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the defense of marriage subcommittee, said there are a great many challenges on the legal front to traditional marriage, ranging from various states legalizing same-sex marriage to the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

He said one threat of the subcommittee's efforts is to work on persuading the Obama administration to "press the reset button on the trajectory of undermining marriage."

In Africa, pope asks church to be model of reconciliation

By Catholic News Service

COTONOU, Benin — On a three-day visit to Benin, Pope Benedict XVI urged African Catholics to witness the hope of the Gospel in their daily lives and make the church a model of reconciliation for the entire continent.

In a particular way, the church must be "attentive to the cry of the poor, the weak, the outcast," the pope said at a Mass Nov. 20 for more than 50,000 people who filled a stadium in Cotonou.

"I would like to greet with affection all those persons who are suffering, those who are sick, those affected by AIDS or by other illnesses, to all those forgotten by society. Have courage! The pope is close to you in his thoughts and prayers," he said.

The 84-year-old pontiff delivered his homily in French, English and Portuguese, adding a few words in Fon, the local indigenous language. He occasionally wiped his brow as temperatures rose during the morning liturgy.

The pope stressed the urgency of evangelizing and said the church must make a special effort to reach those "whose faith is weak" and who think selfish satisfaction and easy gain are the goals of human life.

"The church in Benin has received much from her missionaries; she must in turn carry this message of hope to people who do not know or who no longer know the Lord Jesus," he said.

The pope's message was aimed beyond the borders of Benin, a small West African country with a population of nearly 3 million Catholics out of a total population of nearly 9 million. He came to Africa to unveil a document, "Africae Munus" ("The Commitment



of Africa"), that outlined pastoral strategies and urged Catholics to become "apostles of reconciliation, justice and peace" across the troubled continent.

At every one of his public events, Africans — including many pilgrims who came from neighboring countries — gave the pontiff a lively welcome, blending song, dance and prayer in a spirit of religious celebration. The smiling pope clearly appreciated the reception.

One of the most animated encounters saw the pope surrounded by several hundred schoolchildren, who accompanied him in a rhythmic procession and cheered him inside a parish church. In talk, the pope told the children to ask their parents to pray with them.

"Sometimes you may even

have to push them a little. But do not hesitate to do so. God is that important!" he said.

Later he pulled a rosary from his pocket and asked the young people to learn how to pray it. Each child was given a rosary at the end before they left.

On Nov. 19, the pope traveled to the coastal city of Ouidah, a former slave trading post on the Atlantic, to sign his follow-up document to the 2009 Synod of Bishops for Africa. The 138-page text said the church should lead the way in promoting respect for human dignity and life at every stage, fighting against economic imbalance and environmental degradation, providing health care to those with AIDS and other diseases, educating the young and reconciling human hearts in places of ethnic tension.

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Briefly

Grandparents asked to pray for youth during Advent

During the season of Advent, the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries is asking all grandparents to make a commitment to pray specifically for the youth of the Diocese of Erie.

Students are encouraged to invite their grandparents personally to pray for them; special invitations are available for the student to download and print and can be found at www.ohmyyouth.us.

This prayer commitment culminates with a special event just for grandparents and will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. Sixth St., Erie, at 7 p.m. Come together for music, prayer and adoration. Cookies and cocoa will follow.



National Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS – The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which travels throughout the United States, will visit St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs on Sunday, Dec. 18 between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

E. William Sockey, who is the escort for the statue, will speak at 10:30 a.m. on the message Our Lady of Fatima delivered to obtain peace in the world.



Lila Rose to speak at pro-life prayer breakfast Jan. 7 in Erie

ERIE – People for Life's 34th annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie.

The main speaker will be Lila Rose, a 23-year-old pro-life leader who has become a prominent figure in the effort to prevent government funding of abortion providers. Rose's undercover investigations of Planned Parenthood have received national attention.

Her undercover videos can be found on YouTube. Learn more about Rose from her organization's website www.livewaction.org.

Tickets are on now sale and must be purchased by Jan. 4. The cost is \$12.50 for regular tickets and \$6.50 for children ages 3 to 12. There is no charge for children under 3.

Payments may be mailed to People for Life, P.O. Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. For more information or to use a credit card, call 814.882.1333 or visit www.peopleforlife.org.



Lila Rose

Despite 'clumsy' start, Catholics adapt to new missal translation

MISSAL, from page 1

"It felt like I was praying on a StarMaster," he said. "It's very weird. It appears to be cumbersome right now. But I did find myself slowing down and being more prayerful."

In the first words of his homily, Father Detsch said, "The Lord be with you." When he received a mixed response of "And also with you" and "And with your spirit," he said it again, this time triggering the proper words.

So far, Father Detsch is preaching patience with each other.

"We'll be fine," he said. "When Pope John Paul II died, it took me a while to finally stop saying his name instead of Pope Benedict during the Mass prayers. It will take a while to get comfortable, but it's not impossible."

Father Tom Brown, pastor of St. Raphael Parish in Eldred, St. Theresa Parish in Shinglehouse and St. Mary Mission in Sartwell, is already ordering more pew cards to go with each hymnal.

"The pew cards are more concise," Father Brown said. "So far he said he's received no negative responses or reaction. On the contrary, a daily Mass attendant commented on the new translation to the second Eucharistic Prayer."

"They said, 'Boy, that word dewfall is interesting,'" Father Brown said. "People get caught off guard with 'And with your spirit.' Personally, it sometimes doesn't flow as well. But we've had the old text for so long. The newness is different. In a few weeks it will all be second nature."

Father Glenn Whitman, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Sharon, said he's received a bit of feedback from parishioners.

"I think they were expecting far more changes or more changes on their part," Father Whitman said. "But they have the pew cards and the new missalette. So when it came down to it, they were prepared."

High school youth gather for fun, fellowship at rally

YOUTH RALLY, from page 1

a boy was born, there was something wrong, but doctors didn't know exactly what it was. The baby was not fully developed internally and couldn't breathe on his own.

"We made the decision that no parent should have to make, and we decided to take our son off of life support," Jennifer said. "He spent 15 minutes with us on his own. Talk about a grace-filled moment. For us, spending two weeks of seeing him in tubes ... he was an incredible gift who was only there for a little bit."

Their next child, a daughter named Cabrini, was born without any medical issues.

The Calabrettas wanted to have another baby. But Jennifer's next pregnancy was difficult. Soon the sonograms were showing a sign of development problems similar to those of their second child, which doctors said was a one in 15,000 chance.

"You have to be brave in a moment where you don't want to be brave," Andre said. "After speaking about marriage, family life and God's blessings, Andre and Jennifer Calabretta handed out cards with "Ten Ways to Keep God Close."

Their daughter was born but lived for only 15 minutes. "We didn't come here today to tell you a bunch of sad stories," Jennifer said. "Your life is bigger than any one single moment. And while these struggles come up, God gives you the grace that you need to get through them."

They told the teens to be brave in whatever they're facing—whether it's in their faith, issues at school or in their relationships with parents and friends.

"Have no doubt that God is behind you when you choose to follow him," Jennifer said. "The Calabrettas then handed out cards with "Ten Ways to Keep God Close."

During breaks between dinner servings, students participated in a number of activities including extreme sports giant volleyball. In the Bishop's Gift Room, teens created "thank you" patches that will be sewn into a quilt for Bishop Donald Trautman's retire-

ment gift. People for Life offered pro-life displays and information. A CLI (Catholic Leadership Institute) Reunion Room offered a chance for those who have made a CLI retreat to get together.

As part of the rally's service project, students brought food items that were donated to the Bishop's Breakfast Program, which feed 70 to 80 homeless people each day in downtown Erie.

Back on stage, the Villa Maria ences noted that the color of the rally T-shirts was officially aubergine, not purple. Aubergine in French means eggplant, so the girls grabbed some volunteers for a game of eggplant trivia. Participants took home a copy of the Youcat youth catechism. There was also a dog biscuit relay race.

Alex Burbules, a student at General McCleane High School and member of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, gave testimony about God's hand in his life. In May, Burbules was in a motor vehicle accident in Edinboro where the driver lost control

of the car. "The car spun several times, hit a ditch and flipped over, smashed into several trees which split the car in half," Burbules said. "My half of the car spun, flipped on its roof and I was ejected from the vehicle. I flew 10 feet through the air and slid for 20 yards into swampy brush behind the road."

Burbules blacked out during the accident. When he woke up, doctors had already amputated his left foot.

"I can certainly say that God had an impact on my life at this moment," he said. "After a number of setbacks, including eight surgeries and an infection, Burbules is finally beginning to fully recover."

"I just know that God has had his hand watching over me the whole time," he said. "He's been there for me. It's been great knowing that I have someone to count on. I know now that without him, I couldn't have done half of this."



Bishop Donald Trautman is greeted by Nick Pellegrino from St. Joseph Parish in Warren. In his farewell address to the youth of the diocese, Bishop Trautman asked for their prayers and for them to be open to God's call.

God is not a fair-weather person. He's there for you—good or bad."

During his homily for the vigil Mass of Christ the King, Father Schreiber told the youth to bring God to those who need him most.

"Be a saint," he said. "Because it's not the philosophers or the politicians or the wealthy that change the world for the better; it's the saints."

He challenged them not to be ungenerous with themselves.

"Your generation is very good at this—you feed the hungry and clothe the naked," he said. "But more than that, give them God. Bring God to your classrooms, to the gym, to the family dinner table, to all the places where you go. Be a saint so that the world may be changed and that the kingdom of God may truly be among us."

Upon Bishop Trautman's arrival, the students greeted him with an extended standing ovation. The bishop was visibly moved after watching a slideshow of photos with him and the youth during his 21 years as bishop as well as video thank you messages from a number of students and youth leaders. The soundtrack included "Happy Trails" by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and mu-

sic from the Notre Dame Folk Group in Hermitage.

"A bishop should never be at a loss for words," Bishop Trautman said. "But after that gracious introduction and seeing the pictures, your enthusiastic welcome, I can only say that I am at a loss for words other than to say, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you very much."

In his farewell address to the youth, the bishop said it's hard to be a follower of Christ in today's world.

"But I say to you there's one reason to always be optimistic and that one reason for us to have hope is that Jesus has conquered, he is risen, he's alive and he's with us," he said. "Take courage and rejoice in his love."

The bishop asked those gathered for their prayers and for their openness to God's call.

"The Lord needs new co-workers," he said. "He needs youth, vitality. He needs you. Give back to the Lord what he has given you. Think of the gifts and talents, the opportunities the Lord has bestowed on you. Give everything back to the Lord. The Lord will never be outdone in generosity."

After another standing ovation, the bishop was presented with a card, a portion of the "thank you" quilt and, of course, an eggplant.

Book by Erie pastor discusses 'The Life-Changing Power of Doing God's Will'

SURRENDER, from page 1

God's Will."

"The whole book is a process of discernment in a relationship with God," Father Richards said. "In the first step when you come into a relationship with God, you surrender your life to him. As a Christian, you don't end at the cross; you end at the resurrection. Too often too many people focus on what it's going to cost me rather than what it's going to bring me."

"Surrender!" outlines practical, concrete steps for readers at the end of each chapter. "Surrendering is a process," Father Richards said. "You don't

come out of your mother's womb and start walking."

W h i l e "Be a Man" offers questions after each chapter. "Surrender!" offers practical steps to take.

Father Richards has also written prayers to help readers along the way.

"The ultimate goal for everyone is to be a saint," Father Richards said. "That's God's will for you."



Father Larry Richards

Is that your will? When you surrender, you become the presence of Christ throughout the world. To do that, you have to develop a plan. How do you surrender every day? Prayer. How do you pray? It's a process of listening to God."

"Be a Man" was the No. 1 seller for Ignatius Press in 2010 with more than 45,000 copies sold that year. While "Be a Man" focused on Catholic men, "Surrender!" is more inclusive.

"That one was for the men. This one is for everybody," Father Richards said. "It's written in my typical style and adapted from my talk."

He offers some advice for those who may be hesitant to hand their lives over to God.

"Don't be afraid," he said. "When you finally surrender your experience life and you get transformed. This book is really to help people get out of living in fear."

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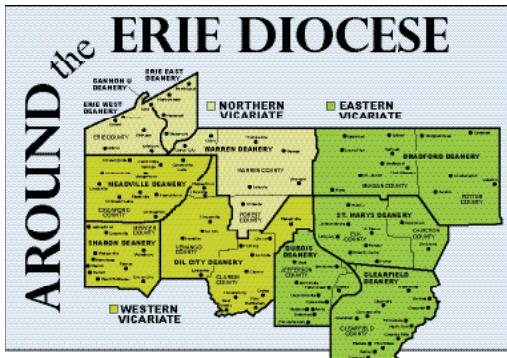
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

Photo Tips
Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures.
<http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>

Oblates commitment ceremony at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE — The Benedictine Sisters of Erie celebrated their annual oblate commitment ceremony Oct. 29 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

More than 260 men and women renewed their commitment to the local Benedictine community as oblates, with more than 100 oblates present. The ceremony took place within the context of evening prayer, and 18 new oblates made their initial commitment.

Oblates are people from across the United States, Canada and abroad who seek God through a life based on the Rule of Benedict and a formalized relationship with a Benedictine community.

"The oblates of Mount St. Benedict are truly amazing people," said Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB, oblate director. "Their witness to the way of life that Benedict sets forth is edifying, exciting and challenging. They seek God in their lives and give witness to their co-workers, neighbors, family and friends. Because of who they are and how they live Benedictine values, the world is a better place."



Pictured left to right: (seated) Glory Piovarcy (Erie), Kimberly Joy-Pacos, (Fredonia, N.Y.), Jeannette DeCorpo (Cleveland), Georganne Witter (Arden, N.C.), Janice Panzica (Buffalo, N.Y.), (standing) Sheila Warner (Hanover), Bernadette Callahan (Pierpont, Ohio), Victor Rutkowski (Erie), Susan Wesley (Buffalo, N.Y.), Carolyn Bain (Salem, Va.), Sister Anne Wambach, priestess, Kathy Seitz (Lima, Ohio), Mary Ann White (Erie), Sharon Mosher (Burlington, Ontario, Canada), Darcy Johnson (Newbury, Mass.), Elizabeth Lynch (Lima, Ohio), Nancy Rutkowski (Erie) and Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB.

Missing from photo are Tony Bruno (Erie), Rita Orinko (Erie) and Arlene Zawadzki (Tonawanda, N.Y.).

St. Gabriel celebrates former pastor's 80th birthday



PORT ALLEGANY — St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Port Allegany gave Father Charles Schmitt, the parish's retired pastor, an 80th birthday party Sept. 9. Father Schmitt, who served the parish from 1992-2001 and 2002-06, is still active at St. Gabriel and area parishes.

Father James Campbell provided two cakes for the occasion: one elegant and one comical depicting an older man and a walker. But Father Schmitt, who does not use a walker, was a good sport about it and posed with both cakes.

ECCHS participates in Pro-Life Day

ST. MARYS — Students at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys recently participated in the national Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. Sixteen students—two boys and two girls from each grade level—wore red armbands with the word "LIFE" written on them and went through the school day completely silent as a form of protest against abortion.

The idea for Pro-Life Day came from ECC junior Maura Keyes, who also took part in and helped organize the event. Keyes took her idea to the administration and campus ministry, and students began volunteering to participate—more than were actually needed.

"We really want to make people understand that we're not here to condemn people or make them feel bad about the choices they might have made in the past, but we're encouraging them to make good choices in the future," said Father Ross Miceli, co-campus minister.

Teachers incorporated the pro-life theme into their lesson plans, and Father Miceli spoke about the event's message in his Mass



homily. He noted that, statistically speaking, there could be as many as 80 to 100 students missing from the ECC student body due to abortions.

Following Mass, slips of paper were handed to the students with the statement: "Today we stand in silent solidarity with those who have been silenced. Today we are silenced but by doing this we are being a voice for the one-third of our generation that will never have a voice. Every day,

over 4,000 babies have their lives ended in the name of choice."

Silent students participating included (pictured left to right): (front row) Maura Keyes, Darby Hetrick, Beth Miller, Kevin Kraus, (middle row) Brooke Feidler, Nick Quagliani, Zachary Lovett, Emma Dagher, Lucas Knight, Kathleen Kniedel, Kevin Kronenwetter, (back row) Shea Meyer, Carli Schneider, Ryan Seelye, Adam Lovenduski and Ashley Seelye.

Statue blessing at St. Peter Cathedral School

ERIE — Bishop Donald Trautman blessed a new statue of St. Peter outside St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie. Bishop Trautman also shared the history of St. Peter with students.

The school received the statue of St. Peter from a parish and school family that wishes to remain anonymous. The statue formerly belonged to St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois. With the steady hand of Hofman's Religious Goods, the statue found a new home at St. Peter Cathedral School.



Mercyhurst Prep students visit Carmelites

ERIE — Freshman theology students at Mercyhurst Prep School recently had the opportunity to visit in person with two nuns at the Holy Family Carmelite Monastery in Erie.

The Carmelites are a cloistered community. Students met with the sisters through a grill, peppering them with questions on everything from what they do daily to whether or not they watch TV.

The nuns, who came to the diocese at the request of Archbishop John Mark Gannon in 1957, recently launched a website about their community at www.ErieRCD.org/carmelites2.asp.



Knights light the way at Our Lady of Mercy

HARBORCREEK — The members of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 11144 recently presented a check for \$10,000 to Msgr. Gerald Ritchie, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek.

The money donated by the Knights covered the expense of installing new lighting fixtures in the church social hall, gymnasium and other storage areas.

Pictured presenting the check are (left to right): John Sucek, Rich Knepfer, Dave Lefaiver, Rich DiPlacido, Bill Matrogran, Frank Abate, Mike Adams, Ross Owens, Msgr. Gerald Ritchie, Mike Brown, Tom Pallisin and Gus Manna.



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