

Meeting highlights

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FaithLife

100 years of faith

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www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 9, 2012

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Our Lady of Guadalupe



St. John of the Cross

- Dec. 11 St. Damasus I
- Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13 St. Lucy
- Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross
- Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius

Lessons and Carols at St. Mark Seminary - Dec. 10

The public is invited to join Bishop Lawrence Persico and the seminarians of the Diocese of Erie for an evening of lessons and carols on Monday, Dec. 10 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, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Midnight Mass on WJET-TV - Dec. 24



For the 17th straight year, WJET-TV 24 will broadcast Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve live from St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The program begins at 11:30 p.m. and includes a message from Bishop Lawrence Persico as well as music by the cathedral choir under the direction of William Herring.

Advent Resources

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 is available on the diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org. This 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.ErieRCD.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.



Clergy appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:



Father Daniel Hoffman, appointed parochial vicar of St. Luke Parish, Erie, and assistant master of ceremonies for the Diocese of Erie. Effective November 30, 2012.

Father John Malthaner, appointed dean of the Erie East Deaconry through June 2015. Effective October 31, 2012.

A legacy of faith



By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

ERIE — The Catholic Foundation recently recognized a number of donors for helping to make a lasting difference in the faith lives of people throughout the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie.

The foundation inducted new donors into its Legacy Society Nov. 10 during a Mass and ceremony at St. Mark Catholic Center's chapel in Erie. More than 140 people attended the event, which was followed by a reception in the St. Mark library.

Those inducted into the Legacy Society have either made a planned gift through the foundation or have established an endowment that will provide a perpetual source of funding for ministries of the diocese, Catholic organizations, parishes and schools. Honorees received a Legacy

Society pin blessed by the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, who celebrated Mass. Those who made a cash gift to the foundation of \$1,000 or more received certificates.

Creating a legacy or a perpetual endowment is something that anyone can do without jeopardizing their operating income, said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation.

"These are gifts from people's assets rather than from their checkbook," McCloskey said.

Commonly gifted assets include will bequests and retirement plan beneficiary designations.

"People can really look at what is most important in their faith and they can help to make that ministry blossom through a fund that is going to be there forever," McCloskey said.

By examining their values,

See LEGACY, page 3

The Catholic Foundation inducts donors into Legacy Society



Honored for major and planned giving in 2011-12 to diocesan endowments and to individual church, Catholic organization and memorial endowments at The Catholic Foundation are, left to right: (front row) Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation, Peggy Jaquet, Msgr. Daniel Magraw, James O'Mara, Bishop Lawrence Persico, Janet Bergkessel, Ernest Bergkessel, Mary Fabrizio McCarthy, Dr. Joanne Carburg, Atty. Norman Stark, (back row) David Jacquel, John Yonko representing Camp Notre Dame, Dr. Stephen Cenedel-

la, Lynn Grant representing Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, Kathy Kern, Herb Kern, Linda Jaquet and Mark Horstman, The Catholic Foundation chairperson.

Honorees missing from the photo include: Msgr. Ernest Daley, Msgr. Henry Schauerman, Msgr. Henry Kriegel, Father John Jaquet, Father William Sutherland, Father Matthew Ruyechan, Father Leo Gallina, Eric and Katherine Lavins, Dr. Kimberly Young O'Mara, Jeanne B. McGinley, Mark Kulyk and Joyce Ravnikar-Kulyk, Maureen Bradley, Atty. Edward and Clara Ferraro and an anonymous donor.

Nativity story's significance continues to unfold today, pope writes

By Carol Glatz and Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Nativity story, like the whole story of Christ, is not merely an event in the past, but has unfolding significance for people today, with implications for such issues as the limits of political power and the purpose of human freedom, Pope Benedict writes in his third and final volume on the life and teachings of Jesus.

"Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives" is only 132 pages long, yet it includes wide-ranging reflections on such matters as the significance of the virgin birth and the distinctive views of nature in ancient pagan and Judeo-Christian cultures.

The book was formally presented at the Vatican Nov. 20, and was scheduled for publication in English and eight other languages in 50 countries Nov. 21.

In the book, Pope Benedict examines Jesus' birth and childhood as recounted in the Gospels of Sts. Matthew and Luke. His interpretation of the biblical texts refers frequently to the work of other scholars and draws on a variety of academic fields, including linguistics, political science, art history and the history of science.

The book's publication completes the three-volume "Jesus of Nazareth" series, which also includes "From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration" (2007) and "Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to

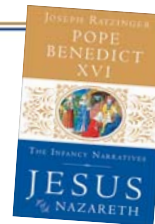
the Resurrection" (2011).

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said at the Nov. 20 book launch that the three books are the "fruit of a long inner journey" by Joseph Ratzinger, whose personal views they represent. While much of what the pope says is accepted Catholic dogma, the texts themselves are not part of the church's magisterium and their arguments are free to be disputed, Father Lombardi said.

In his new book, the pope argues that Matthew and Luke, in their Gospel accounts, set out to "write history, real history that had actually happened, admittedly interpreted and understood in the context of the word of God."

"The pope calls the virgin birth and the resurrection 'cornerstones' of Christian faith, since they show God acting directly and decisively in the material world."

"These two moments are a scandal to the modern spirit," which expects and allows God to act only in ideas,



CNS photo

This is the cover of the English edition of Pope Benedict XVI's new book "The Infancy of Jesus," which is the third and concluding volume of his work, "Jesus of Nazareth." The book was released in 20 languages Nov. 21.



thoughts and the spiritual world, not the material, he writes. Yet it is not illogical or irrational to suppose that God possesses creative powers and power over matter, otherwise "then he is simply not God."

The pope enriches the Gospel accounts with personal reflections as well as questions

See NATIVITY, page 3

Celebrating church's universality, pope creates new cardinals

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Recalling that Christ's mission transcends "all ethnic, national and religious particularities," Pope Benedict XVI created six new cardinals from four different continents, representing the Latin rite of the Catholic Church as well as two Eastern Catholic Churches.

The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Nov. 24 were U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, 63, former prefect of the papal household; Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, 72; Indian Archbishop Basilio Cleemis Thottunkal, 53, head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; Nigerian Archbishop John Olorunfemi Olayekan, 68, of Abuja; Colombian Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez, 70, of Bogota; and Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle, 55, of Manila.

"I want to highlight in

Cardinal Electors

There are 120 cardinals under age 80 and eligible to vote in a papal election.

Electors by region



Countries with more than one elector

ITALY	28	INDIA	5	CANADA	3
U.S.	11	FRANCE	4	ARGENTINA	2
GERMANY	6	MEXICO	4	NGERIA	2
BRAZIL	6	POLAND	4	PORTUGAL	2
SPAIN	5				

harmonious song to the living God."

At the end of the ceremony, the College of Cardinals had 211 members, 120 of whom were under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

Waiting for our savior



Altar server Kara Sweeney lights a candle on the Advent wreath at St. Luke Parish in Erie on Dec. 2, the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the season of expectation leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

IN THE U.S.

■ Lawsuits' dismissal called disappointing but won't end legal challenge

Judges in two separate rulings Nov. 27 dismissed lawsuits filed by Catholic organizations and dioceses in Pennsylvania and Tennessee challenging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that undermines religious liberty, requiring employers to include coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if the employer is morally opposed to such services. Catholic leaders in both states expressed disappointment but also some hope the rulings left the door open to refiling their claims. Two days later, a federal appeals court in St. Louis granted a temporary injunction against enforcement of the mandate while a Catholic business owner prepares an appeal of a lower court ruling that rejected his claim the federal requirement is a burden on his religious rights because he is morally opposed to providing contraceptive coverage.

In Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik said Nov. 28 that he was disappointed in the U.S. District Court ruling but "very encouraged that it was 'dismissed without prejudice.' That means that we have every right to file again in the future." In Tennessee, the Nashville Diocese in a statement said the order of dismissal by the U.S. District Court there "does not foreclose the bringing of similar claims once the alleged administrative change to the mandate takes place."

Editor's note: The lawsuit filed by the Diocese of Erie was still in court awaiting a ruling as of this writing.

■ Boston 'parish collaboratives' seen as best use for limited resources

A pastoral plan approved by Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley calls for the Boston Archdiocese to organize its 288 parishes into approximately 135 groups called "parish collaboratives." Led by one pastor, a group of priests, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers, called a pastoral team, would provide pastoral services to parishes in the collaborative. Under the plan, each parish in the collaborative group will maintain its separate identity and retain control of its own property and assets. Cardinal O'Malley said the new pastoral plan comes in response to current challenges faced by the Catholic Church in Boston, and could change if those realities improve. He approved the plan Nov. 15. Called "Disciples in Mission," the plan identified parishes' main challenges: declining Mass attendance, shrinking numbers of priests and trained lay and an increasing number of parishes unable to sustain themselves financially.

■ New York Archdiocese announces 26 schools 'at risk of closure'

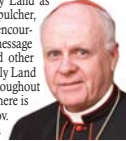
The New York Archdiocese has announced that 26 of the 159 regional, parish and archdiocesan elementary schools are at risk of closing next June. In addition, St. Agnes Boys High School in Manhattan

also is at risk of closing at the end of the current school year. The Nov. 26 announcement of "at risk" schools comes two years after the archdiocese closed 20 schools as part of a reconfiguration plan. A decision about the future of Catholic schools on New York's Staten Island has been postponed until January while the region continues to struggle with the effects of Hurricane Sandy. Archdiocesan officials are meeting with local pastors, principals, administrators and elected officials for in-depth discussions on how to best serve the needs of school families.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Cardinal O'Brien visits Holy Land with message of solidarity, peace

On the eve of his first trip to the Holy Land as grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien said he hoped to encourage the region's Christian minority with a message of solidarity from Pope Benedict XVI and other Catholics in the West. "The church in the Holy Land has been under unfriendly domination throughout the centuries and the fact that we still exist there is almost a miracle," Cardinal O'Brien said Nov. 24. "We have to do everything we can as a Catholic people to encourage them and to let them know that we are one with them in their struggle." The cardinal, a former archbishop of Baltimore whom Pope Benedict named to lead the chivalric order in August 2011, left Rome Nov. 26 for a weeklong pilgrimage whose itinerary was to include Jerusalem; Bethlehem, West Bank; and Amman, Jordan. The cardinal also planned to visit a few of the more than 100 institutions that the knights support in the region, including parishes, schools and Bethlehem University.



Cardinal Edwin O'Brien

PEOPLE

■ March for Life board of directors elects successor to late Nellie Gray

Jeanne Monahan is the new full-time president of the March for Life Education & Defense Fund, which organizes and runs the March for Life in Washington each January. The organization's board of directors unanimously voted to appoint Monahan to the post. She succeeds the late Nellie Gray, founder and president, who died in August at age 86. Monahan, a former board member, had been serving as interim president since Gray's death. "Jeanne is a strong pro-life advocate who will continue the strong leadership of Nellie Gray and bring us closer to a culture of life," said Patrick Kelly, chairman of the board. Prior to her appointment, Monahan was director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council in Washington, serving as a spokeswoman on life issues and as a regular media contributor on topics related to the dignity of human life. Before working for the council, she served in various capacities at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Jeanne Monahan

By the Way...

Bishop Lawrence Persico has been visiting a number of parishes for the official installation of new pastors. In recent practice, the local dean installed a new pastor. The dean is a priest appointed by the bishop to help him oversee the parishes in a specific geographical area, or deanery. In a letter to priests, Bishop Persico said he would be doing the installations as a way to underscore the bond the bishop and his priests share.



He installed Father William O'Brien Oct. 27 as pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Erie. On Dec. 1 and 2, he met parishioners at St. Luke and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Erie for the installation of Father John Malthaner and Father Thomas Aleksa as pastors of the respective parishes.

Bishop Persico's presence at the installations has the added benefit of giving him additional opportunities to meet people at parishes throughout the diocese.

Following his installation Oct. 1 and coming off the recent fall meeting of the U.S. bishops, Bishop Persico has had a busy first two months.

The church at St. Michael Parish in Fryburg, which has been closed since Oct. 1 for replastering and repainting, will reopen with the children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 5:15 p.m. The church is expected to be completed by Dec. 10, said Father Skip Davis, pastor of St. Michael. The next two weeks will give the parish a chance to clean up and put things back into place.

At the Christmas Eve Mass, the parish children will pray the Stations of the Nativity. A number of them will be wearing T-shirts with depictions of particular stations that they will get to keep. The 14 stations include the annunciation, the visitation, the birth of John the Baptist, Joseph's dream, the Nativity, the appearance of the angels, the shepherds and the Magi at the manger, the presentation, the flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocents and the return of the Holy Family to Galilee.

In the new year, the parish will invite Bishop Persico to celebrate Mass in the newly renovated church, Father Davis said. A date has not yet been set. For photos of the renovation, visit www.st-michael-church.org.

Pope Benedict XVI has officially joined millions around the globe on the social media network Twitter. On Dec. 3, the Vatican revealed the pope's new personal Twitter account, @Pontifex. The Holy Father will answer a question in his first tweet Dec. 12. Anyone can send in a question via the hashtag #askpontifex or #B16. Vatican officials said the pope will be composing the tweets for the new account himself. For the first tweet from the account, the pope will also press the button to send the tweet himself. But after that, others will send the tweets on his behalf.

The handle "Pontifex" was chosen because it means "pope and bridge builder."

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

Bishops agree on need for better preaching, more penance; OK Day cause

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — During their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 12-15, the U.S. bishops voted down a document on the troubled U.S. economy, passed documents on penance and better preaching, approved a reorganization of their Communications Department and endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day.

The bishops also met in executive session Nov. 14 and 15. On the assembly's opening day, the bishops discussed the nation's troubled economy and what their response to it should be, but a day later their proposed document,

"The Hope of the Gospel in Difficult Times: A Pastoral Message on Work, Poverty and the Economy," did not gain the two-thirds vote required for passage.

When it was prepared Nov. 12, some bishops criticized the document for being too long to be practical and for failing to include a variety of points and historical references.

On the assembly's second day, the bishops approved their first new document in 30 years on preaching. The

document, "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily," allows priests and deacons to connect the Sunday homily with people's daily lives.

The document was prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, chaired by Archbishop Robert Carroll of St. Louis.

When he introduced the document Nov. 12, the archbishop said preaching must be done "more effectively in the context of the new evangelization... Our people hunger for better preaching, preaching that would help them rediscover their faith."

The bishops also overwhelming approved — in a 236-vote — an exhortation encouraging Catholics to take advantage of the sacrament of penance, or reconciliation.

The text was prepared Nov. 12, some bishops criticized the document for being too long to be practical and for failing to include a variety of points and historical references. On the assembly's second day, the bishops approved their first new document in 30 years on preaching. The

document, "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily," allows priests and deacons to connect the Sunday homily with people's daily lives.

On a voice vote, the bishops endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, USCCB president, is promoting Day's cause, her Catholic Worker ministry was based in New York City. The cause was first undertaken by one of Cardinal Dolan's predecessors in New York, Cardinal John O'Connor.

Cardinal Dolan and other bishops who spoke Nov. 13, including some who had met Day, called her sainthood cause an opportune moment in the life of the U.S. church.

The bishops also approved expanding the memorial for Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a German-born Redemptorist priest who ministered throughout antebellum-era America for more than 20 years. Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Ala., noted that Blessed Seelos ministered at a time when "immigrants were not welcomed well in many circumstances," which he

said as contemporary significance.

A year after U.S. Catholics began using a new translation of the missal at Masses, the bishops agreed to begin revising the Liturgy of the Hours — updating hymns, psalms, various canticles, psalm prayers, some antiphons, biblical readings and other components of the liturgical prayers used at various parts of the day.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship, said the work would probably take three to five years to complete and the aim would be to more accurately reflect the original Latin texts.

In his presidential address to open the assembly, Cardinal Dolan Nov. 12 told the bishops they cannot engage culture, dialogue with others or confront challenges unless they first recognize their own sins and experience the grace of repentance.

The cardinal also said the sacrament of penance was something the USCCB planned to stress for all Catholics year-round with reflections on re-embracing Friday as a day of penance, including the possible restitution of abstinence on all Fridays.

Meeting Highlights

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2012 Fall Assembly

- Approved a document on preaching, encouraging preachers to connect the homily with people's daily lives.
- Rejected a fast-tracked statement intended to offer support and hope to people who are suffering because of the economic downturn.
- Approved an exhortation encouraging Catholics to take advantage of the sacrament of penance.
- Endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.
- Approved an expanded memorial for Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a German-born Redemptorist priest who ministered in antebellum-era America
- Agreed to begin a revision of the Liturgy of the Hours
- Approved the hiring of a public affairs director.
- Heard a request that they broaden support for national collections, which have had a decline in diocesan participation.
- Adopted a strategic plan for the next four years to shape conference programs and activities.
- Agreed to hold a national collection for the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services.
- Approved a 2013 budget of \$220.4 million.
- Took part in a workshop on using online and social media.

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Holy Land: Apr. 1-11, Apr. 6-18, Apr. 15-25...
Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28, Apr. 22-May 5, Apr. 29-May 12, May 6-19, May 13-26...
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Briefly

Concert series at St. Boniface, Erie

ERIE — St. Boniface Parish, 9367 Wattsburg Road in Erie, will host its third annual Seasons Concert Series, with all concerts free and open to the public. On Dec. 9 at 2:30 p.m., seminarian and organist Ian McElraith will perform seasonal selections. Refreshments will be served following the concert. For more information, call 814.825.4439.

Presence for Christmas at St. George, Erie

ERIE — Join St. George Parish, 5145 Peach St. in Erie, for Presence for Christmas (P4C), an inspiring four-week journey into the heart of Christmas.

Led by Bishop Donald Trautman, bishop emeritus, on four consecutive Wednesdays in Advent, P4C will feature inspiring stories and song. Participants are invited to bring a candle which will be incorporated into the events. Inspiring multimedia, a program guide for families and other resources are available at www.PresenceForChristmas.com.

Remaining P4C events will be held Dec. 12 and 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. Music and confession begin at 6:30 p.m.

YCEA — Young Church Eucharistic Adoration

All youth and young adults are encouraged to join in adoration, praise and worship during the month of December at the following locations:

- Dec. 12 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys at 6 p.m., Our Lady of the Lake in Edinboro at 6 p.m. and St. Michael in Fryburg at 7 p.m.

Christmas concert at OLMC, Harborcreek

HARBORCREEK — Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 837 Bartlett Road in Harborcreek, will host Tennessee Backporch and Sam Hyman for a Christmas concert, "Follow the Star," on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the church office or at the door.

L'Arche Erie presents L'asagna Tasting

ERIE — As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, L'Arche Erie will present L'asagna Tasting which will feature 11 area restaurants Jan. 13 from 1-5 p.m. at the concourse of Union Station, 142 W. 14th St. in Erie.

Admission includes up to 11 samples of lasagna, dessert from area bakeries, coffee, cooking demonstrations by Chef Marc Berarducci and live dinner music.

Tickets are \$13 pre-sale and \$15 at the door. Enjoy crafts by L'Arche members, caricatures by Chris Schoeder, a cash bar and auctions of 19 prizes valued at \$3,000 including a two-day pass to Splash Lagoon, an overnight stay and dinner at the Sheraton Bayfront, restaurant certificates and more. Visit www.larcheerie.org for more details.

For pre-sale tickets, call Laura at 814.452.2065 Ext. 230.

Engagement Encounter

Planning your wedding in 2013? Consider attending Engagement Encounter Feb. 22-24 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Call the Family Life Office at 814.824.1265 or visit www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeforce.asp to register. Engagement Encounter satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage preparation. Catholic and interfaith couples are encouraged to attend.

Retrouvaille, healing a hurting marriage

Retrouvaille is a weekend experience for couples who are experiencing difficulty in their marriage. Held in complete confidentiality and privacy, Retrouvaille is sponsored by Catholic Charities and is designed for couples who need help strengthening a marriage that no longer feels life-giving.

The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held March 1-3 in Erie. To register, call 814.437.9377. For confidential information or to speak with a couple experienced in the Retrouvaille program, contact the Family Life Office at 1.800.374.3723 or 814.824.1261.

For more information on Retrouvaille, visit www.retrouvaille.org or e-mail FamilyLife@ErieRCD.org.

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St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois celebrates 100 years

DUBOIS — The 100th anniversary celebration of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois concluded Nov. 18 with a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Lawrence Persico. The Mass was followed by a dinner and dance at the Bellamauro.

The anniversary celebration kicked off June 5 with a concert by Irish singer Dana. Parishioners also took a trip to a Pittsburgh Pirates game and to Seneca Allegany Casino.

"St. Michael is a strong faith community based on some very strong roots," said Father Ed Walk, who has served as a priest in residence at the parish for four years. "There are a lot of ethnic roots in the parish and it really shows how strong the faith of ethnic communities can be. From that foundation, we have a very lively and active parish."

In the early 1900s, the Catholic population of DuBois, made up mainly of Poles and Slavs, increased to the point where the two parishes at the time (St. Catherine of Siena and St. Joseph) were overcrowded. A committee of lay people voted to build a new church under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel.

Plans were drawn up for a large and comfortable church, convent and school. They had to be scaled



Photos by Jim Deemer

A Nov. 18 Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois concluded the parish's year-long celebration of its 100th anniversary.

down with the outbreak of World War I, but by 1912 the basement of the church was completed. Furnished with an altar, sanctuary necessities, chairs and an organ, all the church needed was a pastor.

Bishop John Fitzmaurice blessed the cornerstone May 30, 1912. The following year, he assigned Father Joseph Rajs, a native of Poland, as the parish's first pastor.

Under the direction of Father Edward Pawlikowski, also a native of Poland, the church structure was completed. The first Mass in the

newly finished church was celebrated in April 1917. Father Joseph Pol, who served as pastor from 1935-48, attended to the educational needs of the parish children and preservation of its Polish heritage. He initiated Polish language classes and brought the Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters to St. Michael in 1936 to conduct full time catechetical instructions. In the 1960s, a new religious education program was established with the aid of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart.

Father Dan Dymyski's activity in community affairs helped lead to the construction of St. Michael Terrace, a housing facility for the elderly, in 1982. From 1982 to 2003, St. Michael was under the pastoral care of Msgr. Henry Krebs, who maintained the legacy of the parish's Polish culture through the local Pulaski Club and various activities.

Father David Foradori has served as pastor of St. Michael the Archangel since 2004.

Bishop Lawrence Persico greets a young parishioner Nov. 18 following the 100th anniversary Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois.

Information from "Shepherds and Sheep — A History of the Diocese of Erie: Volume III" by Msgr. Robert Barocio was used to compile this report.

The Catholic Foundation inducts donors into Legacy Society

LEGACY, from page 1

Catholics can determine what spiritually moves them and then decide how to use their estate planning tools to support that ministry, she said.

"Despite the fact that the economy has been very challenging to families, what I hear them say is their religious core means so much to them—receiving the sacraments, attending their church—their faith remains with them throughout the years," McCloskey said. "Generation after generation, they see the impact it has on their family members, children and grandchildren. They want to preserve and revitalize ministries that were key to their development."



Inductees to The Catholic Foundation's Legacy Society received a pin blessed by Bishop Lawrence Persico.

Those ministries include helping the struggling with poverty, pastoral care by priests and outreach by religious, along

with participation in the Curtillo movement and Camp Notre Dame. Others were recognized for supporting the Roman Catholic Chapel at Millcreek Mall in Erie. A portion of the chapel's rent is funded through The Catholic Foundation's Evangelization Endowment.

"Everyone has their own individual reasons for giving, but the church and their faith is what ties them together," McCloskey said.

In 2007, the foundation began with four endowments totaling \$5.7 million. Since then, it has grown to 20 endowments—including church, school and Catholic organization endowments and individually named endowments—currently valued at \$8.2 million. As of this year,

The Catholic Foundation has distributed more than \$1 million through its various endowments to assist people throughout the diocese, McCloskey said.

In the past year, endowments have funded numerous efforts including: workshops for health ministers, retired clergy music-care needs, peer ministry team formation, chastity education, youth faith formation, inner city pastoral outreach and tuition assistance for children in pre-school and kindergarten at Catholic schools.

This was the third Legacy Society recognition event since The Catholic Foundation's inception in 2007; previous induction ceremonies were held in 2009 and 2010.

Nativity story's significance continues to unfold today, pope writes

NATIVITY, from page 1

and challenges for his readers.

For example, considering the angel's appearance to the shepherds, who then "went with haste" to meet the child savior, the pope asked "How many Christians make haste today, where the things of God are concerned?" Pope Benedict examines the political context of the time of Jesus' birth, which featured both the so-called "Pax Romana" — the widespread peace brought by the Roman ruler Caesar Augustus — and King Herod's thirst for power, which led to the slaughter of the innocents.

"Pax Christi is not necessarily opposed to Pax Augusti," he writes. "Yet the peace of Christ surpasses the peace of Augustus as heaven surpasses earth."

The political realm has "its own sphere of competence and responsibility," it oversteps those bounds when it "claims divine status and divine attributes" and makes promises it cannot deliver.

The other extreme comes with forms of religious persecution when rulers "tolerate no other kingdom but their own," he writes.

Any sign God announces "is given not for a specific political situation, but concerns the whole history of humanity," he writes.

The pope writes that the Three Wise Men philosophy and rationality.

"They represent the inner dynamic of religion toward self-transcendence, which involves the search for truth, the search for the true God," the pope writes.

The pope also argues that the star of Bethlehem was a true celestial event.

It "seems to be an established fact," he writes, that the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn happened in 7-6 B.C., which "as we have seen is now thought likely to have been when Jesus was born."

A key topic in the book is the role of human freedom in God's divine plan for humanity.

"The only way (God) can redeem man, who was created free, is by means of a free 'yes'

to his will," the pope writes. It is precisely "the moment of free, humble yet magnificent obedience," such as Mary and Joseph showed when listening to God, "in which the loftiest choice of human freedom is made."

Jesus, too, in his human freedom, understood he was bound to obedience to his heavenly father, even at the cost of his earthly life.

The missing 12-year-old, rediscovered by an anxious Mary and Joseph in the temple, was not there "as a rebel against his parents, but precisely as an obedient (son), acting out the same obedience that leads to the cross and the resurrection," the pope writes.

Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection is a story filled with contradiction, paradox and mystery, the pope writes, and "remains a sign of contradiction today."

"What proves Jesus to be the true sign of God is he takes upon himself the contradiction of God," Pope Benedict writes, "he draws it to himself all the way to the contradiction of the cross."

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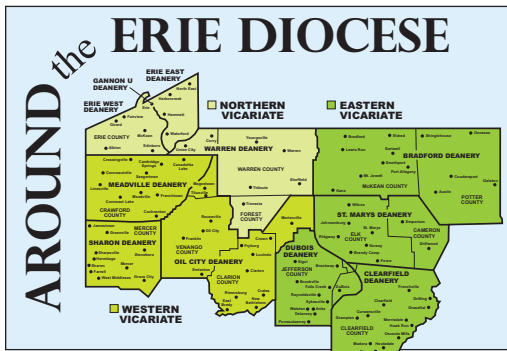
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

Photo Tips

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



Students at St. Joseph School, Lucinda, raise funds for area family that lost home to fire

LUCINDA — The second grade class at St. Joseph School in Lucinda recently sold lemonade to help out the Perry family in Knox, after the family lost their home to a fire. The students read the story, "Lemonade for Sale," and decided to have a lemonade stand at school. By selling lemonade to their fellow students and faculty, they raised \$118 for the Perry family.

Other classes held a penny war to see which grade could raise the most funds. The school presented the family with \$500 in cash and gift cards.



Religious education students at St. Mary, Reynoldsville, thinking of veterans

REYNOLDSVILLE — Religious education students at St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville recently collected 600 items for veterans at the James E. Van Zandt Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Altoona and the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. These items included homemade Christmas cards and candy treat bags for 110 veterans. Pictured are students in grades 8-10 with their teacher Julie Wojtaszek (standing second from right) and Auxiliary Commander Charlie Kiser (standing far right).



Volunteers collect food, help Move the Mountain at North East

NORTH EAST — Members of St. Gregory Parish in North East and several other parishes participated in the annual Move the Mountain food drive Nov. 3. Held the first Saturday in November, the Move the Mountain project raises a large portion of the North East Community Food Pantry's winter inventory.

Food items were collected at Crescent Hose Co. in North East. Volunteers sorted, packed, loaded and unloaded non-perishable food items. Donations filled a tractor trailer which will help those in need get through the winter months.

Pictured from left to right are: Nick Wisniewski, Andrew Wisniewski, Stephen Barnes,



Hannah Becker (St. Gregory, Fairview), Andrea Beardsley (North East), Alex Anderson, and Joan Fye (St. Gregory, North East). John Anderson (Holy Cross, East).

OLMC, Erie, youth make and serve dinner to seniors

ERIE — Religious education students in 4th and 6th grade at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie, along with their teachers Cori Oczalek and Shannon Scully, recently made and served dinner to 22 residents of Stone School Apartments in Summit Township. The residents were grateful to the students for their service. Sue Berdis, religious education facilitator, said that by serving the dinner near the Thanksgiving holiday, students were reminded about being a blessing to others.



Students at St. Boniface School, Erie, honor veterans

ERIE — The students and staff of St. Boniface School in Erie hosted a luncheon to honor area military veterans in advance of the Veterans Day holiday. Nearly 60 guests attended the annual program and luncheon, including veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. They were treated to a program of patriotic songs presented by every grade level in the school, including the concert band and middle school choir. The event also provided an opportunity for students to learn from the experiences of their veteran neighbors and parishioners.



Thanksgiving at St. Michael School, Greenville



GREENVILLE — Even the tiniest of children can be thankful for what they have. Pan Cianci (pre-kindergarten) and Floss Renwick (kindergarten), teachers at St. Michael School in Greenville, held a special Thanksgiving meal for their classes Nov. 16. All students wore pilgrim outfits they made and shared a mix of traditional and non-traditional holiday food. Addison Nguyen, a pre-kindergarten student at St. Michael School in Greenville, was thankful for her holiday meal with her class.

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