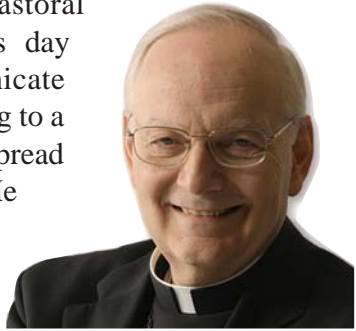


A word from the publisher

I did not write my final letter in the *Lake Shore Visitor* as a farewell, but rather as a transition piece, a bridge to both *Faith* magazine and our *FaithLife* news bulletin. The Erie Diocese will now have instruments of both formation and information to help guide and enrich every Catholic household.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Bishop Tobias Mullen recognized a pastoral need. The church of his day needed to communicate Catholic news and teaching to a multi-ethnic community spread out over 13 counties. He began the *Lake Shore Visitor* in an effort to unite his people and to give them a Catholic commentary on the issues of his day.



With the help of others, I am now reading the signs of our day. The market of Catholic newspaper subscribers is shrinking. This is a national trend: Older readers are not being replaced by younger subscribers. Even as the number of American Catholics is increasing, the number of American Catholic subscribers is steadily decreasing. We must find new readers.

The Catholic press is not in competition with the secular media; the Catholic press seeks to publish those stories of faith that often elude the interest of the secular news media. Today, as we face the new realities in our culture, we must take bold and daring steps to communicate Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We do not take these steps without serious thought and deliberation.

The information needs of our people will be met by the bi-weekly publication, *FaithLife*. It is my hope this prototype will begin to inform you of our goals for the publication.

For the past 130 years of the *Lake Shore Visitor* and all it has accomplished, we give thanks and praise to God. For the future we trust in God and begin a new and exciting communication approach that will evangelize the Catholic population in all 13 counties of this diocese.

May God who began this good work bring it to fruition!

Donald W. Trautman

**Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL
Bishop of Erie**

FaithLife

Official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie February 13, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

Welcome to *FaithLife*

What you now hold in your hands is new to all of us.

This prototype of *FaithLife*, the new Erie Diocese news bulletin, should give you, our readers and advertisers, a glimpse of where our communications efforts are going.

While our former diocesan publication, the *Lake Shore Visitor*, was geared toward Catholic information, the new *Faith* magazine focuses on faith formation. We're hoping *FaithLife* will provide a mixture of both in a timely and reader-friendly format.

Beginning with the weekend of Feb. 26-27, the bi-weekly publication of *FaithLife* will include local news, features, columns and a community calendar as well as national and international news provided through the Catholic News Service.

Bishop Trautman will offer a column in every other issue, and a number of columnists from within the Erie Diocese will share their thoughts as rotating columnists throughout each year. Our diocese has many unique voices, and we look forward to sharing them.

The most obvious change you will notice as we move from the *Lake Shore Visitor* to *FaithLife* is our format. The full, multi-paged broadsheet is gone in favor of a more easily handled single-paged document that provides a wealth of content. We expect the publication to evolve over time and trust you will not hesitate to share your thoughts and observations as we begin publishing.

In the interest of efficiency and good stewardship, we will no longer publish obituaries for all Catholics in the diocese. We do

expect to provide obituaries for our priests and sisters as their lives of service touch the lives of so many.

We are also rethinking our calendar and will limit it to events that are accessible and appeal to a broad audience. We will not be publishing parish-specific events such as spaghetti dinners and fish fries, using the space instead to promote diocesan and ministry events.

Both obituaries and local calendar events are easily published in local newspapers and sent to the bulletins of parishes within easy driving distance, and we want to avoid duplication of effort.

We believe *FaithLife* will play a very important role within the diocese and are committed to growing it into a valuable, dependable resource.

Get us your info

As with any publication, we are in service to you, our readership. Please get us your information for a ministry event, musical performance, guest speaker or story idea as soon as possible.

Calendar deadline: Send information at least **one month** before an event to have it published in at least one issue.

Editorial deadline: For news briefs and most other items, **Thursday, noon, two weeks before the date of publication.**

For feature stories and photo opportunities: inform us at least one month before the event.

Items may be submitted for consideration to:

Jason Koshinskie, editor
JKoshinskie@erieRCD.org
phone: (814) 824-1171
fax: (814) 824-1170

FaithLife Distribution

The hope for *FaithLife* is that it will be made available to all those who attend Sunday Mass at parishes throughout the Erie Diocese. Obviously, we will be counting heavily on the help and cooperation of a variety of people to make this happen.

It's important that parishes know they have a good deal of flexibility in distributing the publication, which will arrive every other Wednesday or Thursday directly from our printer, Peacock Printing of Meadville, Pa.

We recognize that with 126 different parishes involved, flexibility is essential for distribution.

Staff members of the Office of Evangelization for Communication secured a bulletin count for each of the parishes in the diocese. These figures were considerably higher than the actual envelope count recorded in the several parishes we sampled to confirm our numbers.

Please be assured that the number of *FaithLife* news bulletins you receive can be updated with each mailing. If you are receiving too few or too many copies, simply notify us by calling the circulation manager at 814-824-1161.

As for distribution, we are proposing a number of options, and would love to hear from those who have additional ideas. *FaithLife* may be:

- Inserted into your parish bulletin
- Handed out by ushers
- Placed next to bulletins at church entrances
- Displayed in reading racks in vestibule areas

Because each issued is directly mailed from our printer to individual parishes, we are able to accept church-specific advertising and inserts. Want to put that spaghetti dinner ad out as a separate flier? We can have it produced and inserted into your parish copies of *FaithLife*.

Advertising deadline: Thursday, noon, ten days before the date of publication. For more advertising information, please contact:

Kevin Eagan
Advertising manager
KEagan@erieRCD.org
phone: 814.824.1168
fax: 814.824.1170

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST 2005

FOCUS ON THE EUCHARIST

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – our highest authority on the liturgy – calls the liturgy of the Eucharist the “source and summit” of our lives. All of our prayers and actions should derive from the liturgy and lead us back to it.

A rhythm of daily prayer can help a community to be ready, to be prepared for the Sunday celebration and to live out the implications of Eucharist in our lives.

This Lent consider meeting for morning and/or evening prayer or pray it on your own to help to develop a rhythm that culminates in the Sunday liturgy.

Pray slowly and carefully. Leave time for silence. In addition to the prayer leader, have someone read the Scripture passage and sing a well-known seasonal hymn if possible. Use “Christian Prayer” or a simplified version of the hours, e.g., “Proclaim Praise” from Liturgy Training Publications, 1-800-933-1800 or www.ltp.org.

Parish Resource: “Eucharist — Jesus With Us,” set of 12 monthly bulletin inserts; 12 different topics; could be used by small groups, study groups; written by Fr. Tom Richstatter, OFM — St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1-800-488-0488 ext. 158.

From the Office of Worship



WEB of Faith

On Jan. 12, 2005, the newly redesigned Web site of the Erie Diocese went live. But be assured that www.erie-rd.org is in its infancy. This space in *FaithLife* will serve as an update for our new

home in cyberspace as it matures. What will happen over the next several months will be dramatically different that what you are used to. In re-launching our site, we hope to deliver a more visual, user-friendly Web experience with both quality content and a quantity of information.

In addition to an updated look, our site features a new menu with user-friendly terminology for Catholics who aren't familiar with the offices of the diocese so they may better locate the resources they seek. Many offices will be cross-referenced under multiple buttons so each department will receive more exposure.

Our new Web home will also contain and promote articles from both *FaithLife* and *Faith* magazine. Readers will also find addition coverage from those publications on the Web.

We will be working with each office throughout the next few months to redesign and rewrite their pages. Until the redesign of erieRCD.org is complete, “older” pages will remain online so that visitors will continue to have access to the information they need.

All Web sites are works in progress. We appreciate your patience and welcome your comments and feedback.

OLP students 'Sock It to 'Em'

Editor's note: This is an excellent example of how we can cover unique events in our diocese. This photo was also submitted.



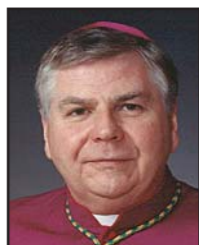
Photo by Daniel Cooney

From left to right, front row: Cara Filipowski, Sean Filipowski, Taylor Intrieri, Nicholas Peterson. Back row: Kristin Owens, Emily Hampy, Nicole Patsy, Brandon Intreri.

By the end of the day, more than 1,550 pairs of socks filled the care boxes, with more still coming in.

Bishop-elect Paul J. Bradley ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH – Bishop-elect Paul J. Bradley was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh Feb. 2 by Bishop Donald W. Wuerl at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland.



Bishop-elect Paul J. Bradley

the ordination. Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, was also present.

In November, Bishop Bradley was named General Secretary and Vicar for the Diocese of Pittsburgh by Bishop Wuerl. Bishop Bradley will continue to serve in those positions.

Operation Rice Bowl celebrates 30 years

Editor's note: Letting us know what parishes or schools in our diocese are doing with programs such as Operation Rice Bowl can help us localize larger stories.

security in 40 countries around the world. Twenty-five percent of the money raised in the Erie Diocese remains in dioceses in the United States to fund local hunger and

poverty alleviation projects.

For more information on Operation Rice Bowl or to order materials, visit www.ers.org/orb or call 1.800.222.0025.

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From the Editor

One of the first things I noticed during my interview for this job was a poster of the diocesan map hanging in a conference room. The sheer numbers were just staggering to me. Thirteen counties and 9,936 square miles! Geographically, we are the largest diocese in the state.

And throughout our square mileage and terrain in northwest Pennsylvania, there are 70,000 Catholic families registered with a parish. An estimated 225,000 Catholics in the diocese. Wow!

After digesting that information, I was more awed to know that all 225,000 of us are just a small part of one body in Christ, the living church. While the church may be thought of as organizational at times, it really is all of us. And what each of us does not only affects ourselves but the church. I'm hoping that *FaithLife*, like *Faith* magazine, will bring us closer together by sharing our stories, faith, experiences and prayers.

In this ministry, I am reminded of U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley's recent thoughts on the role of the Catholic press. It should provide not only "authentic information about the church and society" but also form "a true sense of Catholic community," he said. In forming that community through *FaithLife*, I want to show how we live our faith. "Mother Teresa is a much better argument for the Christian life than is an advertising campaign," Archbishop Foley added. I want to tell about us.

I want to tell you about Msgr. Louis Heberlein at Christ the King Manor in DuBois. After serving as a diocesan priest for more than 50 years, Msgr. Heberlein retired to Christ the King in 2001. Even after suffering several strokes, "Msgr. Louie" continues to serve as he is served, celebrating Mass, delivering the Eucharist, hearing confessions and just being there for his fellow residents.

I want to tell you about Larisa Melodinskaia, a dance instructor at the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. Run by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the art house lets at-risk children experience the beauty of the fine arts. Melodinskaia teaches dance as a healing power, a therapy and a way to get through difficult times.

I want to tell you about Walter Jones, one of three newly ordained deacons who are the first to serve in Venango County. In ministering at George Junior Republic, Jones has experienced the reward of seeing young men listen to the Word of God and bring him their problems and joys.

I want to tell you ...

Jason Koshinski is editor of *FaithLife*.

U.S. church leaders ask for prayers for pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. church leaders urged prayers for the health of Pope John Paul II, who was rushed to a Rome hospital Feb. 1 because he had difficulty breathing.

"I ask Catholics and others to join with the bishops of the United States in prayer for our Holy Father's comfort and health," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"He is a beloved figure who especially loves the church in the United States and appreciates our concern," the bishop said in a statement issued shortly after he learned of the pope's hospitalization.

The pope's condition stabilized Feb. 2 and he was able to celebrate Mass from his hospital bed, according to the Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls. He told reporters in Rome that the pontiff "was able to rest for several hours during the night, he was able to sleep."

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, who was at the Vatican for meetings when the pope was

hospitalized, asked Detroit Catholics to keep the pope in their prayers.

"Lord, our God, you always provide your church with a chief shepherd to guide us in the ways of faith and hope. Look kindly on our Holy Father and embrace him with your merciful love," said Cardinal Maida in a statement.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington issued a statement from Dublin, Ireland, where he was participating in a conference on aid to developing countries.

"We are all praying for the Holy Father that the Lord will give him the help to overcome this latest illness and to continue to serve the church with wisdom and strength," said Cardinal McCarrick.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, at a Feb. 2 morning Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, asked people to remember the pope in their prayers. He compared the pope to Peter, the first pope, who was fulfilled when he received Christ, just as Pope John Paul received Christ through the Eucharist at a Mass in the hospital that morning.



CNS photo from Reuters

A Polish woman holds a candle with a picture of Pope John Paul II at a church in central Warsaw Feb. 2. Catholics marking the feast of the Presentation of the Lord offered special prayers for the Polish pope, who was hospitalized in Rome Feb. 1, a few days after he fell ill with the flu.

The same day, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, all six Masses included a petition in the prayers of the faithful "for the pope's comfort and strength," said Peter Sponski, communications director for the basilica.

A number of U.S. bishops

issued statements Feb. 2 about the pope's condition.

Seattle Archbishop Alex J. Brunett asked Catholics to pray for the pope and said that prayers for the pope's health would be included in the prayers of the faithful during weekend Masses in the archdiocese.

Survival story helps victims of tsunami disaster keep faith

By Mary Walsh
Catholic News Service

NORTH STONINGTON, Conn. — Father Antony Alaharasan's oldest sister, an invalid for 15 years, could not run when a wall of water higher than the coconut trees approached her home in Kallady in Sri Lanka's Batticaloa district Dec. 26.

Sinnamuthu, the eldest of six, told daughter Margaret Chooty, who lived with her, not to worry about her, but to take her own children and husband and flee.

"She said, 'Don't worry about me. I have lived long enough,'" said Father Alaharasan, pastor of St. Thomas More in North Stonington, recounting the story as told to him later by family members.

Such selflessness is not unusual for his oldest sister, the priest said.

"She is full of faith," he told the *Four County Catholic*, news-

paper of the Norwich Diocese. "Whatever happens, (she knows) God is in control."

After much protesting, Chooty reluctantly agreed to leave her mother. Still in their nightclothes after visiting late into the night on Christmas, the family fled the tsunami that struck around 8 a.m. They escaped just in time. But for two days, Chooty did not know her mother's fate.

Finally, she contacted the International Red Cross, which dispatched a search party for her mother. Aid workers passed floating corpses and much wreckage en route to Sinnamuthu's home.

But when they reached the house, they found her alive, lying on her bed saying the rosary. The water had come up to the door of her bedroom, but had not entered. She is now being cared for by a

sibling, Arulappu, who is a doctor; five of the priest's siblings live in Sri Lanka. A sixth sibling, a brother, lives in Germany.

Father Alaharasan's sisters and brothers have been rejoicing for weeks that their oldest sister and other family members survived the tsunamis that struck Sri Lanka and 11 other Asian and African countries.

Sunday readings

Sunday, March 6
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ps 23:1-6
Eph 5:8-14
John 9:1-41 or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Sunday, March 13
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14
Ps 130:1-8
Rom 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

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FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

BISHOP DONALD W. TRAUTMAN - Publisher
MSGR. TOM MCSWEENEY - Director of Communications and Evangelization, Diocese of Erie
ANNE-MARIE WELSH - Executive Editor
JASON KOSHINSKIE - Editor

Advertising Manager (814) 824-1168
Kevin Eagan

Production Manager (814) 824-1172
Rich Papalia

Circulation Manager (814) 824-1161
Brenda Williams

Administrative Assistant
Cindy DeCoursey

Calendar deadline: Send information at least one month before an event to have it published in at least one issue.
Editorial deadline: For Briefly and most other news items, Thursday, noon, two weeks before the date of publication. For feature stories and photo opportunities, inform us at least one month before the event.
Advertising deadline: Thursday, noon, 10 days before the date of publication.

FaithLife (USPS No. 302-780)
Member of the Catholic Press Association.
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie.
Subscription: \$15 per year.

FaithLife, formerly Lake Shore Visitor, has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1874. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR

NOVA – Marriage preparation for second marriage: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., April 23, St. Joseph Catholic Center, 147 W. 24th St., Erie. For reservations, call 824.1265 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 265.

Marriage Encounter weekend – Marriage enrichment: March 4-6, Best Western, 6467 Sterrettania Road, Erie. Program consists of a “weekend” and seven “follow-up” sessions. For more information and reservations, call 1.800.470.2230 or the Family Ministries office at 824.1265 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 265.

March 18-20, Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, Bemus Point, N.Y. Rev. Jack Murray (Rochester, N.Y.), spiritual director. For more information and reservations, call 1.866.382.4163.

Engagement Encounter weekend – Marriage preparation: April 29-May 1, McKeever Learning Center, Sandy Lake. For more information or reservations, call 1.814.768.7597 or 1.814.342.1333 or the Family Ministries office at 824.1265 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 265.

Heart of Alaska cruise: Join Fr. John Schultz, diocesan vicar for

education, on a journey to the heart of Alaska beginning Aug. 14. Trip includes roundtrip air, deluxe seven-day cruise on the Dawn Princess and several days in Denali National Park via Princess’ own dome rail car. Call Gail at 824.1220 for a full brochure listing all information and complete itinerary.

First Friday adoration: Noon to closing before 5:30 p.m. Mass, each first Friday, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Bartlett and Dutton Roads, Harborcreek. Rosary and chaplet of Divine Mercy led by Legion of Mary.

Holy hour: 7-8 p.m. every Thursday, Daily Chapel, Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren. Prayer for pro-life, vocations, family life, needs of parishioners and diocese. Hour closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call 814.726.2849.

Holy hour: 6:30-7:30 p.m. every Thursday, St. Brigid Parish, Meadville. Includes recitation of Divine Praises. Five decades of the rosary follows at 7:30.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration: 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life

Community, Erie. For more information, call 898.2026 or 452.2982.

Weekly 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration: 24-hour adoration starts every Wednesday after 8 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Parish, DuBois. Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3 p.m., rosary at 6 p.m. Adoration closes Thursday before 8 a.m. Mass.

Prayer service for peace: 7 p.m. every Wednesday, Chapel of the Pieta, St. Patrick Parish, Erie.

PALS support group – People After Loss from Suicide: 7-9 p.m., every third Tuesday, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Scripture study & reflection: 10:30 a.m.-noon every Friday, Dwelling Place house of prayer, 1237 Sherman Ave., Sharon, next to St. Anthony Parish. For more information, call 724.347.1808 or 724.964.1116.

Prayer & Sharing cancer support group: 7-8:30 p.m., second and fourth Tuesday of every month, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Christian, non-denominational support group for anyone with a diagnosis of cancer, caregivers

and support persons. For more information, call 864.9107 or 824.1257.

Retrouvaille marriage program: March 5-7, Erie. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, Retrouvaille is designed to help heal and renew troubled marriages. It consists of a weekend experience and seven follow-up sessions. For more information or reservations, call 1.800.470.2230.

Interpreted Masses for the deaf & hard of hearing: 11 a.m., first & third Sundays, St. Patrick Parish, Erie; 11:30 a.m., every fourth Sunday, St. Joseph Parish, Sharon.

Mercy Center for Women mentor training: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 12 & 19, Mercy Center for Women, 1039 E. 27th St., Erie. As a friend and role model, mentors are matched with a woman working her way back to self-sufficiency and independent living. Contact Judy Hauser at 453.5921 or Mary Graziano at 455.4577 for more information.

FaithLife

Official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
February 13, 2005

How to get your parish events listed in *FaithLife*

**30,000 people will be reading this page.
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Bishop Trautman reflects:
information vs. formation

Log on:
Erie Diocese redesigns its Web site