

The life of St. Catherine of Siena

Sister Nancy Murray, sister of actor Bill Murray, to give performance, page 3.



FaithLife

St. George sweeps

Lancers win diocesan boys, girls basketball championships, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 21, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Annunciation of the Lord



Palm Sunday

- March 23 St. Toribio de Mogrovejo
- March 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- March 28 Palm Sunday
- April 1 Holy Thursday
- April 2 Good Friday
- April 3 Vigil of Easter
- April 4 Resurrection of the Lord

Confirmations

St. Mary, St. Marys – Saturday, March 20 at 10 a.m. Confirmation classes include Queen of the World, St. Marys, and St. Mary, St. Marys.

Good Shepherd, West Middlesex – Sunday, March 21 at 11:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include Good Shepherd, West Middlesex, and St. Bartholomew, Sharpville.

St. James, Erie – Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

Lenten regulations, calendar available on Web

All Fridays in Lent and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older. Good Friday is also a day of fasting for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. The official Lenten regulations from Bishop Donald Trautman are available on the Erie Diocese's official Web site at www.ErieRCD.org.

For a printable Lenten calendar, visit www.ErieRCD.org. Sponsored by Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life, the calendar provides a Scripture verse, reflection and activity suggestion for each day of Lent.



Knights of Columbus membership blitz

The annual Knights of Columbus membership blitz will take place in parishes of the diocese on the weekend of March 20-21.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. Last year its members contributed \$150 million to charitable and benevolent causes and gave nearly 70 million hours of volunteer service to the church and local communities.

There are currently 62 Knights of Columbus councils in the Erie Diocese.

Bishop Donald Trautman has asked all pastors to be supportive of the Knights who will be conducting the membership blitz this year.

Health Care Matters

Which would you say comes closest to how you would feel if Congress decides to stop work on health care reform and doesn't pass a law this year?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

©2010 CNS

Experiencing God's mercy at school



Father Jonathan Schmolt hears a confession Dec. 4 at Blessed Sacrament in Erie during a Hope & Power tour stop. Penance

services at all Catholic high schools will give students the opportunity to go to confession during Lent.

Catholic high schools to hold penance services during Lent

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

During Lent, students at Catholic high schools throughout the Erie Diocese are finding God's mercy and love through the sacrament

of reconciliation. The diocese's Catholic Schools Office and Youth and Young Adult Ministry are sponsoring penance services at all seven Catholic high schools. Services have already taken

place at Venango Catholic High School, Oil City; Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie; and Villa Maria Academy, Erie. Services are scheduled for Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie; Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys; DuBois Central Catholic High School, DuBois; and Kennedy Catholic High School, Her-

mitage.

Father Nick Rouch, vicar for education, and Father Steve Schreiber, director of youth and young adult ministry, will visit each school much like they did a year ago. Last year, they celebrated Mass and met with campus ministry and theology departments.

"Our goal is to support the schools and we felt the support, as well," Father Rouch said. "It was very affirming all around."

This spring, they want to call young people to take their faith seriously. At the encouragement of Bishop Donald Trautman, the message will focus on reconciliation.

Similar to penance services held at many parishes during Lent, each visit will start with an all-school assembly where students will be guided through an examination of conscience. No one will be forced to go to confession, Father Rouch said, and non-Catholics can choose to pray and talk with a priest one on one. Bishop Trautman will be available for confessions as his schedule allows along with priests from each area.

"This is a powerful way to emphasize the mercy of God in the sacrament of penance," Father Rouch said.

School visits always include a message about vocations, he added. In this Year for Priests, they will also share the story of the ministry of St. John Vi-

anney, who is the patron saint of priests.

"As a priest, I love this experience," Father Rouch said. "It's encouraging to see kids trying to live their faith. It's beautiful that they're able to be so honest."

Curriculum update: All 39 Catholic schools in the diocese are in the process of reviewing their theology curricula. This year, they're comparing their offerings to the guidelines suggested by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"They're looking at textbooks, the order of topics and seeing if anything is missing," Father Rouch said. Some items that were previously electives may need to be included in the core curriculum and vice versa, he said. "It's a process, and the schools are welcoming it."

Hope & Power numbers: With one stop left on the Hope & Power tour, approximately 1,000 high school students have participated in the worship experience. The tour, which is replacing the diocesan senior high school youth rally this year, offers young people an opportunity to meet Christ in a conversion experience. "We're really reaching out to a lot of kids who have never attended a youth event like this before," Father Schreiber said.

Staff reports contributed to this story.

SAVE THE DATE

Catholic Charities Ball to benefit people in need

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

In the last three years, the annual Catholic Charities Ball has raised more than \$130,000 which has gone directly to families in need who are of all faiths throughout the Erie Diocese.

Requests at Catholic Charities four emergency assistance centers (Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield; Prince of Peace Center, Farrell; St. Elizabeth Center, Oil City; and St. Martin Center, Erie) have risen 30 percent in the past year.

Catholic Charities agencies and services extend throughout the 13 counties of the Erie Diocese offering many forms of aid and support throughout northwest Pennsylvania.

The ball is Catholic Charities' single-largest fundraiser of the year. Last year's ball raised a record of more than \$53,000. Proceeds from the 15th annual Catholic Charities Ball, which will be held Saturday, April 16 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, will once again go to families in need.

"Our goal at the ball is to showcase the extensive outreach of Catholic Charities to people of all faiths and cultures," said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, who oversees the ball.

Themed "World of Wonder," invitations are in the form of airline tickets. These baskets will reflect different heritages, including an Irish woolen sweater and Belleek pottery, a Japanese dinner for eight and pottery and a table runner from the diocese's Mission of Friendship in Merida, Mexico. The dance contest this year will be

the cha cha, adding to the international flavor.

"Everything is to help patrons be mindful of the cultures we serve," McCloskey said. "We want to light up their hearts with appreciation."

The event includes more than 30 major corporate sponsors with LECOM the lead sponsor in the Diamond Circle.

The host circle, which includes more than 30 couples, is chaired by Tim and Annalynn Shuttleworth.

Atty. Jim and Mary Ann Toohy will be honored with the Helping Hands Award. Created in 2006 by Catholic Charities, the award is given annually to an individual,

family or organization that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community and church.

Back by popular demand will be a dance competition featuring local celebrities. Competing this year are: Amanda Post, WICU TV; Rebecca Syn, marketing director at Medical Associates of Erie; Gwen White, Erie Insurance Group; Meg Loncharic, contributing writer for the *Erie Times-News*;

35TH ANNIVERSARY CATHOLIC CHARITIES BALL

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Hors d'oeuvres are included and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$75 each. Call 814.824.1250 or visit www.ErieRCD.org for more information.

Chrim Mass set for March 29 in Punxsutawney

PUNXSUTAWNEY – The annual Chrim Mass will be held Monday, March 29 at St. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney beginning at 4 p.m.

At the Chrim Mass, which is celebrated during Holy Week, Bishop Donald Trautman will bless the sacred oils used for celebrating the sacraments.

The bishop will bless the oil of catechumens (used for adult catechumens and infants) and the oil of the sick (used in anointing the sick) and consecrate the oil of chrim (used for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the ordination of priests and for the consecration of altars).

After the Mass, the oils are then brought to each parish in the diocese for use in celebrating the sacraments throughout the com-



Students from St. Cosmas and Damian School in Punxsutawney prepare and label bottles that will be used to transport the holy oils blessed during the Chrim Mass back to each parish in the diocese.

ing year. Priests of the diocese are encouraged to attend to renew their commitment of service and to receive the support and prayers of the people.

The public is also invited to attend.

Did You Know?

In 2008, the number of deaths outpaced the number of baptisms in the Erie Diocese. There were **1,666** baptisms that year and **2,613** deaths. The number of baptisms peaked in 1950 when there were 6,664 in the diocese (and only 2,317 deaths). The number of annual baptisms has been in decline since 1950 with the diocese reporting 4,664 in 1980; 3,410 in 1990 and 2,195 in 2000.



IN THE U.S.

■ **Researchers are working on an in-depth study of Catholic parish life in the United States.** The study is being conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, based at Georgetown University in Washington, on behalf of the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project. "This research will provide the U.S. church with the most comprehensive and accurate picture of parish life" since a Notre Dame study of parishes was conducted in the 1980s, said Mercy Sister Mary Bendyna, CARA's executive director and senior research associate. "Among other things," she said the study will "examine the new models and new structures for parish ministry that are emerging as parishes are reorganized and the people they serve are more diverse." The study also will examine parishes that do not have pastors because of a lack of priests as well as multicultural parishes and parishes using multiple-parish ministry.



■ **About 100 traditionalist Anglican parishes in the United States have decided to join the Catholic Church** as a group. Meeting in Orlando, the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church in America voted to seek entry into the Catholic Church under the guidelines established by Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum Coetibus" ("Groups of Anglicans"). The Anglican Church in America is part of the Traditional Anglican Communion, a group of churches which separated from the worldwide Anglican Communion in 1991. The Traditional Anglican Communion claims 400,000 mem-

bers worldwide. The request means the 100 Anglican Church in America parishes will ask for group reception into the Catholic Church in a "personal ordinariate," a structure similar to dioceses for former Anglicans who become Catholic. Churches under the personal ordinariate can retain their Anglican character and much of their liturgy and practices — including married priests — while being in communion with the Catholic Church. The Anglican Church in America is the third group of Anglican churches to respond positively to the Vatican's invitation.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **Pope Benedict XVI will make a two-day trip to Spain in November,** visiting the pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona. The trip, scheduled for Nov. 6-7, will be pope's fifth this year. On the first day of the trip, the pope will visit Santiago de Compostela, the northern Spanish city that became an important pilgrim destination in the Middle Ages. Tradition holds that the remains of the Apostle James the Greater are buried there. The pope's trip coincides with Santiago de Compostela Holy Year, which occurs every time St. James' feast day, July 25, falls on a Sunday. Traveling south, Pope Benedict will preside Nov. 7 over the consecration of Barcelona's famous church, La Sagrada Familia, the unfinished masterpiece by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi. The Barcelona church, officially called the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia (Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family), was begun in 1882 but was not completed by Gaudi. It has never been formally consecrated.



Pope Benedict XVI

■ **The religious orders and bishops' conferences dealing with cases of clerical sexual abuse of children in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands** are acting quickly, decisively and with transparency to uncover the truth and assist the victims, said Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi. He said March 9 that the religious orders and bishops' conferences not only "have proven their commitment to transparency, in a certain sense they have accelerated the uncovering of the problem by asking victims to come forward even when it involved cases from many years ago." The correct way to proceed, he said, is to recognize what happened and concretely demonstrate concern for the victims and the consequences the abuse has had on them. The new revelations of abuse, mainly at Catholic schools, in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands as well as the recent report on abuse in Ireland, are motivating appropriate responses and "should be inserted in the context of a problem that is wider and involves the safeguarding of children and youths from sexual abuse in society," Father Lombardi said.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Bishop John McDowell, a retired auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh** who helped draft the U.S. bishops' landmark 1972 document on catechesis, "To Teach As Jesus Did," died Feb. 25 at Passavant Hospital in Pittsburgh. He was 88. "Bishop McDowell was a giant of the church, a national figure in Catholic education and an influential bishop in our national conference," said Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik. "We have lost a priest and bishop of deep faith and a generous heart who used his God-given gifts for the good of the church that have blessed us in so many different ways." Bishop McDowell had retired in September 1996 after 30 years as a bishop.



Bishop John McDowell

By the Way...

A number of folks have inquired about gifts for Bishop Donald Trautman's anniversaries. Bishop Trautman will celebrate his 25th anniversary as a bishop and 20th anniversary as bishop of the Diocese of Erie on Tuesday, April 13 with a 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.



Jason Koshinski

"Feed My Sheep" is the bishop's episcopal motto and appears on his official coat of arms.

The endowment is earmarked for youth (schools, religious education, and youth ministry) and those suffering from spiritual and material poverty. All donations will be recorded in the bishop's honor and may be sent to The Catholic Foundation at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504 or contributed online at www.mycatholicfoundation.org. For further information, contact Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation, at 814.824.1236 or e-mail emccloskey@eriedio.org.

A Seattle pastor who was present in St. Peter's Square as a seminarian in 1963 when Pope Paul VI presented the Second Vatican Council's liturgical document, "Sacrosanctum Concilium," is leading a campaign to delay implementation of the latest English translation of the Roman Missal. Father Michael Ryan, pastor of St. James Cathedral in Seattle since 1988, has gathered nearly 20,000 signatures from English-speaking Catholics around the world asking that the new translations of the prayers used at Mass be tested through a pilot program at selected parishes for a year before their full implementation.

As of March 15, his Web site at www.whatifwejustsaidwait.org had registered 19,556 signatures from people who identified themselves as Catholic priests, deacons, religious or laypeople from England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and other English-speaking countries.

"We are convinced that adopting translations that are highly controversial, and which leaders among our bishops as well as many highly respected liturgists and linguists consider to be seriously flawed, will be a grave mistake," says a "statement of concern" endorsed by the signers.

But Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, said in an article for the March 1 edition of *America* magazine that "the translation process has involved linguistic, biblical and liturgical scholars from each of the 11 English-speaking countries" that belong to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. "The texts may be unfamiliar now, but the more one understands their meaning, the more meaningful their use will be in the liturgy," he added.

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

Recovery from earthquake moves forward in rural Chilean communities

By Barbara J. Fraser
Catholic News Service

LIMA, Peru — As Salvador Pinera takes office as president of Chile, his main task will be to oversee the country's recovery from the strong earthquake Feb. 27 that left a large area of the nation in shambles.

With quake damage estimated at \$15 billion or more, Pinera's March 11 inauguration was planned without the elaborate celebrations that usually accompany such events.

Meanwhile, church workers say the economic figures do not reveal the human tragedy of the disaster.

In the rural area of Rancagua, near the epicenter of the magnitude 8.8 earthquake, "There is considerable damage. Families are terribly affected. People are only surviving thanks to assistance" from churches, the government and aid organizations, said Cesar Morales, who heads the Rancagua diocesan social pastoral and Caritas office.

In the diocese of about 600,000 people, 19,000 families lost their

homes and 22,000 houses were damaged, Morales told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview.

"We still don't know the full extent of the disaster," he said. As of March 10, the government put the death toll nationwide at 528.

Many people in the diocese's 65 parishes work as day laborers on large farms in the region. Only about one month remains until the end of the harvest season, and people usually count on their savings to see them through the winter, Morales said.

"Now they are going to have to use their money to rebuild their houses or rent," he said. "They are going to spend everything."

Although the government has pledged reconstruction assistance, "We still don't know what benefits the government will provide," he said. "A lot of people will probably end up with nothing."

In cities and towns throughout the hard-hit Maule and Bio-Bio regions south of Santiago, the Chilean capital, people lost their livelihoods to the earthquake.

In neighborhoods where homes were not badly damaged, people



A priest celebrates Mass for earthquake survivors in front of a damaged church in Constitution, Chile, March 7. The magnitude 8.8 quake that struck central Chile early Feb. 27 left more than 800 people dead and tens of thousands homeless. (CNS photo)

slowly began reopening shops in their homes, said Sister Margaret O'Rourke, a California-born Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet who lives in a poor area on the outskirts of Talca, a town of about 80,000 people.

But in the older city center, houses, shops, offices and churches made of adobe were destroyed. "A lot of people worked in small

businesses that have collapsed," Sister Margaret said. While some will probably reopen eventually, others may not. Meanwhile, their employees are out of work.

The earthquake has created some jobs, however. Unemployed men in Sister Margaret's neighborhood are finding work rebuilding

See RECOVERY, page 3

Diocesan donation for Haiti passes \$500,000

From staff and wire reports

Katrina the next year.

The Erie Diocese has sent checks totaling \$503,176.04 to Catholic Relief Services for Haiti Relief. The money was collected from members of each of the 120 Catholic parishes in the 13 counties of northwest Pennsylvania that make up the Erie Diocese.

Many offertory collections were supplemented by school children and religious education students who held a variety of fundraisers and made personal donations.

"This shows the great generosity of our Catholic people for their suffering brothers and sisters in Haiti," said Most Rev. Donald Trautman, bishop of Erie. "Given the difficult financial constraints in our present economy, this is truly a miraculous outpouring."

The diocese has held similar collections for other disasters, collecting \$369,773 for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, and \$593,937 for the victims of Hurricane

Catholic Relief Services is participating in collaborative, strategic efforts for both immediate emergency relief and long-term recovery. Their current focus is on improving shelters for displaced Haitians awaiting the rainy season and stemming the outbreak of disease due to poor sanitation conditions.

Even as Catholic Relief Services continues to deliver relief supplies to the Haitian people, our staff is working on long-term recovery plans for this country, which was devastated by the January 12 earthquake that killed over 200,000.

"We are working with the Haitian people now and will be for years to come," says CRS President Ken Hackett. "Our fundraising for Haiti has passed the \$90-million mark."

We are grateful for such generosity, and our donors should know that we will spend all of this money, and much more, helping the people of this devastated country."

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The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

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Briefly

Tenebrae service in Titusville

TITUSVILLE — "Shadows," a service of Tenebrae, music by Douglas E. Wagner, will be celebrated on Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m. at St. Titus Parish in Titusville.

The Catholic Community of Titusville will present the service, which focuses on the seven episodes in the passion and death of Christ. Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is the practice of extinguishing six of the seven candles after each section of selected Scripture, choral meditation and responsive psalm readings. Participants include Father Skip Davis, Becky Smith (narrator), the St. Titus choir under the direction of Allison Mollis and the St. Walburga choir under the direction of Joanna Dittrich.



'We Watched Him Die' Passion play at St. Patrick

ERIE — The St. Patrick Players will present a play set between the death and resurrection of Jesus. "We Watched Him Die" will be performed on Palm Sunday, March 28 at 4 p.m., and on Good Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, 130 E. Fourth St., Erie. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

Retreat for girls April 9-10 in Albion

ALBION — Need some girl time? Join St. Lawrence Parish in Albion for an overnight retreat to learn how to take care of yourself and your girlfriends. Relax, rejuvenate and re-prioritize your life and learn how to take care of your fellow chic friends to be a true sister in Christ. Listen to talks, play games, pray, eat, fellowship and just "be" with God and each other.

The retreat begins Friday, April 9 with registration at 6:30 p.m. and ends Saturday, April 10 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 and includes all meals and snacks. The itinerary includes a 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday. The retreat is open to all girls ages 13 and up. See your youth leader for a registration form.

Registrations must be received at St. Lawrence no later than Tuesday, April 6. For questions, contact Kathleen Peterson at 814.460.1216 or e-mail roaminikath@roadrunner.com. For more information and a registration form, visit www.onthevine.us.

A performance on the life of St. Catherine of Siena

DUBOIS — St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois is sponsoring a performance on the life of St. Catherine of Siena performed by Sister Nancy Murray, OP, on Friday, April 30 at 7 p.m.

Sister Nancy, a sister to actor Bill Murray, is making her mark on audiences across the country and throughout the world, bringing to life the Dominican saint Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church. With simple props and fertile imagination, she portrays Catherine as the colorful, strong, passionate and enthusiastic personality that she was.

The performance will be held at DuBois Area Catholic Schools Auditorium. For more information, contact the parish office at 814.371.8556 or e-mail sienadubois@verizon.net. A free will offering will be taken.



Sister Nancy Murray as St. Catherine of Siena

Census 2010—Counting all Pennsylvanians

By Amy B. Hill
Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Every election year, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) encourages people to register to vote and cast their ballot. Every vote matters, and PCC reminds Catholics particularly that "the church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith." (*Faithful Citizenship*, No. 9, 2007)

In addition to the election, in 2010 all Pennsylvanians (not just registered voters) will have a different kind of opportunity to shape the future of public policy in our state—the U.S. Census.

The census counts every resident in the United States. It is required by the U.S. Constitution to take place every 10 years. The census shows state population which determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pennsylvania has been considered a key player in several high profile legislative issues recently. An accurate census means Pennsylvania will have the correct number of representatives in Congress and they will represent districts that really reflect the character of the people who live there. This is important for making sure our voice is heard.

Furthermore, funding for crit-

ical community services and the location of schools, hospitals, senior centers and other facilities depends on accurate census data. Each year, up to \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to the states based on formulas derived from census numbers. These needs cannot be met if Pennsylvania does not receive its fair share.

This month, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States. Residents are asked to answer the questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If the form is not mailed back, a census taker will visit the house to ask the questions from the form in person.

Every question provides valuable information for shaping the future. But it is important to note that any personal data you provide is protected under federal law. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all the information. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act

and the Privacy Act, reinforce these protections. It is against the law for the census to publish names, addresses or phone numbers. Violating this law is a crime with severe penalties.

The 2010 census form is just 10 questions, such as name, gender, age, date of birth, race, household relationship, if you own or rent your home and whether you are of Hispanic origin. The census wants to know who is living in your house on April 1, 2010.

The census does not ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers. The census does not share the information it collects with other federal agencies such as the In-

ternal Revenue Service (IRS) or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

More information about the 2010 census is available at www.2010census.gov.

Amy B. Hill is communications director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference—the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

2010 Census by the Numbers

134 million	housing units the Census Bureau will have to contact
360 million	number of questionnaires printed
29 miles	height of the census questionnaires stacked in a pile
12 million	total pounds of paper used to print questionnaires
13.5 million	number of bilingual (English/Spanish) questionnaires
15	minimum age a household member must be to fill out a census form

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

©2010 CWS

Recovery from earthquake moves forward



RECOVERY, from page 2

and repairing houses, she said. Along the central Chilean coast, a series of huge waves damaged or destroyed hundreds of boats, leaving small fishermen with no way to earn a living, said Gabriela Gutierrez, head of the social pastoral and Caritas office in Concepcion, the largest city near the earthquake's epicenter.

Waves swept through 10 fishing villages in the Bio-Bio region, damaging 28 large fishing boats and 400 small ones, 50 of which were destroyed, according to government authorities. They estimated that 15,000 fishermen lost boats and other equipment, such as nets, motors and diving gear.

Many other people also lost the tools of their trade, Gutierrez said. Cars used as taxis were destroyed or swept out to sea, and home workshops collapsed.

Despite the devastation, people are getting over the initial shock, beginning to clear rubble and planning to rebuild, Gutierrez said. Stores and businesses were reopening and electricity and water service were being restored. Authorities reduced the hours of the curfew that was imposed to stop looting.

Many people are still living in tents outside their homes, out of fear of the constant aftershocks shaking the region or because the houses are unsafe.

Fish and Shrimp Dinner

Fridays: March 12, 19, 26

4:30-7:00 pm

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TO THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY CATHOLIC CHARITIES BALL

Date: FRIDAY APRIL 16 2010

Arrival | Departure: 7PM | 11PM Round Trip (benefits families of all faiths who are in need) \$75.00 PER PASSENGER

Destination: BAYFRONT CONVENTION CENTER ERIE PA

No Right of Refund: TENNESSEE BACKPORCH / DANCE COMPETITION

25TH ANNIVERSARY BISHOP DONALD W. TRAUTMAN HELPING HANDS AWARD RECIPIENTS: ATTY. JAMES AND MARY ANN TOGHEY

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May 29-June 10 / June 26-July 8 / July 3-15 / July 17-29...
Italy Regular: April 17-25 / June 26-July 4 / Sept 18-26...
Tuscany: June 30-July 10 / October 7-17
Holy Land: April 19-29 / May 29-June 8 / June 30-July 10
Sept 9-19 / Sept 20-30 / Oct 7-17 / Oct 18-28 / Nov 8-18
Ireland / Scotland: May 29-June 10 / July 10-22
France: June 30-July 12 / July 12-24 / October 2-14
Spain: June 30-July 12 / Sept 18-30
Greece: June 30-July 10 / Sept 18-28

All-Inclusive Air fare included on all trips from anywhere in the USA 9-day trip: \$3,390 13-day trip: (\$3,990)

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RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

PRIESTHOOD: A CALL TO LOVE GOD'S PEOPLE

Monday, June 14th to Friday, June 18th

PRESENTED BY: FR. JOHN ANGLIN, OFM

Fr. John was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, where he entered the friars after graduating from High School. He was ordained in 1971 and obtained a Masters in Religious Education from the Catholic University of America in 1974. Also, in 1992 he received a certificate of homiletics from the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis.

Since ordination, Fr. John has served in various ministries, including High School teaching, parish ministry, the formation of candidates to the Friars and two years as a missionary in Bolivia. He has been with the Ministry of the Word since 1987 and has conducted more than 330 parish missions and presented several retreats for Priests and Sisters.

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FIRST CONFERENCE:

7:00 pm, on Monday, June 14th

(No Dinner will be provided on the first night of the Retreat.)

Retreat ends by noon on Friday, June 18th

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Visit ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



OLP hosts multi-cultural soccer game

ERIE - High school youth from Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie and Catholic Charities' refugee community gathered for a pick-up soccer game and social get-together Feb. 28 in OLP School's Daily Center. Some of the countries represented in the game included Nepal, Burundi, Burma, Bhutan, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the United States.

After playing, the students gathered for pizza. The event is a continuation of a relationship building between Our Lady of Peace and the Catholic Charities refugee community. In December, more than 250 area refugees joined OLP parishioners for Mass followed by a luncheon with music and dancing in the school cafeteria.

The parish's long-term goal is to foster a relationship and build community between the two groups, said Laura Drapcho, OLP's coordinator of religious education.

"We're called to build our community not just within our own parish but with the rest of the world," Drapcho said.



The community building began when the parish adopted a refugee family for Christmas, which involved the parish's religious education students.

"Hopefully we can get the entire parish involved," Drapcho said. "We want this to be an ongoing long-term relationship. The refugee community has gifts that it can share with us, and we have gifts that we can share with them."

Kelley Smith, a volunteer coordinator and case manager with

Catholic Charities, said a big emphasis in working with refugees is helping them with sustainability issues such as ESL classes and employment counseling.

"Our biggest need isn't monetary," Smith said. "What we really need are volunteers to help them with transportation, help them with the culture and just be their friend."

For more information on migration and refugee services in the Catholic Church, visit <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/index.shtml>.

St. George sweeps diocesan boys, girls basketball championships

ERIE - The St. George School (Erie) varsity boys and girls basketball teams have swept the diocesan championship and have advanced to the state playoffs.

The St. George boys defeated St. Patrick School of Franklin 47-18 on March 2 to win the Erie Diocesan Championship for the right to go to the state playoffs March 19-21 in Harrisburg.

To get to the championship, the Lancers defeated St. Peter Cathedral School (Erie) 55-21 on Feb. 25 to win the Erie Region Catholic Grade School Championship and beat St. Joseph School (Sharon) 63-28 on Feb. 28 in the semifinals of the diocesan tournament.

The St. George girls defeated Tri-County champion St. Stephen School (Oil City) 40-28 on March 2 to win the Erie Diocesan championship. The win qualified the girls for the state tournament March 19-21, which is being held at Blessed Sacrament in Erie.

To get to the diocesan championship, the St. George girls defeated Mount Carmel School (Erie) 32-20 on Feb. 25 to win the Erie Parochial League title.



Members of the St. George boys varsity basketball team, left to right: (front row) Sanel Burzic, Joe Baltes, Joe Causgrove, Sam Riley, (standing) coach Mike Colpoys, Matt Colpoys, Jamie Szymczak, Ted DeSanti, Tyree Spearman, Matt Viera, Ryan Dill, John Dill and coach Paul Causgrove.



Members of the St. George girls varsity basketball team, left to right: (front row) Abby Kenski, Jessica Damico, Morgan Putnam, Margaret Carroll, Lexi Simpson, (standing) coach Allison Roberts, coach Bonita Booker, Mariah Etwell, Hannah Sebastian, Nicole Maxson, Anna Corritore, coach Sara Persing and head coach Amanda Ulrich.

Seton celebrates Read Across America, Dr. Seuss

MEADVILLE - Seton Catholic School in Meadville recently joined with others across the country March 2 for national Read Across America Day and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Seton held a Seuss-themed door decorating contest, a birthday party with cupcakes donated by Ponderosa and a "Green Eggs and Ham" breakfast with donations from Sperry Farms and Schwebels. After breakfast, students enjoyed the chance to hear a story from "The Cat In The Hat" himself.



Greenville Girl Scouts sending troops cookies for Easter

GREENVILLE - Members of Girl Scout Troop 30952 in Greenville are sending sweets to U.S. troops overseas for Easter. The troop has collected more than 120 boxes of cookies so far to add to the care packages that St. Michael Parish in Greenville will be sending overseas to members of all military branches from the area. The girls also made thank you cards to add to the packages.

St. Michael concluded its celebration of National Girl Scout Week with Mass on March 14. All Girl Scouts past and present were invited to attend. Cookies were sold and collected for troops after all Masses March 13-14.



of additional service projects throughout the year, troop leader Roseanne Hershberger reports. The girls participate in Operation Shoebox, which sends shoeboxes of toys, candy and clothing to countries hit by disasters, war and famine at Christmastime and they

make regular visits to St. Paul's, a continuing care retirement community in Greenville, where they perform a Christmas pageant and make Easter and St. Valentine's Day decorations with residents. They are also planning a talent show in May.

The troop does a number

Cursillo dance raises funds for My Father's House

ERIE - The past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently held their annual St. Valentine's Day charity dance at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie.

The 2010 dance raised \$1019.70. Proceeds this year went to My Father's House of Erie, a non-profit transitional living home whose purpose is to provide a structured living environment and community services designed to help homeless and abused women and their children.

Pictured from left to right are Father John Jacquiel, co-spiritual director for Cursillo and pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Erie, Sandi Matts of My Father's



House and Dennis Jobczynski, lead coordinator of the dance.

The Cursillo Movement seeks to enhance the faith life of its participants through a "short course"

in Christianity weekend experience. For more information on Cursillo, visit www.ErieCursillo.org or contact the office at 814.824.1118.

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