

Mall chapel to remain open

Confession hours slightly altered, page 3.



FaithLife

Divine Mercy Sunday

OLP, St. Ann to offer services, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 23, 2008

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Annunciation of the Lord



St. Isidore

- March 30 Divine Mercy Sunday
- March 31 Annunciation of the Lord
- April 2 St. Francis of Paola
- April 4 St. Isidore
- April 5 St. Vincent Ferrer

Faith is in the mail!

The March/April 2008 issue of *Faith* magazine, with a cover featuring the varsity girls' basketball team at St. John-Holy Rosary Parish in Erie, is scheduled to arrive in mailboxes throughout the diocese just after Easter. The magazine is part of a family of custom publications that just announced a partnership with the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois, bringing total circulation to 916,000.

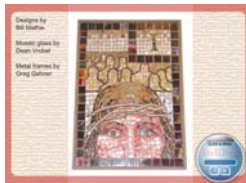


The March/April 2008 issue of Faith magazine.

Stations of the Cross video and slideshow

Two local artists have combined their efforts to craft 14 mosaics as the new Stations of the Cross for Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro.

View a slideshow of the completed stations as well as a video on the history of the project and how the stations were designed and put together at www.ErieRCD.org.



Easter is the guarantee of our faith

An Easter message from Bishop Donald Trautman

The tomb is empty. Jesus is risen. A dead Jesus was carried into the tomb on Good Friday, but walked out alive on Easter Sunday morning. Jesus of Nazareth has triumphed. Everything he had said and done is now verified. Easter is the guarantee of our faith. Christ, the Son of God and promised Messiah, has had the last word, and it is a word of victory — a word of Alleluia. He has conquered sin and sickness, death and darkness. He has made us a people of hope.

Pain and suffering are still with us, but we can move beyond these passing realities to a new permanent reality — the abundance of life that



A crucifix hangs before a mural depicting the Resurrection in the sanctuary at St. Timothy Parish in Mesa, Ariz.

comes from the risen Christ. For the person with terminal cancer, Easter speaks of another life without pain and agony.

For people suffering from the recession — struggling to pay bills, Easter speaks of an inner strength and courage that

helps us persevere and move forward. For the victims of war, violence, poverty and abortion, Easter promises that

injustice and sin will not defeat us. For those enduring loneliness, especially the elderly and those in nursing homes, Easter speaks of an intimacy and love of God that lasts forever. For the youth struggling with empty relationships and pressures, Easter speaks of true love, inner peace, self-worth and lasting fulfillment. For those suffering from broken marriages and broken homes, Easter promises hope and new life. After every crucifixion and death, there can be a resurrection, a rising to new life. We need to be on the side of the winner, the risen Christ.

The empty tomb demonstrates that Christ is the way and the truth and the life. He has revealed the power of life over death, light over darkness, love over hate, mercy over anger, compassion over selfishness. This is the Christian way of life.

Jesus calls each of us by name as he called Mary Magdalene at the tomb on that first Easter morning. The risen Jesus walks with us on our journey of life just as he walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He eats with us as he did with them that first Easter evening. Easter proclaims new life, new

See EASTER, page 4

Through contacts, trips, pope has finger on pulse of U.S. church

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Editor's note: This article continues a series of stories leading up to Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic visit to the United States in April. For more information on the pope's trip to the U.S., visit www.uspapalvisit.org.

VATICAN CITY — When Pope Benedict XVI visits the United States this spring, he will not be stepping into the unknown.

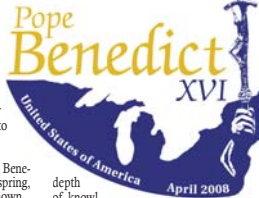
Through his many personal contacts with American church leaders and papal diplomats, his past trips to the U.S. and his ability to remember much of what he hears and reads, Pope Benedict has his finger firmly on the pulse of the church in the United States.

Bishops from around the world coming to Rome consistently have expressed awe and admiration for the pope's remarkable

depth of knowledge, his familiarity with everyday events worldwide and his recollection of minute or even obscure facts and past events.

"He has always been amazingly well-informed on the U.S.," said U.S. Jesuit Father Joseph Fessio, who studied under the future pope in the 1970s.

Father Fessio, founder and editor of Ignatius Press, said that every time he met with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger dur-



ing annual meetings of the directors of Casa Balthasar — a Rome-based center that aids priestly discernment

See POPE, page 2

'Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence'

DuBois Central Catholic School launches capital campaign

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

DuBois Central Catholic School has launched the public phase of its capital campaign with a goal of \$2.7 million to go toward debt management, as well as an endowment fund and technology upgrades.

Parents and local parishioners were informed about the public phase of the campaign with a letter and announcements at Masses during the March 1-2 weekend.

The campaign, "Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence," has already secured commitments of \$1.4 through major gifts during its quiet phase.

The campaign will provide resources for the fulfillment of the debt management program associated with the construction of the pre-k through grade 12 educational facility, which opened in Sandy Township in 2002. Other objectives of the campaign in-



Photo by Patty Prescott

DuBois Central Catholic School students Jacob Miknis (4th grade) at left and Justin Miknis (1st grade) are pictured along with their grandmother, Marlene Miknis (Central Grandparents' Club), and their father Dan Miknis (Central class of '91). The candles symbolize the light of Catholic education passed from generation to generation. The family represents 'Sustaining the Tradition of Excellence,' a capital campaign announced March 3 by the school.

clude funding endowments for operation and for faculty and staff compensation, funding computer technology for classrooms and funding capital reserves for building and equipment.

The campaign is a continuation

of the one started in 1999 to help fund the building of the new school, said Jason Gray, who co-chairs the capital campaign along with Jim Curtis.

See DUBOIS, page 3

Catholic Charities Ball is April 18

Rahners to be recognized with Helping Hands Award

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Dr. Richard Rahner, along with his wife, Willie, is just as busy now with his day-to-day work with refugees as he was as an orthopaedic surgeon.

The work may be different, but nothing much has changed. They're still caring for people.

The Rahners will be honored with the Helping Hands Award for outstanding service to the church and their community at the annual Catholic Charities Ball, which will be held April 18 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

"It was a unanimous decision by the ball committee, and that's unusual because usually they are looking at several couples," said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, chair of the Catholic Charities Ball committee and executive director of The Catholic Foundation.

"But this particular couple stood head and shoulder above all others this year. The reason for that is both of them have been heavily involved with foreign missions and refugees. When many people are retiring or moving out of the area, they decided to stay and



Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner

work in their community for those who are less fortunate. I think that's to be praised and that's noteworthy."

For 20 years, the couple has taken students from Mexico, Spain, Germany and Serbia into their home to study in the United States. They welcomed a 13-year-old boy as a foster son after he was tragically orphaned. They've made several visits to a medical facility in India where Dr. Rahner volunteers his services;

sponsored the education of students in high school, college and medical school, both locally and abroad; sponsored a foster child, financed the building of several homes and supported a hospital and school for physically handicapped children, all in Cuddapah, India.

A former orthopaedic surgeon at St. Vincent Health

See CHARITIES BALL, page 3

IN THE U.S.

■ **The California Supreme Court's opinion on the definition of marriage** will mark a step in a national debate that remains far from settled, according to a law professor who audited the high court's March 4 hearing in San Francisco on a legal challenge to a voter-backed measure upping traditional marriage. The measure, Proposition 22, states that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It was ratified by an overwhelming majority of California voters in 2000. "No matter what the decision is, we're in a time of transition as far as marriage rights across the country," said Beth Hillman, a professor at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

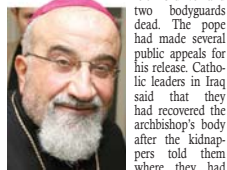
■ **Counseling, retreats, support groups and spiritual direction** are among the types of assistance U.S. dioceses have offered to victims of sexual abuse, notes a new audit report. Such services were offered to more than 3,200 victims of abuse and their families, including 951 people who came forward since the last report, said the 2007 Annual Report on

the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People released March 7 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The audit by the Gavin Group analyzed how 190 dioceses stacked up against the standards of the 17 articles of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." In 2007, an independent audit found the Erie Diocese to be in full compliance with the U.S. bishops' charter.



AROUND THE WORLD

■ **The body of an Iraqi archbishop who was kidnapped Feb. 29, was found in a grave March 13.** Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, 65, was kidnapped Feb. 29 in an attack that



left his driver and two bodyguards dead. The pope had made several public appeals for his release. Catholic leaders in Iraq said that they had recovered the archbishop's body after the kidnapers told them where they had buried him. "We all had continued to hope and pray for his liberation," said Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. "Unfortunately, the most absurd and unjustified violence continues to weigh on the Iraqi people and particularly on the small Christian community, to whom the pope and all of us are particularly close in prayer and in solidarity at this moment of great pain." Father Lombardi said the Vatican hoped "this tragic event" would lead to a greater commitment by all, particularly the international community, to work for peace in Iraq.

■ **Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming encyclical is titled "Charity in Truth"** and covers a wide range of issues related to globalization and social justice, said an Italian report. The text is still under revision and has yet to be translated, according to church sources. A leading Vatican official said he doesn't expect the encyclical to be published before summer. The Italian news agency ANSA reported March 12 that the encyclical, whose Latin title is "Caritas in Veritate," is divided into four chapters. The lengthy text begins with a reflection on the 1967 encyclical, "Populorum Progressio" ("The Progress of Peoples"), and the social changes that have occurred since then, it said. Among the topics examined by the pope are the relationship of economic and social development with human dignity, and the gap between the rich and poor, it said. It said the text touches on issues of war and peace, international cooperation and economic globalization, environmental and energy issues, the "digital divide" and disarmament.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **The five-year waiting period to start the canonization process for Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos,** one of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, has been lifted by Pope Benedict XVI. The decision means that the diocesan phase of the sainthood process can begin immediately.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, made the announcement at a Feb. 13 Mass in Coimbra commemorating the third anniversary of Sister Lucia's death. The cardinal said Pope Benedict had reduced to three years the waiting period so the Diocese of Coimbra, where Fatima is located, can begin the initial phase of the sainthood investigation. Bishop Almino Manoel Cleto of Coimbra, supported by other bishops, had asked for the reduction. On May 13, 1917, when Sister Lucia was 10 years old, she and her cousins — Francisco, 9, and Jacinta, 7 — claimed to have seen Mary at Fatima, near their home. The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.



Sister Lucia dos Santos

Happy Easter!

The diocese will soon welcome a new religious community that will make Erie its first-ever home in the United States.

Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, and Sister Giuseppina Vuodi, FSO, members of The Spiritual Family The Work, also known simply as The Work, will arrive in mid-June and reside in a house owned by Gannon University and near its campus.

Sister Kathleen, who has completed her doctorate in theology, will teach part time at Gannon in the Theology Department. Sister Giuseppina will serve as a pastoral associate at St. George Parish in Erie.

Two other sisters from this community reside and work in New York City.

The community was founded in 1938 by Mother Julia Vhaeghe (1910-1997). The Work has a presence in several European countries with headquarters in Rome.

The name is taken in large part from John 6:29: "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one whom he has sent." Although the names are similar, there is no connection between The Work and Opus Dei (the Work of God).

In 2001, Pope John Paul II approved The Spiritual Family The Work as a "Family of Consecrated Life of Pontifical Right." As a "family," The Work is a unique religious community, as it consists of consecrated women and a community of priests, to which priests, deacons and brothers belong. Others are spiritually associated with The Work, including diocesan clergy, families and individuals.

For more information about The Work, visit www.thework-fso.org.

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a "membership blitz" in churches throughout the diocese on the weekend of March 29-30 to provide information about the Knights to prospective members and their families.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic organization, with more than 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Central America and Poland. Last year the Knights of Columbus gave more than \$139 million in charitable and benevolent contributions and volunteered more than 64 million service hours to the church and local communities.

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



Jason Koshinski

Through contacts, past trips, pope has finger on pulse of U.S. church

POPE, from page 1

and study — he would always find him extremely aware.

During those meetings "I would generally have two or three items I wanted to bring to his attention. He almost always was already aware of what I spoke about," Father Fessio said.

In a way, the pope's long stint at the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was the perfect place to become well-versed in the situations and challenges the Catholic Church faces in the United States. The congregation has weekly meetings with experts on current prominent topics — such as advances in medicine — and it also receives regular reports from the world's bishops.

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said a lot of those reports "would have to do with theological issues, but, regularly, doctrine committees of conferences of bishops were asked to provide the (doctrinal) office with overviews of what was going on in that country."

The archbishop said Pope Benedict's attention to and recollection of details are particularly striking.

He recalled that in January 2005 he had to visit the Vatican's doctrinal congregation for a project on which he was working.

Cardinal Ratzinger was elected pope just a few months later, and that May Archbishop Wuerl returned to Rome and greeted the pope at the end of a Wednesday general audience.

"When I went up to greet him, he said, 'Have you completed that project?' I thought to myself: How would he even remember, with all the things on his desk right now as pope, this little project of mine?" the archbishop said.

Despite this ability to recall surprising amounts of minutiae, Pope Benedict does not get bogged down in the details, the Washington archbishop said.

The pope "strikes me as a person far more aware of the bigger picture," he said.

Collaborators, both past and present, who have worked alongside the pope are also quick to point out the pope's gigabyte memory bank.

"He has an amazing power of retention. He reads an enormous amount. Still, I don't know how he does it," said Father Fessio.

As head of the doctrinal congregation and as pontiff, Pope Benedict has always had Americans on his staff.

For instance, U.S. Archbishop James Harvey is one of his private secretaries, and the former San Francisco archbishop, Cardinal William J. Levada, is now head of the doctrinal congregation.

People who know Pope Benedict say he is a good listener and accessible, and it made meetings with him as head of the doctrinal congregation a positive experience. "Not only was he present, as opposed to having just someone from the office meet (us), but he would listen, he would respond to questions, and he would seem to already have considerable knowledge of whatever the issues we brought to discuss," said Archbishop Wuerl.

He said bishops' group talks with Cardinal Ratzinger began with a prayer and with him ask-

April Visit

The tentative schedule of Pope Benedict XVI on his first pastoral visit to the United States.

- April 15** WASHINGTON
Arrive in the nation's capital.
- 16** Official welcome at the White House. Address to U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
- 17** Mass at the new Nationals baseball stadium. Visit to The Catholic University of America. Interfaith meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.
- 18** NEW YORK
Address to the United Nations. Ecumenical meeting.
- 19** Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Meeting with youths and seminarians.
- 20** Visit to ground zero. Mass at Yankee Stadium.

ing participants what their issues and concerns were "rather than give a talk to us first."

"He didn't come to the meeting with a already formed vision of what was happening. He listened and he responded across the board," the archbishop said.

The pope's ability to see things from so many points of view is also a sign of his having "a very wide vision" and sources of information that "were of considerable breadth," the Washington archbishop said.

Pope Benedict's schedule is much more restricted now that he is the pontiff, but he also has access to a whole new network of information.

Staffers at the Vatican's Secretariat of State and Vatican representatives in the United States — the papal nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, in Wash-

ington and Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's observer at the United Nations in New York — act as an information clearinghouse, keeping the pope up to date on the United States.

One Vatican source said another major resource is the U.S. bishops themselves — with the information they pass directly to the pope during meetings at the Vatican and documents the bishops' conference produces. In addition to the bishops' "ad limina" visits every five years to report on the status of their dioceses, the president, vice president and general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also meet privately with the pope once a year.

The other way of staying in tune is the mass media and what the mail brings — "people who write to the Holy Father, like religious, bishops and individual faithful," the source said.

Pope Benedict regularly thumbs through the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, which carries a variety of international news. Staffers at the Vatican's Secretariat of State comb through other news sources for a daily news roundup for the pope.

While the April visit to Washington and New York will be his first trip to the United States as pope, it will not be the first time he has set foot on American soil. As Cardinal Ratzinger, the pope has been to the U.S. at least five times.

In February 1984 he traveled to Dallas, where he gave two talks, including one to bishops of the Americas, and in January 1988 he traveled to New York City for a public lecture.

He visited Washington in January 1990 to give a talk at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. In February 1991, he spoke at a bishops' workshop in Dallas, where he delivered an address on "Conscience and Truth."

He went to San Francisco in February 1999 for a meeting of Vatican doctrinal congregation officials and doctrinal officials from bishops' conferences of North America and Oceania. He also gave an address at St. Patrick's Seminary and visited his publishers at Ignatius Press.

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Religious Tours '08

June 19-22: **Poland**
Warsaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Footsteps of John Paul II

June 15-25: **Holy Land**
Jerusalem, Cana, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Tomb of Christ, etc.

July 22-27: **Mexico City**
and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

For a packet of details: 724-548-7649 or Email: padre16201@yahoo.com

Director of Finance and Operations

Holy Cross Catholic Church in Fairview, PA is seeking a Director of Finance and Operations. With the support of various committees, the incumbent will oversee the financial, maintenance, personnel and office aspects of the parish. Bachelor's degree in Business or a related field, three to five years experience in office administration or management, and bookkeeping experience with QuickBooks are required. Additional skills include: ability to manage multiple projects, ability to maintain confidentiality, and excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. Candidates will be practicing Roman Catholics in good standing and be willing to be involved in the life of the parish. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume and references to Fr. Scott Detsch at resfsm29@verizon.net by Tuesday, April 1.

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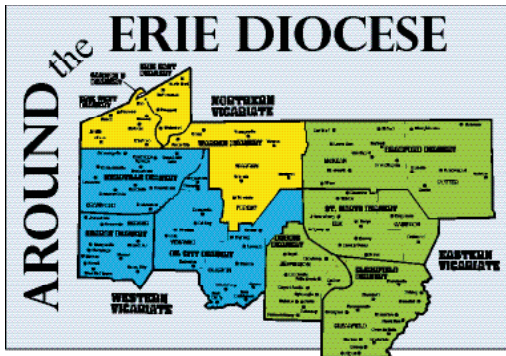
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All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a correspondent who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



An Easter message from Bishop Donald Trautman

EASTER, from page 1

love, new hope, new forgiveness. Easter is for conversion. We cannot live the same as before. Because of the risen Lord we now have new truth, new priorities, new hope for handling disappointments and sorrow. Sinners have a new way of seeking happiness — happiness that lasts. On Good Friday Jesus appears as a loser, but on Easter Sunday he is a winner who has defeated the devil, death and all darkness. And so in the Mass we pray, "Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world." For more than 2,000 years, the risen Jesus has inspired billions of faithful followers.

We have new life from Christ. Let us live new lives. Alleluia.

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL Bishop of Erie

First Commonwealth helps Catholics schools with EITC funds



First Commonwealth Bank recently presented checks to several Catholic schools as part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

The program allows businesses to receive up to 90 percent of their contribution in tax credits while aiding the Erie Diocese's STAR Foundation to help with tuition costs. Parents who have children enrolled in Catholic schools or who are interested in any financial aid programs for the 2008-09 school year can apply for these tax credits. For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org/schools3.asp.

Schools receiving checks from First Commonwealth include St. Boniface School in Kersey and St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools and Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys.

Pictured from left to right are: Lori Schreiber, manager of St. Marys Commonwealth; David Hanna, market executive; Marie Giazzoni, principal of St. Boniface School; Lois Huff, bank teller in Kersey; and William Kurtz, regional manager.

St. Boniface Living Stations

ERIE — The 8th grade students at St. Boniface School in Erie walked in faith this Lenten season. Through this annual tradition, the 8th grade students dedicated themselves to understanding the different roles people played in the crucifixion of Jesus and portrayed a live version of the Stations of the Cross on March 12 for the community.

Pictured are (front row, left to right) Megan Leo, Keisey Schupp, Rebecca Kosack, Stephen Evan, Dan Algeier, (center row) Mrs. Cindy Stormer, Forrest Stuckey, Tyler Finn, Haley Panighet-



ti, Frank Hall, Ryan Alexandrowicz, Jesse Hodapp, Tom Whiteford, Say, Lindsay Matczak, Ellie Johnson, Andrea Yosten, Lexi Vallmont and Marc Moore.

SMCMS Living Stations

ST. MARYS — The 8th grade class at St. Marys Catholic Middle School, which traditionally presents the Living Stations of the Cross each Lent, provided the community with an intimate journey of Jesus' passion on Palm Sunday. The class previously had presented the stations at Elk County Catholic High School and St. Marys Catholic Elementary and Middle Schools earlier in Lent.

Vanessa Weis and Kathy Cheatile directed 20 students in the production.

"The 8th graders look forward to this every year knowing that they'll get to be a part of Jesus' passion," Weis said. "To be a part of this experience is something that I think they will always remember with pride."

She added that some visual ef-



fects helped make this year's production unique, including having students sign during the singing of "Still Her Little Child," which accompanied the 13th station.

Pictured are Cole Gerber (Jesus) and Taylor Schlimm (Mary) in a scene from the 13th station where Jesus is taken from the cross.

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Saturday, April 5, 2008
on the Bay at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center
We will honor those of yesterday, today, and our children who will continue our legacy tomorrow.
Reservations & ticket prices, please contact
Saint George Church at 864-0622

Youth Ministry
The partner parishes of Mt. St. Peter and All Saints in New Kensington, PA, are seeking a dynamic leader for a full-time position as Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This Catholic faith community of 2300 families is located in the Diocese of Greensburg (20 miles from Pittsburgh). This position is envisioned as one of coordination of junior and senior high youth formation in discipleship as set forth in the USCCB's document *Renewing the Vision*. Special emphasis will be given to social justice initiatives engaging youth and their families in prayer and action serving the local and global communities and faith formation in tune with the rhythm of the liturgical year. An intergenerational, experiential catechetical model, that forms youth as disciples and resources families as the domestic Church is desired. This staff member will join others on a parish ministry team comprised of qualified and committed ministers. Weekends and evening hours required. Applicants should possess a BA in theology, religious education or related field; demonstrate leadership, organizational and communication skills; familiarity with best practices of Catholic youth and social ministries; proficiency in all Microsoft Office software. Persons submitting resumes should be Catholics in good standing. Send cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to Bill Staniszewski by April 15, 2008. Mail to: Mt. St. Peter Church • 100 Freeport Rd. • New Kensington, PA 15068

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Prospective students and parents are invited to join us beginning at 11 a.m. in Erie, Pennsylvania where you can worship at a traditional Catholic Mass, meet with our dynamic faculty and staff, tour our expanding campus and vibrant downtown, learn about financial aid options, speak with an admissions representative, and much more.
Visit www.gannon.edu/admiss or call 1-800-GANNON-U to reserve your spot today!

Get in Step with Erie's Stars
13th Annual Catholic Charities Ball
Proceeds benefit Families in Need
Friday, April 18, 2008
7:00pm-midnight
Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA
featuring Dave Stevens Big Band
Great dance music!
\$50 per person
Tickets: 814.824.1236 or sward@ErieRCD.org
swing and cha-cha competition with area celebrities
Helping Hands Award: Dr. Richard and Willie Rahner friendly people, worthy cause, food stations, pasta bar & desserts