



Share your papal photos, memories

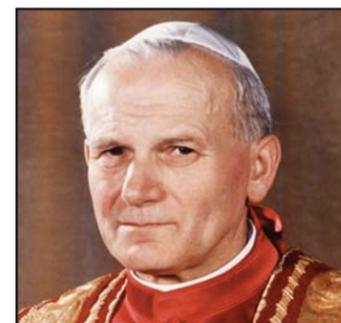
FaithLife would love to hear from people throughout the diocese about Pope John Paul II. How has he impacted your life? The church? The world? Have you had an audience with the pontiff at the Vatican? Did you attend a papal visit in the United States or abroad?

Share your impressions—and your photographs—of this man who has served as pope for more than a quarter century by sending a sentence, a few lines, or a paragraph by e-mail to: FaithLife@erieRCD.org, or by mail to:

FaithLife
429 E. Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA 16504.

Materials must be received by **Wednesday, April 13.**

We are preparing a special commemorative issue to be distributed to parishes April 23-24. We would like to share your papal memories with other readers throughout the Erie Diocese.



JP II: a vast and profound influence

“The chair of St. Peter is now empty,” said Erie Bishop Donald W. Trautman at a news conference arranged at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie upon the news of the death of Pope John Paul II. “But we rejoice and thank God for the gift John Paul II has been to the church and to the world.”

During his homily at the Mass immediately following the news conference, Bishop Trautman called the pontiff’s influence vast and profound.

“From very humble beginnings, John Paul II became a unique moral voice on the world stage,” he said. “He was an outspoken pope, unafraid to scold world leaders in their presence; yet he was a diplomatic pope, extending the olive branch to countries like China.”

In a prepared statement, retired Erie Bishop Michael J. Murphy noted that the pope imposed a tremendous discipline upon himself in order to accomplish the amount of traveling he did.

“In an age when his image could be shown anywhere in the world at the flip of a switch, he chose instead to walk the path in so many locations around the globe,” he said. “It made him—and the papacy—much more real.”



Photo by Jason Koshinski

Bishop Donald Trautman meets with members of the media at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, during a news conference following the death of Pope John Paul II.

Here are selected comments from a statement released by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia:

“It was with deep sadness that I received the news of Pope John Paul II’s passing. It was also with gratitude to God for the gift of the Holy Father. He will surely be remembered as the greatest spiritual leader of our time. His entire life was an example of how to live out our faith, how to give witness to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Father

gave himself completely in service to Jesus and to the universal church. In his final years, he suffered from many physical ailments but he never allowed those pains and problems to weigh down his spirit; his suffering was his final gift. He was an example to us all of the value of human life at every stage of existence.”

Photo by Jason Koshinski

At right, black and purple fabric decorate St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, signifying the mourning of the global church.



Prioress observes Vatican vigil for John Paul II

Editor’s note: Sr. Christine Vladimiroff, prioress of the Benedictine Sister of Erie, was in Rome as part of a delegation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious during the time of Pope John Paul II’s death. Here are her reflections from April 2-3.

April 2

I arrived in Rome this morning as part of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious annual meetings with various Vatican congregations whose jurisdiction affect the work of religious communities. However, I knew that whether or not we would accomplish our agenda, I would be part of an historic event with the pope near death and actively moving on his journey to God.

I went to the Piazza de San Pietro (St. Peter’s Square) outside the Basilica around 2 p.m. The broad street leading to the square, Via della Conciliazione, was closed to car traffic, so the entire street was filled with people. I felt that I was part of a procession as I walked toward the square. It was filled with people of every generation—the very young, children brought by their parents, young couples, middle-aged and the elderly. There were very quiet conversations, and it was obvious

many were praying and crying. There was no pushing or crowding as is typical in Italian gatherings. All were looking at the pope’s apartment windows—shutters open, a sign that he was alive. Many were praying the rosary quietly.

I returned to the square after dinner and there were even more people. The reverence and quiet, in spite of thousands of people gathered, was profoundly moving. Lights and candles were everywhere. A line of nurses pushing wheelchairs of the elderly in procession from a nursing home was a powerful sign of solidarity with the Holy Father. Young people sang and cheered, and spontaneous clapping conveyed our presence to the pope.

The rosary was led from the steps of the basilica with the Joyful Mysteries and then the Litany of Saints was sung. I found myself singing with the crowd and very much knowing that this was liturgy at its finest. It expressed the emotions of the people gathered, bringing us into the mystery of life and death. Tears were everywhere and people clung to loved ones, their children, spouses, friends as they quietly stood in prayer. The TV cameras were everywhere, but not intrusive. The media made it possible that more people from every corner of the globe could

be gathered into the square. It was a worldwide vigil.

Upon returning to where I am staying in Rome, three blocks away from San Pietro, I turned on the TV and found that the pope had died at 9:37 p.m. He died minutes after we left the square to walk back to our lodging. Upon hearing the news, I opened the shutters on my windows and heard St. Peter’s bells ringing and saw the genuine sorrow on the faces of the people gathered as TV cameras scanned the crowd.

I was privileged to be personally present and part of the universal church’s vigil in Rome. I will witness the events in a new and more reflective way because of this grace.

April 3

I returned to the Piazza San Pietro this morning for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Cardinal Sodano, secretary of state, presided. It is hard to describe the gathering. There were more people than last



Sr. Christine Vladimiroff

evening when the pope died. The square and the entire street were full of people. Again, I was struck by the reverence and quiet in a crowd of thousands upon thousands. Large TV screens were in the square as well as halfway down the street. People stopped, listened and joined in the liturgy appropriately.

The cardinals present were assembled along one side of the altar, and other church clerics were on the platform. Cardinal Sodano’s homily was a call to a life where love is the center. It was clear that he not only was close to the pope because of his position as secretary of state, but also had a genuine affection and a sense of loss that comes when a friend dies.

Today’s gathering was a family wake as last night was a family vigil before death. Formality and political dignitaries were absent. Nothing elaborate or programmed took place. It was a coming together of the common folk united in sharing a loss, grieving yet celebrating having been touched by an individual who lived large on history’s pages.

What continues to startle me into reflecting more deeply was the composition of the gathering both yesterday and

today. A sense of the church I long for was palpable, real and profoundly universal. The God of the gathering brought us together, last night and today, as a family. There was much consolation as we stood together with a common focus and said the prayers and sang hymns that unite us as the church.

My first observation about the gathering was that John Paul II brought a sense of welcome to the church to youth worldwide. The young, with backpacks and bed rolls on their backs, streamed into the piazza and claimed their space in the gathering. Many stayed the night.

This morning after Mass in the square, you could hear and see youth groups with their guitars sitting on the ground with a circle of people around them singing hymns and youth rally songs in honor of the pope. You could see people gather around them and join in as the chorus was repeated. You could see the young as they came into the square, genuflecting or kneeling in silent prayer.

So many words are being said and will be written as we celebrate the funeral and the election of a new pope. I go into the ceremonies here in Rome with a prayer for openness and grace to enter into the new era that becomes our responsibility.

Mercyhurst Prep Lakers complete back-to-back state titles

HERSHEY — The Mercyhurst Prep girls basketball team pulled off its second consecutive state championship by topping Saint Basil 57-33 in the PIAA Class AAA title game March 19 at the Giant Center in Hershey.

The Lakers finished the season 29-3. Last year, the girls won the Class Quad-A championship.

Also from around the Erie Diocese, the Kennedy Catholic High School boys team finished the season as runner-up, falling to Bishop O'Reilly 65-61 in the Class A state championship game. Kennedy Catholic finished the season at 25-5.

The Cathedral Prep Ramblers



Photo courtesy of Mercyhurst Prep

The Mercyhurst Prep Lakers girls basketball 2004-05 state champs.

finished with a record of 26-5, state's round of final four for falling to Lower Merion in the Quad-A.

St. Michael School closing after 2004-05

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

FRYBURG — Parents of students enrolled at St. Michael School in Fryburg have received a letter announcing the school will close after the 2004-05 school year.

Sr. Monica Steiner, principal of St. Michael School, said parents are being given the opportunity to bus their students to St. Joseph School in Lucinda, Immaculate Conception School in Clarion or St. Stephen School in Oil City.

Located on Route 208 in Fryburg, St. Michael School enrolled a total of 56 students in grades K-8 for the 2004-05 school year. The closing comes after a year-long study of schools in the eastern vicariate of the Erie Diocese. St. Michael is the only school that will be closed by the Erie Diocese this year.

"We are trying to be fiscally responsible, and at the same time enable our students to continue with their Catholic school education," says Msgr. Tom McSweeney, director of Evangelization for Communications and Public Relations for the Diocese of Erie.

Garden Party at Shrine Club set for May 3

An American Girl doll, complete with an entire wardrobe of hand-made costumes sewn by Eddie Donnelly will be among the items in the Chinese auction at the St. Peter Garden Party on Tuesday, May 3 at the Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th Street. The annual event benefits St. Peter Cathedral, Cathedral Center School and their numerous outreach ministries.

Tickets for the evening affair, which includes dinner, are \$25 and can be purchased by calling Joan White at 454-6640 or Mary Lou Scottino at 459-6258.

Also on the agenda for the event are two grand prizes worth more than \$2,000 each, a dozen theme baskets valued at more than \$200 each, a silent auction of hand-crafted items by area artisans, live music and a fashion show. Dana's 24-Carrot will cater the event.

The Cathedral Women's Council has raised and distributed more than \$118,000 over the past 15 years.



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Pictured with Eddie Donnelly (center) are Women's Council and event committee members Patty Bloomstine, left, and Laurie Bretz.

By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

Bishop Trautman recently received a letter from Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services, thanking the diocese for its generosity in response to the tsunami that hit Asia in December. "The gift from the Diocese of Erie enables us to make a real difference for these communities as part of one human family," Hackett says in his letter.

While the diocese forwarded \$284,000 to CRS in February, it has since raised an additional \$51,000, bringing the total to \$335,000.

Emmas Soup Kitchen served its 25th annual Holy Thursday meal to 250 people March 24. The sisters were assisted in serving the meal by volunteers and those making a Holy Week retreat at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. Part of the retreat experience is serving a meal to the poor.

"There were some wonderful exchanges between our guests and the monastery guests," says Sr. Mary Miller, director of Emmas Ministries. Many of the food items for the meal were locally donated including the ham by Ted and Paul Urbaniak.

We keep hearing about the many accomplishments of Sr. Mary David Callahan, OSB, who died March 15. "She was very ahead of her time," says William Herring, music director of St. Peter Cathedral. "She was a genius because she would find a recording of a piece she wanted to use and then write the choruses out by ear."

Sr. Mary David was also influential in the liturgical movement. "She was the first musician to translate the litany of saints from Latin into English and set it to music," Herring says. "It was sung around the diocese and was used around the country for years." The first edition of the People's Mass Book from the World Library of Sacred Music came out of the Erie Diocese. "She was on the board and spearheaded the whole thing," he says.

Jason Koshinski is editor of FaithLife. E-mail him at JKoshinski@erieKCD.org or call 814.824.1171.

Clergy Appointments

Official from the Office of the Bishop: The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL, Bishop of Erie, has announced the following clergy appointments:

Fr. Jeffery J. Noble, pastor, Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage, for a term of six years. Effective April 21.

Fr. Joseph R. Czarkowski, pastor, St. Eulalia Parish, Coudersport, and St. Augustine Mission, Austin, for a term of six years. Effective April 12.

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Briefly

Bales to speak on human trafficking

Kevin Bales, Ph.D., considered one of the world's leading experts on contemporary slavery, will make several presentations in and around Erie on human trafficking and the horrors of this human rights violation. He will be in the area April 19-21.

There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today. It is estimated that internationally, hundreds of thousands of persons are trafficked annually and approximately 20,000 end up as slaves in the United States. According to the June 2004 U.S. State Department Report, of the 600,000 to 800,000 people trafficked across international borders every year, 70 percent are female and 50 percent are children.

Bales, president of Free the Slaves and author of *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*, will make the following presentations:

- Slavery in America Today: April 19, 8 p.m., Mercyhurst College, Taylor Little Theatre; April 20, 1:30 p.m., Allegheny College, Ford Chapel.
- Throwaway People: April 20, 7:30 p.m., Penn State-Behrend, Smith Chapel.
- Economics of Disaster, the Tsunami and Human Trafficking: April 21, 12:30 p.m., Edinboro University, University Center.

Priest to give overview of JPII's Theology of Body

Fr. Richard Hogan, a priest from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis since 1981, will present an overview of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body on April 13 from 10 a.m. - noon in the St. Mark Catholic Center auditorium.

A nationally known speaker and author, Fr. Hogan often addresses groups throughout the nation on life issues and the Natural Family Planning program.

The program will be hosted by the Erie Diocese's Office of Education.

St. Mark Catholic Center is located at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Hahn to speak on Revelation in light of Mass

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Reading the Book of Revelation can be confusing for anyone. It was for Scott Hahn.

"I had been studying Revelation off and on for 10 years," Hahn says. "I practically gave up on trying to make sense out of it."

As a doctoral student at Marquette University studying ancient liturgy, Hahn, then a self-described "evangelical Bible-believing Protestant," would quietly sneak into daily Mass on campus.

"It really startled me," he says. "I was struck by the beauty, and power and the truth. When I heard people around me chanting the Agnus Dei, that was the 'a-ha' moment."

After realizing the liturgical connection between Mass and Revelation, Hahn was inspired to convert to Catholicism.

Hahn, an internationally renowned Catholic lecturer and apologist, will discuss his book *The Lamb's Supper*, a look at understanding Revelation in the light of Mass, on April 20 at Grove City College's Crawford Auditorium. The event begins at 7:30 p.m.

"I knew that Jesus was called many things, but the one used more than any other is Lamb of God," Hahn says. "Revelation unlocked the mysteries of the Liturgy for me. It was humbling because it was a no-brainer."

The heavenly liturgy of the angels and saints described in Revelation correlated in precisely the same terms described by the church in the ancient liturgy he was studying.

"(Revelation) also pertains to Christ coming in glory," Hahn says. "Christ already possesses that glory. We just can't see it. It's



Scott Hahn

veiled under the appearance of bread and wine. The word 'apocalypse' means the unveiling."

Many of Hahn's books put Catholics back in touch with basic tenets of Catholic faith such as the sacraments (*Swear to God*), reconciliation (*Lord Have Mercy*) and Mary (*Hail Holy Queen*).

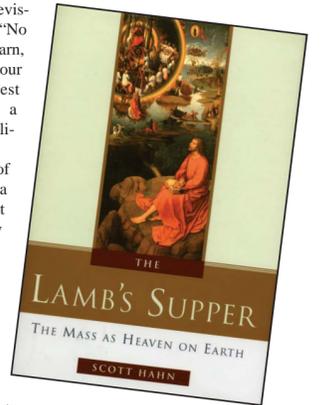
Death Notices for Clergy/Religious

Sr. Mary Loretta McHale, RSM, 99, died March 18, 2005.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent, Titusville, from St. Adrian Parish, Delancey, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1928.

She began teaching third graders at St. Michael, Greenville, then moved into secondary education at St. Joseph Academy, Titusville. Next she went to Mercyhurst Seminary (Preparatory School) and much later to Cathedral Prep, Erie. From 1941-72, she was a professor of history at Mercyhurst College. During a three-year period (1960-63), she became general superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie and president of Mercyhurst College.

For complete obituary notices, go to www.goerie.com.



"It's always good to revisit the basics," Hahn says. "No matter how much we learn, we remain disciples of our Lord. Even the simplest points of doctrine have a certain inexhaustible quality."

Hahn, an alumnus of Grove City College, is a professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and is the founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Student price is \$3. Grove City College students are admitted free. This event is sponsored by the Grove City College Newman Club and benefits the building fund of Beloved Disciple Parish.

For directions, parking suggestions or more information, call 724.458.7145 or visit online at www.hahnvisitsgc.com.

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FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
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Advertising deadline: Monday, noon, two weeks before the date of publication.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
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Experienced education professional needed to represent the interests of Catholic schools, students and parents. Should have strong knowledge of state government and Catholic education. Send cover letter and resume to: PA Catholic Conference, P.O. Box 2835, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Year of the Eucharist

retreat: a one-day retreat for women, April 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Eulalia Parish Center, Coudersport. Sponsored by the Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry. Contact Sr. Phyllis Schleicher at 814.544.8017 or e-mail crm@adelphia.net. Reservations due by April 13.

Ignatian retreat in daily

life: April 11-May 5, Dwelling Place House of Prayer, adjacent to St. Anthony Parish, Sharon. Over four weeks, group will meet twice a week at an appointed time. Opening session is 7:30-9 p.m. April 11. For more information or to register, call Barb at 724.342.3790 or Irene at 724.347.1808.

Training for parish advocates:

Welcoming and including people with disabilities into the church, April 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Catholic Charities Center, 303 Church St., St. Marys. Contact Jackie Johnson at 814.824.1257 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 257.

Secular Carmel meets April 17 at 1 p.m., St. Luke's cafeteria, Erie.

Parenting classes: Tuesday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m., for six weeks April 5, 12, 19, 26 and May 3 & 10, Mercy Center for Women, 1039 E. 27th St., Erie. Cost is \$20. Call 455.4577.

Avoid marrying a jerk:

April 14, 7 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie, basement meeting room. Catholic Young Adults' video presentation of Dr. John Van Epp's "How to avoid marrying a jerk or jerkette" followed by discussion.

CYA Bible study: every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie. Join Catholic Young Adults who minister to those in their 20s and 30s. Call 814.824.1299 ext. 329 or e-mail cya@erieRCD.org. Visit our Web site at www.erieRCD.org/cya.asp.

PALS support group – People After Loss from

Suicide: every third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Prayer & Sharing cancer support group: second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., also second and fourth Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-noon, 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. Call 864.9107 or 824.1257.

Healing Mass: May 4, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie. Call Jeanne at 838.7873.

Taize prayer: April 12, 7 p.m., Magnificat Chapel, Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, Pa. Call 724.964.8920 ext. 3241 or visit <http://villamaria.tripod.com>.

Taize prayer: 7 p.m. every third Friday Sept. through April, Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Ecumenical Christian prayer consisting of chanting, Scripture reading and silence. Parking available in upper lot. Call Sr. Rita Panciera at 456.1802.

Perpetual Eucharistic adoration: 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie. Call 898.2026 or 452.2982.

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

Vietnamese Mass: 12:10 p.m., first Sunday of the month, St. Casimir, Erie.

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.

Youth rally: Middle school youth rally, April 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Clarion University. Contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 814.824.1210.

Mid-life directions: a program for personal and spiritual growth for people 35-65, April 15-17, Mount St. Benedict, 6101 East Lake Road. Contact Sr. Rosanne Loneck, 899.0614.

Financial aid workshop: April 16, 10 a.m., Gannon, room 1200 of Palumbo Academic Center, 824 Peach St. Advance registration not required. This free workshop is designed to help parents and students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as to provide a general overview of the financial aid process.

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.

NOVA – Marriage preparation for remarriage: April 23, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., St. Patrick Church, Cauley Auditorium, Erie. Call 814.824.1265 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 265.

Engagement Encounter weekend – Marriage preparation: April 29-May 1, McKeever Learning Center, Sandy Lake. Call 814.768.7597 or the Family Ministries Office at 824.1265 or 1.800.374.3723 ext. 265.

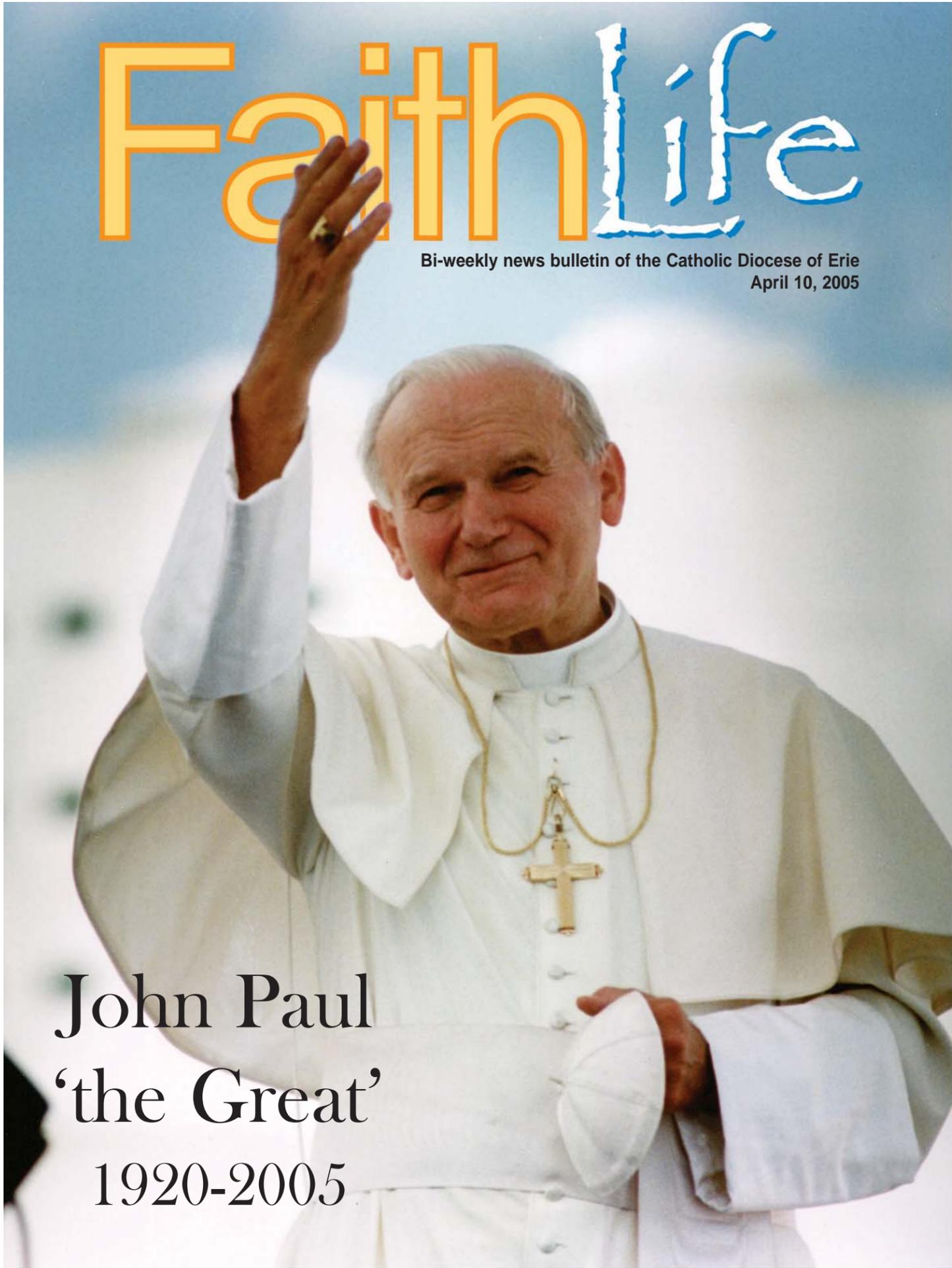
Gannon University spring open house: April 10, explore Gannon with presentations and campus tours. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, 512 Peach St. Registration from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Waldron Center, 124 W. 7th St. Welcome to follow at Hammermill Center. Call 871.7240 or visit www.gannon.edu.

Introduction to contemplative prayer: four consecutive Thursdays beginning March 31 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sisters of St. Joseph Poustinia, behind Villa Maria High School art studio, West 8th Street, Erie. Contact Sr. Mary Kay McNelis at 836.4157 or e-mail s.mkmcnelis@ssjerie.org.

E-mail calendar items for consideration to: FaiithLife@erieRCD.org

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Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
April 10, 2005



John Paul
'the Great'
1920-2005