

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Witness of joy is key to promoting vocations, pope says, page 2.



FaithLife

Transitional deacon

Jason Feigh to be ordained to the diaconate, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 18, 2010

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Adalbert

St. Catherine of Siena

- April 21 St. Anselm
- April 23 St. George, St. Adalbert
- April 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- April 25 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- April 28 St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis Mary de Montfort
- April 29 St. Catherine of Siena
- April 30 St. Pius V
- May 1 St. Joseph the Worker

Confirmations

St. Patrick, Franklin – Saturday, April 17 at 5:15 p.m.

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway – Sunday, April 18 at 10 a.m.

St. Boniface, Kersey – Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Boniface, Kersey, and St. Joseph, Force.

Holy Cross, Fairview – Monday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

St. Philip, Linesville – Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake; St. Peter, Comeauville; and St. Philip, Linesville.

St. Agatha, Meadville – Saturday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Agatha, Meadville; St. Bernadette, Saegerstown; St. Brigid, Meadville; and St. Mary of Grace, Meadville.

St. Joseph, Sharon – Saturday, April 24 at 5:15 p.m. Confirmation classes include Sacred Heart, Sharon, and St. Joseph, Sharon.

St. Tobias, Brockway – Friday, April 30 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville; St. Mary, Reynoldsville; and St. Tobias, Brockway.

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney – Sunday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Adrian, Delancey; St. Anthony, Walston; Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney; and St. Joseph, Anita.

Immaculate Conception, Brookville – Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m.

Middle School Youth Rally – April 25

The annual Middle School Youth Rally is scheduled for Sunday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Beloved Discipline Parish in Grove City.

The theme of this year's event, "The Power of God's Love for You!" is based on the Scripture from Jeremiah 20:9, "Like fire burning in my heart."

Featured during the rally will be a Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman at 11 a.m.

For a complete schedule and more, visit onthevine.us.



Singer/songwriter Jesse Manibusan is pictured at the 2009 Middle School Youth Rally at St. Bernard School in Bradford.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Special collection April 24-25 to aid in care of retired diocesan priests

Do you remember the parish priest who heard your first confession, gave you your first holy Communion or prepared you for confirmation?

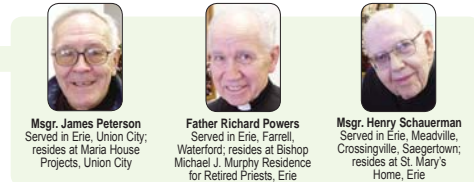
He was there again when you said "I do" or visited you or a loved one in the hospital.

Priests of the Erie Diocese are active in many aspects of the lives of those in their care, even after retirement.

The official retirement age for priests is 75; there are 50 priests in the Erie Diocese who have reached



retirement age. By their own choice, seven of them still have a full-time assignment as a senior associate or pastor. Since their ordination, these retired and senior priests have served in the majority of the 120 parishes, 19 missions and



Msgr. James Peterson Served in Erie, Union City; resides at Maria House Projects, Union City

Father Richard Powers Served in Erie, Farrell; Waterford; resides at Bishop Michael J. Murphy Residence for Retired Priests, Erie

Msgr. Henry Schauerman Served in Erie, Meadville; Crossingsville; Saegerstown; resides at St. Mary's Home, Erie

five oratories.

The ministry and service they have given to the diocesan church totals 2,750 years. And many continue to give of themselves in countless ways.

The Gospel for the fourth Sunday of Easter comes from John each year in which Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. This gives it the common designation of Good Shepherd Sunday.

On the weekend of Good Shepherd Sunday April 24-25, a special collection will be taken up in parishes throughout the diocese to assist with

the needs of caring for retired diocesan priests.

Retired priests from the diocese receive a monthly pension from the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund. Participants in Social Security also receive a smaller monthly check. Pension is used to cover basic needs such as food, housing and transportation.

With escalating health care costs for prescription drugs, medical services and long-term care expenses, along with gaps in Medicare coverage, there is a special need to assist them. As more priests


become eligible to retire from active ministry in the next few years, the diocesan Priest Retirement Plan requires adequate funding to cover future needs.

The Good Shepherd collection allows parishioners to show gratitude and support for those priests who have faithfully cared for the spiritual needs of others for many years.

For more information on the Good Shepherd collection, including a list of retired priests by parish, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

BACK 2 BACK

Villa Maria Academy repeats as state basketball champs



STATE COLLEGE – The Villa Maria Academy girls basketball team won its second straight PIAA Class AA state championship March 26 by defeating York Catholic 52-44 at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center.

In front of more than 2,000 fans, the Victors defeated York Catholic in the title game for the second straight year. Villa finished the season with a 28-2 record.

Sitting: Erica Webber, Kaylyn Maruca, Kayla McBride, Ashley Prischak, Kelly Ek and Kara Wyant.

Standing: Sister Mary Drexler, SSI (principal), Katelin Onslow, Leah Bennett, Kristen Tome (team trainer), Jasmine Thrower, Karlee McBride, Rebecca Sweny, Cierra Pollock, Jillian May, Dan Ek (athletic director), Abbey Steudler, Adrienne Kloecker, Father Scott Jabo (president), Shantel Herrmann, Scott Dibble (head coach), Niki Carmosino (assistant coach), Doug Chuzie (assistant coach) and Bill Flanagan (athletic director). Missing from photo is Jasmine Burns.

Kayla McBride was also named the Pennsylvania Class AA Player of the Year for the second consecutive year.

What's so bad about abortion?

Silent No More co-founder addresses effects at Clarion talk

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

CLARION – At age 16, Georgette Forney chose to have an abortion.

Years later she experienced a healing from the trauma—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Forney, president of Anglicans for Life and co-founder of the national Silent No More awareness campaign, shared her story with an audience April 7 at Clarion University's Hart Chapel.

Her appearance was part of an ongoing effort by Students for Life at the university, under the guidance of Dr. Tom Rourke. The event was also sponsored by the Newman Association and Catholic Campus Ministry.

Forney was 34 when she recalls dealing with a lot of stress and began to seek God in a deeper way. One day while cleaning out her basement, she came across her high school yearbook from her junior year when she had the abortion.

"As the book opened, I felt the presence of my baby in my arms," Forney said. "I could feel her, her spirit. As I stood there, I was face to face with the fact that I didn't have an abortion; I aborted a child."

She began to weep, with wave after wave of conflicting emotion washing over her.

"You don't understand how all of this is going to work when you have an abortion," Forney said. "I thought, 'I made this decision. How dare I weep for it.'"

She regretted not being able to change diapers, take her child to her first day of school or see her off to the prom.

"I started grieving for what I lost," Forney said. "I realized it was OK to cry, to grieve. I started a journey of healing and forgiveness that God wanted to give me."

After beginning her healing process, her symptoms of stress and medical issues, including a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease, disappeared. Forney has been married to her husband, Jim, for 24 years. They have a 16-year-old daughter, Rebekah.

The Silent No More campaign came about "because there was an issue that wasn't being dealt with in any venue," Forney said. "We felt we really needed to raise awareness like we did on AIDS and breast cancer."

Abortion not only kills an unborn child but harms the woman and man left behind, she said.

Visually, the campaign is nationally known for its "I Regret My Abortion" signs and T-shirts, most often sighted at pro-life rallies and marches. But more than that, Forney said her goal is to let people know that help and healing are available.

"People don't have to live in their pain," she said.



Georgette Forney



A woman holds a sign during the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington. The "I Regret My Abortion" signs are an initiative of the Silent No More awareness campaign.

Among the Silent No More Awareness movement are women who have had abortions and now witness against it. The campaign is jointly sponsored by the Catholic organization Priests for Life.

Forney's talk, "What's So Bad About Abor-



IN THE U.S.

■ **Archbishop Jose Gomez of San Antonio has been named as coadjutor archbishop of Los Angeles by Pope Benedict XVI.** The appointment was announced in Washington April 6 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Cardinal Roger Mahony, who is 74, currently heads the archdiocese. As coadjutor, Archbishop Gomez, 58, automatically becomes head of the archdiocese upon Cardinal Mahony's retirement or death. The cardinal will turn 75 next February, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope. Archbishop Gomez is currently the highest-ranking prelate of the 27 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the U.S. When he succeeds Cardinal Mahony, he will become the first Hispanic archbishop of Los Angeles, the nation's largest archdiocese.



Archbishop Jose Gomez

■ **The Kansas bishops have urged Catholics to ask Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson to sign into law a bill that would require doctors who perform certain late-term abortions to stipulate why the procedure was medically necessary.** "For years, Kansas has been the destination of choice for anyone seeking a post-viability abortion for any reason whatsoever," said a statement from the Kansas Catholic Conference. "Abortivists in Kansas simply inform the state that the late-term abortion was medically necessary, without giving any further information." The bill recently sent to the governor for his signature "would require the abortifacient to provide an actual medical diagnosis of the serious threat to the mother posed by the pregnancy," the statement added.

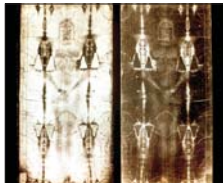
■ **A newly expanded component of the Cardinal Newman Society will research issues related to Catholic identity of**

Catholic campuses around the United States, and it plans to publish and distribute its findings to all Catholic colleges and universities across the country. The society's Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education will be overseen by a new director, David House, former president of St. Joseph's College of Maine. It was formerly known as the Center for the Study of Catholic Higher Education. The name change and House's appointment to head it were announced March 16. According to its mission statement, the Cardinal Newman Society's purpose is "to help renew and strengthen Catholic identity in Catholic higher education."

■ **Tax credits, parish assessments and community partnerships were among the ideas presented at a gathering of more than 50 Catholic school superintendents, education leaders and supporting organizations from 28 U.S. dioceses April 5.** The gathering featured eight panelists who shared their dioceses' or organizations' approaches to helping Catholic schools not only survive, but grow. The gathering was held the day before the start of the National Catholic Educational Association convention and expo in Minneapolis April 6-8. The convention is an annual nationwide meeting of Catholic educators. Panelists shared similar concerns for the financial future of Catholics schools and agreed that traditional models of funding are not sufficient to sustain them.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **The Shroud of Turin, which many Christians believe to be the burial cloth of Jesus, goes on public display this spring.** Pope Benedict XVI has already made plans to view the shroud during a one-day trip to the northern Italian city of Turin in early May. Many observers are wondering how the pope will refer to the cloth: as a sign, an icon or — as Pope John Paul II once characterized it — a relic. The shroud's last showing was 10 years ago, when more than a million people lined up to see it in the cathedral of Turin in northern Italy. Officials are predicting similar crowds for the exposition April 10-May 23,



The Shroud of Turin is shown in this undated file photo.

and visitors are being urged to book their visit online at www.shroud.org.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood cause of Mother Henriette Delille, a freeborn woman of African descent in 19th-century New Orleans, declaring that she had lived a life of "heroic virtues."** By signing the decree March 27, the pope confirmed the recommendations of Vatican authorities who have studied the cause for several years. She can be beatified once a miracle is attributed to her intercession. If her cause advances, she could become the first African-American saint. In 1842 Mother Henriette founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a congregation of black sisters that cared for the poor and disadvantaged and taught slaves and free blacks. This was during a time under Louisiana law when doing anything to "disturb" black people — in other words, educate them — could be punished by death or life imprisonment. Today, the congregation's more than 200 members operate schools for the poor and homes for the elderly in Louisiana and several other states.



Portrait of Mother Henriette Delille

By the Way...

Sister Nancy Murray, OP, 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 a fertile imagination, Sister Nancy portrays Catherine as the colorful, strong, passionate and enthusiastic personality that she was. Soon she'll be making her mark in the Erie Diocese.



Jason Koshinski

St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois is sponsoring Sister Nancy for a performance on the life of its namesake. The performance will be held on Friday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at DuBois Area Catholic School, 200 Central Christian Road in DuBois. Her gift for drama and acting is a family trait. Sister Nancy is a sister to actor Bill Murray. For more information, contact the parish office at 814.371.8556 or e-mail sienadubois@verizon.net.

Father Michael Ferrick, pastor of Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys, has received a number of compliments from parishioners on its Welcoming New Babies program. This program, sponsored by the parish's Care and Concern committee, provides a gift and a meal for those families who have just had a new baby. "This committee does such great work behind the scenes," Father Ferrick says. "I just want to acknowledge them and thank them for everything they do for our families and their new born children."

Msgr. Gerald Koos celebrated his 70th birthday on April 5, which was also the first day of his retirement. Msgr. Koos now resides at the former St. Casimir rectory and will continue to help out the three churches of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Erie as his health permits. This is just another example of a number of priests still ministering in their retirement years.

Father Edward Lohse, JCL, chancellor and vocation director of the Erie Diocese, will receive an honorary degree and serve as commencement speaker at St. Vincent Seminary's annual commencement on Friday, May 7 at 5 p.m. in the Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe. Father Lohse earned his master of divinity degree from the seminary with highest honors.

For years, St. Vincent has served as one of the major seminaries attended by graduates of St. Mark Seminary in Erie, which is a minor seminary. Four seminarians from the diocese are currently studying at St. Vincent Seminary, two of whom will be ordained priests in June.

This edition of *FaithLife* went to press prior to Bishop Donald Trautman's 25th anniversary Mass on April 13 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Look for coverage of the event in the May 2 issue.

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

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Witness of joy is key to promoting vocations, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The witness of a life lived joyfully and prayerfully is the key to attracting new vocations to the priesthood and religious life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, to be observed April 25, the pope said that while the call to priesthood and religious life comes from God, "it is also helped by the quality and depth of the personal and communal witness" of priests and religious.

"God's free and gracious initiative encounters and challenges the human responsibility of all those who accept his invitation to become, through their own witness, the instruments of his divine call," the pope wrote in the mes-

sage released Feb. 16.

The pope said that especially for priests, but also for religious brothers and sisters, there are three areas of life where a personal example is particularly important for helping others see what answering God's call can mean.

■ "Friendship with Christ" through prayer and Bible reading, which demonstrates how abiding in God's love fills a person with the desire to share that experience with others.

■ "The complete gift of oneself to God," which makes a person able to give himself or herself completely to others as well.

■ "A life of communion" and of openness to others, which means being able to draw people together, help them overcome their differences and offer each other forgiveness.



(CNS photo)

Pope Benedict XVI blesses a newly ordained priest during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

In a world often marked by materialism, self-centeredness and individualism, the pope said, the complete fidelity of priests and religious to God and to serving others is usually a sign of contradiction, but one that shows others where true joy is found.

"If young people see priests who appear distant and sad, they will hardly feel encouraged to follow their example," he said.

To view the complete text online, visit www.vatican.va and search: "world day 2010."

Silent No More co-founder addresses abortion at Clarion talk

SILENT NO MORE, from page 1

"tion?" dissected ten reasons why abortion is bad for women.

"Abortion causes women physical, spiritual and emotional problems," Forney said. "It allows society to abandon them and not deal with the issue. 'OK, we took care of the pregnancy. Now you're on your own.'"

Forney says aboration has also increased violence against women.

"When you start to look at those kinds of factors, you begin to see that abortion hasn't been good for women in many ways," she said.

She cited health problems including infections, long-term complications and difficulties with future pregnancies.

"The more I walk around it, the more I believe that abortion has screwed us up," Forney said. "Our bodies are designed to nur-

ture life. Abortion has basically told women to choose against their own system. Of the choices—having the baby, adoption and abortion—abortion is often seen as the least consequential of the three. But people don't realize the consequences."

She added that rarely is the health of a woman having an abortion even considered.

"The issue has become so politicized," Forney said. "People think protecting abortion rights is more important than protecting women's health. I want to tear that down because I know that right is wrong for women."

She referred to the Silent No More Web site at www.silentnomoreawareness.org for providing Christian-based resources, programs and help after abortion.

"The more we turn people to Jesus and the truth, the more they will become a billboard for the truth," Forney said.

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Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
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The 33rd Annual Rosary March
Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m.
in the Expo Building at the Clearfield Fair Grounds
GUEST SPEAKER: Fr. Larry Richards
Captivating Speaker, Preacher and Retreat Master
Join us in the outdoor Rosary and Eucharist Procession
"Pray the Rosary everyday in order to obtain peace for the world." (O.L. of Fatima 1917)
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For more information, CALL Bill Moore at (814) 765-0171

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PROXIMO TRAVEL 2010
Italy / Switzerland: May 1-13 / May 15-27
May 29-June 10 / June 26-July 8 / July 3-15 / July 17-29...
Italy Regular: June 26-July 4 / Sept 18-26 / Oct. 9-17...
Holy Land: May 29-June 8 / Sept. 9-19 / Sept. 20-30...
Oct 7-17 / Oct 18-28 / Nov 8-18
France / Spain / Portugal: July 12-24 / Sept. 18-30...
Tuscany: October 7-17
Greece / Turkey: Sept 18-30
Ireland / Scotland: May 29-June 10 / July 10-22

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Did You Know?

Two early Erie diocesan pastors are buried in the churches they built. **Father Thomas Carroll**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Oil City from 1871 until his death in 1898, built St. Joseph Church. He also donated the famous grotto at the University of Notre Dame. At his death, he was buried beneath the southwest tower of the church. **Father John Quincy Adams**, pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Franklin from 1871-1887, during which time he built the present church, was accorded a similar honor. A distant cousin of the sixth president of the United States, Father Adams is also buried beneath the tower of the church he built.

—Msgr. Henry Kriegel

People in the News

Jason Feigh to be ordained to the diaconate May 1

ERIE — Bishop Donald Trautman will ordain seminarian Jason Feigh to the diaconate at an 11 a.m. Mass on Saturday, May 1 in the chapel of St. Mark Seminary, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

Feigh, a third-year theology student at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md., is a native of St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport. He is assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie.

The diaconate ordination will bring Feigh one step closer to the priesthood. As a transitional deacon, Feigh is scheduled to be ordained a priest in 2011.



Jason Feigh

Briefly

DuBois Central Catholic to stage 'Footloose'

DUBOIS — The DuBois Central Catholic Players will stage the musical "Footloose" on Thursday, April 22; Friday, April 23; and Saturday, April 24.

Each performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium, located at 200 Central Christian Road, DuBois.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, \$6 for children 11 and under. Tickets are available in DCC's Secondary Main Office during regular school hours or at the door.

"Footloose" is based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford. Forty-five middle and high school students will bring this fun-loving musical to life on Central's stage.



Taizé prayer in Harborcreek

HARBORCREEK — Ecumenical Christian Taizé prayer around the cross is planned for 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Mary's Chapel at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 837 Bartlett Road in Harborcreek. The gatherings include Christian chanting, Scripture reading and silence.

For more information, contact Irene Lucas at 814.899.6132. Please mark your calendars for April 27 and May 25.



Engagement Encounter

Planning for your marriage this year? An Engagement Encounter is scheduled for April 30-May 2 at McKeever Learning Center, near Mercer, just one hour south of Erie. EE satisfies diocesan requirements for marriage in the church. Space is limited, so register early by calling 814.824.1265 or by email at familylife@erieRCD.org.

Visit our www.erieRCD.org/familylifeoffice.asp for more information. Catholic and interfaith couples are encouraged to attend.

Spend a week with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie

ERIE — Women ages 18-25 are invited to stay at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, volunteer at inner-city ministries, help around the monastery and participate in prayer, meals and conversation May 10-16.

Contact Sister Janet Goetz by May 5 at 814.899.0614 Ext. 2424 or e-mail vocations@mtsbenedict.org.

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery is located at 6101 East Lake Road in Erie.



Eastside parishes to host Easter season retreat

ERIE — The Eastside Erie parishes of St. John the Baptist, Holy Rosary and Holy Trinity will hold an Easter season retreat, "A Call to Baptism, Reconciliation and Unity," May 16-19 presented by Father Steve Vasek, OMI, and Sister Ann Marie Grasso, SSMN.

The retreat will be held each night from 7-8:15 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie.

Transportation is available by calling Rick at 814.825.1013. Childcare and children's renewal activities will also be provided. Make a reservation for your child/children by calling Mary at 814.825.1013.

Annual audit shows decline in sexual abuse reports

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Reported cases of child sexual abuse in U.S. dioceses and religious institutes declined between the 2008 and 2009 audits to evaluate how church institutions are complying with the U.S. bishops' 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The 2009 annual report also showed that costs to dioceses and religious orders for lawsuits and other allegation-related expenses also decreased. In addition, it reported on how dioceses and religious orders are complying with provisions calling for education about sexual abuse for children and all who work with them, and for handling all allegations of sexual abuse, among other obligations included in the charter.

According to the 2009 report released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops March 23, a total of 513 victims came forward with 513 credible allegations against 346 people who were under the authority of dioceses or religious orders. That represents a decline from 2008 in all three figures of between 33 and 36 percent. The vast majority of those allegations related to incidents dating back decades, the report said.

The U.S. bishops adopted the charter in response to a wave of reports of sexual abuse of minors involving church personnel and criticism of how the church had handled allegations of abuse in the past.

In 2004, the combined number of reported allegations of abuse for religious orders and dioceses was 1,092 allegations against 756 people by 1,083 victims, figures which have generally declined each year since then.

Data collected by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University found 398 new credible allegations of abuse were reported by dioceses and parishes in 2009; the allegations were made by 398 victims against 286 individuals. In reports from religious orders, there were 115 people who made 115 allegations involving 60 priests or brothers.

Among the allegations re-

Audit finds Erie Diocese in full compliance

From staff reports

For the sixth time in six years, the Diocese of Erie has complied with the U.S. Catholic Church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse.

The diocese's Office for Protection of Children and Youth was found to be in full compliance of the Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children during its most recent audit.

As part of the process, the diocese established its own Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in 2004. It is under the direction of vicar general Msgr. Robert Smith and assisted by coordinator Karen Streett. Dr. Robert Nelsen, who is on the faculty of Gannon University, serves as the diocese's victim assistance coordinator.

The audit showed that 23,000 children and youth in the Erie Diocese received safe environment training and inservicing from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

ported by dioceses, six involved children who were under the age of 18 in 2009. The remaining 392 cases involved adults who alleged they were abused when they were minors. Among religious orders, none of the new allegations involved people who were under 18 in 2009.

Costs to dioceses and religious orders declined by a total of \$316 million, with the vast majority of that from a \$310 million decrease in the amount paid out in legal settlements between 2008 and 2009. Religious institutes reported a \$44 million overall drop in costs, including \$42 million less in legal settlements. Dioceses and parishes paid out \$272 million less than in the previous year, including \$269 million less for settlements.

As in previous years, a few dioceses and parishes declined to be audited. They included: the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., and the parishes of St. Peter the Apostle in El Cajon, Calif., for Chaldeans; Newton for Melkites in Massachusetts; Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics in the U.S. and Canada; St. Joseph of Parma, Ohio, for Ukrainians; and Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark, N.J., for Syrian Catholics. The report said they declined for "various reasons."



From July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 in the Erie Diocese:

Inservicing was conducted with 23,000 children and youth.

The number of people working with children who have either been inserviced or are in the process of completing their inservicing this year. They have had background checks completed and are cleared:

- 178 priests
- 59 deacons
- 35 candidates for ordination
- 840 educators
- 854 parish employees
- 2,741 volunteers

Source: Office for Protection of Children and Youth

On most provisions of the charter, only a few dioceses were cited during the year for failing to comply with aspects of the procedures it sets out. In nearly all cases, the report said, those problems were corrected by the time the annual report was completed.

For example, the audit found that the Archdiocese of San Francisco was noncompliant with an article of the charter about the public ministry of priests accused of abuse. It said some priests in the archdiocese who were removed from public ministry were permitted to concelebrate Mass in a public forum. "The noncompliance was remedied during the audit process," the report said.

"Much discussion ensued with the Archdiocese of San Francisco regarding the definition of the term 'public ministry,'" the report said. The bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People has interpreted "public ministry" as being any ministry that includes people other than the priest. One possible exception, it explained, would be a Mass concelebrated by the accused priest with another priest or priests and no one else present.

The auditors at the Gavin Group "received a subsequent letter from the Archdiocese of San Francisco advising that the

problem) had been addressed and that a "strict interpretation of public ministry is now the policy," it said.

The Baker Diocese did not participate in last year's audit.

Data for the survey of allegations and costs was collected by CARA between December 2009 and February 2010. CARA received responses from 193 of the 195 dioceses and parishes and from 159 of the 219 religious institutes.

'The pope and sex abuse: Setting the record straight'

Clergy sex abuse scandals in Europe, and accusations that top church officials did not react quickly or strongly enough, recently have made headlines.

"The pope and sex abuse: Setting the record straight," a column by Robert Lockwood, a columnist for *Pittsburgh Catholic*, comments on a series of articles published in *The New York Times* and reprinted locally. It is available at www.erieRCD.org.

DEATH NOTICE

Sister Eugenia Dixon, SSJ, dies at 87

Served as school nurse, religious education instructor

Sister Eugenia Dixon, SSJ, 87, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died March 20, 2010. She was in her 60th year of religious life.

She was born in Pittsburgh, a daughter of the late Frank A. and

Marie Fallon Dixon.

She graduated from Langley High School, Pittsburgh, in 1942, and from Holy Innocents Grade School, Pittsburgh, in 1938.

After more than five years of service in the Coast Guard, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie on Sept. 1, 1950, from Holy Innocents Parish, Pittsburgh. She professed her final vows on August 15, 1956. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Villa Maria College, Erie and studied at Saint Vincent Nurses' Training

School, Erie.

She served as a staff nurse at the Sisters of St. Joseph Rosary Hall, Erie; St. Joseph Home, Erie; St. Vincent Hospital, Meadville; and Saint Vincent Health Center, Erie. She served as a school nurse at St. John the Baptist, Villa Maria Elementary, St. Patrick, Holy Ro-



Sister Eugenia Dixon, SSJ

sary, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Peace schools in Erie.

She was an instructor of pediatrics and EKG (electrocardiogram); taught at Mercer County Catholic Center and taught religious education at Houtzdale Cathedral Center and Holy Rosary School in Erie.

In her retirement, she lived at the Villa Maria Community Living Center in Erie.

She is survived by her sisters, Ruth Cooper, Dorothy Dixon and Ann Flaherty and her brother, Jim Dixon. She is also survived by the members of her religious community.



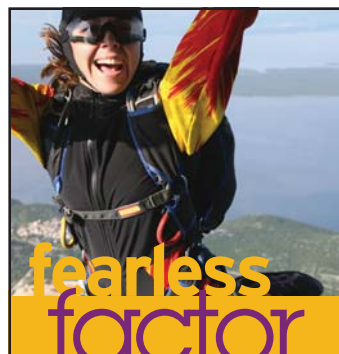
Zena, her daughter, Angela and her sponsored child, Angelica

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Fearless Factor is powered by Spirit of Women, a network of hospitals and healthcare providers across the United States that work to help the greatest needs of excellence in women's health, education, and community outreach.



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.



DuBois Central Catholic students raise more than \$1,900 during St. Jude Math-a-thon

DUBOIS - DuBois Central Catholic's 6th grade students recently took part in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's annual Math-a-thon as part of their class service project.

Along with several students from 5th grade in B-Wing, DCC students raised more than \$1,900 this year. The funds realized through this project will benefit pediatric cancer research.

Students obtained sponsors then solved a variety of math problems. After completing the problems, students collected donations from their sponsors.

According to Math-a-thon coordinators Starr Young and Tara Kramer, DuBois Central Catholic students have participated in this national math event for the past four years, raising more than \$6,600 for pediatric cancer research since instituting this effort into the school's regular math curriculum.

Pictured are DuBois Central Catholic students participating



in this year's St. Jude's Math-a-thon.

First row: Emily Metzger, Rebecca Pifer, Sadie Peck, Carlee Constable, Bethany Stoddard and Abby Kirk.

Second row: Jake Ishman, Mandy Snyder, Mike Zaffuto, Tommy Matts, Robbie Fye, Riley Meyers, Macey Hanes and Riley Assalone.

Third row: Alex Micknis, Tessa Sayers, Kyra Blakley,

Stephanie Rossi, Ty Bittner, Jeremy Sawey and Nick Szczerb.

Fourth row: Casey Baronick, Andrea Selker, Nathan Bosser, Cullen Engle, Aaron Davis, Luke Weis, Connor Hindman, Joey Varischetti, Jake Miknis, Olivia Marchioni, Markus Peterson, Caitlyn Manduley, Natalie Curtis, Katie Ellenberger, Charlotte Way and Mara Baronick.

Missing from photo: Trisha Kreydt and Lauren Holden.

First holy Communion time throughout diocese

GENESEE - Spring means that a number of young people from around the Erie Diocese will be making their first holy Communion.

Pictured are students Kimberly Cavagna (left) and Courtney Fox, who received first holy Communion on Palm Sunday March 28 at Sacred Heart Parish in Genesee. They were instructed by Claire Miller. Father Joseph Dougherty celebrated the Mass.

In 2009, more than 1,900 students throughout the diocese's 13 counties received holy Communion for the first time.



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3 chances for \$300
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For information, itinerary, reservations and letter from Father Bennett with his phone number call 7 days a week:
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Notre Dame JV boys basketball goes undefeated in two seasons

HERMITAGE - The junior varsity 5th and 6th grade boys basketball team at Notre Dame School in Hermitage finished the 2009-10 season undefeated. Last year as fifth graders, this group also was undefeated combining for a two-year record of 27-0. They are the only team in school history to have an unblemished record as JV players.

During the past two seasons, the team has won four tournament championships (two each season). This season, they beat Neshannock, 31-30, in the finals of Notre Dame's 31st Annual Dave Hoover Invitational 6th grade championship and Sharon, 36-33, in overtime at the St. Joe's 6th grade championship game. Last season as fifth graders, they beat Shenango, 39-32,



in the Notre Dame tournament championship and Sharon, 45-38, in overtime in St. Joe's tournament championship.

First row (left to right) Tony Bianco, Josh Babcanec, Nickolo

Lima and Carmen Schuyville.

Second row: Mike Puleo (head coach), Ethan Feldmiller, Jason Berlin, Boomer Cindric, Bubba Pryts, Nick Gannon and Dave Berlin (assistant coach).

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