

## Transitional deacons ordained

Diocese now has seven transitional deacons, page 3.



# FaithLife

## Priest prepping for duty in Iraq

Father Richard Allen to serve as chaplain and a member of active duty, page 4.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 10, 2009

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



Our Lady of Fatima



St. Rita of Cascia

- May 12 St. Nereus & St. Achilleus (martyrs of the Roman military), St. Pancras (martyred as a teenager)
- May 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- May 14 St. Matthias (apostle chosen to replace Judas)
- May 15 St. Isidore (patron of farmers and rural communities)
- May 18 Pope John I (died in prison)
- May 20 St. Bernadine of Siena (missionary, reformer, "Apostle of Italy")
- May 21 Ascension of the Lord
- May 22 St. Rita of Cascia (patron of the impossible)

### Ascension of the Lord – May 21 (holy day of obligation)

This solemnity, celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:2. Also known as Ascension Thursday, this feast is a holy day of obligation.



## Confirmations

Holy Cross, Fairview – Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake – Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake; St. Philip, Linesville; and St. Peter, Conneautville.

Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg – Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg, and St. Anne, Wilcox.

St. Tobias, Brockway – Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Tobias, Brockway; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville; and St. Mary, Reynoldsville.

St. Michael, Greenville – Sunday, May 17 at 9 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Michael, Greenville, and St. Margaret, Jamestown.

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie – Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Agatha, Meadville; St. Bernadette, Saegertown; St. Brigid, Meadville; St. Mary of Grace, Meadville; St. Hippolyte, Guys Mills; Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochran; and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer.

Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro – Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro; St. Lawrence, Albion; and St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs.

Our Lady of Peace, Erie – Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.

Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Friday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Beloved Disciple, Grove City, and St. Columbkille, Stoneboro.

St. Joseph, Sharon – Saturday, May 23 at 5:15 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Sharon, and Sacred Heart, Sharon.

# A day of service

## Cathedral Prep hosts first-ever Erie Area Outreach Day

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife

ERIE – The 650-plus students, faculty and staff at Cathedral Prep weren't in classrooms or offices on April 24, but they didn't take that particular Thursday off, either.

Instead, they spent the day giving of their time to others and learning about things that can't be experienced inside a school.

Prep's first-ever Erie Area Outreach Day had students reaching out to non-profit agencies and ministries throughout the city and beyond including Presque Isle State Park, Frontier Park, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Asbury Woods, Hab-

### By the Numbers:

**Cathedral Prep's Erie Area Outreach Day**

650-plus students, faculty and staff

Volunteering 5 hours each (from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.)

3,250-plus hours of volunteer outreach

tat for Humanity, Erie County Historical Society, Children's



Cathedral Prep students surround one of their guests attempting a free throw shot April 23 at St. Andrew. Prep students hosted 50 guests from L'Arche and Erie Homes for Children and Adults at a fair as part of the

school's inaugural Erie Area Outreach Day. More than 650 students, faculty and staff members volunteered at a number of non-profit agencies and ministries throughout the day.

Museum, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoo, Second Harvest Food Bank, Emmaus Soup Kitchen, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and others.

The idea for an outreach day began during Catholic Schools Week, which was observed nationally January 25-

31. The theme for this year's celebration was "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service."

Every student, teacher, secretary and maintenance person was randomly put into a small group.

"That way you have a chance to be with people you might not normally interact

with," said Father Mike DeMartino, Cathedral Prep's director of Campus Ministry. "Then we had each group discern a project. They all talked about where they could fill a need and came up with something that was important to

See SERVICE, page 3

## Catholic Services Appeal update

### CSA ahead of last year's record total

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

So far, the 2009 Catholic Services Appeal is a success. More people are giving, people are giving generously and parishes are making their goals.

"I am very pleased with the generosity of the people of the diocese," said Joseph Hoag, director of the diocese's Office of Stewardship and Annual Appeals.

More parishes are at or near goal than they were at this point last year, Hoag said. One-hundred and seven parishes or missions have exceeded their goal; 29 parishes and missions are currently below goal. Of those 29, 15

are within 80 percent of their goal, Hoag said.

"With additional follow-up, we're confident more parishes will be making their goal," he said. "We are encouraging follow-up because there are past supporters who have not yet contributed to the CSA this year. We know it's a difficult economic situation. It's one of the other reasons we're extremely pleased with these numbers."

Parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a

parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects.

To date, parishes have collectively raised nearly \$1.9 million over goal to be used for parish projects, which is more than the amount at this point last year (\$1.6 million).

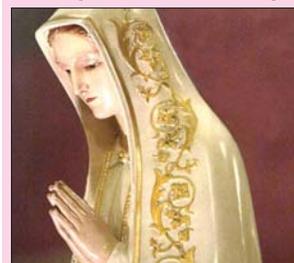
To make a pledge or gift to the 2008 CSA, contact your parish office or the Erie Diocese's Office of Stewardship and Annual Appeals at \$14.824.1192 or e-mail [JHoag@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JHoag@ErieRCD.org).

### 2009 CSA results (through April 20)

Compares 2009 results with 2008 at the same point last year

	2009 CSA	2008 CSA
Pledges/gifts to date	29,407	19,231
Total \$ pledged to date	\$5,433,175	\$2,240,039
Final pledges/gifts	To be determined	21,551
Final \$ pledged	To be determined	\$5,887,531

## Happy Mother's Day



(CNS photo)

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms throughout the diocese. The month of May is devoted to Mary, the mother of the Church, and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning of Mary and praying of the rosary.

## 'I Have Chosen You'

### Students reminded of God's love at middle school youth rally

By FaithLife staff

BRADFORD – "I Have Chosen You" was the theme for this year's middle school youth rally, held at St. Bernard School in Bradford on April 18.

"It was an opportunity to reinforce the idea that our youth are indeed chosen by God," said Father Steve Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Erie Diocese. "They learned how important they are to the church right now and that it's a cause for joy."

Featured was Jesse Manibusan, acclaimed singer, songwriter and storyteller who has appeared around the country as well as at National Catholic Youth Conference and World Youth Day events. He was backed by a team of young people from Gannon University, Edinboro University and Mercyhurst College as well as a handful of high school students.

More than 170 young people registered for the event, which was held in Bradford for the first time. "St. Bernard Parish and in particu-



Singer, songwriter and storyteller Jesse Manibusan (top right and above center) interacts with students at the middle school youth rally April 18 in Bradford.

lar Kim Mooney, the principal, did an incredible job of hosting the event," said Father Schreiber.

Mooney said the kids had a "wonderful experience."

"Being together with different people, I think they found out that faith comes in many different ways," she said. "Faith can be a vibrant and exciting thing, as they saw with Jesse. And it can be explored and celebrated in an upbeat way."

Middle school can be a difficult

home that St. Bernard students have been invited back to share their poetry, Mooney said.

"We also set aside time to help them walk through an examination of conscience," said Father Steve, "and they responded very well when we gave them the opportunity for confession."

During the rally, longtime youth ministry leader Aaron Ploutz of St. Marys gave a presentation on contemplative youth ministry to the approximately 40 adult leaders involved.



**IN THE U.S.**

■ **Citing concerns about plans to honor President Barack Obama** in disregard of the settled position of the U.S. bishops, former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Mary Ann Glendon has turned down the prestigious Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame.

In an April 27 letter to Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, Glendon said she will not participate in May 17 commencement exercises during which the award is presented. Glendon described Obama as "a prominent and uncompromising opponent of the church's position on issues involving fundamental principles of justice" and said the decision to present him with an honorary degree violated the bishops' 2004 request that Catholic institutions not honor "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles." Obama supports legal abortion and his administration recently proposed new regulations that would expand the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research. Both are in direct conflict with church teaching. The Laetare Medal is presented annually to an American Catholic for outstanding service to the Catholic Church and society.



Mary Ann Glendon

■ **By proposing to allow the use of federal funds for stem-cell research** on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and later discarded, the National Institutes of Health opens "a new chapter in divorcing biomedical research from its necessary ethical foundation," Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said April 21. Cardinal Rigali was commenting on draft guidelines for embryonic stem-cell research issued April 17 by acting NIH director Dr. Raymond Kohn. Although Kohn said he believed the draft guidelines reflect "broad support in the public and in the scientific community," he said

he expected much of the public comment on them to focus on ethical concerns. A period of public comment began with the April 23 publication of the draft guidelines in the Federal Register and is set to close May 26.

■ **The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith** has ordered a "doctrinal assessment" of the "activities and initiatives" of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Maryland-based association whose members represent about 95 percent of the 67,000 women religious in the United States. "At this time, LCWR knows neither the process nor timeline for completion of this assessment," said Sister Annmarie Sanders, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who is LCWR director of communications. "As more information is made available to LCWR, the conference will take the appropriate steps for its participation in the assessment." Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the congregation asked Bishop Leonard Blair of Toledo, a member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, "to undertake in the coming months a study regarding doctrinal problems that have presented themselves in the area of female religious life in the United States."



**AROUND THE WORLD**

■ **Many Irish parishes have reported an increase in Mass attendance in recent months**, with some parishes reporting increases of up to 30 percent. Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher, Northern Ireland, said it is not just the older people who are attending Mass in greater numbers. "There are a lot of people with young families who have been absent from the church who are now returning," Bishop Duffy said. After a period of unprecedented economic growth, Ireland's economy has been in dire straits in recent months. In a work force of 2 million, approximately 1,000

people lose their jobs every day. "People are experiencing deep crisis for the first time in their lives," Bishop Duffy said. "The pace of this economic collapse has been so swift, I think it is causing people to stop and search; this naturally finds a home in coming back to church."

■ **The Italian Archdiocese of Turin** has announced that the **Shroud of Turin**, which many believe is the burial cloth of Christ, will be on public display April 10-May 23, 2010. The exposition in Turin's cathedral will offer members of the public their first opportunity to see the shroud since it underwent major cleaning and restoration in 2002. The work involved removing 30 fabric patches and a fabric backing, known as the Holland Cloth, sewn onto the shroud in 1534 after a fire. At the time of the work, Cardinal Severino Poletto of Turin said trapped particles of dirt and scorched fabric had darkened parts of the Shroud of Turin and eventually could have made it difficult to see the shroud's image of a crucified man. The removal of the Holland Cloth also permitted experts to photograph and digitally scan the back of the shroud. The last public exposition of the Shroud of Turin was in 2000.



*By the Way...*

St. Philip Parish in Linesville will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a Mass on Saturday, May 16 at 4 p.m. Bishop Donald Trautman will be the celebrant.



Jason Koshinski

Originally, the first church was built in the 19th century as a mission of St. Peter. The congregation was raised to the status of a parish on May 23, 1959.

One of the joys of the spring and Easter seasons is the celebration of First Holy Communion. It is a wonderful day for children and their families, but it can be over all too soon. This year, St. Peter Cathedral in Erie will celebrate for the first time an encore celebration for first communicants in the Erie area on Sunday, May 17.

"We are borrowing a very successful and beloved custom from St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Cleveland and inviting all first communicants to come here for Mass together for the affirming experience of sharing each other's joy all over again," said Msgr. William Biebel, rector of the cathedral.

Children will arrive at 10:45 a.m. and march in procession into the cathedral for the 11 a.m. Mass. After lining the center aisle for a welcome, they will return to sit with their parents and come to Communion with them. Afterward, they will pose for a group photo and receive a special holy card remembrance from Bishop Trautman. No reservations are necessary. Children are encouraged to wear their First Communion attire to add to the festivity.

Save the date for this year's Mission of Friendship Sister Parish Day, which will be held Saturday, Aug. 1 at Our Lady of the Lake in Edinboro. The day will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be included.

The Mission of Friendship is a cooperative relationship between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico. Its sister parish program encourages an exchange between parishes in each diocese, enabling them to share spiritually and culturally. The Mission of Friendship also coordinates and provides volunteer staff for a number of projects that serve the poor.

"The program has a lot of potential for our global church," said Carl Serafin, one of the American coordinators of the Mission of Friendship. "Learning how to be a friend or have a relationship takes work and ideas. That's what we're hoping to do with the Sister Parish Day."

Congratulations to Coach Michael Nesbit, who recorded his 300th varsity basketball win at DuBois Central Catholic High School at the end of the 2009-10 season. Nesbit coached the girls' varsity basketball team from 1988-92, accumulating a record of 79-10. He resumed his coaching role in 1998 when he became the boys' varsity coach, and has a 221-74 record with the team. Nesbit's teams have advanced to the district playoffs 13 years in a row and have been to the state playoffs in eight of his 13 years.

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

*Pope creates five saints, says they hold lessons for modern Christians*

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI canonized five new saints and said their dedication to the Eucharist, the poor and the world of work made them models for today's Christians in an era of economic crisis.

By orienting their lives to Christ, the five men and women showed that "it is possible to lay the foundations for construction of a society open to justice and solidarity, overcoming that economic and cultural imbalance that continues to exist in a great part of our planet," the pope said.

The pope celebrated the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square April 26, joined by tens of thousands of pilgrims who held up photos or drawings of the saints. Four of the new saints were Italian and one was Portuguese.

In his homily, the pope said the saints' life stories hold valuable lessons for modern Christians. Each of the newly canonized had a special devotion to the Eucharist, and each transformed that spiritual power into social action, he said.

The five new saints are:  
■ **St. Arcangelo Tadini**, a parish priest from the northern Italian area of Brescia, who preached strongly in defense of workers' rights during the industrialization period of the late 1800s. He organized an association to help factory workers, established a spinning



(CNS photo/Renters)

Tapestries depicting five new saints hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica during a Mass of canonization led by Pope Benedict XVI April 26 at the Vatican. Depicted in the tapestries are St. Gertrude Comensoli, founder of the Institute of Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; St. Bernardo Tolomei, an Italian priest and founder of the Olivetan Benedictine congregation; St. Arcangelo

Tadini, priest and founder of the Worker Sisters of the Holy House of Nazareth; St. Nuno di Santa Maria Alvares Pereira, a lay member of the Portuguese Order of Friars of the Blessed Sacrament; and St. Caterina Volpicelli, the 19th-century Italian founder of the Institute of Handmaidens of the Sacred Heart.

mill to give young girls of the area gainful employment, and eventually founded a religious order of sisters who worked alongside women in the factories.

■ **St. Bernardo Tolomei**, who, inspired by his love for prayer and for manual labor, founded a unique Benedictine monastic movement in Italy in the 14th century. Born in Siena, he was forced by an onset of blindness to give up a public career, and he decided to found a small hermitic community. He later founded the monastery of Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto Maggiore, and died in 1348 of the plague while helping victims of the disease; his burial place, in a common pit, has

never been found.  
■ **St. Nuno de Santa Maria Alvares Pereira**, a Portuguese army hero in the late 1300s, who, after the death of his wife, abandoned his military career and gave up his wealth to enter a Carmelite monastery. In particular he helped the poor, distributing food to the needy. He was totally dedicated to Marian prayer, and fasted in Mary's honor three days of the week.

■ **St. Gertrude Comensoli**, born in the mid-19th century in the Brescia area, who established a religious institute dedicated to the adoration of the Eucharist. In approving the institute in 1880, Pope Leo XIII asked her to in-

clude as part of its mission the education of young female factory workers.

■ **St. Caterina Volpicelli**, who founded a community of sisters centered on Eucharistic adoration and service to the poor, especially young orphans, in the slums of Naples in the mid-1800s.

Banners depicting the newly canonized were hung on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica, and fluttered in the breeze during the two-hour liturgy. At the end of the Mass, the pope greeted pilgrims in several languages and said he hoped the new saints would inspire people to witness the Gospel courageously in their daily lives.

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## Catholic Services Appeal parish projects

The 2009 Catholic Services Appeal, "Of One Heart and Mind," supports the Erie Diocese in helping to provide health and social services, education, diocesan administration and pastoral services throughout the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

While a portion of the financial goal for the appeal benefits the ministries of the diocese, parishes also benefit from the appeal. Each parish is assessed a financial goal. Once a parish reaches its assessment, every dollar pledged over that amount stays within the parish for local projects. Here's a look at what some parishes are doing with their CSA coverage funds:

### Sharon Deanery

- Beloved Disciple, Grove City – Debt reduction on new pastoral center
- Good Shepherd, West Middlesex – New HVAC system for church, new rectory roof
- Holy Trinity, Farrell – No project listed
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer – Repairs and maintenance
- Notre Dame, Hermitage – Balance the budget, complete payments on new pews and carpeting
- Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann, Farrell – Carpeting for church
- Sacred Heart, Sharon – Painting and decorating of church sanctuary
- St. Adalbert, Farrell – No project listed
- St. Anthony, Sharon – No project listed
- St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville – Handicap accessibility fund
- St. Columbkille, Stoneboro – New church roof, new siding for rectory
- St. Joseph, Sharon – Heating and air-conditioning for church, rectory and office
- St. Michael, Greenville – Church sidewalk repair; update heating, paint outside doors and new linoleum for school; new truck and pave road for cemetery
- St. Stanislaus, Sharon – Boiler repair

## Clergy appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL, Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

Father James Gutting, appointed pastor of St. Mary and Immaculate Conception parishes, Erie, for a term of six years. Effective June 12, 2009.

Father William Laska, appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville, and its mission church of St. Dominic, Sigel, for a term of six years. Effective June 12, 2009.

Father Johnathan Schmolt, appointed parochial administrator of St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Erie. Effective May 1, 2009.

## Briefly

### Family Honor presents 'Real Love and Real Life' for students and parents May 17

ERIE – Family Honor of Northwestern Pennsylvania invites you to experience a sample of its program, "Real Love and Real Life," on Sunday, May 17 from 3-5 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. This fun and interactive program for 7th and 8th graders and their parents aims to strengthen communication within the family and help young people deal with negative peer pressure.

It also helps adolescents understand better the gift of sexuality, the virtue of chastity and gives parents tools to support their children in making holy and healthy relationship decisions. Highlights of the eight-hour program will be presented.

Anyone interested (parents, catechists, DREs, pastors, principals, youth ministers, etc.) is most welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP, contact Mary Lou McCall (FamilyHonorNWPA@aol.com, 814.528.2817) or Father Chris Singer (fathersinger@gmail.com).

### Mother-Daughter Tea in Kane May 17



The Mother-Daughter Tea at St. Patrick in Franklin March 22.

KANE – The Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education Office will sponsor its third and final Mother-Daughter Tea of the spring on Sunday, May 17 at St. Callistus Parish in Kane.

Moms, want a special day out with your daughter? A Mother-Daughter Tea, for 10- to 12-year-old girls and their mothers, is a chance to learn about God's plan for love and the gifts of sexuality, chastity and fertility.

"Our primary goal is to help the mothers establish a new and more open relationship with their budding teenage girls," said Barb Burkett, director of the Natural Family Planning Office. "The teas give moms the courage and the grace to begin important conversations." The teas aren't a comprehensive program but touch on important topics, Burkett said.

This spring, teas were also held at St. Patrick in Franklin and St. Gregory in North East.

Registration is required. Call Janet at 814.781.1905. Cost is just \$15/family. For more information, contact the Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education Office at 1.800.374.3723 Ext. 259.

### Camp Notre Dame open house May 31

FAIRVIEW – Camp Notre Dame celebrates 49 years of summer camping with an open house on Sunday May 31. Mass is at noon with open house from 1-4 p.m. Register your child for overnight or day camp and enter to win a free week of camping. Bring the whole family and enjoy a wagon ride, free refreshments and the chance to meet the summer staff of 2009. For more information, visit [www.CampNotreDame.com](http://www.CampNotreDame.com).

## Cathedral Prep hosts first-ever Erie Area Outreach Day

SERVICE, from page 1

them. And every group was out there doing something different."

A group of 10 students cleaned up public basketball courts in the city by sweeping, painting lines and hanging new nets.

Three groups came together to put on a fair at St. Andrew Parish for approximately 50 members of L'Arche, Erie Homes for Children and Adults and the developmentally disabled. Students and their guests sang karaoke, shot hoops, played bean bag toss and made their own pizzas for lunch.

"We don't get many chances to be with these guys and just hang out," said Prep student John Weibel. "It's fun just to interact."

"Especially people our age," added Chris Marchini, a senior. "We're not really in touch with people who are developmentally disabled. We kind of keep in our own little comfort zone. This is a chance for us to get to know them and develop some unity with people we're not used to being around."



Father DeMartinis said Susan Franz was his inspiration for the St. Andrew event. Franz, who took a few turns at the karaoke microphone for "Sweet Caroline" and "YMCA," has been coming to the Sunday evening youth Mass at Blessed Sacrament in Erie for years. Father DeMartinis is the usual celebrant of the Mass.

"I think she really likes the music," he said. "I've known her ever since I became a priest. She's an amazing person."

Dominic DiRaimo, who was part of a group that volunteered at Emmaus Soup Kitchen after the St. Andrew event, gave his

take on the outreach day.

"It's just a really great way to give back to the community and help anyone who needs any assistance," DiRaimo said.

Father DeMartinis said he hopes the outreach day becomes an annual event. And next year's event could

be even bigger. At the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, Prep will combine with Villa Maria Academy to form one school with two campuses. The number of enrolled students, faculty and staff would push the total volunteers to more than 1,000, Father DeMartinis said.



Susan Franz sings karaoke April 23 at St. Andrew with Cathedral Prep students. Other activities at the fair included basketball, bean bag toss and a make-your-own pizza station.

## Transitional deacons ordained

### Diocese now has seven transitional deacons

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

On recent back-to-back weekends, Bishop Donald Trautman ordained five transitional deacons for the Diocese of Erie.

Ross Miceli (St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois) and Matthew Strickenberger (St. Stephen, Oil City) were ordained April 25 in the chapel of St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore.

Christopher Barnes (St. Venantius, Rousseville), Michael Polinek (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie) and Mathias Quimmo (All Saints, Waterford) were ordained May 2 in the chapel at St. Mark Seminary in Erie.

"This is a unique and historical moment for the Diocese of Erie," Bishop Trautman said in his remarks following Communion May 2. "At this moment, our diocese has a total of seven transitional deacons. That has not happened in over twenty years."

The gathered crowd at St. Mark responded to the news with a round of applause.

"Two will be ordained priests



Bishop Donald Trautman poses with the diocese's seven transitional deacons following the May 2 ordination ceremony and Mass at St. Mark Seminary. From left to right are: (front row) Mathias

Quimmo, Christopher Barnes, Bishop Trautman, Ross Miceli, (back row) John Miller, Dan Hoffman, Michael Polinek and Matthew Strickenberger.

in June," Bishop Trautman said. "But at this moment, the Lord has blessed us with seven transitional deacons. We give thanks and praise to God for all of them. They are gifted and graced individuals who bring new talents and charms to God's people."

Transitional deacons Dan Hoffman and John Miller will be ordained to the priesthood June 12. The other transitional deacons are scheduled to be ordained priests in 2010.

The new deacons also received their diaconate assignments from

the bishop. Barnes is assigned to St. James, Erie; Polinek to St. Joseph, Oil City; Quimmo to Beloved Disciple, Grove City, until June 13 when he is assigned to St. Agatha, Meadville; Strickenberger to St. Brigid, Meadville; Miceli to St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield.

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### Sister Maura Smith honored with Mercyhurst Sustainability Award

ERIE – Sister Maura Smith, RSM, a longtime educator and advocate of sustainability, peace and justice both at Mercyhurst College and in the larger Erie community, is this year's recipient of the Mercyhurst College Sustainability Award.

The award was presented to Sister Maura on April 20, as part of festivities surrounding the Sister Maura Smith Earth Day lecture featuring Dr. Robert Bullard.

Immediately preceding the lecture, Sister Maura was presented the college's sustainability award by Green Team chair Dr. Chris Magoc, himself a former recipient. Magoc and Sister Maura co-founded Mercyhurst's Green Team in 2000, launching a green consciousness at the college that in less than 10 years has manifested in myriad successful initiatives, from the construction of geothermal buildings to the installation of solar panels to the purchase of wind energy.

"For ten years now, Sister Maura has been the heart and soul of our environmental sustainability efforts at the college," Magoc said. "But for decades before most of us arrived here, Sister Maura had been educating students and leaders of the college and high school to place the environment at the center of our mission, to think critically and



Sister Maura Smith, RSM, receives Mercyhurst College's Sustainability Award from Mercyhurst President Dr. Thomas Gamble.

work for positive change in the world. She was doing ecology before most of us had ever heard of the word. Her love of God's creation, her knowledge of environmental sciences and her energetic and dogged perseverance on countless environmental projects have together produced a profound legacy that continues to shape our work."

This summer, Magoc said, the Sister Maura Smith Peace Garden will be established near Zurn Hall, her academic home at the college.

Sister Maura is a member of the Mercyhurst College Board

of Trustees. A former professor who was the driver behind Mercyhurst's environmental studies program, she was named the college's Distinguished Alumna of the Year in 1996, and in 2006, received the college's Archbishop Oscar Romero Award.

She is a former president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Erie, former principal at Mercyhurst Prep and taught in Catholic high schools and elementary schools of the Erie and Pittsburgh dioceses. In 2007, the newly renovated science classrooms at Mercyhurst Prep were dedicated in her honor.

### Priest prepping for duty in Iraq

Father Richard Allen (at right), a native of Sharon who is serving in special ministry for the Erie Diocese, is heading to Iraq to serve as a chaplain and a member of the U.S. military.

Currently serving as chaplain for the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Okla., Father Allen will soon be deployed to Kuwait then Iraq to serve as chaplain and a member of the 2/104th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), a helicopter unit. In Dec. 2006, he joined the National Guard.

Father Allen most recently served as pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Meadville before being assigned to special ministry.

As a chaplain, he will serve as a counselor and lead religious services.



He is pictured with SPC Pedro Feliciano, his chaplain assistant in the 2/104th GSAB Unit Ministry Team.

### First reconciliation and first holy Communion

It's that time of year when children throughout the Erie Diocese make their first reconciliation and first holy Communion. Last year, more than 1,700 children throughout the diocese received the Eucharist for the first time.

Colleen Bacher's reconciliation class from St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport made their first confession April 26. Each student made a paper sheep head surrounded by the words from "Amazing Grace," "I was lost but now I am found" which they laid upon the altar after their confession. Pictured from left to right are Emily McGarvey, Tyler Gobert, Crystal Jasper, Shane McMurray and Molly Muhollen.

Seven students at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport received their first Holy Communion at Mass April 26. A reception for the students and their families followed Mass in the parish hall. Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Abbey Woodard, Amelia Holohan, Kiara Orner, Mary Ruth Confair, (back row) Father Vincent Cieslewicz, pastor, Elijah Porter, Dominic Aliferi and Allen Yeager.



### Leadership training for new evangelization at Clarion

CLARION – Approximately 30 Clarion University students, professors and members of the university community gathered April 21 to hear six speakers from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). The members of FOCUS volunteer as evangelists for two years after graduation to help other university campuses build their campus ministry programs. Two of the six student FOCUS speakers currently attend the University of Pittsburgh.

They spoke of their personal experience of juggling the temptations surrounding them at college and staying grounded in their faith. These students were so moved by the FOCUS volunteers speaking at their campus that they decided to become part of this dynamic ministry and to devote two years of service to FOCUS upon graduation in May.

The purpose of the workshop and retreat was to prepare Catholic Christian students for respectful sharing of faith and support with their fellow students on campus, said Msgr. Jan Olowin, director of Campus Ministry at Clarion. In the future, Clarion



Msgr. Jan Olowin, director of Campus Ministry at Clarion University, is surrounded by speakers from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Campus Ministry is planning further collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh's Campus Ministry, where FOCUS is now headquartered.

The goal of Campus Ministry, located on Greenville Avenue in Clarion, is to provide availability and support of others. It is open

to all students. Mass is celebrated at noon on the Sundays when the university is in session.

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