

Catholic Charities Ball

More than \$53,000 raised for families in need, page 2.



FaithLife

Remembering first Communion

Cathedral hosts first Communion encore celebration, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

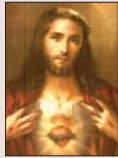
BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 7, 2009

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Sacred Heart of Jesus



Immaculate Heart of Mary

- June 7 Most Holy Trinity
- June 9 St. Ephrem
- June 11 St. Barnabas
- June 13 St. Anthony of Padua
- June 14 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- June 19 Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 20 Immaculate Heart of Mary

Confirmations

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield – Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell – Sunday, June 14 at 7 p.m.
Confirmation classes include Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann, Farrell; St. Anthony, Sharon; St. Adalbert, Farrell; Holy Trinity, Farrell; St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sharon.



Ordination to the priesthood – June 12

Two men will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Donald Trautman during a 7 p.m. Mass on Friday, June 12 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. They include:

- Deacon Daniel Hoffman (Our Lady of Peace, Erie)
- Deacon John Miller (St. Michael, Greenville)

Spring meeting of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – June 17-19

The U.S. bishops will convene for their annual spring meeting June 17-19 in San Antonio, Texas.



Clergy appointments

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

Msgr. Casimir Bogniak, appointed temporary parochial administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie. Effective June 8, 2009.

Msgr. Richard Mayer, appointed temporary parochial administrator of Holy Rosary Parish, Erie. Effective June 12, 2009.

Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, appointed to the office of dean of the DuBois Deanery through June 2010. Effective May 27, 2009.

Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, appointed to the office of dean of the Erie East Deanery through June 2010. Effective May 27, 2009.



Bishop Trautman is transferring the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul from Monday, June 29 to Sunday, June 28 (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time) so that the conclusion of the Pauline Year may be celebrated at Sunday liturgies throughout the diocese. For parish resources, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

'Love one another as I love you'

Four join ranks of permanent deacons

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Four men were ordained permanent deacons for the Erie Diocese by Bishop Donald Trautman during a Mass and ceremony on May 29 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The cathedral was filled with the newly ordained deacons' families, friends, parishioners, fellow deacons and priests.

The new deacons include: Joseph Cicero (St. John the Evangelist, Girard), Ronald Fronzaglia (St. Francis Xavier, McKean), James Kaschalk (St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park) and Kevin Kunik (Blessed Sacrament, Erie).

The deacons will begin

their respective parishes immediately as they await their ministry assignments from the bishop.

"We thank your wives and children who have accompanied you on your journey of faith and formation," Bishop Trautman said to the deacon candidates during his homily. "We thank them for their prayers, understanding and support. You have given Christian witness in marriage and parenthood, and now you will give new witness as an ordained servant—a deacon of the church."

In the evening's Gospel, Jesus commands his disciples to "love one another as I love you." (John 15:12)

"It was not you who chose



Bishop Donald Trautman welcomes newly ordained deacons (from left to right) Ron Fronzaglia, Joe Cicero, Kevin Kunik and Jim Kaschalk.

me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." (John 15:16)

"None of us merits ordination," Bishop Trautman said. "None of us ever completely qualifies. None of us deserves being a co-worker of Christ. It was Christ who took the initiative and called us into the

intimacy of his ordained discipleship."

"This diaconate ordination is a celebration of God's mysterious love. Tonight, Christ chooses you to be his ordained partner in the work of the Gospel."

In the Catholic Church, deacons proclaim the Gospel message, preach in and out of church, minister at the Eucharist, witness marriages,

perform baptisms, preside at wakes and funerals, conduct prayer services and bring the Eucharist to the dying.

"Tonight, Christ sends you on a mission of service and charity to his people," Bishop Trautman said.

After the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, the newly ordained were invested with a stole and dalmatic.

Tomorrow's priest: Deacon John Miller

Editor's note: This is the second of two profiles on the candidates who will be ordained priests for the Erie Diocese on June 12.

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

Deacon John Miller remembers first thinking about the priesthood when he was in fifth grade at St. Michael School in Greenville. At that time Father Stan Swacha, then a priest at St. Michael Parish and now pastor of St. Stanislaus in Sharon, was training Miller to be an altar server.

In eighth grade he found himself immersed in his religion class, which was taught by Msgr. Desmond McGee and Father Jeffery Noble.

"We studied the Gospels and had a quiz each day on a chapter of a Gospel," Miller said. "I found studying Jesus' life and works really fascinating."

Miller has taken his final quiz and is ready to live out the Gospel in the way he has been called.

Miller, along with Deacon Daniel Hoffman, will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Donald Trautman on Friday, June 12 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie during a 7 p.m. Mass and ceremony.

In high school and most of college, Miller said the thought of priesthood was rare. But during his senior year at Grove City College, he said he began asking God about what he is being called to do and started praying the rosary.

That's when the thought of becoming a priest returned. While studying at Mercyhurst College, Miller said he thought it might be a good idea to see if there was an office job available at Our Lady of Peace

Deacon John Miller

Age: 36
Hometown: Born in Pittsburgh, grew up in Greenville
Home parish: St. Michael, Greenville

Family: Parents, Dr. John and Barbara Miller; sister and brother-in-law, Jill and Matt Ross; nieces and nephews, Katie, Anna, Brian and John Michael; grandmother, Valjean Armor.

Schools attended:

- ▶ St. Michael School, Greenville
- ▶ Greenville High School, Greenville
- ▶ Grove City College, Grove City
- ▶ Mercyhurst College, Erie
- ▶ Penn State University, State College
- ▶ St. Mark Seminary formation program, Erie
- ▶ Gannon University, Erie
- ▶ St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore
- ▶ Torre di Babele Italian Language School, Rome
- ▶ Seminario Filosofico Francescano, Bethlehem
- ▶ Saints Peter and Paul Seminary, Jerusalem

Deacon assignments:

- ▶ Karmody Catholic High School, Hermitage
- ▶ Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage

Parish in Erie, where he attended church. To his surprise, the day he called was the same day an office worker decided to quit, so Msgr. Ernest Daley decided to hire him.

"Working there gave me a glimpse into



Deacon John Miller

what priests do," Miller said. All the priests at Our Lady of Peace were very helpful, he added, especially Father Denny Veltri, who would take time out of his busy schedule as parochial vicar to talk with him about the priesthood.

It was there that Miller also became friends with one of his co-workers in the office and now classmate Dan Hoffman. Miller contacted the Erie

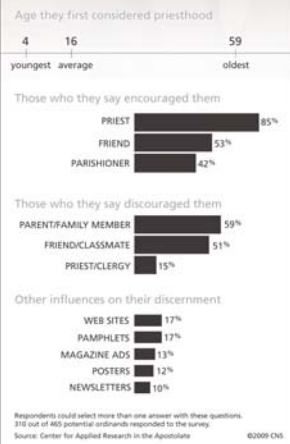
Diocese's Vocations Office but decided to go to graduate school where he continued discerning his call. After finishing his grad studies, he applied to seminary and moved back to Erie to begin his studies.

While in seminary, Miller said he was not only discerning a call to the priesthood but

See MILLER, page 2

Soon to be Priests

U.S. men preparing to become priests this year were asked about when and how they received their calling.



Pa. bishops launch Institute for Public Policy with Web site

Site uses tools to educate, evangelize and advocate Catholic issues

Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

HARRISBURG — Describing new digital technologies as "truly a gift to humanity," Pope Benedict XVI implores the faithful to "endeavor to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable." In the spirit of this message for the 43rd World Day of Communications, celebrated May 21, the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania launched www.pacatholic.org, the new, high-tech Web site of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Institute for Public Policy.



The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) is the public affairs arm of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. The institute is an initiative to bolster one of PCC's longstanding missions of fostering a public understanding of the church's teaching and concern about issues within the public policy arena. The bishops expect it to facilitate opportunities for people to learn more about the Catholic perspective on public affairs and bring together experts to shed the light of Catholic social teaching onto the public debate. Along with the Web site, seminars,

publications and other occasions for learning are planned in order to help people pass the knowledge on to others. The Web site is a repository of the articles, newsletters and news alerts regularly published by the PCC. It also includes articles from the newspapers and magazines of all 10 Pennsylvania dioceses. Visitors are able to read statements from the bishops, download resources for church bulletins, and with a few clicks of the mouse, send a message to their state legislator.

See PCC, page 2



IN THE U.S.

■ **President Barack Obama has nominated prominent Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz to become ambassador to the Vatican.** In a statement issued May 27, the White House announced Diaz's nomination, along with nominees for ambassadors to the United Kingdom, France, Japan, India and several other countries. Diaz, 45, is a professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. He is a board member of the Catholic Theological Society of America and former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States. His wife, Marian, is an adjunct instructor at St. Benedict and St. John's. Diaz served as a member of Obama's Catholic advisory team during the campaign and was a regular campaign spokesman on Obama's behalf, particularly in the Spanish-language press.



Miguel Diaz

■ **Americans overall and American Catholics in particular hold Pope Benedict XVI in high regard,** according to a Marist College poll conducted in partnership with the Knights of Columbus. Sixty percent of Americans reported they have either a favorable or very favorable impression of the pontiff while 76 percent of Catholics hold the same view, the telephone poll of 2,078 people found. At the same time, 20 percent of Americans and 11 percent of Catholics told interviewers they have an unfavorable or very unfavorable view of Pope Benedict. The results of the poll were released May 19. It was conducted March 24-31 by the Marist College Institute of Public Opinion, which is in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Results for Americans overall have a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For Catholics, the margin of error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. By a margin of more than 4 to 1 — 73 percent to 17 percent — Catholics said the pope was good for the Catholic Church.

Another 10 percent were unsure. A majority of Americans — 57 percent to 21 percent — held the same opinion while 22 percent were unsure.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ **The Vatican has launched iPhone and Facebook applications in an effort to help Catholics,** especially younger generations, use new technologies to create a culture of dialogue, respect and friendship. The new applications are part of a brand new Vatican Web site — www.pope2you.net — that went live on World Communications Day, May 24. Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the new site was created to help attract young people to and spread Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Communications Day. This year's communications day message is dedicated to "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship." The pope asked all those "who access cyberspace to be careful to maintain and promote a culture of respect, dialogue and authentic friendship where the values of truth, harmony and understanding can flourish." He also called on young people to "bear witness to your faith through the digital world."



■ **Irish Catholic Church and government officials welcomed a report by an independent commission on child abuse** and expressed sorrow about the incidents it documented. The 2,600-page report of the Commission to Inquire Into Child Abuse, published May 20, "throws light on a dark period of the past," said Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, president of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. "The publication of this comprehen-

sive report and analysis is a welcome and important step in establishing the truth, giving justice to victims and ensuring such abuse does not happen again," the cardinal said. The report said abuse — physical and sexual — was endemic in government institutions for boys run by religious between 1940 and the late 1970s. Although girls were subjected to predatory sexual abuse by male employees or visitors, sexual abuse was not systemic in girls' institutions, the report said.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ **Oblate Father Larry Rosebaugh, a U.S. priest with a long history of taking risks to aid the poor and marginalized,** was killed in a highway robbery in Guatemala May 18. A Congolese Oblate priest in the vehicle with him was wounded by the bullet that killed Father Rosebaugh, but was expected to recover. Father Rosebaugh, who turned 74 two days before his death, was remembered by friends for his sunny, cheerful disposition and his life of extreme simplicity. One fellow U.S. Oblate, Father Seamus Finn, said it was ironic that his friend who once bicycled from Brazil to the United States, preferred to walk or take buses, and rarely set foot in a car had been killed in one. In a homily at Father Rosebaugh's May 20 funeral at St. Cecilia Parish in a suburb of Guatemala City, Father Vincent Louwage, Oblate provincial superior based in Mexico City, described Father Rosebaugh as "a mix between St. John the Baptist and St. Francis of Assisi ... from his smile, his eyes, to his unforgettable flowing white beard."



Father Larry Rosebaugh

The National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC) is bringing its national conference to the Erie Diocese this summer. Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek will host an expected 200 people from around the U.S. July 23-25. With a theme of "New Wine in New Wineskins," the conference will focus on small church communities, whole community catechesis and bringing new vision to the church.



Jason Koshinski

William Huebsch, a nationally known speaker, author and advocate for life-long faith formation, will be the keynote speaker. His work was highlighted in the May/June 2009 cover story of *FaithLife* magazine.

For more information on the conference or to register, visit <http://naprcfaithweb.com>. Look for a story on the conference and an interview with Huebsch in the June 21 issue of *FaithLife*.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield will host the 25th annual Rosary and Altar Society fellowship dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10 at the Knights of Columbus building in Clearfield.

Each year, members of the Rosary and Altar Societies from 13 parishes in the Clearfield Deaconry—including Curwensville, Clearfield and Houtzdale—gather for fellowship and friendship. Sherrie Surkovich, president of the St. Francis Rosary and Altar Society, expects 200 members to attend this year's event.

On Father's Day, June 21, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer will celebrate Msgr. Charles Murcko's 85th birthday at a breakfast for Monsignor and all the fathers of the parish following the 8 a.m. Mass. During his ministry, Msgr. Murcko has served as pastor at Sacred Heart in Houtzdale, St. Boniface in Erie, St. Ann in Farrell and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Mercer.

While President Barack Obama's commencement speech and reception of an honorary degree from Notre Dame garnered major coverage from both the secular and Catholic media this spring, not much was made of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's appearance at Fordham University. Bloomberg, who has been vocal in his support for legalized abortion, received an honorary degree from the Jesuit-run university during the May 16 commencement ceremony at the school.

A spokesman for New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan said the archdiocese was not told in advance that the university was presenting Bloomberg with an honorary degree.

Bloomberg's appearance at Fordham came a day before President Obama addressed graduates and received an honorary degree at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, an event sharply criticized by U.S. bishops and others because Obama supports legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.

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

Catholic Charities Ball nets \$53,000-plus for families in need

More than \$53,000 in proceeds from 14th Annual Catholic Charities Ball will assist families in need throughout the diocese. The ball, Catholic Charities' largest fundraiser of the year, was held April 17 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.



Direct grants will assist a number of social service agencies including the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, St. Martin Center's Super Cupboard program in Erie, St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City and the Good Samaritan Center in Clearfield. Proceeds will also help fund collaboration among Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services, the Department of State and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in a resettlement program for more than 30 refugee families who arrived in Erie County from Somalia, Iraq, Bosnia and Africa.

Debbie DeAngelo of Hamot Health Connection and Sean Lafferty of WJET TV show off their moves during the "Get in Step with Erie's Stars" dance competition at the 14th annual Catholic Charities Ball.

Attorney Norman and Marie Stark were honored as recipients of the Helping Hands Award at the Catholic Charities Ball for their commitment to service at St. Andrew Parish and in the Erie community.



First-place winners of the Catholic Charities Ball dance contest included celebrity dancer Dr. Joseph Barber, paired with Carol Huey, winning in the Fox trot; and celebrity dancer Katie Allison, paired with John Fitzgerald, winning in the Swing competition.



Celebrating the Catholic Charities Helping Hands Award for service to church and community are Bishop Donald Trautman, award recipients Atty. Norman and Marie Stark and Catholic Charities Executive Director Mary Maxwell.

Tomorrow's priest

MILLER, from page 1

also to religious life. After two-and-a-half years with the diocese, Miller said Bishop Trautman gave him permission to apply to the Holy Land missions as a Franciscan.

"I spent six wonderful and sometimes challenging years as a Franciscan Friar in the lands where Jesus walked the earth but ultimately discerned that I feel called to be a diocesan priest back home," Miller said.

He returned to the diocese last summer and began teaching theology in the fall at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage to 120 students daily. He also has residence at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, where he has worked with Father Jeffrey Noble

and Msgr. Edward Zeidler in the parish and at the grade school.

Miller has received university degrees in molecular biology and physiology along with teaching certification in biology. He previously taught biology for a semester at Cathedral Prep in Erie. One of his students at the time was Father Bill Barron, who was ordained to the priesthood in 2007.

In addition to God's grace, Miller said he feels his time in the diocese and the Holy Land has prepared him well for the challenges ahead.

"God has really blessed me with a great family and friends, and I hope that as a priest I can bring the Gospel message and the Eucharist to the faithful," he said.

Pa. bishops launch Web site

PCC, from page 1

lators or congressmen.

Dr. Robert O'Hara, executive director of the PCC, said lay Catholics, clergy and religious can use the Web site to find answers to questions about the Catholic perspective behind today's headlines.

"This new tool for electronic

evangelization has the potential to increase the reach and efficiency of our advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged and vulnerable, and change the hearts and minds of many," Dr. O'Hara said.

The Web site is accessible at www.pacatholic.org.

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



Cathedral hosts first Communion encore celebration



ERIE – On May 17, St. Peter Cathedral hosted its first-ever encore celebration for area students who made their first Holy Communion this spring.

Wearing their first Communion attire, the children processed down the center aisle for the 11 a.m. Mass. After the opening prayer and a welcome from Msgr. William Biebel, the students re-

turned to sit with their parents. After Mass, each child received a holy card from Bishop Donald Trautman, Msgr. Biebel and the cathedral family as a remembrance of the occasion.

Msgr. Biebel said the cathedral borrowed the idea of an encore celebration from St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Cleveland where the annual

event has become a successful custom.

"First Communion is a wonderful day for children and their families, but it can be over too soon," Msgr. Biebel said. "They can celebrate the joy all over again."

He said he hopes the celebration will continue to grow at the cathedral.

Churches honor Mary with May Crownings

The Catholic Church has traditionally set aside the month of May to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. One of the most celebrated Marian devotions throughout the diocese is the traditional May crowning.

The religious education students at St. Luke Parish in Youngsville, along with their pastor, Father John Neff, are pictured following the parish's May Crowning. The tradition was re-instituted three years ago, Father Neff said, and has resulted in a renewed appreciation on the role of Mary in the life of the church.

St. John the Evangelist in Girard held its May crowning on May 1. Prior to the beginning of the Sunday Mass, the parish's first Communion class honored Mary during the crowning. The class led a procession to the church's Blessed Mother statue, where Nicole Buckman and Tristan Howells placed a crown of flowers on her head.

Students involved in the crowning also included: Heather Bowers, Victoria DeMarino, Kelsey Dippel, Josie Hughes, Makayla King, Hannah Klemm, Gracie Larimer, Joseph Marino, Jakob Wassong, Taylor Zampogna, Maranda Zimmer and Ashley Zinz.

Religious education teacher Karen Cobucci, assisted by Jen Larimer and Kim Wassong, ex-



plained to the students the symbolism behind each item brought up to the Mary altar.

- A Bible placed beneath the statue was a reminder of Mary's "yes" to God and that "the Word became flesh."
- A candle reminder that through her prayers, Mary brings

us to Jesus, who is "the light of the world."

- A crucifix to show that as he was suffering and dying on the cross, Jesus gave us his mother to be our mother.
- The crown of flowers representing springtime, new life and Mary as queen of heaven.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel handwriting winners

ERIE – Seventh grader Erika Woll and fifth grader Adam Beaufort at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Erie were recently named the 2009 state handwriting winners in the National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. The students also competed against state winners nationwide for the national winner selected for each grade level.

The contest encourages legible handwriting by testing the handwriting abilities of students in grades 1 through 8 in schools using Zaner-Bloser handwriting materials.



Bishop visits Mercyhurst Prep, celebrates Mass

ERIE – Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated Ascension Thursday Mass on May 21 at Mercyhurst Prep High School in Erie. Afterward he met with Father Mike Allison's freshman theology class in the school chapel. Pictured from left to right are Katie Bova, Maggie Cross, Lauren Bertges, Linden Lester and Lynn Hammerman. In the background are Anissa White and Jillian Say.



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