



Prayer, service, focus of Year of the Eucharist

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

In one of his last gifts to the church, Pope John Paul II established Oct. 2004-Oct. 2005 as the Year of the Eucharist. In doing so, the late Holy Father called on the faithful to make Christ's presence visible through the way they live.

And so the church has undertaken a worldwide effort this year to educate Catholics about the nature of the Eucharist and to promote devotions such as visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, perpetual adoration, even public Eucharistic processions and rallies.

Stemming from Christ's bodily presence is also the intimate connection between the Eucharist and justice, between Christ present in the bread and wine and what we do or don't do in the world around us.

The Eucharist is supposed to have a transforming effect on people, says Msgr. John Lucas, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren.

During the parish's weekly holy hour Thursday evenings, Msgr. Lucas says there is a lot of emphasis on quiet prayer. During the hour there is a reflection on Eucharist and a period of silence which is followed by the rosary and petitions.

"A lot of people are making it part of their Year of the Eucharist," Msgr. Lucas says. "They're finding out just what it means to sit and pray and listen to the Lord."

He says he has found that people who make the weekly hour are asking more and more what they can do for the parish, the poor and the needy.

"When we ask for volunteers, those are the people that usually come forward first," Msgr. Lucas says. "We emphasize the Mass and the needs that flow from it."

What Sr. Mary Miller, OSB, sees at Emmaus Soup Kitchen in downtown Erie is a Eucharistic response to Mass and prayer. "We're sitting at a Eucharistic table right now," says Sr. Mary, sitting at one of the tables where 200 guests eat daily. "The Eucharistic liturgy is not a Jesus and me celebration," she says. "It's the mystical body of Christ, it's the community. And the community has been charged to care for one another."

As the director of Emmaus, Sr. Mary says the name was carefully chosen after the second sharing of bread that Jesus had.

"I believe what happened at Emmaus the first time happens here every night," she says. "I think in the sharing of a meal, a very simple meal with strangers



A group from Our Lady of Peace Parish youth ministry serves dinner to guests at Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

often, that somehow Christ is present here."

Sr. Mary recalls one of her favorite stories about Emmaus involving a young volunteer.

"It was her first night and I was helping her cleaning up the tables," she says. "I thought everybody had gone and jokingly I said to her, 'Well, what do you think of this joint?' One of our guests was sitting in the corner and I didn't see him. Before she could respond he said, 'Hey, Sis, this ain't no joint, this is a church.'

"His name is Joe, and I turned to him and said, 'Joe,

why do you say that?' And he says, 'Because this is where I find God.' I don't think you get any greater compliments than that."

One thing that Sr. Mary believes is important to the Eucharist is that all are welcome to the table.

"When I talk to school children, I don't say this just for their sake, I really do believe it," Sr. Mary says, "that if Jesus Christ would come to Erie today, I think the first place he would come would be here."

The Eucharist is also about hospitality, says Fr. John Santor,

coordinator of the Catholic Refugee Ministry of the Erie Diocese. And his ministry is all about welcoming. There is a necessary tie in between service and worship, he says.

"Jesus made that clear," Fr. Santor says. "At the Last Supper, he washed the feet of his disciples. Jesus says very strongly, 'Long have I wanted to share this Eucharist with you.' The Eucharist is about sharing as much of our life as possible."

The most important part of his ministry, he says, is connecting people with systems of education, health care, religion and employment.

"I have found help in donating items but find it difficult to donate time," Fr. Santor says. "You can teach someone how to shop or take a bus and that would be a wonderful service. Just learning American idioms can be difficult for someone arriving in this country."

Eucharistic work is also taking care of the poorest of the poor, Fr. Santor says, who quotes St. James as saying true religion is taking care of the orphaned and widowed.

"I also side with St. John Chrysostom, who scolded those building churches out of gold," he says, "yet they pass by Christ begging on the street. And it continues today."

Diocese of Rome opens canonization process for Pope John Paul II

ROME (CNS) — The process to beatify and canonize Pope John Paul II opened June 28 with an evening prayer service attended by cardinals, bishops, lay people and representatives of the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, presided over the ceremonial opening of the Rome Diocese's investigation into "the life, virtues and fame of holiness of the servant of God, Pope John Paul II."

He began by thanking Pope Benedict XVI for accepting "the choral and ardent pleas raised by the people of God" to waive the normal five-year waiting period before Pope John Paul's cause could begin.

While the June 28 ceremony was the official beginning of the process, it was clear much work already had been done.

Cardinal Ruini had appointed a Polish priest working in the Rome tribunal, Msgr. Slawomir Oder, to be the postulator of the cause.

The postulator promotes the cause by identifying witnesses to testify about the candidate's life

and holiness, collecting the candidate's writings, compiling his biography, gathering evidence that he has a widespread reputation for holiness and looking into claims by the faithful that they were healed through his intercession.

During the opening ceremony at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome's cathedral, Msgr. Oder presented Cardinal Ruini with a list of some 100 people who will be called to testify about their knowledge of Pope John Paul.

While "reserving the right to present other witnesses," Msgr. Oder formally vowed not to "say or do anything directly or indirectly that would offend justice or limit the freedom of the witnesses; I swear, finally, to maintain the secrets to which those having a part in this cause are held."

One of those secrets is the identity of the people on the list, although Msgr. Oder told Catholic News Service earlier that not all the witnesses are Catholics.

Cardinal Ruini, the judges and the notaries involved with the cause took oaths promising to

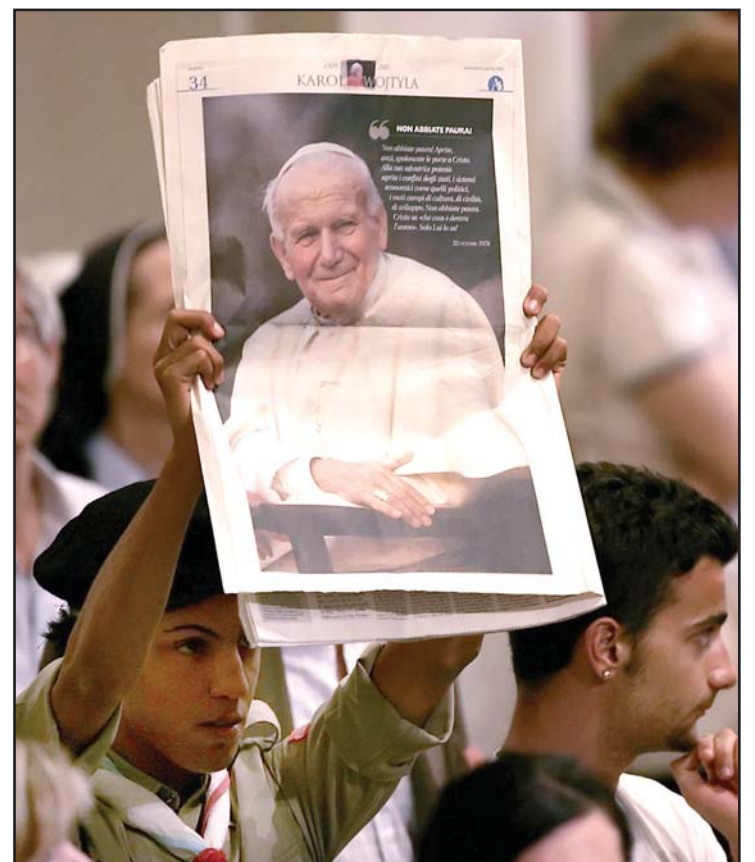
carry out their assigned tasks in investigating "the life and virtues" of Pope John Paul, as well as any miracles attributed to his intercession.

They also were asked to swear they would not accept "any type of gift" meant to influence their work.

Cardinal Ruini read a long biography of Pope John Paul, which, he acknowledged, "could appear superfluous given how great and universal knowledge of him is and given how deep and unanimous is the conviction of his holiness."

The cardinal said that as archbishop of Krakow under the communist regime, the pope "knew how to unite his intellectual strength and artistic genius with a passionate love for Christ, for the church and for men and women."

His 1978-2005 pontificate, the cardinal said, was marked by a deep love and concern for "humanity wherever it was threatened," by untiring efforts to promote peace and help the poor, and by an unwavering call to defend every human life and the traditional family.



CNS photo from Reuters

A pilgrim holds a picture of Pope John Paul II during a ceremony opening his cause for beatification and canonization in Rome June 28. During the ceremony, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, thanked Pope Benedict XVI for waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the process.



Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

Fr. Michael DeMartinis, appointed half time Parochial

Vicar of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie, and half time member of the faculty of Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, with continued residence at Blessed Sacrament Parish, for a term of three years. Effective August 1, 2005.

Deacon Philip Skerda, assigned at the Catholic Chaplain at the State Correctional Institution, Forest County, for a term of three years. Effective June 1, 2005

Msgr. John Swoger, reappointed as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, for a term of six years ending June 30, 2011 while continuing as Episcopal Vicar of the Western Vicariate of the Diocese of Erie.

Bishop meets with Bible school class

Bishop Trautman met with 50 students from Cathedral Center vacation Bible school who were visiting St. Mark Catholic Center on June 28. Students age 4 through 4th grade in the week-long program, themed "One Holy, Catholic Apostolic Church," took a tour of the Carmelite Monastery, Mercyhurst Chapel and St. Luke Church before visiting St. Mark's and meeting with the bishop for a question & answer session. Bishop Trautman answered questions ranging from how he became a bishop and why he wears a ring to what time he goes to bed.



Good Samaritan Center receives grant



Deacon Tony Indelicato, director of the Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield presents Bishop Donald Trautman with the deed to the center's furniture store.

Thanks to a grant from the Diocesan Capital Campaign, the mortgage on the building in downtown Clearfield that houses

the Good Samaritan Center's furniture store has now been paid. A Catholic Charities grant combined with a financial CD

owned by the center recently paid off the mortgage.

The store, located two-and-a-half blocks from the center on Market Street in downtown Clearfield, provides furniture for persons or families who may not be able to pay and work experience for the men who come to the center.

Now that the mortgage is paid off, the center is looking to generate some income through the sale of donated furniture at the store.

"A practically new couch goes for \$50, and that's the highest price we have on anything," says Deacon Tony Indelicato, director of the Good Samaritan Center.

Additional income is also generated through the rental of additional space in the building. The building currently houses an American Cancer Society office.

"The money is going into the building, improving and upgrading it," Deacon Tony says. "And eventually this will come out as support for the shelter."

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By the Way...



Jason Koshinski

The Erie Diocese was well represented in the 2nd annual **Faster Pastor Race** at Lake Erie Speedway July 1. Four of the 10 drivers represented churches in the diocese: **Fr. Tom Brown**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Corry; **Deacon Tony Alleruzzo**, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie; **Deacon Tim Good**, St. Boniface Parish, Erie; and **Patti Prindle**, secretary at St. Gregory Parish, North East.

All the cars finished the race this year, unlike 2004 when three clergymen wrecked their cars.

"They didn't tear up the cars like they did last year," says **Matt Fletcher**, marketing director for the speedway. "We had them in 4-cylinder cars so they didn't move quite as fast."

Besides giving the drivers and fans a thrill, the event is also a fundraiser for the churches represented. This year, the participants received half the proceeds from ticket sales. The 10 churches will split \$2,500.

"We hope to make it an annual event," Fletcher says. "Next year we'd like to double the number of churches."

The **2005 Pennsylvania Pro-life Convention** will take place Oct. 1-2 in historic Valley Forge. The keynote speaker will be actress **Jennifer O'Neill**, who will talk about her healing from abortion. Other speakers include **Bobby Schindler**, brother of Terri Schiavo, and **Alveda King**, niece of Martin Luther King Jr. The convention will also include a special teen conference aimed at mobilizing young people to help ring in a culture of life. Visit www.paprolife.org for more information or to register for the convention.

We send our best wishes to **Kevin Eagan**, advertising manager for *FaithLife* and *Faith* magazine, who is leaving to take a position with Trader Publishing Company in Charlotte, N.C. Kevin has led the advertising sales for our diocesan publications for 13 years. We wish him and his family well in the Carolinas.

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

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Briefly

Christians must proclaim faith, doctrine: pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Christian witness in the world will be strong only if Christians believe and proclaim the same truths, Pope Benedict XVI said. "At the beginning of this third millennium, it is necessary for the entire Christian community to proclaim, teach and witness completely to the truths of Catholic faith, doctrine and morals unanimously and with one mind," the pope said July 3.

Pope Benedict spoke about unity in faith during his Sunday Angelus address, urging Catholics to study and teach the faith as it is presented in the new "Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Catholic lawyers' group honors late Gov. Casey for pro-life stand

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — This year the St. Thomas More Society of central Pennsylvania, made up of about 125 Catholics who are canon or civil lawyers, gave its annual Fidelis Award to the late Gov. Robert P. Casey of Pennsylvania. The award is presented to a lawmaker or public official in memory of St. Thomas More, the vice chancellor of England who in 1535 was executed by King Henry VIII for standing firm in his Catholic beliefs.

Former first lady Ellen Casey said her late husband "never wavered" in his Catholic convictions about serving the common good. For his stand against abortion and for the right to life, the Democratic Party, his party, denied his request to address the 1992 Democratic convention because of the issue. Although he died five years ago, the governor's life of public service rooted in Catholic teachings continues to have influence in the public square, Ellen Casey said.

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Youth group spends mission week in Kentucky

By Jason Koshinski
FaithLife editor

A group from the Erie Diocese recently spent a mission week in Kentucky working, worshipping and doing community outreach.

The group, made up of 20 high school kids and nine adults, spent June 26 through July 2 in Vanceburg, Ky., about 350 miles southeast of Erie.

"This is my 16th year with the mission trip and we had 29 people, which is probably our largest group ever," says Fr. Mike DeMartinis, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie. A majority of the kids were from the Blessed Sacrament youth group, with others coming from churches throughout the diocese.

During the seven-day trip, the group works on building and fixing homes, including painting and porch repair, as well as other tasks.

"We've picked tobacco, we do whatever is needed," Fr. Mike says. "There are a lot of older people, so we do a lot of outreach to the elderly. Last year, we built a 35-foot-long foot bridge for one woman using telephone poles."

A lot of the group's work on this trip was concentrated on giving the old church where they stay in the Diocese of Covington a facelift. The old, empty Our Lady of Lourdes Church, which serves as the group's main center of operation, received a new paint job and new porch.

A typical mission day starts at 6:30 a.m. with prayer followed by Mass at 8. After laboring and doing community outreach during the day, the group meets for a quiet hour and dinner. Then they usually meet with Catholic and



Twenty-nine people from the Erie Diocese spent a mission week in Vanceburg, Ky., June 26 through July 2. The week included helping local residents with home repair and maintenance, community outreach and worship services.

non-Catholic members of the community for a spiritual revival program.

The revival programs feature speakers from the group, prayer, a reflection and music.

"Most of the kids that went were from our teen Mass band, so we had some good music," Fr. Mike says. "The revivals really celebrate our Christianity more than anything else. Their faith is very different from ours. They live really simple lives. Their faith is very beautiful and very deep. It's very personal for them, and we like to come together for worship."

This was the second mission trip for Dan Coughlin, 17, who will be a senior at Cathedral Prep in the fall.

"There is a great feeling of hospitality," Coughlin says. "Just the receptiveness of the people really struck me."

The trip has helped him grow in his friendships and his faith life, he says.

"They live pretty simple

lives," he says. "Sometimes we take a lot of things for granted and put a lot of stress on material things. That's not the case down there. They believe everything has value."

According to Fr. Mike, the trip is challenging and can be physically and spiritually exhausting.

"It's a very difficult week," he says. "We don't have running water, just a hose and outhouses. We sleep in tents or inside the old church. The kids go down thinking they'll be challenged. They find out that they come home with more than they went down with. The people really just give us so much of themselves. Their faith is inspirational."

This trip was also the second mission for Amanda Milhisler, a 16-year-old Mercyhurst Prep student.

"Coming home, you're a changed person," Milhisler says. "You have such a respect for all aspects of life. It's just so rewarding to be down there."

She says the worship experiences proved to be particularly touching.

"I came away from them saying, 'I needed that,'" she said. "It's a good kick for every Catholic. Those people come to worship and pray. They made you aware that it's OK to be open with your faith. They have such an amazing amount of faith, and they show it."



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Priest with just months to live uses experience to minister to others

THE DALLES, Ore. (CNS) — Within the year, Father Joseph Kelbel will probably die.

A priest for 25 years, he has told parishioners at the churches he administers in the small north-central Oregon towns of Dufur, Maupin, Grass Valley and Wasco that his doctors recently gave him two to 12 months to live because of complications related to treatment for his diabetes.

"I do not mind talking about my medical situation at all," said Father Kelbel, who is in residence at St. Peter's in The

Dalles, in the Baker Diocese. "In fact I think it is a blessing to let people know that God is good and that he has our life in his heart and mind. It's become my ministry. I think it's affecting a lot of people."

"I've always felt since ordination that death is something I don't need to fear," he told the Catholic Sentinel, the diocesan newspaper. "It's not the end, it's just transition time."

He explained that medications he took in the 1990s for Type II adult-onset diabetes irreparably scarred his liver

and the main vessel leading to it. Because the blood flow is utterly blocked, a transplant is out of the question.

A self-described "optimistic realist," the 55-year-old Father Kelbel said he would welcome a cure. But he would accept matters if doctors cannot heal him.

He is accepting his prognosis, but it has not been easy. "The first part was total shock," he recalled. "I knew my liver was bad, but I didn't know it was that bad."

The liver, when it is working well, detoxifies the ammonia that is a byproduct of digestion. For patients in Father Kelbel's situation, the ammonia goes to the brain with bad results.

One day at the end of March, when he sat down to play with his mother's dogs, he was overcome by the toxin. He fell into a coma for 60 hours. He awoke in the intensive care unit at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital with doctors saying he was lucky to be alive.

"God kicked me back into the football game," he said.

In August, a group of parishioners will take him to Rome and the Marian shrine at Lourdes, France. He is open to what comes, whether the benefits be physical or spiritual, he said.

Parish festivals

St. Adrian Parish, Delancey
Annual Parish Festival
July 24
Polka Mass, food, games and Polka dance.

Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish, Punxsutawney
Annual Lawn Festival
Aug. 5, 6 & 7
Food, games, raffles, entertainment
Grand prize raffle for a 2005 Grand Prix or \$15,000 cash

St. Thomas Parish, Corry
Summer Festival
Aug. 6 & 7
Food, games, music, raffles, prizes
Cow patty bingo, antique tractor display, chicken bbq, Chinese auction

Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville
Fall Festival
Sept. 9, 10 & 11
\$1,820 in cash prizes
Food, raffles, flea market

St. Patrick Parish, Erie
Erie Irish Festival
Rainbow Gardens at Waldameer Park
Sept. 16, 17 & 18
Irish music, dancing and food, games, Chinese auction, grand prize

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

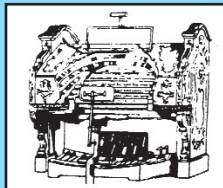
FaithLife

July 17, 2005

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