

**Liturgy changes**

Vatican approves new English translations for constant parts of Mass, page 2.



# FaithLife

**Name change**

Cathedral Center to go by St. Peter Cathedral School, page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 24, 2008

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

**Feast days**



St. Augustine



Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

- Aug. 25 St. Louis of France, St. Joseph Calasanz
- Aug. 27 St. Monica
- Aug. 28 St. Augustine
- Aug. 29 Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
- Sept. 3 St. Gregory the Great

**Confirmation schedule**

Sacred Heart, Erie — Sunday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Andrew, Erie, and Sacred Heart, Erie.

**Clergy appointments**



Msgr. Richard McGuire, granted retirement from active ministry with residence at the Bishop Michael J. Murphy Residence for Retired Priests. Effective September 8, 2008.

Father Regis Meenihan, appointed chaplain of John XXIII Home, Hermitage, for a term of five years. Effective August 1, 2008.

Father Mark Nowak, appointed pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, McKean, for a term of six years. Effective July 11, 2008.

Msgr. Jan Olowin, appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish, Emlenton, and chaplain to the campus ministry program at Clarion University, Clarion, for a term of six years. Effective August 22, 2008.

Father James Piszker, reappointed as chaplain at Mercyhurst College, Erie, for a term of five years.

## St. Paul JUBILEE 2008 - 2009

**Who was he?**

St. Paul was born a Roman citizen of Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, at the start of the Christian era, sometime between A.D. 7 and 10, according to church historians. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the church's foremost evangelists, first among Jews, then among Gentiles. He died by beheading in Rome in 67 A.D. by the order of the Emperor Nero.



St. Paul is depicted in mosaic at Notre Dame Church in Louviers, France. The jubilee year dedicated to the saint began June 28 and runs through June 29, 2009.

Tradition holds that he is buried on the site where the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls stands today in Rome.

In his lifetime, Paul was busy for God. The Encyclopedia of Catholic Saints says: "One of the most imaginative, eloquent and passionate Christian writers, Paul was imprisoned, shipwrecked, beaten, flogged, stoned, banished and finally martyred for his faith."

www.erieRCD.org  
The website of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie

## 'Humanae Vitae'

### On 40th anniversary, Pope Paul VI's encyclical gains attention

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life"), Pope Paul VI's encyclical on artificial contraception and the role of procreation in marriage turned 40 July 25 and seems to be finding new life across the country.

From natural family planning initiatives to sexual abstinence programs for teenagers, parishes and dioceses are increasingly adopting Pope Paul's vision for a world built on fidelity in marriage and the love shared by husband and wife as the cornerstone of a stable world.

While the 7,000-word encyclical — which upholds the church's long-standing prohibition on artificial contraception — is rarely addressed from the pulpit, ministries that seek to head off teen sex, cohabitation, high rates of divorce and single parenthood are sprouting in the hope of delivering a positive message on human sexuality.

"There is an army of people out there right now who are desirous of getting this message out," said Janet Smith, professor of moral theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Detroit Archdiocese.

Smith, who has taken her "Contraception Why Not" presentation across the U.S. and Canada, is finding that



The encyclical "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life") begins by calling married couples "collaborators of God the creator" in the duty of creating human life and acknowledges the great joys and difficulties that come with it.

while the numbers may not be overwhelming, a growing number of people are beginning to understand the connection between the sexual freedom that emerged in the 1960s and today's violence, depiction of women as sex objects and high incidence of divorce.

"It seems to me that 40 years ago people thought that contraception would be advantageous. Now 40 years later, we'd better rethink that," she said.

Pope Paul issued "Humanae Vitae" as artificial contraception, in particular the birth control pill, began to become commonplace. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration approved the

use of Enovid — the pill — in May 1960 after tests on nearly 900 women through more than 10,000 fertility cycles showed no significant side effects.

Initially it was thought that Pope Paul might support the use of birth control, especially after nine of 16 episcopal members of a papal commission in 1968 had approved a draft document that endorsed the principle of freedom for parents to decide on the means of regulating births. Hopes were buoyed in some circles after documents reflecting the commission's deliberations were leaked to

See HUMANAEE VITAE, page 3

## Promoting the priesthood

### Father Stephen Schreiber named diocese's associate director of vocations

By Jason Koshinick  
FaithLife editor

If you're looking for Father Stephen Schreiber, his office at St. Mark Catholic Center might be the last place to look.

Father Schreiber, who was appointed the Erie Diocese's associate director of vocations in June, says he will often be found visiting schools, attending retreats and youth rallies and hitting the road throughout the diocese.

"If I'm in my office, the bishop says I'm not doing my job," Father Schreiber jokes.

At the heart of his new position, he says, is to be present throughout the diocese in a number of ways. First is to give witness to the beauty of the life of



Father Stephen Schreiber, the Erie Diocese's new associate director of vocations, pictured at St. Mark Seminary in Erie, will travel throughout the diocese promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

priests; second, to be available to young men who think they may be called to the seminary; and third, to preach and teach about vocations and God's call.

He is taking up residence at the Mount Carmel Parish rectory in Erie

but is not assigned regular Masses so he can be present where he's needed. Part of his job will be to assist Father Edward Lohse, chancellor of the diocese, who is also the vocation

See SCHREIBER, page 3

## Anniversary celebrations

### One family, 200 years of wedded bliss



Three brothers and a sister, all of whom married within less than two years of each other decades ago, are now celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries. They include, left to right, Len and Theresa Tomczak of Holy Trinity in Erie; Bob and Joan Tomczak of St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; Dan and Gerry Tomczak of St. Casimir Parish in Erie and John and Joan Oldenski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie. They are four of the nine children of the late Leo and Veronica Tomczak.

One hundred and fifty-three couples participated in the diocesan wedding anniversary Masses for couples celebrating 25, 50, and 60+ anniversaries in August.

"You have been true to your vocation of husband and wife, father and mother," Erie Bishop Donald Trautman told the honorees. "But your lives speak longer and stronger than my words. We celebrate not just the length but the depth of your love. You give encouragement to all of us. The church is proud of you and we honor you."

The anniversary celebrations, an annual offering of the Catholic Charities Family Life Office, were held at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek on Aug. 3 and at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway on Aug. 10. Among those present at OLM were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Huzincic of Our Lady of Peace in Erie, who are marking their 69th year of marriage this year.

## 10 Great Dates

### Program helps couples at Edinboro parish grow closer in relationships

By Mary Sziarni  
FaithLife

Eighteen couples at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro completed the first 10 Great Dates program introduced this year by the Erie Diocese's Family Life Office.

The couples—of varying ages and stages of marriage—began the program in February. For each date, they read a chapter from the guidebook provided, met at the parish to watch a brief DVD introduction and then headed out for a private date.

"There is no group sharing, Ann Badach, director of the Family Life Office of Catholic Charities, points out, just conversation between the

area businesses for couples to use on dates, as well as snacks or activities for the childcare sometimes provided by the parish.

Pat Regan said 10 Great Dates pushed him and his wife, Patty, to go out more often, something they had begun to let slide since they have young children. After completing the program, the couple, who have been married 20 years, said they would continue having regular date nights.

Our Lady of the Lake parishioners—in some cases high school and college students—provided babysitting services to encourage participation by couples with children, like the Regans. Though the program has been welcomed by couples with and without children, according to Badach, providing childcare gives parishes an opportunity to minister to families, many of whom can't afford childcare or do not have access to babysitters.



Stacy and Jim McCain, married just four years, enjoyed some refreshments on one of their 10 Great Dates. They decided to participate in the program at Our Lady of the Lake in Edinboro after reading about it in the parish bulletin. "We just thought it would be a good way to continue growing together," said Stacy.

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### IN THE U.S.

■ Although Catholic youths are used to doing service work, they need to find a way to connect their volunteering with their faith, according to speakers at a conference in Atlanta. Service activities have become commonplace in Catholic high schools and for confirmation candidates, but the volunteer work only has become a "requirement to fulfill," said Jill Rauh, youth and young adult coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. Rauh, one of the speakers July 25 on the final day of the Social Action Summer Institute at Oglethorpe University, said there needs to be more of a connection among social issues, action and the teachings of the church.

■ For adults seeking to renew their faith, the place to be Aug. 1 was the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Gonzalez of Washington celebrated Mass at the shrine as part of the 18th National Cursillo Encounter, held July 31-Aug. 3 at The Catholic University of America. The theme for this year's encounter was "Christ Is Our Light." The Cursillo movement seeks to promote faith renewal for adults. Buck Reibson, from the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., was attending the encounter for the first time. He said a desire to "fall in love with Christ again, (to) renew that feeling," prompted him to come to Washington for the event. For information on Cursillo in the Erie Diocese, visit [www.eriecursillo.org](http://www.eriecursillo.org).

### AROUND THE WORLD

■ Priests cannot fulfill their missionary mandate by staying in their rectories and churches waiting for people to come to them, said Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, president of the Congregation for Clergy. "It is also necessary to rise up and go to where people and families dwell,

live and work," the cardinal said in a letter to priests marking the Aug. 4 feast of St. John Vianney, the famed French parish priest. "When priests move, the church moves," said the cardinal, emphasizing the importance of a priest's example in getting every Catholic parishioner to take seriously his or her obligation to share faith in Jesus. The mandate to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth still requires foreign missionaries, he said, but missionary work also must take place where, despite the fact that Christianity has been present for centuries, the faith of many people has weakened or is nonexistent.

■ Faith-based organizations, which for years have been relegated to the margins of discussions on AIDS policy and planning, are finally beginning to gain recognition, said participants in the XVII International AIDS Conference, which concluded Aug. 8 in Mexico City. "This isn't perceived as a friendly place to be a religious leader, but increasingly the faith community is being respected and taken seriously," said Linda Hartke, coordinator of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a group that includes several U.S. Catholic groups, including the U.S. Bishops' Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Medical Mission Board. "Yet with respect comes new responsibility and challenges. The more engaged we are, the more other people expect of us. The challenge for us is to do more, to do it better, to learn from our experience, to build bridges to other sectors of civil society as well as governments and the private sector, because it's only by working in partnership and not in isolation that we'll be more effective," Hartke said.



■ The Vatican has laicized a bishop of Paraguay, allowing him to take office in August without violating church law, said the papal nuncio to Paraguay. "The pope has granted him the loss of his clerical status... he's a layman now," said Archbishop Orlando Antonini, the papal nuncio, July 30. Fernando Lugo, who became known as "the bishop of the poor," was elected president of Paraguay April 20 after campaigning against corruption and for greater equality for the country's indigenous people and poor peasant farmers. When Lugo took office Aug. 15, he ended the more than 60-year rule of the Colorado Party. "This is the first case within the church in which a bishop receives a dispensation," said Archbishop Antonini. "Yes, there have been many other priests the pope has left in the status of layman, but never a member of the hierarchy until today."



Fernando Lugo

### PEOPLE OF FAITH

■ The British government has agreed to allow the exhumation of the body of a 19th-century cardinal whose cause for sainthood widely is expected to progress soon to beatification. The Ministry of Justice granted a license to allow undertakers to dig up the body of Cardinal John Henry Newman from a grave in a small cemetery in the suburbs of Birmingham, England, and transfer it to a marble sarcophagus in a church in the city, where it can be venerated by pilgrims. The license was expected to arrive Aug. 11, the 118th anniversary of the cardinal's death in 1890. Born in London in 1801, Cardinal Newman was an Anglican priest who led the Oxford movement in the 1830s to draw Anglicans to their Catholic roots.

## By the Way...

Volunteers at the Roman Catholic Chapel at the Millcreek Mall were feted at a picnic hosted by Bishop Donald Trautman at St. Mark Catholic Center on July 28. More than 80 people have volunteered as greeters and have staffed the mall chapel since it opened this year on Ash Wednesday, February 6.



Jason Koshinski

The bishop, who says he considers the chapel an evangelizing success, noted that he has received a good response from priests who hear confessions there on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chapel is open during regular mall hours and is closed on Sundays.

The nugget of news coming out of the picnic is that while the contract for the retail space with the mall runs out in September, the bishop said he is hopeful to keep it open through Advent and the Christmas season.

Congratulations to Msgr. Richard McGuire, pastor of St. Julia Parish in Erie, on his retirement from active ministry. Msgr. McGuire is closing in on the 25th anniversary as pastor of St. Julia. He will celebrate the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 7, and the parish will hold a reception in his honor in the church social hall from 2-4 p.m.

Congratulations also to first-time pastor Father Matt Kujawinski, who was officially installed as pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpville on Aug. 17.

Erie native Sandra Lee is writing a book on Italian Americans in Erie and is looking for photos. Her new book, "Italian Americans of Newark, Bellvue and Nutley," was released June 23. Now she's turning her focus from New Jersey to her hometown area. She's collecting photos from family albums of Italian Americans, Erie, 1900 (or before) through the 1950s. The book will portray people, families, neighborhoods, work life and religious life of Italian immigrants and their families and descendants in Erie.

Surely the folks at St. Paul Parish in Erie and other churches have photos of baptisms, first Communions, weddings and other treasures to share.

All submitted photos will be scanned and returned. Interested persons may contact the author at 973.762.3280 or e-mail [lessead@shu.edu](mailto:lessead@shu.edu) or call Norma Webb locally at 814.866.5724.

Sandra grew up in Erie, where her father, Robert Lee, owned and ran the American Theater in Erie's Little Italy neighborhood. He is a member of St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Sandra graduated from Academy High School. Currently she is a professor of psychology and a research associate in Italian studies at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

Jason Koshinski is editor of FaithLife. Contact him at [JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org](mailto:JKoshinski@ErieRCD.org) or 814.824.1171.

## Vatican approves new English translations for constant parts of Mass

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The Vatican has given its approval to a new English-language translation of the main constant parts of the Mass, but Catholics in the pew are unlikely to see any of the approved changes at Masses for awhile to allow for catechesis on the reasons for the revisions.

The approved text, sent to the Vatican for "recognition," or confirmation, after a June 2006 vote by the U.S. bishops in Los Angeles, involves translation of the penitential rite, Gloria, creed, eucharistic prayers, eucharistic acclamations, Our Father and other prayers and responses used daily.

But it is only the first of 12 units into which the third edition of the Roman Missal has been divided for translation purposes. It includes most of the texts used in every celebration of Mass including responses to the celebrant by people participating in a liturgy.

"In terms of the people's part, it's not going to require too much adjustment," Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, told Catholic News Service July 25. "It's a refinement of the language, a clearer theological language.

"Not much of the people's part is changed, and I think once or twice after they use it, they will hardly notice the change," he said.

While the changes have been approved, Bishop Serratelli said it will be awhile before they become part of regular worship at Mass. "I'm hoping for two years," he said. "I'm an optimist."

The lead time is needed to allow musicians to work with the text and to prepare music for various liturgical settings and seasons and to allow for the necessary catechesis explaining the reasons for the revisions to parishioners, the bishop explained.

The most significant changes approved by Rome include:

- Whenever the priest says, "The Lord be with you," the people will respond, "And with your spirit." The current response is "And also with you."
- In the first form of the penitential rite, the people will confess that "I have greatly sinned... through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." In the current version, that part is much shorter: "I have sinned through my own fault."
- The Gloria has been translated differently and the structure of the prayer will have changes from the current text.
- The opening of the Nicene Creed changes from "We believe...," to "I believe..."; other changes in the prayer also have been made.
- Before the preface, when the priest says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," instead of say-

### New Responses

Notable changes in the people's responses at Mass as approved by the Vatican

NEW FORM	PRESERVE FORM	OCCURRENCE
"And with your spirit."	"And also with you."	Response whenever the priest says, "The Lord be with you."
"I have greatly sinned... through my fault, through my most grievous fault."	"I have sinned through my own fault."	First form of the penitential rite
"I believe..."	"We believe..."	Beginning of the Nicene Creed
"It is right and just:"	"It is right to give him thanks and praise."	Response when the priest says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."
"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts."	"Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might."	Start of the Sanctus
"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."	"Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."	Prayer before Communion

ing, "It is right to give him thanks and praise," the people will respond, "It is right and just."

■ The Sanctus will start "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts." The current versions say "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might."

■ The new response at the "Ecce Agnus Dei" ("Behold the Lamb of God") is: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

In 2001 the Vatican issued new rules requiring liturgical translations to follow the original Latin more strictly and completely -- a more literal translation approach called formal equivalence. The resulting new translation adheres far more closely to the normative

Latin text issued by the Vatican.

Two other sections of the Roman Missal have come before the bishops. In November 2007 they approved a revision of all the Sunday and weekday Lectionary readings for Lent, but at their June meeting in Orlando, Fla., and in subsequent mail balloting they rejected a 700-page translation of the proper prayers for Sundays and feast days during the liturgical year.

The rejected section is to come before the full body of bishops again at their November general assembly in Baltimore, along with two other sections totaling about 500 pages.

When the bishops approved the first section in June 2006, Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., called it "a truly important

## Bishop Trautman's statement on translation approval

Editor's note: Bishop Donald Trautman, former chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, now called the Committee on Divine Worship, has long voiced his concerns about the new translations of the Mass. He provided FaithLife with a copy of the statement he wrote at the request of The Tablet, the British Catholic weekly newspaper.



Bishop Donald Trautman

My greatest disappointment with the new Order of Mass translation centers on the rendering of the words of Institution (words of Consecration). All scriptural accounts of the Last Supper narrative speak of Jesus using a "cup," yet the new translation imposes a non-biblical term, "chalice." Further, the literal translation of the Blood of Jesus "which will be poured out for you and for many" instead of "for all" is a major and radical change without discussion in the Conferences of Bishops. Should this not have been an opportunity for episcopal Conferences to exercise collegiality with open discussion and input from biblical and liturgical experts?

Jesus died for all people. However, the new Order of Mass says Jesus died "for many." This is not only an impossible catechetical challenge; it is a needless confusion of the faithful.

The removal of "I believe" in the second and third parts of the Creed leaves incomplete sentences. To give a detailed evaluation of this translation is beyond the scope of these preliminary remarks, although I do raise the question of how pastoral, how proclaimable, how understandable is this new translation? For contemporary Catholics, speaking the English language in the mainstream of society, will they be able to make this literal, word-for-word translation their authentic prayer? I fear not.

*Donald W. Trautman*  
Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL  
Bishop of Erie

moment in liturgy in the United States." He then chaired the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, now called the Committee on Divine Worship.

Bishop Trautman said at that time that he did not expect the new Order of Mass to be implemented in the United States until the entire new Roman Missal in English had been approved by the bishops and confirmed by the Vatican.

The actual timetable will depend on the work of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, made up of representatives of the world's 11 main English-speaking bishops' conferences and decisions of the USCCB Administrative Committee in setting the agenda for the general meetings.

A two-thirds majority of the nation's Latin-rite bishops must approve each unit of the missal translation. After each section is approved, it is sent to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for confirmation.

According to the current schedule, the earliest that the Vatican could receive the final sections of the translation project would be November 2010.

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## Briefly

### Cathedral Center School gets name change

ERIE — Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, Cathedral Center School will now be known as St. Peter Cathedral School. The name change is partly in response to a recommendation from the school's Middlestates reaccreditation process and partly to emphasize the school's identity, said Msgr. William Bielbe, rector of St. Peter Cathedral.

"When the cathedral basement was given over to use by Cathedral Prep in 1924, the congregation began plans to build a new 'elementary' where parishioners could gather for social events and activities. Built across the street, connected to the elementary school, the entire complex soon became known as Cathedral Center," Msgr. Bielbe said.

St. Peter Cathedral School was recently reaccredited by Middlestates.

### Join Family Honor for 'Last Blast of Summer'

FAIRVIEW — Family Honor of Northwestern Pennsylvania will host its second annual "Last Blast of Summer" picnic on Sunday, Aug. 31 at Camp Sherwin on Route 5 in Fairview (1.4 miles west of Route 98).

Mass will be celebrated at noon. Lunch, music, swimming and family games are scheduled from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share, swimsuits, towels and chairs.

Cost is \$15 per family in advance, \$20 at the door. Contact Mary Lou at 814.866.3272, Barb at 814.866.2775 or e-mail [FamilyHonorNWP@go.com](mailto:FamilyHonorNWP@go.com).

Family Honor is a non-profit organization that presents family-centered programs with a focus on chastity in local parishes.

Watch Bishop Donald Trautman speak to a group of vacation Bible school students who recently toured St. Mark Catholic Center. Students got a chance to ask the bishop everything from what he does for fun to what his favorite color is.

## People in the News

### Father Jay Schultz completes doctorate

ERIE — Father Jay Schultz, pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Erie, successfully completed his doctorate in education at Duquesne University. His new title is Rev. Dr. Jay Schultz, and he will be awarded the actual degree in December in Pittsburgh.



Father Jay Schultz

### St. Michael School names

#### Joanie Micky advancement director

GREENVILLE — St. Michael School in Greenville has announced the hiring of Joanie Micky as its advancement director.

In this new position, Micky's job will be to market St. Michael School, increase enrollment, maintain communication with high school and elementary school alumni, assist with annual reunion and establish an annual fund to support the school.

One of her first tasks will be to create a current data base with names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all grade school alumni from 1996 to the present. Anyone with such information is asked to call Micky at 724.588.7050 or 724.588.1954.

Micky was raised in Rochester, N.Y., where she attended Catholic schools. She moved to Greenville in 1993 where her husband, Dan, grew up and had family. They have three children: Sarah and Rachel, who attend St. Michael, and Nicholas, who will enter Kennedy Catholic High School this fall.

Micky was previously the assistant director of the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce and has served as a member of the Educational Advisory Council of St. Michael School.



Joanie Micky

## On 40th anniversary, Pope Paul VI's encyclical gains attention

HUMANAE VITAE from page 1

the Catholic press. Once the encyclical appeared, opposition rose throughout the church. Clergy in Europe and the U.S. openly voiced their disagreement and thousands of lifelong Catholics left the church.

Most notably, 87 teaching theologians from American seminaries and Catholic universities responded with their own statement within days. They argued that because the encyclical was not an infallible teaching, married couples in good conscience could use artificial contraception and remain good Catholics.

One of the leaders of the group, Father Charles E. Curran, who is the Elizabeth Scurluck university professor of human values at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, maintains today that artificial contraception no longer remains a burning issue within the church.

"Catholics practice artificial contraception as much as any other group," Father Curran told Catholic News Service. "But the question is: What's going on here? I think what's going on in the hierarchical church is if you change on contraception you can change on other issues as well."

"In fairness, the strongest argument in favor of 'Humanae Vitae' was the argument the pope himself gave, that this has been a constant teaching of the church and (he) can't change it," said Father Curran. "In a sense you can understand that. How can the Holy Spirit guide the church all these centuries and then make a mistake on a rather significant issue?"

"I think the answer is that the problem is that we claimed too much certitude on the teaching," said the priest, who more than 20 years ago was barred from teaching moral theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington because of his dissent from church teaching on some moral questions. Whether because of certitude or tradition,

### Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholder

Humanae Vitae Today: A Blossoming Truth

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical 'Humanae Vitae,' the Erie Diocese's Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education Office will present this program:

#### Saturday, October 4th

5:15 p.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie with Bishop Donald Trautman

7 p.m. Banquet in Yehli Room of Gannon University

Guest speaker: Mary Ellen Starford, MTS, of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family

This event is by invitation only. To add your name to the invitation list or for more information about the program, contact the NFP/Chastity Education Office at 800.374.3723 Ext. 259, 814.824.1259 or e-mail [tburketh@ErieRCD.org](mailto:tburketh@ErieRCD.org).

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Reaffirms that artificial contraception is not acceptable.
- States that every conjugal act must remain open to the transmission of life.
- Rejects all direct abortion, even for therapeutic reasons.
- Condemns direct sterilization, permanent or temporary.
- Allows for sterilization to cure a bodily disease.
- Allows married couples, for serious reasons, to reserve sexual union to the infertile periods of a woman's reproductive cycle.
- States that artificial birth control may lead to marital infidelity, a "general lowering of moral standards" and the diminishing of women.
- Recognizes that everyone will not accept these teachings, but affirms the church as "guardian and interpreter" of moral law.
- Promotes self-discipline and chastity education.
- Urges states not to support laws that permit contraception, abortion or sterilization as a means of regulating births.

or both, the teaching in "Humanae Vitae" remains. Pope Benedict XVI, addressing participants of a church-sponsored conference marking the encyclical's anniversary in May at the Vatican, called the document a "gesture of courage." He acknowledged that its teachings have been controversial and difficult for Catholics but he said the text expressed the true design of human procreation.

"What was true yesterday remains true also today," he said. "The truth expressed in 'Humanae Vitae' does not change; in fact, in light of new scientific discoveries, its teaching is becoming more current and is provoking reflection."

Editor's note: The full text of "Humanae Vitae" can be found online at the Vatican Web site at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) under "H" in the site map area.

## Father Stephen Schreiber named diocese's associate director of vocations

SCHREIBER from page 1

director. Not only does Father Schreiber have the background of a parish priest, but he has spent the past few years in secondary education at Kennedy Catholic High School as a faculty member and campus minister.

"Definitely that's a large part of what I'll be doing, visiting schools and attending retreats and youth rallies," he said. "But we're also concerned with older men and women who may be called to the priesthood and religious life."

Father Schreiber said he takes a personal approach in talking with individuals trying to discern a possible vocation.

"God is the one who calls, obviously," he said. "And so you have to respect what's going on in a person's heart. But certainly you want to offer joyful encouragement if someone thinks they're being called."

He says his job is to provide help to those considering a religious vocation in allowing them to grow closer to Christ and to aid them in discerning their call.

"This person's only going to be as happy as they can be if they do what God is calling them to do, and that's so important," he said.

While the current trends

78% of the men ordained to the priesthood in 2008 said that a priest initiated the conversation with them about considering this vocation.

Source: The 2008 survey of new priests conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.



As a member of the Runnin' Revs basketball team, Father Stephen Schreiber (second from left) uses the opportunities after games against CYO teams from diocesan school to talk about the priesthood.

and statistics of vocations may be open to interpretation, Father Schreiber, 44, said his general experience has been that young men are more receptive, open to the call and willing to talk about it than they were 10 years ago or so, even when he was ordained in 1999.

In recent years, many of the diocese's new ordinands have spoken very highly of Father Schreiber when telling their vocation stories, citing him as an example of enthusiasm and faithfulness after which they hope to

pattern their own priesthood. "What's going to attract a young man to the priesthood is a priest who very joyfully is living out his priesthood, who loves being a priest, loves Jesus Christ, loves the church," he said. "And I think we're very blessed in our diocese that we have those guys not only who are ordained in the last few years but who are in the seminary now. And that's an exciting thing."

For the past two years, he has been a part of the Runnin' Revs, a basketball team of priests, deacons and seminarians that has played games against CYO

teams from diocesan schools. Each game is followed by prayer, a presentation on the priesthood and sharing of vocation stories by the priests themselves.

Not only does the program promote the awareness of vocations, but it also provides a positive and healthy image of the priesthood and diaconate in the Erie Diocese.

"It's always fun because when the games start, the guys I think are surprised that we actually compete very hard," Father Schreiber said. "We're working on trying to get a few more games for this year."

## DEATH NOTICES

### Sister Joanne Huether, OSB

#### Taught at elementary schools throughout diocese

ERIE — Sister Joanne Huether, OSB, died on July 31, 2008 at her home, Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie.

She was born in Sharon, a daughter of the late John and Eva Pfeiffer Huether. She was baptized Martha Lucia at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon and attended the parish school.

She entered the novitiate of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie on August 27, 1929, receiving the name Joanne. She made her first profession of monastic vows on August 27, 1930 and her final profession of monastic vows on August 21, 1933. Sister Joanne has celebrated her silver, golden and diamond anniversaries of profession. She was the oldest member of her religious community.

Sister Joanne was a graduate

of St. Benedict Academy, class of 1931, and received the bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College. In addition, she studied for several summers at Pius X School of Music, Purchase, N.Y.; at the University of Pittsburgh and at Marygrove College, Monroe, Mich., where her subject was art education.

Sister Joanne was an elementary school teacher for many years. She served at St. Joseph School, Oil City; St. Mary and Mount Calvary Schools, Erie; St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools, Sharon. In summers, she taught religion to children in Oil City, Sharon, West Middlesex, Coal-



Sister Joanne Huether, OSB

port and at St. Mary, Ss. Peter and Paul and Mount Calvary parishes in Erie.

When time and infirmity made teaching impossible, Sister Joanne assisted the librarian at Mount St. Benedict and began the ministry that she continued until recent weeks. Aware through her own frailty of the value of companionship, she telephoned and wrote to dozens of people who were troubled, ill, suffering losses and in need of the support of her prayers and gentle encouragement.

Although her strength decreased from year to year, her fidelity was exemplary: Blind and wheelchair bound, she nevertheless ministered as was possible and was unfailing in participation in our community's daily prayer until the day before she died.

She is survived by her Benedictine community and by her nieces and nephews.

### Sister Carol Fischer, SSJ, dies at 66

#### Longtime teacher, reading specialist

ERIE — Sister Carol Fischer, SSJ, 66, died August 13, 2008 at the Congregation's Community Living Center after a year-long, valiant struggle with cancer.

During that time she remained involved in the life of the congregation and her ministry of education.

Sister Carol was born on April 10, 1942 to late Francis and Catherine Heid Fischer. She entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph on September 8, 1960 and professed her final vows on August 15, 1968. She celebrated her silver jubilee on May 17, 1986.

Sister Carol, formerly Sister Mary Lea, received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College in 1968 and a master's degree in education and reading specialist certification from Edinboro University in 1974. She attended numerous NCEA,

diocesan and state sponsored education workshops. Sister Carol spent her life teaching children, and she possessed a special ability to help those with learning challenges. Though teaching children to read was an important part of her mission, Sister Carol's primary focus was to lead children to find the truth.

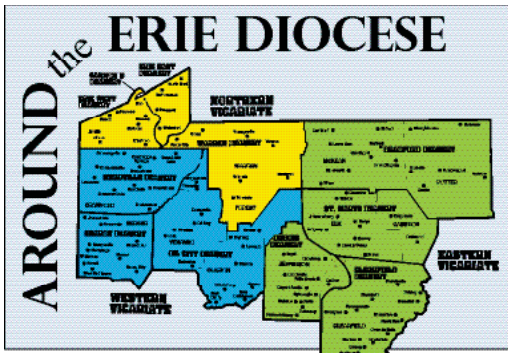
During her years of education ministry, she taught at Blessed Sacrament, Erie (1962-65); St. Patrick, Franklin (1965-66); St. Brigid, Meadville (1966-67) and St. Peter Cathedral, Erie (1967-73). She served as a reading specialist with the Intermediate Unit, Erie County (1973-76) and also served at St. John and Sacred



Sister Carol Fischer, SSJ

Heart schools, Erie. Sister Carol has been at Villa Maria Elementary School, Erie, since 1975 where she worked as teacher/reading specialist and, for the last 10 years, as assistant principal. She also served as executive secretary for her religious congregation (1985-1989). She was a member of the Villa Maria Elementary School Board.

Sister Carol is survived by the members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, including her sister, Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ and her dearest friend, Sister Margaret Frank, SSJ. In addition, her other siblings include: Richard Fischer and his wife Marjorie of Erie, Charles A. Fischer of Erie, and Jane Hesch and her husband Robert of Campbell, New York. She is further survived by six nieces and nephews: Mark R. Fischer, Jenna M. Fischer, Carla A. Fischer, Robert S. Hesch, Brian J. Hesch and Caitlin M. Hesch, a great niece, Samantha Fischer and a great nephew, Brandon Fischer.



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](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

Visit [ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp](http://ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp) to download quick and easy photo tips on a wallet-size card.



### Erie novice excited to continue life in mercy

ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y. — Sister Jennifer Wilson was accepted as a novice for the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community of the Sisters of Mercy in a ceremony July 20.

During the ceremony at the "Theology of a Merciful Heart" weekend at St. Bonaventure University, Sister Cynthia Serjak, community incorporation minister, signed Jennifer's feet, hands, heart, lips and forehead with the Sign of the Cross as a reminder that through baptism we all wear the cross of Christ. Jennifer was presented with the Mercy Cross and received the title of "sister."

"I am really excited to continue my life in mercy, to find out more of what this is all about," she said. Since being received as a candidate in Erie in 2006, Jennifer was mother/child specialist at the Mercy Center for Women, studied theology at Mercyhurst College and lived at the House of Mercy, all in Erie. Also, she attended candidate weekends sponsored by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. "I really experienced the Mercy lifestyle," she says.



Sister Jennifer Wilson, center, with Sister Cynthia Serjak, incorporation minister, and Sister Sheila Stevens, vocation minister, after she was accepted as a novice for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community.

squeezed in a month-long trip to Guyana, where she had served as a Mercy Volunteer from 2003-05. Guyana is a small English-speaking country in the northern part of South America. There, she spent two weeks catching up with friends and serving as a godparent to a 10-year-old boy, a former student, who was baptized. The rest of the time she helped with students who were visiting Guyana from Mercyhurst College's Service Learning Program.

Beginning, Sept. 30, she will spend a year in the Mercy novitiate program in Laredo, Texas. This is her canonical year in which she will study the vows of the Sister of Mercy — celibacy, obedience, poverty and service — pray and work in a ministry one day a week. After that, she will have an apostolic year in which she will minister in one of NYPaW's geographic areas.

### Smethport altar server donates drawing of church

SMETHPORT — Joel Kohler, an altar server at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport, has donated his original artwork, a 9-inch by 11-inch charcoal and pencil drawing of the church, to the parish. The artwork was used for the cover of note cards sold by the parish.

Kohler, who traces his interest in art back to pre-school days when his mother, Sharon, gave him colored pencils, has had his works displayed at Mount Jewett's Swedish Festival, McKean County Historical Society's "McArt Nite," Kane Community Hospital and Kane art festivals. Kohler graduated from Smeth-



port Area High School in June and plans to major in civil engineering at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

### Students raise money for cancer research at Kane Relay for Life



KANE — Students from St. Callistus Parish in Kane recently participated in the Kane Relay for Life. The kids sought adult leadership and wanted to

help raise funds for cancer research. The group raised more than \$1,000 in just four weeks with proceeds from a bake sale, car wash and other fundraisers.

Dave Carlson, pictured with the Relay for Life team, helped organize the students. The relay took place at the Kane High School track.

### St. Peter student organizes fundraiser for Down syndrome

ERIE — After watching a TV program on Down syndrome, Lindsey Rowane, a second grader at St. Peter Cathedral School, became motivated. Rowane asked if she could organize a fundraiser to help people who have Down syndrome. Her idea of a jeans day at school raised \$615. Recently, Rowane and her principal, Kathleen Lane, visited the Barber Center Institute and donated the money for summer camp for those who could not afford it.

Pictured are Rowane (right) and an unidentified Barber Center student.



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