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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 5, 2017

FaithLife

Catholic Services Appeal — March 18-19

Giving to CSA helps disabilities outreach



FAITHLIFE staff report

Nearly 600 people served by the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries in the Diocese of Erie experience some type of limitation, ranging from deafness and chronic illness to intellectual and physical impairments.

Hundreds of others probably deal with a disability in their daily lives but do not receive the help or support they need to become full participants in their faith, says Michele Inter, director of the disabilities office.

"One of the goals of my office is to provide disability services in all areas of the diocese and to organize an advisory board that will address these needs," Inter says.

Reaching out to the disabled requires a financial and spiritual commitment, not only by the diocese, but by personal caregivers. As an outreach of Catholic Charities, the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries depends upon the financial support of people in the pews.

The Catholic Services Appeal, taken up annually in parishes throughout the 13-county diocese, contributes funding to disabilities outreach and a myriad of ministries, education, communications, facilities management, clergy services, vocations and other pastoral services.

"I think the work that Michele does, through the funding she receives from the Catholic Services Appeal, helps us all to remember to honor the God-given dignity of each person," says Bill Grant, director of Stewardship and Annual Giving.

This year's appeal will kick off March 18-19, with a goal of \$4.2 million. Last year, the diocese collected an estimated \$6.3 million, the most ever pledged in the annual appeal.

"A number of parishes are exceeding their goals and people here are giving extra," Grant says. "This year is an important year in terms of parish and school restructuring, so it's a good year to give to those new possibilities."

This May 6, Inter is overseeing a day of prayer and care for people with intellectual disabilities and those on the autism spectrum. The full-day retreat is for those with disabilities and their caregivers.

On a regular basis, the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries provides interpreted Masses every Sunday at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community.

And Bible study classes are offered to people with intellectual disabilities and people on the autism spectrum on the first and third Mondays of the month, from 7 to 8 p.m., at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie.

Visit www.ErieRCD.org/csa.htm to learn more about the Catholic Services Appeal.

Parishioner takes talent to Sesame Street

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Lori Burke, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro, recalls her "steady diet" of Big Bird, Grover, and Oscar the Grouch back in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

This winter, she officially joined the "Muppets" world on Public Broadcasting's *Sesame Street*. Burke wrote the music and lyrics for a short animated film that aired Jan. 30 on the long-running children's education program.

On May 27, Burke's musical talent will be showcased in yet another *Sesame Street* segment, titled "Counting Opposites."

"I am so blessed to say that I am now forever part of this show," Burke, 39, says. January's stop-motion, animated



Photo by Mary Solberg

Lori Burke, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, met Elmo recently at WQLN studios in Erie. Burke has been involved in the production of two *Sesame Street* short films.

short—titled "G is for Games"—aired on the program's letter-of-the-day segment. Burke's music accompanies animation done by Brad Pattullo, an associate professor in the art department at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Also featured in the segment is sound engineer

Chris Moore, Parker Middle School student Abby Walker of Edinboro, who did vocals, and Burke's son, Donny, 8, who assisted with voice-overs.

"I'd been working with kids for the past

>> See SESAME STREET, page 2

Changes in administration



Photo by Anne-Marie Wild

From left, Msgr. Edward Lohse and Msgr. Robert Smith

Msgr. Robert Smith is retiring from the Office of Vicar General of the Diocese of Erie, effective March 13, and Msgr. Edward Lohse has been appointed to take over the position.

Bishop Lawrence Persico recently accepted Msgr. Smith's request to retire as vicar general, a title held by Msgr. Smith the past 27 years. The position of vicar general is the second highest office in a diocese after the bishop.

Msgr. Smith, 74, worked in diocesan administration the past 43 years, having served under four bishops. He will remain director of clergy personnel and chair of the Priest Personnel Board, and will continue to serve on the administrative cabinet.

"The Diocese of Erie and I personally owe a great debt of gratitude to Msgr. Smith for his competent, loyal and dedicated service to this local church," Bishop Persico said in a letter to clergy.

In addition to his new role as vicar general, Msgr. Lohse will be the moderator of the curia for the diocese. He also will be responsible for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

"Msgr. Smith has left an incredible example to follow in his role as vicar general. With the help of many people's prayers, I hope to fulfill these new responsibilities in a way that does honor to his service," Msgr. Lohse said. Msgr. Smith expressed his admiration

for each of the four bishops under whom he has served: the late Bishop Alfred Watson, the late Bishop Michael Murphy, Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman and Bishop Persico.

"What really inspired me over the years was our bishops' dedication to the church and to this diocese," Msgr. Smith said.

Msgr. Lohse has served the diocese in a number of positions, including director of vocations, vice chancellor and chancellor.

From 2010-15, he served with the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican. In Rome, he earned his doctorate in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Upon his return to the diocese, Msgr. Lohse was appointed episcopal vicar for canonical services, and has worked on a number of projects, including pastoral planning.

Parishes across the Diocese of Erie experienced significant changes recently with the implementation of restructuring as a result of pastoral planning.

Earlier this year, about half of the 116 active priests in the diocese received a new parish assignment or a reassignment to their current parish.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, bishop of Erie, has made several clergy appointments and reassignments. All are effective Feb. 13, 2017. Pastor appointments are for a term of six years.

APPOINTMENTS:

- **Very Rev. Richard J. Allen, E.V.**, episcopal vicar, Western Vicariate, while serving as pastor of Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- **Very Rev. Raymond C. Granata, V.F.**, vicar forane (dean), Bradford Deanery, while serving as pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Francis of Assisi parishes, both in Bradford, including the secondary mission church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run
- **Very Rev. James G. Gutting, V.F.**, vicar forane (dean), Warren Deanery, while serving as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren, including the secondary mission church of St. Anthony of Padua, Sheffield
- **Rev. James J. Kenneally**, chaplaincy ministry at SCI Albion, concurrent with appointment as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, and the secondary mission church of St. Philip, Crosswille
- **Very Rev. Matthew J. Kujawinski, V.F.**, vicar forane (dean), Sharon Deanery, while serving as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mercer, and chaplain at SCI Mercer
- **Rev. Ross R. Miceli**, pastor, St. Boniface Parish, Kersay, while serving as a member of the faculty of Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys

- **Very Rev. Jeffery J. Noble, V.F.**, vicar forane (dean), St. Marys Deanery, while serving as pastor of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys
- **Rev. Daniel J. Prez**, pastor, St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown, including the secondary mission church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochran
- **Rev. Msgr. Richard R. Siefert, E.V.**, episcopal vicar, Eastern Vicariate, while serving as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Michael parishes, both in DuBois

- **Deacon Jerome T. Sobrowski**, deacon assistant, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie, for a term of three years.

RE-APPOINTMENTS:

- **Rev. Samuel G. Bungo**, pastor, St. Charles Parish, New Bethlehem, including the secondary mission church of St. Nicholas of Tolentino, Coates
- **Rev. James C. Campbell**, pastor, St. Eulalia Parish, Coudersport, and St. Gabriel Parish, Port Allegany
- **Rev. Joseph V. Dougherty**, pastor, St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, including the secondary mission churches of Sacred Heart, Gettysburg, and St. Augustine, Austin
- **Rev. Michael P. Ferrick**, rector, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
- **Rev. John B. Jacquet**, pastor, Holy Rosary Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish, both in Erie
- **Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Krieger**, pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Erie
- **Rev. William M. Laska**, pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville, including the secondary mission church of St. Dominic, Sigel

- **Rev. James T. O'Hara**, pastor, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie
- **Rev. David A. Perry**, pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Frenchville, including the secondary mission churches of St. Peter & Paul, Glasslat, and St. Severin, Drifting
- **Very Rev. David L. Poulson, V.F.**, pastor, St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Cambridge Springs, including the secondary mission church of St. Benedicta, Saegertown
- **Rev. Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie**, pastor, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Harborcreek
- **Rev. Johnathan P. Schmitt**, pastor, St. Brigid, St. Agatha and St. Mary of Grace parishes, all in Meadville
- **Rev. Paul S. Siebert**, pastor, St. Mark Parish, Emporium, including the secondary mission church of St. James, Driftwood
- **Rev. Marc A. Stockton**, pastor, St. Boniface Parish, Erie, while serving as judicial vicar for the Diocese of Erie
- **Rev. Thomas N. Trocchio**, parochial vicar, St. Brigid, St. Agatha and St. Mary of Grace parishes, all in Meadville, for a term of three years
- **Rev. David J. Wilson**, pastor, Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg, including the secondary mission church of St. Anne, Wilcox

The bishop has accepted and approved the request of Msgr. Charles A. Kaza, to be relieved of the position of episcopal vicar of the Eastern Vicariate, effective Feb. 13, 2017.

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world
from Catholic News Service

■ Pope's astronomers applaud discovery of Earth-sized planets

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The quest to find life on other planets got a boost when astronomers confirmed the existence of at least seven Earth-sized planets orbiting a red dwarf star just 40 light years away.

Three of the planets are located in the so-called "habitable" zone, a kind of sweet spot in that their distance from the sun makes them not too hot, not too cold, but just right for having liquid water—an essential ingredient for life.

The pope's own astronomers applauded the new discovery around the dwarf star, TRAPPIST-1, named after one of the many telescopes that detected the planets. The study's results were published in *Nature* magazine Feb. 22.

"The discovery is important because, to date, it has revealed the highest number of Earth-sized planets revolving around a single parent star," U.S. Jesuit Father David Brown told Catholic News Service.



CNS photo
An artist's depiction shows the possible surface of TRAPPIST-1, one of seven newly discovered planets in the TRAPPIST-1 system.

■ South Sudan bishops condemn atrocities, appeal for help

MANCHESTER, England (CNS)—South Sudan's Catholic bishops asked for the world's help to prevent mass starvation that threatens the lives of more than 5 million people.

In a separate statement, they also said the looming famine was a man-made catastrophe. They denounced government and rebel troops for attacking the civilian population and at times operating "scorched-earth" policies in defiance of international law.

In a Feb. 23 appeal for humanitarian assistance, the bishops said farmers have fled lands without planting crops as civilians are targeted by both sides in the country's increasingly bloody three-year civil war. Food shortages have been compounded by problems of unemployment, soaring inflation and poor rains, meaning that the country had now entered a critical time, the

bishops said. Citing government predictions, they estimated that about 4.9 million people would be facing famine by April and about 5.5 million people by July.



CNS photo
A health worker examines a 4-year-old girl suffering from malnutrition Feb. 13 in Dablu, South Sudan. Pope Francis appealed for humanitarian assistance to that country.

■ U.S. senators discuss trafficking, immigration with Vatican officials

ROME (CNS)—U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met Feb. 23 with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, to discuss U.S.-Vatican cooperation in fighting human trafficking and ending modern slavery.

Corker told reporters Feb. 24 that while modern slavery was the focus of his visit, with so much international attention on President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration, "certainly it came up. It was not stressed. We understand the pope has spoken very strongly about this issue."

The senator said the United States and the Vatican have a "mutual interest in dealing with modern slavery," a phenomenon involving some 27 million people; 24 percent of them, he said, are involved in forced prostitution, while the remaining 76 percent are subjected to "hard labor."

Pope Francis repeatedly has highlighted the connection between restrictive immigration policies and the growth of human trafficking.



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

The past month has been an emotional time for parishioners and pastors who have experienced changes as a result of the historic parish restructuring process in our diocese.

Some people have spent a lifetime attending Mass at a particular church. In some cases, they now must go elsewhere.

Bobby Sulecki can trace his family history at St. Hedwig Church, Erie, to his great-grandparents. Before the final Mass there Feb. 11, he talked to the concelebrants, Father John Santor and Father Tom Aleksa, both of whom are native sons,



Father Tom Aleksa, left, and Father John Santor prepare to celebrate the final Sunday Mass at St. Hedwig Church, Erie.

and Msgr. Joseph Wardanski, a former pastor.

"I've gone through so many emotions about it that I'm drained," Sulecki said.

At my own parish of Our Lady of the Lake, I have noticed several new faces in the pews. Now is the time for everyone to break out of our comfort zones and welcome newcomers.

Lynn Nicklas, the music director and organist at St. Mary's Church in St. Marys for more than 30 years, passed away this winter. Her spirit will continue with a new scholarship announced by the Elk County Community Foundation.

The Lynn Nicklas Scholarship Fund will award a \$1,000 scholarship annually to a graduating high school senior pursuing a degree in music or a related field. A lifelong resident of St. Marys, she also taught piano and organ in Elk County for more than 33 years.

Sympathies to the family of Dr. Mark DelMarmo, a parishioner of St. Michael Parish, Greenville, who died recently. Mark was featured in the May/June 2015 edition of *Faith* magazine, in which he shared his story of a cancer diagnosis and his subsequent pilgrimage on the *Camino de Santiago*.

In 2014, Mark walked 490 miles along the mostly rugged terrain of the *Camino*, from the foothills of the Pyrenees in southern France to the shrine of St. James the Greater in Spain.

Sister Ellen Gresock, OSF, certainly inspired many vocations in the extended Gresock and Kuzma families.

Sister Ellen, who was raised in Erie, died Feb. 8 at the age of 103. She entered the St. Francis Convent in Millvale, located in the Pittsburgh area, in 1926.

Sympathies to her surviving cousins, including Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF, and Deacon Glenn Kuzma, both of Erie.

Gannon Professor Michael J. Messina, Ph.D., was recently honored as a distinguished fellow at the 2016 Marketing Management Association Conference in Chicago.

A professor of marketing and the director of graduate programs in Gannon University's Daikemper School of Business, Dr. Messina was recognized for his nearly two decades of service to the Marketing Management Association.

He currently serves as associate editor of the *Marketing Management Journal*.

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Parishioner takes talent to Sesame Street

Continued from page 1

15 years, teaching, performing and having kids of my own," Burke says. "It was never a goal to get on *Sesame Street*, but looking back, I realize I was doing the work to get me there."

Burke plays several instruments, including a 1947 Gibson LG1 guitar borrowed from her father, Dan Mayton, who with his wife, Pat, are also members of Our Lady of the Lake.

For the past 14 years, Burke has been a member of the local Tiger Maple String Band, touring with the band recently in Key West, Fla.

Her love of children's music grew when her daughter, Lilly, was born 10 years ago. A freelance composer and arranger, she performs at various library branches in Erie County. She created her own children's lullaby CD, "You Are Loved."

In the summer, she participates in a concert

series at Goodell Gardens and Homestead in Edinboro.

Animator Brad Pattullo got to know Burke when their children were attending the same Kindermuzik classes in Edinboro.

He thought of her immediately when he received a request to pitch an idea for an animated short for *Sesame Street*.

"Lori's real positive and happy. She's got a lot of positive energy, so she's a natural for this type of work," Pattullo says.

Sesame Street allows Burke to mix her love of children, music and teaching.

"I think that any time you share a positive message of love, kindness, forgiveness, even heartache, it shows our vulnerability and our human nature," she says. "I try to spread that love as much as I can."



Lori Burke, second from left, poses with her parents Dan and Pat Mayton, along with her mother-in-law, Reggie Burke, far right, all members of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro. They gathered at the WQLN studios in Erie to celebrate the production of "G is for Games," a *Sesame Street* animated film for which Lori Burke wrote music and lyrics.

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GOODBYES and HELLOS

Parishioners feel loss, opportunity in change

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Father John Santor's grandmother, Konstancya Brzozewska, left Poland for America in 1905. She settled in Erie's eastside, eventually joining St. Hedwig Parish when it was founded in 1911.

Last month—in a bittersweet moment in the 114-year history of St. Hedwig—Father Santor concelebrated the last regularly scheduled Sunday Mass at the Polish parish. It is one of a number of churches in the Diocese of Erie that have merged with other larger parish communities or that have partnered as part of an extensive restructuring process.

"My grandmother's story is the echo of the Christian life," Father Santor said in his homily Feb. 11. "We are all pilgrims, traveling, moving, going through life with all of its challenges, all of its difficulties, and all of its opportunities for new life."

His words captured the pain and the hope felt this past month as a result of the reconfiguration of parishes and churches in the 13-county diocese. More than half of the 58,000-plus registered households have been affected by either a new merger, a new partnership or a new pastor.

Barbara Juchno and her mother, Theresa



Barbara Juchno wipes tears away at a final Mass at St. Hedwig Church, Erie, Feb. 11. She was joined by her mother, Theresa Juchno.



Father Skip Davis shakes hands with John Zaczekiewicz after Mass at St. Thomas Parish, Corry, on Feb. 19.

sa Juchno, 88, were among the many longtime parishioners who attended the last Sunday Mass at St. Hedwig. A native of the parish, Barbara read at the Mass and carried the gifts to the altar.

"I've gone through four Kleenexes," Barbara said. "They said it's just a building, but I know everyone here and we'll all go our own separate

ways now."

St. Hedwig is now a secondary church of St. Stanislaus Parish. As a result, St. Hedwig now will have Masses only for weddings, funerals or feast days.

"After all these years, it's sad," added Theresa Juchno. "There is a lot of faith in these smaller churches."

Catherine Jankowski, 95,

is considered the oldest living parishioner of St. Hedwig. She attended the last Mass with her daughter, Donna Turvaczewski.

"Father Santor's sermon was about change," Turvaczewski said. "We're all Catholic and that's the point. I love my faith and I'll go where I'm supposed to go."

The week after many

churches marked their final Sunday Masses, many parishioners were welcomed to new parish communities. In some cases—as in Corry—merged parishes welcomed a new pastor.

Father Skip Davis has been appointed pastor of St. Thomas Parish, Corry, whose secondary church is now St. Elizabeth in Corry. St. Elizabeth—like St. Hedwig—will no longer have Sunday Masses.

During his homily Feb. 19, Father Davis, a native of Corry, talked about unity.

"We bring our separate pains to this altar, but I'm going to ask you to leave them here," Father Davis told parishioners. "I'm suggesting today that we heal each other. I'm now your pastor and I will do everything in my ability and authority to help you heal, in whatever way you need healing."

As parishioners left Mass, Father Davis offered Band-Aids to use as a reminder "of our common and united promise to heal each other."

EVENTS

Series of holy hours planned at St. Peter

ERIE—A series of holy hours for vocations will be held Mondays during Lent at St. Peter Cathedral, W. 10th and Sassafras streets, Erie. Holy hours will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. (following the 5:15 p.m. daily Mass) on the following dates:

- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27
- April 3

Evenings will include praying the rosary for vocations, silent prayer, a homily by Father Mike Polinek, vocations director, and Benediction.

Lenten vigils scheduled at monastery

ERIE—Lenten vigils will be held every Saturday during Lent at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. All are welcome.

Vigils begin at 7 p.m. The schedule of reflections is as follows:

- March 4—Sister Kathryn Disbrow, OSB
- March 11—Sister Mary Ellen Plumb, OSB
- March 18—Sister Cindy Hoover, OSB
- March 25—Sister Theresa Zaky, OSB
- April 1—Oblate Janice Etchison
- April 8—Sister Linda Romey, OSB

St. Andrew Dinner offered to young men

ERIE—Young men striving to follow Jesus' call in their lives and who are open to the possibility of the seminary and priesthood are invited to the next St. Andrew Dinner on March 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St., Erie.

The event is free. RSVP to the church office at 814-452-2982. For more information, contact Father Mike Polinek, vocations director, at mpolinek@ErieRCD.org or at 814-

824-1200, or go to www.ErieVocations.org. A light dinner will be served and priests will share their vocation stories. Bishop Lawrence Persico will be on hand during the event, along with Father Larry Richards and Father Michael Ferrick. There will be time for questions and answers, and for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Diocese to celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord

ERIE—On March 17-18, the Diocese of Erie will celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord, an initiative of Pope Francis with an emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of reconciliation.

St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie will be open for the event from March 17 at 5:45 p.m. through March 18 at 3:30 p.m. There will be adoration and time for confession. This year's 24 Hours for the Lord will be devoted to prayer for peace and unity in our country, as well as for immigrants and refugees, in addition to prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Erie optometrist to receive Romero Award

ERIE—The Mercyhurst University Department of Religious Studies will present its Archbishop Oscar Romero Award to Dr. Douglas Vilella, an Erie optometrist, on March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Mercy Heritage Room at Mercyhurst University.

Vilella will speak about his work as executive director of Vision for the Poor, a nonprofit that develops sustainable eye care facilities to serve the poorest of the poor in Latin America and Haiti. All are welcome to attend the presentation and lecture. For more information, contact Dr. Robert von Thaden at rvonthaden@mercyhurst.edu.

2232 Men's Conference planned at Warner

ERIE—Men of all faiths are welcome to attend the annual 2232 Men's Conference March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Warner Theatre in downtown Erie.

The day will feature nationally known speakers, adora-

tion before the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for reconciliation, and a Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. Lunch is included. For more information and to register, go to www.2232Men.com or call 814-455-7364.

Youth encouraged to attend national conference

ERIE—The National Catholic Youth Conference will be held Nov. 16-18 in Indianapolis. Anyone interested in joining the delegation from the Diocese of Erie is asked to email Jennifer Durney at jdurney@ErieRCD.org.

NCYC is a distinctly Catholic setting that invites participants to encounter Christ, experience church and be empowered for discipleship.

Mark your calendars for the next Family Fest

ERIE—Save the date for this year's diocesan-sponsored Family Fest, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months. For further questions, contact Jennifer Durney, jdurney@ErieRCD.org.

Notice from the Diocese of Erie

On Nov. 8, 2016, Samuel Barton Slocum, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Erie, was dismissed from the clerical state by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Because Mr. Slocum has now been removed from the clerical state, he is forbidden to function as a priest in the Catholic Church and should no longer present himself as a priest and not be admitted as a priest in the celebration of the sacraments. Such celebration of the sacraments would be gravely illicit and, in the case of marriage and sacramental absolution, nearly always invalid.

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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Check out more photos at www.ErieRCD.org/atd.asp



Allegheny Newman group does mission work in Chicago

CHICAGO—Several members of the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry group at Allegheny College traveled to Chicago for their annual mission trip with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth Provincialate in Des Plaines, Ill.

Students served the homeless and immigrants, visited a nursing home and packed food for the Christian non-profit Feed My Starving Children. In four hours, they helped pack more than 15,000 meals for children in Haiti. Pictured, from left, are Allegheny Newman students Allison Cabo, Nikki Hawk, Christine McGrath and Tessie Bracken.



Sportscaster visits St. Luke School during Schools Week

ERIE—Students at St. Luke School ended their celebration of Catholic Schools Week this winter with a visit from Craig Smylie, WJET-TV sportscaster.

He read a book that all members of the student body helped to write.

The book, titled "SLS Golf Ball's World Tour," features Father John Malthaner, pastor, who is shown hitting a golf ball that travels to several countries before returning to St. Luke School.

Pictured is Smylie with some third-graders: Nate Firman, Mason Chatt, Tommy Mayo, Conner Brzozowski, Natalie Spano, Austin Edmonds and Nora Fedor.



Seton Catholic School students emerge as stellar scientists

MEADVILLE—Students at Seton Catholic School in Meadville came away big winners at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 10 competition at Penn State Behrend this winter. Of 14 Seton students who participated, 11 garnered first-place awards and three received second-place awards.

Three students were cited for special awards, as well. More than 25 schools and an estimated 320 students participated in the event. Those who earned first place will advance to the state competition this May at Penn State at University Park.

Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Sarah Dean, McKenna Longoria, Carlie Longo, Emma Landefeld, and Adrienne Sophor. In the back row, from left, are: Ben Lashbrook, Riley Hayek, Sydney Pearson, teacher Cathy Gorman, Jarrett Harry, Charlie Waid, Tiffany Onyeiwu, Ava Waid, and Caleb Sommers. Missing from photo is Mia Soerensen.



A COLORFUL CROSS



ST. MARYS—During Catholic Schools Week, the students, faculty and staff of St. Marys Catholic Elementary donned their new "School with the Cross" shirts at Queen of the World Church.

They created a colorful cross formation in the pews.

The shirts were designed by Father Ross Miceli, pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Kersey, and were made available to everyone, compliments of the Elk County Catholic Advancement Office.

The front reads, "The School with the Cross."

The back has three logos that represent the five schools that make up the Elk County Catholic School System.

Campus ministers gather for leadership, spirituality retreat



UNION CITY—Nineteen university student leaders and others met recently at the Hope House Retreat Center in Union City for a leadership and spirituality retreat. Mercy Sister Tina Geiger, Father Nicholas Rouch, and campus ministers from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend, and Allegheny College reflected on spirituality and discussed their dreams and plans for their campuses.

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But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" -- Gen 3:9

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