

# FaithLife



Pope offers 'hope guide.' PAGE 2

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 1, 2017

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Diocese to be consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima

All are welcome to participate in a special event Oct. 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in honor of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in Fatima, Portugal.

A consecration of the Diocese of Erie to Our Lady of Fatima will take place at 2 p.m., in conjunction with this year's Erie Diocesan Rosary March. The Rosary March is sponsored annually by The World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Division. Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the consecration, which will be held on the cathedral steps facing Sassafraas Street. The rosary march will then commence, working its way through the downtown area and returning to the cathedral for a homily by Bishop Persico, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sept. 27, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia and the bishops of Pennsylvania gathered for their provincial meeting in Harrisburg and together consecrated the ecclesial province of Pennsylvania to Our Lady of Fatima.

### Give to victims of natural disasters

Bishop Lawrence Persico has asked parishioners in the Diocese of Erie to continue to remember in their prayers the victims of several natural disasters that have hit the United States, the Caribbean and Mexico in the past month.

Donations may still be given to help victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria by going to [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) and clicking on "Help Disaster Victims." These funds will go directly to Catholic Charities USA.

Donations to earthquake relief efforts in Mexico also may be made through Catholic Relief Services at [www.CRS.org](http://www.CRS.org).

A second collection for hurricane relief will be taken in parishes of the diocese Sept. 30 to Oct. 1.

## Q&A

### Bishop Persico celebrates 5 years at the helm of the Diocese of Erie

**Editor's Note:** Bishop Lawrence Persico was installed and ordained as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Erie on Oct. 1, 2012. He sat down recently with *FaithLife* to talk about his joys and challenges, and his faith and trust in the future.

**Q:** Does it feel like five years already?

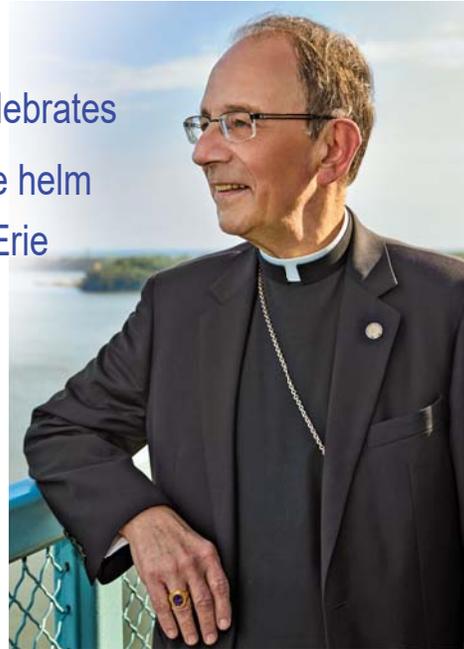
**Bishop:** The years have gone quickly, yet I feel that I have always been here. I feel very much at home here and very much a part of the diocesan community. That's why I'm not counting the years. If you're not enjoying it, it can seem like a drag. Believe me, it's not been a drag.

**Q:** What has been the most memorable event in your episcopate so far?

**Bishop:** I can't say there was one memorable thing. One, obviously, was my installation as 10th bishop of Erie, and also having the opportunity to meet with Pope Francis when I was in Rome. Also, there was the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. It was amazing to be there to see the great devotion and expression of support for family life by people from all over the world. There's just been an accumulation of things, like visiting a parish for the first time.

**Q:** Your biggest challenge?

**Bishop:** The declining number and increasing age of our priests, as well as trying to work with the people and clergy of the diocese in realizing that life cannot go on as it has been. We need to plan for the future, whether it be schools, parishes, faith formation or vocations to the priesthood.



Bishop Lawrence Persico is pictured overlooking Presque Isle Bay in Erie. A native of the Diocese of Greensburg, he says Erie feels like home now.

**Q:** What do you think of the success of pastoral planning in the diocese the past few years?

**Bishop:** I am pleased with the way it has turned out and I'm grateful for the cooperation of the clergy and the faithful. I know it was difficult, but it was something we had to do and something we have to keep an eye on. We really had to look at the effectiveness of our parishes, our schools, and

right now, at faith formation. The latter is a little more difficult and challenging because we have to look at how we transmit the faith into the future. It's not as tangible as looking at parishes and looking at schools. It's a challenge.

**Q:** What will be the fruits of the planning process?

>> Q&A, page 2

## Youth, ministers surveyed for 2018 synod

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

The number of Catholic young people and youth ministers in the Diocese of Erie is a tiny fraction of those in the entire world. Yet, what they have to say will figure into discussions at the Vatican's 2018 Ordinary Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.

This past spring and summer, the diocese distributed 50 questionnaires from the Vatican to young people and those who work with them in the 13 counties of the diocese. The goal was to better understand the lives, attitudes and concerns of 16- to 29-year-olds.

A summary of their answers was compiled into a document that was sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), which, in turn, will submit an executive summary of findings from similar questionnaires completed by dioceses throughout the country.

Also this summer, the Vatican launched a website and youth survey, which can be found at [www.eriecd.org/synod.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/synod.htm). It is open to any young person, regardless of faith or religious belief.

Pope Francis, in calling for the October 2018 Synod on Young People, said, "It's aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the church and of society."

Only about one-third of those surveyed in the Diocese of Erie responded, but the Chancery Office expressed its satisfaction with the insights that were shared.



Silvia Bohl, left, participates in a Sept. 13 small group discussion in Rome during a Vatican-sponsored seminar about the concerns of young people.

"It gave us a good overview," said Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, vice chancellor. "One of the most important things we got out of it was that the perceptions between the youth and those who minister to them are often different."

Maria Caulfield, executive assistant in the Chancery Office, agreed. She found the process interesting, especially as someone who falls in the youth category, albeit

on the older side. She is 28.

Like many of those who responded, Caulfield is invested in her faith, not only working for the Diocese of Erie, but serving as an organist at St. Joseph/Bread of Life in Erie. While compiling the survey answers, she saw that there is a great divide between what young people ask of the church and what priests and ministers see as their needs.

Deadline  
Nov 30

Find the Vatican's youth survey at  
[www.eriecd.org/synod.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/synod.htm)

"The young people predominantly asked for explanations of church teaching," Caulfield wrote in her synopsis. "They wanted the authentic truths of the faith, and to know *why* the church teaches what she does. They didn't want religious education that was just another day in the classroom with a workbook."

Some of the older respondents in the 16- to 29-year-old age bracket noted that they cannot participate in many retreats and activities that generally are available to younger school-age people.

The older youth also felt that they don't have access to vocation fairs and/or mission trips, with the exception of the much-lauded vocation dinners that are being offered in the diocese.

"What can we do beyond school?" Caulfield wrote. "How can we support the growth of faith and vocational discernment in a group that is as hard to reach as it is to minister to?"

She trusts that the online Vatican survey of youth and young adults may shed more light in this area.

By this time next year, bishops from throughout the globe will be meeting at the Synod of Bishops on Youth. Synods are called at the request of the Holy Father, when he considers it necessary or opportune to consult with the world's bishops.

Reaching young people always has been at the top on Pope Francis' agenda. In a preparatory document released by the Vatican earlier this year, Pope Francis urged, "Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit."

# Hold on to Hope

## Pope Francis offers in-depth guide

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Pope Francis on Sept. 20 continued his series of audience talks on Christian hope, giving extensive advice on how to teach people, especially youth, to remain full of hope. No matter “where God has planted you, hope.”

The following is Pope Francis’ guide to hope:

- Enemy No. 1 is not out there somewhere, but inside oneself. “Don’t make room for bitter or dark thoughts.”
- “Believe in the existence of the most noble and beautiful truths” and trust that God, through the Holy Spirit, is ushering everything toward the good, toward “Christ’s embrace.”
- Never believe the struggles here on earth are “useless.” God never disappoints and he wants that seed behind them in everyone to bloom. “God made us to flower, too.”
- “Wherever you are, build!”
- When life gets hard, and “you have fallen, get up. Never stay down. Get up and let people help you to your feet.”
- “If you’re sitting, start walking!” Start the journey. “If you’re bored stiff, crush [boredom] with good works.”
- “If you feel empty and demoralized, ask if the Holy Spirit may newly replenish” that void.
- Work for peace among people.
- Don’t listen to those “who spread hatred and division.”
- No matter how different people are from one another, human beings “were created to live together. With disputes,



CNS/Photo

wait patiently. One day you will discover that a sliver of truth has been entrusted to everyone.”

- Love people. Respect everyone’s journey—whether it be troubled or down the straight and narrow because everyone has a story behind them.
- Every baby born is “the promise of a life that once again shows it is stronger than death.”
- “Jesus has given us a light that shines in the darkness; defend it, protect it. This unique light is the greatest richness entrusted to your life.”
- Dream of a world still not seen, but that will certainly come one day. Think of those who sailed oceans, scaled mountains, conquered slavery or made life better for people on earth.
- Ask God for courage every day. “Remember, Jesus conquered fear for us” and “not even our most treacherous enemy can do anything against faith.”
- If fear or evil looms so large it seems insurmountable, re-

member “that Jesus lives in you. And, through you, it is he, who, with his meekness, wants to subdue all enemies of humanity: sin, hatred, crime and violence.”

- Be courageous in speaking the truth, but never forget, “you are not above anyone.”
- Hold onto ideals and live for something greater than yourself, even if it comes at a high price.
- “Nothing is more human than making mistakes and these mistakes must not become a prison for you.” The son of God came “not for the healthy, but the sick” so people should not be afraid to get up again and start over when they fall, “because God is your friend.”
- “If bitterness strikes, firmly believe in all those people who still work for the good; the seed of a new world is in their humility.”
- Spend time with people who have kept a child-like heart. “Learn from splendor, nurture amazement.”
- “Live, love, believe, and with God’s grace, never despair.”



### Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

- Climate change.
- Natural disasters.
- Racism.
- Politics.

War and the refugee crisis. In the past month, the United States and the world as a whole have been hit hard by difficult events made worse by the strong emotions shared on social media.

I often want to share my opinions on Facebook, but find myself increasingly withdrawing in order to preserve my inner peace. My heart races as I read an angry exchange between people about any one of a number of topics making headlines.

From the beginning of time, there have been hurricanes, floods, racism, and crazy political times. Perhaps what seems to make it worse today is the 24-hour news cycle, smart phones and social media.

But I love how Pope Francis always sees the bright side. Last year, at the 50th World Day of Social Communications, he said: Emails, text messages, social networks and chats can be “fully human forms of communication.”

We all need to reconsider what it means to use social media wisely and to the benefit of others.

Last week, the pope launched the worldwide, two-year “Share the Journey” campaign that calls all Christians to “encounter” migrants and refugees in an effort to break down barriers of fear and suspicion. He invites everyone to use social media to love their neighbors and share the journey of the millions of migrant and refugee families who are seeking safety and a decent life.

Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are part of the global network of Caritas organizations participating in the campaign. They are asking all Catholics, parishes, schools and other organizations to join the “Share the Journey” campaign at [www.sharejourney.org](http://www.sharejourney.org) and use #ShareJourney on Twitter or other outlets.

Other positive actions going on here and elsewhere:

- The Diocese of Erie so far has collected more than \$139,000 in special collections for hurricane relief efforts in Texas and Florida and the Caribbean. More is expected as parishes take up another second collection this weekend.

- Nationally, Bishop Frank Dewane and Bishop Oscar Cantú voiced their support for the Climate Solutions Commission Act of 2017, a bill that would establish a bipartisan National Climate Solutions Commission. This bill is supposed to be a significant way to protect the environment and mitigate what the bishops said are “the harmful effects of climate change.”

- Students throughout the diocese are raising money for natural disaster relief and at least one school—DuBois Central Catholic—is collecting diapers for babies and adults whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Given the magnitude of problems in the world, it would be easy to let compassion fatigue lead to the disease of inaction. Or we could continue to berate people on social media for not seeing things “our way.”

Pope Francis asks us to do otherwise.

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## Q&A

Continued from page 1

**Bishop:** The fruits will be better utilization of our priests, encouraging more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, strengthening our school system, and, hopefully, through faith formation, helping people understand the call to discipleship. We’re all called to be disciples.

**Q:** For 35 years, you were a diocesan priest in Greensburg. How did that help prepare you for being a bishop?

**Bishop:** I think what helped me was my life in the parish as well as my years at the diocesan level working in the chancery under three bishops. It gave me a larger view of the church. The parish was a good place to learn about people and how to interact with them, how to help them discover Christ in their lives and to be there for them sacramentally. The 30 years of administration prepared me to

understand how a diocese is run. It was a good balance for me, and I found it helpful on my first day on the job here.

**Q:** You are celebrating your 40th anniversary as a priest this year. Can you describe what it’s meant for you to be a Catholic priest?

**Bishop:** For me, it’s the greatest opportunity I’ve ever had. I’m so grateful that I’ve been called to serve God’s people. I love being a priest. There’s never been a day that I’ve regretted being a priest. It’s been so rewarding for me. Not only the everyday activities, but also the encounters you have with people. You’re so much a part of their lives, helping them in their times of joy, times of sorrow. It’s an opportunity to witness to the Gospel. I’ve always believed that if God calls you to something, whether it’s as a married person, a single person, or as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious, you receive the grace for it. If you cooperate with the grace that God gives you, it allows you to live that vocation.

**Q:** What are your future plans for the diocese?



FaithLife file photo

Bishop Persico loves talking to youth about religious vocations. Last March, he spoke to Jonah and Tate Hanlon at a vocation dinner at St. Joseph Parish, Erie.

**Bishop:** I don’t have a preconceived plan. As we go along, we will discover what we need to do. Certainly, it’s going to be in collaboration and consultation with the clergy and the laity. I’m not operating—and I can’t operate—in a silo. I don’t have all the answers, nor do I have all the direction. We have to trust in God and the Holy Spirit in our lives and, hopefully, we can move into the future with confidence.

**Q:** If you could ask the people of the diocese to do one thing for you, what would it be?

**Bishop:** I know you said one, but I’ll give you two. First, pray for me that I will be a shepherd in the heart of Christ, the Good Shepherd. Second, pray for vocations.

**Q:** You’ve really made creating a culture of vocations a main point of your episcopacy. Why?

**Bishop:** I’ve enjoyed my vocation so much that I’d like others to share in that. Creating a culture of vocations was one aspect of our pastoral planning. It’s not just my job to recruit vocations. It’s every parent’s job, every grandparent’s job. Every baptized person is to encourage vocations, and that means all vocations: marriage, single life, consecrated life and priesthood. I say marriage, too, because in our culture a lot of people aren’t interested in marriage. If those who are married live their vocation well, then they set an example to others and improve family life.

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EVENTS

■ ALPHA at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart Parish in Erie is hosting ALPHA, a 10-week course recommended by the U.S. Catholic bishops as a tool for the new evangelization.

Sessions will continue every Thursday through Nov. 16 from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish auditorium, 816 W. 26th St., Erie. Evenings include a shared meal, followed by a talk and discussion.

For more information or to register, contact Sister Ricarda Vincent at [rvincent@velocity.net](mailto:rvincent@velocity.net) or call her at 814-456-6256.

■ Lecture: Spirituality/Gender

Greg Baker, campus minister at Mercyhurst University, Erie, will deliver a public lecture at Mercyhurst's Walker Recital Hall Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. His topic is "Spirituality and Gender: Catholic Perspectives on a Whole and Just Life."

■ OLP celebrates Fatima

On Oct. 12, Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with recitation of the rosary, followed by Mass at 5:30 p.m. with Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman as the main celebrant. A reception in the school cafeteria will follow.

■ Parish mission at St. Gregory

St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish, 48 S. Pearl St., North East, invites the public to its parish mission, "Jesus Transform Us," Oct. 16-18. Conducted by Father William Khinehart, CM, of the Vincentian Parish Missions, each evening begins with Mass at 6:30 p.m. Confessions will be heard each day at 5:15 p.m. Anointing of the sick will take place after Mass on Tuesday evening. Refreshments will follow Mass on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Child care will be available each night.

■ Spaghetti dinner, Corvette

A Serafini's spaghetti dinner will be held Oct. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Jude the Apostle Church Parish Center, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for kids under 5. Take-outs are available. The day also will feature a gift auction, bake sale, face-painting, and a chance to win a 2017 Corvette or \$40,000 in cash.

■ Singer is guest at parish

St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie, will host its parish mission—featuring Vallimar Jansen—on Oct. 24-26. Vallimar Jansen is a singer, cantor and recording artist. She is also a college professor, a leader of worship and prayer, and a workshop presenter at conferences across the United States. She is known especially for her work with gospel, contem-

porary Christian and gospel-jazz styles.

■ Ringing in St. Jude School

A special ceremony marking the naming of St. Jude School in Erie will be held at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie, on Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to attend the event, which will honor the former Our Lady's Christian School, and celebrate the future of St. Jude. A procession to the school will immediately follow Mass. There will be a brief prayer service and blessing, followed by tours, a showcase of school history, fun and fellowship.

■ Concussion lecture

Concussion awareness is the focus of an upcoming lecture at Gannon University's Yehl Room of the Waldron Campus Center, 124 W. 7th St., Erie. Brian Hainline, M.D., chief medical officer of the NCAA, will present his lecture Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.

■ Six vocation dinners planned

Those interested in exploring a vocation to the priesthood or religious life are encouraged to attend a St. Andrew Dinner or a Miriam Dinner in the Diocese of Erie. The Vocations Office has scheduled six dinners from October through February. The dinners are a no-obligation event for discussion and discernment with priests, sisters and seminarians.

For more information, go to [www.ErieVocations.org](http://www.ErieVocations.org) or call Father Mike Polinek, director, at 814-824-1200.

The following is the St. Andrew Dinner schedule:

- Oct. 2—Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex
- Oct. 12—Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
- Nov. 6—Our Lady of Peace, Erie
- Nov. 12—Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
- Feb. 11—St. Eulalia, Couderdsport

The Miriam Dinner schedule:

- Oct. 18—Julia House, Erie.

■ Icon painting workshop

An icon painting workshop will be held Nov. 5-11 at Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. Mary Kay Laplante will lead the class in creating an icon of Christ in the ancient Byzantine style. Students will receive materials.

The days will include class instruction and painting, personal prayer time, optional Centering Prayer, daily Mass and home-cooked meals. The offering for the workshop is \$525 for the class and icon materials, plus \$375 for overnight accommodations and meals. Partial limited scholarships are available.

For more information, go to [www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org) or call 814-263-4855 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

# New coordinator named for protection of youth

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Cindy Zemic, a longtime parish religious education leader, was recently named the full-time diocesan coordinator of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Zemic replaces Karen Street, who held the position since the inception of the office in the early 2000s.

The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth is responsible for compliance with all mandates of the United States Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This includes effective response to abuse perpetrated by church personnel, as well as accountability for diocesan policy regarding abuse of minors.

It's also proactive in coordinating child protection in-servicing for all adults who minister to children and youth, and the dissemination of information regarding a safe environment for children, parents and the larger community.

This past year, about 14,000 youth in the Diocese of Erie have been trained on issues related to safe environment. Every October,

every parish and school must advise the office when young people are in-serviced, and parishes are asked to publicize in their bulletins the official code of conduct and information on safe environments.

"We do everything we can to make sure children are safe," Zemic said. "We have to empower our parents and our children with this information. The more you talk to children about what's right and what's wrong, the more they may tell you about a problem."

The diocese consistently has been found to be in full compliance with safe environment practices according to the independent audit firm of Stonebridge Business Partners. The audit is designed to measure the diocese's compliance with the guidelines of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued by the USCCB.

The protection of children is of utmost concern to a society that sees many children suffering at the hands of abusers.

According to statistics released in the 2016 Child Protective Services Report in Pennsylvania, there were roughly 3,800 suspected cases of child abuse—sexual, physical or others—in the geographic area that comprises northwestern Pennsylvania.

"This is a serious problem," said Zemic, who is the mother of two adult children and the grandmother of three. "I think we miss the signs



Cindy Zemic

REPORT ABUSE

▶ If there is suspicion or knowledge that a child is being abused, immediately notify Pennsylvania's Child Line at 800-932-0313.

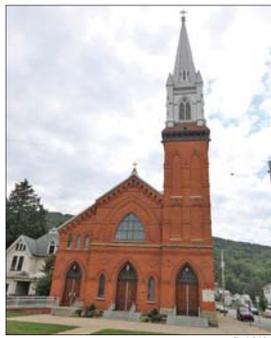
▶ For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call Dr. Robert Nelsen, victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Erie, at 814-451-1521.

For more information on the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, visit [www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm).

of abuse. Most people are good people and we don't want to think that this could happen."

Zemic enforced safe environment practices as director of religious education at St. Francis Xavier Parish in McKean the past 25 years. Her experience will go a long way in her new position, according to Msgr. Edward Lohse, vicar general, who oversees the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

"Cindy brings a tremendous wealth of experience to her new position, for which I am grateful. She has implemented every version of the diocesan policy for the Protection of Children and Youth since it was first introduced. She has been with us every step of the way, and she has already demonstrated that she is a valuable asset not only to this office, but to the parishes, schools, and other communities throughout the diocese," Msgr. Lohse said.



St. Patrick Church, Franklin

## 150 YEARS STRONG

### St. Patrick Parish marks sesquicentennial

FRANKLIN—St. Patrick Church was only a plain frame building—40x60 feet—when it was constructed at the end of the Civil War in the rural Venango County town of Franklin.

Today, 150 years later, the heritage and perseverance of those early settlers to the region remains intact, while the building and its location have changed. The parish today has about 800 households. Bishop Lawrence Per-

sico will preside at a sesquicentennial Mass Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m. as part of a 40 Hours celebration Oct. 1-3 at the church, located at 949 Liberty St., Franklin.

On Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, there will be evening prayer and Benediction. A solemn closing, along with benediction, will be held Oct. 3. Father Ron Witherup, general superior of the Sulpician Order and a native son of St. Patrick, will speak at each evening service, beginning at 7 p.m.

Photos and news

Diocese of Erie



**ANNUAL FALL COUNTRY-STYLE TURKEY AND HAM DINNER**  
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**ST. LAWRENCE ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER**  
 PLACE 180 E. State St., Albion  
**WHEN** Sunday, October 8, 2017  
 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
**COST** Adult: \$10, Child 6-10: \$5  
 Child under 5: Free  
**FUN** 50/50, Gift Auction!  
**MORE INFO** (814) 756-3623

**St. Joseph Church Fall Fish Fry**  
 Force, PA  
**Friday, October 20, 2017**  
 Hours: Noon to 6:30 p.m.  
**Haddock Fish Dinner \$11**  
 Children 10 and under \$6  
**ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:**  
 Haddock Fish (baked or fried)  
 Choice of Potato (baked or French fries)  
 Cup of Soup (not included in take-out)  
 Dinner Roll and Cole Slaw  
 Dessert and Drink  
 (drink not included in take-out)

**POSITION OPENING** **DIocese of Erie**  
**Director of Office for Social Justice and Life**  
 The Diocese of Erie is seeking to fill this full-time position in the Catholic Charities Office at St. Mark Catholic Center. Go to [www.ErieRCD.org/employment.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/employment.htm) for a complete position profile and application form.

**McGonigle**  
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[www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com](http://www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com)

**Loftus Lecture**  
**EVANGELICAL CATHOLICISM: Challenges in 21st-Century America**  
**Tuesday, October 3**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Gannon University**  
 Featuring:  
**George Weigel**  
*Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center*  
**GANNON UNIVERSITY**  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
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**GANNON.EDU/LOFTUSLECTURE**

# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

Check out more photos at [www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm)



## 2017 seminarians gather for Mass



ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico, center, celebrated Mass Sept. 15 with the current house of seminarians at St. Mark Seminary in Erie. Concelebrating were Father Michael Kesicki, rector, middle row, far left, and Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector, middle row, far right.

Seminarians standing in the first row, from left, are: Benjamin Dagher, Daniel Weaver, Adrian Fritzsche and Michael Awungkeng. In the middle row, from left, are: Waylon Duncan and Cory Pius. In the top row, from left, are: Andrew Hamilton, Patrick Strycharz, Eric Eggert, Ryan Courtney and Jason Koshinski.

## Diocese presents Wuerl scholarships



NORTH EAST—Congratulations to 2017 St. Gregory School graduate Hunter Richard Reinken, who was one of 16 students awarded the Cardinal Donald Wuerl Scholarship from Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania. The \$3,000 scholarship toward Catholic high school education is based on a student's academic achievement, a teacher's recommendation, and a personal essay. Hunter is now enrolled at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie. He is pictured with Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, far left, and Bishop Lawrence Persico, who presented the awards this summer at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie.

## Two new Secular Franciscans welcomed



WATERFORD—The Secular Franciscans in Erie recently welcomed two new members: Mary Stewart and Burton Fisch.

Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Patricia Tribble, Mary Stewart and Burton Fisch. In the second row, from left, are: Harriet McClellan, Divie Youngberg, Patricia Jaworski, Jeanette Briggs and Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF. In the third row, from left, are: Patricia Henry, Donna Roberti, Nancy Mattson and Mary Lou Kreider. In the fourth row, from left, are: Diana Twaroski, Chris Scholze-Zurawski and Mary Nelson.

## St. Severin Church celebrates Labor Day



Photo by Anne Marie Walsh

DRIFTING—St. Severin Church in Drifting celebrated another successful Labor Day picnic this year. Young and old enjoyed this free hay ride, along with other activities. More than 1,000 people ate a grilled chicken dinner, too. The event usually raises about \$12,000 to support the presence of the church in the Northern Moshannon area.

## Grove City students attend Notre Dame Vision 2017 event

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—Fourteen youth from the Church of the Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City joined hundreds of students from across the country at the Notre Dame Vision 2017 conference at the South Bend campus.

The McGrath Institute for Church Life presented the annual event, which drew more than 300 Catholic youth. Speakers led talks and discussions on important topics related to the theme, "The Word Made Flesh."

Pictured at the Notre Dame Vision 2017 event in South Bend, this past June, in the bottom row, from left, are: Juliana Bablak, Kaitlin Novak, Ellie Chuzie, Mary Duda, Georgia Coulter, Sydney Adams, Melissa Ralston (youth minister), and Nathan Felicetty. In the top row, from left, are: Katie Snyder, Lena Valenza, Katelyn Harris, Arielle Reiser, Angie Felicetty (director of religious education),



Tristan Shaffer, Peter Birmingham and Mark Armour. Not pictured are Father Mike Allison, pastor, and Alex Boarts, chaperone.

## St. Joseph School's robotics program begins with new year

LUCINDA—Dr. Dana Madison, a Clarion University of Pennsylvania professor, is pictured with fourth- to sixth-graders in the new robotics class at St. Joseph School in Lucinda. The class meets every Wednesday afternoon and students are invited to be members of the newly established Robotics Club.

Students assemble and program robots, using VEX IQ robots and ROBOTC hardware and software. The program is sponsored by Dr. Madison, the Fryburg Sportsman's Club and Bianchi Honda.



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## Mother's Pilgrims Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

April 25 - May 4, 2018  
Trip with Fellow Pilgrim Rev. Michael R. Ackerman



"Thank you for responding to My call. If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry of joy."

Hostesses: Cathy Howe & Medjugorje Visionary Mirjana Soldo

Our Lady is Waiting just for you.  
If you Hear Her Call, let Nothing stand in Your way.

For more information  
412-278-4673 or 412-366-7200  
[www.mothershope.org](http://www.mothershope.org)

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## 23rd ANNUAL ERIE DIOCESAN Rosary March Fatima's 100-Year Anniversary



**SUNDAY: OCTOBER 8, 2017**  
Saint Peter Cathedral, 2:00 PM  
10th and Sassafras Streets, Erie

**SPEAKER: BISHOP PERSICO**  
More info: John Walsh 814-868-1100

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<p><b>11th ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST</b> Authentic German cuisine Plus Heated Beer Tent, Theme Baskets, Kids Games, Games of Chance and more!</p> <p><b>GRAND PRIZE \$25,000</b></p>	<p><b>OCTOBER 6</b> 5:00 to 11:00 PM Keystone Bavarians 5-8 pm Mari's Room Band 8-11 pm</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 7</b> 1:00 to 11:00 PM The Mad Bavarian 1-4 pm Keystone Bavarians 4-8 pm The Grove 8-11 pm</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 8</b> 12:00 to 6:00 P.M. The Ocmphl Renaissance alternating with The Mad Bavarian 12-6 pm</p> <p>Drawing Sunday, October 8 at 5:00 pm Tickets 814-452-2982 or Church Office</p>
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