



Georgia residents vote in mid-term elections.

VOTING FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE See below.



A woman votes in Nigeria.



Missionaries of Charity vote in India.



MISSION SUNDAY PAGE 2

FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 16, 2016

Villa Elementary to close in 2017

SSJs to end 124-year legacy in elementary education

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Erie's Villa Maria Elementary School—a mainstay of Catholic education offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1892—will close at the end of this academic year.

Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, publicly announced the closure at an Oct. 4 press conference at the community's motherhouse in Erie. She and members of her leadership team shared the news the previous two days with parents, school personnel, and members of the board of trustees. Some expressed deep sadness and frustration at the passing of an era.

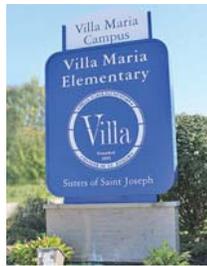
In explaining the decision to close a school so close to the hearts of generations of sister-educators, Sister Mary stated, "The Sisters of St. Joseph always try to respond to current needs. We give up a particular ministry when that need can be met by others."

Giving up the ministry of elementary education was not made lightly by the aging religious congregation. With the establishment of the new Erie Catholic School System, announced by the Diocese of Erie last spring, the SSJs felt confident that students had strong options for Catholic education in the area. In no way did the community feel pressured by the diocese to close Villa Elementary, Sister Mary said.

Villa Elementary is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, not a diocesan school. Still, sisters have collaborated over the years with the diocese by staffing Villa and nearly 40 other elementary and secondary schools.

"This is a proactive response that reflects our belief that together we are stronger and can more effectively fulfill the Gospel mandate of preaching and teaching God's word," Sister Mary said.

Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico lauded the Sisters



The sign at the West 8th Street entrance to Villa Maria Elementary.

"This is a proactive response that reflects our belief that together we are stronger and can more effectively fulfill the Gospel mandate of preaching and teaching God's word."

— Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ

to following wherever the Spirit leads them," the bishop said. "When they see a need, they meet it. In our diocese, they have addressed needs in health care, in Catholic education and in social ministry, always filling the gaps. But they also have the courage to move on when those needs are met by others."

Mary Gibson, president of the newly created



Photos by Mary Solberg

Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, far right, talks to Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico before a press conference Oct. 4 at which the religious community announced the closing of Villa Maria Elementary at the end of the academic year. Also pictured are Damon Finazzo, principal at Villa Elementary, and Mary Gibson, president of the Erie Catholic School System.

Erie Catholic School System, personally understands the impact of a school closure. She was the principal—as well as a parent—at St. Peter Cathedral School when it closed in June.

At the invitation of the SSJs, Gibson was on-hand at the press conference and at the recent parent meeting at Villa Elementary. She extended her support and offered help to families and students planning for the future. Currently,

the school's enrollment stands at 431 in pre-school through eighth grade.

Gibson said there is more than enough room in Catholic schools in the Erie area to accommodate students from Villa Elementary. She recommends that Villa students visit other schools and go over the pros and cons for their family situation.

>> VILLA MARIA ELEMENTARY, page 3

Only 12% respond to election survey

FAITHLIFE staff report

Only about 12 percent of candidates from the Diocese of Erie who are running for public office in Pennsylvania responded to a survey distributed recently by the diocesan Office of Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life.

"While the number of returns was low this year, I am extremely grateful to those individuals who took the time to respond to the survey," said Erin Landini-Grogan, director of the diocesan office. "Learning more about candidates and their stances on important topics is vital to how we form our consciences in voting."

Landini-Grogan encourages Catholics to research where candidates stand on important issues in the Nov. 8 general election. She points to the call by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to develop "faithful citizenship." [See sidebar at right.]

Of the 33 candidates in the diocese running for state offices, only four responded to the diocesan survey. [Write-in candidates were not included.]

The four respondents were:

- Troy Clawson, 1-65th District, PA House of Representatives
- Patrick Fuller, R-2nd District, PA House of Representatives
- Greg Lucas, R-3rd District, PA House of Representatives
- Brad Roac, R-6th District, PA House of Representatives

To read their responses, go to www.ErieRCD.org/vote2016.htm. Also available on the site is information from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference regarding the presidential race, the U.S. Senate race, and other statewide contests.

“The Church's Magisterium does not wish to exercise political power or to eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions. Instead it intends — as its proper function — to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good.”

— Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Doctrinal note on some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life

PREPARING FOR THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

As Catholics and as citizens we recall the following:

- ▶ Responsible citizenship is a virtue and one way we live our lives as Catholics.
- ▶ The Church does not tell us whom to vote for or what political party to join.
- ▶ The role of the Church is to help Catholics form their consciences in accord with God's truth.
- ▶ "Conscience is a judgment of practical reason that helps us to recognize and seek what is good and reject what is evil." (CCC 1778, 1796)
- ▶ Forming our consciences is an ongoing process.

Seven Steps to Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship:

- 1 When examining any issue or situation, we must begin by being open to the truth and to what is right.
- 2 We must study Sacred Scripture and the authoritative teachings of the Church.
- 3 We must examine the facts and background information from reliable sources.
- 4 We must prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God.
- 5 The prudent advice and good example of others supports and enlightens our conscience.
- 6 The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us develop our conscience.
- 7 Regular examination of conscience is important to help us to see the world through eyes of faith.

Not all issues have the same moral weight.

- ▶ There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. Such actions are so deeply flawed that they are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. They are deemed intrinsic evils and must never be supported or condoned. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia.
- ▶ Similarly, direct threats to the sanctity and dignity of human life, such as human cloning and destructive research on human embryos, must always be opposed.
- ▶ Other direct assaults on innocent human life and violations of human dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified.

Produced by the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Department for Human Dignity
Source: USCCB Faithful Citizenship

Newsmakers

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

■ Pope visits towns in central Italy devastated by earthquake



CNS photo

Pope Francis walks in the earthquake-ravaged town of Amatrice, Italy, Oct. 4.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Amid the devastation wrought by an earthquake this summer in central Italy, Pope Francis quietly prayed and offered words of consolation to survivors and those assisting in relief efforts in the hard-hit town of Amatrice.

"From the first moment, I felt that I needed to come to you. Simply to express my closeness to you, nothing more. And I pray, I pray for you," the pope said Oct. 4.

The epicenter of the earthquake was close to Norcia and had a magnitude of 6.2, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

■ Telecommunications firm praised for outreach to Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis praised a U.K.-based telecommunications firm for providing African children, particularly refugees, access to online educational resources.

The pope's remarks came during an audience Oct. 5 with representatives of the Vodafone Foundation and the managing director of the Vodafone Group, who explained the "Instant Schools for Africa" program.

Launched this autumn, the initiative provides a "digital school in a box." One hard-shell wheeled suitcase contains a 3G modem, 25 tablets, a laptop, a projector, speakers and a battery charging station, according to the Vodafone Group.

The "instant classrooms" also are being dis-

tributed to schools in refugee settlements in Kenya, Tanzania and Congo in partnership with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

■ 17 new cardinals named; three from the United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will conclude the Year of Mercy by creating 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis.

The new cardinals—13 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope and four over 80 being honored for their "clear Christian witness"—will be inducted into the College of Cardinals Nov. 19, the eve of the close of the Year of Mercy.

■ New rules in China questioned



CNS photo

People pray during a 2013 Mass in Qingdao, China.

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—Catholic experts warned that new rules on religion in China could severely hamper the church's work by curbing its foreign contacts and imposing heavy penalties for unauthorized activity.

"Compared with previous drafts, these regulations are more restrictive, since they include references to national security," said Anthony Lam, executive secretary of the Holy Spirit Study Centre of Hong Kong's Catholic diocese.

China's State Council for Legislative Affairs has tightened control over foreign clergy and religious material on the Internet and imposes fines of up to 200,000 yuan (\$30,000) for "illegal religious activities."



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers some wonderful insights into the democratic process, which, by all accounts, we could use during this particularly difficult election season.

In its 2015 document "Forming Consciences of Faithful Citizenship," the USCCB suggests that Catholics "cannot compromise basic principles or moral teaching" when voting. In addition to specific recommendations, noted on page 1 of this edition of *FaithLife*, the bishops call for what they term "a renewed kind of politics" that focuses more on three things:

- moral principles over the latest polls
- the needs of the weak over benefits for the strong
- the pursuit of the common good over the demands of narrow interests.

Congratulations to Msgr. L. Thomas Snyderwine, who was recognized Oct. 5 with the Alumni Leadership Award from Catholic University of America's alumni board of CUA's Theological College. The honor was presented at the Washington, D.C.-based school in recognition of Msgr. Snyderwine's six years as chair of the alumni board of the Theological College.

Msgr. Snyderwine is a 1968 graduate of Catholic University and its Theological College.

At Gannon University, five individuals were honored at the recent Homecoming Reunion Weekend. The following alumni from Gannon and Villa Maria College were presented Distinguished Alumni Awards:

- **Almitra "Almi" Clerkin**, executive director of the Erie Playhouse
 - **Elisabeth "Betsy" Monsalve**, director at McManis & Monsalve Associates of Erie
 - **John "Jay" Alberstadt Jr.**, partner at MacDonald Illig Jones and Britton in Erie
 - **Adam J. Susmarski, D.O.**, chief resident in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
- Also honored that weekend was **Benedictine Sister Mary Miller**, director of Erie's Emmaus Ministries. Sister Mary was the recipient of the Msgr. Wilfrid Nash Christian Conduct Award.

The vegetable garden at St. Andrew Church in Erie wasn't huge this year, nor was the bounty. But for those who attended a recent soup lunch outside the West 7th Street parish, it was a gift from God.

Several people who use the parish food pantry were invited to the lunch at the end of September. Many items from the garden were used for the menu.

Kate Fatter, her husband, **Jim Fatter**, and maintenance employees **Richie Martin** and **Frank Necci** planted and maintained four small raised garden beds through the summer. According to Kate, one man who attended the lunch said, "Now I know there is a God." Potratz Floral Shop and Gerlach's Garden and Floral, both in Erie, donated plants to the parish garden.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*. Email: msolberg@ErieRCD.org Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIERCDsolberg

Celebrate Mission Sunday

FAITHLIFE staff report

For members of Friends on a Mission in Franklin, Mission Sunday is more than just one day out of the year. Helping people in need is a daily effort of this outreach group affiliated with St. Patrick Parish in Venango County.

"It just brings joy to your heart," says Dean Collins, a member of Friends on a Mission.

For about a year, the group—inspired by the late Benedictine Sister Claire Hudert—held numerous fundraisers to purchase a large van for the Erie Diocesan Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. They raised more than \$20,000.

Earlier this year, Collins and his wife, Cindy, and other St. Patrick parishioners traveled to Mérida for the official blessing of the new van by Father Alfredo Cirerol, a longtime liaison between the mission and the Archdiocese of Yucatán.

"The van has been a real blessing," says Tricia Pipkin, coordinator of the Mission of Friendship in Mérida.

The large white vehicle is being used for many of the mission's needs, including transportation for various programs and to haul

supplies to neighboring villages.

For the people of the Yucatán, whose incomes are minimal and whose homes are sometimes only the size of a two-car garage, it's a God-send.

"When you see the need down there, you realize how fortunate we are here in the U.S. and in our parishes," adds Deb Drayer, another member of Friends on a Mission. "It's good to help."

People of the Diocese of Erie can help, too, by giving in their parishes Oct. 15-16, when Mission Sunday will be celebrated.

Adds Indra Suarez, director of the diocesan Mission Office in Erie: "Just think for a moment...your support can change someone's life."

This month marks the 90th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Catholics are asked to recommit themselves to the church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

Give to the missions at www.ErieRCD.org/missions.htm



Contributed photo

Parishioners from St. Patrick Church in Franklin joined several people affiliated with the Erie Diocesan Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, at a blessing of the van for the mission. Pictured, from left, are: Lanora Queckborner, former mission volunteer; Silvia Gonzalez Garcia, longtime mission employee, Deb and Dan Drayer of Franklin; Patricia Pipkin, coordinator of the Mission of Friendship; Father Alfredo Cirerol, longtime liaison between the mission and the Archdiocese of Yucatán; Doug and Maria McGee of Franklin; Gladys Vazquez Peña, longtime mission employee; Cindy and Dean Collins of Franklin; and Bernie Williams of Franklin.

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EVENTS

Special talk scheduled for Year of Mercy

ERIE—Dr. Michael Coulter, professor of political science and humanities at Grove City College, will deliver a talk, titled “Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching,” on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie. The talk is a special event for the Year of Mercy. Refreshments will be offered. For more information, call Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, at 814-824-1135.

Organist to be featured at St. Peter Cathedral

ERIE—Donald K. Fellows, an organist and director of music at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, will perform at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie on Oct. 16 at 4 p.m. The concert is part of an ongoing series at the parish. The event is free and open to the public.

Force parish to host October fish fry

FORCE—St. Joseph Parish in Force welcomes everyone to its fall fish fry Oct. 21 from noon to 6:30 p.m. at the church. Eat in or take out. Soup and drink not included for take-outs. The cost for dinner is \$11 per person or \$6 for children 10 and under. For more information, call 814-787-4151, or email stjosephforce@windstream.net.

Harvest Weekend planned in Jefferson County

BROOKVILLE—Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookville, and St. Dominic Parish in Sigel will host their annual Harvest Weekend Oct. 22-23. Apple butter and gourmet caramel apples will be available for sale Oct. 22 before the 5:15 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Brookville. A dinner will be held Oct. 23 in the church hall of Immaculate Conception beginning at 11:15 a.m. until sold out. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Take-outs will be available.

Corry parishes to host ham dinner this month

CORRY—St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth parishes in Corry welcome the public to its homemade ham dinner Oct. 23 at St. Elizabeth Parish Center, 33 West Pleasant St. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take-out or local deliveries available. For more information, call the parish office at 814-663-3041. For deliveries, call 814-664-9187.

Life in the Spirit course offered in Meadville

MEADVILLE—“The Gift,” a Life in the Spirit course endorsed by Pope Francis, will be held at St. Brigid Church, Meadville, every Sunday from Oct. 23 to Nov. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. Register at each Meadville parish or call Amy Mosbacher for information at 814-333-2274, ext. 2, or email her at amy.mosbacher@catholic-meadville.org.

Mass for deceased religious scheduled Nov. 2

ERIE—A Mass for deceased religious—as well as deceased priests and deacons—will be held at the Mercy Chapel at the Mercy Motherhouse in Erie on Nov. 2, not Nov. 11 as was previously announced in *Faith* magazine. The Mass begins at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

House of Mercy hosts Techno Bingo

ERIE—The House of Mercy, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie, will host its Techno Bingo Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Perry Hi-way Hose Company's social hall in Erie. Tickets are \$25 per person. Must be 21 to attend. To order tickets, visit www.EventBrite.com and search events for Techno Bingo. For more information, call Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, at 814-898-0167, or email her at Michele.schroeck@gmail.com.

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Villa Maria Elementary to close

Continued from page 1

“It’s a difficult time for parents,” Gibson said. “I would recommend that they be sympathetic and be open to their children’s concerns. Try to be as positive



Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ

as possible about the process even though it’s tough...but especially because it’s tough.”

Damon Finazzo, principal of Villa Elementary, met with students to confirm the closing. It’s better, he said, to all be “on the same page” and to come together during a difficult moment.

“We’re going to go one day at a time and we’re going to make every day awesome for our kids,” Finazzo said. “The kids are looking to us for direction. I just told them how awesome they are and how awesome we are. They were very receptive; they’re good kids.”

Change has been at the core of the Villa experience since the Sisters of St. Joseph first arrived in the Diocese of Erie to teach young women at St. Ann Academy in Corsica, Pa. In 1892, the SSJs established Villa Maria Academy for grades 1 through 12. In the late 1920s, the school became two entities: Villa Maria Elementary for grades 1 through 8, and Villa Maria Academy for grades 9 through 12.

The community founded Villa Maria College, which later merged with Gannon University in Erie. And in 2009, Villa Maria Academy successfully merged with Cathedral Prep, creating the Erie Catholic Preparatory School.

New novice welcomed



Contributed photo

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie received postulant Valerie Luckey into the novitiate Sept. 10. The novitiate is the second stage of monastic formation.

Sister Valerie, 28, is from Emmaus, Pa., and is the daughter of Denise and Thomas Luckey. She graduated from St. Joseph University in Philadelphia and was an elementary teacher in Philadelphia schools.

Pictured with Sister Valerie, center, are Benedictine Sister Anne Wambach, prioress, at left, and Benedictine Sister Stephanie Schmidt, novice director.

Erie native becomes friar



Contributed photo

Brother Tage Danielson, a native of Waterford and a graduate of St. George School and Villa Maria Academy, both in Erie, professed his perpetual vows as a Capuchin Franciscan friar at St. Augustine Church in Pittsburgh in August.

Currently, Brother Tage is studying theology at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He is the son of Dennis and Jan Danielson of Waterford.

Pictured is Brother Tage professing perpetual vows into the hands of Father Tom Betz, OFM Cap., provincial minister.

OBITUARY

Brother Nathanael Necaster, OFM

Native of Farrell dies in 57th year of religious life

RINGWOOD, N.J.—Brother Nathanael Necaster, OFM, 86, a professed Franciscan friar for 57 years, died Sept. 14 at Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, N.J.

Born in Farrell, he was baptized Lawrence John Necaster, a son of the late Lawrence and Concetta Necaster. He was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Farrell.

He was received into the Franciscan Order in 1958 in Lafayette, N.J., professing his first vows there the following year. He professed solemn vows on Aug. 22, 1962. His first



Brother Nathanael Necaster, OFM

assignment was to St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, N.J.

Brother Necaster was assigned to Christ the King Seminary in 1965, where he would remain for the next 28 years at its original location on the campus of St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., and then when it relocated to East Aurora, N.Y., in 1974.

He held many other assignments with his religious order. In 2012, Brother Necaster retired to St. Anthony Friary in Butler, N.J. He transferred to Holy Name Friary earlier this year.

Survivors include his sister, Annette Revale, of Sharon. Burial was at St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Allegany. Memorials may be sent to Franciscan Friars—Holy Name Province, 144 W. 32nd St., New York, NY 10001-3202.

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



Scout awarded the Ad Altare Dei Medal



FRANKLIN—Andrew Burda of Boy Scout Troop 111 in Franklin was awarded the Ad Altare Dei Medal during Mass Sept. 18. Andrew earned this award while studying the seven sacraments with Deacon Walt Jones. Ad Altare Dei is the highest regional medal for scouting. Pictured, from left, are: Andrew's parents, Al and Ruth Burda; Andrew Burda; Deacon Walt Jones; and Msgr. John Herbin, pastor of St. Patrick, Franklin.

Bishop visits Potter County parish



Photo by Andy Lychalk Jr.

GALETON—Bishop Lawrence Persico celebrated Mass recently at St. Bibiana Church in Galeton. A catered dinner for more than 100 parishioners was held in the parish center. Bishop Persico is pictured visiting with parishioners John Lychalk, left, and Tom Schultz.

OLP students raise funds for Louisiana



ERIE—Students at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie recently held a dress-down day to benefit flood victims in Louisiana. Officers of the student government presented Father Matt Kujawinski, pastor, with checks totaling \$500. Pictured, from left, are: Brooke Moffatt, student council vice president; Father Matt Kujawinski; Rachel Majewski and Darian Zacherl, co-presidents; Maria Knox, secretary; Michael Vereb, treasurer; and Cindy Weigand, faculty adviser.

St. Luke eighth-graders retreat to Camp Notre Dame in Fairview



FAIRVIEW—Eighth-graders at St. Luke School in Erie recently attended a class retreat at Camp Notre Dame. Students—along with Father Steve Schreiber, pictured at center, and teachers Liesl Minnecci and Carolyn McIntyre—spent the day doing group activities. They also prayed together, experienced the sacrament of reconciliation, and shared quiet reflection time.

Clarion Campus Ministry organizes pilgrimage to Baltimore



BALTIMORE—Twelve Clarion University of Pennsylvania students and Ann Enderle Liska, director of Campus Ministry at Clarion University, made a pilgrimage to Baltimore recently. They joined 45 university students from throughout the region at a Mass and a tour of the Basilica of the Assumption. They also distributed mercy bags to the needy and explored Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Pictured in the first row, from left, are: Sam Alsahati, Kate Ryan and Mackenzie Porter. In the second row, from left, are: Lukas Betz, Soyoung Jee, Hannah Reid and Shawn Sheptock. In the third row, from left, are: Rachel Stevenson, Dallas Kelley, Marcus Mitchell, Daegun Ha and Lea Fenart.

Bradford church packed for 9/11 Mass



Photo courtesy of the Bradford Erie

BRADFORD—St. Bernard Parish in Bradford was filled to capacity Sept. 11 for a Mass remembering the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Those in attendance marked the 15th anniversary by honoring local heroes, including firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and military personnel. The musical program was presented by All-4-One, a group of more than 30 singers from 15 area churches and led by Jeanne Gross.

Constitution Day celebrated in diocese



ERIE—Schools in the Diocese of Erie celebrated Constitution Day in September. At St. James School in Erie, eight special "guests" talked to students about what the Constitution meant to them. Pictured are Betsy Ross (Ruth Chase), Abigail Adams (Alissa Bailey), Martha Washington (Katie Zellefrow), George Washington (Johnathan Zank), Benjamin Franklin (Joseph Amann), Thomas Jefferson (John Campbell), Molly Pitcher (Claire Razanasukas), and John Adams (Rory Brady).

Smile Mile gets colorful despite rain



ERIE—Despite rain, more than 75 people participated in the recent Smile Mile event at Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie. The school fundraiser netted about \$1,000. Pictured, from left, are: eighth-graders Victoria Purchase, Marni Bongiovanni and Olivia Mottillo.

Bishop blesses new computer lab at Venango Catholic High School



OIL CITY—Bishop Lawrence Persico recently traveled to Venango Catholic High School in Oil City to bless the school's new computer lab.

Renovations included the installation of 24 new computers for teaching and learning and two new servers to support student and teacher work. The lab also features a new interactive projector that allows students to interact physically with simulations and demonstrations.

Pictured at the blessing, from left, are: Father Justin Pino, pastor of St. Joseph and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishes, both in Oil City; Father Matt Kujawinski, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie; Venango senior Taylor Dziekciasz; Bishop Lawrence Persico; and Father Shane Mathew, headmaster at Venango Catholic.



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St. Joseph Church Fall Fish Fry

Friday, October 21, 2016
Hours: 12:00 to 6:30 pm
Haddock Fish Dinner \$11
Child 10 and under \$6

Force, PA

Delivery in Bennetts Valley
Choice of Potato (baked for French fries)
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Come eat in or take out!

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE:
Haddock Fish (baked or fried)
Cup of Soup (not included in takeout)
Dinner Roll and Cole Slaw
Dessert and Drink
(drink not included in takeout)

One Day... One Meal!

The "Besta" Spaghetti in town!

ST. JUDE'S 'Serafini's Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, October 23, 2016

Our Lady's Christian School
606 Lowell Avenue
Noon to 5:30 p.m.
Takeout begins at 11:30 am

Adults \$8, Children \$4
Kids under 5 eat free!

Food, fellowship, music, bake sale, basket raffle, children's area and car raffle winner to be announced!
Tickets at the Parish Rectory or at the door. **814-833-0927**

ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES

All Souls Day Mass
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m.
Gate of Heaven

Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, celebrant

www.eriecd.org

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2016

...all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus

Each of us, as a baptized Catholic, has a role to play. World Mission Sunday is a day for all Catholics to recommit to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

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