

New 'doctors'

Pope adds two saints to list of church 'doctors', page 2.



FaithLife

VOTER'S GUIDE

Election resources for Pennsylvania Catholics, insert page.

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 21, 2012

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days

- Oct. 21 World Mission Sunday
- Oct. 22 Blessed John Paul II (in Rome and Poland)
- Oct. 23 St. John Capistrano
- Oct. 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret
- Nov. 1 All Saints (holy day of obligation)
- Nov. 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
- Nov. 3 St. Martin de Porres

Confirmations

Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek – Sunday, Oct. 28 at 11 a.m.

St. Callistus, Kane – Sunday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie – Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

Canonization of seven new saints – Oct. 21

The official calendar of saints' feast days will grow Oct. 21 when Pope Benedict XVI canonizes seven men and women, including North Americans Mother Marianne Cope of Molokai and Kateri Tekakwitha, a Native American; Peter Calungod, a young Filipino catechist martyred in Guam; and Anna Schaffer, a German lay Catholic.

The canonization Mass will be one of the first big events of the church's Year of Faith, which is designed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and to launch a strengthened commitment to the new evangelization.

All Saints – Nov. 1 (holy day of obligation)



Nov. 1 is the solemnity of All Saints (All Saints' Day), a feast for the multitude of saints who have lived on earth and are now in heaven. It was instituted to honor all saints and martyrs, known and unknown.

All Souls' Day – Nov. 2

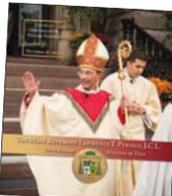


Nov. 2 is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), a time for special prayers for those who have died.

Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel, 5711 West Lake Road in Erie, in commemoration of All Souls' Day, sponsored by Erie Diocesan Cemeteries. For more information, call 814.838.7724 or visit www.eriecdc.org.

Special edition of FaithLife on Bishop Persico

A special issue of FaithLife news bulletin dedicated to Bishop Lawrence Persico will arrive in parishes Oct. 27-28. This 100-page, tabloid-sized edition will cover Bishop Persico's ordination as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Erie and much more.



Meeting our new shepherd



More than 600 people attended a Mass and reception Oct. 9 at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway for Bishop Lawrence Persico. The Mass was concelebrated by 35 priests from the Eastern Vicariate of the diocese.

Faithful turn out to greet Bishop Persico at first of six events

By Jason Koshinskic
FaithLife editor

BROCKWAY — Wearing a black and white track jacket embroidered with "FaithLife" across the chest, Enes Pinge stood in line anxiously waiting to meet Bishop Lawrence Persico.

When Pinge arrived at the front of the line, she greeted him by reverencing his ring. Clapping the bishop's hand, she then gave him a friendly, Italian welcome.

"I called him my paizan," said Pinge, a member of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway. "It was like meeting the good Lord."

Pinge was one of several hundred people from the



Norma Gregoria from St. Tobias Parish greets Bishop Lawrence Persico Oct. 9 in Brockway. The Mass and reception was the first of six meet-and-greet events for Bishop Persico throughout the Diocese of Erie.

Diocese of Erie's Eastern Vicariate who attended a Mass and reception Oct. 9 at St. Tobias, which was the first of six meet-and-greet events with Bishop Persico throughout the diocese.

The event in Brockway was Bishop Persico's first public Mass since his Oct. 1 ordination.

Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage hosted the second meet-and-greet event Oct. 11. Four more will take place throughout the diocese Oct. 22-24 (see sidebar on page 3).

"We were honored for our parish to be chosen to host this," said Norma Gregoria, a St. Tobias parishioner. "We're happy to see such a large turnout."

She also had a glowing review of the diocese's new bishop.

"We're thrilled," Gregoria said. "We had a good bishop last time and I'm sure this one will do well. We're praying for

him." Members of the Knight of Columbus honor guard led a procession of 35 priests and Bishop Persico into a full church to begin Mass.

In his homily, the bishop said the evening's Mass was an opportunity to pray that Jesus the Good Shepherd will lead us as we begin a new chapter in the life of the diocese. He also encouraged the faithful to participate in the Year of Faith. He called Pope Benedict XVI's new evangelization a "time for us to share our faith, like in the early church, in today's culture."

"We must rekindle in our- See BROCKWAY, page 3

Teens set Jesus as their 'TRUE NORTH' at youth rally

By Abby Badach
FaithLife

ST. MARYS — Nearly 500 high school students from around the diocese gathered at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys Sept. 30 for the diocesan High School Youth Rally. A jam-packed day of fun and faith, the annual rally gives teens an opportunity to dig a little deeper in their spiritual lives through energizing speakers, sacraments and time to connect with peers who also prioritize their Catholic identity.

"The Holy Spirit sure seems to use these events to touch hearts," said Father Steve Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie. "It's great to know that our youth experience God's reality—and his love—at a rally. Being with hundreds of their peers also helps them to understand they are not living the faith alone or



Nearly 500 teens from the diocese attended the High School Youth Rally Sept. 30 at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys. Left to right are Theresa Caulfield, Lily Peterson, Nick Hazelton, Anna Swick and Cassie Wolowic.



A high-energy speaker and musician, Cooper Ray challenged teens to keep Christ at the center of their lives. See YOUTH RALLY, page 3

in a vacuum." This year's theme, "Jesus as True North," challenged students to keep Christ as the guiding, constant force in their lives. That's an important message for teenagers, said 15-year-old Sam Whittaker, who attended this year's rally with the youth group from Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City. He noted that the

Opening the Year of Faith

At anniversary Mass, pope recalls 'authentic spirit' of Vatican II

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the start of a special Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI called on Catholics to revive the "authentic spirit" of Vatican II by re-proposing the church's ancient teachings to an increasingly Godless modern world.

The pope spoke at a special Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 11, half a century to the day after the opening ceremonies of Vatican II. About 400 bishops from around the world, including 15 of the 70 surviving members of the 1962-65 council, attended.

The observances featured ceremonies recalling milestones of Vatican II, including the enthronement of a book of the Gospels used at the original gathering and a re-presentation of the council's final "messages" to various categories of lay Catholics, such as artists, workers and women.



Vatican II, Pope Benedict said, had been "animated by a desire ... to immerse itself anew in the Christian mystery so as to re-propose it fruitfully to contemporary man."

See YEAR OF FAITH, page 2



Pilgrims attend a candlelight vigil in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. CNS photo

IN THE U.S.

■ Nine states announce formation of religious freedom caucuses

The need to defend religious liberty, a key issue this year for the U.S. Catholic bishops and other religious leaders, will now have a new venue for discussion and action in a handful of state legislatures. Leaders from nine states — Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Tennessee — announced Oct. 9 that they would be part of a new group of state religious freedom caucuses to develop state policies to protect religious liberties. The initiative was spearheaded by the American Religious Freedom Program, which is part of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Pope adds two saints to list of church 'doctors'

St. John of Avila, 16th-century Spanish priest, and St. Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th-century German abbess, have been added to the roster of doctors of the universal church. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the new doctors at Mass Oct. 7 in St. Peter's Square. In his homily, the pope said that St. John, "a profound expert on the Sacred Scriptures," knew how to "penetrate in a uniquely profound way the mysteries of the redemption worked by Christ for humanity." Noting St. Hildegard's knowledge of medicine, poetry and music, the pope called her a "woman of brilliant intelligence, deep sensitivity and recognized spiritual authority. The Lord granted her a prophetic spirit and fervent capacity to discern the signs of the times." The 35 doctors of the church include saints honored for particularly important contributions to theology and spirituality.



St. Hildegard of Bingen is depicted on a gilded altarpiece inside the Rochuskapelle, a pilgrim church dedicated to St. Roch in the town of Bingen am Rhein, Germany.

■ U.S. bishops, at synod, talk of spirit and practice of evangelization

Charitable works, rites of passage and the cultural mixing produced by globalization all offer opportunities for bringing lapsed Catholics back into the fold, but success in such efforts depends on personal repentance and collective inspiration, U.S. bishops told a Vatican gathering Oct. 9. On the second working day of the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization, five U.S. bishops addressed the spiritual conditions and the practical means of reaching out to baptized Catholics who have drifted away from the faith.

"Globalization presents us with a providential moment for advancing the church's mission of transforming humanity into one family

of God," Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles told Pope Benedict XVI and the assembly of bishops, religious superiors, official observers and experts in the Vatican's synod hall. However, the archbishop said, the fusion of cultures resulting from the integration of the world economy requires "new methods and new ways to help the men and women of our times to practice their faith." "We need to find the 'language' that best presents the traditional means of sanctification — the sacraments, prayer, works of charity — in a way that is attractive and accessible to people living in the reality of a globalized, secular, urban society," Archbishop Gomez said.

■ Catholic leaders: Nobel Prize for medicine a triumph for ethics

Catholic leaders in Europe hailed the decision to give a Nobel Prize to two pioneers of adult stem-cell research as a triumph for ethics. A statement from the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, known as COMECE, said that awarding the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine to John B. Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka represented an "important milestone" in recognizing the superior potential of adult stem-cell research over destructive experimentation on human embryonic stem cells.



Shinya Yamanaka and John Gurdon

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre, an institute serving the Catholic Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland, also described the award as an "achievement of great ethical significance." Said David Jones, director of the Anscombe center in Oxford, England: "This technique offers hope of progress in stem-cell research without relying on the unethical destruction of human embryos."

PEOPLE

■ Vatican court finds papal butler guilty, sentences him to 18 months

A three-judge panel of Vatican jurists found Paolo Gabriele, the papal butler, guilty of aggravated theft and sentenced him to 18 months in jail for his role in leaking private papal correspondence and other confidential documents. The verdict was read Oct. 6 by Giuseppe Dalla Torre, president of the three-judge panel, just two hours after the fourth and final session of the trial. The reading of the verdict and sentence took less than five minutes. Gabriele showed no emotion as the verdict was read, and afterward Vatican police led him to a side room while others exited the courtroom.



Paolo Gabriele

By the Way...

The first two meet-and-greet events in Bishop Lawrence Persico's tour of the Diocese were immensely successful. The interactions between Bishop Persico and the faithful can be described as energizing to everyone involved.



Jason Koshinski

On his way to St. Tobias Parish in Brockway Oct. 9 for the first of the six events scheduled for October, the bishop stopped in DuBois. First he visited DuBois Area Catholic School. Upon his arrival, which was near dismissal time for the elementary students, he was instantly recognized. He was met with handshakes and hellos by the students and school staff.

"Mom, look! It's the new bishop!" one young girl exclaimed. "I recognize him from his picture in the church paper." It was affirming to your editor to know that we have readers of all ages. Father Rick Tomason, president of DuBois Area Catholic School, served as a tour guide for the bishop's visit to the campus, along with student ambassadors Kallie Crawford and Megan McKillop, who are seniors at the high school. During the tour, Bishop Persico's wit was on display. "We're going to go to the chapel now," McKillop said during a trek through one hall. "Oh, good, so you know where it is!" the bishop replied. Rita Ward, principal of the elementary school, took the bishop to a number of classrooms, as well.

Bishop Persico also visited Christ the King Manor in DuBois and met with staff members and residents. Sam Zaffuto, administrator of Christ the King, guided him on a tour of the facility, including a new activity room complete with kitchen. Zaffuto noted that Christ the King contributes \$9 million to the local economy each year, through salary, benefits and services. During the visit, Father Matias Quimno, who serves as chaplain, was getting ready to celebrate Mass for residents in the chapel.

For the second meet-and-greet Oct. 11 at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, a combined choir of voices from the Sharon Deane provided music ministry. Bishop Persico was presented with a pair of black loafers from Meyers, the world's largest shoe store, which is located in Sharon. Father Jeff Noble, pastor of Notre Dame, noted that if they didn't fit the bishop, he'd be happy to wear them.

We joined approximately 100 of our brother Knights of Columbus in making the fourth—and highest—degree of the order Oct. 14 at the Ambassador Center in Erie. The four degrees follow the principles of the order: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. About half of those participating, now called Sir Knights, were from the Central West Region, which includes the Diocese of Erie. Others came from the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg.

It was extra special to make the degree with fellow brother Knights from our council, No. 15035 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, and our dad, Robert Koshinski, who is financial secretary of his council at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. Well done, brother Knights!

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

At anniversary Mass, pope recalls 'authentic spirit' of Vatican II

YEAR OF FAITH, from page 1

He noted that Blessed John XXIII, in his speech at the opening of the council, called for both the safeguarding and the effective teaching of the "sacred deposit of Christian doctrine... this certain and immutable doctrine, which is to be faithfully respected, (and) needs to be explored and presented in a way which responds to the needs of our time."

"The council fathers wished to present the faith in a meaningful way," the pope said, "and if they opened themselves trustfully to dialogue with the modern world it is because they were certain of their faith, of the solid rock on which they stood."

Pope Benedict's homily celebrated Vatican II but deplored much of what followed in its wake.

Many Catholics misunderstood or ignored the council's teachings under the influence of secular culture and "embraced uncritically the dominant mentality, placing in doubt the very foundations of the deposit of faith, which they

sadly no longer felt able to accept as truths," he said. "Recent decades have seen the advance of a spiritual 'desertification.'"

Fifty years ago, history offered glimpses of a "life or a world without God," he said. "Now we see it every day around us. This void has spread."

Yet, the pope said, a "thirst for God, for the ultimate meaning of life" is still evident in "innumerable signs," including the growing popularity of religious pilgrimage.

"How come so many people today feel the need to make these journeys?" he said. "Is it not because they find there, or at least intuit, the meaning of our existence in the world?"

Calling for a revival in the church of the "yearning to announce Christ again to contemporary man," the pope stressed that any new evangelization "needs to be built on a concrete and precise basis, and this basis is the documents of the Second Vatican Council."

He reaffirmed past statements rejecting any expansive notions

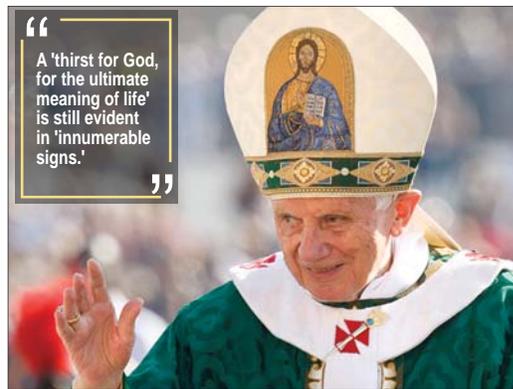
of a "spirit of Vatican II" that might be used to justify innovations diverging from traditional doctrine.

"I have often insisted on the need to return, as it were, to the 'letter' of the council — that is to its texts — also to draw from them its authentic spirit," the pope said. "The true legacy of the council is to be found in them."

The pope also reiterated one of his most prominent teachings about Vatican II, that it must be understood in continuity with the church's millennial traditions, not as a radical break with the past.

"The council did not formulate anything new in matters of faith, nor did it wish to replace what was ancient," he said. "Rather, it concerned itself with seeing that the same faith might continue to be lived in the present day, that it might remain a living faith in a world of change."

Resources for the Year of Faith can be found on the diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org



CNS photo

Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he arrives to celebrate a Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Mass also opened the Year of Faith.

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
Volume 8, Issue 18
General Information: (814) 824-1161
Fax: (814) 824-1170
E-Mail: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
Editorial: (814) 824-1171
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association
Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie.
Subscription \$10/year.
For more information, call (814) 824-1161.
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center
429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa.
Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

SACRED JOURNEY VESSELS
Cremation Urns for Kindred Spirits™

We will help you design a metal urn. Made in America

940 Park Ave., Meadville (814) 337-2638
www.sacredjourneyvessels.com

CLOCK REPAIR
Burdie's Clock Shop
238 South Main St.
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
(814) 398-8263
"We Make House Calls"

ProximoTravel
Your Catholic Tour Company
Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shrine of Europe and much more... ranging from \$3,699—\$4,699 for 2013.
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE W/ Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy/Switzerland: Apr. 6-18, Apr. 13-25, Apr. 20-May 2...
Italy Regular: Apr. 6-14, Apr. 13-21, Apr. 20-28, Apr. 27-May 5, May 4-12, May 11-19, May 18-26, May 25-Jun. 2...
Holy Land: Apr. 1-11, Apr. 8-18, Apr. 15-25...
Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28, Apr. 22-May 5, Apr. 29-May 12, May 6-19, May 13-26...
Italy South: Apr. 27-May 9, May 4-16, May 11-23...
Austria/Germany/Switzerland: May 4-16, Jul. 6-18...

Visit our website www.proximotravel.com for more information and dates!

855-842-0001 | 814-479-4165
www.proximotravel.com
email: amy@proximotravel.com Carmela A. Dupuis
Executive Director

YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY
B.J. Moon, R.Ph.
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.

3106 Buffalo Road
Erie, PA 16510
Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

814 / 898-2085
Fax 814 / 898-2086

60 Years of Excellence

RAS AUTO BODY
All your collision needs.
Special Wash & Wax... \$55
453-6185

Since 1947

Dave Ras OWNER
Amy Ras OFFICE
Carol Ras OFFICE
Jim Winiarski MANAGER

VOTER'S GUIDE

Know the Positions of the Presidential Candidates

In keeping with its mission, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information listed here has been compiled from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites and other resources to help voters inform their consciences before heading to the voting booth. The issues appear here in alphabetical order for informational purposes only and do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. The underlined text below indicates a hyperlink to the source. Go to www.pacatholic.org to view these links.



ABORTION

On the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* in 2012, Obama said, "I remain committed to protecting a woman's right to choose and this fundamental constitutional right."

At a 2011 debate, Romney said he is "firmly pro-life...and I believe in the sanctity of life from the very beginning until the very end."

DEATH PENALTY

In his 2006 book *Awakened of Hope* (pgs. 57-58), Obama wrote, "While the evidence tells me that the death penalty does little to deter crime, I believe there are some crimes – mass murder, the rape and murder of a child – so heinous ... that the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its outrage by meting out the ultimate punishment. On the other hand, the way capital cases were tried in Illinois at the time was so rife with error, questionable police tactics, racial bias, and shoddy lawyering, that 13 death row inmates had been exonerated."

While governor, Romney filed legislation to reinstate capital punishment in Massachusetts and "make the death penalty available for the most heinous of crimes." In his April 28, 2005, letter to the legislature, he stated the proposed death penalty statute would be "as narrow and as foolproof as humanly possible," and provide "protections to the accused while at the same time offering an appropriate punishment for the most atrocious murders."

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

A 2011 statement from the Executive Office of the President stated, "Private school vouchers are not an effective way to improve student achievement." The Obama administration "strongly opposes expanding the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and opening it to new students."

Romney's proposal, entitled "A Chance for Every Child," states, "A Romney administration will expand the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, offering more students a chance to attend a better school and providing a model of parental choice for the nation."

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

Obama's 2009 Executive Order revoked previous presidential directives that limited federal funded experimentation on human embryonic stem cells. His order expands eligible federally funded research to all stem cell lines, including those derived from human embryos created for research purposes.

As governor, Romney vetoed a bill to fund human embryonic stem cell research. Regarding research on unimplanted embryos created for reproductive purposes, Romney stated in a 2007 debate, "It's fine for that to be allowed, to be legal. I won't use our government funds for that." His campaign website states, "Stem cell research is a great scientific frontier, and it must be pursued with respect and care... Quite simply, America cannot condone or participate in the creation of human life when the sole purpose of its creation is its sure destruction."

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

In Jan. 2012, the Obama administration's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a mandate that all employers – except for a limited group of religious employers – must provide health insurance coverage for contraception, sterilization and abortion causing drugs. Many religious institutions, including Catholic hospitals, K-12 schools, universities, and charities, are not exempt.

In a Feb. 2012 op-ed, Romney wrote regarding the HHS mandate of his "strenuous objection to this liberty- and conscience-stifling regulation." He stated, "On day one ... I will eliminate the Obama administration rule that compels religious institutions to violate the tenets of their own faith."

In the recently decided U.S. Supreme Court *Hosanna-Tabor* case, the Obama administration's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission argued against a Lutheran school's right to a ministerial exemption from the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. The exemption recognizes religious institutions' constitutional right to choose who is hired or retained to do religious work. The Supreme Court rejected the administration's argument 9-0.

Of the Supreme Court's *Hosanna-Tabor* decision, Romney said, "Fortunately that was struck down by the court 9-0. We are very fortunate [to have people] who are willing to stand up for religious tolerance and religious liberty and the First Amendment of this Constitution in this country."

HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR UNINSURED

Part of Obama's *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* seeks to increase access to health care for the previously uninsured and states that "no American can be discriminated against due to a pre-existing condition." The federal health care reform plan requires nearly everyone to purchase health insurance and imposes a tax for failure to comply.

As governor, Romney signed a state law creating health care coverage for all Massachusetts citizens. As president, Romney said he would issue "waivers to all fifty states" for the *Affordable Care Act* and then "work with Congress to repeal the full legislation as quickly as possible." He proposes to "pursue policies that give each state the power to craft a health care reform plan that is best for its own citizens." According to Romney's website, he believes this free market can "prevent discrimination against individuals with pre-existing conditions who maintain continuous coverage."

IMMIGRATION

The White House website states Obama's commitment to an immigration policy that includes: "responsibility by the federal government to secure our borders; accountability for businesses that break the law by undermining American workers and exploiting undocumented workers; strengthening our economic competitiveness by creating a legal immigration system that reflects our values and diverse needs; and responsibility from people who are living in the United States illegally."

According to Romney's campaign website, his plan to address immigration includes: "attract more highly skilled immigrants; make the temporary worker visa system functional; secure our borders, discourage illegal immigration and enforce the law; cut red tape that is keeping immediate families apart." His plan would also give "young illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children ... the chance to become permanent residents, and eventually citizens, by serving honorably in the United States military" and would "address the 11 million illegal immigrants in America in a civil and resolute manner that respects the rule of law."

The Obama administration's Department of Homeland Security issued a policy of deferred action for "certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria."

In response to the Obama administration's policy of deferred action, Romney said, "With regards to these kids who were brought in by their parents through no fault of their own, there needs to be a long-term solution so they know what their status is."

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

According to his White House website, Obama has "built a broad coalition to pressure Iran to abandon its nuclear program, including unprecedented sanctions by Congress, the UN Security Council, and a host of other nations and regional bodies." In April 2012, Obama said, "... the best way to resolve this issue is diplomatically, and [it is] my belief that we will have a window in which to resolve this conflict diplomatically. That window is closing, and Iran needs to take advantage of it. But it is absolutely the right thing to do for the U.S. government, working in concert with ... the rest of the world community, to pursue this path."

According to his campaign website, Romney's strategy "will be to end Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon, eliminate the threat of Iranian nuclear terrorism against the United States and our allies, and prevent nuclear proliferation across the Middle East." According to the website, his strategy includes four parts: a credible military option, a fifth round of tougher sanctions, support for the Iranian opposition, and a commitment to the on-time completion of a fully capable missile defense system.

MARRIAGE

In May 2012, Obama said "I believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry." He said that marriage should be decided at the state level, where people are "arriving at different conclusions at different times." The *Defense of Marriage Act* (DOMA) is a law adopted by Congress that states that, for federal government purposes, only one man and one woman may be parties to a lawful marriage. In Feb. 2011, Obama said that his administration will no longer defend the DOMA in court.

In May 2012, Romney said, "I do not favor marriage between people of the same gender, and I do not favor civil unions if they are identical to marriage other than by name. My view is the domestic partnership benefits, hospital visitation rights, and the like are appropriate but that the others are not." According to his website, as president he would "not only appoint an attorney general who will defend the *Defense of Marriage Act* – a bipartisan law passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton – but he will also champion a Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman."

POVERTY ASSISTANCE

A 2011 report from the Obama administration entitled "Creating Pathways to Opportunity" said of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps, "President Obama also enhanced and expanded the [program] to ensure that the 45 million individuals that participate each month continued to have the means to put food on the table. The Recovery Act investments in the SNAP program kept an additional 3.9 million people, including 1.7 million children, above the poverty line in 2010."

In a Jan. 2012 debate, Romney said of food stamps, "These programs, all these federal programs that are bundled to help people and make sure we have a safety net, need to be brought together and sent back to the states and let states that are closest to the needs of their own people craft the programs that are able to deal with their – the needs of those folks." He said food stamps were "certainly on the list" of programs. "Let's get the money back to the states the way the Constitution intended and let states care for their own people in the way they feel best."

Election resources for Pennsylvania Catholics

From the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

HARRISBURG – In keeping with its decades-long tradition, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) has published election resources to inform Catholics about a wide range of issues before the November 6 elections.

"The Catholic Church regards voting and civic engagement as a moral responsibility," said Dr. Robert O'Hara, Jr., executive director of the PCC. "As a service to help Catholics inform their consciences before entering the voting booth, the PCC staff researched, surveyed and interviewed candidates about their positions on key Catholic issues. The Church neither endorses nor opposes candidates for public office. The materials we developed as an agency of the church are for informational purposes only."

The PCC materials have information about the views of the candidates for state attorney general, auditor general and treasurer, the two U.S. Senate candidates and the presidential candidates.



The statewide candidates answered a questionnaire and the U.S. Senate candidates also sat for interviews with the PCC staff. The *Know the Positions of the Presidential Candidates* document was compiled from policies, public statements, official websites and other resources to set forth the candidates' positions in their own words. The issues are arranged in alphabetical order for informational purposes and do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. All materials are available at www.pacatholic.org.

"The church does not say 'vote for this person or against that one.' Each voter must inform his or her own conscience and cast a vote accordingly. Each of us is responsible for our own free will choices inside and outside the voting booth."

Further, tax-exempt entities like the church have legal restrictions on their election-related communications. The law prohibits any statement that endorses or opposes any candidate for political office or that expresses a preference for the views of one candidate over those of another.

"PCC's election resources have always respected that principle. Catholics are asked to prayerfully reflect on what they learn about candidates in light of our faith as they decide for whom they will cast their ballot," added O'Hara. "The PCC's resources, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Faithful Citizenship* document, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the Bible are all sources to be consulted."

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.



The issues appear here for informational purposes only and do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The PCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

Published by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs agency of Pennsylvania's Catholic Bishops, www.pacatholic.org.

These comments, policies and statements are snapshots from each candidate's public career and campaigns. The research was conducted using www.whitehouse.gov, www.barackobama.com and www.mittromney.com, as well as other websites. The platforms of the political parties can be viewed at www.democrats.org and www.gop.com. The underlined text indicates a hyperlink to the source. Go to www.pacatholic.org to view these links.

VOTER'S GUIDE

Know the Positions of Pennsylvania's Statewide Candidates

A part of a statewide effort to educate about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to Pennsylvania's candidates for attorney general, auditor general, state treasurer to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. The answers they provided are listed here for information purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

*Indicates comments

ATTORNEY GENERAL

David Freed (R)
Kathleen Kane (D)

AUDITOR GENERAL

John Maher (R)
Eugene DePasquale (D)

TREASURER

Diana Irey Vaughan (R)
Robert McCord (D)

What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including nonpublic schools?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support*
* I support allowing parents to send their children to a school of their choice.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Support*
* Proven voting record!
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
* Funding should follow students to the school chosen by their parents. I believe that a student focus will improve education in Pennsylvania by creating competition and driving schools, both public and private, to improve in order to attract and retain students.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

What is your position on legislation requiring an ultrasound be performed on a woman prior to abortion and that she be given the option of viewing this ultrasound?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support*
* I support the option, not the requirement of viewing the ultrasound.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Did Not Indicate
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
* Women in Pennsylvania who are seeking an abortion must have access to all the pertinent information on how their choice will affect their unborn child; therefore, such legislation is necessary.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- I do not oppose legalized abortion.
- I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.
- I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) d.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) c.
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) b.*
* I believe that our laws should respect and protect the humanity of unborn children.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

What is your position on legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or the provision of healthcare or government services to the undocumented?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Did Not Indicate*
* These are two separate questions.
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
* We have a responsibility to the taxpayers we serve to ensure that both the laws of our nation and the Commonwealth are enforced and that those participating in government programs and services are eligible.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

Election Day is November 6

What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
* Marriage between one man and one woman is not only the natural basis for the family but the foundation of society. I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage from alternative agendas.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

What is your position on restoring state funding to the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) which provides low-interest loans to homeowners facing possible foreclosure through no fault of their own?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Did Not Indicate*
* While HEMAP has been successful since its inception in 1983, Pennsylvania's current fiscal realities require leaders to make tough funding decisions in order to balance the budget. Funding for discretionary programs, like HEMAP, should be evaluated during each budget process.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

What is your position on the death penalty?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support*
* As a prosecutor I believe that in certain situations it is an appropriate sentence for those who have taken someone else's life.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
* Pennsylvania law clearly defines death penalty criteria and provides for the necessary safeguards to protect the rights of individuals. It is both a necessary and appropriate penalty for society's most heinous crimes.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

- Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.
- Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.
- Religious childcare and pre-k providers should be free from government regulation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) b.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL

MAHER (R) b.
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER

IREY VAUGHAN (R) b.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

Know the Positions of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate Candidates

The PCC sent a questionnaire to Pennsylvania's candidates for U.S. Senator to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key issues. The answers they provided are listed here for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

* Indicates comments

Tom Smith (R) Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D)

What is your position on legislation that provides equitable educational benefits to students and teachers in nonpublic schools as compared to those received by public school students and teachers?

SMITH (R) Support*

* Education decisions are best made at the local level. However, I believe private and religious schools should receive the same benefits as public schools.

CASEY (D) Oppose*

* I attended and taught at Catholic schools. We can't divert funding from public schools.

What is your position on providing a federal tax credit to businesses that donate to scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for low-income students at private and religious schools in grades kindergarten through 12?

SMITH (R) Support

CASEY (D) Oppose

What is your position on legislation that would permit undocumented immigrants who have lived in the United States for a number of years, have worked and built equities in our country and who do not have criminal records to register with the government and take steps to earn legal status?

SMITH (R) Oppose*

* Those who have come here illegally should not be given special treatment over those who have come here legally.

CASEY (D) Support*

* I have supported comprehensive immigration reform with increased enforcement.

What is your position on keeping current levels of poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increasing the percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) contributed to foreign aid?

SMITH (R) Oppose

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on legislation to prevent federal agencies and states that receive federal funds from discriminating against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions (Hyde-Weldon Amendment)?

SMITH (R) Support

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on embryonic stem cell research?

SMITH (R) Oppose*

* I support stem cell research that does not involve embryonic stem cells, such as research using adult or amniotic stem cells.

CASEY (D) Oppose*

* I support increased funding for research that does not utilize embryonic stem cells.

What is your position on legislation that would guarantee comprehensive freedom of conscience and religion for health care professionals, providers and institutions?

SMITH (R) Support*

* I do not believe anyone should be punished for opposing abortions.

CASEY (D) Support*

* I voted for the Blunt amendment to protect religiously-affiliated institutions.

What is your position on efforts to pass legislation (i.e., the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that would make sexual orientation and gender identity or expression protected classes that are equivalent to other protected classes (e.g., race, religion, sex, etc.)?

SMITH (R) Oppose

CASEY (D) Support

What is your position on overturning of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)?

SMITH (R) Oppose*

* I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.

CASEY (D) Did Not Indicate*

* I have not cosponsored legislation to repeal DOMA.



Briefly

Cancer awareness Mass in Erie

ERIE — St. Paul Parish, 1617 Walnut St. in Erie, will host a cancer awareness Mass on Tuesday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Alex Amico with Deacon Tony Alleruzzo assisting. There will be a special litany to St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer patients, and St. Agatha, patron saint of breast cancer patients.

Whether this disease impacts you, a loved one, neighbor or someone you know, you are invited to be part of this special Mass. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Seminar, healing service in DuBois

DUBOIS — Father Ralph DiOrto, a priest from Worcester, Mass., will lead a seminar and healing service Sunday, Oct. 28 at DuBois Area Middle School, 404 Liberty Blvd. in DuBois, from 1-5 p.m.

For tickets or more information, call Tillie at 814.371.4116, Marie at 814.375.4667, Bill at 814.371.1765 or Jeff at 814.541.4913. This event is sponsored by The Holy Family in St. Marys. For more information, visit www.fatherdiorio.org.

Forum on 'Faithful Citizenship' in Warren

WARREN — In anticipation of the upcoming election, St. Joseph Parish in Warren will host a forum on "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States" on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in the church.

Janet Smith, a native of Warren and Holy Redeemer Parish and an international Catholic speaker, moral theologian and seminary professor, will lead the forum. Smith's presentation will be followed by an open discussion on the issue facilitated by her.

Participants are encouraged to obtain and read the USCCB's document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, before the forum but participation does not require doing so. For the complete document, visit www.ErieRCD.org.

For more information or questions, call the parish office at 814.723.2090.

Retreat on the beatitudes, concert in Erie

ERIE — Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie will host a day of spiritual refreshment on the beatitudes and a concert with Sarah Hart on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The retreat, titled "Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes Walk," will explore the beatitudes through the Gospels. The retreat will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include a litany of the beatitudes through prayer, reflection and song, exploring the beatitudes through presentations and small group sharing and closing prayer with praise and worship.

Hart will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Cost of the retreat is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Registration forms are available at www.olp.org/music-retreat.



Sarah Hart

Gala to benefit DuBois Area Catholic School

DUBOIS — Join DuBois Area Catholic School at its third annual Grand Gala for a dinner theater celebration of "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Wedding" on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium.

This year's grand prize is a Las Vegas trip for two, including round-trip airfare, three nights at Caesar's Palace and two tickets to a performance by Celine Dion. The winner will be drawn at the end of the evening.

For more information or to reserve your tickets, call DuBois Area Catholic School at 814.372.3882. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, Oct. 25.

STUMP GRINDING
by Ken Eaton
Back yards - tight spots - No problem
Free estimates, Insured, Shrubs and small trees removed, Prompt service
Ken (814) 474-2195 or
(814) 397-0384 LICENSE #PA 050567

facebook
Diocese of Erie
Get the link at
www.ErieRCD.org

For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call

Doctor Robert Nelsen
Pastoral Assistance Coordinator
for the Diocese of Erie
814.871.7723

For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org click on *For the Protection of Children*

WIN A DISNEY CRUISE PACKAGE!

1 FOR \$10.00 OR 3 FOR \$25.00
AVAILABLE AT THE SAINT LUKE SCHOOL OFFICE

DRAWING: DEC. 14, 2012

SAINT LUKE SCHOOL
the core of catholic education
* PACKAGE IS BASED ON A FAMILY OF 4, AND TOTAL VALUE SHALL NOT EXCEED \$2000. WINNERS MAY CHOOSE TO RECEIVE PACKAGE AT THEIR EXPENSE. SCHEDULES ARE TO BE MADE THROUGH CALS AT CAPTAINA'S TRAVEL. A FEE OF \$50 TICKETS MUST BE BOUGHT IN ORDER FOR DRAWING TO OCCUR. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JEREMY @ 814-723-EXT. 210

Faithful turn out to greet Bishop Persico at first of six events

BROCKWAY, from page 1

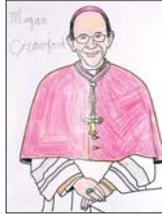
selves the same courage that the Church had on that first Pentecost, using the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit in order that we may witness to the truth in love," Bishop Persico said.

At the end of Mass, the Knights of Columbus made a presentation to Bishop Persico, which included a check for \$10,000 to be used for diocesan youth projects.

Following Mass, Msgr. Charles Kaza, pastor of St. Tobias, invited everyone to a reception at parish center.

"We have plenty of cookies," Msgr. Kaza said. "We've had fifty women from the parish baking. We asked them to make three dozen each. Most of them made six dozen, so do the math."

The bishop greeted guests in front of a large sign that said, "Welcome Bishop Persico." The walls were decorated with artwork by religious education students that included colored pages



Pages of Bishop Lawrence Persico's portrait and coat of arms colored by St. Tobias religious education students decorated the walls of the parish center for the meet-and-greet reception. Download pages to color at: www.eriecd.org/nb_coloring.htm.

of Bishop Persico's portrait and coat of arms.

After listening to the bishop's homily, participating in his cele-



bration of Mass and meeting him in person, members of the faithful came away impressed with their first encounter.

"I think he's going to be a people person," said Victor Pass from Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys. "He seems very personable."

Lynn Nicklas from St. Mary Parish in St. Marys agreed. "I think he's a good fit for our diocese," Nicklas said. "I really like him. He's off to a good start."

"He seems to be a very good speaker," said Rich Grecco from St. Tobias.

A number of people asked Bishop Persico to sign their prayer cards of him. Peter Pape, a member of the Knights of Columbus and color corps commander from St. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney, loaned this bishop his pen.

"I hope he has a long life in the Erie Diocese because I think he's going to make an excellent bishop," Pape said.

Meet-and-greet events with Bishop Persico

Bishop Lawrence Persico has selected several days in October when he will visit the faithful throughout the Diocese of Erie. Each of the events will follow the same schedule with a parish Mass at 7 p.m. followed by a public reception. Locations include:

- **Mon., Oct. 22** at St. Callistus, Kane
- **Tues., Oct. 23** at St. Agatha, Meadville
- **Wed., Oct. 24** at St. Jude the Apostle, Erie
- **Thurs., Oct. 25** at St. Joseph, Warren



Teens set Jesus as their 'True North' at youth rally

YOUTH RALLY, from page 1

constant stream of chatter from friends, the internet, movies, TV and technology can easily knock a young person's priorities off course.

"They get mixed messages about what's really important," Whittaker said. "But if you see that Jesus is the true center, you can see that he really makes a difference at the end. If you try to put things first instead of Jesus as the true north, everything ends up discombobulated."

At the rally, keynote speaker and musician Cooper Ray lit up the room with his music and inspirational message. Ray is a nationally touring Catholic motivational speaker, acoustic guitarist and singer from Baton Rouge, La.

Other youth rally speakers included a Catholic Leadership Institute Alumni Challenge with Father Michael Kesicki; "Be Bold, Be Catholic, No Apologies," with Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life for Catholic Charities; and "Dialoging with the Big Guy"

with Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB.

"Cooper Ray was a big hit, and the kids seemed to really enjoy his message," Father Schreiber said. "He and the other speakers challenged the youth to be all-in Catholic and unafraid to live their faith."

In addition to presentations from speakers, the teens had a chance to attend Mass together and take part in eucharistic adoration. Despite the hard cement floor, the youth spontaneously dropped to their knees and remained there throughout the time of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Benjamin Riddle, a 17-year-old Elk County Catholic student and member of Sacred Heart Parish youth group in St. Marys, likened the holy silence of adoration to spending time with Christ as a patient, listening friend.

"Adoration is—for me, at least—a chance to have a moment to myself and communicate with the Lord," Riddle said. "It was

just quiet, and it was good to have a chance to think about my own life."

Adoration struck Whittaker, too, especially because he was sharing the experience with people his own age. He said it was hard to pick a favorite part of the rally, but he'd call it a tie between adoration and Mass.

"It's really nice to see other kids participating in things that you might not see youth participating in," he said. "You get spiritual support from those kinds of things."

Many teens also took the opportunity to receive the sacrament of penance, which Father Schreiber said was a profound experience of God's grace—Pope Benedict XVI has said that the new evangelization begins in the confessional, he noted.

Games and a service project rounded out the day for the teens.

But the teens weren't the only ones taking away from the experience. Volunteers and youth leaders had the opportunity to experience the leaders-only "Responding to the New Evangelization" breakout session and connect with others who serve parish youth.

"If, as adults, we have somehow helped the kids to grow closer to Christ," Father Schreiber said, "then God has blessed us in an amazing way."

In our next issue ...
Two teens recount their blessings and lessons from the High School Youth Rally.

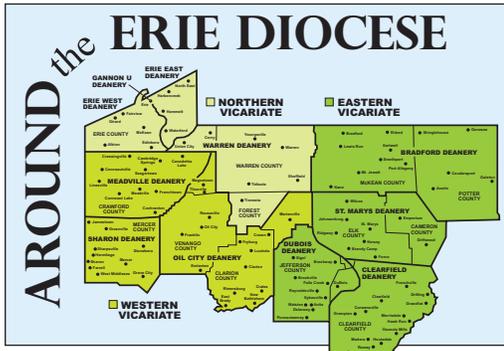
ALL SOUL'S DAY MASS
Friday, November 2 at 4:00 PM
Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel
5711 West Lake Road, Erie
Bishop Lawrence T. Persico Celebrant

St. Paul's Special Mass for Cancer Awareness
October 23
6:30 p.m.
St. Paul Church
1617 Walnut Street
Erie, 814-459-3173
St. Peregrine Patron Saint of Cancer Patients
Mass Celebrant: Rev. Alex Amico with Deacon Anthony Alleruzzo
St. Agatha Patron Saint of Breast Cancer

MERCYHURST PREPARATORY SCHOOL
A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy
OPEN HOUSE
November 4, 2012 • 12:00-3:00 PM
General Sessions: 12:30 & 1:30 PM
• Outstanding Faith Life, Academics, Sports and Arts
• Cutting Edge Technology
• Register to win an iPod Touch and Beats Studio headphone
• \$-5,000 tuition drawings*
Become eligible by submitting your MPS application at OPEN HOUSE.
*Current MPS students are not eligible to win. Certain restrictions apply. Details posted at MPS.

Congratulations and thank you for your years of service!
Bishop Donald Trautman, 50 years
Sr. Bernadette Bell, RSM, 60 years
Sr. Mary Paul Carioty, RSM, 60 years
Sr. Mary Felice Duska, RSM, 60 years
Sr. Donna-Marie Orton, RSM, 60 years
Rev. Msgr. Charles Kaza, V.G., 40 years
Deacon William Wright, 10 years.
You have given so much over the years. We are proud that you have been a part of our DuBois Regional Medical Center family!
Best wishes from your friends at:

DuBois Regional Medical Center
Making the difference for life.



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

Photo Tips

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures. <http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



Villa Maria Elementary grad donates funds from graduation award scholarship

ERIE - Villa Maria Elementary School (VME) in Erie has received a \$400 donation from recent graduate Jesse Edwards-Borowicz.

Edwards-Borowicz was the recipient of the \$500 Villa Maria Elementary Pat Locco Spirit Award at his 8th grade graduation in May. When he received the award, which he did not require for his tuition to Mercyhurst Preparatory School, he chose to donate \$400 to VME and \$100 to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The \$400 was specifically given to the VME Science Department, directed by Mary Wright, and was used to purchase an incubator. The incubator is currently being used by VME students for microbiology and PIAS projects.

"I am thrilled that Jesse chose to be so generous," Wright said. "His gift will enable future students to conduct experiments in a safe and appropriately scientific manner. But, even more importantly, he sets a beautiful example to other young people by his willingness to give back to his community. I'm sure his parents are proud of their fine son, too."



Mary Wright, director of the Science Department at Villa Maria Elementary School, and alumnus Jesse Edwards-Borowicz stand next to the incubator purchased with the funds Edwards-Borowicz donated to the school.

The award was established in memory of Pat Locco, a VME graduate who passed away in his mid-20s. The award recipient is chosen by the principal and 8th grade teachers and goes to the student who exemplifies some of Locco's most endearing qualities: hard work, good nature, kindness and school spirit.

Young women from diocese experience vocations during NYC trip

NEW YORK - A group of young women from the Diocese of Erie went on a vocations trip in August to New York City to experience the lives of those professed to a number of religious orders.

The trip has been organized for five years by Father James Campbell, pastor of St. Eatalia Parish in Coudesport and St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Port Allegany, and Father Joseph Campbell, a teacher at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage.

"The girls that go are really transformed by their experience," said Father Joseph Campbell, who also serves as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon. "It really opens the door for God to show them their vocations."

This year, the group stayed at the monastery with the Adorers of the Precious Blood and the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara in Brooklyn, both clustered orders. They attended the final profession for the Sisters of Life in Stamford, Conn., which was presided over by Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, and a reception at the Guadalupe Retreat Center.

The girls had dinner with the Missionary Sisters of Charity, which is the religious order founded by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

"They get to sit with the nuns and talk to them about their vo-



Young women from the diocese pose in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Those who attended the vocations trip include Rebecca Campbell, Rosemary Campbell, Catherine Caulfield, Theresa Caulfield, Alyson Derrick, Allison Easton, Mary Kate Elinchin, Jillian Furman, Carly Haskins, Angelica Kaszowski, Kayla Keyes, Maura Keyes, Maranda Melquist, Laurel Michalek, Rachel Newton, Lorelei Smith, Victoria Volkay, Rosemary Wargo, Katherine Wegley and Danielle Zona. Chaperones included Father James Campbell, Father Joseph Campbell, John Campbell, Bernadette Carroll and Mary Collins.

ca-tion," Father Joseph Campbell said. "It's a real powerful witness for the girls. All the nuns we meet are deeply spiritual but deeply personal. Their personalities are so holistic and complete. It gives the girls something to aspire to."

The group attended Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and visited the crypt where they venerated the tombs of Cardinal Terence Cooke, venerable Pierre Toussaint

and Archbishop Fulton Sheen. They also visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Times Square, had lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant & Market, stopped at Ellen's Stardust Diner and saw the Broadway hit, "Wicked."

The young women attending the trip came from Coudesport, Erie, Hermitage, Port Allegany, St. Marys and Sharon.

Knights of Columbus council in Sheffield celebrates 25th anniversary

SHEFFIELD - The Msgr. Macken Knights of Columbus Council No. 9631 of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Sheffield celebrated its 25th anniversary with a Mass Sept. 22 followed by a dinner for members and their wives and guests at the Conewango Club in Warren.

Members of the council, pictured left to right, are: (first row, seated) Bruce Atwood, Pat Cronmiller, Jim Wynn, Father Ray Gramata, Gary O'Hare, (second row) Woody McMeans, Matt Wees, Jerry Nuhler, Jack Cashmere, George Seymour, Kyle Bulicz, Josh Bulicz (third row) Jack



Ditz, Father John Neff (hidden), Wagner, Marty Kasaback, Tim Dale Ditz, Chris Straneva, Jim Korchak and Father Dan Prez.

Pet blessings held on feast of St. Francis of Assisi

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, is celebrated Oct. 4. Parishes throughout the diocese observe this feast by offering a blessing of pets on or near the feast day.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie held its pet blessing Oct. 7. The religious education classes were able to be a part of the special blessing during their class time. There were many different types of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles and more.

Pictured is Father Raymond Hahn, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, holding a parishioner's rabbit.



Students at St. Francis School, Clearfield, help SPCA

CLEARFIELD - On Oct. 5, students at St. Francis School in Clearfield celebrated the feast day of the school's patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. Activities included collecting items such as pet food, cleaning supplies and toys for the Clearfield County SPCA. Students also brought their favorite stuffed animal to school where they were blessed by Father Brandon Kleckner following Mass.

Pictured are fourth grade students with the items they collected for the SPCA. Left to right are: (kneeling) Ben Luzier, Paris Far-



ley, Beth Williams, Christina McGinnis, Noah Hoffner, Cameron Wilkinson, Jason Stanko, (standing) Scarlett LeBeau, Everett Miller, Isaac Bloom, Ian

While you're living longer, you can also be living better.

People are living longer than ever before. Still, not everyone is equally prepared for what that might entail. Knights of Columbus long-term care insurance can help. Our plans protect you from the expense of nursing home or assisted living care, which are beyond those provided by most health insurance policies.



Contact one of us to schedule an appointment. Seven Agents Servicing the Diocese of Erie

- Arthur Ardire, GA - DuBois 814-371-1205
- Mark Masolotte, FA - Erie 814-868-9906
- Paul Hohman, FA - Philipsburg 814-342-5248
- Dick Bowser, FA - Brookville 888-320-3999
- Tyler Weaver, FA - New Bethlehem 814-221-1141
- John Ghering, FA - Franklin 814-336-9387

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE
LIFE • DISABILITY • LONG-TERM CARE • RETIREMENT
There is no more highly rated insurer in North America

THIS SATURDAY, RSVP TODAY!

VISIT
OPEN HOUSE
INQUIRE
EXPLORE

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ADULT STUDENTS AND TRANSFER STUDENTS WELCOME!

Register for our October 27th Open House at gannon.edu/events or by calling 1-800-GANNON-UI!

Pennsylvania's Diocesan University



Believe in the possibilities.

Mother's Pilgrims Pilgrimage to Medjugore



April 25 - May 4, 2013
Spiritual Director:
Very Rev. Brian Welding

"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.motherspilgrims.com