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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 2, 2016

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Grand jury subpoenas Erie and five other PA dioceses

The state attorney general's office in September subpoenaed the Diocese of Erie and five other Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania for documents dating back to 1947 related to the sexual abuse of children by priests and other church employees.

Erie and five other Pennsylvania Catholic dioceses—Allentown, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton—were subpoenaed Sept. 1 as part of the grand jury probe into the sexual abuse of children and the handling of those cases by church hierarchy.

The subpoena sweep was an extension of the grand jury investigation last year involving the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and a Holidaysburg-based order of Franciscans.

"The diocese will cooperate with authorities in this matter," according to a statement released by the Diocese of Erie after the grand jury investigation became public.

The diocese has a zero-tolerance policy for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who engage in misconduct with children. All reports of credible allegations of sexual abuse are sent to the district attorney.

At a 2012 news conference in Erie with Bishop Donald Trautman, then-Erie County District Attorney Brad Fouk said he was satisfied that the Diocese of Erie had provided all files on alleged sexual abuse in the diocese, dating back 40 years.

"It is my understanding that disclosure has been complete," Fouk said at the time. "It is my understanding that the search of the records has been exhaustive as it could possibly be. I believe we asked the right questions. I believe the bishop [Trautman] supplied us with the answers to our questions."

## HISTORIC CHANGES

### Diocese announces final plan for parishes

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

In a historic restructuring process announced in late September, the Diocese of Erie has reorganized its parish communities, reducing the number from 116 to 97.

No church buildings were closed in the reorganization, but the number of regular Sunday Masses will be reduced or eliminated in some of the affected parishes, beginning after February 2017.

"What we're trying to do is provide the best possible pastoral care for our people with fewer resources. We have fewer priests now and the demographics are changing," Bishop Lawrence Persico said. "We're hope-



Photos by Mary Solberg

Parishioners of St. Philip in Crossingville celebrate with Father Phil Oriole, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, center, after hearing the news that St. Philip will merge with St. Lawrence. Standing, from left, are: St. Philip parishioners Greg Petrus and John Tautin; Father Oriole, and St. Philip parishioner Al Forisika.

fully seeing in this way to make the parishes more vibrant and welcoming so that people can have a prayerful opportunity to worship."

The final plan announced in three vicariates, or regions, of the diocese Sept. 20-22 calls for two parish models: the stand-alone parish and the partnered parish.

(See below for a full list of parish configurations.

See page 2 for the list of 19 parishes that no longer will organize as communities.)

The configurations come after a two-year intensive study of all parishes in the 13-county diocese. Last spring, the bishop announced a preliminary plan for restructuring that was immediately followed by a feedback period in which nearly 2,000 people submitted their responses. Also, each parish was invited to submit an official survey assessing the recommended changes.

According to Bishop Persico, the feedback he received influenced some of his final decisions. Several of his final decisions reflect changes from the preliminary proposal presented last April.

Bishop Persico also met with the diocesan Priest Council, which voted overwhelmingly in favor of the recommended changes.

"Believe me, we had some robust discussions. I remain deeply grateful for the thoughtful insights, the prayerful consideration and the wisdom and counsel provided," Bishop Persico said.

One change from the preliminary proposal was the decision for St. Philip Parish in Crossingville. Parishioners there had questioned the idea of merging with Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro since the majority of St. Philip parishioners live closer to St. Lawrence Church in Albion.

Upon hearing Sept. 20 that St. Philip would merge into St. Lawrence, several St. Philip parishioners were pleased.

"All things considered, I think this was a reasonable compromise," said John Tautin, a longtime St. Philip parishioner. "St. Philip

>> HISTORIC CHANGES, page 2



Bishop Lawrence Persico announces his final plan to clergy, diocesan employees and parish leaders who gathered Sept. 20 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

## Final plan for parishes



Msgr. Edward Lohse, vicar for Canonical Affairs, explains definitions of the new parish structure at:

www.ErieRCD.org/definitions.htm

### Northern Vicariate (Erie and Warren counties, and parts of Forest County)

#### PARTNERED PARISHES

- Mount Calvary and St. Mark the Evangelist, both in Erie
- St. Andrew, St. Paul and Sacred Heart, all in Erie (Besides sharing a pastor, a permanent deacon may be assigned to assist with the administration of St. Paul Parish.)
- St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary, both in Erie
- Holy Trinity and St. Stanislaus, both in Erie, with St. Hedwig as a secondary church of St. Stanislaus

#### STAND-ALONE PARISHES

- All Saints, Waterford
- Blessed Sacrament, Erie
- Holy Cross, Fairview
- Holy Redeemer, Warren, with its secondary mission church of St. Anthony of Padua, Sheffield
- Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
- Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie
- Our Lady of Peace, Erie
- Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie, with its parish church of St. Casimir, and secondary churches of Holy Family and St. Ann
- St. Boniface, Wattsburg
- St. Francis Xavier, McKean
- St. George, Erie
- St. Gregory Thaumaturgus, North East
- St. James, Erie
- St. John the Evangelist, Girard
- St. John, Tidoute, with its secondary mission church of St. Anthony, Tonawanda
- St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community, Erie
- St. Joseph, Warren, with its secondary mission church of St. Luke, Youngsville
- St. Jude the Apostle, Erie

- St. Julia, Erie
- St. Lawrence, Albion, with its secondary mission church of St. Philip, Crossingville
- St. Luke, Erie
- St. Patrick, Erie
- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
- St. Stephen of Hungary, Erie
- St. Teresa of Avila, Union City, with its secondary mission church of Our Lady of Fatima, Canadaota Lake (seasonal weekend Masses only)
- St. Thomas, Corry, with its secondary church of St. Elizabeth, Corry

### Eastern Vicariate (Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter counties)

#### PARTNERED PARISHES

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville, and St. Mary, Reynoldsville
- Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills, and St. Agnes, Morrisdale, with St. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run, as the secondary mission church of St. Agnes
- St. Eulalia, Coudersport, and St. Gabriel the Archangel, Port Allegany
- St. Bonaventura, Grantman, and St. Timothy, Curwensville
- St. Catherine of Siena and St. Michael the Archangel, both in DuBois, with St. Joseph, DuBois, as the secondary church of St. Michael the Archangel
- St. Francis of Assisi and St. Bernard of Clairvaux, both in Bradford, with Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run, as the secondary mission church of St. Francis

#### STAND-ALONE PARISHES

- Christ the King, Houtzdale
- Holy Rosary, Johnstown, with its secondary mission church of Holy Cross, Rousesville, and its secondary mission church of St. Anne, Wilcox
- Immaculate Conception, Brookville, with its secondary mission church of St. Dominic, Sigel

- Queen of the World, St. Marys
- Sacred Heart, St. Marys
- St. Cosmos and Damian, Punxsutawney, with its secondary churches of St. Adrian in Delancey, St. Anthony of Padua in Walston, and St. Joseph in Anita
- St. Basil the Great, Coalport, with its secondary mission church of Holy Trinity, Ramey
- St. Bernard, Falls Creek (will have a part-time non-resident pastor with responsibilities at the local hospital and Christ the King Manor)
- St. Bibiana, Galeton, with its secondary mission churches of Sacred Heart, Genesee, and St. Augustine, Austin
- St. Boniface, Kersey, with its secondary church of Holy Cross, Brandy Camp
- St. Callistus, Kane, with its secondary church of St. John and Stephen, James City
- St. Elizabeth, Smedleyport, with its secondary mission church of St. Joseph, Mount Jewett
- St. Francis, Clearfield
- St. Joseph, Force
- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
- St. Mark, Emporium, with its secondary mission church of St. James, Driftwood (seasonal Mass only)
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville, with its secondary mission churches of St. Peter & Paul, Grassflat, and St. Severin, Drifting
- St. Mary's, St. Marys
- St. Raphael, Eldred, with its secondary mission churches of St. Mary, Sartwell, and St. Theresa, Shinglehouse
- St. Tobias, Brockway

### Western Vicariate (Clarion, Crawford, Mercer and Venango counties; and a portion of Forest County)

#### PARTNERED PARISHES

- St. Anthony of Padua, Sharon, and Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell, with St. Adalbert, Farrell, and St. Stanislaus Koska, Sharon, as secondary churches of St. Anthony

- St. Brigid, St. Agatha and St. Mary of Grace, all of Meadville
- St. Joseph and St. Stephen, both of Oil City, with Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City, and Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City, as secondary churches of St. Joseph; and with St. Venantius, Rousseville, as the secondary church of St. Stephen
- St. Joseph, Lucinda, and St. Michael, Fryburg
- St. Peter, Conneautville, and St. Philip, Linesville

#### STAND-ALONE PARISHES

- Beloved Disciple, Grove City
- Good Shepherd, West Middlesex
- Immaculate Conception, Clarion
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer, with its secondary church of St. Hermenegild, Pardee
- Notre Dame, Hermitage
- Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
- St. Anthony of Padua, Cambridge Springs, with its secondary mission church of St. Bernadette, Saegertown
- St. Bartholomew, Sharsville
- St. Columbkille, Stoneboro
- St. Charles, New Bethlehem, with its secondary mission church of St. Nicholas of Tolentino, Crates
- St. Eusebius, East Brady, with its secondary mission church of St. Richard, Rimersburg
- St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown, with its secondary mission church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochran
- St. Joseph, Sharon, with its secondary church of Sacred Heart, Sharon
- St. Mary, Crown, with its secondary mission church of St. Ann, Marienville
- St. Michael, Emerton
- St. Michael, Greenville, with its secondary mission church of St. Margaret, Jamestown
- St. Patrick, Franklin
- St. Titus, Titusville, with its secondary churches of Immaculate Conception, Mageetown, and St. Walburga, Titusville

>> MORE DETAILS OF THE FINAL PLAN, page 2

### Lumen Christi winner

ARECIBO, Puerto Rico—Melva Arbelo, director of Santa Teresita of the Child Jesus Children's Home in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, is seen in an undated photo reading a picture book with a child.

She was named the winner of the 2016-17 Lumen Christi Award given annually since 1978 by Catholic Extension. Arbelo and her team help 24 children ages 3 to 7 who were removed from their homes after being severely neglected, physically beaten, or emotionally or sexually abused.



CNS photo

## Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### ■ Pope: Christians must never be 'prophets of gloom'



CNS photo

ROME—Pope Francis blesses a family as he celebrates a Mass for the Jubilee for Catechists Sept. 25 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians must put their mark on history, transforming the world every day by the joy of proclaiming God's love, Pope Francis said.

"We are not prophets of gloom who take delight in unearthing dangers or deviations," handing down "bitter judgments on our society, on the church, on everything and everyone, polluting the world with our negativity," he told catechists Sept. 25.

Instead, the pope advised that whoever claims to be a Christian must carry joy with them and "go out from themselves to write history."

### ■ Three Mexican priests murdered within days of each other

MEXICO CITY (CNS)—A priest abducted from his parish residence in the Mexican state of Michoacan has been found dead, the Archdiocese of Morelia confirmed Sept. 25. He was the third priest murdered in Mexico within days of each other.

State prosecutors say Father Jose Alfredo Lopez Guillen, pastor in the community of Janamato, 240 miles west of Mexico City, died of gunshot wounds shortly after being abducted Sept. 19.

His body was found wrapped in a blanket alongside a highway. A motive for the crime is still uncertain.

The abduction and murder in Michoacan continued a disturbing trend of attacks against priests across Mexico, though Catholic leaders are at a loss to explain the motives, which have included robbery, organized crime activity and possible conflicts with drug cartel leaders.

The Catholic Multimedia Center has documented the murders of 15 Mexican priests in less than four years.

On Sept. 19, two priests were kidnapped and killed in the Mexican state of Veracruz.

Father Alejo Nabor Jimenez Juarez and Father Jose Alfredo Juarez de la Cruz were dragged at gunpoint out of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Poza Rica, a Gulf Coast oil city consumed by crime in recent years, the Diocese of Papanla confirmed in a statement.

## Favorite priest remembered



Guest Commentary  
Jack Kelly

The Diocese of Erie recently lost one of its finest priests.

Msgr. William Biebel—or "Mons," as we used to call him—was a true example of what it means to be a man of God. I am one of the many people he profoundly influenced.

For me, "Mons" was a symbol of the Catholic faith. As the rector of St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, he was there every step of my life's journey: from preschool, to first reconciliation and communion, to altar serving, to confirmation, to college decisions.

"Mons" made the faith cool. He showed me that real men love God and one another. He had an infectious personality, a genuinely kind disposition, and an unmistakable wit. Every Sunday morning at Mass, he'd greet me with something along the lines of, "Hey, Action Jackson! You must be going to the beach later with all the ladies."

Later in his life, when he was a resident of Saint Mary's Home in Erie, I'd ask him how he liked the place. He'd reply, "It's nice here,

but all these old people are boring."

Aside from his wit, "Mons" exuded a cool, indescribable serenity that few people possess. It's one of his many positive characteristics that I try to emulate. I'm extremely saddened that "Mons" has passed, but he lived, loved and evangelized to the absolute fullest. He profoundly touched my life and many others; he made a difference.

For those of us who knew him well, the best thing we can do to memorialize his life is to live like him. I hope his memory lives on for many years to come.

Jack Kelly graduated from Cathedral Prep in 2015. He is a sophomore at Boston College.



Contributed photo

Jack Kelly is pictured at his first reconciliation with Msgr. William Biebel, former rector of St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

## Historic changes announced

Continued from page 1

parishioners are grateful that the diocese listened to our feedback and modified its plan. Now it's just up to St. Lawrence and St. Philip to make it work."

Father Phil Oriole, pastor of St. Lawrence, also lauded the bishop's efforts to consider people's input.

"It's obvious that the diocese paid attention to what was presented and they respected it," Father Oriole said.

As a secondary mission church of St. Lawrence, St. Philip will still be able to celebrate regular Masses at its Crossingville church. Nineteen parishes, however, will no longer organize as separate communities, but will merge into other already existing parishes.

Secondary churches—unless they are designated as missions—will no longer have Sunday Masses, but could be available for weddings, funerals and feast days. According to Bishop Persico, it is up to the parishes to let him know if and when they cannot maintain a secondary church building.

Under the bishop's final plan, some parishes will be stand-alone communities. Others will enter into partnerships, retaining their distinct identity as individual communities while sharing one pastor, one parish council and other resources, but keeping individual finance councils.

Newly partnered parishes, according to Deacon Marty Eisert, who spearheaded the pastoral planning effort, will face chal-

lenges as they begin to coordinate changes in the coming months.

He recommends that parish communities use a diocesan-prepared preparation guide and suggested prayer services, both available at [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm).

St. Andrew, St. Paul and Sacred Heart parishes, all in Erie, are newly partnered and will have some serious conversations, according



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Meg Hough, a member of St. Michael the Archangel Church, DuBois, asks a question at the restructuring announcement at Queen of the World Church in St. Marys Sept. 22.

to Sharon Bruno, a member of St. Andrew's parish council. The three parishes will have to learn how to share one pastor and one parish council, but will likely have a permanent deacon appointed to assist with the administration of St. Paul Parish.

"It's complicated," Bruno said. "I'm going to put my seatbelt on for the ride."

## Final plan for parishes

Continued from page 1

### These 19 parishes will merge into other parishes:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City
- Holy Cross, Brandy Camp
- Holy Trinity, Ramey
- Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run
- Sacred Heart, Sharon
- St. Adalbert, Farrell
- St. Anne, Wilcox
- St. Anthony of Padua, Sheffield
- St. Elizabeth, Cory
- St. Hedwig, Erie
- St. Joseph, DuBois
- St. Joseph, Mount Jewett
- St. Luke, Youngsville
- St. Philip, Crossingville
- St. Stanislaus Kostka-Holy Trinity, Sharon
- St. Theresa, Shinglehouse
- St. Venianus, Rouseville
- St. Walburga, Titusville

### Although all churches are remaining open, the following churches will no longer have Mass on Sundays or holy days or the evening preceding them:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City
- Holy Cross, Brandy Camp
- Holy Family, Erie
- Immaculate Conception, Magestown
- Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City
- Sacred Heart, Sharon
- St. Adalbert, Farrell
- St. Ann, Erie
- St. Elizabeth, Cory
- St. Hedwig, Erie
- St. Joseph, DuBois
- St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sharon
- St. Venianus, Rouseville
- St. Walburga, Titusville

Visit [www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/planning.htm) for complete details of the restructuring plan.

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EVENTS

**Divine Mercy Encounter to show film**

ERIE—The Divine Mercy Encounter retreat program is offering two opportunities next week to view the documentary film "The Original Image of Divine Mercy." The film can be seen Oct. 9 at 4 and 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Preparatory School H.O. Hirt Auditorium in Erie.

This documentary, regarding the definitive image of Divine Mercy, has been widely endorsed throughout the Catholic Church. There is no cost for admission; the public is invited. For further details, contact Jessica Nelson at [jnelson@divinemercyencounter.com](mailto:jnelson@divinemercyencounter.com).

**Parish mission scheduled at St. George Church**

ERIE—Join Deacons Eddie Ensley and Robert Herrmann on a contemplative journey at a parish mission at St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie. The mission is Oct. 10-12, at 7 p.m. each day. Nightly topics include how to cope with the hurts of life; Mary, our model of prayer and discipleship; and resurrection and new life after loss.

**Life in the Spirit course offered in Erie**

ERIE—A six-session Life in the Spirit program aimed at helping people encounter the Holy Spirit and share their faith will be held at the St. Joseph Church Community Center, Erie, beginning Oct. 10 and continuing every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 21.

The free course includes praise and worship, a DVD presentation, small group sharing, and food and fellowship. For information, call 814-824-1286 or 814-833-9717, or email [wolccrc@ErieRCD.org](mailto:wolccrc@ErieRCD.org). The event is sponsored by Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center.

**NPM chapter offers Day of Reflection**

CLARION—The Erie Diocese chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians Association (NPM) will host a day of reflection for musicians, "Change and Collaboration—The Future of the Church," on Oct. 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Clarion.

The facilitator will be Kathy Felong, music ministry director at Holy Cross Church, Fairview. The cost for members is \$12; \$15 for guests. Registration is due by Oct. 3. For more information, call Bernie Connelly at 814-734-5446 or Jean Mitrosky at 814-227-2502.

**Mercyhurst Prep to host fundraising concert**

ERIE—Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie is hosting "Broadway on the Hill," an Oct. 15 concert to help fund renovations to the school's Performing Arts Center. Guests are invited to tour the Performing Arts Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to see renovations completed to date.

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on the campus of Mercyhurst University. Also, there will be an after-party reception/meet-and-greet with the stars at Mercyhurst Prep at 8:30 p.m.

The event features Broadway's own and MP's alumni Nick Adams and Julie Craig, and other graduates. The show will feature a special closing song written and led by Justin Fischer, Class of 1998, and performed by all performing arts alumni in attendance.

Tickets are \$50 for the concert and \$100 for the Broadway package, which includes the concert and the after-party meet-and-greet. Reservations can be made online at [www.mpslakers.com/broadway](http://www.mpslakers.com/broadway) or by contacting Drew at 814-824-2066 or [Dfunk@mpslakers.com](mailto:Dfunk@mpslakers.com).

**Enrichment Series continues at Mount**

HARBORCREEK—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will continue their Enrichment Series with "Reflections on Catholic Social Teaching: One of Our Best-Kept Secrets," presented by Father Jim Piszker, chaplain and adjunct faculty member at Mercyhurst University, on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road. For further information, contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, at 814-899-0614, ext. 2511.

**Register now for November retreat**

ERIE—Renowned retreat leader Edwina Gateley will lead a day-long retreat, titled "In God's Womb—Your Soul Journey with God," Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Gandonale in Erie.

The day will include poetry, music, reflection and prayer. The cost per person is \$40, which includes lunch. Registration is due by Oct. 20 by sending name, address, email and telephone number to Kathleen Kutz, 229 Eagle Point Blvd., Erie, PA 16511. Checks may be made payable to Edwina Gateley.

**Family Fun Weekends**  
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**Pretend nun draws crowds**

Kimberly Richards puts her Catholic upbringing to good use by portraying a Catholic nun in the international theatrical comedy "Late Nite Catechism," scheduled Oct. 13 at Erie's Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center.

For 15 years, Richards has donned a traditional habit as "Sister," a generic name that means something to anyone who attended Catholic schools in the pre-Vatican II era. Produced in New York and created by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, "Late Nite" is set in a catechism classroom in which audience members are the students.

"There is a script and sometimes a loose outline, but I talk to the audience throughout the show. I can tell you, I have never done the same show twice," Richards told *FaithLife* in a telephone interview from her home in the San Francisco Bay area.

A native of Pittsburgh, Richards comes to her role with plenty of cred. She attended Catholic elementary and high schools, and her aunt was a member of the Sisters of the Divine Providence.

"My aunt [Sister Carleen Richards, CDP] died last year and had been in the convent for 62 years," Richards said. "She came to many

of the performances. I think she secretly wanted to get up and do the shows."

Besides providing lots of laughs, Richards is happy to take contributions after the show to benefit whatever religious order is sponsoring "Late Nite Catechism." Since 2005, Richards has collected more than \$800,000 for sisters throughout the country and in Canada.

The Oct. 13 show benefits the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, and for assistance with care of their elderly and infirm sisters.



Kimberly Richards depicts a traditional Catholic nun for the "Late Nite Catechism" show at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center in Erie.

*Photo courtesy of Kimberly Richards*

**"Late Nite Catechism"—Oct. 13 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.**  
 Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach St., Erie  
 Tickets: \$100 per person or \$175 for two. Includes one-hour open bar, dinner, silent auction, raffle baskets and the performance.

OBITUARY

**Msgr. William E. Biebel**

**Msgr. Biebel left enduring legacy at St. Peter Cathedral, Prep**

Msgr. William E. Biebel, former rector of St. Peter Cathedral Parish in Erie and former assistant headmaster at Cathedral Preparatory School, died Sept. 23 at Saint Vincent Hospital in Erie. He was 79 and in his 54th year of priesthood.

Born in Erie, Nov. 23, 1936, he was a son of the late George and Dorothy (McGregory) Biebel. He attended St. John Elementary School, Erie, and graduated from Cathedral Prep in 1954.

He entered St. Mark Seminary, Erie, and began his studies at Erie's Gannon University. In 1956, he continued his studies at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y., earning his bachelor's degree in 1958.

Msgr. Biebel completed his formation for the priesthood at the Theological College at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and was ordained in 1962 to the priesthood for the Diocese of Erie by Bishop Edward P. McManaman. He began his priestly ministry by teaching at Cathedral Prep.

While teaching, he also served as chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy in Erie. By taking summer courses, he obtained his master's degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

In 1969, he was appointed assistant headmaster at Prep, a position he held until 1986. During those years, he served as weekend assistant at St. James Parish, Erie.

In 1986, after a half-year sab-



Msgr. William Biebel is pictured in this 2011 photo outside St. Peter Cathedral, Erie.

atical spent in further study at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. Msgr. Biebel was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Erie, where he remained until 1994. In 1994, he was appointed rector of St. Peter Cathedral, a position he held until his retirement in 2013.

Msgr. Biebel had a great love for liturgy and possessed bi-ritual faculties, which enabled him to assist at local Byzantine Catholic parishes. He was an avid musician and composer, as well as an accomplished

organist. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Rosemary Balczum. Survivors include a brother, James Biebel, and his wife, Nancy, of Erie; a brother-in-law, Paul J. Balczum, and his wife, Eileen, of Erie; and a nephew, Daniel J. Balczum.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Peter Cathedral on Sept. 26, with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery.

**St. George Parish Mission**  
 Come to the church for a contemplative journey with Deacons Eddie Ensley and Robert Herrmann. Listen to various topics from these two notable speakers, writers and teachers.  
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Check out more photos at  
[www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm)

### Catholic Daughters of the Americas honor longtime member



MEADVILLE—Court Columbia #2 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas recently honored **Virginia Anderson** for faithful membership for the past 76 years. A member since 1940, she has worked on numerous charitable projects here and abroad.

Father **Johnathan Schmolz**, chaplain, and **Phyllis Vrobel**, regent, presented Anderson with a certificate of appreciation and a flower arrangement for her loyalty and dedication. Court Columbia invites women 18 years of age and older to join the group.

### Several people request prayers at McKean's annual prayer tent



McKEAN—Members of different religious communities in the borough of McKean set up a prayer tent Aug. 30 outside the United Methodist Church in McKean. Volunteers from three churches met with passers-by who stopped from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., requesting prayers for special intentions. Father **Mark Nowak**, pastor of St. Francis Parish, is seated at far right with two other local pastors: **Ron Freebourn** of Trinity Lutheran Church, and **Barbara English** of McKean United Methodist. The three churches meet regularly as part of the McKean Council of Churches, which sponsors the prayer tent, a food pantry, a vacation Bible school, and a Thanksgiving service every year.

### DuBois Central Catholic students learn value of working in groups



DuBOIS—Working in small groups on a project teaches cooperation and builds self-esteem, according to teacher **Jodi Stewart** of DuBois Central Catholic. Theology students **Michelangelo Piccirillo**, **Faith Jacob** and **Bella Blakley** are pictured hard at work on a recent Bible project.

### STAR Foundation gathers for annual meeting; welcomes new members



ERIE—Board members of the STAR Foundation of the Diocese of Erie gathered for an annual meeting Sept. 8 at the residence of Bishop Lawrence Persico. The STAR Foundation provides tuition assistance to families who enroll their children in Catholic schools in the diocese. Businesses donate funds as part of Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Pictured, from left, are: Father **Nick Rouch**, vicar for education; **David Murphy**, chief financial officer; **Douglas Starr**, president of

ECCA Payroll and Business Solutions, Erie; **Bishop Persico**, new member **Louis Radkowski** of Data Architecture Lead, Accenture, St. Marys; **Sharon Varischetti**, director of major gifts, DuBois Area Catholic Schools; new member **James Stevenson**, regional president PNC Bank; **Christopher Hagerty**, director of strategic initiatives, Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy; **James Martin**, Erie region president, Northwest Savings Bank; and **Charles Banducci**, director of school finance.

### Kennedy Catholic hosts first Bootcamp



HERMITAGE—Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage hosted its first College Bootcamp at the end of August for high school students and their parents from throughout Mercer County. Several topics were discussed, including SAT/ACT preparation, scholarships and financial aid, essay writing, career discernment and NCAA athletics. Pictured are speakers, from left: **Jane Roueplot**, owner of JaneCo's Sensible Solutions, West Middlesex; **Mike Goebel**, senior enrollment adviser at Gannon University, Erie; **John Rindy**, director of career education and development at Slippery Rock University; and **Joe Fink**, managing director at Ajilon Professional Staffing, Pittsburgh.

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**Sacred Heart Fall Festival**

Sunday, October 2 • 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
 Sacred Heart Audi, 25th & Liberty Sts., Erie

Pulled Pork OR Polish Sausage Sandwiches & Dinners  
 Hog Dogs • Pulled Pork Nachos • Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks

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**Thursday, October 13**  
 Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center  
 7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA

\$100 per person  
 \$175 per couple

5:30pm - Open Bar  
 6:30pm - Dinner  
 7:30pm - Show

**ANNUAL FALL DINNER**

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016  
 St. Joseph Hall (Rt. 66, Lucinda)  
**11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**TURKEY AND HAM DINNER**  
 (Country-style, takeouts available)  
 Adult \$9.00, Child \$4.50  
 Preschool Free  
**Raffle Drawing**  
 1st Prize - Choice of Quilt

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