



TUNE IN TO  
'LESSONS & CAROLS'  
PAGE 3

[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)



Just in time for northwestern Pennsylvania's frigid winter, FaithLife is giving away four passes to Splash Lagoon, Erie's popular indoor water park owned by Scott Enterprises.

- 1 What does this German phrase mean?  
*Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund*
- 2 Name the song from which this verse is found.

E-mail your correct answers to [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org) no later than noon, Nov. 27, 2015.

Only one entry per person. If there are multiple winners, the names will be placed in a random drawing. The winner will be announced in the Dec. 6 issue of *FaithLife*. Employees of St. Mark Catholic Center are not eligible to participate.

### Special Collections

#### Campaign for Human Development, Nov. 21-22

A second collection will be taken in all parishes for the Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

The CCHD was established by U.S. Catholic bishops as the primary source of funding for CCHD's anti-poverty grants and education programs. Half of the funds from this collection remain in the Diocese of Erie to fight poverty in our local communities.

#### Retirement Fund for Religious, Dec. 5-6

Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office, this collection offers support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose communities lack sufficient retirement funding.

# FaithLife

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

## POPE QUOTE

### INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"We must not tame the power of the face of Jesus."

November 22, 2015

## DOOR of MERCY

### Catholics encouraged to celebrate jubilee year

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

**I**magine arguing with your spouse or best friend. You forgive them; they forgive you. But what's still simmering underneath? What are the root causes of the problem?

Or say you're addicted to drugs. You wean yourself off of this dependency, but the daily struggle continues.

The upcoming Holy Year of Mercy—set to begin Dec. 8—offers a way by which people can receive the gift of overcoming the consequences of unhealthy attachments and thinking.

In the vernacular of the Catholic Church, this process of purification is called an "indulgence," or a remission of punishment for sin.

"With an indulgence, the church is giving us an opportunity to be freed from an improper attachment to created things, which is essentially what sin is," says Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Erie and liaison between the diocese and seven churches that have been designated pilgrimage sites in the Year of Mercy.

Each site will offer a Door of Mercy, or a Holy Door, through which people may pass to begin a process of forgiveness and conversion. The passage requires prayer, reflection and repentance. (See story on page 2.)

According to Sister Kathleen, "The Holy Door symbolizes Christ and forgiveness. We pass through the door into a new life."

The seven sites designated with a Holy Door in the Diocese of Erie include: St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, which officially will open its door at a Mass Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.; Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Har-

brokeen; Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Bernard Parish, Bradford; St. Michael Parish, Greenville; St. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney; Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys; and St. Joseph Parish, Warren.

Pope Francis requested last year that a Door of Mercy be opened in every Catholic diocese throughout the world, beginning this December and continuing through Nov. 20, 2016. It is a ritual practiced since the first Holy Door was opened at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome in 1499, inaugurating the Holy Year 1500.

Typically, a pope declares a jubilee year for the Catholic Church every 25 years. The last one was the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, marking 2,000 years since Christ's birth.

But this year, Pope Francis called for a Year of Mercy because of the need for healing and hope in an ever-changing, always challenging world.

Mercy is a theme close to Pope Francis' heart, expressly stated in his episcopal motto: "*Miserando atque eligendo*" or "With eyes of mercy."

Explains Father Christopher Singer, chancellor of the diocese: "Pope Francis felt it was an opportunity for a Year of Mercy. His message is that the church is opening wide the doors of Christ's mercy to the whole world."

All are welcome to attend the Holy Door opening at St. Peter Cathedral, where Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the jubilee Mass. Time will be set aside afterward for confessions.

Sister Kathleen also hopes parishes throughout the diocese will organize small pilgrimages to a Holy Door in the coming year.

"The pope," she says, "wants everyone to participate in the Holy Year. He doesn't want anyone to be left out."



Photo by Mary Solberg

The clear glass door leading into St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, has been designated as the main Door of Mercy, or Holy Door, in the Diocese of Erie.

Bishop Lawrence Persico has designated the following churches/chapels in the Diocese of Erie as pilgrimage sites for the Holy Year of Mercy:

- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
- Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
- Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Bernard Parish, Bradford
- St. Michael, Greenville
- Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
- Sacred Heart, St. Marys
- St. Joseph, Warren



### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

## Sister Bernardine says 'thank you'

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

At age 98, Sister of St. Joseph Bernardine Pais is just now settling into retirement.

Up until five months ago, she worked as a full-time housemother and chief Christmas decorator at Saint Mary's Home of Erie. Recent cataract surgery prompted her to reluctantly leave that regular paying job.

"As I got a little younger each year, I did more sewing," Sister Bernardine says, with a wink.

In her 79th year of religious life, she can be found at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center in Erie. She walks every day from her room to the chapel, spending many hours in prayer.

"She is dedicated and committed to the Gospel and to serving people. And she's a great Pirate fan, too," says Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Erie.

Sister Bernardine also remains an avid basketball fan. Earlier this year, she sent a handwritten note of congratulations to Mike Krzyzewski, head coach of Duke University's men's basketball team, who earned his 1,000th career win.

"And he wrote back," she says. "I like people to be happy."

For 34 years as a school teacher and a principal in the Diocese of Erie, Sister Bernardine spread her joy to students, many of whom still contact her. She taught mostly eighth grade at St. John and Sacred Heart schools, both in Erie, and Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg. She



Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ

also served as principal for about eight years at Sacred Heart.

For another 48 years, she was housemother on the second floor at Saint Mary's Home-East, where she encountered residents and their families on a daily basis. Today, she receives thank-you cards from many of those family members. Several former students visit her regularly.

"There's a boy who lives in Texas and when he's

## Saint Mary's employee retires after 58 years

FAITHLIFE staff report

Everyone was "all shook up" at Saint Mary's Home of Erie recently when an Elvis impersonator serenaded Katie Rankin at her retirement party marking 58 years of service.

At age 82, Rankin retires this month as the longest-serving employee in Saint Mary's history. She spent her entire career in the laundry department at Saint Mary's-East, retiring Nov. 30 as the laundry supervisor.

"I've always liked helping people. Doing their laundry makes them feel good and makes me feel good," Rankin said at her party Nov. 12.

A die-hard Elvis fan, Rankin was surprised mid-way through the festivities when Elvis impersonator Jim Moore appeared and sang a collection of Elvis Presley songs, some of which topped the music charts in October 1957 when Rankin first started working as a laundry aide at Saint Mary's.

That was an era in which Rankin oftentimes hung laundry outside to dry. In those days, Saint Mary's only had two washers and one dryer.

"Sometimes when it was real cold outside, the clothes would be frozen," Rankin recalls.

Rankin never isolated herself in the basement laundry room. Often, she visited different floors



at Saint Mary's-East, talking to families and getting to know their needs. Even as the supervisor, she was hands-on—washing, ironing, sorting.

"Saint Mary's operates like a family. Katie is an important part of that family," according to Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, president and CEO of Saint Mary's Home. "She touches the hearts and souls of everyone here."

Even Bishop Lawrence Persico extended his sincere appreciation for Rankin's work with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"You have truly been an instrument of the Lord," he wrote in a congratulatory letter to Rankin.

# Newsmakers

*Snippets of Catholic headlines  
and stories from around the world*

from Catholic News Service

## ■ Supreme Court will hear Erie Diocese appeal, six other cases

WASHINGTON (CNS)—U.S. Supreme Court justices said Nov. 6 they will hear seven pending appeals in lawsuits brought by several Catholic and other faith-based entities against the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate.

The court will hear appeals from groups throughout the country, including the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh, and others in Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and the District of Columbia.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, most employers, including religious ones, are required to cover employees' artificial birth control, sterilization and abortifacients, even if employers are morally opposed to such coverage.

In all the cases to be argued before the high court in March, appellate courts in various jurisdictions sided with the Obama administration. The rulings said the religious entities' freedom of religion was not burdened by having to comply with the mandate as they have argued, because the federal government has in place an accommodation for a third party to provide the contested coverage.

But the religious groups object to that notification, saying they still would be complicit in supporting practices they oppose. While their appeals worked their way to the high court, the government has not been able to force the groups to comply with the mandate or face daily fines for noncompliance.

## ■ Pope condemns Paris attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Using God's name to try to justify violence and murder is "blasphemy," Pope Francis said Nov. 15 speaking about the terrorist attacks on Paris.

"Such barbarity leaves us dismayed and we ask ourselves how the human heart can plan and carry out such horrible

"We have asked the court to examine whether or not the accommodation violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the federal law passed in 1993 ensuring that interests in religious freedom are protected. Religious liberty protects the right of each of us to pursue the truth, to embrace it, and to shape our lives around it—all without government interference. We are hopeful the court will uphold religious liberty, one of the essential pillars upon which our country has thrived for centuries."

—BISHOP LAWRENCE PERSICO

events," the pope said after reciting the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

The attacks in Paris Nov. 13 caused the deaths of at least 129 people and left more than 350 injured, many of them critically. The attacks, Pope Francis said, were an "unspeakable affront to the dignity of the human person."



People light candles in the shape of a cross and heart in Republique square in Paris Nov. 14 in memory of victims of the recent terrorist attacks.

## ■ Sister cooks for a national prize

CHICAGO (CNS)—It looked like prayer and the Lord were on Franciscan Sister Alicia Torres' side as she won a special Thanksgiving competition on the Food Network's "Chopped," which aired Nov. 9.

Sister Alicia, 30, a Franciscan of the Eucharist of Chicago who ministers at Chicago's Mission Our Lady of the Angels, competed against three other chefs who, like herself, work in soup kitchens.

She said her \$10,000 in winnings would go to feed the poor in the community.

Franciscan Sister Alicia Torres gets a congratulatory hug after winning a Thanksgiving competition on the Food Network's "Chopped."

CNS photo

Franciscan Sister Alicia Torres gets a congratulatory hug after winning a Thanksgiving competition on the Food Network's "Chopped."



## Editor's Notes

Mary  
**SOLBERG**

ish Social Ministry and Respect Life, upon receiving the aid, said: "It's beautiful. All of us in Catholic Charities were moved by this."

♦ ♦ ♦

Way to go, **Sharon Letrent**, a member of St. Andrew Church, Erie, who won \$300 in the Pay It Forward contest sponsored by Lakeside Auto Group and local media. She donated the money to St. Andrew/St. Jude Neighborhood Food Pantry.

♦ ♦ ♦

The brutal terrorist attacks in Paris this month make it clear why Pope Francis has declared the next 365 days a Holy Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church.

We live in a beautiful, but sometimes dangerous, world. The Internet has only made it easier for those beguiled by unbridled power, money or a slew of other temptations to carry out acts of terrorism. But beyond the global scale of this current terrorist crisis is the everyday abuse of social media—mostly Facebook—as a means to vent our anger, frustrations and criticisms.

In his Bull of Indiction announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis stated that "we need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace."

When we contemplate the face of Jesus, we can't help but act with love. No rancor, no jealousy. No zeal for power or supremacy. There's no room for it in our lives.

That's why I was so impressed by Father Jim Klemelley, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mercer, and his parishioners who simply acted out of love one Sunday this fall. Parishioners spontaneously contributed \$952.41 to help address the refugee crisis faced by many countries today.

Father Klemelley sent the money to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, requesting that it disperse the funds to whatever agencies are providing direct services to those who are suffering.

"Perhaps a pair of shoes, a container of food, a blanket or some practical, tangible help offered by the church will reaffirm their notion that we are a worldwide community of people who care," Father Klemelley wrote.

Franciscan Sister Alicia Torres gets a congratulatory hug after winning a Thanksgiving competition on the Food Network's "Chopped."

CNS photo

Good luck to **Father Mike DiMartini** who is performing the role of Herr Drosselmeyer in the Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" Nov. 28-29 at the McDowell Performing Arts Center.

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

# Holy Doors stay with us forever



## Guest Commentary

Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO

It was Christmas Eve 1999. I sat in St. Peter's Square in Rome with members of my community, The Spiritual Family The Work, awaiting the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. The signal sounded the beginning of the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

Though the weather was mild by northern Pennsylvania standards, we shivered in our seats—50 degrees is cold when you're sitting in one place for three hours. We were in the "overflow" crowd of thousands. The basilica, where Pope John Paul II would celebrate Mass after opening the Holy Door, was already full. The mood was festive and full of anticipation. This was the beginning of the Jubilee Year for which the whole Catholic Church had been preparing for years. The city of Rome, too, had been feverishly preparing for the influx of pilgrims. Tunnels were constructed to direct traffic around St. Peter's roads were renewed, churches were scrubbed clean of the smog that had gathered on them for years, and even the great basilica of St. Peter got a face-lift.

We were seated on the square, directly in front of the obelisk. Huge outdoor screens showed what was hap-

pening inside the basilica. The pope knocked on the Holy Door; it opened and the Great Jubilee 2000 began.

The one image that remains with me from that night is the glimpse I had of the Holy Spirit window located at the back of St. Peter's. Though I was far back in St. Peter's Square, I was able to see in a direct line through the entire basilica to Bernini's window: an amazing image to begin a Holy Year.

On Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will again open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to begin another jubilee year for the church, this time the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. In this holy year, as in all holy years, the church becomes aware of her status as pilgrim, as one on the way of conversion toward Christ. Each of us is invited to join that pilgrimage in a deeper and more profound way. Every holy year calls us to prayer, fasting, almsgiving, forgiveness and repentance, so that we may become less attached to the things of this world and, thus, walk more lightly, with greater resolution, on our way to Christ and with Christ. We are encouraged to

make a pilgrimage to a designated church, as a sign of our inward pilgrimage. We are invited to enter the Holy Door, leaving our old life behind and entering a new, more joyful, more profound life with Christ and his church.

With this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis reminds us that we are all sinners who depend on the mercy of God, that his mercy is for everyone, and that we are obliged, as followers of Christ, to show mercy to others. All holy years are windows—or, rather, doors—into the mercy of God who loves us with unending and unspeakable love and seeks always to draw us closer to himself.

The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica is made up of panels depicting various scenes in salvation history.

My favorite one is the panel of the good shepherd searching for the lost lamb caught in a thicket. His arms are stretched with the lost sheep and the sheep that didn't stray. It resembles the arms of Christ stretched out on the cross. His mercy stretches from those who haven't strayed to those who have. Our mercy for one another must always pass through the arms of Christ on the cross. May we

## How do you receive an indulgence by passing through a Holy Door?

Those who pass through a Holy Door during the Year of Mercy may obtain a plenary indulgence (see page 1 story for details). Under normal circumstances, the following is required:

1. A pilgrimage to the Holy Door located in the cathedral, or in the churches designated by the diocesan bishop, or in the shrines or churches traditionally recognized as jubilee churches, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion.

2. The practices in No. 1 should be linked especially with the sacrament of reconciliation and to the celebration of the Eucharist with a reflection on mercy.

3. These celebrations must be accompanied with the profession of faith and with prayer for the pope and his intentions. This is traditionally done by praying the Creed, followed by Our Father and the Hail Mary for the pope's intentions.

### Special considerations:

• FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Those unable to pass through a Holy Door may receive the indulgence by spiritually uniting their suffering with the suffering of the Lord, receiving communion and reconciliation as is possible in their condition, and participating in Mass or communal prayer, even through television or other means of communication.

• FOR THOSE IN PRISON: Pope Francis extends the Year of Mercy indulgence to prisoners who, with the intention to receive God's mercy, see the doorway to their prison chapel, and even the doorway to their own prison cell, as a door of mercy symbolizing their desire to pass from an old life to a new experience of God's forgiveness.

truly enter into this holy year with the whole church, walking the way of mercy, for ourselves and for our neighbor, on this pilgrimage to our true home.

*Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, is the vice chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, and the Year of Mercy liaison for the diocese.*

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## OBITUARY

Sister Michaela Fox, SSJ

### Ohio native ministered to young children



*Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh*

### 'Lessons & Carols' celebrates the season, vocations

ERIE—More than 50 singers from parishes in the Erie area will perform at next month's "Answer the Call—Lessons & Carols" concert at the H. David Bowes Auditorium at Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie.

Bishop Lawrence Persico and several other clergy and religious will be on-hand for the Dec. 13 Advent concert, which will draw attention to how Mary, Joseph and the wise men all answered the call to welcome Jesus into the world.

The concert will include music composed by Michael Malthaner, music director at Sacred Heart Parish, Erie. Several guests will intersperse the music with readings from the Old and New Testaments.

"I have written a lot of music for Christmas over the years, primarily for the theatre, and I hope this work will resonate with audiences by making them feel inspired by

Michael Malthaner, composer of "Lessons & Carol," conducts a rehearsal for the Dec. 13 Advent concert at the H. David Bowes Auditorium at Cathedral Prep, Erie.

the biblical characters contained in the piece," Malthaner said. "Indeed, we must all answer our unique call and I am happy that so many wonderful people have joined in the effort to present the concert and share the message."

The concert will be held from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. A free will offering will be taken to fund retreats for men and women discerning vocations to clergy and religious vocations.

## EVENTS

### Open house set for new retreat center

UNION CITY—Final renovations to the first floor of the Avila House, now known as Hope House Retreat Center, Union City, are to be completed in the coming weeks.

An open house will be held at the center, located at 61 E. High St., on Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, both days from noon to 4 p.m. Hope House Retreat Center is a ministry of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, Erie.

### Gobble up your Thanksgiving dinner

ERIE—The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania will host their annual Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Gannon University Wolden Campus Center, 124 W. 7th St., Erie. The meal is free and no reservations are required. Individuals who are homebound will have a dinner delivered.

Arrangements for home deliveries can be made by calling 814-836-4198 on Nov. 24 between 9 and 11 a.m.

Last year, nearly 800 meals, including more than 500 home deliveries, were served.

No additional volunteers are needed for the dinner, but monetary donations are being accepted to help offset costs and provide resources to local shelters, food banks and agencies throughout the year. Send donations to: Thanksgiving Dinner Fund, Sisters of St. Joseph, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, Pa. 16506-1249.

### Energize your Advent

ERIE—Edwina Gateley, an international speaker, poet and author, will present an Advent day of reflection next month in

the main building at Gannon-dale, 4635 East Lake Road, Erie.

Titled "Giving Birth to God in the Contemporary World," the event will be held Dec. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$25. Bring your own bag lunch; pastries, snacks and beverages will be provided. Reservations are appreciated by Dec. 1 by emailing Kathleen Kurz at [shalomkutz@gmail.com](mailto:shalomkutz@gmail.com) or by calling 814-520-9617.

Gateley's books and CDs will be available for purchase. The program will explore how the Holy Spirit calls us to new life and action.

### Johnstown priest to speak at Advent event

SHARON—Father Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM Conv., will be the guest speaker at the Advent Day of Recollection at St. Stanislaus Kostka-Holy Trinity Church, 370 Spruce Ave., Sharon, Dec. 6 from noon to 4 p.m.

Father Spilka is the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Johnstown, and is vicar for religious for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The cost for the Advent event is \$15. There will be a catered lunch, two talks, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, confessions and a 3:15 p.m. Mass. To register, call 724-342-7391 or send email to [themustardseed@yahoo.com](mailto:themustardseed@yahoo.com).

### 5K honors Our Lady of Guadalupe

CONNEAUT LAKE—Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish in Conneaut Lake will host its second annual Antorchia Guadalupeana 5K Run/Walk Dec. 12 beginning at 3 p.m.

The celebration is held in conjunction with the feast day of Our Lady Queen of the Americas. Its sister parish is St.

Anthony of Padua Parish in Tikit, Mexico.

The Antorchia Guadalupeana is a traditional event celebrated across Mexico to commemorate Juan Diego's reported meeting with the Virgin Mary in 1531.

To honor Mary, runners carry torches to the altar of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

At the Conneaut Lake event, runners and walkers will assemble at the parish parking lot at 3 p.m.

Carrying torches, they will arrive at the altar of Our Lady carrying gifts and donations to benefit three charities: The Samaritans of Conneaut Lake, the Center for Family Services in Meadville, and the needs of the sister parish in the Yucatan.

A Mexican-themed Mass will be held at 5 p.m. followed by a fiesta featuring authentic Mexican food.

A cruise on the Barbara J will end the evening for a spectacular view of the Conneaut Lake Christmas lights.

To participate in the event or to form a team of five runners or walkers, register by contacting Pat Pineo at 814-720-5128 or at [ppineo@edinboro.edu](mailto:ppineo@edinboro.edu). For more information, contact Faye Froess at 814-824-1210.

### Christmas concert to be held in DuBois

DUBOIS—The public is welcome to join Catholic parishioners in Clearfield County who are organizing the annual Shalom Christmas Concert at the Paul G. Reitz Theater, located on Scribner Avenue in DuBois, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.

Admission is free. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-9390 or Rich Kenawell at 814-771-1932.

### Save the date for Diocesan Study Week

ERIE—The Erie Diocesan Study Week, titled "Evangelization: Ministering from our Experience of Conversion," will be held Jan. 11-14, 2016.

The presenter for the event will be Father Frank Desiano, CSP. Among the topics to be covered that day include: parish life, parish and mission planning, ministry and conversion, serving absent Catholics. Register by Jan. 4 at <https://form.jotform.com/53135242923147>. For more information, contact Faye Froess at 814-824-1210.

### Feedback on Schools?

Feedback forms on the proposed plan for diocesan schools are due Dec. 1. Submit an online form at: <https://form.jotform.com/52932022163951>

ual Help, Grove City. She served

as housemother and evening

meal cook for 16 residents at Im-

maculate Conception House in

Columbus (a convent renovated

into a retirement home).

She worked in child care for two years at the Wegmans west Erie location.

Besides membe

r s of her reli-

gious com-

munity, sur-

vivors include her sister, Mary Motter,

of Lancaster, Ohio, a sister-in-

law, Jean Fox, of Sugar Grove;

and a brother, Brother Joseph

Fox, of Notre Dame, Ind.

A Mass of Christian Burial

was held at the Sisters of St.

Joseph Community Living Center,

Erie, on Nov. 8. Burial was at

Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to

the Community Support Fund

of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 5031

West Ridge Road, Erie, PA,

16506-1249.



Sister Michaela Fox, SSJ

## Retirement Fund for Religious

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### Ways to Donate

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>> Or in your parish December 5-6

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[www.ErieRCD.org/atd.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.asp)

## Camp Notre Dame retreat teaches teamwork



ERIE—Eighth-graders at St. Luke School in Erie enjoyed their annual retreat this fall at Camp Notre Dame. In addition to having confession and Mass, the students participated in team-building/group activities, including working together to get a pontoon

## HELPING THE NEEDY



Photo by Ed Mailliard

MEADVILLE—Members of Meadville Knights of Columbus Council #388 unload more than 500 containers of nonperishable foods purchased recently at Valesky's Market, Meadville. The Knights took advantage of big savings during the grocery store's annual sale in order to help stock local food pantry shelves. Pictured unloading a car full of supplies at St. Brigid Church, from left, are: Meadville Knights Ted Jastromb Sr., Jeff Chofel and Pete McHale.

## Rosary rally held in Clarion County



CRATES—Parishioners from St. Charles Church, New Bethlehem, and St. Nicholas, Crates, recently held their third annual Public Square Rosary Rally at Gumtown Park in New Bethlehem.

Under the direction of Father Samuel Bungo, the event was set up by Bill and Donna McNeal. This event was one of more than 14,000 similar rallies held throughout the United States that day.

## Sisters, communicators at conference



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Sisters and communications professionals representing local religious congregations attended the recent conference of Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) in Albuquerque. The conference featured several notable speakers, including Father Richard Rohr, OFM, founder and director of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Pictured with Father Rohr, at center, are, from left: Stephanie Hall, communications director of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania; Sister Margaret Frank, SSJ; Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, vicar for religious of the Diocese of Erie; and Gary Loncki, communications director of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community.

## Youth event benefits Zach's Baskets



GRAMPIAN—St. Bonaventure Parish held its fall youth event, "We Stand Together," which featured a bonfire Mass officiated by Father Mark Mastriani, pastor. This year's charity was Zach's Baskets benefiting new parents and families of babies with Down Syndrome. Activities included a color dance, hayride, volleyball and football, tailgate games and a fireside chat. Pictured getting sprayed, from left, are: Carter Cummings, Noah Mendat and Meghan Grace.

## Medical course aids students



DUBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic students enrolled in Jenn Grae's medical technology course receive instruction from physical therapist Ruth Pifer on how a goniometer is used to measure joint range of motion. Pictured testing Riley Assalone are, from left: Libby Maurer, Jordan Frank and Jackson Frank. Looking on are Hope Martin, Alexis Kosko, Noah Pettenati and Riley Meyers.

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## PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE

January 9, 2016 • 11 A.M.  
Gather at the stage in west Perry Square by 10:45 a.m.  
The March and Closing Program will finish by 12:30 p.m.

## PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

[www.facebook.com/ProlifeBreakfast](http://www.facebook.com/ProlifeBreakfast)

January 16, 2016 • 9 A.M.

— Special Guest Speaker —

STEVEN W. MOSHER  
President of the Population Research Institute

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Purchase tickets by January 12.

\$15 over age 12 • \$7 ages 3-12 • Free under 3

Free childcare with fun activities!

## MARCH FOR LIFE BUSES

[www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)

Attend the incredible Washington, DC March for Life on

Friday, January 22, 2016

Sign up to go Sat. Jan. 23, 2016

Buses leave Erie on January 21 at 11 p.m.

The entire trip only takes about 26 hours.

Sponsorship inquiries (and sponsors) are welcome!

Your voice matters. Don't be a bystander this January.

"We shall have to repeat in this generation, not so much for the evil deeds of wicked people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## PEOPLE FOR LIFE

P.O. Box 1126 • Erie, PA 16512  
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