

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This patronal feast of the United States—normally celebrated on Dec. 8—has been moved this year to Dec. 9 (not a holy day of obligation). The change was made because Dec. 8 is a Sunday in Advent.



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRED WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS
 "God constantly surprises us. He bursts our categories. He breaks havoc with our plans. And he tells us: Trust me. Do not be afraid."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 24, 2013

Remembering JFK

50 years ago this week, the nation mourned the assassination of its first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy.

Here are portions of the original remarks delivered in November 1963 by the late Archbishop John Mark Gannon of the Diocese of Erie and Pope Paul VI.

Archbishop John Mark Gannon:

"My heart has been so filled with grief over the tragedy our nation is enduring. I have been forced to sit silently in my study and resort to prayer and meditation. However, I cannot let the event pass by without joining you in your profound sympathy and your prayers that God will lead us safely through this painful experience."



CNS photo
 U.S. servicemen carry the casket of slain President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 25, 1963.

Pope Paul VI:

"We express the heartfelt wish that the death of this great statesman may not damage the cause of the American people, but rather bring forth its moral and civil sentiments and strengthen its feelings of nobility and concord."

He was the first Catholic president of the United States. We recall our pleasure in receiving his visit and having discerned in him great wisdom and high resolution for the good of humanity."



CNS photo
 President John F. Kennedy meets Pope Paul VI at the Vatican in an undated photo.



See the full statements on the Diocese of Erie Facebook page.

Retirement Fund helps religious orders in diocese

Four sisters have served the past 26 years on the Retirement Fund for Religious Committee:

Special collection to be held Dec. 7-8

Sister Bernadette Bell, RSM



82 years old
 Celebrating 61 years of religious life
Career: Education administration
Current: Local development director/house coordinator for the Sisters of Mercy, Erie
"I have come to truly appreciate all the contributions of so many religious women who have shared their gifts and talents over many years, and who have provided a deep understanding of religious life."

Sister Jean Baptiste DiLuizio, SSJ



88 years old
 Celebrating 70 years of religious life
Career: Education; Marriage Tribunal
Current: Part-time auditor in the Marriage Tribunal Office of the Diocese of Erie
"The funds received by religious communities have helped to make the lives of our infirm sisters more comfortable. I can see this in the equipment our congregation has been able to purchase...from hospital beds to lift chairs to alarm mats."

Sister Mary Therese Egan, OSB



75 years old
 Celebrating 55 years of religious life
Career: Elementary education
Current: Director of information technology, Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie
"The Retirement Fund helps me realize, through people who respond to it so generously, that the many years of service given by religious women is appreciated."

Sister Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ



81 years old
 Celebrating 63 years of religious life
Career: Education; Vicar for Religious Hospital, Erie
Current: Volunteer at St. Vincent Hospital, Erie
"I am so grateful for the kindness and continued generosity of those who have given to this collection. I offer my heartfelt prayers for their personal intentions."

Mary Solberg
 FaithLife

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, remembers making \$330 a year in her first year of teaching back in 1970. Even at that time, the stipend was low, but religious orders universally accepted it as fair recompense for work.

"It was little pay, but the problem was that religious communities couldn't plan for the future," says Sister Nancy, who now serves as vicar for religious for the Diocese of Erie.

Today, Sister Nancy—like all sisters, brothers and religious order priests—assumes many other duties and ministries. Their work requires full-time care, compassion and concern that often are only reimbursed through the love of the people they serve.

Next month, as every December for the past 26 years, the people of the diocese have a chance to give back. The Retirement Fund for

Religious collection will be held in parishes nationally Dec. 7-8. For the past several years, it has been the most successful special collection in the diocese.

"The fact that the collection continues to be so successful speaks to the gratitude of the people for the sisters who taught them, who nursed them, who ministered to them in parishes over many, many years," Sister Nancy says.

Last December, the people of the Diocese of Erie contributed \$182,685.05 to the collection. The Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C., distributed nearly \$200,000 this year to religious communities based in the diocese, including the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Marys, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, headquartered in Buffalo, also received funding for their members, including those who live in Erie. The Carmelite Sisters in Erie

do not apply for assistance.

Launched in 1988, the national collection is designed to benefit more than 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. The Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the effort to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses.

Since its inception, the Retirement Fund for Religious has raised \$698 million nationally. It's still far below the estimated \$1 billion needed annually to care for senior religious.

Sister Nancy remains impressed and humbled by the devotion of those who give to the collection.

"Sisters have tried to live the Gospel and be prophetic women in a very secular culture," she says. "They're not just talking the Gospel, they're living it. They've been among the people, serving them and being friends with them."

Bishops Persico, Zubik testify in federal court on HHS mandate

PITTSBURGH—Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie and Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh testified in federal court Nov. 12 against a portion of the Affordable Care Act that requires faith-based institutions to provide employees access to contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

"We are exercising our right as American citizens to have our voice heard," Bishop Persico said after the hearing before U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab in Pittsburgh. "Our goal in filing the injunction is so we as a church can ensure our religious liberty."

The law firm of Jones Day, which is representing both dioceses, told Judge Schwab that the government has failed to adjust the mandate to address the First Amendment concerns of the diocese and other Catholic organizations. Jones Day is offering its services pro-bono.

The organizations have until Jan. 1 to sign a statement saying the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate violates their religious beliefs. This would trigger third-party insurance coverage that, according to Bishop Persico, "would facilitate diocesan complicity in an action that is morally objectionable."

The diocese's only other alternatives are to offer insurance coverage for the services in question or accept financially crippling fines for non-compliance.

The core of the argument: Is it the diocese or the

government that holds the right to define what can be considered a religious organization?

Bishop Persico has regularly discussed the religious liberty defense apparent in the lawsuit. In a recent talk before the Erie Rotary Club, he said, "Believers are guaranteed by the Constitution the right to live our faith not just behind closed doors but in outreach to the world. Non-believers enjoy the same right to speak to their political and social concerns in the public square."

Others from Erie who testified at the Pittsburgh hearing were Mary Maxwell, executive director of Catholic Charities, and Father Scott Jabo, president of Erie Catholic Preparatory School, which includes Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy.

The Diocese of Erie is among 12 dioceses and religious organizations that have sued over the "preventive services" segment of the HHS mandate.

In a "special message" released Nov. 13, the bishops of the United States reiterated their objections to the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employee insurance include contraceptive coverage. The bishops said they remain "united in our resolve to resist this heavy burden and protect our religious freedom."

The message was released one day after the conclusion of the Nov. 11-12 public portion of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general assembly in Baltimore.

U.S. bishops discuss typhoon help at national meeting

By FaithLife and CNS
 BALTIMORE—Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops—including Bishop Lawrence Persico—elected a new president and discussed the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines during the Nov. 11-12 annual fall general assembly of the USCCB in Baltimore.

The USCCB elected Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., to succeed New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as

president. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected vice president.

During the meeting, bishops heard a report on the work of Catholic Relief Services and its specific outreach to the survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan.

CRS already has committed \$20 million in emergency aid, with the funds expected to come from a second collection taken by dioceses nationwide.

The bishops addressed other key topics at their meeting, in-

"We want to show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Philippines who are affected by this terrible typhoon. We want to help them with our prayers and with material assistance to relieve their terrible suffering."
 — Bishop Lawrence Persico

cluding the effort by several Catholic dioceses to seek an injunction against a portion of the Affordable Care Act that requires faith-based institutions to provide employees access to contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-

Special collection for the Philippines Nov. 30-Dec. 1

The USCCB has asked dioceses nationwide to take up a special collection for the victims of typhoon Haiyan.

Bishop Lawrence Persico has approved a second collection to be held in all parishes of the Diocese of Erie Nov. 30-Dec. 1. Money collected will be sent to the diocesan Finance Office, which will then forward the funds to the appropriate agency handling recovery efforts.





■ **Caritas leader calls typhoon devastation 'unimaginable'**

MANILA, Philippines (CNS)—The devastation brought on by Super Typhoon Haiyan on a scale so big it is "unimaginable," said Jesuit Father Edwin Gariguez, head of Caritas in the Philippines.

"This is beyond our capacity," Father Gariguez told Catholic News Service by phone from Cebu province Nov. 13.

Father Gariguez and his counterparts from the Netherlands and Germany, as well as the communications staff of Caritas Internationalis, were on their way to Leyte, one of the provinces that bore the brunt of Haiyan's first lashing on the central islands of the country. The plan was to appraise the needs on the ground and make contact with the various dioceses that have been affected.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino said Nov. 13 he expected the death toll to be around 2,500—lower than initially predicted.



A woman and child wait to be airlifted to Manila at Tacloban airport in aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

■ **Catholic leaders want farm bill to address needs of the poor**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic leaders have urged members of a U.S. Senate and House conference committee to finalize a farm bill "that reflects a commitment to the common good" and puts "poor and hungry people first."

A "just and fair" measure, the group stated, "will put poor and hungry people first, serve small and medium-sized family farms, promote sustainable stewardship of the land, and help vulnerable farmers and rural communities at home and abroad."

Among the signers were: Bishops Stephen E. Blaize of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chair of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace.

■ **Pope leads public prayer for 18-month-old girl named Noemi**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis asked people at his weekly general audience Nov. 6 to perform an act of charity by praying for a seriously ill 18-month-old girl named Noemi.

Being part of the church means sharing "spiritual goods—the sacraments, charisms and charity"—including by helping someone or praying for those in need, the pope said. Pope Francis said "the communion of saints" not only refers to the bond existing between church members living and dead, but also to the bond of unity and sharing that should mark the life of Christians on earth.

The pope told an estimated 50,000 people in St. Peter's Square that he had just met Noemi and her parents.

"Let's perform an act of love. We don't know her, but she's been baptized—she's one of us, a Christian," he said, leading the crowd in a moment of silence and then the recitation of the Hail Mary.

■ **Newly elected USCCB president says he is rooted in simple values**

BALTIMORE (CNS)—The newly elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was a bishop for nearly 14 years, but he describes himself as a priest, family member and social worker.

By way of introduction to American Catholics, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., talks about his upbringing in the coal regions of northeastern Pennsylvania and spending most of his priesthood as a social worker. He cared for his older brother, George, who had Down syndrome, for 12 years after their mother died. George Kurtz died in 2002.

Archbishop Kurtz was elected by his fellow bishops to serve a three-year term as president of the conference, succeeding New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan in the post.



Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

I follow Pope Francis on Twitter. Nearly every day, he sends me a personal message... or at least it feels personal.

When I check my cell phone messages in the morning, there he is: @Pontifex. (That's the pope's Twitter name.) He says things like, "Always be missionaries of the Gospel, every day and in every place." Or he'll write, "Follow Jesus. Do not be afraid."

I look forward to his tweets. They're short, sweet and soulful.

In his tweet Nov. 8, I was startled at how tuned in our pope seems to be. While attending the PNC Foundation's Operation Warm Coat event at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, my phone buzzed. It was Pope Francis. He tweeted, "Take care of God's creation. But above all, take care of people in need."

I showed the pope's tweet to Kathy Wagner and Deacon Ron Fronzaglia of the Catholic Schools Office. We were waiting to pick up six boxes of new jackets for the kids at Erie's Holy Family School, where many of the families live paycheck to paycheck.

Try following @Pontifex. It's just what the Holy Spirit ordered!

Speaking of technology, the Vatican scored a big acquisition recently. The Pontifical Council for Social Communications recently received confirmation that it will control the new Internet address extension .catholic. Apparently, it will be some time before we'll see online sites with the .catholic extension.

Use of the .catholic domain name will be limited to those with formal canonical recognition, like dioceses and religious orders.

Look for .catholic in the future. It surely will brand all things Catholic.

Meet new Engagement Encounter couple

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Mike Palmer of Erie answered his cell phone while walking around Disney World with his five kids, ages 21 months to 9 years.

He explained how he just said goodbye to his wife, Peggy, who left early from their family vacation in Florida. A working mom, she had to return to her job as a physical therapist at Manchester Commons nursing home in Fairview.

This is the modern American family. The Palmers do what it takes to raise a family, juggle jobs and find time for each other in a digital world.

"With five children, we have very little time to talk," says Peggy, 35. "We roll through each day sometimes as if it's a business proposition. But it's the spiritual connection that gets us through."

That connection was affirmed, they say, even before they got married 11 years ago. Instead of attending a one-day Pre-Cana program, they decided that their

marriage was worth an entire weekend of preparation.

"When you're engaged, you get caught up in the day and forget you're committing to a lifetime together before God," Mike, 38, says. "It's a time to step back and reconnect in the middle of the craziness of planning a wedding."

Even today, Mike will sometimes look over the journal that he and Peggy started during their own Engagement Encounter experience. Couples are asked to keep a notebook of their thoughts and plans. It's an opportunity to stay the course and remember the spiritual connection that brought them together in the first place.

"It's a chance to reconnect, to see where you were and where you're at," Mike says.

Despite their busy schedules, the Palmers recently accepted an offer to become the coordinator couple of Engagement Encounter in the Diocese of Erie. Ann Badach, the director of Family Life with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, recognized their commitment and example.



Contributed photo

Peggy and Mike Palmer of Erie are the new coordinators of Engagement Encounter in the Diocese of Erie.

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"They are people who are very dedicated to marriage and family life," Badach says. "They are truly servant leaders. Their life is about Christian service."

For eight years, Mike was youth minister at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie. For about four years, he and Peggy were Pre-Cana leaders there. Today, they assist with Pre-Cana at St.

Andrew Parish in Erie.

Although they are familiar with the workings of Engagement Encounter, the upcoming weekend at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie will be their first as diocesan leaders.

"I'd like young couples to come and understand the importance of marriage and the sacramentality of it and know

that there is a support system out there," Mike says.

In 2014, they are planning two Engagement Encounters in Erie. The hope is to expand to other areas of the diocese and offer more weekends. They'd also like to work with pastors to encourage them to share the benefits of the weekend experience.

Says Peggy, "Marriage is more

than a wedding and a date. I want couples to take away the faith experience of a marriage."

The next Engagement Encounter weekend is Jan. 24-26 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. For more information or to register, visit www.ErieRCD.org/ee.asp or call 814-824-1265. Also, join the Facebook conversation by searching Engagement Encounter.

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Briefly

Evening prayers scheduled for Sundays of Advent at St. Peter Cathedral

ERIE—Vespers, or evening prayers, will be held each Sunday of Advent at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, beginning at 4 p.m. The first will be Dec. 1, with Father David Renne, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Peace Parish, as guest presider and preacher. The second will be on Dec. 8, with Bishop Lawrence Persico as presider and preacher.

Benedictine Sisters in Erie offer Advent vigils

ERIE—The public is invited to attend Advent vigils in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, each Saturday of Advent, beginning Nov. 30 and continuing through Dec. 21.

Each vigil begins at 7 p.m. and will include a service and reflections by members of the religious community. The following sisters will offer reflections:

- Nov. 30 Sister Diane Cook, OSB
- Dec. 7 Sister Mary Ann Luke, OSB
- Dec. 14 Sister Helen Heher, OSB
- Dec. 21 Sister Patricia Hause, OSB



Two parishes host Advent Women's Retreat

PORT ALLEGANY—St. Eulalia Parish in Couderdport and St. Gabriel Parish in Port Allegany will host their 5th annual Advent Women's Retreat on Dec. 15 from 12:15 to 6 p.m. at St. Gabriel Parish, 203 E. Arnold Ave., Port Allegany.

Stephanie Caulfield of St. George Parish in Erie will be the guest speaker. She will offer insights on how the writings of Blessed Pope John Paul II can inspire women.

Besides the keynote address, there will be group discussion, a holy hour and the sacrament of reconciliation. Mass will be held at 5 p.m. The cost is \$15, payable upon arrival. To register, call the parish office by Dec. 9 at 814-642-2847.

Meet Santa at St. Gregory Parish

NORTH EAST—All are welcome to meet Santa at St. Gregory School in North East on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy pizza and a Santa secret workshop. For more information, call 814-725-4571.

Clothes, toys to be distributed to needy

ERIE—A men's Cursillo retreat group in the Diocese of Erie started giving away clothes and toys every Christmas season beginning in 1999. Members will continue the tradition this year at the Community Outreach Group's Clothing Distribution Party on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, W. 22nd and Peach streets, Erie.

The Community Outreach Group collects clothes and toys throughout the year. For the past three years, the group has collaborated with Gannon University's social work and criminal justice students.

A special journey to Christmas is scheduled at St. George Parish in Erie

ERIE—A unique journey to the heart of Christmas will be held three separate Wednesdays next month at St. George Parish in Erie.

Presence for Christmas—scheduled Dec. 4, 11 and 18—is an event that includes witness, contemporary worship music, reconciliation, adoration and fellowship. Msgr. William Biebel and Msgr. Richard Mayer will lead the evenings, which begin with the sacrament of reconciliation at 6:30 p.m. The program begins each evening at 7 p.m.

Lay witness guests include: Sarah and Jason O'Neill on Dec. 4, Corey Ferraro on Dec. 11, and Hunter Lytle on Dec. 18. Visit www.Made2WorshipErie.org for more information.

Students encouraged to enter art contest

ERIE—Young Catholics in kindergarten through eighth grade are encouraged to participate in the national 2013-14 Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest.

Twenty-four winners will be selected, with their artwork available as e-greetings on the Missionary Childhood Association website. Also, winning entries will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during Advent 2014 and through that Christmas season.

All entries must be postmarked and/or received by the national office no later than Jan. 31, 2014. Official entry forms are available at www.ofmfamilymission.org. (Click the Missionary Childhood Association heading and then click on Christmas Artwork Contest.)



Retirement Fund for Religious

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December 7-8

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www.retiredreligious.org

Msgr. John Hagerty leaves estate to three high schools in Diocese of Erie

Magnanimous Irishman was a magnet to students, faculty

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Nearly eight months after his death from pancreatic cancer, Msgr. John B. Hagerty's presence still can be felt in the hallways of three high schools in the Diocese of Erie.

"People who were around during Msgr. Hagerty's years here say they can almost feel the aura he left behind as they walk through the halls," says Mary Agnes Marshall, interim president of Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys.

Father Scott Jabo, president of Erie's Catholic Preparatory School, which includes Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy, says students still remember the aging priest teaching them Latin.

"He taught life lessons, too," Father Jabo adds.

At Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, Msgr. Hagerty's choice—given to him by a former student—will be used in the school chapel for years to come.

These memories are the true legacy left by Msgr. Hagerty, who died last April at age 83. In fact, Mary Agnes Marshall says Msgr. Hagerty's best gift "was showing us how to live as Jesus would want us to live."

So it is with surprise and humility that Cathedral Prep, Elk County Catholic and Kennedy Catholic will accept a total of \$600,000 left to them by Msgr. Hagerty. The first installments were given to each school this fall.

Cathedral Prep and Elk County Catholic, where Msgr. Hagerty served as headmaster,

each received 40 percent of his estate. This fall, each school received \$120,000. By the end of the year, each can expect another \$240,000, totaling \$240,000 each.

Kennedy Catholic received 20 percent of Msgr. Hagerty's estate, receiving \$60,000 this fall. By the end of the year, Kennedy is expected to receive another \$60,000, totaling \$120,000.

All funds will go toward tuition assistance at each school.

A 1947 graduate of Cathedral Prep, Msgr. Hagerty served as headmaster of his alma mater from 1984-89. He also was headmaster at Elk County Catholic from 1972-77.

Msgr. Hagerty served on the pastors board of Kennedy Catholic for many years. He became close with many students

when he was pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Sharon, and Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage.

According to Father Philip Oriole, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, and executor of Msgr. Hagerty's estate, Msgr. Hagerty was a staunch pro-life supporter. He was, he explains, an "authentic" individual who fiercely loved his faith, Catholic education and, of course, Notre Dame football.

"It was all done with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face," Father Oriole says.

For Father Oriole, serving as executor has been a humbling experience. He knows that Msgr. Hagerty would not want undue attention given to him for the large bequests.

"I think he would wince at the recognition," Father Oriole says.

But the good that will result from the financial gifts would certainly make Msgr. Hagerty smile.

According to Father Michael P. Allison, president of the Shenango Valley Catholic School System, which includes Kennedy Catholic, the bequests will bolster Catholic education for years to come.

"As a lifelong teacher, Msgr.

Hagerty clearly understood the critical and extremely valuable role Catholic education can play in guiding the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development of young people," Father Allison says.

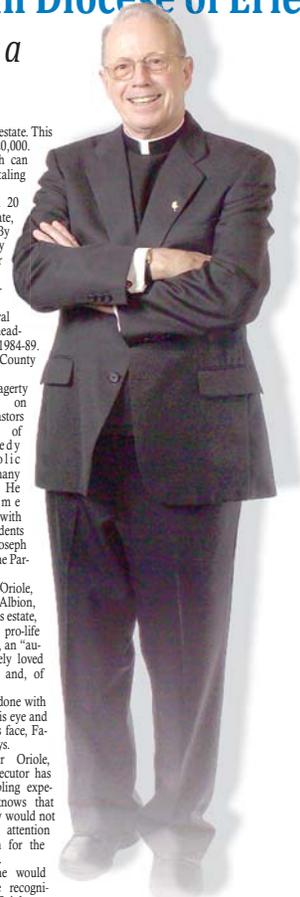


Photo by Mark Fainstein

The late Msgr. John Hagerty



Father Philip Oriole is pictured presenting the first installment of a \$240,000 gift given to Elk County Catholic High School from the estate of Msgr. John B. Hagerty. Pictured, left to right, are: Bob Brindell, the school's finance director; Mary Agnes Marshall, interim president; Father Oriole; and Mary S. Meyer, advancement director.

DEATH NOTICE

Msgr. Richard J. McGuire dies at age 78

Msgr. Richard J. McGuire, 78, died Nov. 11 at his residence at St. Mary's Home East in Erie.

Msgr. McGuire was born on Feb. 4, 1935, in Meadville, the son of the late Richard J. and Stella McGuire.

After attending St. Agatha School in Meadville, he attended Gannon College in Erie for a year before joining St. Mark Seminary in 1953.

He received his major seminary formation at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md. Bishop Edward McManaman ordained him a priest for the Diocese of Erie on May 26, 1960, at St. Peter Cathedral.

Msgr. McGuire began his priestly ministry

as parochial vicar of St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, where he remained until 1967. He served in that same role at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie from 1967-72.

He became pastor of St. Eusebius Parish in East Brady and St. Richard Mission in Rimersburg in 1972, remaining at both Clarion County parishes until 1983. From 1983 to 2008, he was pastor at St. Julia Parish in Erie.



Msgr. Richard J. McGuire

He retired from active ministry in 2008. Msgr. McGuire had a love of flying, and for many years enjoyed flying single-engine aircraft.

Father McGuire is survived by two sisters, Sister Mary Rachel McGuire, SSI, of Erie, and Mary Jane (Harold) Durlinsky of San Jose, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

Bishop Lawrence Persico was the main celebrant at Msgr. McGuire's funeral Mass Nov. 16 at St. Julia Church. Burial was private. Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Home East, 607 E. 26th St., Erie, PA 16504, or to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506.

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Oblates participate in commitment ceremony

ERIE—More than 250 women and men recently renewed their commitment as oblates with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

Oblates are people from throughout the world whose goal is to seek God through a life based on the Rule of Benedict.

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are oblate Caitlin O'Reilly of Dunkirk, N.Y.; Benedictine Sisters Ann Hoffman and Audrey Steff, co-directors; and oblate Janice Zimmerman.

In the back row, left to right, are: Benedictine Sister Anne Wambach, prioress; and oblates Ken Labor of North East, Rob Taylor of Erie, and Kathleen Petko of Buffalo, N.Y.



Not present for the picture were oblates Eileen Gross of Greensboro, N.C., Rob Mace of Seffner, Fla., and Barbara Oliver of Albany, N.Y.

96th annual Rosary March held in Hermitage



HERMITAGE—Students from Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage participated in the crowning of Mary during the 96th annual Our Lady of Fatima Rosary March in October. The Blue Army of Mercier County, Apostolate of Fatima organizes the event every year.

Pictured, left to right, are: Chloe Miklos, Jillian Dunn, Avianna Danta, Bianca Morris, Taylor Hood, Katelyn Chill, Courtney Cianci, Gabrielle Nevant, Maureen Walsh, Gracie Izenas, Noelle Millan, and Danielle Zona.

Knights gift benefits youth and vocations

BROCKWAY—The Knights of Columbus Council #3794 of Brockway recently showed its support of youth and vocation needs when it presented \$500 to Father Stephen Schreiber, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Erie.

Pictured making the presentation, left to right, are: George Smithro, treasurer of Knights Council #3794, Father Schreiber, and Mark Solesse, a member of the council.



Bishop Emeritus Trautman administers confirmation



KANE—Students from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Smetport, and St. Joseph Parish, Mt. Jewett, received the sacrament of confirmation at St. Callistus Parish in Kane this fall.

Seated, left to right, are: Joshua Tanner, Ryan Nielsen, Tyler Woodard, Drew Burdick and Daniel Confair. Standing, left to right, are: Father Vincent P. Cieslewicz, Brianna Scott, Tori

Transee, Emily Housler, Emily Dibble, Leah Caminitie, Katie Burdick, Quinn Burdick, Laura Alferi, Julia Raymond, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman.

Students act saintly for All Saints Day



ERIE—Whether they dressed as Joan of Arc or St. Francis, students at many schools and parishes in the diocese enjoyed dressing up as their

favorite saints in celebration of All Saints Day. Students of the St. Boniface religious education program displayed their saint outfits at the parish on Oct. 27.

Greenville students serve turkey dinner

GREENVILLE—Eighth-graders at St. Michael School in Greenville helped serve turkey dinner at the Kinsman Presbyterian Church Bazaar on Nov. 2.

Pictured, left to right, are: Anna-Marie Berger, Katie Leonard, Lily Svirby, Abram Shannon, Jacklyn Toth, Allie Suhar, Leah Mariacher, and coordinator Judy Merrifield.



Carnegie Science Center presents program at DCC

DuBOIS—More than 250 students from kindergarten through fifth grade at DuBois Central Catholic recently participated in a day-long event with the Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh. DCC seniors Alexis Stiller and Erin Stoddard, pictured at far right, are shown assisting elementary students during an experiment about erosion and weathering.

DCC elementary students, pictured left to right, are: Mia Melholick, Maddie Klark, Maria Werner, Kayden Ritchie, Rose Whipple, Garrett Erickson and Sophie Mangiantini. An assembly in the school's auditorium kicked-off the science event for all DCC elementary students and teachers.



Kennedy Catholic Middle School collects food

HERMITAGE—Students at Kennedy Catholic Middle School in Hermitage collected money and food in recognition of October's World Food Day. Non-perishable items also were donated to the Prince of Peace Center in the Shesango Valley.

Seventh-grader Madeleine Foster went door-to-door and collected 113 cans of food for the collection. Students also collected \$170 during a "jeans day." A private donor matched the total, allowing Kennedy Catholic to give \$340 to Cross Catholic Outreach Services, which provides aid to children in poverty.



Advent Women's Retreat

St. Gabriel Church
203 Arnold Ave., Port Allegany

Sunday, December 15

12:15-6:00 PM

\$15.00 Donation

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Caulfield

Will offer insights on how the writings of Blessed Pope John Paul II can help women to become who they are, the brides of Christ.

Dinner, Holy Hour Confession and Mass

To register by December 9,
call 814-642-2847 or 814-274-8646

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The Sisters Gift Shop, Trifles and Treasures 9th Annual Christmas Open House

December 7th
303 Church St., St. Marys, PA

Featured will be a raffle, a bake sale and specialty items of canned and homemade items.

Lunch will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a cost of \$7 per person. Advance tickets are available. Please call (814) 834-2667.

