

# FaithLife



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 26, 2017

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Masses to celebrate cathedral anniversary

St. Peter Cathedral Parish, the mother church of the Diocese of Erie, will celebrate its 125th anniversary in the coming year with Masses for the three vicariates in the diocese.

The first Mass—on Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.—welcomes anyone from the Western Vicariate, which includes parishes in Clarion, Crawford, Mercer and Venango counties. Those attending will enjoy refreshments and a tour of the church afterward.

Other upcoming Masses will be for the Northern Vicariate on Feb. 11, 2018, at 11 a.m., and for the Eastern Vicariate on April 15, 2018, at 11 a.m. Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate each Mass.

According to Father Michael Ferrick, rector, the Masses are a way to invite others to the cathedral in this important anniversary year.

"Many people outside of Erie have never been to the cathedral. It is everyone's parish, the mother church of the diocese, so this is an opportunity for them to come home and meet the bishop and learn more about the history of the cathedral," Father Ferrick said.

### Mission art contest announced for 2018

The Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie announces a Christmas art contest sponsored by the Missionary Childhood Association of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

Twenty-four winners will be selected and the winning artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during Advent and Christmas 2018.

Two grand prize winners will be selected and their artwork reproduced as the official Christmas cards of the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. For an official entry form and guidelines, go to [www.missio.org/resources.aspx](http://www.missio.org/resources.aspx). See the MCA art contest link at the bottom of the page.

Completed forms must be submitted by Jan. 1, 2018, to: Mission Office, Director Indira Suarez, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.

## St. Martin's Early Learning Center thrives

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

St. Martin Center's Early Learning Center in downtown Erie has been blessed and clarified in 2017.

Nearly 180 children—ages 6 weeks to 13—are served at the current site, located at 1727 State St. The current enrollment is an increase of about 50 from 2016, when St. Martin Center acquired the larger, more accessible facility.

"The Early Learning Center, at our new location, is thriving," said David González, chief executive officer of St. Martin Center. "We are extremely thankful to the parents who entrust their children to us, and to the many donors—private, public and individual—who made the relocation project possible."

Early childhood education is a primary focus of St. Martin Center, which is one of many social service agencies of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.

Although children are accepted into the program up to age 13, the heavy emphasis is on the pre-kindergarten age group.

"We strongly believe that, as these children become ready for school, the entire community benefits," González added.

In July 2016, the Early Learning Center became fully operational at the State Street building, which over the years had been the site of various financial institutions. Tax-exempt bond financing and funds from an endowment helped the agency begin the initial phases of the \$1.5 million project.

The building is served by three major bus routes and is easily accessible, especially to most of the St. Martin clientele who live in the area.

According to Jessica Krugger, development and public relations coordinator, the Early Learning Center also has added two new vans to its fleet this year.

"This is big news for us as it will allow us to double our school-age program," she said.

Funds from the 2016 Roar on the Shore motorcycle event were donated to the Early Learning Center. The money was used to build and design an outdoor playground. In May, Bishop Lawrence Persico blessed the State Street complex.

At the end of October, another colorful addition was made to the white brick building at the corner of 18th and State streets.



David González, chief executive officer of the St. Martin Center, left, joins artist Mark Weber, and Stacey Hellmann, administrator, outside the new Early Learning Center.

Local artist Mark Weber unveiled an exterior mural with what he called "a vibrant jungle theme." The 15-by-18-foot design was created from two paint workshops held last summer during the Erie Art Museum's Blues & Jazz Festival.

Festival-goers were invited to paint on a woven material ideal for murals. Then, Weber completed the project at his North Carolina studio.

The mural was a collaborative effort among the Erie Art Museum, Erie Arts & Culture, and the YMCA, with support from Tungsten Creative

Group.

"I have been painting and drawing jungle animals the past couple of years," Weber said. "They are done in primary colors with various patterns throughout and I thought this upbeat approach and subject matter would be something that both the children and the passersby would enjoy viewing."

Donations to the Early Learning Center may be sent to St. Martin Center, 1701 Parade St., Erie, PA 16503, or by calling David González directly at 814-452-6113.



Among the beneficiaries of the Retirement Fund for Religious is Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ, who turned 100 on Nov. 16.

A lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates fan, Sister Bernardine celebrated her centennial with a baseball-themed picnic lunch at the sisters' Community Living Center in Erie. She is the oldest member of her community.

For more than 30 years, Sister Bernardine taught throughout the Diocese of Erie. She also lived and ministered at Saint Mary's Home of Erie, even while teaching full-time. Cataract surgery forced her to retire two years ago, at age 98.

## Retirement Fund collection helps religious

Catholics in the Diocese of Erie will have the opportunity to "give to those who have given a lifetime" as part of the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, to be held in parishes Dec. 9-10.

Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C., the annual appeal benefits 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose religious congregations lack adequate retirement funding.

Last December, the Diocese of Erie contributed \$170,101.26 to the national collection, which netted more than \$30 million.

In 2017, the Benedictine Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania received a combined total of about \$300,000 in financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere—including the Sisters of Mercy—also benefit from the annual appeal.

"The Retirement Fund is a tremendous gift to the religious of the diocese who served for many years for little pay and little retirement planning," said Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, vicar for religious for

the Diocese of Erie. "Working with the national organization, the Sisters of St. Joseph, for example, were able to set up a plan for personal care for each individual sister."

Roughly 94 cents of every dollar given to the collection aids senior religious. In June, the NRRO distributed \$25 million to 390 religious communities across the country. Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and subsidize expenses, such as prescription medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement planning and eldercare delivery.

"We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the love and support of Catholics across the nation," said Presentation Sister

Stephanie Still, the NRRO's executive director.

Despite this generosity, many religious communities still struggle to provide for aging members. Only 41 of the 539 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2016 were adequately funded for retirement. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—known collectively as religious—served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits.

Today, hundreds of religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Compounding the funding shortage are the rising cost of care and the decrease in income that has resulted from the declining number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry.

To donate, give at your parish or go to [www.ErieRCD.org/retirementfund.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/retirementfund.htm).

### RETIREMENT FACTS

For most of their lives, elder religious worked for little or no pay. They had no 401(k) plans or pensions.

By 2027, religious past age 70 are projected to outnumber religious under age 70 by more than 3-to-1.

Since 2009, the annual cost to support senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.

The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$6,116.22, while the average U.S. senior religious receives \$16,321.56.

Source: National Religious Retirement Office, Washington, D.C.

## Newsmakers Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### LAMBORGHINI FOR CHARITY

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis photographs a Lamborghini presented by representatives of the Italian automaker at the Vatican Nov. 15. The car will be auctioned and the proceeds given to charity.



CNS photo

### ■ Pope, soldier exchange gifts

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS)—Pope Francis sent a handwritten letter to a Colombian soldier who lost his sight during the country's civil war. The pope met Edwin Restrepo, a retired marine, during his September visit to Colombia. On Nov. 9, Restrepo received the letter, in which the pope thanked him for his sacrifice during Colombia's armed conflict. The pope also told the veteran he was still holding on to his "touching" gift.

When the two met, Restrepo bent his head forward, asked for the pope's blessing and offered his military cap as a keepsake. Their conversation lasted only a minute. "He gave me a rosary," Restrepo recalled. "So I told him I wanted to give him something that represents our military forces, and there was nothing better I could think of than my cap."

In his letter, Pope Francis told Restrepo that he now keeps the hat above an altar in his small office in Rome. He provided a picture of the hat and the altar. "I often pray there," the pope said in his letter. "And every time I do, I pray for you, and for your fallen and injured colleagues."



Pope Francis greets Edwin Restrepo, a retired marine, Sept. 8 in Colombia.

CNS photo

### ■ Bishops urge Congress to fund U.N. climate change agency

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Two bishops have called on the House of Representatives to provide \$10 million to fund the United Nations' work on climate change.

Support for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change is essential to protecting the "God-given gift" of the environment "for the good of all," wrote Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla.

They respectively chair the U.S. bishop's Committee on International Justice and Peace and Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

### ■ Supreme Court to hear case on free speech and crisis pregnancy

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Supreme Court has decided to hear a case examining freedom of speech at crisis pregnancy centers.

The case will consider if a California law that went into effect in 2016 violates the Constitution by requiring the state's 200 crisis pregnancy centers to inform their clients about the availability of free or low-cost abortion and contraceptive services and provide a referral number for them. The law in question, called the Reproductive FACT Act, says centers must post such notices in areas where they will be clearly seen on paper. Centers also are required to disclose in their advertisements if they have medical personnel on staff.

Three pregnancy centers challenged the law in court saying it infringed on their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and free exercise of religion.

### Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the priest will read the Gospel of Mark, in which Jesus advises his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!"

This first day of Advent comes at an opportune time of the year. Everyone is reflecting on the past 12 months and all of the events that have occurred—both good and bad. If you've read the headlines or been bombarded by hourly news updates on your cell phone, 2017 has been a tough year.

But Advent allows hope to enter into our lives. As we await the birth of Christ, be watchful for goodness and alert to things that threaten peace.

Loyola Press offers several Advent prayers and resources at [www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/prayers](http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/prayers).

Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie has a new Vocation Chalice Prayer Program in which parishioners are encouraged to take a chalice into their home for a week and pray each day for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Deacon Joseph Yochim, who was ordained



Courtesy photo

The Yochim children of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, spend some time in their home praying for vocations. Pictured in front of the chalice, from left, are Isabelle and Mary. Behind them, from left, are Monica, Matthew, Rose and Justin.

in April; his wife, Carlee Yochim; and their six children were the first parishioners to take the chalice into their home.

Spending time praying for vocations can open a young person's mind to listen for that call and discern what it means for their life.

Father Anthony Mancuso, a native of St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville and a graduate of DuBois Central Catholic, is a visiting scholar at Santa Clara (Calif.) University's Markkula Center for Applied Ethics and serves as a senior fellow in character education.

The main focus of his work is teaching ethics to children from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Father Mancuso wrote the program "Build Plant Grow," based on the three-year cycle of the readings for the Sundays and solemnities of the Catholic Church.

A particular ethic is addressed and is connected to a children's book with lesson plans and activities. It's now being used internationally and in many dioceses across the United States.

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, director of Community Formation and Lay Ministry Training for the Diocese of Erie, just traveled to Caribou, Maine, to give an all-day workshop on training small community facilitators.

According to Sister Nancy, Maine represents only one diocese that promotes small faith-sharing communities in all its parishes. Kathy Higgins assisted Sister Nancy with her presentation.

Benedictine Sister Pat Lupo of Erie shared the importance of educating youth at a recent meeting of the Community Resilience Action Network of Erie (CRANE).

An educator in schools and with organizations like Environment Erie, Sister Pat has spent much of her religious life advocating for a healthy planet.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife. Email: [msolberg@ERIECD.org](mailto:msolberg@ERIECD.org) Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIECDsolberg

## HOPE RESTORED

### Homeless men served at new St. Patrick's Haven

FAITHLIFE staff report

"C'mon in!" said Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, moments after she cut the ribbon Nov. 14 to officially open the new St. Patrick's Haven at 239 E. 12th St., Erie.

Sister Mary's cheerful disposition and open invitation have helped keep the shelter for homeless men thriving at various locations since 1984. Originally an outreach of St. Patrick Parish in Erie, the Haven became a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania in the mid-1990s.

"It took a long time to raise the money we needed in order to build this new building. We hope and pray the rest will still come," said Sister Mary, who serves as director.

The 3,400-square-foot facility is located about a

block west of its previous site, which had been deteriorating in recent years.

The new one-story structure was built, thanks to multiple sources: a \$50,000 gift from the 2014 Roar on the Shore Motorcycle Rally, a donation of three vacant lots from local businessman Rick Griffith, and a successful fundraising campaign.

It can accommodate up to 24 men and features private bedrooms for two on-site managers, both of whom were served at one time by the Haven. There's also a kitchen, a television lounge, sitting room, office, six full bathrooms and an additional accessible shower.

All the furnishings were donated or purchased new and the building is stocked with



Photos by Mary Solberg

The new location of St. Patrick's Haven at 239 E. 12th St., Erie

new sheets, towels, pillows and blankets.

"It's a necessary place of nightly refuge," said Betsy Wiest, site supervisor. During the fiscal year 2016-17, the Haven provided 6,837 nights of shelter to 165 men, including many military veterans.

"We have a growing homeless population and so often we walk by someone on the street and don't look them in the eye," Wiest said. "This building says to them, 'You

matter and we care.' I think that's the message we have to get out to the community. We have to work together to help our brothers and sisters in need. We can no longer not see them."

Unlike other shelters, St. Patrick's Haven welcomes men who are turned away from other shelters for being intoxicated or under the influence. It works closely with police and social service agencies, serving dinner on Saturday and Sunday.

Outgoing Erie Mayor Joseph Simnott was on-hand for the grand opening of the new Haven. He was among the many community supporters of the project. "It serves a population that



Betsy Wiest, left, site supervisor of St. Patrick's Haven, stands with Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, director, in the main hallway of the new building on E. 12th Street.

otherwise might be on the street," he said. "The sisters do wonderful work. When they put their mind to something, they get it done and get it done first-class. This is no different."

**FaithLife** The bi-weekly newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Erie.  
St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, Pa. 16504  
Publisher: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Welsh  
Editor: Mary Solberg  
Graphic Design: Rich Papadakis  
Advertising Manager: Erendia Williams  
Advertising Design: Elizabeth Butterfield

Website: [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)  
Volume 13, Issue 21

Member of the Catholic Press Association  
Subscription: \$10/year  
Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1974.

**YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY**

FREE Delivery

B.J. Moon, R.Ph.  
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.  
Chad Jantz, Pharm.D.

3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510  
814 / 898-2085 Fax 814 / 898-2086

Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

**CLOCK REPAIR**

**Burdie's Clock Shop**  
(814) 282-6435  
"We Make House Calls"



EVENTS

■ **Pizza with Santa**

St. Gregory School will host Pizza with Santa on Dec. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gym located at 140 W. Main St., North East. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 2 and up. The cost includes pizza, a drink, cookie decorating, crafts, a photo with Santa, and Santa's workshop for holiday shopping.

■ **Clothing Distribution Party**

The Community Outreach Group, started by a men's Cur-sillo group in 1999, will host its annual Clothing Distribution Party Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, W. 22nd and Peach streets, Erie. In addition to receiving free clothing, patrons can enjoy a free hot lunch, Santa and/or some of his special helpers will distribute toys to the children. For more information, email Tim Nowakowski at [TimWJJD@AOL.com](mailto:TimWJJD@AOL.com) or text/call him at 814-566-6435.

■ **Answer the Call concert**

Seventy-five singers and musicians from more than a dozen parishes in the Erie area will present the annual Answer the Call concert Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at Cathedral Prep's H. David Bowes Auditorium, 225 W. 9th St., Erie. In the tradition of Lessons and Carols, the presentation bridges the time between Advent and Christmas through Scripture readings and music composed by Michael Malthaner, music director at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie. Several retired priests and women religious will be featured as readers. The concert is free and open to the public. Following the performance, a free-will offering will be collected to benefit retired religious and priest funds.

■ **Follow the Star concert**

Blessed Sacrament Parish, 1626 W. 26th St., Erie, will host the popular Tennessee Backporch "Follow the Star" concert on Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. This is a fun, spiritual and musical experience for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students, and are available at the parish office or at the door. For more information, call the parish office at 814-454-0171.

■ **Holiday craft fair**

St. Boniface Parish in Erie is holding a holiday craft fair Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to benefit St. Boniface Food

Pantry. The fair will be held at the Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Road. There is a \$2 admission fee; kids under 5 are admitted free. Receive one extra ticket for the gift auction for every non-perishable food item donated. Interested vendors may text Kayla at 814-397-3476.

■ **Advent retreat**

St. Eulalia Parish in Coudersport will hold an Advent retreat Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church, 6 E. Maple St., Coudersport. All are welcome to attend the event, which will feature Father Justin Cinnante, a Carmelite priest from Middletown, N.Y. Pre-registration and payment of a \$15 retreat fee per person is due by Dec. 3. Send the name(s) of person(s) attending, a contact phone number and check made payable to St. Eulalia Parish. Mail to: Judy Castano, c/o St. Eulalia Church, 6 E. Maple St., Coudersport, PA 16915. For further questions, contact the parish office at 814-274-8646.

■ **Fish fry**

St. Leo Parish, 111 Depot St., Ridgway, will host a fish fry Dec. 8 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., or until sold out. The cost is \$10 per person, take-outs available by calling 814-772-4705 after 3 p.m. and picking up after 4 p.m. St. Leo's has a fish fry every second Friday of the month, except for June, July and August.

■ **Disabilities Christmas party**

The Diocese of Erie's Office for People with Disabilities invites people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to attend an afternoon of Christmas preparation and fellowship Dec. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. To register, go to [www.ErieRCD.org/disabilities.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/disabilities.htm) or call 814-824-1257.

■ **Christmas Vendor Blender**

St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville will feature more than 40 crafters and vendors with cash-and-carry items for holiday shopping at its Christmas Vendor Blender event Dec. 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. Admission is free, but those attending are encouraged to donate cash or non-perishable food items for the Sharpsville Community Food Pantry. The event will be held in the St. Bartholomew Social Center, 321 W. Ridge Ave., Sharpsville.

The **BIG MOVE**

Inner-city school to relocate soon



With St. Peter Cathedral as a backdrop, Mother Teresa Academy at W. 11th and Sassafras streets will welcome students to their new school for a Christmas party and move-in day Dec. 22. The school's team is the Saints.

Photos by Mary Solberg

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

It's almost move-in day for Mother Teresa Academy in Erie.

On Dec. 22, students at the inner-city elementary school will celebrate Christmas with a party at their newly renovated school, located at the former St. Peter Cathedral School at W. 11th and Sassafras streets.

It also will be a day for students and staff to move in their belongings in anticipation of the Jan. 2 start of classes.

"We are excited for this new opportunity for our students and the experiences we will be able to provide them," said Jamie Brim, principal.

Mother Teresa Academy began the 2017-18 academic year at the site of the former Holy Family School on E. 9th Street.

Modeled after Jubilee Catholic Schools in Memphis, Tenn., and other cities, Mother Teresa offers an innovative tuition structure to help ensure inner-city students have access to Catholic education.

Although annual tuition is set at \$5,000, those who qualify for free lunch under the Federal Poverty Guidelines for Free and Reduced Lunch only have to pay \$250 per year. Families who qualify for reduced lunches pay \$500 per year.

Another bonus for needy families is that Mother Teresa is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each school day. Before- and after-school care is included in tuition costs.

Now owned and operated by Cathedral Preparatory School and Villa Maria Academy, Mother Teresa got a boost this year from an initial round of philanthropic support from anonymous donors, said Chris Hagerty, director of strategic initiatives for Prep-Villa.

Another recent \$300,000 anonymous gift allowed school officials to make mostly cosmetic upgrades to the old St. Peter Cathedral School, which closed in June 2016. According to Hagerty, Frontier General Contracting of Erie has completed most renovations, which included an addition of smart boards, fast internet service, and the reconfiguration of the old library to accom-

modate an art room.

"We'll make that money go as far as we can," Hagerty said.

Currently, the school enrolls 184 students, which is a significant jump in the number enrolled last year. With fundraising an ongoing focus, Hagerty asks that anyone interested in contributing to Mother Teresa Academy contact him at [chris.hagerty@prep-villa.com](mailto:chris.hagerty@prep-villa.com).



Chris Hagerty, director of strategic initiatives for Prep-Villa, stands on the new gymnasium floor at Mother Teresa Academy. The team name is the Saints and the school colors are orange and blue, a nod to both Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy.



Workers are putting the finishing touches on the school's new art room, which was created from a section of the original library area.

**2018 Directory**  
**Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie**  
 Get up-to-date information on diocesan administration, parishes, clergy, schools, religious and more!  
**PRE-ORDER TODAY!**  
**COST \$23.00 CALL 814/824-1161**  
 (Anticipated distribution: Late January 2018)

**Retirement Fund for Religious**  
**December 9-10, 2017**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

**WAYS TO DONATE:**

Use your Parish Envelope.

Write a check directly to the Diocese of Erie. Please include RFR on the memo line and send to: Retirement Fund for Religious, c/o Office of Religious 429 E. Grandview Blvd., P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514.

Visit Online [www.SupportTheSisters.org](http://www.SupportTheSisters.org).

Ask your Employer about matching gifts. Questions? 814/824-1125.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST**  
[www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](http://www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast)  
**Saturday, January 13, 2018 \* 9 A.M.**  
 — Special Guest Speaker —  
**ANN McELHINNEY**  
 Movie Producer and Bestselling Author

Ann McElhinney discovered the frightening, full reality of abortion in the United States as she investigated Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia "house of horrors" abortionist. Her experience deepened her convictions and sense of urgency about abortion and U.S. abortion policies.

**Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier, Erie**  
 Registration is open now. Purchase tickets by January 9 at the latest. \$18 over age 12 \* \$8 ages 3-12 \* Free under 3

**DC MARCH FOR LIFE**  
[www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)  
 Attend the Incredible Washington, DC March for Life on **Friday, January 19, 2018**  
 Bus Seats \$55 (\$50 until December 18) \* Leave Erie at 11 p.m., January 18 and return at approximately 2 a.m., January 20  
 Sponsorship inquiries (and sponsors) are welcome!

**ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**Saturday, January 27, 2018 \* 11 A.M.**  
 Our theme for 2018 is: **LIFE: The Universal Language!**  
 Gather at the pavilion in west Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. The March and Closing Program will finish by 12:30 p.m.

Your participation matters. N.W. PA will be watching.  
**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
 P.O. Box 1126 \* Erie, PA 16512  
 (814) 882-1333 (voice or text) \* [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife](http://www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife)  
 Mail payments to P.O. Box 1126, visit our office, or use the online forms at [www.PeopleforLife.life/january2018](http://www.PeopleforLife.life/january2018)

**Are you 65 or older and concerned about your Medicare benefits?**

CONTACT **THE WILLIAM J. ANDERSON INSURANCE AGENCY**  
 814-730-4653  
[ANDERSONWILLIAM56@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ANDERSONWILLIAM56@YAHOO.COM)

Representing Western Catholic Union A Fraternal Organization

Try our new **ONLINE MEMORIAL DESIGNER** from the comfort of home

Monday - Friday 9 to 5 • Saturday 9 to Noon  
 Evenings & Weekends by Appointment  
 32980 Route 66 • Leeper, PA 16233

**BORLAND MEMORIALS** (814) 744-8340  
[www.borlandmemorials.com](http://www.borlandmemorials.com)

# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Check out more photos at [www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm)



## Candy and pies—OH, MY!



ERIE—Students at St. Luke School in Erie were busy this fall giving away pies and candy to Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

Pre-school and kindergarten students, pictured above, baked 32 pies and donated most of them to Emmaus. Several of the pumpkin and apple pies also went to members of the school staff as a way of giving thanks for their hard work and dedication.

The children donated all of the ingredients for the pies, while a few preschool students spent a Saturday morning picking apples. Pictured with some of their pies, from left, are: Addison Mifsud, Quinley Kuzma, Lincoln McCall, Ehan Wisniewski, Macy Giannelli and Teighan Mozdy.

Sixth-grader Nathan Gonsler, at right, decided to hold a trick-or-treat candy collection for the



families at Emmaus Soup Kitchen. After asking his classmates to donate some or all of their Halloween candy, they responded in a big way. For two days, students deposited their goodies into a collection box in the school office. Nathan ended up giving Emmaus 106 pounds of candy.

## Clearfield County parishioners visit diocesan offices



ERIE—Several parishioners from Clearfield County parishes visited St. Mark Catholic Center this fall. Bishop Lawrence Persico, standing at center, is surrounded by parishioners from Immaculate Conception Parish, Osceola Mills; St. Agnes, Morrisdale; and St. Peter & Paul, Hawk Run. They were joined by their pastor, Father Robert Horgas, pictured (in green) in the back row.

## No bullying at this school!



OIL CITY—Garrison Snyder, Maddie Wenner, Ayla Hall and Adam Giancola—all students at St. Stephen School in Oil City—sign a pledge against bullying to recognize National Bullying Prevention Month in October. All students at St. Stephen worked with their guardian angels to sign a pledge against bullying and create posters with the superhero theme as a visible reminder against bullying.

## Students dress up for All Saints Day



RIDGWAY—Students at St. Leo School in Ridgway enjoyed dressing up as their favorite saints on All Saints Day Nov. 1. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Isaiah Nicklas as St. Patrick, Karys Raubenstrauch as St. Theresa of Lisieux, Aiden Gardner as St. Nicholas, and Aiden Jones as St. Maximilian Kolbe. In the back row, from left, are: Ava Corl as St. Teresa of Calcutta, Noah Cherry as St. John XXIII, Father Justin Pino (pastor), Joe Arthurs as St. Leo the Great; and McKenzie Kennedy as St. Leo the Great.

## Bishop blesses new Lourdes grotto



COCHRANTON—Bishop Lawrence Persico blesses the new grotto at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cochranton. Pictured at right is Father Michael Kesicki. The scene, created on an outside wall of the church, features statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette.

Thanks to donations from parishioners and friends, the grotto was built by local stone mason Angelo Gatto. Meditation benches are located on either side of the grotto. Anyone is welcome to spend time at this place for prayer and reflection.

## Mother Teresa Academy students present thank-you notes to bishop



ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico, seated at center, reads some of the thank-you notes that were written to him by students from the new Mother Teresa Academy in downtown Erie. The students, along with Principal Jamie Brim, seated at left, and headmaster, Father Scott Jabo, right, visited the bishop at St. Mark Catholic Center this fall. "Thank you for being at Mother Teresa Academy," Bishop Persico told the children, adding, "I'm glad we have such special people there." Students, pictured from left, are: Josie Berdis, Joel Martinez, Jyleek Evans (back), Emmora Thomas and Amanye Hicks.

## Serra Club of Erie holds retreat



ERIE—Father Nicholas Rouch, chaplain of the Serra Club of Erie and vice rector of St. Mark Seminary, addresses members of the Serra Club at their annual retreat at Erie's Our Lady of Peace Church Nov. 4. Father Rouch was retreat master for the event, which drew about 17 participants. He discussed the need to discover the vocation God is calling us to at each stage of our lives in order that we might fulfill the two great commandments: love God above all else and love our neighbors as ourselves.

**CRIME VICTIM CENTER**  
**BINGO**  
Tuesday Evenings at 6:30 PM  
EER 6:00 PM - EER 6:15 PM  
Kury Hall • 512 Kello Drive  
For more information  
call Bev at 392-9588

Photos and news  
Diocese of Erie  
**facebook**

COLLEGES OF  
**CATHOLIC**  
2017 DISTINCTION 2018  
**MERCYHURST**  
UNIVERSITY

**McGonigle**  
Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.  
724-347-7575  
[www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com](http://www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com)

**ProximoTravel**  
Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths  
Prices starting at \$2,499 - with Airfare Included in this price - from anywhere in the USA  
Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...  
We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.  
Call us 24/7  
Hablamos Español  
508-340-9370  
855-842-8001  
[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com)  
anthony@proximotravel.com

**PULAKOS**  
Chocolates  
A Sweet Stop!  
PRESEN THIS AD IN STORE TO RECEIVE 10% OFF  
2530 Parade Street, Erie, Pa 16503  
380 Millcreek Plaza, Erie, Pa 16565  
[www.pulakoschocolates.com](http://www.pulakoschocolates.com) 800.627.0926

Since 1950  
**RAS AUTO BODY**  
All your collision needs.  
Special Wash, Wax/Interior - \$150.00 plus tax  
**814-453-6185**  
67 YEARS of Excellence!