



FAMILY FEST

A BIG SUCCESS

PAGE 3



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

SEE STORY BELOW

FaithLife

1st Week of Advent

Find Advent Scripture reflections, service suggestions and additional resources for family activities at www.ErieRCD.org/justice.htm.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 27, 2016



Christmas trivia winners announced

Pete Longiotti of St. Michael Parish, Greenville, won a \$100 gift certificate to Johnston's Evergreen Nursery, Inc., in *FaithLife's* Christmas trivia contest.

His name was selected in a random drawing of 67 people who correctly answered the question: "In 1934, who wrote the following Christmas letter to Jesus? 'Dear Baby Jesus, quickly come down to earth. You will bring joy to children. Also bring me joy.'"

The correct answer is Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI.

A second-place prize was awarded to Louise Ferrara, a member of St. Bartholomew Parish, Sharpsville. She won the new CD "O Emmanuel," featuring the Notre Dame Children's Choir and the Fifth House Ensemble.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Diocece continues to cooperate with statewide investigation

Special Agents from the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General served a search warrant Nov. 7 on the Diocese of Erie as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged sexual abuse in Catholic dioceses across Pennsylvania. In a statement released that day, the diocese said it was cooperating with investigators.

The action came two months after Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, along with several other Catholic bishops throughout the state, were subpoenaed by a statewide investigating grand jury to provide information related to past and present allegations of sexual abuse of children in the diocese.

Staff wins five Niagara Awards



Communications staff members, from left, are: Anne-Marie Welsh, Elizabeth Butterfield, Mary Solberg, Brenda Williams and Rich Papalia.

The Communications Office of the Diocese of Erie won five Niagara Awards Nov. 17 from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The awards are given annually to public relations practitioners who have successfully addressed a contemporary issue with "exemplary professional skills, creativity and resourcefulness." Judges gave points on sound research, planning, execution and evaluation. *FaithLife* magazine—with editor Anne-Marie Welsh—garnered a gold Niagara for the December 2015 edition covering Pope Francis' visit to the United States for the World Meeting of Families. The magazine also won the Best of Show Award for that edition.

Additionally, Welsh won a gold for internal communications for the unveiling of parish restructuring. Elizabeth Butterfield, graphic designer, won a gold for her series of ads celebrating National Catholic Sisters Week.

Mary Solberg, editor of *FaithLife* newspaper, won a silver Niagara for her story, "Behind the Razor Wire," about prison ministry in the diocese.

TRAGEDY to HOPE

Prep wrestler turns to prayer, friends in rehab from spinal cord injury

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Cathedral Prep junior Ian Malisiewski suffered a serious spinal cord injury while wrestling six months ago, but the people closest to him say his indomitable spirit has surfaced.

"I can count on one hand the really tough times he's had, and mostly those were about missing a wrestling tournament or something," says his mom, Hallie Reid. "Every morning, he gets up and says, 'OK, let's go to work. Let's do this.' He never complains."

That determination has carried 16-year-old Ian through surgery and several months of intense physical therapy. He fractured two vertebrae and injured his spinal cord June 3 while

competing in the United World Wrestling (UWW) Cadet Greco-Roman Nationals in Akron, Ohio.

Paralyzed from the neck down immediately after his accident, Ian has regained some movement in his arms, shoulders and hands. According to his dad, T.J. Malisiewski, doctors probably will not have a clear prognosis until swelling is reduced completely in his son's spinal column.

"We're not giving up hope. His prognosis is above what they thought. He wants to keep moving forward in life and he doesn't want this to hold him back," T.J. Malisiewski says.

On Nov. 7, Ian returned to Cathedral Prep, cheered on by his classmates, faculty and staff as he wheeled



Photo by Mary Solberg

Cathedral Prep junior Ian Malisiewski arrives Nov. 7 for the celebration of his first day back at school after a serious wrestling accident last June.

through the first floor to his classroom. Students like Tommy Russo and Garrett Heidt, both juniors, held signs: "Ian Strong," and "#BeADog," a

reference to a 2011 video of then-Coastal Carolina football coach David Bennett, who advised play-

SEE TRAGEDY TO HOPE, page 3

Sisters knit for a cause; never retire

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Erie Benedictine Sister Dona Oberlander may be 88 years old, but she still works two hours a day in her religious community's development office.

Since last spring, she also has found time to knit 29 children's and baby hats as part of a larger effort to clothe inner-city kids and adults served by Emmaus Ministries in Erie.

Says Sister Dona, with determination, "I haven't retired yet."

Neither have several other older Benedictine Sisters, who in the past year created 619 hats and 25 scarves to be distributed this fall and winter to the needy served by Emmaus Soup Kitchen and Emmaus Food Pantry.

Benedictine Sisters Rita Zattosky, Dorothy Szczypinski and Mary Louis Eichenlaub gathered recently with Sister Dona for a final knitting klatch before the items were distributed in time for the cold Erie winter. They were joined by Benedictine Sister Karen Oprechok, a novice who was the mastermind behind the knitting project, and Jan Gehrlin, a longtime volunteer.

Their tireless work epitomizes the never-stop attitude of all vowed women and men. Next month, Catholics will have the opportunity to repay them for their lifetime of service by donating to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious.

The national collection benefits nearly 33,000 Catholic sisters, brothers and order priests whose communities lack adequate retirement funding. Among the beneficiaries in the Diocese of Erie are the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

"We have to rely on the goodness of people and their generosity. It means a lot and it keeps us going," says Sister Dorothy Szczypinski, who left the classroom five years ago at age 80. "We never worked for salaries. It was always a diocesan stipend."

The Retirement Fund is crucial because the number of retired/elderly sisters is in-



Photo by Mary Solberg

The Benedictine Sisters knitting klatch created hundreds of hats and some scarves for the needy. Pictured, from left, are: Sister Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB; Sister Kathryn Disbrow, OSB; Sister Karen Oprechok, OSB, who organized the knitting project; and Benedictine Sisters Jean Wolbert, Dona Oberlander, Dorothy Szczypinski and Rita Zattosky. Standing are volunteer Jan Gehrlin and Sister Sallie Harrington, OSB.

creasing. There is no more incoming compensation for religious women like Sister Dorothy, who taught math at both the elementary and high school levels, and was an assistant professor at Gannon University.

These older sisters practically cringe at the word retirement, even though many now live in the infirmary or in assisted living at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek.

Sister Rita Zattosky, 78, ministered for several years at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. "We wouldn't have funds to do other projects for our ministries if people didn't help us," Sister Rita says.

That's why the knitting project is so important. Not only does it help the needy, but it keeps retired sisters active in their

calling to serve others. According to Sister Mary Louis Eichenlaub, who had been the communications director for the Benedictine community, "These activities can strengthen our skills."

Jan Gehrlin works closely with the Benedictine Sisters on several outreach efforts.

"They dedicated their entire lives to the community, doing good for people and enriching people's lives and educating them," Gehrlin says. "They shouldn't be forgotten."

Give to the Retirement Fund for Religious at your parish Dec. 10-11, or donate at www.ErieRCD.org/retirementfund.htm

COUNTING CARDINALS

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis on Nov. 19 installed 17 new members to the College of Cardinals, the body that advises him and bears responsibility for electing his successor.

The new cardinals represent 14 countries, bringing the total number of countries represented in the college to 70.

Pope Francis, in his selection, looked to countries and particularly to dioceses that were not and never had been represented in the College of Cardinals.

How the College of Cardinals will look after the Nov. 19 consistory



Electors by region



Countries with the most electors

ITALY	25	BRAZIL	5	INDIA	4	POLAND	4
US	10	FRANCE	5	MEXICO	4	SPAIN	4

Newsmakers

Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

■ Mexican priest kidnapped, found alive with signs of torture

MEXICO CITY (CNS)—An outspoken priest who had been reported missing in the state of Veracruz was found alive, but with signs of torture.

Father Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz, pastor of Twelve Apostles Parish in Catemaco—a town some 340 miles southeast of Mexico City—was reported missing Nov. 11, sparking unrest and the ransacking and burning of the city hall by residents impatient with police response.

A statement from the Diocese of San Andres Tuxtla said Father Sanchez was found “abandoned” Nov. 13 “with notable signs of torture.”

Father Aaron Reyes Natividad, diocesan spokesman, told local media that Father Sanchez denounced crime and corruption in Veracruz, where a former governor is currently on the lam for funneling millions of dollars of state money into shell companies, and also rallied

residents against high electric bills.

The abduction and torture of Father Sanchez marked another case of clergy coming under attack in Mexico, where at least 15 priests have been murdered in the past four years, according to the Centro Catolico Multimedia. In Mexico, nearly 94 percent of crimes go unreported or uninvestigated, according to a survey by the state statistics service.

■ Pope’s Argentina homilies released in new collection

ROME (CNS)—A pastor out of touch with his parishioners’ lives has little chance of preaching a homily that can make the Gospel come alive for them, Pope Francis said.

“If you don’t listen to people, how can you preach?” he said in an interview with Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, editor of the Jesuit journal, *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

The interview introduces a new collection, in Italian, of homilies and speeches Pope Francis gave as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1999 until his election as pope in 2013.



CNS photo
Copies of *Nei Tuoi Occhi è la Mia Parola*.

Post-election prayers prevail in spite of acrimony



Editor’s Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Despite the deep rifts apparent in the United States after last month’s presidential election, one thing is certain: Lots of prayers are being said.

At the recent fall General Assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, president, asked his brother bishops to support a post-election statement by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle, Wash., and chairman of the Committee on Migration.

Bishop Elizondo has congratulated President-elect Donald Trump and has urged people to work toward the common good, particularly in outreach to migrant and refugee families in the United States.

He stated, “We believe the family unit is the cornerstone of society, so it is vital to protect the integrity of the family. For this reason, we are reminded that behind every ‘statistic’ is a person who is a mother, father, son, daughter, sister or brother and has dignity as a child of God. We pray that as the new administration begins its role leading our country, it will recognize the contributions of refugees and immigrants to the overall prosperity and well-being of our nation. We will work to promote humane policies that protect refugees and immigrants’ inherent dignity, keep families together, and honor and respect the laws of this nation.”

After the Nov. 8 election, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania joined sisters across the country in calling for Americans to come together in peace.

The congregation encouraged people to participate in a Nov. 11

National Day of Prayer for Unity and Reconciliation.

“We need to begin the process of healing and move forward in the belief that reconciliation and trust are possible,” the SSI’s stated. “God creates newness out of brokenness and chaos and, as Sisters of St. Joseph, we believe in fostering unity that’s not uniformity, and diversity that’s not division.”

The Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Com-

“... we believe in fostering unity that’s not uniformity, and diversity that’s not division.”

—Sisters of St. Joseph post-election statement

munity—which includes Buffalo, Erie, Pittsburgh, Rochester and the Philippines—also called for healing.

In its statement, the community said it hoped that Americans would put aside “disappointments, anger, negativity, anguish and doubt, and pledge to work toward a peaceful transfer of power.”

According to their statement, “... the Sisters of Mercy will continue to raise up the moral voice to counter divisive public policies and rhetoric.”

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie also released a message, saying that the season of Advent offers hope in a nation beleaguered by divisiveness: “With Benedictine resolve and empowered by the courage and conviction to work for the common good, we will glorify God in all things, cherish Christ, listen to the Spirit, reverence one another and uphold all in our efforts to bring hope and light to a waiting world.”

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

Clarion prof pens book on pope’s social, political thought

FAITHLIFE staff report

Tom Rourke, a professor of political science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, mixed his Jesuit educational background and his personal interest in Argentina to write his newly released book, *The Roots of Pope Francis’ Social and Political Thought—From Argentina to the Vatican*.

Designed for academia, the 207-page volume (Rowman & Littlefield) nonetheless provides general readers with a more thorough understanding of this oft-quoted pope and why he thinks and says what he does.

“People are attracted by Pope Francis’ obvious depth of feeling for suffering people, and his history of very forthright language concerning abuse of people and their rights,” Rourke told FaithLife. “He spent so much time with the poor in his life. When he is with them, there is nothing staged or forced.”

People are attracted by Pope Francis’ obvious depth of feeling for suffering people ...

Rourke, a member of St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda, advises student organizations at Clarion, including the Newman Association for Catholic students, Students for Life, and the student-parent group.

His wife, Dr. Rosita Chazarreta de Rourke, a native of Argentina, helped Rourke translate 2,000 pages

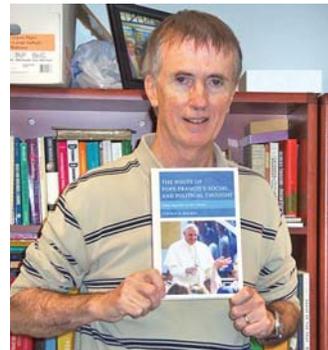
of material he had accumulated in his research. Her understanding of the language informed Rourke’s writing.

“The pope uses a lot of local expressions and references that require a native to get the full gist of,” Rourke said.

Having earned his undergraduate degree at the Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York, Rourke visited the pope’s homeland of Argentina 20 times. He explored Pope Francis’ thinking, beginning with the influence of the Jesuit missions there from the 1500s to the 1700s.

The pope’s social and political views, Rourke explained, were largely influenced by the Jesuit tradition of bringing Jesus to the peripheries of society, a hallmark of the faith-filled people of Latin America.

“A lot of people have the sense that the world in many respects is evolving in the wrong direction and that we need moral leadership more than anything,” Rourke said. “He [Pope Francis] provides that kind of guidance.”



Continued photo
Professor Tom Rourke of Clarion University holds a copy of his new book on Pope Francis.

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EVENTS

Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to be venerated

ERIE—The public is invited to St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie, on Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. for a prayer service marking the 99th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's appearance at Fatima, Portugal. The service will include recitation of the rosary, a talk presented by Msgr. Robert Brugger, pastor, followed by Benediction. The Erie Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the church for veneration.

Cursillo schedule announced for 2017

ERIE—The 2017 Cursillo schedule for the Diocese of Erie is as follows:

- Women, April 20-23 at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
- Men, May 18-21 at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
- Women, June 15-18 at Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys
- Men, July 20-23 at Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage
- Women, Aug. 17-20 at St. Philip, Linesville
- Men, Oct. 19-22, 2017, at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
- Women, Nov. 16-19, 2017, at Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek

Cursillo is open to anyone 18 and older. If married, the husband must attend first. If interested, call 814-824-1119 or email office@eriecursillo.com, or go to the Cursillo website at www.ericursillo.org.

Annual Christmas dinner/dance planned

ERIE—Our Mother of Sorrows Parish—which includes Holy Family, St. Ann and St. Casimir churches—will sponsor its annual Christmas dinner and dance on Dec. 3 at the Polish Falcons, 431 E. 3rd St., Erie, from 6 to 10 p.m.

A buffet dinner will be served. The cost is \$12 per person; advance ticket sales only. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 30 at the rectory office, 913 Fulton St., Erie, after weekend Masses, or by calling 814-452-4832. The polka band "The Marvels" will provide entertainment.

Benedictine Sisters to share Advent reflections

HARBORCREEK—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are hosting Advent vigils in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Harborcreek. The public is invited to attend the vigils, each beginning at 7 p.m., on the following dates and with the following Benedictine Sisters offering reflections:

- Dec. 3—Beth Adams, OSB
- Dec. 10—Elizabeth Oettel, OSB
- Dec. 17—Mary Miller, OSB

Clothing Distribution Party held during Advent

ERIE—The Community Outreach Group, established by a men's Cursillo group, will host its annual Clothing Distribution Party Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, W. 22nd and Peach streets, Erie. Free clothing will be distributed and visitors are invited to enjoy a free, hot lunch.

Santa and his helpers will be on site to distribute toys to children. Patrons may enter on the north side of St. John's. For more information, visit "Community Outreach Group of Erie, PA" on Facebook, email TimWWJD@AOL.com, or call 814-566-6435.

African Children's Choir to perform at St. Jude

ERIE—The African Children's Choir, a nonprofit humanitarian and relief organization dedicated to helping Africa's most vulnerable children, will perform Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie. The program features children's songs, traditional spirituals and Gospel favorites.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted to support African Children's Choir programs.

Place orders for Holy Trinity Christmas Market

ERIE—The Holy Trinity Parish Catholic Education Program will sponsor its annual Christmas Market on Dec. 16 from 4 to 7 p.m., and Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Holy Trinity Social Center—The Gathering Place, 2220 Reed St., Erie. Food items are limited during the market due to pre-orders. Order in advance to ensure getting your Christmas favorites.

Pre-orders will be accepted through Dec. 5. Payment is due with orders. Items to be sold include: *chruszki*, *oplatki*, pierogi, sweet bread and nut rolls. Order forms are available at www.holytrinity.org. Orders may be submitted in these ways: fax to 814-461-1150, call 814-456-0671, or mail to Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

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Tragedy to Hope

Continued from page 1

ers to "be a dog" instead of a "kitty cat."

"It's his [Ian's] mentality. It's how he operates," Heidt says. "He hasn't changed one bit. He's the same Ian who we've always known, just full of life. He's always making us laugh and making us smile."

His first friend at Prep, Ethan Rys, also was on-hand for Ian's first day back at school. They caught up with each other in the classroom that has been converted from the school spirit store to one that can accommodate Ian's new specially made computer.

"There's no one like Ian," Rys says. "He's crazy energetic. It's been a hard time, but it's been inspiring, too, just to see the outpouring from the community."

The night of the accident, hundreds of people gathered at St. Jude the Apostle Church in Erie. They held an impromptu prayer service while awaiting news on Ian's eight-hour surgery at Akron Children's Hospital.

The Catholic Preparatory School community, which includes Prep and Villa Maria Academy, set up the "Ian Fund," requesting donations to assist the family through Ian's rehabilitation and recovery. (Make donations at www.prep-villa.com or checks can be made payable to Cathedral Prep and sent to Cathedral Prep's Advancement Office, 225 W. 9th St., Erie, PA 16501, with "Ian Fund" in the memo line.)

In September, another benefit was held at Gravel Pit Park in North East.



T.J. Malisewski assists his son Ian with a specially designed computer on Ian's first day back at Cathedral Prep following a spinal cord injury.

Photo by Mary Solberg

"I learned that prayers work," Ian says. "I had a lot of prayers said for me, not only from my class, but everybody in Erie. They just helped pull me through this emotionally and physically."

Father Jason Feigh, campus minister, has met with Ian weekly since his accident. They do independent study for confirmation preparation.

"His return was an early Thanksgiving and Christmas present to the Prep community," Father Jason says. "It shows hope amidst tragedy."

According to Father Jason, Ian's "big heart"—in the face of such difficulty—has brought everyone together. Even before the accident, Ian was active at Prep, participating

in football and wrestling, Campus Ministry and Key Club. This year, he is serving as class vice president.

"He continues to inspire people in ways he has no idea of," Father Jason adds. "He is not only a witness of how to carry himself personally, but spiritually."

Since his return to school, Ian attends classes in the morning and then eats lunch with friends. He then goes to physical therapy for the rest of the day.

And, of course, he and his family depend on prayers.

Says his mom, Hallie: "People say how much they're sending prayers. I'll take anything. It makes him feel better to know that people care and that they love him."

Hundreds attend Family Fest '16



FAITHLIFE staff report



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Ian Armour of Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City enjoys a Minute to Win It game at Family Fest '16.

Families from across the Diocese of Erie converged on the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie Nov. 13 for a day of fun and spiritual renewal.

The first-ever Family Fest, coordinated by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, drew in more than 550 people for prayers, inspirational talks, a service project, and time to encounter Christ with other families.

Members of the newly formed Diocesan Youth Board worked closely with Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, to organize the event.

"It is encouraging to see so many young families come together to celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ," Peterson said. "This is a sign of great hope for our

church and a signal that the paradigm for youth ministry has shifted and must be accomplished through the family."

National Catholic speaker and musician Chris Padgett and his wife, Linda, were the guest presenters. They shared the message of Christ's love and forgiveness.

A mercy chapel was set up in the Hemingway Ballroom at the Ambassador for Eucharistic Adoration, silent prayer and confessions.

Sixteen priests were available throughout the day to hear confessions.

Father Ross Miceli, administrator of St. Boniface Parish, Kersey, and a faculty member of Elk County Catholic in St. Marys, celebrated an afternoon Mass.

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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

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Check out more photos at
www.ErieRCD.org/atd.asp



Knights give diocese \$10,000 for youth



ERIE—The Central West Knights of Columbus presented Bishop Lawrence Persico with a \$10,000 check recently for youth projects in the Diocese of Erie. The funds were raised through a Pennsylvania Lottery calendar program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Pictured with Bishop Persico, center, are George Beckes, former Central West regional chairperson, left, and Joseph Lander, Central West regional chairperson.

Harborcreek Youth Services Breaks Ground on Therapeutic Arts Center



HARBORCREEK—Staff, residents, board members and friends of Harborcreek Youth Services gathered Oct. 26 at the Iroquois Avenue campus to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Father Jim Fahey Therapeutic Arts Center. The center will house Expressive Therapies programs in art, music, movement, and writing for children who have suffered trauma. It is expected to open in early 2017. Pictured, from left, are: HYS board members Ryan Masolotte, Maria Garase, Pete Benekos, Larry Serafin, Rick Linse, Ann Badach, Gary Borowy and Ali Samuels; HYS residents Austin and Ivan; board chairperson, Father Scott Jabo; CEO John Petella; and residents Jacob and Nathan.

Students raise money to fight cancer



BRADFORD—Throughout the month of October, these students at St. Bernard Elementary/Middle School in Bradford raised money for Kids and Cancer, an organization that donates money to kids and adults with cancer, to many surrounding area hospitals, cancer support groups and even individuals fighting a life-threatening disease or illness.

16 parishes participate in retreat



LUDLOW—"Mercy—The Heartbeat of the Gospel" was the theme of Catholic Rural Ministry's overnight retreat Oct. 4-5 at Olmstead Manor in Ludlow. Thirty-two participants from 16 parishes attended the retreat presented by Mercy Sister Tina Geiger, Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler, Benedictine Sister Phyllis Schleicher, and Benedictine Sister Mary Hoffman.

Making art for troops overseas



DuBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic Elementary art teacher Chylene Helman and Sherry Huber of Punxsutawney look over the work of students Kyan Peck, Westin Youngdahl and Lucas Fragle as they begin an outreach project for military personnel serving overseas.

PNC gives \$10,000 to Mercy Center



ERIE—PNC Bank recently presented a \$10,000 check to the Mercy Center of the Arts in Erie. Pictured, from left, are: Jim Stevenson, president of PNC Bank's northwest Pennsylvania's region; Leanne Roberts, a member of the Mercy Center of the Arts board of directors; Sheila Coon, director of grants and sponsored research at Mercyhurst University; Amy Bauschard, director of Mercy Center of the Arts; and Aron Dahlkemper, chairman of the board.

St. Peregrine statue blessed at OLP



ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico celebrated an October liturgy at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie and blessed a new statue of St. Peregrine Laziosi, patron saint of cancer patients. Pictured with the bishop are altar server Bennett McCoy, and Father Matt Kujawinski, pastor.

St. Luke students love their neighbor



ERIE—Jo McCallion, who lives across the street from St. Luke School in Erie, was recently surrounded by love on her 93rd birthday. McCallion was the original church secretary at St. Luke. Second- and third-graders made birthday cards, a giant birthday banner and some pictures and visited McCallion on her front porch.

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