



"To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us."



Prayer. Planning. Possibilities.

Pastoral planning process begins



Photo by Anne-Marie Walsh

Pastoral Planning Committee members oversee five different task forces.

FAITHLIFE staff

Prayer, Planning, Possibilities

These are the guiding principles—"an unbeatable combination"—that officials say will see the Diocese of Erie through its two-year pastoral planning process beginning in earnest this month.

"Our beloved diocese was founded on July 29, 1853. The fact that it's been in existence for 161 years does not guarantee that it will exist for another 161 years or even another 50 years. We must exercise our responsibility to assure its future. And we have set about to do that through planning," said Deacon Marty Eisert, chairperson of the newly formed Pastoral Planning Committee.

After a year of behind-the-scenes organization, the diocese begins this month the public phase of the effort by hosting informational meetings for clergy, diocesan staff and parish and school leaders, including principals.

The Meitler consulting firm of Milwaukee, Wis., has been hired to spearhead the effort to review all programs and ministries of the diocese, including education, parish life, vocations and faith formation. Meitler's senior consultant and vice president, Alan Meitler, plans to discuss key aspects of the planning process at the upcoming meetings.

The informational leadership gatherings (by invitation only) are scheduled Nov. 17 at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie; Nov. 18 at Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys; and Nov. 19 at Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage. Parish-wide listening sessions will be held in early 2015.

This summer, the seven-member Pastoral Planning Committee, with Eisert at the helm, was established to streamline efforts to consolidate information and data.

Committee members have since been assigned to oversee separate task forces:

- **Parish Listening**, under the leadership of Msgr. Richard Siefert, pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois; and Rosemary Carnovale of Johnsonburg

- **Catholic Education**, under the leadership of John Davidson of Sharon
- **Vocations**, under the leadership of Robert Crowley of Warren
- **Ministries**, under the leadership of Barb Brecht of Falls Creek

- **Faith Formation**, under the leadership of Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministries of the Bradford Deanery.

The task forces already have begun their work. Sister Phyllis' team has started to reach out to religious education directors and faith formation coordinators in parishes throughout the diocese. Their goal is to address all faith-formation efforts beyond the Catholic school setting, including religious education programs.

To read more details about the planning process, visit www.ErieRCD.org/planning.asp. The web page will be updated regularly to provide the most current information and progress.

Special Collection

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Nov. 22-23

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops takes up this collection annually. It is the primary source of funding for the campaign's anti-poverty grants and education programs. Half of the money collected each year remains in the Diocese of Erie to fight poverty in our communities and defend the dignity of our neighbors. For CCHD resources and parish materials, visit www.ErieRCD.org/cchd.asp

Clergy Appointment

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointment:

Father Richard Allen, vice president for Catholic Mission, Elk County Catholic School System, St. Marys, effective Oct. 13, 2014, term unspecified, in addition to his appointment as pastor, Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys.



Serving at the altar of God

Two altar boys overcome physical limitations



Zack Murphy serves at St. Raphael Parish, Eldred, despite ongoing issues from a brain tumor removed when he was 4.



Photos by Mary Solberg

Although he does not have arms and suffers from scoliosis, Noah Howard serves at St. Theresa Parish, Shinglehouse.

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Noah Howard and Zack Murphy don't consider themselves disabled. Fourteen-year-old Noah was born with no arms and has had numerous surgeries for scoliosis. Zack, 15, walks with a distinct limp as a result of a large brain tumor that was discovered and surgically removed when he was 4 years old.

Their physical limitations are obvious to those who have never met them. But to their families and parish communities in McKean and Potter counties in the Diocese of Erie, they're just Noah and Zack, average teenagers who do an extraordinary job of dealing with the ongoing challenges of their conditions.

"I wouldn't call it a disability. It's

more of an obstacle," says Noah of having no arms. "You have to find things that work for you."

Zack, who has had four surgeries since his tumor was discovered 10 years ago, feels similarly. "It's just the way it is," he says. "I had to deal with it and adapt."

Adaptation and simple willpower motivate Zack and Noah, but it's their love of the Catholic faith that inspires others.

In an era when it's become increasingly difficult to find enough young people to serve in Catholic parishes, Zack and Noah have stepped forward. Their pastor, Father Tom Brown, says they both feel called "to serve at the altar of God."

"I think a good lesson to learn is that everybody has something to give

no matter what their limitations may be," Father Brown says. "Here are two boys with severe limitations who are doing the best they can. I'm proud of them."

Since third grade, Zack has been an altar boy at St. Raphael Parish in Eldred, McKean County. His father, Tim, who died two years ago from pancreatic cancer, was a lector and encouraged his young son to volunteer. After having hip surgery in 2013, Zack was confined to a wheelchair for several months. He easily could have decided never to put on an altar robe again, but he mustered the strength to return.

Sitting on St. Raphael's wooden pews, he reflects on his reasons for serving over the years. Grimacing shyly, he looks toward the altar area and

says, "The chairs are cushioned up there and these aren't."

Kidding aside, he explains that he is continuing the family tradition of serving the church, like his dad. And besides, he says, "I like to see things through. I don't quit."

His mom, Liz Murphy, calls Zack "a good kid and a hard worker." A 10th-grader at Otto-Eldred High School, Duke Center, he was a member of the adaptive ski program and enjoys the school trap shooting club. He also plans to try out for the basketball team this year.

In nearby Shinglehouse in Potter County, Noah is a ninth-grader at Oswayo Valley Junior-Senior High School, where he is a member of the

See Altar boys, page 2



Zack Murphy can now use his right hand to hold the top of the chalice.



Father Tom Brown has a chat with Zack in the sacristy of St. Raphael Church, Eldred.



Noah Howard uses his foot to ring the chimes.



Susie Amidon helps her grandson Noah dress for Mass.

Q+A

with Deacon Fred Keck

Helping those who are alone during the holidays



Deacon Fred Keck of Holy Rosary Parish in Erie lost his wife, Jean, to cancer in December 2009. He knows what it's like to be alone during the holidays.

This month, he will give a talk on the theme of brokenness to beauty at the fifth annual "Coping with Life Alone During the Holidays" program at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Sponsored by the Transitions ministry of Catholic Charities, the Coping with Life gathering on Nov. 23 promises participants an opportunity for personal reflection, small group sharing, prayer and fellowship.

Transitions is an outreach to separated, divorced and widowed persons. Deacon Keck shares his views on the ministry with FaithLife readers:

FaithLife: In your lecture at the Transitions program, you will discuss the theme of brokenness to beauty. What can be so beautiful about difficulties?

Deacon Keck: There is nothing beautiful about difficulties, in and of themselves. But, sometimes our notion of beauty shifts. We may come to find beauty in the character written on an older person's face. The smooth, unblemished face of a young person, which used to seem so beautiful for its freshness and perfection, now appears as a blank surface not yet written upon.

We Catholics have crucifixes on our walls and even as jewelry. The crucifix was an instrument of execution by torture. It was an ugly image. But we transformed that image because we came to realize it signified the hugeness of God's love for us. From that perspective, it is a beautiful image. So, I am suggesting that loss due to death, separation or divorce is an ugly thing, but that it can be the occasion for unexpected growth and beauty to emerge.

FaithLife: What is the most important thing we can do for a person who has lost a spouse to death, divorce or separation and is alone during the holidays?

Deacon Keck: Of course, each of these situations is different. But, then, each person is different, too. Probably, the best thing you can do is to be sensitive. Give the person permission to do what he or she needs to do. Invite them to family gatherings and parties, for example, but allow them to say "no" or leave early.

"Coping with Life Alone During the Holidays"

Nov. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.
St. Mark Catholic Center
429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie

FaithLife: The holidays are a time of great excitement and activity. What specific things would you encourage people who are alone to do during this time?

Deacon Keck: Give yourself permission to do what you need to do. You are going to need the support of others, but you also are going to need alone time.

FaithLife: Your wife, Jean, died of cancer five years ago. What are the holidays like for you?

Deacon Keck: Thanksgiving and Christmas were always big in our marriage. So I still find them difficult to enter into the way I did in the past. While there is always an undercurrent of sadness, I find myself focusing on the authentic meaning of these holy days: thanking God and celebrating God's joining us in the world.

FaithLife: Are there any possible words of comfort for people who are alone?

Deacon Keck: I think any words that acknowledge a person's loss and communicate caring are as comforting as is possible. There are no magic words. Loss of a person close to you is going to require a process that cannot be taken away by other people's words. On the other hand, it sure helps to know people care and support us in such a time.



■ ESPN analyst: 'Live by faith'

SIoux CITY, Iowa (CNS)—Football may be Herm Edwards' forte, but in a recent keynote address to Catholic school supporters in the Diocese of Sioux City, he talked about his Catholic faith and education.

The former NFL player and coach, who is now an ESPN football analyst, also drew some parallels between coaching and teaching.

"For a coach, you basically have four seconds to make a decision on what's going to be done," he told his audience at the Sioux City Convention Center.

"You have to be able to adapt as a coach. That's what teachers do. Teachers are able to adapt. They care about your children and my children."



Herm Edwards
CNS photo

■ Catholic colleges keep spotlight on plight of unaccompanied minors

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Overall attention on the number of unaccompanied minors crossing the U.S. border from Central America has waned, but the crisis is far from resolved, according to Catholic college and university presidents.

By year's end, more than 70,000 unaccompanied minors will have crossed into America, a fact that is "historically unprecedented," says David Fike, president of Marygrove College in Detroit.

Fike has spearheaded an initiative endorsed by more than 50 Catholic college and university presidents Oct. 23 to call attention to the ongoing plight of these children. President Tom Gamble of Mercyhurst University in Erie has signed the document. The schools point out that Catholic colleges have the "opportunity and obligation to respond."

■ Ghana bishops urge delay of tourney

ACCRA, Ghana (CNS)—The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference called on the Confederation of African Football to postpone the Africa Cup of Nations' 2015 soccer tournament scheduled for Jan. 17 to Feb. 8 because of the Ebola threat.

Although the tournament has taken place since 1957,

the bishops maintained that the danger to human health posed by the potential spread of Ebola requires officials to delay or cancel the tournament, the bishops said in a statement released on Oct. 31.

The tournament was scheduled to be played in Morocco, but officials there have asked confederation officials to postpone the tournament. Because of Morocco's stance, confederation leaders asked Ghana to host the tournament.

"We, therefore, wish to add our voice to the numerous calls made by many other people and groups for the postponement of the tournament scheduled for next year," the bishops said.

■ Pope meets with Catholic charismatic communities

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Prayer and mission are the very breath of the Christian life, Pope Francis told members of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities and Fellowships Oct. 31.

"When we inhale, by prayer, we receive the fresh air of the Holy Spirit. When exhaling this air, we announce Jesus Christ risen by the same spirit," Pope Francis told about 1,000 charismatic Catholics and their Protestant guests who were participating in a conference about the charismatic movement and new evangelization.

The charismatic movement, which focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, is by its nature an evangelical movement, the pope said. Christian unity is "the test of the credibility of Christians and of Christ himself," and Christian divisions make evangelization more difficult.

Pope Francis also told the charismatics that as people who value the rich variety of the gifts of the Holy Spirit they should not fear diversity.



Pope Francis talks to members of the orchestra during a special audience with charismatic Catholics.
CNS photo

Finding God in sports
Baseball can be a journey of faith



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Basketball season is upon us, but I'm still thinking about baseball. With three sons and a husband who are crazy for the crack of the bat, I have come to appreciate the finer aspects of the sport.

Last month—on Oct. 4—everyone in my house went to bed, but I stayed up well past midnight to watch the full 18 innings of the San Francisco Giants/Washington Nationals game. The Giants got a home run and finally ended the game by a score of 2-1, setting a time record of 6 hours, 23 minutes.

The experience made me realize the value of a new book that my son Peter and I have been reading, *Baseball As A Road To God* by John Sexton (2013, Gotham Books). The author is the president of New York University and earned a doctorate in the history of American religion from Fordham University.

Sexton discusses how baseball evokes faith and doubt, conversion, blessings and curses, even miracles. The game, he says, "is a wonderful laboratory" for contemplation, sensitivity, awareness and mystical intensity, all elements in the pursuit of the divine.

Maybe that is why the ballparks of America are sometimes called "green cathedrals." This summer, my family and I traveled to New York City's Citi Field to watch the New York Mets play the Chicago Cubs. For me, baseball, especially, it was a pilgrimage of sorts, an opportunity to return to his home and reflect on the importance of the game to his late father, an old Brooklyn Dodgers fan.

Baseball lore certainly has been passed

down from my father-in-law, to my husband, to our three sons. And I have personally come to appreciate the hours of time spent in the stands watching my kids pitch and field...from tee-ball through high school.

There were days when this tired mom was happy when the games were called at 8 p.m. on school nights.

But over the years, I have come to appreciate those interminably long games

that start in sunshine and end late at night, with lightning bugs flying all around. I look forward to leaving work on a spring day knowing that I'm going to sit back, watch the boys go up to bat, one after the other, and see the sun set in its glorious reds and yellows over the field.

Unlike other sports, baseball gives you time to contemplate. There's no clock. No referee blowing a whistle. The record for the most innings ever played in a single professional game is 33, which occurred in a 1981 minor-league contest between the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings.

There's a certain amount of trust and acceptance and love that one must exercise when watching baseball. It's a belief that the game will go on as it should...with all of its unexpected twists and turns, slow-moving innings and surprising home runs.

Sounds a lot like our life of faith.

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Altar boys overcome physical limitations

Altar boys, from page 1

arts and humanities club and student council. He has been an altar server the past three years at St. Theresa Church. According to Rich Esposito, president of parish council, Noah's obvious physical disability hardly fazes anyone.

"I think everyone here is proud of him that he's participating," Esposito says. "For the parish, he's just another kid."

Noah readily admits that standing and moving about the altar may not be the easiest thing to do for someone with no arms. He credits a strong sense of balance that amazes his doctors.

During Mass, he usually joins other altar servers, walking with them through all of the parts of the service. However, he is unable to carry anything. He goes into action during the consecration when he slides off his right sneaker and uses his bare foot to ring the chimes four different times.

Encouraged by the deep love of his grandmother, Susie Amidon, and his mom, Stefanie Amidon, Noah has endured 11 surgeries since his birth, mostly to implant rods in his back to treat scoliosis. His last surgery was Oct. 3.



Noah Howard, 14, serves at St. Theresa Parish, Shinglehouse.

"It makes me feel good that he's up there on the altar and that he has that much faith in himself and in his God. I'm proud of him for doing that," Stefanie Amidon says.

For Noah, his reason for serving is fairly simple—and obvious: "I feel that the church needs me."

Gannon University grows
Bishop excited about new Florida campus

FAITHLIFE staff

Gannon University's slogan—"Believe in the possibilities"—became tangible Oct. 30 when the Catholic institution announced the opening of a satellite campus in Florida.

"Well, this is one of those possibilities," said Bishop Lawrence Persico, who serves as chairman of the board of Gannon.

The new campus, located in Ruskin, Fla., is situated in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, about 20 miles south of Tampa. It is expected to open in the summer of 2015 with one degree offering: a doctorate in occupational therapy.

"The establishment of the additional site in Ruskin is in keeping with the legacy of Archbishop John Mark Gannon, the university's namesake, who was known as 'the builder bishop,' and is a milestone in the continuing creation of a great and vibrant university," said Gannon President Keith Taylor.

The Florida Department of Education has approved Gannon's request to offer two additional degrees in the future: a doctorate in physical therapy and a physician's assistant master's.

Currently, Gannon is leasing a 17,000-square-foot building off Interstate 75 that will be renovated beginning in January. Ac-

cording to Taylor, Gannon also has purchased an adjacent 3-acre lot, at a cost of \$1.45 million, for future expansion.

To prepare for the expansion to Florida, Bishop Persico traveled in August to Ruskin. He saw the building being leased for the satellite campus and met with Bishop Robert Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

"I liked it," Bishop Persico said. "I think this campus expansion provides a means by which Gannon students have an opportunity to study in Florida and Florida students can study in Erie. It improves the population base."

Bishop Persico credited Taylor and his staff for what he called

their "foresight" in making the move a reality. Gannon experienced record enrollment this year, and it knows it must continue to offer cutting-edge programs.

Gannon first explored the expansion in 2013, as part of its master plan. Hillsborough County, where Ruskin is located, is the fastest-growing county in Florida. Some current Gannon students already are doing clinical rotations in the Ruskin area.

The Ruskin campus is expected to operate on an initial budget of \$1.2 million. That will include the lease and salaries for two administrators and three faculty members.

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News Briefs

Several honored with 'Spirit of Courage'

ERIE—The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania honored individuals at the recent 18th annual SSJ Spirit of Courage Dinner at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

This year's honorees are:

- Brandi Kirby, a mother of seven who lived on the streets and now shares her story of transformation.
- Patricia Mazzarese has had temporal lobe epilepsy since age 11. The mother of three, she graduated with honors from Gannon University in Erie.
- Kelly Meyer was diagnosed with bacterial meningococcal meningitis in April 2013 and endured multiple medical problems. She credits her recovery to her family and her boyfriend.
- Tiel Wilczynski was diagnosed with anorexia nervosa when she was a sophomore at Villa Maria Academy. She received intensive treatment in Philadelphia. Today, at age 30, she is pursuing masters' degrees in counseling and art therapy. She carefully monitors her own health and speaks out publicly to those struggling with eating disorders and depression.



Photo by Tim Rohrbaugh Photography

Spirit of Courage honorees, left to right, are: Brandi Kirby; Patricia Mazzarese; Kelly Meyer and her boyfriend, John Michalski; and Tiel Wilczynski.

'Year of Consecrated Life' begins with Mass

ERIE—Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 as the "Year of Consecrated Life." The celebration officially opening the year will be held in Rome on the first Sunday of Advent.

The Diocese of Erie will begin the year-long celebration with its annual Mass for deceased sisters, to be held at the Mercy Motherhouse, 444 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m., with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating.

Ordinarily, this liturgy remembers all sisters, priests and Serrans who have died during the past year. However, this year's memorial will be expanded to include all sisters who have served the diocese. Special mention will be given to all religious congregations and orders that have ministered in the Diocese of Erie over the past 160 years.

St. George to host 'Presence for Christmas'

ERIE—All are invited to attend "Presence for Christmas"—a spirit-filled journey into the heart of Christmas—at St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie, for three consecutive Wednesday evenings in December. The evenings of song, story and prayer will be held Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., followed by fellowship. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available at 6:30 p.m. each night.

Mother of 10 to speak at Day of Recollection

FARRELL—St. Adalbert Church in Farrell will host an Advent Day of Recollection Dec. 7 beginning at noon in the church social hall. Guest speaker, Stephanie Caulfield, will discuss the teachings of St. John Paul II and the theme, "Made in God's Image."

A graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., Caulfield is the mother of 10 and the leader of study groups on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, encyclicals and St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body." She will present two talks and take questions for discussion.

The cost of \$15 per person includes a catered lunch at St. Adalbert's social hall. The day also will include adoration, reconciliation, Benediction and a closing Mass, which will fulfill the Sunday obligation.

Father Joseph Campbell will preside and offer the homily during Mass. The day will conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Register by Nov. 28 by calling St. Adalbert Church at 724-347-7526 or emailing saintstans@roadrunner.com.

St. James wins competition by 1 point

FAITHLIFE staff

A group of sixth-graders at St. James School in Erie has been meeting for 15 minutes every morning with their teachers, studying the facts of the Catholic faith. It paid off in a first-place win at the Oct. 28 diocesan-wide "To Know and To Serve" religion competition.

It was the fourth time in five years that St. James has won the annual competition.

"Wow!" said teacher Gina Brennan, when Kimberly Lytle, director of curriculum for the Diocese of Erie, announced the win.

But when it was announced that St. James edged the DuBois Central Catholic Middle School team by only one point, Sister Martha Cadden, CDS, a seventh-grade teacher from St. James, added, "That was close!" She credited both sixth-grade teachers—Brennan and Yvonne Astemborski—as well as Sister Colette Hilow, CDS, principal, for their hard work and support.

The St. James team answered all 50 questions correctly during the event held at St. Mark Catholic Center. The DuBois team scored 49. This is thought to be the closest scoring match-up ever.

"Each year, the kids get smarter. We have to make the questions harder and harder," Lytle said.

Besides St. James and DuBois Central Catholic, three other schools competed in the diocesan-wide face-off. They were: St. Marys Middle School,

St. Marys; St. Joseph School, Lucinda; and St. Michael School, Greenville. These schools were all regional winners.

For its first-place honor, the St. James team won \$100 to donate to the charity of its choice—a ministry in Liberia—and \$50 for the class.



Photos by Mary Solberg

St. James students celebrated their win with each other, their teachers and diocesan officials after the diocesan religion competition. Pictured, left to right, are: Sister Martha Cadden, CDS, seventh-grade teacher; Michael O'Laughlin; Claire Razananskas; Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education; Nina Mangini; Kimberly Lytle, director of curriculum; Katie Zellefrow; John Campbell; and Gina Brennan, sixth-grade teacher.



DuBois Central Catholic sixth-graders were thrilled with their second-place showing. Pictured, left to right, are: Michaela Armani, JoAnne Case, Dominic Hall, Maria Werner and Derek Strouse.

What's your catechism quotient?

1. The sacraments of the church are divided into three categories: _____ and _____.
2. One effect of Baptism is receiving the supernatural virtues of _____ and _____.
3. Venial sin can be forgiven through participation in the Eucharist? True or false?
4. The longest season of the church year is _____.
5. Two categories of prayer are _____ and _____.
6. _____ of sin are any person, place or thing that might easily lead us to sin.
7. The four cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, temperance and _____.
8. To feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty are examples of _____ works of mercy.
9. Two summaries of the principal beliefs of the Catholic Church are the _____ and the _____.
10. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments by giving us _____ commandments of love.

ANSWER KEY: 1. Initiation, healing, service/location; 2. Faith, hope and charity; 3. True; 4. Ordinary Time; 5. Adoration and thanksgiving; 6. Occasions; 7. Fortitude; 8. Corporal; 9. Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed; 10. Two

Women need support to choose life

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Understanding why a woman has an abortion is the key to ending abortions for good, according to Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America.

"Seventy-five percent of women who've had an abortion say it's because of a lack of resources and support," says Foster, who is the featured speaker Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Foster says women "deserve better than abortion," an increasingly popular message on college campuses throughout the country. For nearly two decades, Feminists for Life has been instrumental in heightening the awareness of the cultural factors that lead women to consider abortion.

In her lecture, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," Foster will share valuable insights on how to address the needs of pregnant women in society—particularly on college campuses.

According to Feminists for Life, a common misconception is that unmarried teenagers are the ones having the most abortions. In reality, Foster says, it's mostly college-age and working women, ages 18 to 24. And 69 percent of them opt for abortion because of



Contributed photo

Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life, regularly talks to college students.

financial issues. "We know women should rightly expect support around them," Foster says. "The role of Feminists for Life is to be an advocate for resources on campus and connecting women to resources off campus."

Some 19 years ago, Foster was the first moderator of a Pregnancy Resource Forum at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Within two years, Georgetown established housing for pregnant students. Feminists for Life took the forum across the country, helping schools provide the tools

and financial support necessary to address the unmet needs of pregnant students, even non-tenured faculty members.

In a 2005 Feminists for Life survey of 400 colleges and universities throughout the U.S., respondents said that a woman's education is over—at least for a time—if she finds herself pregnant while pursuing higher education. Now, with roughly 800 Students for Life groups in the United States, Foster sees improvements in the public care and concern for pregnant women and

The Feminist Case Against Abortion

Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.

Hart Chapel
Clarion University
of Pennsylvania
Sponsored by Students for Life
and the Newman Association at
Clarion University.
For information, call
814-393-2369

their loved ones.

"I see at least the beginnings of change on college campuses," Foster says. "We know these students are going to come out and be the leaders and transform America."

Foster recently spoke at a statewide pro-life conference in Seattle, Wash., where four bishops were in attendance. She will be working soon with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in developing a "Women Deserve Better than Abortion" project. A regular speaker on the lecture circuit, she hopes to dismiss long-held views that feminism means supporting women in all their choices, even abortion.

"All people are equal. All choices are not," Foster says.

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St. Boniface/OLMC: Partners in Catholic Education

Elk County students tour sites in Diocese of Erie



ERIE—Fifth-graders from St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, St. Boniface and St. Leo, all in Elk County, traveled to Erie in September for a retreat. The day focused on vocations and included trips to St. Mark Seminary, the Carmelite Monastery, St. Peter Cathedral, and St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community. Students are pictured in front of the altar at St. Joseph/Bread of Life.

Ahoy, mateys!



ERIE—Eighth-graders from St. Luke School in Erie had the opportunity to sail aboard the U.S. Brig Niagara before the snow starts to fly. On Oct. 14, the students and adult chaperones enjoyed the hands-on field trip by lifting life boats out of the water, helping lower the

sails and steering the Brig. Pictured pulling a rope to release the sails, left to right, are: **Madison Maurice, Maria Ventrello, Nathan Lutz, Mikey Norfolk, parent Patrick Geary, Avery Stevens and Madison Schaney.**

CDA Court installs new chaplain



SHARPSVILLE.—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Sharon #507 recently installed Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Sharpville, as their new chaplain. Pictured after the induction, in the front row, is **Regent Catherine Holl**. In the second row, left to right, are: **Regent-Elect Antoinette DeAngelis, Father Matthew Strickenberger and Vice Regent-Elect Margaret Green.** Father Strickenberger lit a vigil candle at the Blessed Mother altar, asking for her guidance in his chaplaincy.

Knights donate new coats



KANE.—The Knights of Columbus Father Lippert Council #715 recently presented Kane Area Elementary School with 24 new coats for students. Making the presentation to **Erin Lundeen**, school nurse, are Knights treasurer, **John Cartwright**, left, and **Tom Niklaus**, past grand knight. Coats for 12 boys and 12 girls were purchased from the Knights of Columbus Superior Council in Connecticut for donation to a local organization.

5K benefits St. Jude, OLC and SSJs



ERIE.—St. Jude the Apostle Church and Our Lady's Christian School in Erie held their first 5K run and walk at Presque Isle in September. More than 130 people participated in the event, which benefited the church, the school and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The religious congregation was presented with a \$500 check from the event. Pictured, left to right, are: **Sister Mary Alice Reed, SSJ; Emily Morphy; Nora Taylor; Sister Ann Louis, SSJ; Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ; principal Stephen Nemenz; Laura Morphy and Molly Taylor.**

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