

# FaithLife



**February is month of love.**  
Website offers inspiration to marriages.  
**PAGE 2**

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Gannon to expand campus in Ruskin, Fla.

Gannon University's Ruskin, Fla., campus opened a little more than two years ago, but its enrollment already has quadrupled, from 24 students to more than 100.

The good news doesn't end there. On Feb. 16, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico is expected to be in Ruskin, along with Bishop Gregory Parkes of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, for the groundbreaking of a new 70,000- to 80,000-square-foot building. The structure will house masters' and doctoral programs in the health service professions.

Both bishops will formally bless the ground and officially begin the expansion project, which is expected to cost between \$10 million and \$20 million, according to



This is an architectural rendering of the new building at Gannon University's Florida campus.

Dr. Steve Mauro, vice president for academic administration.

The new three-story structure is located on land purchased adjacent to the original building, which was opened in 2015.

"Currently, we have occupational and physical therapy and athletic training programs at Ruskin, but this new building will allow us to bring in additional health profession programs," Mauro said.

The first floor of the new building is expected to be completed by March 2019, allowing the school to enroll more students beginning in the fall semester of 2019.

Among the additional programs that will be offered is a master's physician assistant degree, a popular program at Gannon's downtown Erie campus, Mauro said.

"By next fall, our enrollment will be closer to 200. We really want to grow over the next six to seven years to bring enrollment to between 400 to 500 students," Mauro said.

According to Mauro, Gannon is paying for the expansion with savings and capital funds. He said the university is expecting to hire five to six new faculty and additional staff at Ruskin.

"We're offering the right kinds of programs and high quality programs," Mauro said. "Health professions, in general, are such a high-demand field."

### 24 Hours for the Lord

On March 9-10, the Diocese of Erie will celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord, an initiative of Pope Francis with an emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of reconciliation.

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, will be open for the whole 24 hours, with adoration and confession available during that time. Bishop Lawrence Persico has asked that this year's 24 Hours for the Lord be devoted to prayer for clergy and consecrated religious in our diocese, as well as for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Priests in the greater Erie area are asked to consider taking at least an hour to hear confessions at the Cathedral during the 24 Hours for the Lord. Confessions will begin on March 9 at 5:45 p.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. on March 10.

Deacons and lay persons are asked to consider committing to an hour of adoration either alone or with family, friends or a parish group. Adoration will begin March 9 at 5:45 p.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. on March 10.

Parishes are asked to consider sending a group of parishioners and friends to participate in a holy hour.

All are asked to encourage people, including those estranged from the church or away from the sacraments for a long time, to attend the event.

For more information or to sign up for an hour of adoration (or for priests to hear confessions), contact Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, at [kdietz@ErieRCD.org](mailto:kdietz@ErieRCD.org) or at (814) 824-1135.

## HOCKEY HOPEFULS



The sun rising over the rings of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on a beach in Gangneung, South Korea.

## Catholic school grad starts as goalie for Team USA

*Other athletes with Mercyhurst connections take Olympic ice*

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Four world-class hockey players with ties to Erie's Mercyhurst University—a Catholic institution founded by the Sisters of Mercy—are competing in this month's Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Most notable in that Olympic lineup is Erie native Ryan Zapolski, 31, who not only graduated from Mercyhurst in 2011, but is a 2001 graduate of St. George School, and a 2005 graduate of Erie's Cathedral Preparatory School, both in Erie.

He is the starting goaltender for the U.S. men's hockey team, whose games are scheduled in Pyeongchang, South Korea, through Feb. 25.

"Being able to represent Erie and Mercyhurst is really special to me and I hope it can inspire future generations of kids to really believe in their goals and to never give up on your dreams!" Zapolski said in an email to the university before leaving for the Olympic Games.

On Feb. 8-9, the St. George community celebrated one of their own making it to the pinnacle of the sports world. Eric Trapp, a fifth-grade teacher at St. George, is a long-time friend of Zapolski's. He shared with all classrooms a video he created that included an interview with the Olympian, along with comments from students as well as teachers who taught Zapolski when he attended St. George.

According to Principal Allison Reynolds, "Our students are very excited to have a St. George alumnus in the Olympics."

On Feb. 9, the day of the opening ceremonies in South Korea, the school community celebrated a Mass for the intentions of Zapolski and all Olympic athletes, and participated in a day of Olympic-style games. Trapp wore his old friend's jersey.

"It's pretty amazing," Trapp said. "Not only is Ryan representing St. George and Erie, but the whole country. It's surreal."

Zapolski will be joined in South Korea by three other athletes with Mercyhurst connections:

- Canadian Meghan Agosta, 30, a 2011 Mercyhurst graduate
- Canadian Bailey Bram, 27, a 2012 alumna
- Emma Nuutinen, 21, a native of Finland who currently is a sophomore.

Zapolski played for Mercyhurst's men's ice hockey from 2007-11, and for Prep, where he set a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League playoff record of 88 saves as a senior in 2005.

Agosta and Bram began their NCAA careers playing Division I women's ice hockey for the Lakers and are representing their native Canada at the 2018 Games. Nuutinen is making her second Olympic appearance,



Photo courtesy of Mercyhurst University

2018 Winter Olympians, clockwise from top left, are: Ryan Zapolski, Bailey Bram, Emma Nuutinen and Meghan Agosta.

#### Ryan Zapolski

Hometown: Erie (Summit Township)  
Cathedral Prep Class of 2005; Mercyhurst Class of 2011  
First Olympic appearance, 2018, Team USA

#### Bailey Bram

Hometown: Ste. Anne, Manitoba, Canada  
Mercyhurst Class of 2012  
First Olympic appearance, 2018, Team Canada

#### Meghan Agosta

Hometown: Ruthven, Ontario, Canada  
Mercyhurst Class of 2011  
Fourth Olympic appearance (gold medals in 2006, 2010 and 2014), Team Canada

#### Emma Nuutinen

Hometown: Vantaa, Finland  
Mercyhurst sophomore  
Second Olympic appearance (fifth place in 2014), Team Finland



St. George Principal Allison Reynolds carries an Olympic torch during a procession at a special Mass Feb. 9 at the Erie elementary school. Behind her are fifth-grader Clara Gibson and fifth-grade teacher Eric Trapp, a long-time friend of Olympian Ryan Zapolski.

Cathedral photo

having helped her native Finland take fifth place in 2014.

Another Mercyhurst student, Vilma Tanskanen, just missed the final roster on the Finnish Olympic team, but was offered a position as first alternate.

Mercyhurst—a small university in northwestern Pennsylvania with a total enrollment of

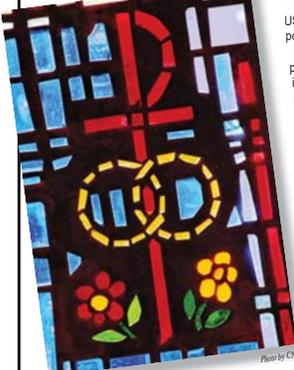
3,500—has distinguished itself on the international hockey stage. President Michael Victor and coaches Rick Gotkin and Mike Sisti credit hard work over the long haul.

"Rick and Mike have built

## FORYOURMARRIAGE.ORG UPDATED

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced the launch of a new mobile-responsive ForYourMarriage.org website.

"I hope this new platform will reach many more people with the message of God's plan for marriage and be a source of support to husbands and wives at every stage of their vocational journey," said Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.



Originally launched in 2007, ForYourMarriage.org is a USCCB initiative that began as the communications component of the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage.

With a grant from the Catholic Communications Campaign, the new website includes updated content, graphics, and a new section dedicated to marriage and family ministry leaders.

It includes sections on dating, marriage preparation, mixed marriages, parenting and family, natural family planning and the stages of marriage. A marriage resource section offers daily marriage tips, marriage help and support links, and solutions to common challenges.

The site addresses questions specific to planning a Catholic wedding, as well as related church documents and teachings.

It features couples who write weekly blog posts about their real-life experiences as engaged couples, newlyweds or seasoned couples. There are book reviews, reports on current events and research related to marriage, and recent teachings about marriage and family life from Pope Francis.

Other websites hosted by the USCCB dedicated to promoting marriage include [PorTuMatrimonio.org](http://PorTuMatrimonio.org) and [MarriageUniqueForAReason.org](http://MarriageUniqueForAReason.org).

Photo by CNS

## Newsletters



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### ■ 'Superpope' to the rescue



CNS photo

Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Vatican substitute secretary of state, shows a T-shirt depicting Pope Francis as a superhero. The Vatican will auction off a T-shirt signed by sports celebrities, with proceeds going to charity.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Though not as fast as a speeding bullet, "Superpope" will fly across the world, gathering autographs of sports stars, and eventually be auctioned off to raise money for the pope's charity.

The initiative kicked off Feb. 8 at a Vatican news conference with the unveiling of a simple medium-sized yellow T-shirt graced with the iconic "Superpope" image: Pope Francis, fist extended, flying through the air, holding his black bag packed with Christian "values" and a scarf representing his hometown San Lorenzo soccer team.

The first superstar to sign the shirt was recently retired Roma soccer legend, Francesco Totti, who even added his old team number "10" to the signature.

The plan is to get as many famous signatures as possible before it goes on auction, possibly by the end of the summer.

The site (<https://ordinaryheroes.it/en/>) sells T-shirts with the image for about \$23. Part of the profit goes to the papal Peter's Pence charity. But the full 100 percent of the proceeds from the

autographed T-shirt sold at auction will go to Peter's Pence, a collection that primarily funds the Roman Curia, but earmarks about 10 to 15 percent of funds to be used by the pope for emergency relief, medical assistance to those in need and the construction of schools and hospitals in poor areas, said Archbishop Angelo Becciu, a top official in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

### ■ South Sudan bishop wins award

MIDDELBURG, Netherlands (CNS)—Retired South Sudan Bishop Paride Taban has won an award that recognizes the peace village he founded as the visible embodiment of his peace-making efforts.

In May, Bishop Taban, 82, will receive the Freedom of Worship Award presented by the Roosevelt Foundation in Middelburg, Netherlands. He set up the Kuron peace village in 2005 in Eastern Equatoria.

In 2016, Bishop Taban said for lasting peace to be achieved, South Sudanese needed to learn 20 words and eight phrases: love, joy, peace, patience, compassion, sympathy, kindness, truthfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility, poverty, forgiveness, mercy, friendship, trust, unity, purity, faith and hope. The phrases are: I love you, I miss you, thank you, I forgive, we forget, together, I am wrong, I am sorry.

### ■ Prayers said for DACA recipients

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A group of priests, religious, immigrants and supporters gathered outside the U.S. Capitol Feb. 6 to pray for the Dreamers, whose lives are in limbo as they await word on the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The prayer service was sponsored by Catholic organizations, including the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, Network, the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Pax Christi USA, the DREAM Project, the Society of the Sacred Heart, the Franciscan Action Network and Ignatian Solidarity Network.



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Thirty-three years ago this March, I drove up to St. Michael Indian School near Window Rock, Arizona. I can still picture the red clay road that led to a *hogan*, a traditional native hut that my friend and I called home for a week. We were working on a freelance project about the Navajo Reservation.

Founded by St. Katharine Drexel in 1902, the school was a refuge for children on the reservation. It didn't take long to see that those who lived in this community straddling the border between Arizona and New Mexico didn't have much. They subsisted on farming and sheep-herding.

In 1985, as I stood on the plateau overlooking the town, I thought it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. Red earth, wide open sky and silence like I had never before experienced.

As a 20-something, I believed that somehow life would get easier for these Native Americans. The U.S. government, I thought, would certainly do justice by these people whose land we had claimed as our own.

But this month, I read a story describing a much different scenario. Life on American Indian reservations is bad and shows few signs of getting better, according to speakers at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C.

Father Michael Carson, a Choctaw Indian who is assistant director of Native American affairs for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church, said Indians are the poorest of all American ethnic groups and that unemployment, substandard housing, drug and alcohol addiction, rape, child abuse and suicide are commonplace.

Rich May, a national lecturer on issues facing American Indians, recommended that one way to remove obstacles to economic growth and recovery would be to allow Native

Americans to develop their natural resources and use the land on which they live as collateral to start their own businesses.

One sign of hope for me is that St. Michael Indian School is still in operation and apparently growing since my visit there over three decades ago. About 390 students are enrolled from preschool through high school.

Many of us could make things right for Native Americans by becoming educated ourselves. To help St. Michael Indian School continue its mission, see its wish list at [www.stmichaelschool.org/wishlist.php](http://www.stmichaelschool.org/wishlist.php).

In the spirit of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue for unity during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage joined other local churches this month in the production of "Moses and the Burning Within."

Father Richard Allen, pastor of Notre Dame, was in the cast, along with Pastor Michael Lozano of Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon, and several members of their congregations.

The musical performances were dedicated to the memory of Msgr. Edward Zeiter, former Notre Dame pastor, who died last year.

Erie Mayor Joe Schember took over the reins of Pennsylvania's fourth largest city in early January. According to Gannon University, he is the third consecutive Gannon University graduate to lead the city.

In attendance at Schember's swearing-in was Dauphin County Court Judge John Cherry, Schember's longtime friend and a fellow Gannon alumnus. Both met at St. Mark Seminary in Erie, where they had explored the possibility of entering the priesthood.

Cherry went on to practice law and Schember began a long career at PNC Bank.

"Gannon is a vital part of the city," Schember said. "You can't separate the two."

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

## Vatican invited to Olympics



CNS photo

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis sent his greetings to the International Olympic Committee, which for the first time invited a Vatican delegation to participate in an opening ceremony of the Olympics and to the committee's annual session as an observer.

"The traditional Olympic truce takes on special importance this year as delegations of the two Koreas will walk together under a unified flag," the pope said of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

**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. Laurence T. Persico  
Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Wesh  
Editor: Mary Solberg  
Graphic Design: Rich Papalia  
Advertising Manager: Brenda Williams  
Advertising Design: Elizabeth Butterfield  
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  
Email: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)  
Editorial: 814-824-1171  
Advertising: 814-824-1161  
General Information: 814-824-1161  
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1874.

**YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY**  
FREE Delivery  
B.J. Moon, R.Ph.  
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.  
Chad Jantzi, 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"

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

Try our new **ONLINE MEMORIAL DESIGNER** from the comfort of home!  
Monday - Friday 8 to 4 • Saturday 9 to Noon  
Evenings & Weekends by Appointment  
32980 Route 66 • Leeper, PA 16233  
**BORLAND MEMORIALS INC.** (814) 744-8340  
[borlandmemorials.com](http://borlandmemorials.com) / [borlandmemorialsinc@gmail.com](mailto:borlandmemorialsinc@gmail.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 **508-340-9370**  
**Hablamos Español** **855-842-8001**  
[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com)  
anthony@proximotravel.com

OBITUARY

Sister Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ

Sister Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ, 86, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, died Feb. 5 in her 68th year of religious life.

Born in Erie, Feb. 17, 1931, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Helen (Zielinski) Boxer. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish, Erie, on Sept. 1, 1950. She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1956.

Sister Hildegarde graduated from Villa Maria Academy and continued her education at Villa Maria College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1966.

She taught at St. Patrick, St. Ann, Holy Rosary, St. Joseph, Blessed Sacrament and St. Paul schools, all in Erie, and ministered at St. Joseph Home, Erie. For 10 years, she served at the Saint Mary's Home of Erie Adult Day Care Center. She was involved in the religious education programs at Houtzdale Catechetical Center, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bradford, and at the former St. Matthew in the Woods Parish in Erie. For four years, Sister Hildegarde ministered as caregiver for her parents and, subsequently, for two friends of the congregation. Sister Hildegarde also ministered to infirmed members of her congregation in various ways and participated in the Sisters of St. Joseph Prayer Call Ministry.

Survivors include one brother, George (Joyce) Boxer, of Erie; a niece, Kathy Boxer, of Erie; a nephew, Kevin (Mary Beth) Boxer, of Erie; and two grandnieces, Amy and Alyssa Boxer.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Feb. 9 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission and Ministries Foundation, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA, 16506-1249.



Sister Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ

Hockey

Continued from page 1

a championship culture," Victor said of Gotkin, the men's head coach the past 30 years, and Sisti, who founded the women's hockey program 19 years ago.

Gotkin and Sisti acknowledge the discipline needed to establish a strong team, but they also point to the pool of strong athletes and university support.

"I think what cemented us as one of the best [hockey programs] in the country were good students who are hard workers and who are full of pride," Sisti said. "There's a combination of coaching, people at Mercyhurst who work with our student athletes, and getting athletes who have a certain character. They know we're going to throw them in the fire."

Sisti turned the women's program into one of Division I's powerhouses. The women have made 10 consecutive trips to the national tournament.

Gotkin is the only coach in NCAA history to take the men's program to all NCAA tournament at all three levels: Divisions I, II and III. He has led the Lakers to 530 wins, six NCAA tournament appearances

and five league championships.

Gotkin coached Zapolski, a relative unknown in hockey circles until grit and determination got him a spot on the Mercyhurst men's ice hockey team in 2007. While playing as a Laker, Zapolski was named to the 2008-09 All-Atlantic Hockey Association second team, and the 2009-10 All-AHA third team. After graduation, he played professionally for the ECHL, having been named its Rookie of the Year, and First Team All Star. He currently plays professionally with Jokerit, a Finnish-based club in the Kontinental Hockey League, the highest pro league in Europe.

When the National Hockey League (NHL) opted not to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics, lesser-known players, like Zapolski, were tapped. He was the first player recruited for the goaltender position on Team USA.

"We could talk about the culture of coaching here, but at the end of the day, it's all about Ryan Zapolski and what he has accomplished," Gotkin told *FaithLife*. "He is as loyal as a hunting dog. He's a great kid and a great athlete. He's putting it all together." Before going to the 2018



Rick Gotkin, left, men's head hockey coach at Mercyhurst University, presents Ryan Zapolski with his retired number and jersey from his Mercyhurst days.

Games, Zapolski was in Erie, visiting family and practicing at the Mercyhurst Ice Center. Coach Gotkin presented him with his university jersey, #35, which is now retired.

Zapolski said he is grateful for the support of his parents, Raymond and Susan, his brothers and sister, and his wife, Elizabeth Fisher Zapolski, whom he married at Mercyhurst's Christ the King Chapel on Aug. 1, 2015.

He also credits his success on the ice to some lo-

cal coaches, including Pete McCormick of Cathedral Prep, Gary Peterson Sr. in youth hockey, and, of course, Gotkin.

Gotkin was unable to travel to South Korea to see Zapolski's performance in person. But Mercyhurst has its own kind of Olympic venue, featuring many hockey stand-outs from all over the world.

Gotkin will watch his protégé on television. "A little piece of all of us is going with Ryan," Gotkin said.

EVENTS

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

Photos and news  
 Diocese of Erie  
 facebook

**ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES**  
 Mausoleum and niche space available at Calvary cemetery  
 CALL 814-838-7724

**POLAND HERITAGE VACATION**  
 with Regina Jaworski  
 Aug. 28-Sept. 10, 2018 (13 days)  
 All inclusive cost from Erie: \$3,790/person, dbl. occupancy  
 LET'S EXPLORE!  
 Warsaw, Gdansk, Kaszuby, Malbork, Lodz, Swidnica, Wroclaw, Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow  
 A Lenten Vesper Service will be held Sundays during Lent from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at St.  
**Reserve your spot by March 31!**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 Regina: 814-459-7452  
 PAT Tours: 1-800-388-0988  
 Email: info@pattours.com

JOIN FR. TOM & DEACON ED FROM THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF MEADVILLE ON A PILGRIMAGE TO

**THE SHRINES OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL**

SEPTEMBER 17-27, 2018  
 \$3,799 FROM PITTSBURGH

FR. TOM      DEACON ED

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: FR. TOM TROCCHIO  
 GROUP LEADER: DIANE HORNEMAN

www.pilgrimages.com/frtrocchio

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 DIANE HORNEMAN  
 814-333-5944 OR  
 DHORNEMAN@MCMCHS.ORG

Your Perfect Cook Forest Getaway

**Cherry Run Cabins**

SPRING SPECIALS  
 MARCH 30 - MAY 18  
 WEEKEND: Buy 2 days, get 3rd for \$50  
 WEEKDAY: Buy 2 days, get 3rd free

www.cherryuncabins.com

814-752-6481  
 Luxury Cabins • Year-Round Rental

Women's Lenten program

All women 18 and older are invited to join the Women of Grace study program, "Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life," developed by EWTN's Johette Benkovic and presented by St. Joseph Parish, 147 W. 24th St., and St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2806 W. 6th St., both in Erie. Be strengthened for holiness and find God's purpose and mission for you in the world today. A morning group started Feb. 14 and will meet for nine Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Parish Community Center (second floor). Text or call Katy McGovern at 814-440-8792 to register for this group. An evening group started Feb. 15 and will meet for nine Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Founder's Room at St. Jude the Apostle Parish. Text or call Carmen Schattner at 517-442-5552 or send an email to cshattner@gmail.com to register for this group. The cost is \$45 for materials. Financial assistance is available.

Lenten Vesper Service

A Lenten Vesper Service including prayer, song, Scripture and a featured speaker will be held Sundays during Lent from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at St.

Catherine of Siena Church, DuBois. The schedule and featured speakers are:

- Feb. 18—Msgr. Edward Lohos, vicar general
- Feb. 25—Eric Bishop Lawrence Persico
- March 4—The Rev. Kevin Bockus, director of pastoral care at Penn Highlands, DuBois
- March 11—Mercy Sister Tina Geiger, co-director of Catholic Rural Ministry in Venango County
- March 18—Pastor John Miller, Christ Lutheran Church, DuBois.

Lamentations in Polish

*Gorkie Zale* (Lamentations), in Polish, will be sung at St. Casimir Church, 629 Hess Ave., every Wednesday of Lent (Feb. 21 to March 28) at 7 p.m.

Box Village

Villa Maria Academy's Interact Service Club is sponsoring a Box Village Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. through Feb. 25 at 9 a.m. Students will be set up in front of V.M.A., 2403 W. 8th St., Erie, collecting donations for Erie Dawn. Support this project to raise awareness of homelessness in Erie.

Lenten reflections

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are hosting Lenten vigils

in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. The public is invited to attend each Saturday vigil beginning at 7 p.m. with the following women offering reflections:

- Sister Janet Goetz, OSB, Feb. 24
- Sister Margaret Zeller, OSB, March 3
- Sister Susan Doubet, OSB, March 10
- Sister Ann Hoffman, OSB, March 17
- Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB, March 24.

'Joan of Arcadia' viewings

St. Andrew, St. Paul and Sacred Heart parishes in Erie are hosting viewings of the television program "Joan of Arcadia" every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during Lent, beginning Feb. 21, in the parish center of St. Andrew Parish, W. 6th and Raspberry streets, Erie. There will be soup and discussion. To register, call 814-454-2486.

Father-Son Program

All fathers (or male models) and their sons, ages 11 to 13, are welcome to attend the Father-Son Program Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Parish social hall, 128 Sunset Drive, Edinboro.

The Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie is sponsoring the annual event, which includes activities centered on such topics as adolescence, growing into manhood, communication, and listening to God's call. Registration includes food, games and time for discussion.

For more information and to register, go to [www.ErieRCD.org/chastity.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/chastity.htm) and click on Father-Son under the Events tab. To register by phone, call Kate Whiteford at 814-824-1259.

For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call

Dr. Robert Nelsen  
 Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Erie  
 814.451.1521 (This is a dedicated number for victim assistance.)

For more information, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) click on *For the Protection of Children*

Ernie's Coffee

Sunday, February 25th  
 11AM-2PM  
 Bel-Aire Hotel  
 2800 W 8th St., Erie 16505

COFFEE SAMPLING, DESSERTS, RAFFLE BASKETS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, STARLIGHT PHOTOBOOTH, LIVE MUSIC FROM GEM CITY REVIVAL, AND YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE FOR ERIE'S BEST COFFEE

\$10 advanced tickets, \$15 at the door ages 12 and under free  
 Erie Federal Credit Union (3503 Peach St.)  
 or [www.stmartincenter.org](http://www.stmartincenter.org)

AMERICA'S FINEST MARKETS PNC All proceeds benefit Martin Center

Are you being called to seek God with others?

REACH OUT to the Marginalized  
 EXPERIENCE Communal Prayer  
 REFLECT on Life's Purpose  
 LIVE Peace and Nonviolence  
 CELEBRATE Vibrant Liturgy

**Benedictine Sisters of Erie**

Mount St. Benedict Monastery  
 6101 East Lake Road  
 Erie, PA 16511  
 ErieBenedictines.org

Sister Marilyn Schauble  
 vocations@mtsbenedict.org  
 814-899-0614, ext 2424

# 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)



## Students learn about vocations



**COALPORT**—Students of the faith formation program at St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport learned about vocations through a coloring contest during the recent National Vocation Awareness Week. Parishioners voted and raised \$375, which was given to St. Mark Seminary in Erie. Pictured are the top three earners, from left: Rachel McClellan, Aaron Mooney and Karly Braniff.

## Gannon president joins celebration



**HERMITAGE**—These seventh- through 12th-graders representing the Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools in Hermitage celebrated the first day of Catholic Schools Week recently with Dr. Keith Taylor, president of Gannon University, pictured at center, right.

Standing next to Dr. Taylor is Father Jason Glover, president of Kennedy Catholic. The students learned about Gannon and the value of a Catholic education, leadership and service to others.

## Scouts honored for 'duty to God'



**WARREN**—In celebrating Scout Sunday at St. Joseph Parish in Warren, Father Rick Tomason, pastor, recognized two boy scouts from Chief Cornplanter Council for living out one of the three promises of the scout oath: "Duty to God." Pictured with Father Tomason are Adam Strandburg, left, who was awarded the *Parnai Dei* medal; and Owen Strandburg who was awarded the *Ad Altum Dei* medal. The scouts worked for several months deepening their understanding of the seven sacraments by putting them into practice. They volunteered at the local hospital and soup kitchen, visited shut-ins, and participated in prayer services.

## Benedictine Sisters celebrate monastic, religious life



**ERIE**—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie celebrated recent activity in their Benedicta Riepp Monastic Experience program. At left, Colleen Leathley, a registered psychologist on a mid-life sabbatical, completed her commitment to the program and left the monastery in January to return to Sydney, Australia, where she works. At right, Priscilla Richter, a former minister and resident of North Carolina, was recently initiated into the program for a period of 11 months. The Benedicta Riepp Monastic Experience offers immersion in prayer, work, outreach to the marginalized, communal life, hospitality, peace and nonviolence.



**ERIE**—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie received postulant Kathleen McCarthy into the novitiate on Jan. 27. The novitiate is the second stage of initial monastic formation. Sister Kathleen, center, is pictured with Sister Marilyn Schauble, novice director, left, and Sister Anne Wambach, prioress. Originally from Pittsburgh, Sister Kathleen was part of the L'Arche community in Erie for many years before moving to L'Arche Calgary in Canada, where she spent the 16 years preceding her decision to seek God in community with the Erie Benedictines.

## SafeNet in Erie benefits from school pajama project



**ERIE**—These students from St. James School in Erie helped collect more than 70 pairs of new pajamas and \$500 in monetary donations for SafeNet in Erie during Catholic Schools Week.

In addition to being able to wear their pajamas to school, students were asked to donate a new pair of pajamas for a needy child or give money toward the purchase of new pajamas. The donations will be used to help families and children in need.



### AFS Tax Services

Over 38 years preparing tax returns in Erie

Compare OUR prices to H&R Block\* and Jackson Hewitt\*

Peninsula Village Plaza  
2308 West 8th Street  
Erie, PA 16505  
(Located next to H&R Block\*)  
**814-453-4981**

Appointments preferred.  
Walk-ins welcome.  
Monday-Friday: 9-7  
Saturday: 9-3  
Sundays by appointment only.

H&R Block and Jackson Hewitt are registered trademarks of their respective holders. Use of them does not imply an affiliation with or endorsement by them.

## Feel the Spirit!

The 4th Annual  
**1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
Intimacy with God and Love for One Another

Saturday **APRIL 21**  
9:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Doors open 8:00 AM

**OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH** Erie, PA  
SPEAKERS, ADORATION, CONFESSION AND MASS

 <b>SISTER JANE DOMINIC LAUREL</b> Author Book editor Asst. professor of Theology	 <b>KATIE HARTFIEL</b> Author Notable speaker	 <b>PATTY SCHNEIER</b> Notable speaker Former radio host
--	---	--

**FR. LARRY RICHARDS** Emcee

**REGISTRATION (includes lunch!)**

Adult \$40	College Student \$25
Senior Citizen \$35	High School Student \$10
Groups of 8 or more \$35	Religious Sisters <b>FREE!</b>

**WWW.138WOMEN.COM 814/455-7364**

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" — Gen 3:9

# 2232 MEN

## 2018 CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>  
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, Pa  
9:00AM - 3:30PM

Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith!

Three nationally known speakers:

<b>STEVE WOOD</b> Founded Family Life Center International, St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers, author, apologist, television and radio host	<b>FR. LARRY RICHARDS</b> A gifted and captivating speaker, preacher, retreat master, and best-selling author	<b>MIKE MCCOY</b> Catholic Prep graduate and former football player for Notre Dame and the NFL
--	--	---



**www.2232Men.com**

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!