

## CLERGY FACTS IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE:

■ About **35 percent** of the active priests in the diocese are taking on new assignments.

■ **41 percent** of registered Catholic households will be affected by the change in pastors in 2017.

■ **55.6 percent** of registered Catholic households will be affected in 2017 by either a new pastor or by a partnership or merger of parishes.

■ As of Feb. 13, the diocese will have:  
 • **116** active priests  
 • **45** retired priests



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# FaithLife



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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

February 5, 2017



## PRIESTS ON THE MOVE

# Bishop makes historic number of priest assignments

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Father Justin Pino feels renewed. It's been 10 years since his ordination as a priest of the Diocese of Erie, but his excitement today is palpable as he takes on a new assignment as pastor of St. Leo Parish in Ridgway. He is one of 36 clergy who have received new appointments as part of the final steps of parish restructuring in the 13-county diocese.

"Priesthood is an itinerant life; it's not about the priest, it's about the people of God whom we're called to serve," Father Pino said. "I feel like I'm newly ordained again. There's a freshness and new opportunities."

Last month, Bishop Lawrence Persico announced the assignments after an exhaustive two-year study of parishes and schools. Significant demographic changes and the declining number of priests contributed to the need for pastoral planning.

The new priest assignments take effect Feb. 13. In addition, the bishop has accepted the retirements of five more priests. [See list below.]

"In some ways, this is a historic moment in the diocese. We all know that change is difficult, and it may be difficult for all these priests and the people they serve. I do have to say that I was very proud of our presbyterate because of their willingness to say 'yes,'" Bishop Persico said.

About one-third of the active priests in the diocese are taking on new assignments. Appointments affect pastors, parochial vicars, chaplains and senior associates.

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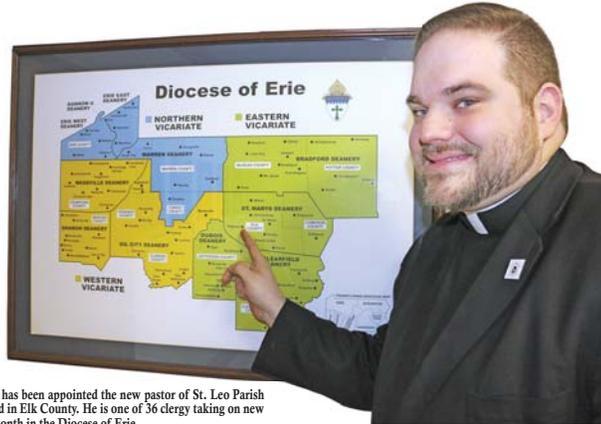


Photo by Mary Solberg

Father Justin Pino has been appointed the new pastor of St. Leo Parish in Ridgway, located in Elk County. He is one of 36 clergy taking on new assignments this month in the Diocese of Erie.

## PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES on NEW ASSIGNMENTS

### FATHER JOSEPH CAMPBELL



Bishop Persico has released Father Joseph Campbell for service as a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

"If I pass all the physical requirements and get the clearances needed, I should be reporting to boot camp in June," he said.

Until then, Father Campbell will serve as temporary parochial administrator of St. Michael Parish in Emlenton.

His appointment to the military chaplain corps is a dream come true for the 36-year-old priest.

During his seminary days at the North American College in Rome, he ministered at the U.S. Navy support site in Naples, Italy.

"The people at the base really encouraged me and supported me to persevere and see the need for priests," he said. "Ever since then, I felt a desire to get back to those military families."

According to Father Campbell, 2 percent of all Catholics in America serve abroad in the military.

### FATHER JOSEPH CZARKOWSKI



Father Joseph Czarkowski has been appointed pastor of St. Michael Parish in Fryburg, in addition to his current pastorate at St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda.

Ordained 44 years ago at the hands of Bishop Alfred Watson, he told Bishop Persico, "You are a successor of St. Michael Parish in Fryburg. I will be obedient and accept the appointment."

The priestly promise of obedience, he said, is vital to carrying out God's will in a diocese.

"It's a promise and God is going to give me the strength to do what I need to do," Father Czarkowski said.

Taking on the additional duty of a partnered parish, he added, may come with some challenges, but work already is underway.

The parishes have arranged new tentative Mass schedules.

"If you embrace change or transition, it's more beneficial," he added.

### FATHER JAMES KENNELLEY



At 72, Father James Kennelley is packing his bags and heading to his new home at St. Lawrence Parish in Albion. For the past 18 years, he has served as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer.

"It's time to make the move. I've been fortunate to have been here longer than usual for a priest," he said.

As pastor of St. Lawrence, Father Kennelley will acclimate himself to a new system; St. Philip in Crossville is now a secondary mission church of St. Lawrence. He also will serve as a chaplain at the State Correctional Institution at Albion.

"In the last two years, the diocese has been doing such profound research," Father Kennelley said. "It's helpful to cooperate with the bishop not just because of obedience, but out of respect for the hard work he's been doing. He's looking forward to serving the diocese better with these changes."

## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS & RETIREMENTS

(All appointments are effective Feb. 13, 2017. Pastor assignments are for a term of six years.)

### The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointments:

- **Very Rev. Richard J. Allen, V.F.**, pastor of Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- **Deacon Anthony Allueruzzo**, deacon assistant, St. Paul Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Henry C. Andrae**, chaplain to Saint John XXIII Home, Hermitage
- **Rev. Msgr. Daniel K. Arnold**, senior associate, Sacred Heart, St. Andrew and St. Paul parishes, all in Erie, with residence at St. Andrew
- **Rev. William R. Barron**, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sykesville, and St. Mary Parish, Reynoldsville
- **Rev. Joseph C. Campbell**, released for service as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, temporary parochial administrator, St. Michael Parish, Emlenton, until the beginning of basic training
- **Rev. David E. Carter**, parochial vicar, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Michael the Archangel parishes, both in DuBois, for a term of three years
- **Rev. Stephen L. Collins**, pastor of St. Bonaventure Parish, Grampian, and St. Timothy Parish, Curwensville
- **Very Rev. Joseph R. Czarkowski, V.F.**, pastor of St. Michael Parish, Fryburg, concurrent with appointment as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda

- **Rev. D.G. Davis**, pastor of St. Thomas Parish, Cory
- **Rev. Michael G. DeMartinis**, chaplaincy ministry and faculty, Villa Maria Academy, Erie, with residence at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Raymond C. Gramata**, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bradford, including its secondary mission church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run, concurrent with appointment as pastor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford
- **Rev. James G. Gutting**, continuing as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren, now with its secondary mission church of St. Anthony of Padua, Sheffield
- **Rev. Mark A. Hoffman**, pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist and Mount Calvary parishes, both in Erie
- **Rev. James J. Kennelley**, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, and its secondary mission church of St. Philip, Crossville; chaplain, SCI-Albion
- **Rev. Brandon M. Kleckner**, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield
- **Rev. Matthew J. Kujawinski**, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mercer, and chaplain at SCI Mercer
- **Rev. Msgr. Daniel E. Magraw**, senior associate of St. Stanislaus and Holy Trinity parishes, both in Erie with residence at Holy Trinity

- **Rev. Mark J. Mastrin**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Force
- **Rev. John L. Miller**, pastor of St. Joseph and St. Stephen parishes, both in Oil City
- **Very Rev. Jeffrey J. Noble, V.F.**, pastor of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys
- **Rev. William J. O'Brien**, pastor of St. Callistus Parish, Kane
- **Rev. Mark A. O'Hern**, pastor of St. Paul and St. Andrew parishes, both in Erie, concurrent with assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart, Erie
- **Very Rev. Philip A. Pinczewski, V.F.**, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Justin P. Pino**, pastor, St. Leo Magnus Parish, Ridgway
- **Rev. James P. Power**, parochial vicar, St. George Parish, Erie, for a term of three years
- **Rev. Matthew J. Ruyechan**, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sharon, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Farrell
- **Rev. Msgr. Richard R. Siefer**, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, DuBois, concurrent with appointment as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois
- **Rev. William E. Sutherland**, chaplain to Saint Mary's Home, East, with residence at St. Ann Church rectory, Erie
- **Rev. Stanley J. Swacha**, senior associate of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bradford, and St. Francis of Assisi in Bradford, including its secondary mission church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Lewis Run, with residence at St. Bernard

- **Rev. Richard C. Tomasone**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Warren, and its secondary mission church of St. Luke, Youngsville
- **Very Rev. Richard J. Toohy, V.F.**, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Msgr. Bernard J. Urbanik**, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Erie, concurrent with appointment as pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Brian E. Vossler**, pastor of St. George Parish, Erie
- **Rev. Edward J. Walk**, sacramental assistant at St. Bernard Parish, Falls Creek, concurrent with appointment to the faculty of DuBois Central Catholic High School, with residence at St. Bernard
- **Rev. Glenn R. Whitman**, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, West Middlesex

### RETIREMENTS

- **Rev. Alexander D. Amico**, retiring as pastor of St. Paul Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 13.
- **Rev. Msgr. Robert L. Brugger**, retiring as pastor of St. George Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 13.
- **Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Malene**, retiring as pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex, effective Feb. 13.
- **Rev. Philip M. Oriole**, retiring as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Albion, and administrator of St. Philip, Crossville, effective Feb. 13.
- **Rev. Msgr. Joseph V. Wardanski**, retiring as chaplain of Saint Mary's Home, East, Erie, effective Dec. 31, 2016.

## Newsmakers

Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### Vatican Museums expands to YouTube, revamps website



Barbara Jatta, the new director of the Vatican Museums, leaves a Jan. 23 Vatican news conference at which the revamped, mobile-compatible website for the Vatican Museums was unveiled.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In an effort to share its masterpieces with even more people around the world, the Vatican Museums has established a YouTube channel and revamped its website to offer high-resolution images and mobile-friendly information.

The “Musei Vaticani” YouTube channel lists short visual tours of some of its collections, along with a handful of promotional videos highlighting specially tailored tours and services offered on-site. Signing guides for the deaf or hard-of-hearing will be included.

Its website, [www.museivaticani.va](http://www.museivaticani.va), has been completely revamped to be compatible with all platforms and devices in order to extend its reach to even “remote corners of the earth,” said Barbara Jatta, the museums’ new director.

### Dioceses give more than \$7 million for disaster relief

WASHINGTON (USCCB)—Catholic dioceses across the country participated last year in three emergency appeals, donating more than \$7 million for support in response to natural disasters.

The Diocese of Erie raised a total of \$187,000 for the three special collections.

“The generosity of Catholics across the country to these appeals is a beautiful act of solidarity and mercy,” said Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Ala., and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on National Collections.

The three collections were: the Calamities Collection, the Louisiana Floods Collection,

and October’s Hurricane Matthew Collection. Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) for more information.

### School choice initiatives gain momentum in the U.S.

WASHINGTON—Vouchers, tax credits and education savings accounts—earning more state approval in recent years and optimistically looking for more gains this year—have some extra wind in their sails with President Donald J. Trump’s campaign pledge to provide a \$20 billion voucher program and his pick of a school voucher advocate as his nominee for education secretary.

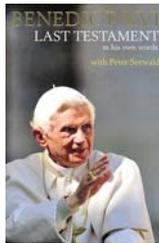
Sister Dale McDonald, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the public policy and research director for the National Catholic Educational Association, said the NCEA sees school choice as a justice issue.

“We aren’t meant to serve only the rich. As a church, we’re committed to serving all God’s people,” she told Catholic News Service Jan. 26.

She said school choice initiatives primarily make Catholic schools accessible to low-income families, but there has been a concerted effort in recent years to find ways to help middle-class families be able to afford a Catholic school education for their children.

### Book journeys through the theological life of retired pope

ROME—*Last Testament: In His Own Words*, written by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI with Peter Seewald, offers readers a journey through the theological life of the retired pope. It includes thoughts on significant individuals such as Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, Father Hans Kung and St. John Paul II.



Published in 2016 by Bloomsbury Continuum, *Last Testament* includes many of the pope’s thoughts on the nature of the church. He ties this in with the office of the papacy, saying: “I, too, always wanted the local churches to be active in and of themselves, and not so dependent on extra help from Rome. So the strengthening of the local church is something very important.”

## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

One of the most misunderstood lines in American literature is “Good fences make good neighbors,” from Robert Frost’s 1915 poem, “Mending Wall.”

Frost writes of two neighbors walking the length of a wall that divides their property, mending what has fallen off of it over the course of a year. The poem’s speaker does not understand why the wall exists, or why it was even built. His neighbor, however, simply keeps repeating, “Good fences make good neighbors.”

The speaker believes the wall is pointless, but the two men keep up the annual ritual anyway. “Mending Wall” is an ironic warning against separating people of good faith.

I am reminded of this poem as our country wrestles with President Donald Trump’s executive order to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border. The speaker in Frost’s poem

And Bishop Joseph S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, issued a warning last week about the potential impact of President Trump’s action on immigration.

“Instead of building walls, at this time, my brother bishops and I will continue to follow the example of Pope Francis. We will look to build bridges between people, bridges that allow us to break down the walls of exclusion and exploitation.” Bishop Vasquez wrote.

In a blog, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston reiterated the migration committee’s concerns about the border wall and an increase in deportations and detentions.

Look for more information on the USCCB’s position at the following site: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

Some surprises popped up this month as many diocesan priests were given new appointments.

Father Richard Tomasono has been named the new pastor of his native parish of St. Joseph in Warren. He didn’t have a chance to tell his 89-year-old dad, Charles, before the announcement was made official by Father Rich Toohey at the vigil Mass at St. Joseph Jan. 14.

Father Tomasono’s father typically does not attend Saturday night Mass, but that weekend he did. The Mass was being said for Father Tomasono’s mom.

“My dad called me later and asked, ‘Is there something you want to tell me?’” Father Tomasono says. “He’s all excited because, for most of my priesthood, I’ve been at least an hour and a half away from home.”

Father Brian Vossler has been appointed pastor of St. George Parish in Erie. By chance, Father Vossler’s brother, Paul Vossler, of Smethport, was shopping in Erie with his wife, Debbie. They decided to attend the Saturday vigil at St. George, where Msgr. Robert Brugger announced that Father Vossler would be the new pastor.

“Their mouths dropped open,” according to Father Vossler.

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A worker stands next to a section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall in 2016 at Sunland Park, N.M.

states, “Before I built a wall I’d ask to know what I was walling in or walling out, and to whom I was like to give offense.”

In my perspective, the offense is against the suffering Jesus; the man, woman and child made in Christ’s image.

Pope Francis has often spoken out against building walls, pointing to the need to draw closer to each other, especially to those in need.

## Bishop makes historic priest assignments

Continued from page 1

Forty-one percent of registered Catholic households will be affected by the clergy changes. “The Priest Personnel Board worked very hard on this. It was difficult,” Bishop Persico said. “I know it is hard on parishioners, too, because they get accustomed to their pastor or their parochial vicar and want them to stay.”

The bishop and the Priest Personnel Board—under the direction of Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general—spent months determining the best possible configuration of clergy assignments.

Factors, including illness and re-

tirements, impacted the plan.

As of this month, there will be 116 active priests in the diocese; 45 are now retired. The number of active priests may continue to decrease, so parish restructuring also is underway. Many parishes have merged together, and several other parishes are now partnered to address the growing concern of how to best serve the faithful.

“Through the whole restructuring process, I have gravitated toward the last line of the Pastoral Planning Prayer, which is that we all need ‘the strength to be unafraid of what is new,’” Father Pino said.

## Reindeer encounter

Jessica Edmondson, an advertising communications major at Gannon University, is pictured at right petting Gus, the reindeer, outside the Waldron Center on the downtown Erie campus Jan. 23. Gus was at Gannon during a visit by two noted scientists who presented research into the effects of climate change on Alaskan reindeer.

The Antler Ridge Reindeer Farm in Hamburg, N.Y., brought Gus and a friend for the day’s event.

Gannon’s biology department invited Gregory Finstad, Ph.D., and Sophia Papageorgiou, Ph.D., to discuss research initiatives in the face of increasing environmental concerns. Warmer weather in the Arctic, they said, has prevented reindeer from accessing food sources.

Finstad is an associate professor at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and Papageorgiou specializes in wildlife and international conservation medicine.



Photo by Anne-Marie Walsh

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EVENTS

**Young women invited to vocation dinner**

ERIE—Project Miriam—Young Women's Vocation Dinner is offered at no cost to any young woman who is striving to do God's will in her life. The evening will include a light supper, vocation stories from Bishop Lawrence Persico and five women religious, a time for questions and answers, and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The event will be held Feb. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Villa Maria Academy, 2403 W. 8th St., Erie. RSVP to Jane Rastetter at 814-838-2061, ext. 3241.

For further information or to ask questions, contact Father Mike Polinek, vocations director, at 814-824-1200 or at [mpolinek@ErieRCD.org](mailto:mpolinek@ErieRCD.org). Watch a video explaining the event at [https://youtu.be/Lz\\_9AGa6i70](https://youtu.be/Lz_9AGa6i70).

**Holy Rosary/St. John to host Bible study**

ERIE—Holy Rosary/St. John parishes in Erie will host Jeff Cavini's eight-week adult Bible study, "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible," on Tuesday evenings, beginning Feb. 14. Sessions will be held at Holy Rosary's school building, located at 2701 East Ave., beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each Bible study will last about 90 minutes.

The cost is \$20 for the participant book. For more information, call the Faith Formation Office at 814-454-6322, or go to <http://biblestudyfor Catholics.com>.

**Pro-Life of Mercer County to host breakfast**

WEST MIDDLESEX—Pro-Life of Mercer County's 15th annual prayer breakfast will be held Feb. 18 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Park Inn by Radisson, 3377 New Castle Road, West Middlesex. Dr. Paul Kengor, professor of political science and executive director of The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College, is the featured speaker.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 10. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children to teens.

For more information, contact Joanne Schell at [jschell7@roadrunner.com](mailto:jschell7@roadrunner.com) or 330-448-4577; Susan Wallace at [susanwallace@hotmail.com](mailto:susanwallace@hotmail.com) or 724-815-5221; or Bob Lackey at [rlackey@egllaw.com](mailto:rlackey@egllaw.com) or 724-342-6835.

**American Spiritual Ensemble to perform at MU**

ERIE—The Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture in Erie will host several of the world's finest classically trained singers when the American Spiritual Ensemble performs Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on the campus of Mercyhurst University in Erie. Since its formation by Dr. Everett McCorvey in 1995, the ensemble's repertoire has ranged from spirituals to Broadway numbers. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students/youth. For more information, visit <http://miac.mercyhurst.edu> or call 814-824-3000.

**Pancake breakfast planned in Mount Jewett**

MOUNT JEWETT—St. Joseph Church, 20 Division St., Mount Jewett, will host its annual spring pancake breakfast on Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$4 for adults; \$3 for children 12 and under.

**Knights to sponsor breakfast at Notre Dame**

HERMITAGE—Our Lady of the Valley Knights of Columbus #4003 in Hermitage will offer a pancake and sausage breakfast Feb. 26 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to aid in the funding of church and civic projects, including aid to seminarians. The breakfast will be held in the all-purpose room at Notre Dame Church, 2325 Highland Road.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Tony Palo at 724-962-7596 or Tony DeMartinis 814-392-0950.

**Chief financial officer named to diocese**

**Outgoing CFO served for 40 years**

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

David Murphy worked as chief financial officer for the Diocese of Erie under four bishops and five popes. He's seen office technology go from carbon paper to typewriters to high-speed computers.

"Everyone was wild when we got a fax machine," Murphy recalls.

In February, Murphy will mark his 40th anniversary with the diocese. But this winter, he turned over the reins of CFO to John Dey, a native of Erie and former CFO at Cathedral Preparatory School and Villa Maria Academy.

Murphy is now serving as a consultant to the Finance Office. He provides decades of insight needed to handle the finances of the 13-county diocese.

"The challenge of my position has been to remain adaptive to the changing circumstances and demographics of the diocese," Murphy says. "When I first came, most of the parishes had a couple of priests each. Today, many parishes have had to merge or partner."

He credits his co-workers for helping make the Finance Office run smoothly the past 40 years. But John Dey, he says, is ready to take on the challenges of recent historic parish and school restructuring.

"John definitely has the back-

ground and the ability to be successful in the role of CFO," Murphy says.

Dey, 56, comes to the diocese after serving the past three years as CFO at Villa and Prep. A 1978 graduate of Prep, he and his family lived in Florida for a number of years.

He and his wife, Susan, have three adult children.

He was vice president of finance for Hilton in Orlando, Fla., directing financial analysis and reporting



John Dey



David Murphy

He calls Murphy's continuing presence vital to a smooth transition.

"It's good to know that he'll be in the same building," Dey says. "There are a lot of moving parts in the diocese right now, with parish and school restructuring. But it's an exciting time to be here."

A member of St. Peter Cathedral Parish, Erie, Dey says he has a "vested interest" in Catholic education and the Catholic Church. Besides graduating from Prep, he graduated from St. Andrew School, Erie; his youngest son graduated from Prep in 2016.

Dey is particularly interested in making Catholic education affordable to anyone who wants it.

"My hope is to create more opportunities for kids to go to Catholic schools," Dey says.

There are a lot of moving parts in the diocese right now, with parish and school restructuring. But it's an exciting time to be here.

— John Dey

in all company operations, including sales and marketing, construction and development, resort operations, and financing. He contributed to Hilton's record earnings during his last five years there.

OBITUARY

Sister Maureen Tobin, OSB

**Sister was educator, business manager, subprioress**

Benedictine Sister Maureen Tobin, 87, died Jan. 21 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie. She was in her 68th year of religious life.

A native of Oil City, Sister Maureen was the daughter of the late James and Julia (Martin) Tobin. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1947, and pronounced her perpetual monastic vows in 1952.

Sister Maureen held a bachelor's degree in business education from Villa Maria College, Erie, and a master's in secondary education administration from the University of Notre Dame. She had permanent certification in secondary administration and business education.

For 23 years, she used her gifts in education, both as a teacher and administrator, at the following schools: St. Mary and St. Benedict Academy, both in Erie; Immaculate Conception, Clarion; St. Joseph, Sharon; St. Gregory, North East;

and St. Joseph High School and Venango Catholic High School, both in Oil City.

In 1974, Sister Maureen began her work in several new ministries: community treasurer, monastic council member, and secretary to the Federation of St. Scholastica.

Her Federation duties ended in 1978, but she then assumed the position of the community's subprioress. From 1978-90, she was treasurer, monastic council member and subprioress.

Following her years in community leadership, Sister Maureen worked as a business manager for a number of organizations: AIM (Alliance for International Monasticism), Benetivision, Emmaus Ministries, Inc.,

and Pax Christi USA, while also offering her skills and support as a personal assistant, business manager and dear friend to Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, from 1990 until the time of Sister Maureen's death. Reliable and faithful, Sister Maureen was known for her dedication, unflinching generosity and kindness to one and all.

Besides her parents, Sister Maureen was preceded in death by her brother, James.

Survivors include her niece, Cheryl Tobin; nephews Tom (Janice), David (Lisa), John (Karen), and James Tobin; and many cousins.

Visitation and services were held Jan. 26-27 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held there Jan. 27, with interment the following day at Trinity Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511.



Sister Maureen Tobin, OSB

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Email news items to: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

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



## Women's Guild donates to Sharpsville Community Food Pantry

SHARPSVILLE—The Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Guild of St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville recently presented \$1,345 to the Sharpsville Community Food Pantry, a ministry of the Mercer County parish.

The funds were collected at last fall's SK run/walk. Pictured, from left, are Sandy O'Leary, guild president; Father Matthew Strickenberg, pastor, and Rosemary Ferguson, pantry director.



## Serra Club hosts seminarian banquet in Erie



ERIE—The Serra Club of Erie hosted a Jan. 11 banquet at the Maennerchor Club for men studying at St. Mark Seminary. Twelve seminarians attended the annual event that was attended by 47 Serra Club members and guests, as well as Father Michael Kesicki, rector, and Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector.

Pictured, from left, are: Father Nicholas Rouch; Eric Eggert, seminarian from the Diocese of Buffalo; Annie Rutkowski; and Charlie Rutkowski, president of the Serra Club. Seminarians Patrick Strycharz, Benjamin Dagher and Michael Pleva presented talks on pastoral formation, human formation and spiritual formation.

## Golden Apple goes to Villa Elementary fourth-grade teacher

ERIE—Shivani Suri, a fourth-grade teacher at Villa Maria Elementary, has won the Edinboro University Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching.

She was nominated by one of her former students, sixth-grader Stella Campbell.

Pictured at the award presentation, from left, are: Lou Baxter of WJET-TV, Stella Campbell, Shivani Suri, Principal Damon Finazzo, and Dr. Mary Jo Melvin of Edinboro University.



## St. Bernard students give back to veterans

BRADFORD—St. Bernard Elementary/Middle School in Bradford recently helped raise money for the Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation.

Students and the community donated pennies in the amount of \$506.96.

The Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation gives 98 percent of the money it raises to Pennsylvania veterans.

Pictured, from left, are students Jack Nannen, Kara Longo and Kiersten Taylor.



## DCC gives \$1,000 check to annual United Way campaign

DuBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic recently presented a check for \$1,000 to the local United Way campaign.

Taking part in the presentation, from left, were: Principal Dawn Bressler; Alexis Kosko, vice president of student council; Herm Suplizio, United Way representative; Riley Meyers, president of student council; and Headmaster Michael Armanini.

The money was raised during the 38th annual United Way Activities Day.



## Students raise funds for Warming Center



ERIE—St. Jude the Apostle Church answered the call for donations to help the Warming Center, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph sponsored by the Mental Health Association and St. Patrick's Haven.

Mary and Willis Cardot and Joan and Jim Gehrlein organized the event in early January. They were assisted by Kathy Carlott, Kathy Nichols, and three students Nash Jones, Tyler Darden and Luca Darden. They gathered a total of 44 bags of clothing and miscellaneous warm-weather items, 17 boxes of snacks and personal care items, and 14 comforters contributed by Eric Dawn, Inc.

Several students loaded donations into the church van. Pictured, from left, are Our Lady's Christian eighth-graders Jonah Williams, Nick Carson, Madi Bamberger, Chandler MacArthur and Shelby Porter.

## Kindergartener with cancer benefits from school fundraiser

CLEARFIELD—St. Francis School in Clearfield recently held a "Coin War" to benefit Brody Lanich, a kindergarten student diagnosed with cancer. Over the course of three days, the students raised \$6,285.64.

All money will be given to the Lanich family to assist with medical, travel and related expenses.

Picture, from left, are students Khloe Lanich, Karson Rumsky and Jacob Wright.




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

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