

# FaithLife



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support  
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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 18, 2018

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Bishop to preside at Holy Week liturgies

Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the following Holy Week liturgies scheduled at St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th St., Erie:

- Palm Sunday, March 25 at 11 a.m.
- Christ Mass, March 26 at 4 p.m.
- Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper, March 29 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion, March 30 at 3 p.m.
- Easter Vigil, March 31 at 8:30 p.m.

### Legislation proposed to ban abortion for Down Syndrome

The Office of Social Justice and Life and the Office of Disabilities Ministries of the Diocese of Erie—along with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference—urge people to advocate for legislation that has been introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives prohibiting the abortion of any child solely due to a diagnosis of possible Down Syndrome.

Under current law, a woman can obtain an abortion prior to 24 weeks gestational age for any reason if a physician deems it is necessary, except if the woman's sole reason is to select the sex of the child. The proposed bill, called Down Syndrome Protection Legislation, will expand that exception to prohibit aborting the child solely due to a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

Patrice Swick, director of the Office of Social Justice and Life, and Michele Inter, director of Disabilities Ministries, attended a Life Worth Living rally March 12 in Harrisburg.

For more information about the bill and proposed action, go to [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org).

## 'God still has a presence in this...' Students, bishops stand against gun violence

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE AND CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Fourteen-year-old A.J. Reitz of Erie wanted to do more than walk out of school in order to remember the victims of last month's mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

An eighth-grader at St. Luke School in Erie, Reitz had heard through social media that teen-age students throughout the country would be participating in the March 14 National School Walkout.

"I talked to my mom about it and I was thinking about it and wondered, 'Is there a way to put a positive spin on this?'" Reitz said. "She told me to pray on it and that's when I thought of a prayer service at church. It's more of a walk-in to pray to God for the souls of the people who are, unfortunately, not with us anymore."

A teen-ager like many of the 17 victims in Florida, Reitz felt the deep pain of yet another school shooting, a common occurrence in his young lifetime.

He worked with Principal Julia Strzalka and other staff members to organize a morning service that included placing 17 empty desks near the altar, with the name of each victim. Seventeen middle school students carried

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has supported a number of efforts to address the problem of gun violence:

- A total ban on assault weapons, which the USCCB supported when the ban passed in 1994 and when Congress failed to renew it in 2004
- Measures that control the sale and use of firearms, such as universal background checks for all gun purchases
- Limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines
- A federal law to criminalize gun trafficking
- Improved access to and increased resources for mental health care and earlier interventions
- Regulations and limitations on the purchasing of handguns
- Measures that make guns safer, such as locks that prevent children and anyone other than the owner from using the gun without permission and supervision
- An honest assessment of the toll of violent images and experiences which inundate people, particularly youth
- Setting a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership, and a ban on "bump stocks"
- Promotion of mercy and peacebuilding in communities through restorative justice policies and practices, and ongoing discussions at the parish level regarding violence.

Source: "A Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence," United States Conference of Catholic Bishops March 2016. To read the entire statement, go to <http://www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-046.cfm>.

white candles that were placed on each desk. Father John Malthaner, pastor, offered a blessing and prayer and then, as each victim's name was

read, a St. Luke student lit a candle on the appropriate desk.

A poem written by one of the victims before his death also was read. Following

silent prayer and music, all students came to the center of the church, holding hands and then raising them to the sky in solidarity.

"It is to come together with the community, with the country and say, 'God still has a presence in this and we can do something before more violence happens again,'" Reitz said.

Strzalka said the prayer service involved 170 of the school's sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. Younger students were not included in the service due to the sensitive nature of the violence.

"Knowing that we pray together will show that there is a brighter future for our country," Strzalka said. "It will give the students strength."

On March 13, students at St. Joseph School in Lucinda participated in a morning Mass dedicated to victims and survivors of school violence.

"We selected the theme of the Mass as 'be at peace with everyone,'" said Betsy Ochs, principal of St. Joseph.

The Florida massacre, the deadliest recorded high school shooting in America, has prompted young people throughout the country to advocate for

stricter gun-control laws and more mental health resources.

Youth activists also have organized a March 24 March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C.

The chairpersons of two U.S.

>> SEE GOD'S PRESENCE, page 2

## Gannon students help build house on spring break

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

As a young girl growing up in Baghdad in war-torn Iraq, Mariam Alkhafaji always wanted to help people. But the daily threat of death kept her from reaching out to others.

"When I was in Iraq, I didn't have a chance to give to the community," says Alkhafaji, now a sophomore biology/pre-med major at Erie's Gannon University. "I wanted to help, but to be safe, I had to consider a lot of things. There were explosions, people getting kidnapped and getting killed."

All of that changed when she and her family moved to Erie as immigrants in 2014. She graduated from the former East High School, and then enrolled at Gannon, where, she says, "they gave me the chance to do service."

On her recent spring break, she opted to spend a week in Erie helping to build Gannon's new St. Joseph House of Faith in Action. She served as a co-leader of the six-student alternative break service.

Located in the 400 block of W. Fourth Street, not far from the edge of Gannon's downtown Erie campus, the one-story St. Joseph House is an outreach of the school's Center for Social Concerns. Its purpose is to be a gathering place for neighborhood revitalization efforts by Our West Bayfront, a nonprofit neighborhood organization.

From Feb. 25 to March 3, Alkhafaji joined five other Gannon students and several employees—including Gannon President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., and Erika Ramalho, director of community and government relations—installing insulation and hanging drywall.

"When I came to Erie I got a lot of support from the community, way more than I expected," Alkhafaji says. "I want to give back."

President Taylor called St. Joseph House "a home base for transforma-

tion." Students, he says, could have done any number of other things on their spring break.

"It just goes to the heart of Gannon students and why they pick Gannon in the first place," he says. "They know what our mission is and what drives us and what is important as part of education. It's not just the classroom piece; it's how do you transform students and transform the community in the process?"

Taylor, along with the students and other employees, spent every morning at St. Joseph House, getting their hands dirty.

The students spent the rest of their days working and living out of nearby First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. They met community leaders, served the needy and learned about the urban neighborhoods in which Gannon is situated.

For Caden Pabon, a freshman political science major, St. Joseph House is "a symbol of hope." He learned about adjacent neighborhoods affected by poverty.

"This experience has expanded my faith tremendously, and it's expanded who I am as a person," Pabon says. "I see myself coming back here to work on the house again."

According to Ramalho, St. Joseph House could be completed by the end of May. Two Gannon employees are expected to live there rent-free so they can save money to buy their own homes in the neigh-



Photos by Mary Solberg

Gannon President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., far left, got his hands dirty at an alternative spring break service project in which students helped build the St. Joseph House of Faith in Action on W. Fourth Street in Erie. President Taylor is pictured with: Kathleen Cahill, assistant director of Service-Learning; and students Maddie Zurinsky, Cathy Wahlennayer, Sam Desser, Kendra Walker, Mariam Alkhafaji and Caden Pabon.

borhood. Home ownership in the area is low.

The house features two private bedrooms, three full baths, a large kitchen, an office, a community room for social programs and an open space to accommodate 12 to 15 people for overnight stays.

"We are downtown be-

cause Gannon has always had a commitment to the community," Ramalho says. In conjunction with Our West Bayfront, Gannon has worked on the St. Joseph House with Building Systems Inc., which built the basic structure of the 2,400-square-foot home.



Gannon sophomore Mariam Alkhafaji works on drywall at the St. Joseph House.



## Catholics and Muslims meet

MUNDELEIN, Ill. (CNS)—In the picture at left, participants have a discussion after a March 7 meeting of the National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. Rita George-Tvrtkovic, associate professor of theology at Benedictine University in Illinois, and Ifan Omar, associate professor of theology at Marquette University in Michigan, were guest lecturers at the session, titled "One God, One Humanity: Confronting Religious Prejudice."

CNS photo

## Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world  
from Catholic News Service

### ■ Chant experiences revival



CNS photo

Members of the choir sing Gregorian chant during Mass Oct. 8 at St. John the Beloved Church in McLean, Va. Gregorian chant is the singing of the liturgy and its texts are almost entirely scriptural.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS)—Gregorian chant is in the midst of a revival of sorts, with renewed interest, especially among younger Catholics, seminarians, priests and church music directors, said Timothy S. McDonnell, director of the Institute of Sacred Music at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Most Masses currently have some elements of chant.

For instance, when the priest sings the Our Father and directs the congregation to join in song, they are all chanting a vital part of the liturgy.

Nevertheless, most parishes in the United States presently do not have Gregorian chant as their principal music, McDonnell said.

That could change in the coming years, he said, if history repeats itself and the revival that has been growing since the 1990s continues.

### ■ Regional tribunals considered for sex abuse cases

ROME (CNS)—Pope Francis and his international Council of Cardinals have discussed the possibility of establishing regional tribunals worldwide that would judge cases of sexual abuse allegedly committed by clergy, according to Vatican spokesman Greg Burke.

The pope and his advisers are considering decentralizing the role of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in handling cases, but would not diminish the congregation's authority.

### ■ Pope approves new Marian feast

ROME (CNS)—Pope Francis has decreed that Latin-rite Catholics around the world will mark the feast of "The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church" on the Monday after Pentecost each year.

The decree announcing the addition to the church calendar was released March 3 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Pope Francis approved the decree after "having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety," the decree said.



CNS photo



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Pope Francis early this month cleared the way for slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero to be made a saint, approving a miracle attributed to his intercession.

This is good news for those in the Catholic Church who have fought for social justice.

The occasion is timely for Tom Rourke, a professor of political science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, who has been asked to give a talk this month at the University of Notre Dame's two-day conference, "Memorializing Martyrdom: Romero's Beatification and Our Task Today."

Rourke, a member of St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda, advises student organizations at Clarion, including the Newman Association for Catholic students and Students for Life. He has many insights about Romero which he shares in his 2016 book, "The Roots of Pope Francis's Social and Political Thought."

According to Rourke, Pope Francis believes that the concepts of sanctity and martyrdom should expand to include people, like Romero, who give up their lives witnessing to Jesus by taking a courageous stance in matters of social justice.

"Pope Francis stated that Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero was killed 'in hatred of the faith,'" Rourke says. "Some wanted to claim that the murder was for political reasons. In making this determination, Pope Francis made a clear stand that the struggle for justice cannot simply be reduced to politics understood as unrelated to the faith."

Bishop John O. Barres of Rockville Centre, N.Y., recently reflected on the important role of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) coaches, saying they help model Catholic values both during and away from athletic competition.

Such is definitely the case of Dr. Willis Cardot, the CYO coach of the girls basketball team at St. Jude School in Erie.

On March 11, the team took sec-

ond place in the state at the Pennsylvania CYO tournament held at the Joann Mullen Gymnasium in the Prep & Villa Events Center in Erie.

The girls, under Cardot's able leadership, finished the year 32-2. Daniela Shaughnessy and Alexandra Heidt each scored 10 points in the championship game.

Those who follow Erie sports may recall that Cardot, who is an Erie orthodontist, scored 1,089 points in his basketball career at Cathedral Prep (1968-71). A 5-foot, 10-inch guard while playing for the Ramblers, he is now ranked seventh among players with at least 1,000 varsity career points.

According to Bishop Barres, CYO coaching and his experience on the court helped him develop his own values, character and tenacity that remain valuable in his life as a bishop.

Bishop Barres served as bishop of Allentown from 2009-16.

Congratulations to current Cathedral Prep junior Carter Starocci, who last week became the school's first state wrestling champion in 22 years. Starocci celebrated his 6-4 title win at 160 pounds.

At press time, the Villa Maria Academy girls basketball team was headed to Sharon to play Beaver Area High School in the state "Sweet 16" round.

Coach Doug Chuzie watched his team, ranked No. 4 in the state 4A division, beat the Beaver Falls Blackhawks March 10, by a score of 46-27. Good luck, Victors!

One more member of the Seltzer family of Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys is now an altar server.

On Ash Wednesday, Clarissa Seltzer, 9, joined her brothers Zachary, 15, Alex, 13, and Andrew, 12, in service at the altar. They are the children of JoAnn and Roy Seltzer.

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# 'God still has a presence in this...'

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bishops' committees said it is long past time for the nation's leaders to come up with "common-sense gun measures as part of a comprehensive approach to the reduction of violence in society and the protection of life."

The U.S. Catholic bishops have advocated for such measures for decades and will continue to do so, said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education.

In the aftermath of the Feb. 14 massacre, the bishops in a joint statement March 5 said the moment "calls for an honest and practical dialogue around a series of concrete

proposals—not partisanship and overheated rhetoric."

Bishops Dewane and Murry rejected the idea of arming teachers, as President Donald Trump and others have suggested as one possible solution. This "seems to raise more concerns than it addresses," the prelates said.

"Setting a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership, requiring universal background checks—as the bishops have long advocated—and banning 'bump stocks' are concepts that appear to offer more promise," the bishops said.

So-called bump stocks are devices used to make a semiautomatic gun act like a fully automatic weapon.

Bishops Dewane and Murry noted that for many years, the USCCB has supported several measures to reduce gun violence. [See box on page 1.]

They also lauded the reform efforts of the Florida shooting survivors and other young people around the country, calling their actions "a stark reminder that guns pose an enormous danger to the innocent when they fall into the wrong hands."

"The voices of these advocates should ring in our ears as they describe the peaceful future to which they aspire," Bishops Dewane and Murry said.

"We must always remember what is at stake as we take actions to safeguard our communities and honor human life. In the words of St. John, 'Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.'"



Contributed photo

Eighth-grader A.J. Reitz of St. Luke School, Erie, meets with Principal Julia Strzalka about the prayer service held in solidarity with victims of the recent school shooting in Florida.

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EVENTS

■ Lenten reflections

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are hosting one more Lenten vigil in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. The public is invited to attend the vigil March 24 at 7 p.m., with a reflection by Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB.

■ Palm Sunday events

Members of DuBois Central Catholic's junior class and their parents are hosting a spaghetti dinner on Palm Sunday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school cafeteria, 200 Central Christian Road, DuBois. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Take-outs will be available. All proceeds will benefit this year's junior-senior program. During the dinner, the school's annual seventh grade science fair projects will be exhibited in the school gym. Also, the spring book fair will be open to the public in the elementary school library.

■ CDSG Divorce Ministry

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG Divorce Ministry) will meet weekly April 4 through May 23 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. For details, go to [www.ErieRCD.org/cdsghtm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/cdsghtm) or contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or at [familylife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:familylife@ErieRCD.org).

■ Mother-Daughter Tea

All mothers (or female role models) and their daughters,

ages 11 to 13, are welcome to attend an annual Mother-Daughter Tea sponsored by the Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie. A tea will be offered at two sites and times:

- April 15, noon to 4:30 p.m., St. Mark Catholic Center, 439 East Grand-ville Blvd., Erie
- April 22, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. Boniface Church, 355 Main St., Kersey.

The cost is \$15 per family, with an early-bird rate of \$12 if reservation is received two weeks before the event. The cost includes time for discussion, games and refreshments. For more information and to register, go to [www.ErieRCD.org/chastity.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/chastity.htm) and click on "TEA" under the Events tab. To register by phone, call Kate Whiteford at 814-824-1259.

■ Pursue bingo

Save the date for the April 15 designer purse bingo event hosted by Harborcreek Youth Services, an affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. Doors open at noon at the parish hall of Our Lady of Mercy, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, with bingo starting at 1 p.m. Reservations can be made by emailing [pursuebingo@hys-erie.org](mailto:pursuebingo@hys-erie.org) or by calling 814-899-7664, ext. 330. Must be 18 to attend.

All proceeds benefit the clients of Harborcreek Youth Services.

Mercyhurst names new VP of mission integration

Erie Mercy Sister Lisa Mary McCartney will step down June 1 from her position as Mercyhurst University's first vice president for mission integration. Greg Baker, D.Min., the director of campus ministry the past 10 years, will assume the cabinet-level position.



Mercy Sister Lisa Mary McCartney and Greg Baker, D.Min.

Sister Lisa Mary will remain active at the school in a part-time capacity.

Appointed to the mission integration role in 2008, Sister Lisa Mary ensured that Mercyhurst's Mercy and Catholic heritage flourished on campus.

Under her direction, more than 100 staff and faculty members completed the Mercy Emissary Program and committed themselves to helping preserve the legacy of the founding sisters.

Sister Lisa Mary earned a doctorate in English from the University of Notre Dame and joined the Mercyhurst faculty in 1980. She remained until 2008, when she was elected to the leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie.

Baker, besides serving as director of campus ministry, has been an adjunct instructor for Catholic

Studies. He has served as president of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County, and currently serves on the diocesan Faith Formation Implementation Team.

Baker has overseen the development of the popular Carpe Diem Retreat Program and MYRACLE, Mercyhurst's nationally recognized youth retreat outreach program.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Gannon University, a master's in theology from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y., and in November, successfully defended his dissertation for the doctor of ministry degree from Fordham University.

Local activists arrested to support Dreamers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Erie Benedictine Sister Anne McCarthy and other local members of Benedictines for Peace were arrested last month in Washington as part of a Catholic action in support of young undocumented immigrants known as "Dreamers."

Sister Anne joined Jacqueline Small, Breanna Mekuly and Sam Miller in the civil disobedience in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building near the U.S. Capitol.

They were among 40 lay people and men and women religious who were arrested that day. They were praying and singing on behalf of young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as minors and who face possible deportation if the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) ends as proposed by the Trump administration.

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued a stay on deportations and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has encouraged Catholics throughout the country to contact



Erie Benedictine Sister Anne McCarthy, far left, joined other sisters and activists praying inside the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., Feb. 27, during the "Catholic Day of Action for Dreamers."

their legislators requesting fair immigration reform.

"It's a moral issue, it's a faith issue, so legislation has to happen," Sister Anne says.

For Mekuly and Small, both in their 20s, the action hits close to home. They both know Dreamers

their own age.

According to Small, "The Bible tells us a million times that we should welcome the stranger."

For more information on the Catholic effort to support Dreamers, go to <https://justiceforimmigrants.org>.

OBITUARIES

Msgr. Charles S. Murcko

Msgr. Charles S. Murcko, 93, died March 6 at the Saint John XXIII Home in Hermitage.

He was in his 66th year of priesthood, although he officially retired in 2014 as chaplain of Saint John XXIII Home, he continued to be a pastoral presence at the residence.

Msgr. Murcko was born on June 21, 1924, in Farrell, the son of the late Joseph and Susan (Rindos) Lynch Murcko.

After attending Hermitage area public schools, he entered St. Mark Seminary in Erie in 1944. He continued his formation for the priesthood from 1947-52 at Christ the King Seminary in Olean, N.Y.

While there, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure College. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1952, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Msgr. Murcko began his priestly ministry as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, where he remained until 1954. From 1954-65, he served as parochial vicar, ad-

ministrators and pastor, respectively, of Sacred Heart Parish in Houtzdale.

In 1965, he was named chaplain of Saint Vincent Hospital, Erie, and in 1967 was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Erie.

In 1978, he was named pastor of St. Adalbert in Sharon and administrator of St. Ann Parish in Farrell, his home parish.

He remained in both positions until 1984, when he left St. Adalbert Parish upon being appointed pastor of St. Ann Parish, where he remained until 1997.

During that time, he served as chaplain at SCI Mercer, a post he held until his retirement.

From 1997-99, he was pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer. Msgr. Murcko retired in 1999 but was called back into service in 2004 as administrator of St.

Ann, Farrell, where he remained until 2008.

In 2008, he moved to the rectory of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer. In 2010, he was appointed chaplain of Saint John XXIII Home, a position he held until 2014. He continued to reside in Saint John XXIII until his death.

Msgr. Murcko served on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal for many years and was a member of the vocations committee in Clearfield County.

He also was chaplain for the Ladies Retreat League of Mercer County and was involved in the permanent diaconate formation program of the Diocese of Erie. The title of Prelate of Honor (monsignor) was conferred on him in November 1999.

Survivors include a brother, Dr. Alois V. Murcko, of Jefferson Township, as well as nieces and nephews.

Bishop Lawrence Persico was the main celebrant at a funeral Mass March 10 at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Burial was in St. Ann Cemetery, Farrell.



Msgr. Charles S. Murcko

Sister Mary Alice Reed, SSJ

Sister Mary Alice Reed, SSJ, 90, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern, Pennsylvania, died March 2. She was in the 74th year of her religious life.

Born in Erie, she was the daughter of the late William C. and Margaret (McDonald) Reed. She attended St. Andrew School, Erie, and graduated from Villa Maria Academy, Erie, in 1945. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1944, and professed final vows in 1950.

Sister Mary Alice earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie, in 1957, and later attended St. John's University in Cleveland. In 1972, she earned a master's in education in guidance and counseling

from Gannon University, Erie. Sister Mary Alice taught for more than 50 years at numerous schools in the Diocese of Erie,

including St. Andrew, Holy Rosary, Our Lady's Christian, St. Peter Cathedral, St. Patrick, Blessed Sacrament, St. John the Baptist, Sacred Heart and Villa Maria Elementary, all in Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford; and St. Francis, Clearfield.

She also served as principal at Our Lady of Peace, Maryvale kindergarten, and Blessed Sacrament, all in Erie.

Sister Mary Alice also ministered through hospital visitations and substitute teaching. In her retirement, she tutored children and participated in prayer ministries while living at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Arlene Seib; and two brothers, William P. and Thomas Reed. In addition to members of her religious community, survivors include her sister-in-law, Bonnie, of Deep River, Conn.; and several nieces, a nephew and cousins.

A funeral Mass was held March 7 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center. 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.

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Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



## DuBois students win scholastic challenge



DuBOIS—The Junior Scholastic Challenge Team at DuBois Central Catholic in DuBois recently earned first place at the 21st annual Junior Scholastic Challenge held at Penn State University in State College, Pa. Adviser Renee Gressler called the recognition “the culmination of time spent out of class and during lunch cramming for the competition.” Pictured in the front row, from left, are: teacher Renee Gressler, and students Neel Gupta and Colin Micknis. In the back row, from left, are: students Mia Edwards, Isaac Pifer and Hayes Cooper.

## Serra Club of Erie welcomes two members



ERIE—The two newest members of the Serra Club of Erie were sworn in by Father Nicholas Rouch at a membership meeting March 5. Father Rouch is pictured here with members Joanne Donohue and Francis Kloecker. The Serra Club's dual mission is to promote priestly and religious vocations and to support and affirm Catholic clergy in the Diocese of Erie. New members are welcome and anyone interested in knowing more may email Jim Toohey, membership vice president, at [jtoohy@mjb.com](mailto:jtoohy@mjb.com).

## Christian unity the focus of musical



HERMITAGE—The Church of Notre Dame Music Ministry joined performers from seven other Catholic and Protestant churches from Mercer County last month in presenting the musical “Moses and the Burning With-in.”

Among those participating in the performance, standing from left, were: the Rev. Michael Lozano, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon, who portrayed Pharaoh's overseer; Tony Paglia of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mercer, as Moses; and Father Richard Allen, pastor of Notre Dame, who played Jethro, the high priest of Midian. Portraying sheep, from left, were: Sylvan Paglia and Caleb Logue.

## Students remember needs of animals during Catholic Schools Week



ERIE—Students at St. Luke School in Erie recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week by participating in several service projects, including a Jeans Day benefiting ANNA Shelter in Erie. The school community also collected more than 250 items for animals at the shelter. St. Luke presented \$510 to the ANNA Shelter.

Pictured with some of the donated items are students Brandon Shepard, Maggie Zimmer, Alex Vahey, Alexa Sala, Carly Turbaczewski and Joey Agnelo.

## University presidents discuss leadership, service at Kennedy Catholic



HERMITAGE—The Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools in Hermitage recently marked the fourth annual College & University Presidents Week in which presidents of institutions of higher learning spoke to students about leadership, service to others and the college/career discernment process. Among those giving presentations were H. James Williams, Ph.D., president of Mount St. Joseph College in Cincinnati, Ohio, pictured at left with his wife, Carole Williams. At right, Douglas G. Lee, president of Waynesburg University, poses with mascots.

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