

Renowned bioethicist/priest to speak at Clarion
See **Q&A** on page 3



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE
INSPIRING WORDS
FROM POPE FRANCIS

"Be courageous and go to confession! Every time we confess, God embraces us, God celebrates!"

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 23, 2014

Clergy Appointments

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

Father J. Thomas Dugan, senior associate, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 26, 2014, term unspecified.

Father Daniel Hoffman, pastor, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, and chaplain, Campus Ministry Program, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, effective March 19, 2014, for a term of six years.

Father H. Desmond McGee, parochial administrator, Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale, while continuing as pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield, effective Feb. 28, 2014, term unspecified.

Father Christopher Singer, parochial administrator, St. Stephen of Hungary/Iglesia de San Esteban Parish, Erie, while continuing as chancellor of the diocese, effective Feb. 28, 2014, term unspecified.

Father Stanley J. Swacha, change of residence, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield, effective Feb. 26, 2014.

St. George boys, girls sweep tourney

The boys and girls basketball teams at St. George School in Erie claimed the Erie Diocesan Tournament titles March 9 and will now head to the Pennsylvania CYO State Tournament later this month.

Both Lancer teams came out strong in front of a packed crowd at Mercyhurst Preparatory School. It wasn't long before each team took a decisive lead over their opponents.

St. George girls defeated the Irish of St. Michael School, Greenville, and the Lancer boys won in a match-up against St. Stephen School, Oil City.



The girls basketball team at St. George School posed for this team shot after capturing the title at the Erie Diocesan Tournament at Mercyhurst Preparatory School on March 9.

Gannondale to close after 80 years

Sisters of Our Lady of Charity see decline in residential placements

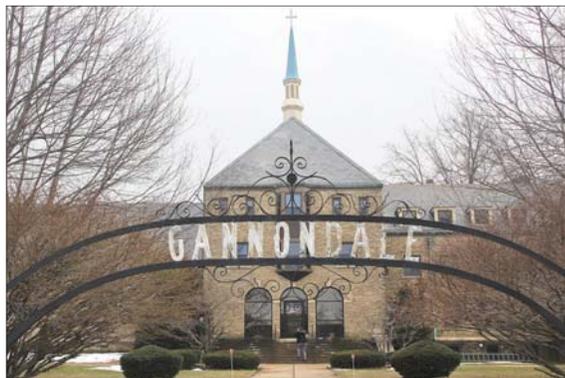
Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Nancy Sabol, executive director at Gannondale in Erie, knew the day might come when the residential treatment center would close. She's just not sure what will ever replace the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity who ministered to adolescent girls there the past 80 years.

The U.S. Province of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, based in Carrollton, Ohio, announced March 5 that Gannondale will close June 30. The sisters founded the facility in 1934—under the late Bishop John Mark Gannon—to meet the needs of girls who were experiencing behavioral, emotional and family difficulties.

"The sisters brought a dignity to people who were marginalized or who didn't have a voice," Sabol said. "People might have looked at the girls and thought, 'Oh, she's just a girl in trouble,' but the sisters never viewed it that way. Yes, there were girls going through a hard time, but it was our job to remind them that there was hope, that they were somebody."

For generations of residents in eastern Erie County, the beautifully landscaped Gannondale property on East Lake Road in Harborcreek Township has been a symbol of care and mercy. The sisters who lived and ministered there over the years shared the vision of their founder, St. John Eudes, by teaching and mentoring



Gannondale has been in operation since 1934. It is set to close this summer.

Photo by Mary Solberg

thousands of teen-age girls who needed help and guidance.

"This is a group of women religious who believed in redemption," Sabol said.

For many of its 80 years, Gannondale has operated at full capacity. The facility could house a maximum of 47 girls in its three cottages and one secure unit. Today, there are fewer

than 10 girls at the facility.

According to Sabol, administrators are working with county court systems to make new arrangements for the remaining residents.

"It's been a very painful and heartbreaking decision," said Sister Carol Pregno, provincial of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in Carrollton.

Gannondale's board of directors and administration recommended the closing primarily because of a "significant and continual decrease" in the number of youth being placed in residential care throughout the state. According to Sabol, there has been a noticeable shift in the juvenile placement system, opting to keep youth closer to their own homes or in foster care instead of sending them to residential facilities like Gannondale.

Besides having fewer residents, Gannondale has had to cope with county governments not meeting the actual cost of care for girls they place at the facility. Gannondale sought other ways to subsidize the care of its residents, including securing donations from individuals and sisters in the community. Salary increases for staff also were cut back.

The declining government support has disturbed Sister Carol Pregno,

who witnessed first-hand the humble, generous service her congregation gave to the region.

"Social services in the United States were built on the backs of the Catholic sisters. We saw a problem and we took care of it. Today, things are not so simple," Sister Carol said. "The sad part is that until we wake up and invest in our children, our society will be severely damaged."

She'd like to see more money and resources given to children in the form of clothing, food, simple health care and access to mental health. Sabol agrees, saying young people need the kind of support and guidance that the sisters gave for eight decades.

"The general public forgets our communities of women religious are aging. They have been a driving force of so many of our social services. What are we going to do when we lose them?" Sabol said.

Sabol is among about 40 full- and part-time employees at Gannondale. Three members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity live at the 70-acre campus. As for the property and its buildings, Sister Carol is not sure what will happen once it closes this summer.

"We're just trying to get through these final days," Sister Carol said.



Sister Immaculate Heart Gibbons, OLC, former superior and Gannondale executive director, is shown in this photo from the 1950s teaching residents how to can fruit.

Contributed photo

Second Catholic radio station broadcasts in diocese

WMIH 89.5 FM reaches 400,000 from New York line to Ohio

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

A new Catholic radio station has hit the airwaves from the New York State line through Erie County and west to outside the Cleveland metropolitan area.

The Station of the Cross Catholic Radio Network, headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y., began broadcasting this winter from a 21,000-watt transmitter in Geneva, Ohio. WMIH (Mary's Immaculate Heart) 89.5 FM is the second Catholic radio station owned by Station of the Cross to air in the Diocese of Erie.

"This is a signal that basically follows Interstate 90. We're really able to encompass a large listening area," said Jim Wright, president of Station of the Cross.

Catholic radio news and programming are making big inroads on the airwaves over the Diocese of Erie. Nearly 400,000 people in the region are able to listen to 89.5. Last year, Station of the Cross began broadcasting the 6,000-watt WOHE (Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth) 88.3 FM in the Oil City area, serving about 250,000 listeners.



Contributed photo
Jim Wright

Bishop Lawrence Persico has extended his support and blessings to Wright and Station of the Cross Catholic Radio Network. Bishops in Buffalo and Rochester also have welcomed Station of the Cross in their dioceses.

"The Diocese of Erie wholeheartedly welcomes the newest Catholic radio station to serve the people of northwestern Pennsylvania and beyond," Bishop Persico said. "This is a real opportunity for people to be inspired and

to grow in their faith."

The diocese is not responsible—financially or otherwise—for the two stations. It does, however, give its blessing and encouragement in the effort to spread the Christian message.

Two separate grassroots groups in the diocese—St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Oil City and six individuals in Erie—currently are working with Wright to promote and fund Station of the Cross in this region. As a non-profit, listener-supported effort,

the stations require community and individual support to succeed.

Start-up costs for 89.5 FM were about \$200,000. It costs an estimated \$47,000 for each station every year to be viable.

"This is a tremendous gift to our region," said Paul Lorei, spokesman for the Erie core group. "We've already raised some money and the goal is to get more donors. Of course, it's tough, but I'm really hopeful."

There are no radio personalities physically sitting in Oil City



These graphics show the coverage areas of WMIH 89.5 FM and WOHE 88.3 FM. The two stations reach out to more than 600,000 people in the Erie region.



or Geneva; all programming is sent to the two towers from the network headquarters in Buffalo. Programming includes a variety of national shows from Eternal Word Television Network (Ave Maria Radio, Catholic Answers Live, Sacred Heart Radio, Women of Grace, and The Son Rise Morning Show).

For Station of the Cross radio, reaching a mobile listening audience is key to spreading the faith in our fast-paced world. Arbitron, a national ratings firm, found that Americans are in their cars an av-

erage of 15 hours per week. They spend an average of two hours and 12 minutes on weekdays listening to their car radios.

"Whenever I'm driving, I listen to the radio," Lorei added. "89.5 is particularly good because it offers news, insight, commentary and devotionals in a Catholic perspective. You get information that you just don't get anywhere else. It's an amazing resource."

Wright is hoping that parishes and individual Catholics turn to Catholic radio for inspiration and information. He returned to Erie

March 20 to meet with the Erie core group, which includes Lorei, Attorney Bud Stark, Joe Shipley, George Blakeslee, Bernadette Carroll and Dave Wayman.

"I've never seen such awesome participation and so much excitement going forward," Wright added.

For those wishing to learn more about 89.5 or to make donations, call Paul Lorei at 814-881-8371.

For more information about The Station of the Cross, go to www.icatholicradio.com.



■ Pa. leadership delegation heads to Rome to meet pope

PHILADELPHIA (PCC)—A leadership delegation from Pennsylvania will visit the Vatican at the end of the month in preparation for the World Meeting of Families scheduled in Philadelphia next year.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., Governor Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter will travel to Rome to meet with Pope Francis and attend planning meetings for the worldwide event in 2015. The archbishop, governor and mayor will accompany a delegation of civic and business leaders representing many different faiths. They are expected to invite the pope to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.



CNS photo/L. Observatore Romano via Reuters
Pope Francis, in white, attends a weeklong Lenten retreat with senior members of the Roman Curia in Arcida, Italy, March 9.

■ For Pope Francis, a year of reform

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has spent the first year of his pontificate pursuing two ambitious projects: revitalizing the church's efforts at evangelization and reforming the church's central administration.

As he wrote in his first apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), Catholics must go out into the world to share their faith with "enthusiasm and vitality."

With his affable, informal manner, Pope Francis has focused on a message of mercy, forgiveness and concern for the poor. He has elicited extraordinary levels of curiosity and good will far beyond the ranks of practicing Catholics around the world.

The demands of governing the Vatican have presumably played a role in Pope Francis' choice to spend little time away. Pope Francis has taken one international trip so far—to Brazil in July—and his planned pastoral trips for 2014—to the Holy Land and South Korea—will be rela-

tively short, only three and five days long, respectively.

Yet, he has hardly cut himself off from his global flock. With the highly quotable expressions and spontaneous gestures that have made him an instant television and social media star, Pope Francis has proved he can grab the world's attention without leaving St. Peter's Square.

■ Cross-shaped beams to be installed at 9/11 memorial site

NEW YORK (CNS)—A 17-foot, cross-shaped steel beam that was found in the wreckage two days after 9/11 became an indelible image in the months following the terrorist attacks on New York in 2001.

That cross is to be displayed as a historical artifact in a permanent exhibit at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, scheduled to open in May near the site of the former World Trade Center.

A group called American Atheists has sued the federal court to have the cross taken out of the exhibit and replaced with a plaque that would say "atheists died here, too," according to a Religion News Service story.



CNS photo
Franciscan Father Brian Jordan stands with laborers and emergency workers in the rubble of the World Trade Center in 2001.

■ Ukrainian Catholics in Crimea fear 'new oppression'

OXFORD, England (CNS)—A Ukrainian Catholic priest in Crimea said church members are alarmed and frightened by the Russian military occupation and fear their communities might be outlawed again if Russian rule becomes permanent.

Father Mykhailo Milchakovskiy, a pastor in Kerch, Ukraine, described the atmosphere as tense because many residents of the town located in the eastern part of Crimea were unsure of their future.

"Our church has no legal status in the Russian Federation, so it's uncertain which laws will be applied if Crimea is annexed," Father Milchakovskiy told Catholic News Service.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Two things come to mind when I think of Gannondale: Girl Scouts and the late Sister Theresa Dame, OLC.

The residential care facility for adolescent girls in Erie is set to close this June, but many of us will remember the good Sisters of Our Lady of Charity who founded the home 80 years ago.

In 1970 or so, my Girl Scout troop visited Gannondale to watch the sisters make hosts for all of the parishes of the diocese. It seems a far-fetched idea today, but back then host-making was one of their jobs.

I was fascinated by the number of hosts that were mass produced with a large press. That's when I first understood the process by which simple bread would eventually become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Years later, I met Sister Theresa Dame, who at 80 was as feisty and fearless as they come. She had spent a lifetime at Gannondale ministering to girls who were experiencing any number of behavioral and emotional problems. But despite her age, she wasn't done yet. She had just opened a home on Erie's lower west side to reach out to prostitutes.

Sister Theresa's genuine, no-nonsense manner cut through my preconceived notions of the religious life. She believed in redemption. She believed in the presence of Christ in all of us. That's the legacy of Gannondale.

Louis Robuck of Johnsbury in Elk County read our story a few weeks ago about parishes opening their doors to the homeless in Erie. He wishes more people would think of donating their "extras" to homeless shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens and more.

As a retired research and development engineer, Robuck knows it would make a lot of sense if farmers, retailers, parishes, catering

businesses and even individuals would give out of their excess.

Spring is upon us...finally...and that means celebrating with those who will be receiving the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. I recently read a small book about the rosary that would make a wonderful gift for a child at First Communion or even at Easter.

A Very Special Bouquet: A Child's Introduction to the Rosary was first published in 2011 by Jean Heintzel, a longtime parishioner of St. Julia Parish in Erie. Jean was inspired to write a book about a mother teaching her two young children about praying the rosary.

"Each bead is a prayer and every prayer is a flower," Jean says. "The rosary is a very special bouquet."

Adults who need a refresher course on saying the rosary will find Jean's book extremely helpful, too.

Anyone who wants to purchase a copy can contact Jean at jheintzel@verizon.net. The \$5 cost per book includes tax and shipping.

It seems that parishioners of Beloved Discipline Parish in Grove City are on fire this Lent...thanks to a Paulist program titled, "Living the Eucharist." Angie Felicity, the parish's director of religious education, purchased the program and decided to offer it to parishioners. She ordered 30 books, thinking she'd have a lot of extras.

To her amazement, 160 people signed up and Angie had to order a lot more books. Participants range in age from 12 years old to the early 90s. Several different groups of nine meet once a week throughout Lent to discuss various aspects of the Eucharist. They also read a daily meditation book and families are encouraged to use a special book designed just for them.

"The more that you know about Mass, the more you can fully participate instead of going through the motions," Angie says.

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

Mercyhurst plans mural

Public art is defined as any media that is displayed in the public domain, usually outside and accessible to everyone.

Although much of Todd Scalise's artwork fits that definition, the Mercyhurst Preparatory School graduate prefers to call what he does "community art." Spoken in the true tradition of the Mercy Sisters who founded the school nearly 80 years ago.

"The education I received here at Mercyhurst set me on the path of my art career," said Scalise, who is well known in the Erie area for creating the Erie Philharmonic's Centennial Mural, the Annex Stairwell Project mural at the Erie Art Museum, and as owner of Mosaic and Higherglyphics.

On March 14, Scalise joined students, faculty, alumni and donors in announcing a collaborative mural project that is expected to change the look of the exterior of Mercyhurst, located on East Grandview Boulevard in Erie.

Beginning immediately, Scalise will collect visual images, words,

photographs—anything—that alumni, students and the entire community consider reflective of the unique educational environment offered at Mercyhurst. He



Photo by Mary Solberg
Twenty-four columns outside Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie will be covered as part of a mural project led by designer Todd Scalise.

will create a giant mural, eventually applying it to the 24 columns and a portion of the building in front of the school.

Mercyhurst alumna Elizabeth Guelcher, along with her husband, Dr. Robert Guelcher, donated money toward the mural project. Other donors and board members have contributed to the endeavor, expected to cost between \$45,000 and \$55,000.

"I think it's extraordinary. I can't wait to see the outside of the building when it's done," she said.

Sister Power

National Catholic Sisters Week encourages vocations

Religious communities of women "take the Gospel and turn it into action," Bishop Lawrence Persico said in announcing the first National Catholic Sisters Week held March 8-15.

In fact, women religious were directly responsible in inspiring his own vocation to the priesthood.

"I owe my own vocation, in part, to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden for promoting vocations to the priestly and religious life at the grade school I attended," the bishop told several sisters and civic leaders who gathered at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie on March 10.

One goal of the National Catholic Sisters Week is to invite young women to consider the joy and satisfaction of consecrated religious life.

Benedictine Sister Charlotte Zalot, communications director for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, is excited at the prospect of reaching a larger audience through social media. Some of the women now interested in the Benedictine community learned about it through the Internet.

"It's a new venture and it's exciting that it's drawing people



Thank a favorite nun on Twitter: #thankanun

Photo by Mary Solberg
Several sisters representing different religious communities of women in the Diocese of Erie gathered at St. Mark Catholic Center on March 10. Pictured, from left, are Sister Rose Fedorko, SSI, Sister Mary Kennedy, SSI, Sister Mary Himes, RSM, Sister Colette Hilow, CDS, Sister Mary McCarthy, RSM, Sister Rita Kartavich, RSM, Sister Mary Babik, CDS, Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, Sister Charlotte Zalot, OSB, and Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB.

who want to do things like we do, including reaching out to the poor and immigrants, working for justice and making sure that children in the inner city are able to experience the arts," Sister

Charlotte said.

Among those attending the March 10 event at St. Mark Catholic Center was Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, who called the sisters "phenomenal

women." Also on hand was Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott.

National Catholic Sisters Week is funded by a three-year grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

FaithLife
The official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Erie. Published bi-weekly.
St. Mark Catholic Center, 428 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16504
Publisher: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Welsh
Editor: Mary Solberg
Graphic Design: Rich Papalia
Advertising Manager: Brenda Williams
Advertising Design: Elizabeth Butterfield
Editorial Assistant: Cindy DeCoursey

Website: www.ErieRCD.org
Volume 10, Issue 5
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
Editorial: 814-824-1171
Advertising: 814-824-1168
General Information: 814-824-1161

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1974.

Grandfather Clock Repair

(814) 282-6435
(Leave Message)

Schutte
WOODWORKING, LLC

2831 Zimmerman Road, Erie, PA 16510
814.453.5110 / fax: 814.453.2425

Steven R. Rimpia
cell: 814.397.0676 / e-mail: schuttewoodwork@live.com
www.schuttewoodworking.net

Custom Cabinetry | Church Furnishings | Millwork | Wall Units

64 Years of Excellence

RAS AUTOBODY

All your collision needs.
Special Wash Wax/Interior - \$100.00 plus tax
453-6185

Dave Ras, Owner
Amy Ras, office
Carol Ras, office
Jim Winski, office

Proximo Travel
Your Catholic Tour Company

Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shires of Europe and much more... ranging from \$3,699—\$4,699 for 2014.
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy/Switzerland: Apr. 5-17, Apr. 12-24 ...
Italy Regular: Apr. 5-13, Apr. 12-20, Apr. 19-27 ...
Holy Land: Mar. 10-20, Mar. 31-Apr. 10, Apr. 7-17 ...
France: Apr. 26-May 8, May 2-15, May 10-22 ...
Ireland/Scotland: Apr. 26-May 8, May 3-15 ...
Greece/Turkey: May 3-15, Jun. 21-Jul. 3 ...
Italy/Fatima: Apr. 5-16, Apr. 12-23, Apr. 19-30 ...

Visit our website www.proximotravel.com for more information and dates!

www.proximotravel.com 855-842-0001 | 814-479-4165
email: anthony@proximotravel.com Carmela A. Manago

Largest memorial display in the area!

Monday-Friday 9 to 5 • Saturday 9 to Noon
Evenings & Weekends by Appointment
32980 Route 66 • Leeper, PA 16233

BORLAND MEMORIALS (814) 744-8340
www.borlandmemorials.com

News Briefs

Villa Maria Elementary schedules events

ERIE—Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie has scheduled several events through June.

■ **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny**—April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the VME cafeteria, 2551 W. 8th St. The morning will include breakfast, crafts, face-painting, an Easter egg hunt and prizes. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$10 for children 2 and up; children under 2 are free. A family of five costs \$40. RSVP by March 28 by calling 814-838-5451, ext. 227.

■ **Spring Musical, "Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr."**—April 4-5, at 7 p.m. both days, at the Villa Maria Academy auditorium, 2403 W. 8th St., Erie. There is a suggested entrance fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

■ **VME Corporate Games**—June 21, beginning at 8 a.m. for registration and continuing through 5 p.m. This is an opportunity to enjoy time with coworkers, encourage a healthy and active lifestyle, build teamwork and have fun. Companies can sign up to participate (teams of 10), to sponsor or to be a vendors for the day. Cost is \$50 per person/\$500 per team and includes a T-shirt and lunch. To register, visit www.vmecorporategames.org.



Sisters host Lenten retreat for women

PORT ALLEGANY—The Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry, Bradford Deaneary, will host a Lenten Reflection Afternoon for Women at 472 Sartwell Creek Road, Port Allegany, on April 6 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The retreat will feature a presentation, "Lent 2014: Desert Spaces," by Benedictine Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski. Register by email or telephone to Benedictine Sister Phyllis Schleicher at sisterphy@gmail.com or 814-544-8017. Include your name and full mailing address. After registering, the book *Desert Spaces* will be sent directly to each participant.

Chrism Mass scheduled at St. Peter Cathedral in April

ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico, together with the priests of the Diocese of Erie, will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass on Monday, April 14, at 4 p.m. in St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th St., Erie. At the Chrism Mass, the holy oils to be used for sacraments will be consecrated and blessed for distribution to the parishes of the diocese. The public is encouraged to attend.



Family Honor program planned in St. Marys

ST. MARYS—Real Life and Real Love, a family centered charity education program for parents and teenagers, will be held on consecutive Monday evenings in April at Elk County Catholic High School, 600 Maurus St., St. Marys.

The program is geared toward seventh- and eighth-graders and their parents. They are invited April 7, April 14, April 21 and April 28 from 7 to 9:15 p.m. Registrations will be accepted online at www.familyhonor.com or by contacting Laury Kraus at 814-781-6746.

Mercyhurst senior named Merit finalist

ERIE—Mercyhurst Preparatory School senior Allison Ganger has been named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

Ganger is one of 15,000 high school seniors nationwide, or the top 1 percent, who advanced to finalist standing based on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, academic record and a personal essay. An International Baccalaureate student, she plans to study mathematics in college. She is active in the school's math and French clubs and the National Honor Society.



Mercyhurst Preparatory School Principal Deborah Laughlin congratulates senior Allison Ganger.

Priests' Retreat: Spirituality for a Complex Society

Monday, June 16-Friday, June 20

How do I develop an inner life that will support my role as a peace-filled pastoral minister?

How do I allow my spirituality to shape the culture rather than allowing the culture to shape my spirituality?

Presentations will look at the wisdom of desert spirituality, experiential approaches to the person of Jesus, the ongoing impact of Vatican II on the U.S. Church and a deep understanding of servant leadership.

Facilitated by: **Fr. Eugene Lauer**, Former Director of the National Pastoral Life Center and the Hesburgh Renewal Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Offering: \$375
\$100 Non-refundable deposit

For information or to register call: 315-446-2680, email ctkretreat@sydio.org or register at www.ctkretreat.com



500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224

Renowned bioethicist/priest to speak at Clarion

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia, and a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., is recognized as a top adviser to U.S. Catholic bishops in the area of stem cell research and bioethics.

His nationally syndicated monthly column, "Making Sense Out of Bioethics," appears in diocesan newspapers throughout the country and is carried by newspapers in England, Poland and Australia.

He will speak on "Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Contemporary Bioethics" on April 1 at 7 p.m. at Hart Chapel on the campus of Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Clarion University's Students for Life and the Newman Association are sponsoring the lecture.

FaithLife posed these questions to Father Pacholczyk:

Q: What specifically do U.S. bishops want to learn from you?

A: The bishops turn to the National Catholic Bioethics Center for guidance on complex issues in bioethics and medical ethics, covering the full range of issues from collaborative arrangements between Catholic

Lecture: Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Contemporary Bioethics

April 1 at 7 p.m. at Hart Chapel
Clarion University of Pennsylvania

and non-Catholic hospitals, to the ethics of three-parent embryos.

Q: You've testified before many state legislatures regarding stem cell research and cloning. Where do most legislators fall when it comes to such topics? Do they understand the ethical dilemmas inherent in stem cell research and cloning?

A: Some lawmakers have done their homework and seem to have a fair grasp of the ethical dilemmas when I give testimony; others do not. I have found the anomalous and unfortunate situation that many Catholic lawmakers can be counted on to vote against sound and reasonable ethical positions, while many fundamentalist Protestant lawmakers will vote in defense of sound ethics.

Q: Can you explain the meaning of "ensoulment" of embryos?

A: What a human embryo actually is, even at its earliest and most undeveloped stage, already makes it the only kind of entity capable of receiving the gift of an immortal soul from the hand of God. No other animal or plant embryo can receive this gift; indeed, no other entity in the universe can receive this gift. The early human embryo is never merely biological tissue, like a group of liver cells in a petri dish; at a minimum, such an embryo, with all its internal structure and directional-

ity, represents the privileged sanctuary of one meant to develop as a human person.

Q: Is there something that Catholics can do to learn more about medical ethics? Why is it so important?

A: When their parish or diocese offers lectures and presentations on these topics, especially when there are political issues at play like physician-assisted suicide, they should make a special effort to attend and ask questions. This is generally the fastest way to "get up to speed" on these issues.

Q: Do you think most people encounter at one time or another in their lives dilemmas surrounding medical ethics?

A: Yes, particularly when they have to deal with end-of-life decision-making either for themselves or for a loved one.

Q: What do you think will be the future of embryonic stem cell research?

A: It may be strictly a matter of time before the embryonic stem cells begin providing cures for human patients. At any point in the future, we could be greeted by a front-page news story announcing a dramatic "success," perhaps an embryonic stem-cell transplant allowing childhood diabetes to give up their insulin injections or paralyzed patients to walk.

That "success," however, would not change the ethical objections to embryo destruction or make an evil act a morally acceptable one—though it might increase the temptation for some to cross the objective ethical line.

St. George boys, girls head to states

St. George boys and girls basketball teams swept the Erie Diocesan Tournament on March 9. Both teams head to their respective state competitions.

At far left, St. George eighth-grader Matt Lupo puts up a shot between St. Stephen's players Joshua Puleo, left, and Luke Homer.

Below, Molly Mraz of St. George goes up for a basket in the face-off with the Irish of St. Michael School, Greenville. Watching her teammate is Isabelle Thompson (#3). Pictured from St. Michael School are Kathy Williams, left, and Leah Mariacher, center.

Photos by Mary Solberg



DEATH NOTICE

Sister Helen Jean Sullivan founded Mercyhurst conservatory

Sister Helen Jean Sullivan, 86, died March 8 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie. She was in her 67th year of religious life.

Throughout her life, Sister Helen Jean taught music, beginning at St. Justin School in Pittsburgh from 1947-48. She also taught at St. George School in Erie from 1950-52.

For more than 50 years, she kept music alive at Mercyhurst University, teaching from 1952 until her retirement in 2005. She directed the music department there from 1954-73, and then founded the conservatory for young people to learn music. In 2008, the conservatory was renamed in her honor: Mercyhurst

College's Sullivan Conservatory of Music.

She often said, "I was around music since I was three." Her parents took her and her brother to choir practice at church, and the four-piece often performed as a family.

She studied music at Mercyhurst University and earned a bachelor's degree in music with a major in voice from the New England Conservatory, Boston. Also, she

earned a master's degree in liturgical music from the University of Notre Dame and completed further studies in voice at the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

She maintained a fervent devotion to the church and religious life, living her consecration with great dedication, great love, acceptance and community involvement.

Born in Corry on March 24, 1927, she was the daughter of the late James P. and Helen (Lynch) Sullivan.

On Sept. 8, 1947, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent, Titusville, from St. Thomas Parish in Corry. She professed perpetual vows on June 21, 1953. In 1975, she celebrated

her silver jubilee; in 1998, her golden jubilee; and in 2008, her diamond jubilee.

Sister Helen Jean is survived by members of her religious community and several nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, James F. Sullivan.

Friends called at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Erie, on March 11. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel on March 12. A rite of departure took place at the motherhouse on March 13, with the rite of committal following at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Fund, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16507.

Tours to Italy

See the best of Italy and the town of your family roots in Abruzzo, Puglia, Calabria, Sicily, etc.

Customized tours for churches, clubs, seniors, family groups are also our specialty.

Call 1-800-829-2201
email: italiantours@aol.com
www.italianheritagetours.com
Doing tours for 36 years!

mi sauzi

Authentic Italiano

Hours:
Tuesday through Thursday, 5 to 9 pm
Friday and Saturday, 5 to 10 pm
NOW OPEN SUNDAYS! 1 to 5 pm

Reservations recommended
Please call us at 814-454-4533
27th & Myrtle Street, Erie, PA 16508
www.misauzi.com

Benedictines honored for role in Catholic education



CLARION—In conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, Benedictine Sisters of Erie were invited to Immaculate Conception Church in Clarion for a luncheon. The sisters were honored for providing Catholic education to families in the Clarion area for more than 100 years. Pictured, left to right, are: Benedictine Sisters Jean Wolbert, Cecelia Sullivan and Phyllis Schleicher; Father Monty Sayers, pastor; and Benedictine Sisters Marian Wehler, Mary Daniel Meahl and Mary Hoffman.

Villa students take top honors in PJAS



ERIE—Villa Maria Elementary eighth-graders Noah Bongiovanni and Olivia Heasley pose with their medals for perfect scores in the recent Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition. Seventh- and eighth-graders participated in PJAS, earning \$400 in cash prizes. Twenty-seven students earned first-place awards and six students earned second-place honors. Students who placed first will present their projects at the state PJAS competition in May.

Dress-down day nets nearly \$300 at Blessed Sacrament



ERIE—Students at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie collected \$274.60 in a dress-down day collection for the Patrick J. DiPaolo Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. Presenting the check to the chairman of the fund, Q. Gregory Orlando, is Sister Linda Fusco, SSJ, coordinator of the dress-down collections, far right; Melissa Novatnack, principal, far left; and Gino and Gianna Romeo, students at Blessed Sacrament and the niece and nephew of the late Patrick DiPaolo.

SPRING MUSICAL



Sponsored by Saint George School Parent Teacher Organization

Saint George Catholic School
Theater Department
Proudly Presents
DISNEY'S PINOCCHIO, JR.
SPRING MUSICAL

Directed by Nichole Mancuso,
Theater Director

Show Times:

Friday, April 4th 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 5th 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 6th 2:00 p.m.



© DISNEY'S MY SON PINOCCHIO JR. is the classic tale of timeless Giuseppe's little wooden puppet in green eye life. This musical, which tells the classic Disney story from Giuseppe's perspective, features the beloved classic songs "When You Wish Upon a Star" and "I've Got the Strings" tackling timely issues about what it means to be "the perfect star" – and what it means to be "a real father!"

Cost \$5.00/adult & \$3.00/student
Tickets are available at the door the night of the show!

Snow gets a good painting in Edinboro



EDINBORO—The fourth grade weekly religious education class at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro got creative with the snowfall this winter. Kids are shown here snow-painting valentines for their new pastor, Father Dan Hoffman.

Scout Sunday celebrated in Tionesta



TIONESTA—Father Joseph Kalinowski, CHC, pastor of St. Anthony Mission in Tionesta, joined Cub Scout Pack 111 and Girl Scout Cadet Troop 27066 in celebration of Scout Sunday. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Tim Carl, Allen Johnston, Zachary Carl, Logan Carl and Patty Johnston. In the back row, left to right, are: Father Kalinowski, Kathryn Johnston and Jenna Hunt.

Mercyhurst University helps with youth retreat



GREENVILLE—Ninth- and 10th-graders from St. Michael Parish/St. Margaret Mission attended an all-day retreat featuring MYRACLE (Mercyhurst Youth Retreats And Catholic Leadership Education). MYRACLE has Mercyhurst University students work together and plan retreats, traveling to various parishes throughout the Erie Diocese.

Carrying the gifts



GREENVILLE—Members of the kindergarten class at St. Michael School in Greenville were chosen to bring up the gifts at a Mass recently.

Each student was assigned a role within the Mass—from reading to being a gift-bearer to ushers—and then all performed a special song at the end of Mass.

Students prepare for this honor as each grade organizes and plans two Masses throughout the school year. Pictured, left to right, are: Logan McGonigal, Kyle Barger, Layla Salinas and Jacob Rust.

Stamina, skills tested at DCC



DuBOIS—An intricate set-up of bungee cords and a tubular frame tested the skills, stamina and cooperation of juniors at DuBois Central Catholic at a recent Leadership and Team Building Workshop. Alex Marshall guides the feet of Haley Anderson, as Samantha Liddle, Andrea Walters, Brianna Clyde, Bryanna Guthridge, Jack Garred and Angela Cardamone follow the orders given by fellow classmate Jared Kosko.

Couple speaks about Worldwide Marriage Encounter



PUNXSUTAWNEY—Frank and Maria McSteen of St. Cosmas & Damian Parish in Punxsutawney celebrated the benefits of Worldwide Marriage Encounter during Masses Feb. 8-9. They are pictured here with pastor, Msgr. Joseph Riccardo. For upcoming Marriage Encounter sessions, visit www.ErieRCD.org/fo_me.asp.

In the spirit of Pope Francis



SHEFFIELD—Father John Neff, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sheffield, presents a check for \$2,000 to Tom Dunn of the Sheffield Ecumenical Food Pantry. The money represents a grant from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie and a donation from St. Anthony Church. The funds will be used for a backpack program and also to provide food for people in the Sheffield area.

YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY

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

Midcoast Clock & Music Box Company, LLC
Roger Gordon, Master Clockmaker

We make house calls

SERVING THE ENTIRE ERIE DIOCESE WITH INTEGRITY
Professional Clock Repair Since 1977 / Two-year warranty
Toll Free 888-329-0309 814-897-8700 Erie

MIDCOAST & MUSIC BOX COMPANY
WWW.MIDCOASTCLOCK.COM