

Beloved priests will be missed

The Diocese of Erie pays final respects to Reverend Stephen A. Anderson and Monsignor John B. Hagerty, page 3.



FaithLife

Act of kindness

Meadville woman moved by outreach, page 3.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 14, 2013

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



- April 23 St. George, Martyr
- April 23 St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
- April 25 St. Mark the Evangelist
- April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

Confirmations

Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman will visit the following churches to offer the sacrament of confirmation:

Holy Redeemer, Warren — Mon., April 15 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Redeemer and St. Joseph in Warren; St. Anthony, Sheffield and St. Luke, Youngsville.

Our Lady of Peace, Erie — Thurs., April 18 at 7 p.m.

St. Agatha, Meadville — Fri., April 19 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Agatha, St. Brigid and St. Mary of Grace in Meadville.

St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville — Sat., April 20 at 4:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville and Good Shepherd, West Middlesex.

St. Michael, Greenville — Sun. April 21 at 11:30 a.m.

St. Luke, Erie — Mon., April 22 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Luke and St. Boniface in Erie.

St. Gregory, North East — Tues., April 23 at 7 p.m.

St. Tobias, Brockway — Fri., April 26 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville; St. Mary, Reynoldsville and St. Tobias, Brockway

St. Joseph, Sharon — Sat., April 27 at 5:15 p.m.

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney — Sun., April 28 at 11 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Brookville — Sun., April 28 at 4 p.m. Confirmation classes include Immaculate Conception, Brookville and St. Charles, New Bethlehem.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The Vatican has set the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations for April 21, the fourth Sunday of Easter, commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this year's celebration is "Vocations as a sign of hope founded in faith," underscoring the hope that vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life bring to the entire church. Visit the U.S. bishops' website at www.usccb.org vocations for resources to help families and clergy build a culture of vocations in homes and parishes.



Good Shepherd Collection

Next weekend, parishioners will be invited to make a donation to the Good Shepherd Collection, a vital effort that supports the retired, disabled and infirmed priests who have served the Diocese of Erie. Please consider a generous gift to this collection as a way of thanking the clergy who have been there at many touchstone events in the lives of their parishioners. Funds not only support the priest retirement plan and the diocesan residences for retired priests, but also help with long-term health care expenses for those whose savings are inadequate as well as provide for unexpected needs as a result of illness. Many priests go on serving well beyond the average retirement age for laity, and often help out at parishes even after they retire. The Diocese of Erie currently has 51 retired priests.



At Rome's cathedral, Pope Francis celebrates God's patience

Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS)—Celebrating his first Mass in the cathedral of Rome, Pope Francis called on Christians to trust in God's endless patience and mercy. "God always waits for us, even when we have left him behind! He is never far from us, and if we return to him, he is ready to embrace us," the pope said in his homily April 7 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran. The pope commented on the Gospel reading (In 20:19-31) for Divine Mercy Sunday, in which the risen Christ appears to St. Thomas and lets him touch his wounds, dispelling the apostle's doubts about Jesus' resurrection. "Jesus does not abandon Thomas in his stubborn unbelief," Pope Francis said. "He does

not close the door, he waits." "God is patient with us because he loves us, and those who love are able to understand, to hope, to inspire confidence," the pope said. "They do not give up; they do not burn bridges; they are able to forgive." In response, Pope Francis said, the faithful must show the "courage to trust in Jesus' mercy, to trust in his patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of his love." "How many times in my pastoral ministry have I heard it said: 'Father I have many sins,'" the pope said. "I have always pleaded: 'Don't be afraid, go to him, he is waiting for you, he will take care of everything.'" The Mass was the occasion for Pope Francis to take formal possession of the 'cathedra' (chair) of the bishop of Rome. Shortly after the start



Pope Francis receives his crosier from Msgr. Guido Marini, papal master of ceremonies, during Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome April 7.

of the liturgy, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, read a profession of obedience to the pope on behalf of the diocese. Then the pope sat on the raised marble chair in the basilica's apse, where he received representatives of his flock, including clergy and laypeople. The pope exchanged a few words with each, taking a bit of extra time with a Franciscan friar and a married couple accompanied by their four children. Following the late-afternoon Mass, the pope appeared at the balcony in the basilica's facade, where he briefly addressed a crowd of several thousand people, wishing them a good evening and urging all to "go forward together... in the joy of the resurrection." Before the Mass, Pope Francis was joined by

Rome's mayor, Gianni Alemanno, in a brief ceremony dedicating the square on the west end of the basilica in memory of Blessed John Paul II. Also on Sunday, the pope led a crowd in St. Peter's Square in praying the "Regina Coeli" at noon. Speaking from the window of his private office in the Apostolic Palace, the pope commented on the day's Gospel reading, observing how the apostles had taken courage from the resurrection. "May we too have more courage to testify to faith in the risen Christ!" he said. "We should not be afraid to be Christians and live as Christians. We should have this courage, to go and announce the risen Christ, because he is our peace, he has made peace, with his love, with his forgiveness, with his blood, with his mercy."

Bishop Persico celebrates first Chrism Mass as bishop of Erie

By AJ Czerwinski
Special to FaithLife

On Monday, March 25, The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico celebrated his first Chrism Mass as Bishop of the Diocese of Erie at St. Peter's Cathedral. Catholic parishes around the world offer the annual Chrism Mass, during which priests renew the promises made at ordination and the bishop blesses the oils that are used in sacraments throughout the year.

One of the most dramatic highlights of the Mass occurred as deacons processed through the assembly with the enormous urns filled with the oils hoisted onto their shoulders. Representatives of various ministries in which the oils are used then asked Bishop Persico to bless the oils.

Bishop Persico blessed the oil of the infirm, the oil of catechumens—used for baptism; and finally, the oil of chrism, which is used in baptism, confirmation and holy orders. Following ancient tradition, and joining bishops, archbishops, cardinals and the Holy Father, Bishop Persico breathed over the chrism—symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Among those present at the Mass were Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, priests, deacons and their wives, those in consecrated life, seminarians, school children and the laity. Bishop Persico, who enjoyed many years as a pastor in the Diocese of Greensburg prior to his appointment as bishop, used a portion of his homily to address his brother priests directly. "My brother priests, if all the baptized are to be living signs of God's love, how much more must we be such a living sign?" he asked. "After all, through the sacrament of holy orders, we are confirmed in a unique way to Christ as persona Christi—priest, teacher and pastor."

Quoting Saint John Vianney, patron saint of priests, he referred to the priesthood as "the love of the heart of Jesus." He then called the



presbyterate to a selfless love. "My brothers, the priesthood—our priesthood that we celebrate today—is not about us," he said. "It is about Christ and the love he reveals for the salvation of his people to whom he sends us to serve." In this Year of Faith, Bishop Persico encouraged all to reflect on the priesthood of Jesus and embrace every opportunity for evangelization. "So in, with and through Christ, each of us—the baptized—is anointed and sent forth to bring the glad tidings of God's love to everyone," he said. Thanking those present for the kind embrace and warm welcome he has received since being ordained as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Persico also drew attention to Rome.



Middle school students from St. Michael School in Greenville (above) traveled to Erie to participate in the Chrism Mass on March 25. Deacon Richard Brogdon (above right), of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie, was among those who helped carry the oils to the altar before they were blessed. Bishop Persico (above left) blessed the oil of the infirm, the oil of the catechumens and the sacred chrism.

"We are grateful to Almighty God for his gift to us in the person of our new Holy Father," he said, "Pope Francis, the vicar of Christ on earth." After the Mass, bottles of the blessed oils were taken to each parish in the diocese.

From northwest Pa. to Rome: Holy Week events united Catholics

By Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife

Holy Thursday

All eyes were on Rome when news broke that Pope Francis would forge a new path, choosing to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Casal del Marmo youth detention center. The fact that he was simply following a practice he had established in Buenos Aires spoke volumes about his ability to remain true to himself despite his new role. After washing the feet of ten boys and two girls, Pope Francis spoke to them in clear, simple language, asking, "Shouldn't we wash one another's feet every day? But what does this mean? That we must help each other, help one another. Sometimes I'm angry at someone," he said, "but...let it go. Forget it. And,



Pope Francis kisses the foot of a prison inmate during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at Rome's Casal del Marmo prison for minors March 28.

if someone asks a favor of you, do it. Help each other." He also told the students that as a priest and a bishop,

he must be at their service. "But it is a duty that comes from my heart," he said. "I love it. I love doing it because the Lord has taught me this."

Good Friday

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie held their 33rd annual peace pilgrimage on Good Friday, highlighting the need for an end to violence, war, abuse and discrimination, walking a unique 7-mile Way of the Cross beginning at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie and ending at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. Nine stops were chosen along the way to highlight various social injustices. "It renews hope," community members later reported. "Somewhere, somehow there is going to be a resurrection, even in the places of greatest injustices."



At 3 pm, most parishes throughout the diocese held Communion services. Bishop Lawrence Persico welcomed worshippers to St. Peter Cathedral, offering a reflection prior to the veneration of the cross. "The greatest proof of God's love is shown in the fact that he loves us in our human condition, with our weaknesses and our needs," he said. "Nothing else but the reality of God's love can explain this day. Nothing else can explain the mystery of the Cross. We turn our attention to the cross on which hangs Jesus, our crucified God," he continued. "A crucified God not due to a lack of relevance in the midst of a suffering world. No, a crucified God suffering with a broken world—suffering with victims of abuse, suffering with those afflicted with cancer, suffering with all those who grieve because of loss and death."



IN THE U.S.

Through pope's embrace, 8-year-old Rhode Island boy touches the world

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — By Easter Monday, it would be the shot seen around the world. But a day earlier, Christiana Gondreau could not have imagined that a chance encounter she and her 8-year-old son, Dominic, had with Pope Francis in the middle of St. Peter's Square following his first Easter Mass would touch the hearts of so many around the globe. While making his way in the popemobile through a sea of faithful estimated at 250,000, the newly elected pontiff smiled and waved as he offered Easter greetings to those gathered. At one point in his second journey around the square, on the way to delivering his Easter "urbi et orbi" message (to the city and the world), the white Mercedes transporting the pope stopped. He reached over to greet Dominic after a compassionate Vatican usher named Augustino had repositioned mother and son at a corner of the path so the pontiff could better see them. Pope Francis lifted Dominic, who has cerebral palsy, while embracing and kissing him. He also spoke to the boy before gently placing the child back into his mother's arms.



AP photo by Gregorio Borga
Pope Francis embracing 8-year-old Dominic Gondreau, who has cerebral palsy, captured the attention of people around the world.

After cautious start, Haiti church rebuilding program gains momentum

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church reconstruction in Haiti is moving forward at a faster pace after months of discussions as Haitian and American church leaders gain confidence in the process they established to oversee the massive rebuilding effort. Planning for two new projects in the earthquake-damaged capital of Port-au-Prince was approved in mid-March by the PROCHE. Joint Steering Committee overseeing the reconstruction, and the first church Assisi Church in Grand Goave, Haiti, in late some of the \$33 million donated by American parishioners was consecrated in February. But church leaders cautioned that the challenge of rebuilding churches, schools, convents and seminaries is so immense that it will take millions of dollars more in donations and years of planning before the dozens of structures destroyed in the powerful January 2010 earthquake will be replaced. "The problem is bigger than we can solve," said Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, a member of the steering committee. While 36 projects are underway and one has been completed, dozens more across the expansive earthquake zone remain to be tackled. Funds for planning the rebuilding of St. Louis King of France Church and Christ the King Church were the most recent to be approved under PROCHE, the Partnership for Church Reconstruction in Haiti. PROCHE is a joint effort among the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Haitian Episcopal Conference, Adveniat, which is the German bishops' agency for solidarity in Latin America and the French



CNS photo
Reconstruction continues at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grand Goave, Haiti, in late some of the \$33 million donated by American parishioners was consecrated in February.

ners received and passed on the flame from the paschal candle. They listened to the same words their brothers and sisters around the world heard that night, in readings from the Old and New Testaments. They renewed their baptismal vows and welcomed new members who were baptized into the community. Volunteers, such as those from Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon, right, enjoyed the moment as they surveyed the settings they had created in celebration of this high point of the liturgical year.

From northwest Pa. to Rome: Holy Week events united Catholics

HOLY WEEK, from page 1

Underlining God's love for us, Bishop Persico concluded: "As we look upon the cross this Good Friday afternoon, may we find hope in the midst of the crosses we carry. May we begin to see that out of death comes life. And may we believe with a deep and abiding faith that the generous and passionate love of God for us is close at hand."

Easter Sunday

As darkness fell over the Diocese of Erie, fires were lit and candlelight spread as parishio-

ners received and passed on the flame from the paschal candle. They listened to the same words their brothers and sisters around the world heard that night, in readings from the Old and New Testaments. They renewed their baptismal vows and welcomed new members who were baptized into the community. Volunteers, such as those from Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon, right, enjoyed the moment as they surveyed the settings they had created in celebration of this high point of the liturgical year.

bishops' conference to coordinate the reconstruction effort. Parishioners in the Diocese of Erie donated \$538,863 toward the rebuilding effort in Haiti.

AROUND THE WORLD

Pope expresses his closeness to victims of flooding in Buenos Aires

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Affirming his closeness to his "beloved Argentine people," Pope Francis offered his prayers for the victims of recent flooding in Buenos Aires and surrounding areas, urging government offices and private citizens to help those most in need. Unusually heavy rains in early April caused flash floods and flooding that were blamed for causing more than 50 deaths in and around Buenos Aires—where the pope had been archbishop—and La Plata. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, wrote in a message to the new archbishop of Buenos Aires, Archbishop Mario Aurelio Poli, that Pope Francis was deeply saddened to hear of all the damage caused by the flooding, was praying for the deceased and wanted everyone touched by the tragedy to know he was close to them. "At the same time, the Holy Father encourages civil and ecclesiastical institutions, as well as all people of good will, in a spirit of charity and Christian solidarity to provide the necessary help to those who have lost their homes or personal belongings," the message said.

Safeguarding creation expected to be major theme at WYD in Rio

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When hundreds of thousands of young Catholics gather with Pope Francis in Rio de Janeiro in the summer, reflections on safeguarding the environment will be part of the program. Like earlier editions of World Youth Day, the July celebration in Rio de Janeiro will include morning catechetical sessions and afternoon cultural events. "From the beginning of planning—under Pope Benedict XVI—we thought that a major theme in Brazil, known as 'the lungs of the world,' would have to be the environment," said Marcello Bedeschi, president of the John Paul II Foundation for Youth, a Rome-based organization that assists with World Youth Day planning. "We did not know that there would be a new pope and that in his first three major addresses, he would speak about safeguarding creation, not in political or ideological terms, but as a Christian obligation," Bedeschi said.



PEOPLE

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher remembered

Pope Benedict XVI greets former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during his weekly audience in 2009 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Thatcher, a major figure in British and world politics and the only woman to become British prime minister, died April 8 at the age of 87.



CNS photo

By the Way...

Congratulations to **Rev. Brother Peter Totleben, O.P.**, the son of **Alan and Janice Totleben** of Erie, who was ordained as a deacon at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. on March 9. A native of St. Jude Parish in Erie, Rev. Brother Totleben hopes to be ordained as a Dominican priest next year. He is a graduate of Cathedral Prep in Erie and earned a BA in mathematics and computer science at Penn State. The Dominican order is dedicated to the proclamation of the Word of God for the salvation of souls. Dominican brothers take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and live in community. Rev. Brother Totleben is one of over 6,000 Dominican friars worldwide.



Anne-Marie Welsh

Congratulations also to **Johnston's Evergreen Nursery** which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. This family-owned business is an asset to our diocese, employing 50 people who work 380 acres to produce trees, flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, perennials and more. Watch for a story on the annual tradition co-owner **Gary Johnston** and his daughter **Lori Follett** enjoy, walking through the fields to bless them each Palm Sunday. Here's to 60 more years!

The Diocese of Erie is now offering a Reader's Forum on its website. The plan is to share some of the columns and stories people send in that simply can't fit into the print publications created by the diocese. Newly posted is the latest column from **Amey Hill**, director of communications for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, discussing the work of **Sister Clare Christi Schiefer, O.S.F.** Sister Clare has served as president of the Pa. Catholic Health Care Association for 30 of its 50 years, and brings a wealth of experience to the many challenges facing Catholic health institutions today. Check out the forum at www.ErieRCD.org/readersforum.asp.

Good news on the *Faith* magazine front: **three new dioceses** are coming on board to take advantage of the same opportunity our diocese has enjoyed for the last nine years. Joining the fold are the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Diocese of Memphis and the Diocese of Lafayette, La. *Faith* Catholic, based in Lansing, Mich., continues to be one of the largest and fastest-growing publishers now with a combined circulation of 1.46 million readers enjoying 35 print publications.

Speaking of *Faith* magazine, plans for the **Year of Faith pilgrimage** the publication is organizing in collaboration with Unitorus, Inc., are moving along well. Fifty people showed up for an informational meeting about the pilgrimage and reservations are coming in quickly. Unitorus tells us rooms in Assisi are difficult to secure now that our new Holy Father has put the spotlight on St. Francis, but all were secured for the diocesan trip well before Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI announced his resignation. The \$100 early bird discount for reservations expires April 15, so if you want to join the group, today is the day to act. Visit www.ErieRCD.org/pilgrimage.asp for a detailed itinerary or call 800.777.7432 to reserve your spot on this journey to many spiritual and historical highlights of Italy. We went to print with our last issue before the **Mercyhurst women's hockey team** made its appearance in the NCAA Women's Frozen Four, but it was a thrill to see they ended up there for the third time in the last five years. The team has to be proud of finishing the season 29-7-1, just one victory away from matching the most single-season wins in the program's history.

Finally, each month the Vatican publishes prayer intentions for the pope. For April, Pope Francis' general prayer intention is "that the public, prayerful celebration of faith may give life to the faithful," while his mission intention is, "that mission churches may be signs and instruments of hope and resurrection." Let's keep these in mind.

Anne-Marie Welsh is serving as interim editor of *FaithLife*. Contact her at amwelsh@ErieRCD.org or 814.824.1167.

FaithLife
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie
Volume 9, Issue 7
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Member of the Catholic Press Association. Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie. Subscription \$10/year. For more information, call (814) 824-1161.
The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at St. Mark Catholic Center 429 East Greenview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call
 Doctor Robert Nelsen
Pastoral Assistance Coordinator
for the Diocese of Erie
814.871.7723
For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org click on *For the Protection of Children*

GOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
We say "thanks" to our retired diocesan priests for their faithful service to the Diocese of Erie. May the Good Shepherd collection provide for their needs for the Faith and Love they shared with us.
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Holy Land: May 27-Jun. 6, Jun. 3-13, Jun. 10-20 ...
Holy Land/Italy: Jun. 3-16, Jun. 10-23, Jun. 17-30, Jun. 24-Jul. 7, Jul. 1-14, Aug. 26-Sep. 8, Sep. 2-15 ...
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Briefly

Office of the Tribunal information sessions

The Tribunal will once again be traveling to offer sessions for those persons who are interested in petitioning for a declaration of nullity. Pastors are encouraged to personally invite members of their parishes who have been divorced and would like to remarry in the church to attend any of these meetings. The spring schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. — Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale
- Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. — Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake
- Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. — St. Callistus Parish, Kane
- Wednesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. — St. James Parish, Erie
- Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. — Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren

Life Issues: UN observer to speak in Meadville

UN observer and Venango County native Nicole Rudolph will offer, "A Look into Life Issues at the United Nations" at St. Mary of Grace Parish Center, 1085 Water Street in Meadville, on Mon., April 15 at 7 p.m. Her talk will highlight some of the issues being negotiated at the United Nations including abortion, reproductive health, sex education for minors and proposed legalization of prostitution. Rudolph's doctoral dissertation at the Sorbonne in Paris analyzes how religious voices are participating in these dialogues. The talk is part of the Crawford County Citizens for Life Education Series co-sponsored by the three Catholic parishes in Meadville.

Cardinal Arinze to speak in Latrobe this week

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze, a native of Nigeria, will speak at Saint Vincent Archabbey and Seminary during a two-day presentation on the four major constitutions of the Second Vatican Council April 17 and 18. His overview will provide a historical perspective regarding the impact the documents have had on the life of the church. Discussion will follow.

Cardinal Arinze, who attended the final sessions of the council, has served as president of the Vatican's Council for Interreligious Dialogue and as Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The talks will be held in the Fred M. Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College. Admission is free, but seating is limited, so reservations must be made by calling 724.805.2177. Reservations must also be made for the optional lunch. On Wed., April 17 at 5 p.m., Cardinal Arinze will celebrate Mass in the Archabbey Basilica. The public is invited to the Mass and no reservations are required.



Francis Cardinal Arinze

Bishop Persico to preside at prayers for vocations

The Spiritual Family, The Work, is hosting a vocation prayer vigil on Wed., April 24 at 7 p.m. at Gannon University's Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel, 520 Peach Street in Erie. The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, bishop of Erie, will preside at evening prayer and Benediction. The event will also include personal testimony by Sister Martina Capeans Ortega, FSO, "My Call to the Religious Life." Light refreshments will follow. For more information, contact Sister Kathleen Dietz, FSO, at 814.871.5756.



The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico

Registration open for Middle School Youth Rally

Middle school youth in grades 6-8 are invited to set their "Hearts On Fire" with their peers from around the diocese. This year's Middle School Youth Rally will be held at Kennedy Catholic Middle School in Hermitage, Pa., April 28. Doors open at 9 a.m. with the rally running from 10 to 5. Mercyhurst University's MYR-ACLE team will present talks, skits and games. Pat Brown and the Bandolios will lead praise and worship music. Other highlights include the sacrament of reconciliation, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, the Mercer County Life Truck, Photo Booth, a service project, lunch and a few surprises. Cost is \$15/person; registration forms can be found at www.onthevine.us. They can be mailed or submitted electronically. Everyone must be pre-registered to attend. Free T-shirts for all who register by April 22. Contact the Youth Office at 814.824.1218 or ktperston@ErieRCD.org with questions.



Meadville woman moved by outreach

By Abby Badach
Special to FaithLife

Bernadette A. Kutcher, D.O., began practicing medicine to help heal people. Little did she know that one of her former patients would become an instrumental force in healing her own spirit.

As she approached her 60th birthday, Kutcher's heart was heavy. For years, she had suffered from a brain disorder that made her lose awareness during violent, complex partial seizures. For a time, Kutcher even had two bodyguards to accompany her for protection.

"It wasn't the idea of getting older, that never bothered me," she said. "What was affecting me was the idea that the last decade of my life has been gone—like I had been living in a time warp. I felt like Rip Van Winkle."

Throughout many treatments, Kutcher relied on her friend—and former patient—Denise Readeance-Weitz for emotional support. In one phone call, a few weeks before her April 1 birthday, Kutcher pondered aloud to her friend: I wonder if any of



Photo by Anne-Marie Weib

Dr. Bernadette Kutcher of Meadville displays the cards a dear friend, Denise Readeance-Weitz, arranged to have sent to her in celebration of a milestone birthday. In her hand are photos of Readeance-Weitz.

them were patients I've lost touch with ever think about me? Readeance-Weitz listened. And then, she devised a plan.

A few weeks later, on March 19, Kutcher received a package in the mail. In it were 10 birthday cards from total strangers.

"They weren't your typical birthday cards," she said. "All of them had some kind of message written in them—and most of them had to do with relying

entirely of fresh flowers—complete with real birthday candles. In total, Kutcher was showered with nearly 75 birthday cards. In what was initially a time of great struggle in her life, Kutcher became overwhelmed by joy as total strangers took the time to send her messages of kindness and love.

"It has restored my faith in humankind," she said. "In a sense, all of these people became Good Samaritans to me."

In the Easter season, she noted, we often hear the message of Christ's unconditional love and the great power of laying down one's life for a friend. Kutcher said she sees that same unconditional love in the time and effort her dear friend spent organizing her birthday surprise. The gesture made Easter mean even more to her, she said.

"I never thought, way back then, that she would one day be my physician and the roles would be reversed," Kutcher said. "I realize now how deep our friendship is. She, in a sense, became the physician of my heart."

DEATH NOTICES

Father Stephen A. Anderson

The Reverend Stephen A. Anderson, 59, pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake, died on Monday, March 25, 2013, at the Meadville Medical Center, Meadville.

Father Anderson was born in Erie on September 25, 1953, the son of Albert Leroy and Dolores Jean (Gahr) Anderson. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School, Erie; Divine Word Seminary, Girard; and Saint Mark High School Seminary. He graduated from Gannon University in 1975 with a BA in German and later, in 1989, with a Master's degree in English. Seminary stud-

ies were completed at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, New York where he received a Master of Divinity degree.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 4, 1979 at Saint Peter Cathedral in Erie by the Most Reverend Alfred M. Watson.

Following ordination, he was assigned in June of 1979 as parochial vicar at Saint Callistus Parish in Kane, and in 1980 as parochial vicar at Our Lady

of Peace Parish, Erie. In July 1984, he was assigned to the faculty of Elk County Catholic High School where he taught German, English and theology. Subsequent appointments included chaplaincy ministry at Mercyhurst Preparatory School and Gannon University (1988-1991) and Mercyhurst University (1988-1998) where he also served as a member of the faculty. In 1998, he was appointed pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Americas, where he served until his death.

Father Anderson was predeceased by his parents, a sister, Mary Ellen Anderson and a brother, Philip. He is survived by a sister, Suzanne Anderson



Father Stephen A. Anderson

Monsignor John B. Hagerty

Monsignor John B. Hagerty, 83, died April 6, 2013 at Saint Mary Home at Asbury Ridge, Erie.

Monsignor Hagerty was born in Erie January 1, 1930, the son of Bert and Olive Thompson Hagerty. A 1947 graduate of Cathedral Preparatory School, Monsignor entered Saint Mark Seminary and Gannon University in September of 1947. He was assigned to Saint Mary Seminary, Baltimore, in September 1949, where he received a BA in philosophy. He was then appointed to Theological College and the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he received a Master's in theology. Post-graduate studies were taken at the University of Pittsburgh, Georgetown University and the University of Notre Dame.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1955 at Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie, by The Most Reverend Edward Peter McManaman. In May 1955, Monsi-

gnor Hagerty was assigned to Cathedral Prep and to weekend assistance at Saint James Parish, Erie.

In 1959, he was appointed dean of studies at Saint Mark Seminary and in 1968, appointed director of the seminary.

In 1972, he began a five-year appointment as headmaster of Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, where he also served as administrator of Saint Benedict Mission Church in Dagucashonda. Subsequent appointments included Saint Joseph Parish, Sharon (1977 to 1984), headmaster of Cathedral Prep (1984 to 1989), Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie (1989 to 1991), Saint Thomas Parish, Corry (1991 to 1997) and Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage (1997 to 2005).



Monsignor John B. Hagerty

He retired from the active ministry in February of 2005 but continued teaching Latin part-time to students at Blessed Sacrament and Cathedral Prep schools.

In 1970, he was designated a Prelate of Honor by Pope Paul VI. Monsignor Hagerty served on numerous boards, among them the Presbyteral (Priest) Council, the College of Consultors, Priest Personnel Board and the Board of Trustees at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, New York. In 2005, Bishop Donald Trautman appointed him Episcopal Delegate for Retired Priests.

He was pre-deceased by his loving parents, Bert and Olive Hagerty, and an uncle, C. Francis Hagerty. He is survived by his cousins Jerry, Mike, Chris, Adrian, Sean and Boo Hagerty, and by Ellen Hagerty, John and Julie Minton and Tim Clancey.

In a letter to a fellow priest but words applicable to all, he offered the following reflection: "My worth and yours, Tom—every priest—is not in our brains or our talent, but in our sanctity, or at least our attempt at it. Wherever you go, God is there. He is the one source and center of what you desire and need. You will find him all over the globe; your job will be to more firmly root him in the hearts of your people."

Visitation was at the H. David Boves Auditorium at Cathedral Prep and burial was on Tuesday, April 9 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Erie. The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Erie.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Monsignor John Hagerty Scholarship Fund at Cathedral Prep or the Monsignor John Hagerty Scholarship Fund at Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys, Pa., or the Shenango Valley Catholic School System, Hermitage, Pa.

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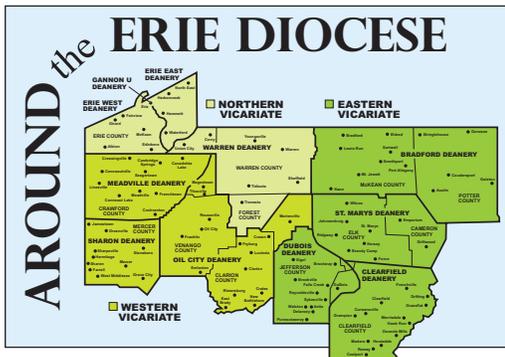
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Erie seminarian installed to the ministry of reader

ERIE — Joseph Janidlo, a first-year theology student at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, was one of 12 students installed to the ministry of reader by the Most Rev. Mark L. Barchak, bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, on March 18. Pictured from left are, Very Rev. Michael Kesicki, rector of Saint Mark Seminary, Erie; Joseph Janidlo; Bishop Barchak; and Very Rev. Timothy F. Whalen, rector, St. Vincent Seminary. Students studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Erie begin their journey with four years of study at St. Mark—a minor seminary—followed by four years of study at a major seminary. Janidlo's home parish is St. Patrick in Franklin. The son of Joseph and Margaret Janidlo, he is a 2008 graduate of Venango Catholic High School and earned his BA from Gannon in 2012.



Crusaders make it to states!

ERIE — Both the girls' and the boys' varsity basketball teams at Our Lady of Peace in Erie won berths in the state championships this spring. The girls first headed to Lancaster Catholic High School in Lancaster, where they brought home the third-place trophy; the boys then went to Pittsburgh March 22, where they finished in fourth place. The school held pep rallies for both teams, sending them off to the tournaments with tremendous support from students, faculty, staff and families.

Members of the girls' varsity team from OLP pictured at the state tourney, left to right are: (row 1) Emily Zukowski, Amanda Hamilton, Emily Shopene, Lindsey Frello and Emily Hamilton. Row 2: Zena Nieratke, Hannah Moffatt, Natalie Swantek, Victoria Sanders, Elissa Steiner and Renee Stoicov. Row 3: Coach Bob Shopene, Coach Tom Galleher, Coach Jason Steiner, Coach Mike Galleher and Father Jason Feigh.

Members of the boys' team who played in the state championship are, left to right: (row 1) Nicholas Heddrick, Christopher Smith, Joseph Coppola and Joseph Mischler. Row 2: Mark Majewski, Alex Douds, Jarod Wallen, Kevin Haight, Franco



Agnello, Drew Bleggi and Adam Wodarski. Row 3: Coach Jeff Baker, Robert Harris, Coach

Guy Fustine, Nathaniel Serafin, Adam Lawson and Coach Mike Douds.

Catholic Rural Ministry sisters offer retreat

PUNXSUTAWNEY — Religious education teachers and staff of St. Cosmas & Damian Parish in Punxsutawney attended a Lenten retreat on peace and forgiveness through God's love, based on the story of the prodigal son. Leading the retreat were Sister Tina Geiger, RSM, and Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministry in the Oil City Deanery. Those in attendance participated in prayer, song and self-awareness activities that enhanced their faith understanding. Refreshments and a light lunch were served by members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Rita #363.



Front Row (left to right): Sue DAhrouge, Elizabeth McKillop, Maryanne Rodgers, Mary Molinari, Brenda Rougeax, Karen Martino, Laura Jesse and Sister Marian Wehler. Row 2: Renee Doverspike, Paul Jelelek, Stefanie Neal, Joy Burke, Mary Neal, Larry Chenoga and Pat Rougeax.

Sisters prepare Easter treats for children

ERIE — The Sisters of Mercy in Erie joined the Congregation of the Divine Spirit in filling Easter baskets with delicious goodies for children at the Mercy Center for Women, Erie. Pictured with the baskets are Sister Rita Kartavich, R.S.M.; Kim Church, center intake specialist and program coordinator; Simone Davic, center child specialist; and Sister Kathryn Preston, R.S.M. The sisters are local leaders of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie.



Holy Redeemer students enjoy art demonstration

WARREN — Seventh and 8th grade religious education students at Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren enjoyed a Ukrainian Easter egg demonstration presented by Beth Jacobs right before the holiday. Teachers Michael Spisak and Arlene Papalia combined classes for the special event, during which Jacobs demonstrated the art which has been passed down through her family for generations. The eggs, which can take anywhere from several hours to 20 hours to create, feature intricate geometric designs including the triangle to symbolize the Trinity, diamonds representing knowledge and spirals to represent the mystery of life and death. The egg has served as a traditional symbol of rebirth, reminding Christians of the resurrection and eternal life.



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