



## 100th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating centenary of apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Fatima, Portugal



Two-part series on Fatima begins in this edition.

PAGE 3

# FaithLife

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 16, 2017

## Bishop's Easter Message

### Follow the risen Christ

Happy Easter to everyone in the 10,167 square miles that make up the Diocese of Erie. As your bishop for nearly five years, I have observed the risen Christ in our midst.

When I first came here from the Greensburg Diocese, I hardly knew anyone. There was a real learning curve as I started to meet the more than 200,000 Catholics who worship and minister in our parishes and attend our Catholic schools. I was a stranger in a new land, so to speak.



Bishop Lawrence Persico

But like the Apostles who first spread Jesus' message of peace, love and hope, I immersed myself in my role as your shepherd. I have been humbled by the knowledge that God is with us, just as he was when Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter morning.

I see Jesus in the hands of those who serve the men and women who come to our soup kitchens and overflow shelters. He is in the faces of the needy served by the various ministries of our Catholic Charities agencies.

The risen Christ is present in the children and adults who, throughout the year, come to our churches for the sacraments. They ask for the graces given in baptism, Communion, reconciliation, confirmation, holy matrimony, holy orders, and anointing of the sick.

Did you know that in our diocese last year there were 1,375 people baptized in the faith? That is inspiring on many levels, not the least of which is that Christ continues to draw people to himself and to his Father. In today's world, we need this Easter message more than ever.

When Jesus died on the cross, he knew he would continue to walk with us on our human journey. This good news is still very much a part of our world today—even in the disappointments, struggles, confusion and pain so often associated with our lives.

Jesus' presence abounds in the life and ministry of our church through wounded healers like myself and others called to be shepherds. It abounds in the lives of the faithful who share their love and compassion in simple gestures of caring.

Easter is when we discover our deepest purpose. Jesus rises and we follow him. We can make his life of love and service the pattern of our own lives. Only in humble service to our sisters and brothers is our faith made authentic and the depth of our love confirmed.

May the blessings of the risen Lord be with you this Easter season.

*Lawrence T. Persico*

Bishop of Erie

## Two seminarians installed to Ministry of Reader

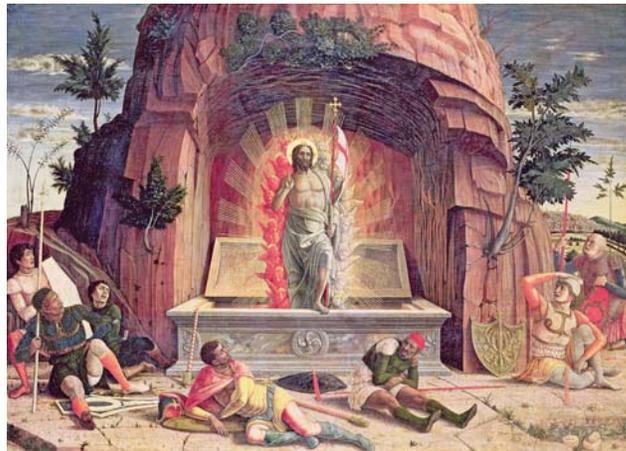


Seminarian John Heping, far left, with Father Edward Mazich, OSB, rector of Saint Vincent Seminary; Harrisburg Bishop Ronald Gainer; and seminarian Joseph Petrone.

LATROBE—Two Erie diocesan seminarians were instituted to the Ministry of Reader by Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg on March 29 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe.

John Heping and Joseph Petrone were among eight seminarians from Saint Vincent Seminary who were instituted to the Ministry of Reader. A candidate to the priesthood, at the end of his second year, petitions for and, if selected, receives the Ministry of Reader. This calls them to be servants of the living Word of God.

## EASTER IN ART



The risen Christ is depicted in the painting "Resurrection" by 15th-century Italian master Andrea Mantegna.

## Calvary Cemetery expands mausoleum

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

For those who operate cemeteries, Franklin's quote is an important reminder to always think ahead when it comes to space for burial and/or inurnment.

Calvary Cemetery, one of four cemeteries operated by the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries, recently completed expansion of one of its two mausoleums. A total of 168 niches, or columbariums, have been added, according to Linda Chrzanowski, family services representative at Calvary Cemetery and Mausoleum on West Lake Road in Erie.

Niches are 12-by-12-by-12-inch boxes designed for the respectful and public storage of cremated remains. An urn is placed in the niche behind glass or marble.

"There's always a need for space," Chrzanowski said. "People are choosing cremation more now."

Per person, the cost for a standard ground burial in a full casket at Calvary is about \$5,000, compared to about \$3,000 for cremation and ground burial. The average cost to put cremated remains in one niche in a mausoleum is roughly \$3,000.

Keeping in mind the continued need for expansion, Calvary officials last year recognized that its mausoleum on the west side had space that was not being used. Two 16-foot folding doors that separated the chapel from the mausoleum could be removed to allow room for more niches.

Calvary hired Schutte Woodworking in Erie to remove the doors and create two niche walls, 7 feet wide and 12 feet high. Steve Rimpa, owner of Schutte, said workers also built the openings for the niches. They were conscious of the look of the existing woodwork and color.

"We tried to make it look as if it basically always looked like that," Rimpa said.

Biondan North America, based in Toronto, created the



Urns begin to fill the new niches created in the Calvary West Mausoleum on West Lake Road in Erie.

Comparing Costs	
\$5,000	Full casket, standard ground burial
\$3,000	Cremation, ground burial
\$3,000	Cremation, mausoleum niche

actual niches, as well as the glass and marble for the final finish.

"We needed the inside space, so this gives people who have a loved one entombed at Calvary West the opportunity to also be there," Chrzanowski said.

For Rimpa and his crew, working at a cemetery requires sensitivity. They did not start construction until after Valentine's Day, when many people visit cemeteries.

Construction during the

regular work week required some adjustments when people came to place flowers or pray.

"We'd take a break or do a job outside during those times. People were understanding," Rimpa said.

Calvary Cemetery was consecrated as a diocesan cemetery in July 1921.

Other diocesan cemeteries are: Trinity, which opened in 1869; Gate of Heaven, in 1968; and Mary Queen of Peace, which was consecrated in August 1996.

## Pope horrified by 'unacceptable massacre' in Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis strongly condemned the shocking chemical attack in Syria that left some 70 people, including at least 10 children, dead.

"We are horrified by the latest events in Syria. I strongly deplore the unacceptable massacre that took place yesterday in the Idlib province, where dozens of civilians, including many children, were killed," the pope said April 5 before concluding his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Images of dead men, women and children lying on the streets provoked international outrage following the attack April 4 in a rebel-held area. Western leaders have accused Syrian President Bashar Assad and the country's military of perpetrating the attack, based on reports that warplanes dropped chemical bombs in the early morning.

Pope Francis encouraged those helping with relief efforts in Idlib province, and he appealed to world leaders to put an end to the violence.

"I appeal to the conscience



In his April 5 general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Pope Francis strongly condemned the chemical attack in Syria the previous day.

of those who have political responsibility at the local and international level, so that this tragedy may come to an end and relief may come to that beloved population who for too long have been devastated by war," the pope said.

In an April 5 statement, the

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington backed the pope's condemnation and his call to the international community, saying they were praying for an end to the carnage in Syria." The USCCB said the chemical attack "shocks the soul."

## News-makers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### ■ First Gypsy woman beatified

OXFORD, England (CNS)—A 23-year-old illiterate basket-maker who died in prison after giving birth to a child is the first Gypsy woman beatified by the Catholic Church. She was among 115 martyrs from the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War beatified at a March 25 Mass in Spain's Almeria Diocese.

In July 1938, despite being pregnant, Emilia Fernandez Rodriguez was given a six-year jail sentence for trying to shield her husband, Juan Cortes, from recruitment by Republican paramilitaries after they occupied Tijuola and closed its church. Sent to an isolation cell, she was left to die after giving birth to a daughter.

### ■ Teen plotted an attack on pope

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—Santos Colon Jr., 17, of New Jersey, pleaded guilty April 3 of plotting an attack on Pope Francis during the pontiff's visit to Philadelphia in 2015 during the World Meeting of Families.

In a statement, the U.S. Department of Justice said that Colon planned between June 30 and Aug. 14, 2015, to utilize a sniper to shoot the pope during his public Sunday Mass Sept. 27 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. He also planned to set off bombs in the surrounding area.

### Hong Kong gets Catholic leader



HONG KONG (CNS)—Carrie Lam waves March 26 after being elected Hong Kong's chief executive. Lam, a practicing Catholic and the candidate favored by China's communist leadership, was chosen as Hong Kong's new leader in the first such vote since 2014, when pro-democracy protests erupted over the semi-autonomous Chinese city's election system.



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

On Palm Sunday, a week ago, I awoke to a chilling news report on my cell phone.

ISIS had claimed responsibility for yet another terrorist attack. More than 40 Coptic Christians were killed and another 100 injured while worshipping at two churches in Egypt.

This, of course, was sobering news as we entered Holy Week. And today, on this joyous Easter Sunday, it seems to be a difficult thing to discuss.

Yet, terrorism is a reality of our times, no matter what the holiday or celebration.

ISIS has pledged even more attacks against Christians in the coming months. What other day than Easter can we claim hope as our ally? Jesus rising from the dead reminds us to continually place our faith in the saving power of God.

Pope Francis decried last week's bombings. He has pledged to continue his planned trip to Egypt April 28-29.

The Easter season is an ideal time in which to follow the pope's example and pray for efforts at peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

Blessed Mother is always trying to lead us to Jesus, her Son," Rose says.

For information about the trip, call Dean Rose at 814-868-8690.

Congratulations to Jeff Linn and Katie Tiefertal of Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools. Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor of St. Bartholomew Church in Sharpsville, and St. Bartholomew parishioner Greg Reichart of the Mercer County District Attorney's Office who were among last month's recipients of the 40 Under 40 Award from the Mercer County chambers of commerce.

The winners, all under age 40, are committed to business growth, professional excellence and community service.

Linn is the dean of enrollment and advancement at Kennedy Catholic, and Tiefertal is a first-grade teacher at St. John Paul II Elementary School.

Father Strickenberger says he was surprised by the honor, but that "it was a very nice and kind thing."



Katie Tiefertal and Jeff Linn

Sympathies to Deacon Joseph Cicero of St. John the Evangelist Church in Girard on the death of his wife, Betti Cicero.

Bishop Emeritus Donald W. Trautman celebrated his 55th anniversary as a priest on April 7.

Each year, he brings the album of his ordination—which took place in Austria, where he attended the seminary—to the office so he can share the joy of that special day with friends and colleagues.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife. Email: msolberg@ERICD.org Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERICDSolberg

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EVENTS

**Runners, walkers invited to Miles for Mercy 5K**

ERIE—The Mercy Center for Women invites runners and walkers to its Miles for Mercy 5K on April 23 at the Rotary Pavilion (across from Beach 7) at Presque Isle State Park. The race begins at 9 a.m.; the cost is \$25.

For registration and details, go to <https://runsignup.com> and search for "Miles for Mercy 5K." All proceeds benefit the women and children at Mercy Center for Women. For more information, contact Rachel at 814-455-4577 or email her at [rduchateau@mcwerie.org](mailto:rduchateau@mcwerie.org).

**Public invited to cathedral organ concert**

ERIE—The St. Peter Cathedral Concert Series at the cathedral in downtown Erie will feature concert organist Alan Slovenkay on the Cassavant organ April 23 at 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

**Church of the Beloved Disciple to host mission**

GROVE CITY—A parish mission will be held April 23-26 at Church of the Beloved Disciple, 1310 South Center St., Ext., Grove City. Father Bill Cieslak, a Capuchin with the Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley, Calif., and the Graduate Theological Union, will lead the mission on the theme, "Recalculating." Each evening begins at 7 p.m.

**Young men invited to St. Andrew Dinner**

ERIE—The next St. Andrew Dinner (men's vocation dinner) will be held at Our Lady of Peace School, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie, on April 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. This dinner is designed for young men interested in the seminary and priesthood. RSVP to the Our Lady of Peace office at 814-833-7701.

**Shop for Mom event scheduled in Sharpville**

SHARPSVILLE—The Sharpville Community Food Pantry, a ministry of St. Bartholomew Parish, is hosting its second annual Shop for Mom event April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, located at 311 West Ridge Ave., Sharpville. The event will feature more than 40 crafters and vendors, food, drinks and a gift auction.

**Bus trip planned to see 'Jonah' in Lancaster**

LAWRENCE PARK—St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence Park is hosting a bus trip May 2-3 to Lancaster, Pa., to see the Sight & Sounds biblical presentation of "Jonah." Call Marion Armstrong at 814-897-7707 for more information or to reserve a seat.

**Register now for Mid-Life/Life-Long Retreat**

ERIE—The Mid-Life/Life-Long Retreat will be held May 5-7 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie. This weekend focuses on life changes. The cost is \$175 for computers and \$250 for those who stay overnight. For information, contact Sister Rosanne Loneck, OSB, at [srosanne@mtsbenedict.org](mailto:srosanne@mtsbenedict.org) or call 814-899-0614.

**OLP to host Family Honor Program in May**

ERIE—Our Lady of Peace Parish will host the Family Honor Program on May 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the school cafeteria, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. The program assists parents of young children (birth to fifth grade) and those who work with young children, in the formation of faith, values and virtues.

Register at [www.familyhonor.org](http://www.familyhonor.org). Contact Kathleen Peterson at 814-833-7701 or at [Kathleen.Peterson@olp.org](mailto:Kathleen.Peterson@olp.org), or call Julie Ferraro at 814-836-1991.

**Contemplative Outreach plans retreat**

ERIE—Save the date for the Sept. 15-16 ecumenical retreat, sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of St. Benedict Monastery in Snowmass, Colo.

Father Menninger will lead the retreat at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

The retreat begins with a meet-and-greet Sept. 15 at 4 p.m., and will end the evening of Sept. 16. Attendees can commute from home or lodge overnight either in or near the facility.

For information on the retreat, contact Joe Sarbak at [jasarbak@gmail.com](mailto:jasarbak@gmail.com).

**Notice from the Diocese of Erie**

On Nov. 8, 2016, James Alan Reardon, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Erie, was dismissed from the clerical state by the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Because Mr. Reardon has now been removed from the clerical state, he is forbidden to function as a priest in the Catholic Church and should no longer present himself as a priest and not be admitted as a priest in the celebration of the sacraments. Such celebration of the sacraments would be gravely illicit and, in the case of marriage and sacramental absolution, nearly always invalid.

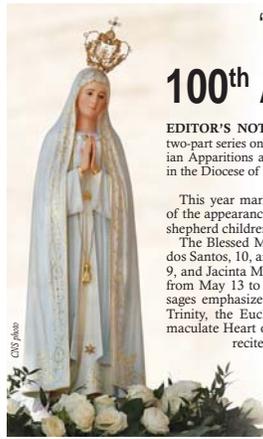
**The 40th Annual Rosary March**  
 Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m.  
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**GUEST SPEAKER**  
 David Carollo  
 Executive Director  
 World Apostolate of  
 Fatima, USA

Join us in the outdoor Rosary and Eucharist Procession  
**"Pray the Rosary everyday in order to obtain peace for the world." (O.L. of Fatima 1917)**  
 There will be Religious Articles, Books, Literature and Food.

In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be said in the Expo I Building.

For more Information, CALL Bill Moore at 814-765-0171

CNS photo

'Woman Clothed with the Sun'

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fatima

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of a two-part series on the centenary of the Marian Apparitions at Fatima and celebrations in the Diocese of Erie.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Mary to three young shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal.

The Blessed Mother appeared to Lucia dos Santos, 10, and her cousins Francisco, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7, once each month from May 13 to Oct. 13, 1917. Her messages emphasized the importance of the Trinity, the Eucharist, penance, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the need to recite the rosary for peace and the conversion of souls.

Although apparitions began in 1917, the children experienced their first supernatural

encounters the year before. They saw an angel who encouraged them to pray and to make sacrifices for the reparation of sin.

The angel's appearance prepared them to see the coming vision of what Lucia described as "a lady clothed in white, brighter than the sun, radiating a light more clear and intense than a crystal cup filled with sparkling water lit by burning sunlight."

At least 4 million people a year visit Fatima, with more anticipated for the century.

Several events and special Masses are scheduled in parishes throughout the Diocese of Erie.

See that list in the April 30 edition of FaithLife.



Fatima's three secrets

Our Lady gave the shepherd children three secrets, which consist of a series of apocalyptic visions and prophecies:

• **A VISION OF HELL**

*"The light seemed to penetrate the earth and we saw, as it were, a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened and burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves, together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear."*

—Written by Sister Lucia

• **END TO WAR AND THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA**

*"I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world causing wars and persecutions of the Church. ..."*

—Words of the Blessed Mother



CNS photo

Jacinta Marto, 7, Francisco, 9, and their cousin Lucia dos Santos, 10, were photographed during the time of the apparitions in 1917.

• **PENANCE**

*"At the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire, but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated toward him from her right hand. Pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'"*

—Written by Sister Lucia

Q&A

Father David Poulson,

spiritual director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Diocesan Division,

discusses the impact of Fatima.



**Q:** What does this 100th anniversary mean to you and the larger church?

**Father Poulson:** The thing that's always attracted me about the message of Fatima is that over the course of my lifetime, I've seen the things Our Lady prophesied being fulfilled.

Our Lady had predicted the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II, the spread of Communism, wars and persecution of the church, and the church and the Holy Father would have much to suffer. Several entire nations would be annihilated.

But in the end, she said, "My Immaculate Heart will triumph and Russia will be converted and a period of peace would be granted to the world."

That promise of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart and a period of peace being granted to the world was something that always inspired me to do what Our Lady had asked, which is mainly to offer up the sufferings involved in carrying out our daily duties and to offer those up to the conversion of sinners and to pray the rosary every day for peace in the world.

**Q:** The world's not yet in that period of peace.

**Father Poulson:** No, it's not. I don't think anybody any more places their hope in human means to bring about world peace.

We really need Our Lady's intercession and God's intervention to bring it about.

**Q:** The secrets revealed at Fatima can be scary. Do you agree?

**Father Poulson:** Aspects of the messages are scary. They were scary to the children...the vision of hell, for example. But it's all avoidable by people living a life that is faithful to the Gospel and to the teachings of Jesus, keeping the Commandments and living a life of faith and prayer.

**Q:** What would you say to people who are skeptical of the apparitions at Fatima?

**Father Poulson:** The children themselves asked Our Lady to perform some sign so that everybody would believe. That's why Our Lady did the "Miracle of the Sun" on Oct. 13, 1917. [The miracle was viewed by 70,000 or more people in the pasture area known as the *Cova da Iria* and was reported to have been seen from as far as 25 miles away.]

**Q:** Then it's a matter of faith?

**Father Poulson:** It always is. The advantage that we have in the 21st century is that we can look back and see that what Our Lady prophesied has happened step by step in the order that she predicted. We have even more reasons to trust in this message than the three children had.

**Q:** What is the message for the 21st century?

**Father Poulson:** Our Lady came to warn us about world wars, communism and the persecution of the church, but at the same time to give us hope that people's souls can be saved and peace in the world is free for the asking. All we have to do is pray for them.

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

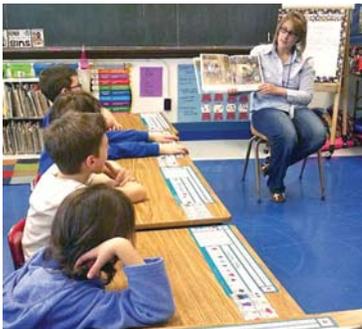


## 140 attend parish family retreat



FRENCHTOWN—About 140 people participated in the March 26 parish family retreat presented at St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown. People from both St. Hippolyte and its secondary mission church of Our Lady of Lourdes attended the event led by Myracle, the Mercyhurst University youth retreat and Catholic leadership education team. The retreat was sponsored by St. Hippolyte's parish council. Pictured, from left, are: **Joyce Tarr, Katie Mattis, Mike Dale, Steve Dale and Alan Cumpston.** Katie Mattis, age 90, and Alan Cumpston, age 4, were the oldest and youngest at the retreat.

## Farm Bureau visitors read to students



CLARION—As part of Ag Literacy Week, the Clarion, Forest and Venango counties of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau purchased agriculture-related books to share and donate to local schools within those respective counties. **Allison Bechner** of the Farm Bureau is pictured reading *Before We Eat: From the Farm to the Table* to first-graders at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion. **Linda Stahlman**, also of the bureau, visited the school.

## St. Luke School hosts annual science fair

ERIE—Several students and science teachers from St. Luke School in Erie pose for a photo after capturing silver and gold medals in the annual diocesan science fair for fifth- and sixth-graders. St. Luke hosted the event this year.

Pictured in the bottom row, from left, are: **Brady Godlewski, Trey Thompson, Jaclyn Donovan, Annabelle Greissinger and Morgan Oljeski.** In the top row, from left, are: teacher **Rachel Burbules, Lillian Drabic, Ella Fedor, Abigail Marinucci, Daniel Dausey, Tyler Firman, Eric Cox, Aidan Baldauf** and teacher **Sue Coverdale.**



## 116 parishioners from Punxsutawney area participate in retreat



PUNXSUTAWNEY—St. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney recently completed its 33 Days to Morning Glory Parish Retreat. Eighty parishioners participated in nine different groups that met for six weeks. An additional 36 completed the retreat independently. Partici-

pants gathered after the Saturday evening Mass on the Feast of the Annunciation to pray the Consecration Prayer, followed by a reflection and a special blessing by **Msr. Joseph Riccardio**, pastor, pictured kneeling in the front. The celebration concluded with a catered meal in Winkler Hall.



## Student Mass begins sesquicentennial at St. Patrick School

FRANKLIN—Students at St. Patrick School in Franklin kicked off the school's sesquicentennial Feb. 22 with a student-led Mass celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico. Afterward, the bishop stayed for an Italian-style lunch with **Msr. John Herbein**, pastor, as well as deacons, faculty, students and parish staff. **Deacon Kyle Seyler**, a St. Patrick School graduate, was in attendance. He will be ordained to the priesthood in June. In the photo, eighth-grader **Andrew Burda** presents **Bishop Persico** with a spiritual bouquet.

**POSITION OPENING** DIOCESE OF ERIE

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