

Marielle's mural

Marielle LaFaro, with help from the Holy Spirit, painted a huge mural at St. George School. **PAGE 3**



FaithLife



POPE TWEET
Pope Francis
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"Humility saves man; pride makes him lose his way."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 19, 2015

Special Collection



The Diocese of Erie annually holds the Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection on Good Shepherd Sunday. All parishes and missions are asked to contribute to the fund that assists retired diocesan clergy.

Pope announces Year of Mercy

BY CINDY WOODEN | CNS

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis this month released a document officially proclaiming the 2015-16 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

"If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected," the pope wrote in "Misericordiae Vultus," ("The Face of Mercy"), which is the "bull of indiction" calling a Holy Year to begin Dec. 8.

Standing in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica April 11, Pope Francis handed copies of the document to the archbishops of the major basilicas of Rome and to Vatican officials representing Catholics around the world.

In his homily at vespers, the pope said he proclaimed the Year of Mercy because "it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

The boundless nature of God's mercy—his willingness always to forgive anything—has been a constant subject of Pope Francis' preaching and is explained



CNS photo

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis embraces a man at the end of a weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

in detail in the document, which outlines some of the specific projects the pope has in mind for the year.

Pope Francis asked that all dioceses around the world designate a "Door of Mercy" at their cathedral or another special church or shrine, and that every diocese implement the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative on the Friday and Saturday before the fourth week of Lent.

In Rome the last two years, the pope opened the celebration with a penance service in St. Peter's Basilica and churches around the city were open for the next 24 hours for confessions and Eucharistic adoration.

The pope said he will designate and send out "Missionaries of Mercy" to preach about mercy; they will be given special authority, he said, "to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See."

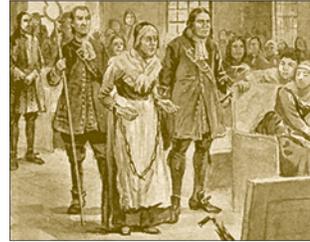
And he urged all Catholics to spend more time practicing what traditionally have been called the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Preaching mercy, Pope Francis said, is not the same as ignoring sin or withholding correction.

Saints & Witches



Father Damien of Molokai is the second cousin to Pat Nurss, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Oil City.



Rebecca Nurse (original spelling in the 1600s) is depicted in this rendering of her trial as a witch. She is the seventh great-grandmother of Jerry Nurss of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City.

Ancestors of Oil City couple ministered to lepers, hanged for witchcraft

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

The roots of Jerry Nurss's family tree are tangled up in the infamous Salem Witch Trials. But his wife, Pat, shares her bloodline with a saint.

The Oil City couple—celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary this August—quip that their disparate backgrounds have kept them together all these years.

"If you go back a couple of centuries or more, people definitely wouldn't talk about the witch connection, but today when we mention it to anyone, we make a joke out of it," says Jerry, whose seventh great-grandmother, Rebecca Nurse (original spelling), was hanged for witchcraft on July 19, 1691.

"I'm protecting him," teases Pat, whose second cousin is St. Damien of Molokai, the Flemish-born priest who ministered to lepers in Hawaii in the late 1800s.

Even the Nurss' parish priest, Father Justin Pino, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Oil City, has found their family backgrounds historically interesting.

"In Salem, they had to fight for justice. St. Damien had to fight for dignity for lepers. The connections are fascinating," Father Pino says.

Jerry Nurss learned about his seventh great-grandmother's hanging through genealogical research done in England in the 1950s.

According to historical reports, Rebecca Nurse was a 71-year-old widowed mother of eight who was falsely accused by young girls for being responsible for their odd behavior. The town doctor in Salem Village, now Danvers, Mass., bowed to Puritanical fear, concluding that the girls' "horrid fits" were



Photo by Mary Solberg

Pat and Jerry Nurss enjoy the reams of documents and photographs about their family lineage, which includes a saint and a seventh great-grandmother hanged for alleged witchcraft.

a direct result of witchcraft.

Rebecca Nurse was dragged from her bed chamber and put on trial. Forty neighbors signed a petition recommending she be released; her children fought for her life. Initially, a jury found Rebecca innocent, but then it reversed its decision after her accusers began to experience "terrifying torments."

Rebecca Nurse was hanged on a summer day in 1691. Her children secretly buried her in an unmarked grave, but 200 years later her progeny erected a memorial in the family graveyard, now the location of the Rebecca Nurse Homestead.

Jerry and Pat Nurss, both in their 70s, traveled to Salem in 1993 to see the homestead and mark the 300th anniversary of the end of the Salem Witch Trials.

"I don't believe she was a witch any more than I believe I am," Jerry says. "It's not an honor that she was hanged, but I still feel honored that I am part of her family; it's my bloodline."

Pat Nurss grew up in Oil City, always proud of her family heritage, too. But hers isn't as difficult as her husband's. According to Pat, her grandfather's first cousin was Joseph DeVeuster, known today

as St. Damien of Molokai. He was canonized in Rome on Oct. 11, 2009. Pat Nurss is St. Damien's second cousin.

"I feel very honored. He must have been a really kind-hearted person to live his life helping other people," Pat says. Joseph DeVeuster was born Jan. 3, 1840, in the hamlet of Tremelo, Belgium. When his older brother came down with typhus and could not leave for mission work in Hawaii, the young Joseph offered to go instead.

He reached Honolulu in March 1864 and two months later was ordained a priest—taking the name Damien—with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts.

Eventually, Father Damien developed a keen interest in helping those with Hansen's disease, or leprosy, at a settlement at Kalawao on the island of Molokai in the Makalana Peninsula. The peninsula, surrounded by rough seas and 2,000-foot cliffs, became an ideal place for isolating people with leprosy.

According to family archives, Father Damien offered hope to lepers, helping them build houses, plant trees and construct a water system. He pushed the Hawaiian government and his church for supplies and resources, attracting worldwide attention.

"I feel so blessed to be related to St. Damien," Pat Nurss says, looking at her husband. "It's so amazing with his great-grandmother accused of witchcraft and my cousin a saint."

Persecution of Christians denounced

Religious plea for intervention

ROME (CNS)—Consecrated men and women from around the world issued a message April 10 "to urgently denounce" the persecution of Christians and to urge the international community to "implement concrete interventions" for peace.

The message was signed by Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Institutes of Apostolic Life, on behalf of the nearly 1,300 Catholic religious gathered for an international congress in Rome. The participants at the April 7-11 conference represent dozens of religious congregations and thousands of religious men and women worldwide.

"We feel particularly close to

those in the world who are suffering because of their faith in Jesus Christ and we express our communion with all consecrated men and women who, in the various peripheries of the world, suffer because they are Christian and consecrated," said the message.

The religious thanked their suffering brothers and sisters for "their witness of fidelity" to their vocation and mission and for remaining "close to those who suffer," assuring them of their prayers. They also said they join Pope Francis and the whole church in praying "so that peace, the gift of the risen Lord, can overcome hatred and violence and so that all people can recognize themselves as brothers and sisters."

Pope criticizes slaughter of Armenians

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, Pope Francis has said that atrocities from the past have to be recognized—not hidden or denied—for true reconciliation and healing to come to the world.

However, Turkey's top government officials criticized the pope's use of the term "genocide"—citing a 2001 joint statement by St. John Paul II and the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church—in reference to the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians during their forced evacuation by Ottoman Turks in 1915-18.

Turkey rejects the accusation of genocide, and the government called its ambassador to the Holy See back to Turkey "for consultations" April 12, the same day Pope Francis made his statement. The government also summoned Archbishop Antonio Lucibello,

munio to Turkey, to lodge a complaint. Before commemorating the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis greeted the many Armenian faithful who were present, including Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

The pope lamented the continued forced expulsions and atrocious killings of Christians in the world saying, "Today, too, we are experiencing a kind of genocide created by general and collective indifference" and "complicit silence."

Humanity has lived through "three massive and unprecedented tragedies the past century; the first, which is generally considered 'the first genocide of the 20th century,'" struck the Armenian people, he said, quoting a joint declaration signed in 2001 by St. John Paul and Catholicos Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



■ Make-A-Wish request: Boy asked to be a priest for a day



CNS photo

AFFTON, Mo.—Father Nicholas Smith helps Brett Haubrich, a sixth-grader diagnosed with a brain tumor, with his vestments before Mass on Holy Thursday.

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—Make-A-Wish requests often involve meeting athletes, attending sporting events or traveling to amusement parks or beaches.

When it came time for 11-year-old Brett Haubrich of St. Mark School in Affton, Mo., to make his wish, he not only listed none of those things but had no request at all.

"He didn't want anything," explained his mother, Eileen. "They had to keep asking him, 'What would you like to do? Do you want to meet anybody? What do you want to be when you grow up?'"

The answer to the last question became part of his wish—what Make-A-Wish calls "wish enhancement" to complement the main wish. Turns out he wants to be a priest, a doctor or an engineer, in that order.

On Holy Thursday, at the invitation of St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, Brett took his place beside the altar at Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis as "Priest for a Day." A sixth-grader diagnosed with a brain tumor last summer, Brett served two Masses during Holy Week and held the book for Archbishop Carlson for prayers after the homilies.

■ Catholic Mutual creates safe environment service for dioceses

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS)—Omaha-based Catholic Mutual Group—the primary provider of property and casualty coverage for the Catholic Church in North America—is rolling out an online data platform designed to help dioceses, parishes and others maintain safe-environment records and consolidate training information. Piloted over

the past several months in the Archdiocese of Omaha and being implemented now in several other U.S. dioceses, the platform will be available to the more than 100 dioceses in the United States, 17 dioceses in Canada and more than 200 religious orders and institutions covered by Catholic Mutual.

Called Safe Environment Solutions, the platform offers a one-stop site for people to register for training to help provide an environment for children that is safe from any type of abuse, read articles on the subject or watch a certification video. Administrators can send emails from the platform with news and reminders, or post information on the site. Since 2002, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has required safe-environment training among those entrusted with children in the name of the church.

■ Bishops urge Kenya to beef up security after university attack



CNS photo

NAIROBI, Kenya—A woman holds a rose as she prays during a memorial vigil in Nairobi, Kenya.

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—Kenya's Catholic bishops, urging citizens to remain united, asked the government to beef up security, especially in all educational institutions, and to address the breakdown in its intelligence system.

Responding to an attack that left at least 147 people dead at Garissa University College, the bishops urged the government to "get to the bottom of this problem of terrorism and radicalization with a view to proactively stemming such incidences from recurring."

"It is saddening that many Kenyan youths are being radicalized to commit acts of terrorism against their fellow citizens," the bishops said in a statement dated April 8, six days after the attack by the Somalia-based al-Shabab militants.

Dying with dignity is essential



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Thirty-two years ago this month my mother died of cancer. Five years ago, my father, at age 93, succumbed to various maladies of old age. Both had very different kinds of deaths.

His was peaceful; hers was painful and frightening. The difference was palliative care, introduced more widely in recent decades to those enduring end-of-life issues associated with terminal illness.

When my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1979, she couldn't say the word "cancer," and none of us kids truly understood how advanced hers was until the end came in 1983.

Nobody talked about things then like they do now. In fact, my mother didn't have a living will that is so common today. As a result, when this terminal cancer patient was taking her last breaths, several doctors and nurses surrounded her bed and tried to resuscitate her with electric paddles.

I watched that scene in utter horror. Part of me wanted her to live forever, but another part said, "Let her go in peace, please!"

Fast forward to 2009. As my elderly father lay dying at Saint Mary's Home at Asbury Ridge, I took great comfort in the palliative care team that guided us through the various stages of his death. Medication, while seemingly aggressive, relieved his discomfort and helped him breathe. All seven of us children had a chance to hold his hand, talk to him, believing through his occasional smiles and movements that he heard us. And maybe he did.

Having seen both kinds of death, I am a strong advocate for palliative care. So is Pope Francis, who last month told members of the Pontifical Academy for Life that palliative care "is the demonstration that the human person always remains precious, even when elderly or afflicted by illness."

The biblical commandment to honor our parents requires us to be respectful and caring of our aging population. "Medicine," the pope said, "has a special role within society as testimony to the honor due to an elderly person and to every human being. Evidence and efficiency cannot be the only criteria governing the work of doctors, nor can the rules of healthcare systems and economic profit. A state cannot expect to profit from medicine."

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference also has made palliative care an important agenda item in the wake of recent national efforts by the Hemlock Society to legalize assisted suicide.

"The human person always remains precious, even when elderly or afflicted by illness."

—Pope Francis

According to the PCC, there is a great need for pastoral education about end-of-life decision-making and palliative care. The hope is that people will come to understand the difference between doctor-prescribed suicide and ending unnecessary life support.

From personal experience, I can attest to the fact that none of these issues are easy. That's why it would benefit everyone to educate themselves about palliative care. Talk to a health care professional or discuss it with the experts at one of our Pennsylvania health care facilities that have well-organized palliative care programs.

Our Sunday Visitor Institute recently launched an end-of-life issues website and video that is worth a look. Visit the site at www.catholicendoflife.org.

Pope Francis encourages young medical students to specialize in palliative care, "which does not have less value on account of the fact that it is not 'life-saving.'"

But it is life-giving, if you believe that Jesus awaits us.

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

Catholic education needs tax-credit bill



Guest Commentary
A.B. Hill

Providing a quality education for our children is the most critical investment we can make for our future. As Pennsylvania's lawmakers debate and discuss the spending plan for the commonwealth's 2015-16 fiscal year, they will have to consider where to put our money.

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) are two programs proven worthy of investment.

Both programs are funded by companies that contribute to scholarship organizations in exchange for a tax credit. The longstanding EITC program has given more than 450,000 scholarships to help students attend the school of their choice, including Catholic schools. The three-year-old OSTC program has given nearly 9,000 more special scholarships, particularly for income eligible students who live in communities with the lowest performing public schools.

EITC tax credits are often depleted on the first day of their availability. OSTC credits are also exhausted, and every scholarship organization has a waiting list of potential scholarship recipients. The need for more credits, to help more parents pick the best school for their children, is evident. Demand is strong.

Representative Jim Christiana (R-Beaver, Wash-

ington) is the prime sponsor of House Bill 752 which would increase the EITC to \$170 million and OSTC to \$80 million. There is strong bipartisan support for expanding EITC and OSTC.

Senator Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), Democratic leader, called the expansion of the tax credit programs a "win-win." At a luncheon in Pittsburgh he told EITC supporters, "This is more of a program to benefit students and the business community. It's not full-blown school choice. It's providing options and programs for some students."

A generation of students who went to the school of their choice with EITC scholarships have demonstrated its successful track record. Catholic schools are the largest group of non-public schools in Pennsylvania. Most Catholic high schools boast graduation rates at or near 100 percent. Of those graduates, more than 90 percent go on to attend either a two- or four-year institute of higher learning. OSTC scholarship students will soon live up to their peers. These "customers"—our students and their parents—are indeed satisfied.

All parents should be able to choose a school that best suits their children. Financial realities often preclude parents from having that choice. Parents who pay their school taxes deserve some benefit from those taxes, in the form of some assistance in the exercise of their right to choose a nonpublic school, if that is best for their children. EITC and OSTC are making a difference for many families and for our communities. It is a smart investment to allow more to have that choice.

Urge legislators to "invest in success" by cosponsoring and voting in favor of House Bill 752. You can find Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network links at www.pacatholic.org.

A.B. Hill is the director of communications for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, Harrisburg.

Survey shows troubling attitudes about contraception, abortion

U.S. Millennials on Contraception:

- 71% Artificial birth control is morally acceptable
- 9% Morally wrong
- 14% Depends on situation
- 78% Legal contraception should be readily available on college campuses

U.S. Millennials on Abortion:

- 33% Legal in most cases
- 22% Legal in all cases
- 27% Illegal in most cases
- 15% Illegal in all cases

White Catholic Millennials:

- 51% Abortion should be legal in all or most cases
- 49% Abortion should be illegal in all or most cases

Hispanic Catholic Millennials:

- 55% Abortion should be illegal in all or most cases

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Catholic News Service
Graphic by FaithLife

WASHINGTON (CNS)—U.S. millennials, born between 1980 and 2000, don't want to be pigeonholed into categories. They are predominantly religiously unaffiliated and not identified by any political party. They are more ethnically and racially diverse than the general population.

The group of 18- to 35-year-olds doesn't like to be labeled as "pro-life" or "pro-choice." They mostly approve of the use of contraception and they support policies to make contraception more widely available and affordable.

"While these results are concerning, it is also an opportunity to illuminate the teachings of the Catholic Church on the beauty and dignity of human sexuality," says Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life for the Diocese of Erie.

The findings are from a study released March 27 by the Public Religion Research Institute, which surveyed 2,314 young adults online in February.

The study, "The 2015 Millennials, Sexuality and Reproductive Health Survey," looked at how race and religion shape attitudes on these topics.

FaithLife The bi-weekly newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Erie.
St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16504
Publisher: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Welsh Website: www.ErieRCDO.org
Editor: Mary Solberg Volume 11, Issue 7
Graphic Designer: Rich Papalia
Advertising Manager: Brenda Williams Member of the Catholic Press Association
Advertising Designer: Elizabeth Butterfield
Subscription: \$10/year
Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa.
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center
Erie, Pa. 16504
E-mail: FaithLife@ErieRCDO.org
Editorial: 814-824-1171
Advertising: 814-824-1168
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News Briefs

Create healthier vegetable gardens

ERIE—St. Boniface Parish in Erie will offer a seminar on vegetable gardening on Earth Day, April 22, at 6 p.m. in the Zapolski Meeting Room at the parish, located at 9367 Watsburg Road. The seminar will be presented by master gardeners Mike Bailey and Ellen DiPaolito and will include tips on better production, pest control, proper planting guides and other helpful topics. For more information, contact Deacon Tim Good at 814-823-4805 or 814-739-2986.

Made2Worship schedule for 2015

ERIE—Made2Worship gatherings invite individuals and families to come together for prayer, sharing, music and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by candlelight. Evenings are held the first Wednesday of the month (May to November) at 7 p.m. at St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie.

Confessions are heard, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship follows each event and a prayer team is available after each gathering to minister to those with specific prayer requests. Music is provided by Daniel Cabanillas and the M2W Band. This year's Made2Worship schedule is: May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, and Nov. 4.

Corresponding men's and women's gatherings meet monthly as an offshoot of the Made2Worship ministry. Women meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at St. George Church, with Father Nicholas Rouch as spiritual director. Men meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., also at St. George, with Msgr. William Biebel as spiritual director. For more information, contact Linda at ImageTrinity.com or call 814-490-3160.

Run, walk for Neighborhood Art House

ERIE—The 8th Annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk & Team Challenge to benefit the Neighborhood Art House in Erie will be held June 6, beginning at 9 a.m.

The course begins at the Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St., Erie, continues through downtown Erie, and ends at the Neighborhood Art House. The event supports after-school and summer arts programs for Erie's inner-city youth.

For more information, call 814-455-5508 or visit their website at NAH@neighborhoodarthouse.org.

Totus Tuus—Youth Discipleship Movement

Upcoming dates held 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

TTA: Totus Tuus Academy CTT: Camp Totus Tuus

May 4	TTA Shenango Valley	Good Shepherd West Middlesex
May 17	TTA Warren	St. Joseph Warren
May 18	TTA Erie	St. Mark Center Erie
May 27	TTA St. Marys	ECCHS Chapel St. Marys
June 21-26	CTT-High School Grades 9-12	St. Philip Linesville
July 19-24	CTT-Middle School Grades 7-8	St. Philip Linesville

TTA: Open to grades 7-12 Free to attend No registration
CTT: \$275 per camp Register online at www.onthevine.us

Love and mercy for those who need it most

BY CAROLYN Y. WOO | FOR CNM

The first time I read the phrase "O happy fault" in the special Easter proclamation, or Exsultet, I pondered about God's love for his people—from the start of creation, through infidelities, rejections, destruction. God persisted in his love for us. That love is more powerful than anything, including our sinfulness.

He will reach us one way or the other. In our deepest sinfulness, he eveners each sending, his son in the flesh to bring us back. If Adam's fall made necessary

God's ultimate sacrifice of love, well, we can say, "O happy fault." While we may never be worthy of God's love, it's also true that we can never be unworthy of it. This is the point of the cross on which Christ suffered for everyone. We need not keep our distance from God because of our imperfections and failures. Christ comes for the lost coin, lost sheep, lost son, for the adulterous woman.

I wish my father had comprehended this. Born about 100 years ago in China and educated as a young boy in a Catholic boarding school, he became a Catholic. I doubt if the catechesis and the environment could really have fostered a deep faith in him.

While my father did not practice the faith, he made sure all of his children received the sac-

raments and were enrolled in Catholic schools. Each Sunday, he would drive us to Mass, but he never went inside the church. The only time I asked why he stayed away, he mentioned that his past decisions and life choices would not be in line with the Catholic Church.

He did not try to justify his actions. He assumed that God would not approve of a person like him. The last five years of his life were difficult, and he had regrets. On my father's last ambulance ride, he expressed his remorse to Gaga, a beloved servant who had cared for the family for over 30 years.

For those like my father who think that God has given up on them for their transgressions, they can find solace in the lives of the faithful, such as Trappist Father Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day

or Father Henri Nouwen. Each came to know and love God deeply, all the more because of their failings. Respectively, one had a child out of wedlock, the other an abortion and the last had pride.

To remind us that mercy is the Gospel message, Pope Francis has proclaimed a Holy Year of Mercy, from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

He calls us to do this by "welcoming the repentant prodigal son; healing the wounds of sin with courage and determination; rolling up our sleeves and not standing by and watching passively the suffering of the world."

I cheer for this if it brings one person such as my father back to the joy of God's boundless love.

Woo is president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services.



Carolyn Y. Woo

Mural masterpiece divinely inspired

FAITHLIFE staff

Marielle LaFaro says the Holy Spirit inspired her to paint a 960-square-foot mural in the cafeteria of St. George School in Erie.

As the school's seventh- and eighth-grade theology teacher, LaFaro spent her entire Christmas break drawing and painting brightly colored images that reflect the importance of the Eucharist.

"More than the bread they eat in the cafeteria, the students need a message about the bread that does not fail them and does not decay: the Eucharist," LaFaro says. "And that's the central theme of the wall: the Bread of Life."

The walls on opposite sides of the cafeteria now envelop students in a kind of glow. On one side are colorful images of birds surrounding a monstrance atop the world, on the other is a bright yellow crescent moon with the words of Mother Teresa, "The hunger for love is much more difficult to satisfy than the hunger for bread."

Continuing the universe theme, LaFaro drew multi-colored planets with various quotes: "Whoever eats this bread will live forever (John 6:50)" and "This bread of the strong gives me all the strength I need" (St. Faustina). Principal Lawrence Neubauer is grateful for the much-needed



Photos by Mary Solberg

Marielle LaFaro stands in front of a portion of the 960-square-foot mural she created. Inspiring quotes fill the planets.

painting of the cafeteria walls, but mostly he calls it a testament to LaFaro's faith.

"It certainly reminds our students each and every day what it means to be Catholic," Neubauer says.

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Sunday, May 3 at 3 p.m.
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Rev. Marc J. Solomon
Pastor of Christ the King
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Pray the Rosary everyday
In order to obtain
peace for the world* (O.L. of Fatima 1917)
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Greenville students know their history



GREENVILLE—Middle school students from St. Michael School in Greenville participated in the regional competition of National History Day at Westminster College. Seventeen of the students will now compete at the state level at Millersville University in May. Pictured in the front row are: Evan Cianci, Jacob Johnson, Ryan Campbell, Patrick Belback and Thomas Rainey. In the middle row are: Lee Groce, Alex Harpst, John-Michael Yursic, Joseph Pfleger, Luke Faber and Paul Morelli. In the back row are: Hannah Leonard, Sophia Geving, Caroline Hoovler, Cassie Hockett, Hannah Brewer, Alaina Harpst, Katie Addison and Madison Murphy. Students prepared for National History Day under the supervision of teacher Patrick Matusz.

SOAR students capture honors at Science Olympiad



HERMITAGE—Fifth- and sixth-graders who belong to the Students of Academic Rigor (SOAR) program at St. John Paul II Elementary School and Kennedy Catholic Middle School competed in the Science Olympiad at the Penn State Shenango campus this spring. The students captured honors in eight out of 16 categories of competition. Pictured, left to right, are students Santina Masters, Maddy Aszalas, Emily Powell, Julian Hudson, Andrew Volkay, Ava Coates, Talia Morgenstern and Asia Morgenstern.

Seton School proud of PJAS winners



MEADVILLE—Fifteen budding scientists from Seton Catholic School in Meadville recently ventured to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 10 competition at Penn State-Behrend. Of 15 Seton students who participated, 12 garnered first honors and three received second honors. Also, seven of the students received special awards in addition to their first-honor recognitions. Those who earned first honors will advance to May's state competition at Penn State University. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: students Lauren Fletcher, Nina Williamson, Katie Lynn, Jillian Ball, Cambric Longo, Grace DiGiacomo and Carleigh Murphy. In the back row, left to right, are: teacher Cathy Gorman, and students Marcus Rust, Joe Schupp, Alexis Abbott, Lauren Byers, Justin Hall, Gwenn Melvin, Liam Reese and Noah Guanzon.

St. James students win history contest



ERIE—Two St. James School students in Erie won the 2014-15 American History Essay Contest sponsored by the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This year's topic was, "A Child's Journey Through Ellis Island." Pictured, left to right, are seventh-grade teacher Paula Pacinelli, seventh-grader Garrett Glowacki, sixth-grader Quyen Phan, and sixth-grade teacher Yvonne Astemborski.

Bishop Persico blesses Gannon athletes



ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico took a few moments in March to bless members of the men's and women's basketball teams and the wrestling team at Gannon University. The basketball teams both played at the NCAA Atlantic Regionals the weekend of March 20-21. Three members of Gannon's wrestling

team competed in the NCAA Division II National Championships. Bishop Persico is pictured at top, center. At his right is Father Michael Kesicki, associate vice president for Mission and Ministry at Gannon.

Photo by Joe Matts

Silly socks make for fun day



CLEARFIELD—St. Francis School in Clearfield recently held a "Silly Sock Day" to collect socks for the local Salvation Army. Students were permitted to wear silly socks with their school uniforms for a donation of new socks. A total of 314 pairs of socks were collected and donated to help families in need.

Prince of Peace Center benefits from school food drive



HERMITAGE—Students at St. John Paul II Elementary School in Hermitage conducted a spring food drive to benefit the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell. Students brought in canned and packaged goods every day for a week, collecting more than 800 non-perishable food items. The classroom that collected the most was awarded \$100, to be used for instructional purposes. However, the winning classroom (Katie Tiefenthal's first-graders) decided to donate the \$100 to Prince of Peace in its efforts to provide for those in need.

St. Luke student aces PJAS



ERIE—Eighth-grader Margaret Kuzma of St. Luke School in Erie participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in March at Penn State Behrend. She received a perfect score, along with a scholarship of \$200 toward the cost of participating in the state competition in May. Margaret's experiment was titled, "Which form of vitamin D3 dissolves better?"

History comes alive at White House



WASHINGTON, D.C.—DuBois Central Catholic Middle School's eighth-graders pose outside the White House on a recent field trip to Washington, D.C. The trip was part of the middle school's social studies curriculum. Students visited various rooms inside the White House and then went on to tour such sites as the World War II Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel SUMMER PROGRAM
Looking for a safe and fun atmosphere for your child this summer? Registrations are now being accepted for our Summer Program.

DATE June 8th to Aug. 14th (closed July 4th)
DAYS Monday-Friday (Wednesday Field Trips)
HOURS 7-5:30 p.m.
AGE Grades K-6

NEW THIS YEAR, PRE-SCHOOL Must be age 4 by June 1

REGISTRATION There is a \$30.00/child, \$40.00/family NON-REFUNDABLE FEE due at the time of registration.

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