

Look to these sources for coverage of the April 27 canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II:



Twitter: @2popesaints



SiriusXM, channel 129: The Catholic Channel Presents: The Making of a Saint will feature special programming starting Monday, April 21, through Sunday, April 27. On April 27, the Catholic Channel will offer live coverage of the canonization Mass, celebrated by his Holiness Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, starting at 3 a.m. ET.



The Pope App (free download)



EWTN Global Catholic Network will broadcast events celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy from the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. Learn how Popes John Paul II and John XXIII lived mercy and how you can, too. The program airs live at noon ET, Sunday, April 27, with an encore at midnight. Canonization Mass will be aired live at 3:30 a.m. ET Sunday, April 27, with primetime encores of the event that same day at 7 p.m. ET, and again at 11 p.m. ET, Monday, April 28.



Facebook at #2popesaints. This is the official page of the upcoming canonizations of Blessed Pope John XXIII and Blessed Pope John Paul II.



YouTube: 2popesaints

**POPE TWEET**  
Pope Francis on Twitter @Pontifex  
"Only trust in God can transform doubts into certainty, evil into good, night into radiant dawn."

## Sweet Easter treats



Six-year-old Roman Luniewski of Erie contemplates what to eat first at the annual Easter Market at Holy Trinity Parish in Erie. He spent weeks helping his mom, Edith, bake cookies and sweet breads for the occasion. Parish volunteers sold 123 dozen pierogi, hundreds of loaves of bread, nut rolls, 1,000 Easter cut-out cookies and 960 chruszki, a deep-fried Polish cookie.

## Bishop's Easter message

### Jesus has risen and walks with us today

Happy Easter to all!  
Today is a day of complete joy...the joy of the living Gospel. Jesus has risen and walks among us just as surely as he did 2,000 years ago. The sacrifices of Lent give way to new life. We see it in the flowers sprouting from the ground after this particularly blustery winter. We feel it in the warmer air that embraces us. This new life is a manifestation of God's love for each one of us. Jesus has risen from the dead—like the first buds of spring—and shouts, "Here I am!"



Bishop Lawrence Persico

Christ's resurrection ensures that he will remain with us every day of our lives on this earth, and in eternity to follow. He left the tomb behind and walks with us as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciples did not recognize Jesus right away; they were immersed in their grief after Calvary.

We can relate to this, can't we? We've all experienced our own private Calvary, a place where we can't see clearly through our despair. We think Jesus has left us. We think he's dead. We think he's gone forever. But then we experience an act of genuine love. Someone shares food with us, clothes us, listens to us, and we realize that Jesus is right by our side.

After Jesus rose from the dead, Mary Magdalene encountered him, thinking he was a gardener. But she saw who he really was when he gently called her name. The disciples first recognized Jesus when he shared a loaf of bread with them. We come to know God in such acts of gentleness and magnanimity.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, encourages us every day to share this love and joy with each other. The world has been inspired by Francis' preferential option for the poor and suffering. He sees the risen Lord in every person he meets, whether disabled, sick, rich or powerful.

It is Easter! Jesus has risen and indeed walks among us. Let every day be a day of new life, promise and hope for you.

*Lawrence T. Persico*  
Bishop of Erie

# Catholic Charities Ball 2014

## Get in the swing for charity

Mary Solberg  
FaithLife

Sharon Sitter, 39, is a Spanish teacher in the Iroquois School District.

Ben Speggen, 29, is the editor of *Erie Reader*.

Dan DeLoe, 52, is a butcher at Good Cents market in Erie.

Emily Mosco Merski, 31, is an attorney with Vendetti & Vendetti law firm and an assistant Erie County public defender.

The foursome have one thing in common despite their varied ages and professions: they all like to dance, especially if it's for a good cause. They found themselves in Sitter's basement one recent evening rehearsing for the celebrity dance segment of the 19th annual Catholic Charities Ball on May 16.

"We're in it to win, so we're going to do a lot of practicing," jokes Speggen, who is one of the local notables scheduled to compete in the popular dance contest at the Charities Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

He's paired with Sitter, a part-time dance instructor who last year won first place with her partner, Perry Wood, executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Speggen calls himself "a blank slate" when it comes to dancing, so he's trusting Sitter's expertise over his lip-biting, thumbs-out dance shtick.

"That's all I've got," Speggen says.

As for DeLoe, when he isn't cutting meat at the grocery store, he's practicing his dance moves these days. He has been paired this year with local celebrity Mosco Merski.

"If this is for charity, then it's a good thing," DeLoe says.

Neither Mosco Merski nor Speggen have ever competed as dancers. Putting themselves out there—in front of an expected 550 attendees—is daunting but worth it, they say, because of the money being raised for the numerous organizations and programs served by Catholic Charities.

According to Emma Lee McCloskey, executive director of diocesan development for the Diocese of Erie, the Charities Ball raised nearly \$120,000 last year. After expenses, 100 percent of the proceeds were distributed to families and individuals of all faiths in the diocese who were most in need.

"I think Catholic Charities is such an incredibly important organization for our community," Mosco Merski says. "It reaches out and provides essential services for those most in need in our community. As a young



Ben Speggen, *Erie Reader* editor, and Sharon Sitter practice for the celebrity dance segment of the Catholic Charities Ball, scheduled for May 16.

Photos by Mary Solberg.

professional in Erie, it's part of my responsibility to give back."

Mosco Merski and Speggen are among nine local celebrities participating in this year's Charities Ball. Others include: Ferki Perati, executive director of the Jefferson Education Society; Doug Massey of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership; Matt Zinna of BKD CPAs and Advisors; Erin Fessler of the Erie Community Foundation; Ashlee McGeehan, news reporter with JET24/FOX66; Michele Brugger Orlando of Orlando Funeral Homes; and Colleen Stumpf, an attorney with the Quinn Law Firm.

All will be doing a single-swing number with trained dancing partners. They will dance to Pharrell Williams' chart-topping tune, "Happy," a 3-minute, 50-second song that requires a 1-2 rock step. All the couples will be on the dance floor at the same time, but the women celebrities and their partners will be competing only against the other women celebrities, while the male celebrities will vie only against the other male celebrities.

McCloskey first introduced the celeb-

erity dance segment to the Catholic Charities Ball in 2008 when she started watching the popular TV show, "Dancing with the Stars." Connie Shoop of Connie's Ballroom Dance Studio in Erie provides two complimentary dance lessons to each of the celebrity dancers.

"After that they practice as little or as much as they choose before the competition," McCloskey says.

Dancing aside, the Charities Ball is expecting a record-breaking crowd this year, with 550 people attending. Since assuming leadership of the Charities Ball eight years ago, McCloskey has seen increased levels of generosity from sponsors, host circle members and individuals.

"Our donors appreciate our minuscule fundraising costs of less than 1 percent at Catholic Charities and the fact that 88 cents of every dollar we raise goes directly to help people," McCloskey adds.

In the past eight years, more than \$409,000 has been distributed to men, women and children most in need in the 13 counties of the diocese. Those are figures that impress everyone, including host circle chaircouple, Charlie and Annie Rutkowski, and honorary chaircouple, Patty and Terry Cavanaugh.

There are more than 30 major sponsors of this year's event. Erie Insurance Group has committed \$10,000 as a platinum circle donor.

Says Terry Cavanaugh, who is president and CEO of Erie Insurance, "Obviously, you look at what the Catholic Church does for this community and it's great to offer opportunities for people who aren't as fortunate."

The Rutkowskis say it's imperative to host an event like the Charities Ball. Says Annie Rutkowski, "It's a time to celebrate community, to celebrate giving and the work that's done by Catholic Charities throughout the diocese."

For reservations or information about the Charities Ball, go to [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) or call 814-824-1258.



Patty and Terry Cavanaugh, at left, are the honorary chaircouple of the 19th annual Catholic Charities Ball. They are pictured here with this year's host circle chaircouple, Charlie and Annie Rutkowski.

## Passing on the faith

### Planning process begins in diocese

FaithLife staff

The Diocese of Erie is planning for the future.

When Bishop Lawrence Persico proposed the development of a strategic plan for the Diocese of Erie last year, members of the administrative cabinet and clergy in leadership positions gave their wholehearted support. The bishop has made good on his promise to oversee a thorough and thoughtful planning process with the help of professional leadership.

Valerie Bacik, director of planning and strategic initiatives at Gannon University, and Dr. Rick Prokop, assistant professor of marketing at Gannon, will lead the endeavor. They will work with a preliminary leadership team to help shape what is likely to be a multi-year effort.

Bacik and Prokop designed a planning readiness survey for the team and facilitated a work session on April 2,



## Video screens, chemical toilets: Rome prepares for canonizations

ROME (CNS)—Rome city officials expect about 3 million people to gather April 27 for the canonizations of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II.

Presenting the city's plans for dealing with pilgrims, Ignazio Marino, the mayor of Rome, and other officials met the press April 1. Their plans include:

- Video screens will be set up in Piazza Navona, Piazza del Popolo and outside the Basilica of St. Mary Major for those wanting to watch the canonizations away from the Vatican crowds.
- April 26-28, the city's sanitation department will have in place more than 1,000 chemical toilets near the Vatican, along Via dei Fori Imperiali and in other areas.
- Both of the city's subway lines will run nonstop from early April 26 until just after midnight April 28. The 64-bus line, which runs from the main train station to the Vatican, also will run 24 hours a day the weekend of the canonizations.
- 2,630 volunteers from the civil protection department will be deployed April 26-27 to help with crowd control.
- 4 million bottles of water will be distributed free to pilgrims.
- A field hospital will be set up near the Vatican, in addition to 13 first aid stations staffed by 81 first aid teams; 106 ambulances will be on standby. The city also is erecting five "mother's tents" for nursing or changing babies.



Poet Lena Allen-Shore holds an undated photo of herself with Blessed John Paul II, whom she considered a dear friend. A health problem has prevented her from attending the April 27 canonizations in Rome.

## Pope blesses migrant cross

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—During his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square April 9, Pope Francis began a new series of audience talks on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

At the audience, the pope blessed a 9-foot tall, 3-foot wide wooden cross made out of the wreckage of boats carrying migrants from northern Africa to Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island.

The 130-pound-cross is to be carried around Italy "to bring a message of solidarity and peace between communities, parishes, cultures, cities and faiths," the Vatican newspaper stated.

Last July, the pope visited Lampedusa after seeing headlines describing the drowning of immigrants at sea. The island is often the first port of entry for migrants from Africa.



Pope Francis kisses a cross made from wooden boards from boats used by migrants.

## Couple sees God at work after mudslide in Washington

ARLINGTON, Wash. (CNS)—Ron and Gail Thompson are grieving their neighbors who are lost or missing in the March 22 Oso mudslide. Faith and lots of love and prayers are helping them stay strong.

"I've just been holding the hands and hearts of my neighbors who are still waiting for word of their loved ones," said Gail Thompson, a parishioner and secretary at Immaculate Conception Parish in Arlington, whose neighborhood was wiped out in the disaster.

As of April 11, the official death toll stood at 36, with 10 people still missing. Only two families in their neighborhood of 27 homes haven't suffered the loss of loved ones, Ron Thompson said.

Ron and Gail, along with Gail's elderly mother, Mary Jira, missed the slide by perhaps 15 minutes. They had left home to purchase food for the youth of their parish who were coming the next day for a work party.



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

There's something new on my family's Easter dinner table today. Next to the Urba-niak ham, my sister's famous scalloped potatoes and an assortment of colored eggs is a butter lamb. Up until a week ago, I never knew butter lambs existed, but thanks to Edith Luniewski of Holy Trinity Parish in Erie, it is now a new family tradition.

A butter lamb is not a cookie, as I had thought. Edith was kind enough to set me straight when I visited the Holy Trinity Easter Market last week. The lamb is created by taking a slab of butter and pressing it into a form shaped like a lamb. She and her family, including six-year-old son Roman, decorate it with eyes, a red ribbon around its neck and a cross. Kept refrigerated, it should last as long as any butter, you just don't want to eat the non-edible decorations.

The Easter Market at Holy Trinity was eye-opening in more ways than the butter lamb. The women of the parish take their baking seriously at the holidays, especially when it comes to their renowned deep-fried Polish cookie, chrusciki, along with nut rolls, blessing breads and pierogi. Erin Koszegi and Paige McLarin, both seventh-graders at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Erie, spent one recent day off from school rolling chrusciki in powdered sugar.

Frigid temperatures have finally given way to Easter lilies, but several Catholic parishes in the City of Erie are still reflecting on the perspective they gained by serving the homeless during this long, brutal winter.

Many of the 200 volunteers from St. John the Baptist, St. Luke, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Holy Rosary churches who cared for the homeless decided to gather for a fellowship meeting and a Mass on April 5.

The group even produced a video of their experience, says Mary Hoffman, who along with Mary Ellen Lieb, coordinated the overflow homeless shelter for two weeks at St. John Parish in March.

"It is powerful to step in another person's shoes," Hoffman says. "It's just phenomenal. It's like living your faith."

Congratulations to the Villa Maria Academy Visual Arts Department for winning the "Best in Show" title at the recent D-10 Biennial Art Invitational Competition. Villa competed against 20 schools in the area. Villa senior LuLu Ye won the 2D "Best in Show" for her painting titled "Insatiable." Jurors also selected senior Abby Quinn for an honorable mention for her mixed media painting, "Statutes of Liberty."

Greensburg Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt, formerly the vicar general of the Diocese of Erie, has submitted his letter of resignation on the occasion of his 75th birthday March 27. Canon 401 of the Code of Canon Law states that a diocesan bishop who has completed his 75th year of age is requested to offer his resignation to the pope. Pope Francis may accept Bishop Brandt's resignation quickly or delay accepting it.

The call to religious life is taking on a decidedly technological air. Consider the new website of the Sisters of Bon Secours, an international religious congregation of Catholic sisters based in Mariottsville, Md. The website, www.LifeAsASister.org, offers blogs, chat rooms and an array of multimedia tools that allow women to journey at their own pace as they explore whether the consecrated life is for them.

The website asks this thought-provoking question: "In a world where you can be anything you want, religious life is often not talked about as an option...so, why be a sister?"

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

# Autism calls Christians to love and support



## Guest Commentary

Michael Adamus

What is autism? This is not an easy question to answer since autism spectrum disorder and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. Its manifestations are as varied as the people who are diagnosed.

The Autism Society states that these disorders "are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors." In more laymen's terms, autism affects one's ability to interact easily with others.

Some people with autism are able to communicate but cannot follow a typical pattern of communication. They may seem rude or uncooperative. Others on the more severe end of the spectrum are unable to communicate at all. They may seem distant and unable to focus, but that's really not accurate. Their brains are simply processing too much information all at once.

What can we, as Christians, do to respond to this growing segment of the population?

We should love people with autism as we love anyone else. If there's someone with ASD in your parish, make an effort to welcome them. Don't be offended if they are not openly accepting at first. It will take time to build trust. Some people with autism have attention issues and may get up and walk around during Mass. Don't be upset by this behavior. The person with autism isn't trying to be disruptive; he or she is just having trouble focusing.

April is National Autism Awareness Month. This is a good time to visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org). Another way to show support this month is to replace your porch light with a blue light, the color for autism awareness.

Landmarks across the country and around the world are joining with average homeowners and small businesses to "Light it up Blue" for autism.

In our own diocese, the Erie Bicentennial Tower and Mercyhurst University's O'Neil Tower are going blue this month.

Don't let our care and concern for those dealing with autism end on April 30. There is a challenge that needs all of our support and love...every day of the year.

Michael Adamus is the director of Disabilities Ministries and the Ministry with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.

## Here are a few facts from the Autism Society:

- Autism affects 1 in 68 children.
- Autism affects 1 in 42 boys.
- Autism prevalence figures are growing.
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average.
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

# A saintly connection

Pope canonizes Quebec bishop who oversaw what is now the Diocese of Erie

CNS and FaithLife staff report

VATICAN CITY—In April, Pope Francis declared three new saints for the Americas, pioneers of the Catholic Church in Brazil and in Canada, one of whom had jurisdiction over the 13 counties that now make up the Diocese of Erie.

François de Laval, French bishop of the Diocese of Quebec from 1674 to 1688, was declared a saint, along with José de Anchieta, a Spanish priest of the Society of Jesus, and Maria de la Encarnacion (nee Marie Gavarri), a French Ursuline sister who is known as the Mother of the Canadian Church.

Bishop Laval had been the vicar apostolic of New France, the precursor to the Diocese of Quebec, which included what is now the entire Diocese of Erie, from 1658 to 1674. The Diocese of Erie was under the jurisdiction of Quebec until 1760.

"This canonization is a revelation that shows us that the faith here in the Diocese of Erie just didn't spring up out of nowhere on July 29, 1853, but that our history, our heritage and our connection to the light of the Gospel has been uniting us for nearly 500 years," said Father Justin Pino, diocesan archivist. "We have stood on the shoulders of spiritual and hope-filled giants—one of them was Bishop de Laval."

Pope Francis declared Laval and the others as saints in a procedure known as "equivalent canonizations." It's a process that requires a thorough study of the candidates' lives and writings, fame of holiness and reports of favors granted through their intercession. Unlike a regular sainthood process, it did not require the verification of a miracle through their intercession, nor further studies by historians and theologians working for the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

St. François de Laval was born in 1623, studied in a Jesuit school, then joined a group of youths who formed what would become the Seminary of Foreign Missions. Ordained to the priesthood in 1647, he was appointed apostolic vicar of New France, and was ordained a bishop in 1658. He died in Quebec in 1708.



St. François de Laval

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

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

Website: www.ErieCDOrg  
Volume 10, Issue 7  
Member of the Catholic Press Association  
Subscription: \$10/year  
Periodical postage paid at Erie, PA  
Postmaster: Send address changes to: FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center

Email: FaithLife@ErieCDOrg  
Editorial: 814-824-1171  
Advertising: 814-824-1168  
General Information: 814-824-1161

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

**Grandfather Clock Repair**

(814) 282-6435  
(Leave Message)

**YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY**

B.J. Moon, R.Ph.  
John Pontoriero, R.Ph.  
Chad Jantzi, Pharm. D.

3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510  
814 / 898-2085 Fax 814 / 898-2086  
Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

64 Years of Excellence Since 1947

**RAS AUTO BODY**

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

Dave Ras owner  
Amy Ras office  
Carol Ras office  
Jim Winiarski mgr.

Largest memorial display in the area!

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

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

**Good Shepherd Sunday**  
Collection: May 10-11

We say thank you to our retired diocesan priests for their faithful service. Provide them with the same love and generosity they gave us for generations.

## News Briefs

### Chess tournament scheduled in Brockway

BROCKWAY—Knights Of Columbus Councils #519 in Du-Bois and #3794 in Brockway will sponsor their ninth annual chess tournament May 3 at St. Tobias Church Hall, 1135 Hewett St., Brockway.

The tournament is free to all players, ages and ability levels. Lunch, programs, professional scoring and prizes are provided at no cost. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with play starting at 9 a.m. Participants are asked to bring their own chess set, but it is not mandatory.

For information, call 814-371-7223.

### Son of God Prayer Group offers seminar

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary churches in Erie will present a Life in the Spirit Seminar, "Draw Near to God and God Will Draw Near to You," beginning May 13 and continuing consecutive Tuesdays through June 10 at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th and East Avenue, Erie. Registration on May 13 begins at 6 p.m. Remaining sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Patty at 814-823-3968 or Gerry at 814-452-2499.

### Win a diamond cross pendant

ERIE—Celebration Jewelers by Dempsey & Baxter is supporting this year's Catholic Charities Ball through a generous donation of a diamond cross pendant to be raffled off the night of the event, May 16.

The cross slides on an 18-carat white gold, 18-inch cable chain with a lobster clasp. An extra ring allows the chain to clasp at 16 inches as well. Both pieces are rhodium plated.

The total diamond weight of the pendant is a half-carat. Pendant tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 and can be purchased at [www.ErieRCD.org/charities.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/charities.asp). The winner does not need to be present to win.

### Register now for Engagement Encounter

ERIE—Engagement Encounter is a three-day, all inclusive marriage preparation retreat designed to give couples private time to refine their thoughts and skills for married life.

The next Engagement Encounter weekend will be held at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie June 20-22. Space is limited, so register early by going to [www.ErieRCD.org/ee.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/ee.asp).

### Holy Rosary Parish sponsors golf outing

VENANGO—The 5th Annual Holy Rosary Golf Outing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, at the Venango Valley Golf Course in Venango. The cost is \$75 per person and includes lunch and a steak dinner, a gift auction, skill prizes and a chance to sink a putt for \$5,000.

Reservation deadline is June 9. For more information, contact Ken Kendziora at 814-825-7375.

## Get informed

### Diocese conducts candidate surveys

Catholics throughout Pennsylvania are encouraged to educate themselves about crucial issues facing our commonwealth and the positions held by political candidates running for office in the May 20 primary election.

For decades, the bishops of the United States have used candidate questionnaires to inform Catholic voters about the positions held by those running for public office. The Office of Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life of the Diocese of Erie—in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference—is distributing a candidate questionnaire to those seeking election within the 13 counties of the diocese.

Watch for a summary of the survey results in the May 4 edition of *FaithLife* and on the diocesan website at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).



**Schutte**  
WOODWORKING, LLC

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

Steven R. Rimpa  
cell: 814.397.0676 / e-mail: [schuttewoodwork@live.com](mailto:schuttewoodwork@live.com)  
[www.schuttewoodworking.net](http://www.schuttewoodworking.net)

Custom Cabinetry | Church Furnishings | Millwork | Wall Units



**mi souzi**  
restaurant italiano

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

Reservations recommended  
Please call us at 814-454-4533  
27th & Myrtle Street, Erie, PA 16508  
[www.misouzirestaurant.com](http://www.misouzirestaurant.com)

**The 37th Annual Rosary March**

Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.  
in the Expo I Building  
at the Clearfield Fair Grounds

GUEST SPEAKER  
Fr. Ladis Ozik  
Former National Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima

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, Food and More!

In case of inclement weather the Rosary Procession will be moved into the Expo I Building

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

# Planning process begins in diocese

PLANNING, from page 1

exploring topics ranging from human resources and leadership to communications and culture.

True to his straightforward nature, Bishop Persico reiterated the mission of the diocese: "To preach Jesus Christ and help people develop a relationship with him." The bishop said that the goal of the strategic plan will be to answer two questions: "How do we preach Christ's message in changing times?" and "How do we make sure the faith is passed on to the next generation?" He also noted that the process will be called pastoral planning rather than strategic planning.

"This is not a business venture," Bishop Persico said. "We are going through this process to make sure the pastoral needs of the people of the Diocese of Erie are met both now and into the future."

In the original letter announcing his commitment to pastoral planning, Bishop Persico said people in every state of life have a stake in the future of the Diocese of Erie and will therefore have a voice.

Extensive planning sessions will occur with Catholics from all walks of life and all regions of the diocese in the coming months.

Bishop Persico said he created the initial pastoral planning leadership team because the diocese does not have a Planning Office.



Photo by Joan Fye

Members of the initial pastoral planning leadership team met April 2 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Seated, left to right, are: Father Christopher Singer, chancellor; Bishop Lawrence Persico; and Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general. Standing, left to right, are: Father Glenn Whitman, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and parochial administrator of St. Stanislaus Kostka-Holy Trinity Parish, both in Sharon, and former director of the Clergy Personnel Office; Dr. Rick Prokop, assistant professor of marketing, Gannon University; Valerie Back, Gannon's director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives; Father Tom Whitman, pastor of All Saints Parish in Waterford; Father Mark O'Hern, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie; and Anne-Marie Welsh, director of communications. Missing from the picture are Msgr. Charles Kaza, vicar of the Eastern Vicariate and pastor of St. Tobias Parish in Brockway, and Father Marc Stockton, diocesan administrator.

"I am still relatively new to the Diocese of Erie," he said, "so I wanted the expertise of people who could be sensitive to the unique situations and history of each of our parishes. I also wanted critical thinkers who had a good mix of experiences in different areas of the diocese."

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for mid-May, after which Back and Prokop will develop

a timeline to obtain input from a cross-section of people in all geographic regions of the diocese. Bishop Persico first wrote about the need for a pastoral plan in the July/August 2013 edition of *Faith* magazine.

Read that column and the original letter the bishop sent to diocesan clergy on the following web page: [www.ErieRCD.org/pastoralplan.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/pastoralplan.htm).

## Jesuit Virtual Learning Academy partners with Kennedy Catholic High School

HERMITAGE—Students at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage will now be able to study courses as diverse as AP Microeconomics, Arabic Levels 1 and 2, and Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society.

Thanks to a new partnership between the high school and the Jesuit Virtual Learning Academy (JVLA), students next year will be able to take any number of enrichment courses and/or classes for college credit through JVLA. Father Michael Allison, president of Kennedy Catholic, calls the partnership a demonstration of the school's commitment to the technological revolution facing education.

"Technological advances like virtual learning enable students, teachers and parents to break down traditional classroom walls and access the boundless universe of knowledge, insight, experience, inspiration and innovation that is available on the internet," Father Allison said.

"The JVLA program fits perfectly with our ongoing system-wide technology

initiative and will enable us to offer students at Kennedy Catholic High School a greatly expanded range of exciting and interesting courses."

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the widely varied curriculum will enable students to earn up to 11 hours of college credit. Courses will be taught by a nationwide network of highly respected, experienced Ignatian educators from Jesuit schools throughout the United States.

According to Jeff Hausman, founder and executive director of the JVLA, the academy was created to harness the collaborative capacity of the world's 700 Jesuit secondary schools, including the 59 located in the United States.

"The JVLA focuses on providing credit-bearing coursework that may not be available in a traditional school if there's not enough student interest or no appropriate teacher in the area," Hausman said.

For more information on the new partnership, call Father Allison at 724-346-5531.

### Here is a partial list of courses offered through JVLA in 2014-15

- AP Art History
- AP Comparative Government and Politics
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Music Theory
- Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society
- American History and Literature: A Thematic Approach
- Arabic Level 1
- Arabic Level 2
- Chinese Mandarin Level 1
- Chinese Mandarin Level 2
- Multivariable Calculus
- AP Microeconomics
- C++ Programming
- Digital Photography
- Pre-Columbian Latin America and the Conquest
- Principles of Engineering
- Multimedia Authorship – The Power of Words and Images
- African-American Studies
- Astronomy: An Introduction
- Bioethics
- Computer Gaming Programming
- Genocide and the Holocaust
- Science and Religion
- The Making of Modern Latin America

**TURKEY AND HAM DINNER AND QUILT SHOW/SALE**

Sunday, April 27, 2014  
St. Joseph Parish Center, Luona  
Serving  
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
(Takeouts available)

Cost:  
Adults: \$8.00; Children: \$3.50  
Preschoolers: Free

Raffle Prizes:  
1st - Choice of Quilt  
2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100

**PULAKOS Chocolates**  
A Sweet Stop!

2530 Parade Street, Erie, Pa 16503  
380 Millcreek Plaza, Erie, Pa 16565  
410 French Street, Erie, Pa 16507

[www.pulakoschocolates.com](http://www.pulakoschocolates.com) 800.627.0926

Local Catholic - Family Owned

**Activecare**  
Physical Therapy, LLC

NEW BUSINESS LOCATION:  
3425 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16508  
(814) 864-4100

[www.activecareerie.com](http://www.activecareerie.com)

Even Tom MF, ATC, Cert. MDT  
Owner/Physical Therapist

- 20 Years Experience
- Athletic Trained, Division I
- Medicare Certified
- Hands-On Therapy
- Private Treatment Rooms

**FRIENDS OF THE CARMELITES ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

July 16 at 11:30 am - Kahkwa Club, Erie  
\$20.00 per person (proceeds do not benefit the sisters)  
Must purchase by July 4. NO tickets at the door.  
Other donation opportunities at the event.

**TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION:**  
Send a request to the email address below or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Carmelite Tickets, c/o Susan Mehler-Bostick, 47 September Circle, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (checks payable to Susan)

Prize donations: Ann Mehler, 814-864-9124

[carmel.friends.erie@gmail.com](mailto:carmel.friends.erie@gmail.com)

Advertisement kindly sponsored by Stephen H. Hutzelman, Esquire, 305 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA 16507

**STUMP GRINDING**  
by Ken Eaton  
Back yards - tight spots - No problem  
Free estimates, Insured, Shrubs and small trees removed, Prompt service  
Ken (814) 474-2195 or  
(814) 397-0384 LICENSE PA 056587

**ProximoTravel**  
Your Catholic Tour Company

Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shrines of Europe and much more... ranging from \$3,599—\$4,699 for 2014.

Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE w/Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy/Switzerland: May 31-Jun 12, Jun 14-26...  
Italy/Greece: May 31-Jun 8, Jun 7-15, Jun 14-22...  
Holy Land: May 26-Jun 5, May 27-Jun 6, Jun 2-12...  
Holy Land/Italy: May 26-Jun 8, Jun 2-15, Jun 16-29, Jun 23-Jul 6, Jun 30-Jul 13, Aug 28-Sep 7...  
Ireland/Scotland: May 31-Jun 12, Jun 7-19, Jun 14-26, Jun 21-Jul 3, Jun 23-Jul 5, Jun 28-Jul 10...  
Poland: May 31-Jun 11, Jun 7-18, Jun 15-26...  
Lourdes/Fatima: Jun 19-27, Sep 4-12, Sep 11-19

Visit our website for more destinations and dates!

[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com) Call us 24/7 855-842-8001 | 814-479-4165  
email: anthony@proximotravel.com Carmela A. Managgio

**BEST OF IRELAND TOUR**  
NOVEMBER 3-13, 2014

COST \$2,829 Roundtrip from Cleveland (Air/land tour price: \$2,299 plus \$530 gov. taxes & airline fuel surcharges)

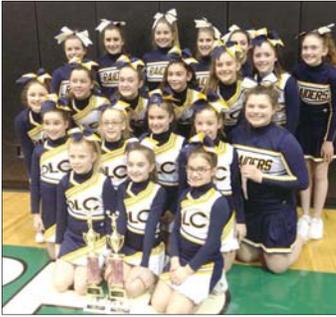
HOST Rev. Monty Sayers  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion

TOUR Roundtrip Air from Cleveland, First Class/  
Select Hotels, Most Meals, Professional Driver/Guide  
& Comprehensive Sightseeing

PLACES Waterford • Killarney • Galway • Connemara  
Knock • Sligo • Dublin

**BROCHURE & MORE INFO**  
(814)226-8433 ext.102 & [montysayers@hotmail.com](mailto:montysayers@hotmail.com)

## Cheerleading squads win competition



ERIE—Both the junior varsity and varsity cheerleading squads at Our Lady's Christian School in Erie captured highest honors in the large school division of the recent Erie Diocesan Cheerleading Competition at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie. Varsity cheerleaders are eighth-graders Ava Fillak and Sydney Moran, seventh-graders Taylor Johnson, Lexi Nicholes, Lauryn Robie, Brooke Talbot, Amelia Wassmann and Hannah Zieziula. The varsity squad is coached by Lisa Fatica, Tina Ford and Miranda Schonthaler. The junior varsity cheerleaders include sixth-graders Sarah Burhenn, Grace Knopfel, Katelyn Kruszewski, Madelyn List, Mary Beth Malone, Grace Regenor, Megan Riley and Elizabeth Swanson, and fifth-graders Ellie Arrowsmith, Natalie Boyd, Gianna Dobrich, Ryleigh Robie and Abby Williams. The JV squad is coached by Kristin Lorei with the help of student coach Leah Boyd.

## Quilts take center stage in Lucinda



LUCINDA—Members of the Lucinda Quilt Club make quilts tops at St. Joseph Parish Social Hall from September through February. Twenty-five handmade quilts will be displayed at the Rosary Society's annual Spring Quilt Show and Dinner at St. Joseph Hall in Lucinda on April 27.

to 1:30 p.m., and one of the quilts will be awarded at the end of the dinner. The majority of the quilts will be awarded at the St. Joseph Parish Festival on July 4. The public is welcome to both events.

For information, call 814-226-6075, email [stjosephcare@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephcare@gmail.com) or visit the parish website at [www.st-joseph-lucinda.org](http://www.st-joseph-lucinda.org) to see pictures of the quilts and get more information about parish events.

A country-style turkey and ham dinner will be served from 11 a.m.

## Cursillo raises funds for Maria House



ERIE—Past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently hosted the annual charity dance at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie. About \$1,260 was raised on behalf of Maria House Project, an outreach to men recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, imprisonment, homelessness and mental illness. Pictured, left to right, are: Tim Nowakowski, lead coordinator of the dance; Wil Rosenthal, representing Maria House Project; and Msgr. Dan Arnold, spiritual director for Cursillo.

## Bradford school wins contest



BRADFORD—Andy Parker, a weatherman from WGRZ-TV in Buffalo, visited St. Bernard School in Bradford to teach the students about meteorology. Students in grades pre-K to 8 enjoyed watching Andy make snow, clouds, a weather balloon and a tornado. The April 7 visit was arranged after St. Bernard won a Weather Machine contest and beat out 44 other schools to claim a spot on the station's morning news program. Parker is pictured in the back with students, left to right: Angie Potter, Hannah Ruttan, Katrina Weichmann, Regan Dolan, Kanga Sieve in the Weather Machine. Amanda Little, Sierra Williams, Brinya Moffett and Matt Picklo.

## Candy, candy everywhere!



ERIE—Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at St. George School in Erie hosted a candygram sale in which they raised \$1,025 toward supplying beds for children at an orphanage in Liberia. Megan Corey of Victory Family Worship Center in Conneaut Lake had traveled to the mission orphanage and accepted the donation. Pictured, left to right, are: Larissa Hedderick, Olivia Mraz, Lena Waslewski, Sophia Alberico, adviser Marielle Lafaro, Megan Corey, Principal Larry Neubauer, Mackenzie Conley, Joe Gallagher, Michael Borowicz, Logan Lego, Luke Misko, Matt Zupan and Brenden Allgeier.

## St. Gregory seeks Religious Education Leader

- Part-time position
- Penance, Eucharist & Confirmation prep
- Catechist formation and enrichment
- K-11th grade (approx. 180 students)
- Complete info can be found at: [http://ErieRCD.org/re\\_openings.asp](http://ErieRCD.org/re_openings.asp)

## "Knight" Out

Council #11818 Sacred Heart  
**Saturday, April 26**  
 6:00-11:00 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart Auditorium, 25th and Liberty streets, Erie  
**Donation: \$10 per person**  
 Tickets available at the door or in advance at the rectory.  
**\$1,000 in Cash Prizes**  
**\$50 Hourly Drawings**  
 Food, fun and refreshments!

## St. Callistus teen earns Eagle Scout



KANE—Daniel Blackmore, a parishioner of St. Callistus Parish, Kane, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout after developing a new section of trail on the Kane High School cross-country course. For his project, he cleared the trail of trees and roots, hauled gravel and created three stream crossings. He is pictured, second from right, with his parents, Jon and Jennifer Blackmore, and his sister, Olivia. Daniel belongs to Allegheny Highland Boy Scout Council #420.

## OPEN HOUSE!

Sunday, June 1 • 1 - 4PM  
 Celebrating Mass at noon

- Camp Information
- Refreshments
- Wagon Rides
- Friends / Family

day or overnight  
**SUMMER FUN!**



Fairview, PA • 814.474.5001 • [CampNotreDame.com](http://CampNotreDame.com)

**CELEBRATING 54 YEARS**

## Parish remembers pastor, sister parish



ERIE—St. Julia Church in Erie celebrated its 16th annual fiesta recently in honor of former pastor, Msgr. Richard McGuire, who was instrumental in establishing a sister parish relationship between St. Julia and Santa Ines in Mexico.

Parishioners designed handprint cut-outs and used them to decorate for the fiesta. More than \$550 was raised to provide food and medicine for Santa Ines.

## Preschool Open House

**Sunday, May 4**  
 10:30 am - 1:30 pm



**Mercy Center of the Arts**  
 444 East Grandview Blvd.  
 814-824-2519  
[mercycenterofthearts.com](http://mercycenterofthearts.com)  
 A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

## Clock Repair

Midcoast Clock & Music Box Company, LLC  
 Roger Gordon, Master Clockmaker  
 We make house calls

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



**MIDCOAST CLOCK & MUSIC BOX COMPANY**  
[WWW.MIDCOASTCLOCK.COM](http://WWW.MIDCOASTCLOCK.COM)