



## CALLED TO SERVE?

St. Andrew Dinner invites young men to consider vocations.

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# FaithLife



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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 2, 2017

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Bishop to preside at Holy Week liturgies

Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the following Holy Week liturgies scheduled at St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th St., Erie:

- Palm Sunday, April 9 at 11 a.m.
- Chrism Mass, April 10 at 4 p.m.
- Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper, April 13 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion, April 14 at 3 p.m.
- Easter Vigil, April 15 at 8:30 p.m.

### Pontifical Good Friday Collection—April 14

The optional Pontifical Good Friday Collection is taken up in parishes worldwide at the request of the Holy Father. It is the most important source of support for Christians in the Holy Land.

"Christians in the Holy Land have great need of your prayers and financial help," according to Bishop Lawrence Persico, who announced this year's collection. "The wars, unrest and instability there have been especially hard on them. Please take this opportunity to reach out to those Christians who suffer persecution and hardship in the very land where Jesus lived."

### New Erie Catholic School System names business manager

Heidi E. Sheehan, CPA, has been hired as the business manager for the new Erie Catholic School System.

She will oversee the business operations of the Erie Catholic School System and develop business plans and strategies to support the system's mission of Catholic education in concert with the president and the board of directors.



Heidi E. Sheehan

The director of finance for Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie, she has a diverse background in accounting and financial management. She assumed her new duties as business manager on March 27, while remaining in her current position at Villa Maria Elementary until the school closes in June.

Sheehan was director of finance at Wire Weld Inc., in North East, from 2009-14. She was business manager for the Montessori Regional Charter School in Erie and was an educator in the Adult Learning Center for the Erie School District.

She began her career as an accountant for Coopers and Lybrand of Philadelphia. For nearly a decade, she worked as a controller at Ditch Witch in Illinois, and at Finish Thompson, Inc. in Erie.

Sheehan earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Penn State University in State College, Pa.

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

### Program director calls on politicians 'to do what is right'

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Joe Haas, executive director of Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services (CCAS) of the Diocese of Erie, challenges elected leaders "to do what is right, not what is politically expedient" in the face of uncertain U.S. immigration policies.

Two executive orders on immigration issued by President Donald Trump since January have been widely criticized at home and abroad, resulting in dozens of legal challenges. Meanwhile, the Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program in Erie already has seen the effects of the travel restrictions.

In the fiscal year ending this coming September, the number of refugees arriving in Erie is expected to drop to 197, a decrease of nearly 40 percent from the previous year, according to Haas, who also serves as coordinator of the Charities resettlement program.

He expects to see his refugee resettlement staff permanently downsized by at least half as a result of the decrease.

The travel ban of refugees from several majority Muslim countries continues to be challenged in court. However, a 120-day freeze on all new refugee arrivals remains in effect.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which oversees Catholic Charities programs nationwide, has seen a number of refugee resettlement programs close due to lack of referrals.

"Our politicians are tasked with keeping us safe, being mindful of economic costs of service delivery, but also living up to the principles of who we are as

In the fiscal year ending this coming September, the number of refugees arriving in Erie is expected to drop to 197, a decrease of nearly 40 percent from the previous year.



Photo by Anne-Marie Webb

Joe Haas, executive director of Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services of the Diocese of Erie, speaks at a Feb. 22 immigration vigil outside the Federal Building in downtown Erie. As coordinator of the agency's refugee resettlement program, he has seen the immediate effects of the changes in U.S. immigration policy.

a nation of immigrants," Haas said.

In his position, Haas sees up-close the effect the executive orders have had on the lives of displaced people. On Feb. 22, he shared his viewpoint at an immigration vigil sponsored by the Benedictines for Peace outside the Federal Building in downtown Erie.

The vigil was one of many held throughout the country that week, calling for the U.S. to follow Pope Francis' call to "build bridges" instead of walls. President Trump, after taking office in January, had issued his first executive order calling for the immediate construction of a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

In his statement at the vigil, Haas said: "Religious leaders of all faiths have condemned this action, not based on politics, but based upon human dignity and living up to who we are as a country."

Since its founding 40 years ago, CCAS, an affiliate of Catholic Charities, has helped more than 3,000 people establish a new life in Erie, Haas said. These individuals were forced out of their homes across the globe due to war, persecution or natural disaster.

"Usually within less than a year, they [refugees] are entirely self-sufficient, productive members of our community," he said.

Haas agrees that there is room to enhance and improve the system by which refugees are welcomed to the United States. Yet, he disagrees with the assertion that refugees do not undergo a rigorous review process.

"Every refugee entering the United States has undergone a thorough vetting process that lasts, on average, between 18 to 24 months," Haas said.

Haas acknowledged the work of other organizations in Erie that have committed to helping the refugee community: the St. Benedict Education Center, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, the International Institute, the Multicultural Resource Center, and the Erie School District.

He asked the larger community to pray for those refugees settled in Erie who are separated from family in other parts of the world.

"Help our elected officials to properly discern how to keep our country safe, but to also allow families and loved ones to be reunited," he said.

## Helping Hands Award recognizes couple

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Nearly five years ago, at the installation Mass for Bishop Lawrence Persico, Dan and Dawn Schaaf of Erie found themselves seated behind a large group of priests gathered at St. Peter Cathedral.

Many of the clergy were elderly or retired.

"For whatever reason, watching them all process [into the church] stirred my heart," Dawn Schaaf said.

Not long afterward, the couple founded Methuselah Ministry, a free concierge service for retired diocesan priests. Named after Methuselah, the oldest individual in Scripture, the outreach has grown to include not only transportation services to and from doctor appointments, but assistance with shopping, tax preparation and other needs.

The "stirring" in Dawn Schaaf's heart is the hallmark of the couple's marriage and their outreach to others. For many years, they have been active in various ministries that go to the core of the Gospel mandate to help one another.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie has named the Schaafs this year's recipients of the Helping Hands Award.



Dawn and Dan Schaaf

They will be feted at the 22nd annual Catholic Charities Ball May 20 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

The Schaafs accepted the honor in the spirit that it might inspire others to action.

"Our family's motto has been the Bible story of the wedding feast at Cana where the Blessed Mother says to the servants, 'Do whatever Jesus tells you,'" Dawn explained. "Every time the Holy Spirit moves our hearts into action, we try to

replicate the servants who filled the water jugs. They filled them to the brim. That's saying not only to do what he asks of you, but there's always room to give a little more."

Members of St. Joseph/Bread of Life in Erie, the Schaafs have three adult children and one granddaughter. They are active in several committees at St. Joseph, and help coordinate the 22:32 Men's and 1:38 Women's conferences in Erie.

The couple are members of the Wednesday morning crew that serves the needy at the Bishop's Breakfast Program.

The co-owner of Building Systems Incorporated, Erie, Dan Schaaf is an active member of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, Erie, and serves on the Serra Club board. He is a past president of Serra.

Dawn Schaaf is involved with the pastoral care team at Saint Vincent Health Center and does hospice care volunteer work. She currently serves as president of the St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary.

The Catholic Charities Ball is scheduled for May 20 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

To make reservations for the ball, visit [www.erieccd.org/charitiesball.htm](http://www.erieccd.org/charitiesball.htm).

## JESUS' BURIAL SITE RESTORED

JERUSALEM—Tourists are seen outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher March 23 in Jerusalem. The Edicule, the recently restored site of Jesus' burial and resurrection, was inaugurated the previous day in an ecumenical ceremony led by representatives of the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches.



CNS photo

## Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world  
from Catholic News Service

### ■ Pope to visit Egypt this month

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Accepting an invitation from Egypt's president and religious leaders, Pope Francis will visit Cairo April 28-29.

Details of the trip will be published soon, but the two-day trip is expected to focus on Cairo, the capital city. It will be the pope's 18th trip abroad in his four years as pope.

### ■ Pope apologizes for Catholics' participation in Rwanda genocide



CNS photo

Pope Francis accepts a gift from Rwandan President Paul Kagame during a private meeting at the Vatican.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Meeting Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Pope Francis asked God's forgiveness for the failures of the Catholic Church during the 1994 Rwanda genocide and for the hatred and violence perpetrated by some priests and religious.

"He implored anew God's forgiveness for the sins and failings of the church and its members, among whom priests and religious men and women who succumbed to hatred and violence, betraying their own evangelical mission," said a Vatican statement released March 20 after the meeting of the pope and president.

Some 800,000, and perhaps as many as 1 million people—most of whom belonged to the Tutsi ethnic group—died in the bloodshed carried out from April to July 1994.

### ■ Commission seeks new ways to be informed by victims



CNS photo

Fiona Kilpatrick, left, who works at the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, was among attendees at a March seminar at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Following the resignation of a prominent member and abuse survivor, a pontifical commission addressing issues related to clergy sex abuse vowed to continue to seek input from victims and survivors.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors said the resignation of Marie Collins was a "central topic" of its March 24-26 plenary assembly, and it "expressed strong support for her continuing work" to promote healing for abuse victims and ensuring best practices for prevention.

In its statement, the commission emphasized Pope Francis' letter to the presidents of the bishops' conferences and superiors of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, in which he called for their close and complete cooperation with the Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Commission members spoke again of their willingness to work together with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

If it's not a fish fry, then Catholics everywhere are looking for some homemade pierogi to eat during the Fridays of Lent.

In the Diocese of Erie, pierogi are a mainstay at Erie's Holy Trinity Parish and Farrell's St. Adalbert Church. Many parishioners come together several weeks before the beginning of Lent to create the delicious filled dumplings. They then put them on sale as a fundraiser.

Of Eastern European origin, pierogi are made by wrapping pockets of unleavened dough around such fillings as potato, sauerkraut, ground meat, cheese, or even fruit. They are then boiled and served with a topping, such as melted butter, sour cream, or fried onion.

Ann Mittal of Farrell is an expert at making pierogi. She spent her 97th birthday this year making the dumplings with friends at St. Adalbert.

St. Adalbert is now a secondary church of St. Anthony of Padua



Contributed photo

Ann Mittal, 97, of Farrell, enjoys making pierogi.

Parish in Farrell, but it is continuing its pierogi-making tradition. About 55 members and friends of St. Adalbert came together with Mittal to make pierogi in the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a good time to do something extra for others as we consider ways to weed out bad habits or negative ways of thinking.

Greg Penco, a parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie, says he has always been struck by the simple things we can do to help others.

As president of Mount Carmel's pastoral council, he published a notice in the parish bulletin, encouraging parishioners to make donations to the Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity, 903 Parade St., Erie.

The warehouse accepts donations of new or gently used building materials, furniture, home goods and decorations. Appliances, including ranges and refrigerators in good working condition, also are accepted.

"You just have to act where you see a need," he says.

Former U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania has been named honorary advocate of the Saint Pio Foundation.

Santorum has a devotion to St. Padre Pio, a friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic. In a video released by Santorum, he credits Padre Pio for healing his son Peter, who was born in 1999 with a serious kidney problem.

The child was not expected to survive, but doctors discovered about a year later that his kidney had healed. The Santorums had held a glove of Padre Pio, with stains of his blood, on the baby, near a kidney.

Congratulations to the Villa Maria girls basketball team on their second-place finish at the PLAA Class 4A state championship.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife. Email: [msolberg@erieRCD.org](mailto:msolberg@erieRCD.org) Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIERCDsolberg

## Students enjoy Men's Conference



Contributed photo

The 2232 Men's Conference held at the Warner Theatre in downtown Erie March 25 drew about 650 men from across the region. Among those in attendance were several Cathedral Prep students and their teachers and advisers. Father Jason Feigh, campus minister, standing, enjoyed his time with students, from left, Joseph Campbell, Nick Carneval and Ian Maliszewski. Maliszewski, a junior, fractured two vertebrae and injured his spinal cord last June 3 while competing in a wrestling tournament in Ohio.

## New chastity resources offered

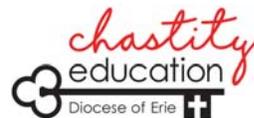
The Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie has revamped its web page after receiving requests from parents who want more information and support regarding church teachings on human sexuality.

Kate Whiteford, director of the Chastity Education Office, has added a number of new resources that may help parents, teenagers, priests and catechists.

"There are valuable opportunities to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches regarding human sexuality and how to live it in kindness and truth," said Whiteford. "This came as a response to parents who said that they would love support and more information but didn't know where to go."

Not only does the web page include resources on chastity, but there is another tab devoted to Natural Family Planning. The site offers videos and witnessing from those who practice NFP, and an explanation of the various methods of NFP.

As for chastity resources, the web page includes information on how parents and catechists can learn the



Visit [www.erieRCD.org/chastity.htm](http://www.erieRCD.org/chastity.htm) to review these resources or call the Chastity Education Office at 814-824-1259.



Kate Whiteford

best ways to talk to children about chastity and purity. Priests will find helpful information on the best ways to preach on chastity and handle the topic in the confessional.

Other information on the web page addresses such difficult issues as pornography and same-sex attraction, as well as the judicious use of technology.

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For pastoral outreach and assistance for those abused by clergy or other church personnel, call

Doctor Robert Nelsen  
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EVENTS

**Final holy hour at St. Peter Cathedral April 3**

ERIE—The Diocese of Erie will hold its final Lenten holy hour for vocations April 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, W. 10th and Sassafras streets, Erie. The evening will include recitation of the rosary, silent prayer, Benediction, and a homily by Father Michael Poline, vocation director.

**Author to speak about Pope Francis at library**

ERIE—Thomas Rourke, Ph.D., a professor of political science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, will deliver a talk on his recently released book, *The Roots of Pope Francis's Social and Political Thought*, on April 8 at 2 p.m. in the Peninsula Room of the Blasco Library in Erie.

**Youth invited to Divine Mercy Encounter**

ERIE—The Divine Mercy Encounter retreat program invites anyone 16 and older to apply for its April 7-9 retreat at St. Joseph Church in Erie. The cost is \$45; sponsorships are available. For more information or to apply online, go to [www.divinemercyencounter.com](http://www.divinemercyencounter.com).

**Marian program offered at St. Julia Parish**

ERIE—Marian Consecration and 33 Days to Morning Glory, a program designed by Father Michael E. Gattley, MIC, will be held at St. Julia Parish, Erie, beginning Monday, April 10, and continuing Tuesdays through May 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The program will end May 13 with 8 a.m. Mass, and consecration, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The weekly gatherings will include video presentations on St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta and Pope St. John Paul II. All are welcome. For more information, contact Joan Peterson at 814-456-0639.

**Loftus Lecture to feature Scripture professor**

ERIE—The annual Thomas J. and Mary H. Loftus Lecture on Catholic Thought and Action at Gannon University will feature Father Thomas Hurst, PSS, former president-rector at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore. Father Hurst will speak April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Yehl Alumni Room at the Waldron Campus Center. The lecture—titled “Opportunities and Challenges: Forming Future Priests”—is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged.

**Seminary Auxiliary to hold annual card party**

ERIE—The St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary will hold its annual card party to support diocesan seminarians on April 20 at 6 p.m. at the St. Mark Catholic Center gymnasium, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Doors will open at 5 p.m.; admission is \$7. A light meal will be served. The evening will include grand prizes, a gift auction, a money and lottery tree and more. For reservations, call Betsy at 814-504-2720 by April 13. Tickets are not available at the door.

**Mother-daughter teas set for Erie, Ridgway**

ERIE—The annual Mother Daughter Tea, sponsored by the Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie, will be held at two locations in the diocese next month. The first tea will be held April 22 from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall of St. Leo Parish, 117 Depot St., Ridgway. The second tea will be held April 23 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie. Enjoy a dress-up tea, which includes time for bonding, fun and conversations about growing to healthy and holy womanhood. For more information or to register, visit [www.erieRCD.org/chastity.htm](http://www.erieRCD.org/chastity.htm) or call Kate Whiteford, director of the Chastity Education Office, at 814-824-1259.

**National Pastoral Musicians to host Songfest**

EDINBORO—The Erie Diocese Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians will host its annual Spring Banquet and Songfest, “Singing the Music of the Seasons,” on April 23 beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 128 Sunset Drive, Edinboro. Reservations are due April 10 by sending your name, parish, phone number and email to: Neil Himber, 102 Sixth St., Youngsville, PA 16371. The cost is \$12 for members; \$15 for guests. Make checks payable to NPM Erie Diocese Chapter. For more information, call 814-734-5446.

**House of Mercy to host Spring Tea in April**

ERIE—The Sisters of Mercy House of Mercy Spring Tea will be held April 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School's Scheffner Hall, 1531 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Tickets, at \$25 each, are available by contacting Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, at [michele.schroeck@gmail.com](mailto:michele.schroeck@gmail.com) or at 814-898-0167.

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**St. Andrew Dinner invites young men to consider vocations**

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Thirty-year-old Nick Heise of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek was looking for reassurance when he attended a recent diocesan-sponsored vocation dinner. For several years, he has considered the priesthood, even while dating and working as a carpenter for Building Systems Incorporated in Erie.

“I’m here to feed my curiosity and get reassurance that this is what I want to do,” Heise said as he seated himself at the St. Andrew Dinner March 15 at St. Joseph Parish in Erie.

Sponsored by the Vocation Office of the Diocese of Erie, the St. Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for young men to gather for a meal and listen to priests and seminarians share their personal journeys to the priesthood and/or seminary.

The dinner at St. Joseph Parish drew more than 25, ranging in age from 13 to 30. It was the fifth St. Andrew Dinner held at various locations in the diocese since last fall, according to Father Michael Poline, vocation director.

“However you heard about this—whether on a Facebook post or wherever—God has you here for a reason,” Father Poline told those gathered at the March 15 dinner.

Heise knew he was there for a reason; he just wanted to get that final push. He listened intently to stories from Bishop Lawrence Persico; Father Michael Ke-



Bishop Lawrence Persico looks over a seminary prayer card with Jonah and Tate Hanlon at the St. Andrew Dinner March 15 at St. Joseph Parish, Erie.

Seminary; Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector; Father Michael Ferrick, rector of St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph; and seminarians Benjamin Dagher and Michael Pleva. Each of them shared their path toward religious life, even their initial feeling of uncertainty.

After dinner, Heise said: “It’s nice

to see that some of my story is partially theirs, so I know that I’m not just being crazy. These seminarians and priests are normal people, the same as myself. It makes me know that this is something I could do.”

Bishop Persico told the young men that no one was asking them to enroll in the seminary right away. He said: “All we’re asking you to do is think about it. Is this what God wants you to do?”

Others who attended the dinner included the Hanlon brothers and the Caulfield brothers. Kevin Hanlon brought his three sons: Cullen, 17, Jonah, 16, and Tate, 14. Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, the Hanlons are encouraged “to look at everything they can possibly do,” Kevin Hanlon said.

Jonah, a sophomore at Fairview High School, is the most interested in pursuing religious life. He is happy when Bishop Persico sat at his table for dinner.

“This is my first time going to one of these, so it is setting the baseline for me. I want to hear what people have to say,” Jonah said. “I’m open to whatever God calls me to do.”

Father Poline invited the Caulfields—Tim, 17, Peter, 15, and Thomas, 13. A home-schooled senior, Tim said he has considered the priesthood his whole life.

“I always wondered if I should do that, but I haven’t felt God call me one way or the other yet,” Tim said.

The next St. Andrew Dinner is April 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace School, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie. RSVP by calling 814-833-7701.



Seminarian Benjamin Dagher shares his personal story.



Father Michael Poline, vocation director for the Diocese of Erie, addresses one of the largest crowds ever gathered for a St. Andrew Dinner.

OBITUARY

**Sister Mary Stephen Calvin, RSM**

**Sister Mary Stephen cared for sick, elderly**

Sister Mary Stephen (Dolores Frances) Calvin, RSM, died March 16 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Care Center. She was in her 69th year of religious life, having devoted herself to the pastoral care of the sick and elderly.

She was born July 26, 1927, in Sharon, the daughter of the late James and Genevieve (McGhee) Calvin.

On Aug. 14, 1948, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent, Titusville, from St. Michael Parish in Greenview. She professed perpetual vows in 1954. In 1999, she celebrated her golden jubilee and in 2008, her 60th.

Sister Mary Stephen earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst University in 1969, and a master’s in pastoral ministry from St. Joseph College, Hartford, Conn., in 1985. In 1980, she was certified as a therapeutic director and as a Catholic chaplain.

Sister Mary Stephen taught in the following diocesan elementary schools from 1948-70: St. Walburga in Titusville, St. Patrick in Franklin, Immaculate Conception in

Brookville, St. Thomas in Corry, St. Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney, St. Catherine in DuBois, and St. Luke in Erie.

In 1970, her ministry turned to the care of sick and elderly and to parish life. From 1970-82, she served as recreation director chaplain at Christ the King Manor in DuBois. From 1982-86, she was pastoral ministry director at DuBois Hospital, and pastoral assistant at St. Michael Parish.

In 1990, she moved to East Brady to serve as pastoral assistant at St. Eusebius Parish, and as a hospice chaplain. From 1992 to 2000, she ventured to Fort Smith, Ark., where she served as pastoral care chaplain at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center. In Hot Springs, Ark., she was a chaplain and home health visitor.

Returning to Pennsylvania, she was a chaplain in home health at

VNA Hospice in Butler from 2001-02. In her last ministry, she served as director of Wellsprings at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie from 2002-08.

She served on the boards of the DuBois American Cancer Society and Christ the King Auxiliary in DuBois. She held memberships in the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and the United States Conference of Catholic Chaplains.

Survivors include members of her religious community and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Donald, Robert and William; and two sisters, Marjorie Grossman and Audrey Tutoki.

A funeral Mass was held March 20 in the Sisters of Mercy Chapel at the motherhouse in Erie. A Rite of Departure was held at the motherhouse March 21, followed by a rite of committal at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Fund, Sisters of Mercy, 444 E Grandview Blvd, Erie, PA 16504.



Sister Mary Stephen Calvin, RSM

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



## St. Luke School raises funds for vocations

ERIE—Students and staff at St. Luke School in Erie wore jeans for a day as a fundraiser for the Vocation Office of the Diocese of Erie. They raised \$362.20 and presented it to Father Michael Polinec, vocation director. Pictured with Father Polinec are second-graders T.J. Redmond and Linnea Nielson, and Principal Karen Beer.



## Farewell party held for Father Mastrian

CURWENSVILLE—St. Timothy Parish and the Friends Relay for Life team in Curwensville recently held a farewell pizza party for Father Mark Mastrian, center. Until February, he was pastor of St. Timothy.

Due to parish restructuring throughout the diocese, Father Mastrian was recently appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Force. For several years, Father Mastrian had been a member and loyal supporter of the relay team, which raises funds for research programs searching for a cure for cancer.



## St. Gregory students raise funds for Heart Association

NORTH EAST—Students at St. Gregory School in North East raised \$1,509 for the American Heart Association by participating in the annual "Hoop and Jump-A-Thon."

Students from all grade levels participated in heart-healthy fitness activities. Pictured are the top money collectors. In the front is Lucy Kitchen; second row, from left, are: James Braley, Chancellor Martin and Galge Brockway, and in the back row, from left, are: Lexi Kirschner, Samantha Baumgratz, Caleb Quigley and Trinity Martin.



## MERCY IN MEXICO



MÉRIDA, Yucatán, Mexico—Mercyhurst University students traveled to the diocesan-sponsored Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, over their spring break. Dr. Alice Edwards, a professor of world languages and cultures, accompanied five Spanish majors and minors. Pictured with Edwards, third from the left, are: Taylor Bookmiller, Michaela Gerace, Susan Baltus, Cole Lowe, Casey Bleuel and Patricia Pipkin, director of the Mission of Friendship.

## Bishop Persico visits St. John's overflow homeless shelter

ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico, center, recently visited Our Neighbors' Place, an overflow homeless shelter hosted every winter at St. John the Baptist Church in Erie.

The shelter was open March 1-14. Pictured with the bishop, from left, are: Norma Fitzpatrick, Mary Ann Matlock, Kathy Snyder, Pat Marshall, Mary Coan and Ellen McNeerney.



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