

'Servant of God' honored

U.S. Army Chaplain Father Kapoun receives Medal of Honor in White House ceremony, page 3.



FaithLife

Rwandan refugee takes oath

Immaculee Ilibagiza becomes American citizen, page 2.



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BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 28, 2013

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



St. Catherine of Siena The Ascension of the Lord

- April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church
- May 2 Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- May 3 Saints Philip and James, Apostles
- May 9 The Ascension of the Lord
- May 14 St. Matthias, Apostle

Confirmations

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

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

Holy Cross, Fairview — Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Holy Cross, Fairview; St. Lawrence the Martyr, Albion and St. John the Evangelist, Girard.

Notre Dame, Hermitage — Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m. Confirmation classes include Notre Dame, Hermitage; St. Anthony, Sharon and St. Adalbert, Farrell.

St. Jude the Apostle, Erie — Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Jude the Apostle, Erie and St. Julia, Erie.

Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake — Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. Confirmation classes include Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake; St. Peter, Conneautville and St. Philip, Linesville.

St. Joseph, Force — Sunday, May 12 at 1 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Joseph, Force and St. Boniface, Kersey.

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway — Sunday, May 12 at 5 p.m.

Clergy appointment

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointment:

Father Christopher Hamlett, appointed parochial administrator of Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, Conneaut Lake. Effective immediately and until the appointment of a new pastor.

100 Days to World Youth Day



CNS photo

A young woman raises her arms during a Mass April 12 to mark the start of the 100-day countdown to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. World Youth Day, an international Catholic event that occurs every three years, runs from July 23 to 28 in Rio de Janeiro. The woman in the photograph is wearing a T-shirt with the word "Francisco," as Pope Francis is known in the Spanish-speaking world.

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Do you have a story to share on Faith magazine's online Reader's Forum? Please e-mail your story for consideration.



Physician-runner says spiritual help needed, too

By Christopher S. Pineo
Catholic News Service

BOSTON (CNS) — Though events at the 2013 Boston Marathon included mayhem and the need for swift action, the father of a heroic runner slowed down to reflect in prayer at a Catholic shrine the next day. After experiencing firsthand the events as two bombs exploded April 15 at the finish line, Dr. Joseph Stavas, 58, stopped at the St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine in Boston's Back Bay the following day to pray and reflect on the crisis.

The physician had planned on taking a flight home to Chapel Hill, N.C., where he works at University of North Carolina's Center for Heart and Vascular Care, but stayed in town to support his daughter, also a physician, in media appearances later in the day. "I said we just need to stop and pray about this and get some inspiration from the Lord to help us work through this, because I think this is where many people come back to search for answers, which there may not be any, for peace, which we pray for, and a better understanding of how this all fits together," he told *The Pilot*, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper. Even with the training of a doctor, the strength of a seasoned runner, and the power of his faith, nothing prepared him for the events he experienced April 15. He ran with his daughter, Dr. Natalie Stavas, 32, as he has three previous marathons. As soon as she sensed a crisis, she ran toward the sound of the blast to help victims. "She just had this intuition that something wasn't right. All we had heard was that there was an explosion at the finish line, and she—being younger than me and much faster—jumped over this fence," he said. Stavas and his wife, Maureen, commented on the heroism their daughter showed in the heat of the moment. Joseph Stavas said Natalie told him she knew the streets in the area well enough that she could find a way through the crowd, so she could run ahead and try to help. "Something triggered her intuition and she said, 'Dad, I know I can get to the finish line,'" he



Dr. Joseph Stavas



CNS photo

Local residents attend a candlelight vigil in the Dorchester section of Boston April 16, where Boston Marathon bombing victim Martin Richard lived. The 8-year-old boy, who attended St. Ann Parish Neponset in

Dorchester with his family, was one of three people killed when two bombs exploded in the crowded streets near the finish line of the marathon April 15.

Maureen Stavas said Natalie had a foot injury but ran the race anyway, and then rose to the occasion when tragedy struck. "They didn't think she was going to be able to run, because she tore the tendon from her

foot," she said. On the day of the run, Joseph Stavas said he awoke and, as he always does, "began the day with the Magnificat (Catholic prayer magazine) ... and got some inspiration from that." After his daughter raced off to help, he realized runners—jolted to a stop after almost completing the 26.2-mile run—faced a dangerous situation without time to cool down muscles or maintain body temperature after the extreme exertion. He said the "traffic jam of people" was a

mile long. He and several bystanders started helping the runners as their temperatures began to drop. Many "who were now stalled out were going through hypothermia, because after 26-plus miles your body goes through this severe physiologic stress," he explained. Knowing the human logjam would prevent ambulances from getting through, Stavas and others knocked on the doors

See RUNNER, page 2

Dr. Alveda King speaks at Pro-life event in Clarion



Contributed photo

Dr. Alveda King, front row, center, enjoyed the opportunity to interact with members of Clarion University's Students for Life organization after making her presentation, "How Can the Dream Survive?"

By Elizabeth Geary
Special to FaithLife

Approximately 400 people crowded into the Gemmill multi-purpose room of Clarion University April 8th to hear Dr. Alveda King, niece of the famous civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., speak. The title of her talk was, "How Can the Dream Survive?" The event was open to both the campus community and the public. King is currently serving as director of African-American relations for the Priests for Life organization, and is a voice for the "Silent No More" awareness campaign along with holding positions in other organizations.

As part of her talk, she gave testimony about both of the abortions she has had and how she needed to accept God's forgiveness in order to be able to forgive herself. Thomas McConnell, president of Students for Life at Clarion University, now in his junior year, was impressed. "She is an extremely spiritual woman," he said, noting that her spiritual perspective permeated the talk she presented.

Growing up in the civil rights movement led by her uncle, King has a unique

perspective on the struggles of both the civil rights movement and the pro-life movement. She sees the pro-life movement as a continuation of the civil rights struggle and believes her uncle would be actively involved in the pro-life movement if he were still alive. The morning after her talk, King met with members of the Students for Life group at Clarion University before leaving the campus. They enjoyed the opportunity to dialogue, share their experiences and listen to insights regarding the pro-life movement.

The event was sponsored by the Clarion University Students for Life, which has had an active presence on the campus under the leadership of advisor Dr. Thomas Rourke, professor of political science, who founded the group.

Students for Life works to educate college students on the impacts of abortion, especially pertaining to young women. In recent years they have hosted Deirdre McQuade from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Serrin Foster of Feminists for Life and Georgetown Forney from Silent No More, among others. Students for Life is active not only on campus but also in the surrounding community.

Unique training opportunity St. Marys area offers class for preschool teachers across the Diocese of Erie

Anne-Marie Welsh
FaithLife

Religious education and Catholic school teachers will soon have the rare chance to become certified to offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for preschoolers in their parishes and schools. Thanks in part to a grant from the Religious Education Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Erie, participation in four three-day weekend sessions will now be more affordable as well.

"I would love to see this introduced in Catholic preschools and religious education preschools across the diocese," said Georgia Wagner, director of Faith Formation for the three parishes in St. Marys. She was instrumental in bringing it to the St. Marys area in 2005, where it has been warmly received by parishioners.

Joe Street, director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Erie, sees the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program as an important asset to the early faith formation of young people in St. Marys. He also recognizes the dedication of the people who go through the training.

"It is an intensive program," he said, noting the approximately 90 hours of class time involved. "But the results are well worth it and it would be lovely to see it offered in parishes beyond St. Marys."

The atmosphere in a CGS classroom—or atrium, as it is called—is quiet and peaceful. Everything the children do during class feels sacred.

See RUNNER, page 2



Contributed photo

Ava Vilella (above) enjoys some of the materials children use during their Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes in St. Marys. Below, CGS teacher Anita Detwiler helps Aidan Timchek prepare to snuff out a candle after listening to a story from the Bible.





IN THE U.S.

■ Texas responds to blast; Pope Francis calls for prayers

WEST, Texas (CNS) — Emergency personnel were carefully combing through blocks of wreckage in this town of 2,900 a day after a chemical fertilizer factory caught fire and exploded with the force of a small earthquake April 17. Dozens of homes were destroyed in the explosion at West Fertilizer Co., a while after a fire of undetermined origin was reported. In a town with a strong Czech and German immigrant history, the 120-year-old Church of the Assumption Catholic Parish is one of the largest communities in West,



A young woman prays during a candlelight vigil April 18 at the Church of the Assumption in West, Texas, in remembrance of those who lost their lives or were injured in the massive explosion at the area's fertilizer plant.

with about 1,300 registered families. Father Ed Karasek, the pastor of 24 years, posted brief notes on the parish website, noting that "we have lost several folks dear to us and many, many more have lost a portion of or all of their possessions." He also told Vatican Radio that in the close-knit town, everyone was coming together. "Everybody is related to each other, and they are all supporting each other," he said. In a short message sent from his @Pontifex Twitter account, Pope Francis told the more than 2.4 million followers on his English account to "Please join me in praying for the victims of the explosion in Texas and their families."

■ Religious leaders mark 50th anniversary of famed King letter from jail

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Fifty years ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. took a group of white Alabama clergymen to task for suggesting he find ways, other than demonstrations and protests, to seek racial equality. The civil rights leader did not mince words telling the group that included Protestant pastors, a rabbi and a Catholic bishop, that he was "disappointed with the church." The letter, addressed to "My Dear Fellow Clergymen," became the famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Pieces of it were smuggled out with his attorneys. The 21-page letter was never sent to the religious leaders; they saw it when everyone else did, published in part in newspapers and magazines May 19, 1963. In the letter, Rev. King explained why he felt compelled to participate in demonstrations, marches and nonviolent actions. "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham," he wrote. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The ecumenical organization Christian Churches Together brought leaders, including Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky.—vice president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops—to Birmingham April 14-15 to sign a response to the letter and discuss its meaning for today.

AROUND THE WORLD

■ Pope Francis reaffirms Vatican's call for reform of U.S. nuns' group

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis reaffirmed the Vatican's call for reform of the U.S.-based Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Archbishop Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told the U.S.-based nuns' group that he had "recently discussed the doctrinal assessment with Pope Francis, who reaffirmed the findings of the assessment and the program of reform for this conference of major superiors." The doctrinal congregation met April 15 with the LCWR leadership and Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, who had been assigned by the Vatican to oversee the reform of the pontifically recognized leadership group, LCWR, in a statement on its website, said its representatives included Franciscan Sister Florence Deacon, president; Sister Carol Zinn, a Sister of St. Joseph, president-elect; and Sister Janet Mock, a Sister of St. Joseph and the organization's executive director. LCWR is a Maryland-based umbrella group that has about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women's communities as members, representing about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 women religious. The organization said in its statement that "the conversation was open and frank. We pray that these conversations may bear fruit for the good of the church."

PEOPLE

■ Rwandan genocide survivor becomes American citizen

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the end of a process that has taken her 15 years to complete, world-renowned Rwandan genocide survivor and peace advocate Immaculee Ilibagiza became an American citizen April 17 in New York City. "I was completely in tears," she told Catholic News Service in a phone interview April 18. "To be accepted in this country... was like receiving a gift. I hear my father saying, 'now you have the right to be here, you don't have to worry.'" An estimated 800,000 people—including most members of her family—were brutally murdered during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In the early stages of the conflict, Ilibagiza was sent to hide with a member of another tribe at the behest of her father. "I am here today... because my father had trust in the man from that tribe," she told an audience of 50 other immigrants who received their citizenship at the same ceremony. A Catholic, the then-college student endured 91 days hiding in a bathroom from the killers who were looking for her. In her book, "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," she wrote: "They were... right on the other side of the wall. Less than an inch of plaster and wood separated us. Their footsteps shook the house, and I could hear their machetes and spears scraping along the walls. In the chaos, I recognized the voice of a family friend. 'I have killed 399 cockroaches,' he boasted. 'Immaculee will make 400.'"



Immaculee Ilibagiza

By the Way...

After the tragedies in Texas and Boston in recent weeks, it will be nice to see April in the rearview mirror. The encouraging words and rites shared by everyone from **Pope Francis** to **Cardinal Sean O'Malley** in Boston and our parish priests here in the diocese have been helpful and healing. The Holy Father offered prayers not only for the souls of the departed and for the injured, but also for the emergency and medical personnel affected. Cardinal O'Malley turned to the beatitudes as a blueprint for repairing our broken world. In off-the-cuff remarks after he celebrated a Mass for the victims in Boston, he was asked if he supported the death penalty for the surviving suspect.



Anne-Marie Welsh

"There are other ways of punishing people, and protecting society, without killing them," the cardinal said, referring to capital punishment as another manifestation of the culture of death in our midst. "Forgiveness does not mean that we do not realize the heinousness of the crime. But in our own hearts, when we are unable to forgive, we make ourselves a victim of our own hatred."

As mentioned in the *Newsmakers* section of this edition of *FaithLife*, Pope Francis used **Twitter** to ask for prayers for the victims of the explosion in West, Texas and their families. The church continues to explore ways to make the best use of the opportunities provided by social media. This is the first time in history that we have essentially real-time access to the thoughts, hopes and intentions of our Holy Father. If you want to follow him, it's easy to create an account, free of charge, at **Twitter.com**. Then you can see what he has to say by looking him up at **PopeFrancisPontifex**.

Staff members of the Communications Office of the Diocese of Erie were pleased to have **Elizabeth Butterfield** representing them at the Erie Ad Club awards banquet earlier this month where she picked up two silver "Addy" awards: one for the Christmas card she designed for the office and the other for an editorial spread in the March/April 2012 edition of *Faith* magazine, featuring the design work of **Lynne Hsu** and the photography of **Art Becker**. The office has several pieces nominated for Catholic Press Awards again this year, which will be announced at the organization's national gathering in Denver in June.

Two corrections are in order. **Fr. Dr. Bernadette Kutcher**, who was featured in the last edition of *FaithLife* after having received a shower of cards for a milestone birthday, was incorrectly identified as being from Meadville when in fact she is a proud member of Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. Secondly, I misspelled **Dr. David Roncolato's** last name in a recent edition. The Diocese of Erie has been blessed with his good work in many capacities over the years and the Year of Faith committee was most grateful for the talk he offered. My sincere apology for both errors.

Did you catch this? The **Archdiocese of Berlin**, which is working to sell some of its unused churches, actually listed one on eBay. It was all done appropriately and in fact, the auction was not successful, but it certainly was a creative approach by the company hired to help sell a number of properties on behalf of the archdiocese. Efforts to find a buyer for St. Bernhard Church in Brandenburg-Havel continue. According to Catholic News Service, 22 Catholic churches have been sold or given to other Christian denominations by the Berlin Archdiocese as it works to use the resources it has in the most efficient way possible.

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

St. Marys area offers training for preschool teachers

TRAINING, from page 1

"It makes me think of Mr. Rogers sometimes," said Anita Detwiler of St. Mary Parish, a life-skills special education teacher by profession and a certified CCS teacher. In an interview about the program in the Jan./Feb. 2009 edition of *Faith* magazine, she said that children are used to having a great deal thrown at them.

"This is really different," she said. "They like the slower pace that gives them time to grasp the ideas we talk about."

Relying on natural, authentic materials such as candles, wood, metals and grains, children ages 3 to 6 are invited to do simple tasks such as watering plants; they learn to quiet themselves by walking in a very slow circle together, listening to music; and they take responsibility for all of the materials they have the chance to use. Simple songs echo the words of Scripture.

"It's about letting the children come to Jesus," said Mary Jo Zimmet, another St. Mary's CCS teacher.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training is being offered by Celine Mitchell, who will travel to the St. Marys area for each



of the four sessions. Parents, teachers and religious educators are invited to call Georgia Wagner at the St. Marys Faith Formation Office, 814.781.1042 to learn more or to request a registration form.

To access the article *Faith* magazine published with CCS in January 2009, visit www.ErieKCD.org/faith.asp and click on the "archive" link. The sessions will be held May 17-19, June 7-9, Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 18-20.

Physician-runner says spiritual help needed, too

RUNNER, from page 1

of nearby houses to get shivering runners inside for warmth.

The spectators who pitched in were "very generous with their help," he said. "All the Boston locals—I am sure that's who they were—were very, very helpful and very gracious." He later reconnected with daughter Natalie, whose efforts to help the wounded were widely reported.

Joseph Stavas said that prayer and reflection through his Catholic faith bolstered his training as a runner. "Prayer is actually a part of my training," he said. "These runs are long as you are training for the marathon, which could be months, the runs may be 20 to 22 or 30 miles in distance, and there is a lot of time for reflection. I frequently say the rosary when I am training, because

your body is going through this change," Stavas said. "You are going through this struggle. It is a physical struggle, but like anything else in life, struggles can be mental along with physical. They can be spiritual."

He compared the struggles now facing Boston after the bombings to the struggles of a runner pushing through one of the famous landmarks on the route of the city's marathon.

"I think God has these tribulations and these 'Heartbreak of my training,'" he said. "These runs are long as you are training for the marathon, which could be months, the runs may be 20 to 22 or 30 miles in distance, and there is a lot of time for reflection. I frequently say the rosary when I am training, because

Pined is a reporter at *The Pilot*, the newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese.

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Briefly

University of Notre Dame Concert Band to benefit Neighborhood Art House



The Notre Dame Club of Erie is hosting a benefit concert by the Notre Dame Concert Band at Holy Cross Parish, 7100 West Ridge Road, Fairview, on Sun., May 12 at 2:30 p.m.

The 80-member band will perform a wide variety of musical styles including marches, traditional big band and of course, Notre Dame school favorites.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Proceeds benefit the Neighborhood Art House, which offers after-school and summer programs in painting, pottery, sewing, photography and music to children in Erie's inner city. Enjoy the band prior to its summer tour through Europe!

Refugee program seeks volunteers — flexible options available

The Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services-Refugee Resettlement Program is looking for parishes and companies willing to participate in its **warm clothing drive** this fall. If your organization would like to plan a drive to contribute to this major event, please contact Deacon John Brophy (see below). Need not be based in Erie to participate.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the **refugee cultural orientation training for refugees** offered Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. to noon at the former St. Stanislaus Elementary School, 516 E. 13 Street, Erie. Retirees and others who are available during the timeframe are encouraged to call for more information. Commitments range from once a week to daily, and the program starts over after each four-week session.

A **refugee employment class**, Tues. through Friday from 12:30 to 2 p.m., offers another opportunity for volunteers.

Finally, volunteer help is needed to facilitate a self-paced **Rosetta Stone language training course** from 12:30-2 p.m., Tues. through Fri. No experience needed, staff guides all classes.

For details on any of these opportunities, contact Deacon John Brophy at Brophy@roadrunner.com or by cell at 814.528.3623.

Relay for Life Benefit Concert



Selah Praise Band will present "Sing for Joy!" a benefit concert for the Our Lady of Peace Relay for Life Team on Fri., May 3 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Church, 2401 West 38th Street in Erie. Enjoy an evening of praise and worship music followed by fellowship and refreshments. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken during the concert to benefit the OLP Relay for Life Team.

Singers sought in New Bethlehem

St. Charles Catholic Church in New Bethlehem will host a concert to benefit the New Bethlehem Community Center, Sat., June 1 at 7:30 p.m. Musicians and singers who would like to perform should contact the St. Charles Parish Office at 814.275.3446 or Kayla Raybuck at 814.365.5936.

St. Callistus invites all to parish retreat

"Is it time to give God a second thought?" is the name of the parish mission which will be offered by St. Callistus Parish in Kane May 13-15. Paulist priest Father John Collins, who works full time in evangelization and mission work, will be the presenter. The sessions, designed to renew and energize, will begin each evening at 7 p.m. Please call 814.837.6694 for more information.

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Italy South: Jun. 15-27, Aug. 31-Sep. 12, Sep. 7-19 ...
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'Shepherd in combat boots' awarded Medal of Honor for Korean service

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Korean War chaplain who selflessly pulled wounded men from enemy fire and helped his fellow prisoners of war keep a sense of hope was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor, in an April 11 White House ceremony.

In paying tribute to Father Emil J. Kapaun, an Army captain, President Barack Obama told multiple stories of the "shepherd in combat boots" from Kansas who voluntarily stayed behind with the wounded to face certain capture, rather than evacuate when his division was overrun at Ulsan, Korea, in November 1950.

Father Kapaun received the Bronze Star before his capture and the Distinguished Service Cross after he died. Within the Catholic Church, he has an active cause for sainthood, having been recognized by the Vatican as a "servant of God," a first step in the investigation of someone who is being considered for sainthood.

Some of Father Kapaun's fellow prisoners, who walked out of their prison camp carrying a crucifix they'd fashioned to honor



CNS photos

U.S. President Barack Obama presents the Medal of Honor to Ray Kapaun, who accepted it on behalf of his uncle, U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, at the White House in Washington April 11.

their deceased chaplain, were in attendance at the ceremony.

"He should have gotten it a long time ago," Joe Ramirez, a war veteran, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Houston. He was baptized by Father Kapaun July 19, 1950, the day after their regiment had landed in Korea.

"He deserves about three or four of them," another soldier-friend of the priest, Herbert Miller, told CNS. Miller, a sergeant



U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, who died May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, is pictured celebrating Mass from the hood of a jeep Oct. 7, 1950, in South Korea. He was captured about a month later.

who was injured when a grenade exploded near him, was among the guests for the ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Father Kapaun intervened as a Chinese soldier was about to execute Miller; the priest carried him for four miles to a prison camp at Pyoktong.

Father Kapaun's actions that day are what was being recognized with the Medal of Honor, Obama said, but he continued with stories of the priest's selfless actions in the prison camp — helping smuggle in more food; giving away his clothes to freezing men; fashioning pots to boil water

to battle dysentery; praying with the men in their huts; celebrating Easter Mass.

The priest would go cabin to cabin, stopping in for a few moments to talk and pray with the wounded and dying prisoners.

Writing about him in a 1954 *Saturday Evening Post* article, fellow soldier Mike Dowe said "By his very presence, somehow, he could turn a stinking, louse-ridden mud hut, for a little while, into a cathedral."

Suffering from an assortment of ailments, Father Kapaun died in that prison camp in Pyoktong on May 23, 1951.

Photos by Anne-Marie Webb

Record attendance supports seminarians



Sue Toohey Vandeveld (left), chair of the St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary Card Party, has worked hard to help the event grow significantly in recent years. Seminarian Andy Boyd (below), of St. James Parish in Wesleyville, was among those who helped the auxiliary better, during and after its signature event.



Sunny skies and a warm breeze buoyed the mood at the 2013 card party hosted by the St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary.

More than 400 people bought tickets to attend the organization's singular and signature annual fundraising event held April 18.

Under the leadership of Sue Toohey Vandeveld, the group has widened its outreach efforts in recent years, and counts on support from the Serna Club as well as the permanent deacons of the Diocese of Erie and their wives.

This year, raffle tickets were also sold at St. Joseph Parish in Warren, Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage and St. Mary of Grace Parish in Meadville. The event netted a \$14,000 profit in 2012.

Those interested in joining the auxiliary are invited to attend any 7 p.m. Mass and meeting which is held the second Tues-

day of each month at the seminary, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., in

Erie. (Meetings are not held in June, July or August.)

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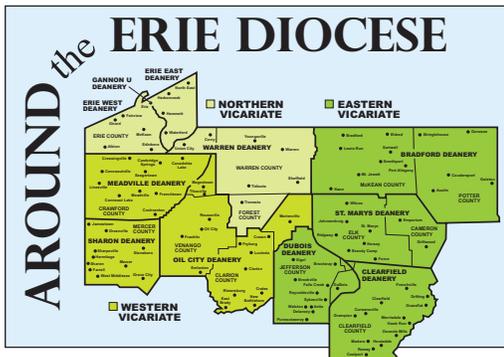
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Photo Tips

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures.
<http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



A 'capitol' experience for Greenville students

GREENVILLE — Four 8th graders from St. Michael School in Greenville were chosen to serve as Senate pages in Harrisburg after writing letters as part of a history class.

During the three-day experience, they served in the state capitol, were introduced in the House of Representatives, and had the experience of appearing on the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

The program is designed to encourage students to learn about and consider serving in government.



Pictured, left to right, are: John Clanci, Rachel Micky, Senator Bob Robbins, Madison Fattman and Matt Mathias.

Seder meal shared in Emlenton

EMLENTON — Each year, Deacon Candidate Nick Crelli and his wife Elisa host the Bible study group at St. Michael the Archangel in Emlenton for a Passover Seder, following the traditional Jewish Haggadah.

Joining in the festivities this year were Father Chuck Schmitt, priest-in-residence at the parish (front, left) as well as Sister Marian Wehler, O.S.B., and Sister Tina Geiger, R.S.M. of Catholic Rural Ministry.



Grampian community benefits from Living Stations on Good Friday



GRAMPIAN — Carrying on a tradition for St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian as well as the

Grampian community, religious education students of the parish presented the Living Stations of

the Cross on Good Friday, March 29.

DCC students portray Greek characters

DUBOIS — Students at Dubois Central Catholic Middle School recently proved they know the minds and hearts of mythological characters as they completed their recent unit on Mythology.

Selecting a character, they not only dressed the part but shared the story of their troubles and triumphs with students of various grade levels in a convincing and entertaining way.

Teacher Mary Ann Piccirillo said students were enthusiastic about the assignment, which also gave them the opportunity to work on public speaking skills.

Pictured in costume are, kneeling, left to right: Noah Pettenati as Thor, Austen Cogley



as Apollo, Michael Misciewicz as Hermes, Emily Rhoades as Persephone and Noah Donahue as Dionysus.

Standing, left to right: Pedar Garred as Poseidon, Zach Logan as Zeus,

Abby Aughenbaugh as Demeter, Gabby Caruso as Aphrodite, Jordan Frank as Nike, Riley Asalone as Medusa, Riley Meyers as Artemis and Trisha Gupta as Pandora.

Shenango Valley students reflect on the meaning of sacrifice

MERCER — Students at Blessed John Paul II and Kennedy Catholic Middle School enjoyed participation in an art competition, "Take Me to the Cross," initiated by Tina Socchia.

Students in grades K through 8 were encouraged to remember the challenge of the 40-day Lenten sacrifices they made, then to compare it to the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made.

The crosses they created were judged by the Knights of Columbus, led by Grand Knight Bill Zarnary.

On March 27, five students from each grade were recognized for their outstanding effort.



Art competition winners in kindergarten through grade 5.



Middle school students recognized for their efforts in the Take Me to the Cross competition at Kennedy Catholic Middle School display their artwork.

New Mercy Associates Welcomed

ERIE — The Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community welcomed two new Mercy Associates during a Mass on April 7. Rosemary Hoyt and Catherine Mack, both of Erie, made their commitments during a covenant ceremony at the Sisters of Mercy chapel on East Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Another 35 Mercy Associates renewed their covenants, or commitments, during the Mass. Forty-two Mercy Associates, lay women and men, now share in the values and traditions of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, in Erie. They are dedicated to Gospel values and use their gifts to support the works of Mercy.

The Sisters of Mercy in Erie



are part of the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community which also includes Pittsburgh, Rochester, the Philippines and Buffalo, site of the main admin-

istrative office. Pictured left to right are Rosemary Hoyt and Catherine Mack, both of Erie.

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