



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

May 7
Good Shepherd Sunday

Holy Hour for Vocations
May 7 at 4 p.m.
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shantz

FaithLife

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 30, 2017

Contact legislators to help Christians in Middle East



CNS file photo

Assyrian Christians protest Christian persecution in Syria and Iraq.

Bishop Lawrence Persico has asked the people of the Diocese of Erie to actively respond to continuing attacks against Christians in Iraq and Syria. "The plight of Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities facing genocide in the Middle East is an issue that transcends political parties," the bishop said.

On Jan. 10, a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) to provide emergency relief to Christians and other victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria. It also would require accountability for the perpetrators of such crimes.

House Resolution 390, known as the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act, is awaiting a vote in the House.

Bishop Persico urges Catholics here to be informed about the crisis facing Christians in Iraq and Syria, to pray and sacrifice for them, and to work with senators and representatives to support HR 390.

For information on the crisis and for resources on how to respond, go to www.ErieRCD.org/justice.htm.

Good Shepherd Collection benefits all diocesan priests



Msgr. Cas Bogniak



Father Leo Gallina

Msgr. Casimir Bogniak and Father Leo Gallina are among 47 retired priests in the Diocese of Erie. Yet neither is technically retired.

Msgr. Bogniak, 85, and Father Gallina, 77, still say Masses and provide other priestly services to area parishes. Both live at the Priest Retirement Residence in Erie, which is supported in part by the annual Good Shepherd Collection, scheduled May 6-7.

Last year, parishioners in the 13

>> GOOD SHEPHERD, page 3

'Woman Clothed with the Sun'

100th Anniversary of Fatima

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

More than 4 million people are expected to visit Fatima, Portugal, for this year's centenary celebrations of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to three young shepherd children.

For those who cannot travel to Fatima, several events and special Masses are scheduled throughout the Diocese of Erie to help people mark the 100th anniversary. [See sidebars below.]

This is a time to seriously reflect on the message of Fatima, according to Father David Poulson, spiritual director of the Erie Diocesan Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

"It's a time of recommitment to carry out Our Lady's requests and to do it with two things in mind: conversion of sinners and world peace," Father Poulson said.

Mary's messages in 1917 emphasized the



Photo by Mary Solberg

The apparitions of Fatima are remembered in this grotto at St. Andrew Church in Erie.

importance of the Trinity, the Eucharist, penance, her Immaculate Heart, and the need to recite the rosary for peace and conversion of souls. Special indulgences are granted this year to those who visit a Fatima statue or shrine [see below].

Bishop Lawrence Persico will participate in opening and closing events for the centenary.

The annual Rosary March in Erie, held

Oct. 8, is expected to draw more crowds than usual.

"We are encouraging all kinds of school groups and parish organizations to attend the Rosary March," Poulson said. "We really want it to be the same Rosary March through the streets of Erie, in which we give public witness to our faith, but this year we want to make it a bigger celebration for the centenary."

CELEBRATIONS

in the Diocese of Erie

The following are events planned in the Diocese of Erie to mark the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's apparitions at Fatima.

May 7 at 1:30 p.m. (Mass), and 3 p.m. (40th anniversary Rosary March), Expo 1 Building, Clearfield Fairgrounds—Dave Carollo, executive director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, is the featured speaker. The event is sponsored by the St. Francis Parish chapter of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

May 13 at 10:30 a.m., Sacred Heart Church, St. Marys—Blessing of the reconditioned Our Lady of Fatima outdoor shrine. Recitation of the rosary. Mass at 11 a.m.

May 13 at 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Fatima Church, Farrell—Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at Mass.

May 13 before the 5 p.m. Mass, St. Julia Parish, Erie—Rosary recited.

May 13 at 11 a.m., St. Thomas More House of Prayer, Cranberry—Rosary procession.

May 13 and the 13th of every month, 8 a.m. to noon, St. Gregory Church, North East—The parish's Our Lady of Fatima statue will be solemnly exposed for public veneration beginning at 8 a.m. Mass and rosary.

May 13 and the 13th of every month, and Aug. 19, Carmelite Monastery chapel, Erie—A statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the chapel for veneration. An 8 a.m. Mass with Marian/Fatima hymns, followed by a prayer in her honor and prayers for the Holy Father to gain the indulgence. All are welcome to make a visit to her during regular chapel hours from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 13 to Oct. 13, St. Bartholomew Church, Sharpsville—Public veneration



Photo by Melinda Eschelon

Stained glass window at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Farrell.

of the Our Lady of Fatima statue. Special Masses will be held on apparition dates: May 13 at 4 p.m., June 13 at 7 p.m., July 13 at 7 p.m., Aug. 13 at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 13 at 7 p.m., and Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

June 13 at 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua Church, Cambridge Springs—Father David Poulson, spiritual director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Diocesan Division, will lead a procession and deliver a homily on the secrets of Fatima.

Oct. 8 at 2 p.m., St. Peter Cathedral, Erie—Rosary Walk. Bishop Persico will participate, as well as preach the homily. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, Erie Diocesan Division.

Oct. 12 at 5:30 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie—The parish Fatima statue will be processed into the church. There will be Mass and anointing of the sick, with Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman presiding.

Oct. 15 at 3 p.m., Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage—Rosary march.

INDULGENCES

during the 100th anniversary

Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence to the faithful who make a pilgrimage to the shrine in Fatima, Portugal, pictured at right.

For those unable to make that pilgrimage, the indulgence is extended to those who "visit with devotion an image of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly displayed for public veneration" in any church, oratory or chapel on the 100th anniversary of any of the apparitions, i.e., May 13, June 13, July 13, Aug. 13, Sept. 13 or Oct. 13.

In addition to the usual requirements for obtaining a plenary indulgence (i.e., true repentance from sins, reception of sacramental absolution in confession, reception of holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father), it is also necessary that a visit on any of the aforementioned days include participation in a celebration or prayer in honor of Our Lady, recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and a prayer to Our Lady of Fatima.



CNS photo

PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE

travels to area parishes

The traveling Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Diocese of Erie contains first-class relics of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who witnessed apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

Pope Francis is expected to canonize Jacinta and Francisco next month in Fatima.

The diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue will be present each month, beginning in May, at the following churches:

May: St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, and Queen of the World, all in St. Marys

June: Holy Rosary Church, Johnsonburg

July: St. Boniface Church, Kersey

August: St. Leo Magnus Church, Ridgway

September: St. John the Evangelist Church, Girard

October: St. Michael Church, Fryburg.

A TOAST TO BENEDICT

VATICAN CITY—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Archbishop Georg Ganswein, prefect of the papal household, left, toast with steins of beer some men in traditional clothing during the German pontiff's 90th birthday celebration April 17 at the Vatican.
The pope's birthday was the previous day.



CNS photo

Newsmakers



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

■ Jesuits apologize for slavery



CNS photo

Jesuit Father Timothy Kesicki, an Erie native who is president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S., delivers the homily at Georgetown University.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Georgetown University and the Society of Jesus' Maryland province apologized April 18 for their roles in the 1838 sale of 272 enslaved individuals for the university's benefit.

More than 100 descendants attended a morning "Liturgy of Remembrance, Contrition and Hope" that the university created in partnership with descendants, the Archdiocese of Washington and the Society of Jesus in the United States.

"Today the Society of Jesus, who helped to establish Georgetown University and whose leaders enslaved and mercilessly sold your ancestors, stands before you to say that we have greatly sinned," said Jesuit Father Timothy Kesicki, president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, and a native of Erie.

In early April, Georgetown announced plans for the liturgy and a renaming ceremony for two buildings on campus previously named for priests who sold women, children and men into slavery for financial gain in 1838.

■ Kenyan Catholic university helps stricken communities

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—Students at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa joined faculty and staff to raise money and collect food for people living in Kenya's drought-stricken communities.

More than 20 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania are at risk of starvation if water, health care, shelter and food supplies are not provided, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Karen Rono, 20, a third-year law student, contributed \$50 to the cause, enough to buy several sacks of corn or rice.

Another law student, Nelson Ng'ang'a, 20, said that seeing images in various media of suffering people motivated him to support the effort.

"The local media has for some time been awash with news about the menace, sometimes with striking photos of emaciated people and their animals," he said.



CNS photo

Karen Rono, Nelson Ng'ang'a and Betty Amutabi, students at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, pose for an April 12 photo.



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

The late Msgr. Wilfrid Nash, former president of Gannon University, was my beloved pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie, and was a source of solace to my mother in her final days in 1983.

Devoted to the Blessed Mother, he talked to me once about the reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Medjugorje, in what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Catholic Church still has not officially ruled on the authenticity of the Medjugorje apparitions, but at the time, Msgr. Nash essentially said, "If it brings people closer to God, then that's good."

During the Marian Year, 1987-88, he encouraged parishioners to memorize "The Memorare," a prayer asking Mary to intercede for us before God.

I know Msgr. Nash would be excited about the 100th anniversary of Fatima this year. Beginning next month and continuing through October, the diocese will celebrate the occasion with Masses, rosary marches and special events at area churches.

Some parishioners, including Bill Moore of St. Francis in Clearfield, and Maloy Shroud of St. Patrick in Franklin, recently shared their devotions to Mary.

Forty years ago, Moore's father, Bud Moore, established with his sons and others the first rosary march in Clearfield County. Bill Moore is continuing that tradition by organizing the event on May 7 at the Clearfield County Fairgrounds.

Dave Carollo, executive director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, is the featured speaker. "We've been promoting Our Lady's message for 40 years and I think it's going to bear some fruit," Bill Moore says.

To help assist with the funding of the annual march, Moore runs a small Catholic book store from his home in Clearfield.

Maloy Shroud says she purchased a statue of Our Lady of Fatima in memory of her mother, Mercedes Vega. With the blessing of Msgr. John Herbein, pastor of St. Patrick, the statue is hosted in the homes of parishioners for a week or two at a time.

"She calls the Fatima message "critical and important for the salvation of mankind and world peace."

"Everyone who has hosted Our Lady has been awed by her presence," she says. "I have received such wonderful testimonies. One family was having some medical trials and Our Lady was in her home and their prayers to her helped this family very much. She is truly a loving mother."

♦ ♦ ♦

On April 22, two seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate at a Mass at St. Mark Catholic Center Chapel.

Several clergy joined Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman in celebrating the diaconate ordinations of Andrew Michael Boyd and Ian Ryan McElrath. Bishop Persico also is looking forward to ordaining three new priests for the diocese in June.



Deacons Andrew Boyd and Ian McElrath

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Building 'a culture of encuentro'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an excerpt of an editorial from the March 30 issue of *Catholic New York*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York. Reprinted with permission of Catholic News Service.

The trend has been clear for a long time. Hispanic and Latino Catholics make up the fastest-growing ethnic group in the U.S. Catholic Church—continuing the long tradition of a church that embraces newcomers as brothers and sisters in Christ.

A recent report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University commissioned by the U.S. bishops shows that more than half of millennial-generation Catholics born in 1982 or later are Hispanic or Latino.

So, it's exciting to watch a major effort unfold, with the aim of bringing Hispanic and Latino Catholics closer to the church at every level and encouraging them toward leadership now and in the future. An ini-



CNS photo

Parishioners hold hands during a Mass at the Hispanic Congress of the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, held last summer in Sioux City.

tiative of the U.S. bishops, *V Encuentro*, as it's called, is the Fifth National *Encuentro* (Encounter), a synod-like process designed to prepare the church to better recognize and promote the gifts and talents that this growing community of Hispanic/Latino Catholics has to share with the church and society.

The national *V Encuentro* is set for Sept. 20-23, 2018, in Grapevine, Texas, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The theme is "Missionary Disciples: Witness of God's Love," and it's expected that more than 7 million Catholics will be involved at some level, with more than 5,000 parishes participating in the process.

Those are impressive numbers, and if they hold up—and we have no reason to think they won't—it would be a major home run for the church and for its Hispanic/Latino members.

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ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES
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Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, celebrating **Monday, May 29th at 9 a.m.**
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Good Shepherd Sunday

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59 Years of Service

Collection May 6-7

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EVENTS

Healing Mass scheduled at Holy Rosary Church

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie invites everyone to a healing Mass May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th Street and East Avenue.

Father David Poulson, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Cambridge Springs, will officiate.

Those attending may come early to write petitions on a simulated brick wall that will be presented at the offertory procession.

For further information or questions, call Pat at 814-823-3968 or Gerry at 814-452-2499.

Usher's Society hosts pre-election get-together

ERIE—The Holy Trinity Usher's Society is sponsoring a pre-election get-together May 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Social Center, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie. Several candidates to elected office will be introduced at 6 p.m.

Funds from the event benefit Holy Trinity Parish. Admission is \$10 per person (must be 21 to attend) and includes ox roast, sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, chicken wings and beverages.

Retreats available at House of Prayer

CRANBERRY—The St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry is a quiet place for prayer and rest.

A two-night women's retreat is scheduled May 5-7. Father Hugh-Mary of the Community of St. John will lead the weekend, focusing on Mary in the book of Revelation.

The suggested cost is \$175 per person or \$265 for a mother and daughter. Commuters will only pay for meals. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

For details, contact Carrie Kolesar at 814-676-1910 or email info@liturgyofthehours.org.

Free retreats are available for clergy. See details at <http://liturgyofthehours.org/pdf/PriestRetreat.pdf>.

Retrouvaille offers help for troubled marriages

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—A weekend Retrouvaille retreat is scheduled May 26-27 at the Villa Maria Educational and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, Pa.

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry that helps troubled marriages.

The program offers a weekend retreat in which couples learn a new communication technique.

For more information or to register, go to www.helppourmarriage.com or call 330-501-9377.

To find other locations close to Erie that may offer a Retrouvaille, go to www.ErieRCD.org/flo_ret.htm.

Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk to benefit Inner-City Neighborhood Art House in Erie

ERIE—Register now for the 10th annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk or 1K Fun Run to benefit the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, Erie, on Saturday, June 3, beginning at the Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. The 5K begins at 9 a.m.; the Fun Run starts at 10 a.m.

Register or download a registration form by visiting www.neighborhoodarthouse.org, or calling 814-455-5508.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel to hold final event celebrating 55 years of Catholic education

ERIE—Save the date for a final celebration of 55 years of Catholic education at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Erie.

The event, called "Thanks for the Memories," will be held June 8 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the school, located at 1531 E. Grandview Blvd.

Food will be available at reasonable prices; bring chairs and blankets. Enjoy a DJ, a bouncy house, a 50/50 raffle and fireworks.

OBITUARIES

Sister Sallie Harrington, OSB

Benedictine Sister was mother, grandmother

ERIE Benedictine Sister Sallie Harrington, 77, died April 10 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

She entered the community in 1994 after raising four children and having worked in business.

She was born and raised in Washington, D.C., settling in Virginia. Sister Sallie was a licensed real estate agent and appraiser as well as a licensed sanitation and food handler, both of which allowed her to work successfully in the business world before entering religious life.

In addition, she was certified as a CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) teacher and chaired the CCD Steering Committee at St. Phillip Church in Falls Church, Va. She was a chaplaincy volunteer for Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, Va., and a coordinator of weekend

retreats for the seriously ill at Dominican Retreat House in McLean, Va. Sister Sallie also volunteered at SOME (So Others Might Eat), Washington, D.C.

She professed her first vows on Sept. 14, 1996; her perpetual monastic profession followed in 2000.

As a Benedictine Sister, she served in Emmaus Ministries, was a teacher aide at St. Benedict Child Development Center, and worked as a nurse aide in the monastery

infirmary before taking on various responsibilities in internal ministry at the monastery in 2015.

Survivors include members of her Benedictine community; her children: Cheryl Stern of Midlothian, Va.; Tracy (Diep) Johnson of Richmond, Texas; Kimberly (Robert) Lewis of Bishop, Ga.; Gregg Johnson of Sand Spring, Okla.; 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; and a dear friend, Hilda Schmid of Wilmington, N.C.

A service of memories was held at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery on April 18, and a Mass of Christian burial was held there April 19. Interment was at Trinity Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511.



Sister Sallie Harrington, OSB

Father Stanislaus Widomski, OFM

Franciscan priest, native of Erie, dies at 89

RINGWOOD, N.J.—Father Stanislaus Widomski, OFM, 89, a professed Franciscan friar for 59 years and a priest for 55, died April 2 at Holy Name Friary in New Jersey.

A native of Erie, he was baptized Bernard Francis, a son of the late John and Agatha Widomski. After graduating from East High School, Father Widomski attended Gannon University, Erie, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1950. He then entered the U.S. Army, serving in Korea and Japan.

After being honorably discharged in 1954, Father Widomski entered Holy Name Province's St. Joseph Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, N.Y. He was received into the Franciscan Order on July 14, 1956, at St. Raphael Novitiate, Lafayette, N.J., and professed his first vows on July 16, 1957.

Father Widomski professed solemn vows in 1960 at Christ the King Seminary in Allegany, N.Y., and was ordained to the priesthood March 17, 1962, at Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C.

Father Widomski began his priestly ministry at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, but shortly thereafter requested to serve as a missionary in Japan. His request was granted one year later, when he was sent to study Japanese at the Franciscan Language School in Tokyo in 1963. He would remain in Japan for the next 48 years, serving at parishes located in Japan's Gumma Prefecture.

He also served as director of the Good Shepherd Movement Communications Center in Tokyo from 1976-79, and worked at St. Francis Retreat House in Kiryu for 21 nonconsecutive years. While in Japan, Father Widomski organized a national Vocation Priary Society.

In 2011, Father Widomski returned to the United States to retire at St. Anthony Friary, St. Petersburg, Fla., where he lived until moving to Holy Name Friary in Ringwood in 2015.

Father Widomski is survived by two brothers, Stanley and Chester Widomski, both of Erie.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Bonaventure Church in Allegany, N.Y., with Father Dominic Monti, OFM, officiating. Burial was at St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Allegany.

Memorials may be sent to Franciscan Friars-Holy Name Province, 144 W. 32nd St., New York, NY 10001-3202.



Father Stanislaus Widomski, OFM

Good Shepherd

Continued from page 1

counties of the diocese gave the highest total ever to the collection: nearly \$240,000.

According to Msgr. Daniel Magraw, who coordinates the collection, donations fund not only the retirement residence, but provide revenue to the Priest Retirement Pension Plan, help cover assisted living and long-term health care expenses, provide the bishop with funds for unexpected needs of incapacitated clergy, and add to the Clergy Health and Welfare Endowment.

"I think the collection is a great way for the people of

the diocese to help our priests. Thank God there are retirement homes for priests; it's such a worthwhile way to help priests in our older years," Father Gallina said.

After his official retirement, Msgr. Bogniak served as temporary administrator at 11 parishes. He's happy to be living with his brother priests who are retired.

"The collection helps me in that I have a nice home to live in and beautiful surroundings," he said.

Msgr. Magraw said that priests also give to the Good Shepherd Collection. Last year, one priest donated an inheritance, and another declined personal gifts for his anniversary, asking that monetary gifts be made to charities, including the annual collection.

Parishioners are asked to give to the Good Shepherd Collection at their parish May 6-7, or go online to donate at www.ErieRCD.org/goodshepherd.htm.

POSITION OPENING **DIocese OF ERiE**

Accounts Payable and Purchasing Assistant

The Diocese of Erie is seeking part-time support for the Office of Financial Services for St. Mark Catholic Center. Go to <http://www.ErieRCD.org/employment.htm> for a complete position profile and application form.

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Annual Spring DINNER and QUILT SHOW

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017
Turkey and Ham Dinner
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The 40th Annual Rosary March

Mass at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Mark Mastrian
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Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m.
in the Expo I Building at the Clearfield Fair Grounds

GUEST SPEAKER
David Carollo
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Join us in the outdoor Rosary and Eucharist Procession
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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieCDD.org

Check out more photos at www.ErieCDD.org/atd.htm



Psychologist from Australia commits to monastic program

ERIE—Colleen Leathley, center, a registered psychologist on a mid-life sabbatical, has made a five-month commitment to be a participant in the Benedicta Riepp Monastic Experience Program of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. The program offers an immersion in a daily rhythm of prayer, work, outreach to the marginalized, communal life, hospitality, peace and nonviolence.

A native of New Zealand, Leathley has worked for the past 26 years in Sydney, Australia. She hopes to integrate her background in psychology with spirituality. Pictured with



Leathley at the April 4 ritual commitment ceremony at Mount St. Benedict are Sister Stephanie Schmidt, left, director of monastic formation, and Sister Anne Wambach, prioress.

Children celebrate first reconciliation in Smethport

SMETHPORT—On April 5, several students received their first reconciliation at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport.

Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Jamie Doutt, Laynee Cosper and Calidonia Dart. In the back row, from left, are: Zachary Hungiville, Father Vince Cieslewicz, pastor, and Aidan Hollowell. Absent from the photo is Ruby Meyer, who celebrated the sacrament on April 8.



Tallying donations for St. Jude's



RIDGWAY—Over the past several years, students at St. Leo School in Ridgway have raised more than \$20,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Recently, students held their annual math-a-thon, collecting \$2,600 for St. Jude's. All students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated by doing math problems and then collecting pledges from family members

and friends. Pictured are students who brought in the highest pledges. In the front row, from left, are: Elena Mendez, Karys Raubenstrauch and Kayla Kielbowick. In the second row, from left, are: Javan Himes, Lily Bish and Frank Howard. In the back row, from left, are: Kate Raubenstrauch and Anna Biondi.

Oil City students raise funds for Tanzania home

OIL CITY—Students at St. Stephen School in Oil City raised \$322.97 for the Majengo Children's Home in Tanzania after hearing about orphan children in Majengo, not far from Arusha Catholic Seminary, where Erie Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler had served as a missionary under the auspices of the Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie. Sister Marian visited Tanzania last year and shared her experiences with the St. Stephen students. Debbie Mitchell,



eighth-grade teacher, said students collected money in one week during Lent. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: students Edwin Weikert, Ailish McGrail, Brianna Barnett and Scott Finch. In the back row, from left, are teacher Debbie Mitchell, and students Mariah Wessell, Maddox Wenner and Zoey Empson.

Women at St. Bartholomew gather for Lenten program



SHARPSVILLE—Thirty women from St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville gathered for fellowship, dinner and discussion with Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor, standing at top, center. They journeyed through "33 Days to Morning Glory," a retreat program held every Monday evening in Lent. The women consecrated themselves to the Blessed Mother at Mass on April 3. The parish will begin another session of "33 Days to Morning Glory" Monday evenings in July.

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