

Grotto dedicated

A new grotto was dedicated to St. Joseph in memory of the Knoll family. See page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

Holy Week Solemn Liturgy Schedule

Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the following liturgies, all of which will be held at St. Peter Cathedral, 230 W. 10th St., Erie:

- **Palm Sunday**, Sunday, April 13, 11 a.m.
- **Chrism Mass**, Monday, April 14, 4 p.m.
- **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, Holy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**, Good Friday, April 18, 3 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 19, 9 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend all liturgies.

Special Collection

2014 Pontifical Good Friday Collection
for the Holy Land
Optional in parishes—April 18, 2014

Revision youth

Can it be? Speaker says youth want more silence



Doug Tooke

Large, loud diocesan-wide youth rallies are so 1980s and '90s. Today's teenagers are finding Christ in smaller, more intimate settings, says Doug Tooke, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Helena, Mont.

A nationally recognized speaker on youth ministry, Tooke says technology has brought the world closer, but in many ways has made intimacy more difficult. Kids today, he says, are "hungry for community."

"The world of the adolescent is a loud world today," Tooke says. "When we build a big event, it's not appealing to them. Sometimes silence is what really appeals to young people."

At 38, Tooke should know. He's young enough to relate to teenagers and old enough to realize there are better ways to reach them. That's why he's coming to the Diocese of Erie on April 26. He'll be the featured speaker at a one-day workshop, "ReVision—Diocesan

ReVision

Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry
April 26 – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie
No cost, but registration is required at
<http://revisionerie.eventbrite.com>.

Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry," at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie.

Tooke will speak on national trends in youth ministry and will share his expertise in the areas of multi-parish youth ministry, especially in rural dioceses, like Erie. Pastors, youth ministers, religious education leaders, high school campus ministers, coaches, Scout leaders and anyone who works with youth are invited to attend the event, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues to 6 p.m.

Bishop Lawrence Persico, in a show of commitment to the youth of the Diocese of Erie, will be on-hand throughout the day, giving a morning talk and celebrating Mass in the afternoon. Tooke will offer morning and afternoon reflections and also oversee a workshop on multi-parish youth ministry.

With one-quarter of all U.S. parishes clustered now, youth ministry requires a different set of leadership skills, specifically business management, according to Tooke. In his own Diocese of Helena, Tooke oversees youth ministry in 72 parishes covering 55,000 square miles.

"There are certain things you can do better in a cluster," Tooke says. "Instead of focusing on the difficulties, we can ask ourselves, 'What can we do better together?'

He encourages youth ministers to plan smaller events instead of larger, wide-swing gatherings. It requires more work, but the benefits in personal spiritual conversion are greater, Tooke says.

His own diocese has taken groups to the Blackfoot Reservation for a weekend outreach experience, and he sees great benefit in the Catholic Heart Work Camp movement, a national program that invites teenagers to live together for a week while serving the needy in a particular town. (The Diocese of Erie is planning its second Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer.)

Kathleen Peterson, program coordinator in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie, agrees with Tooke's vision. She and Father Stephen Schriener, director, already have begun to focus on smaller, more intimate retreats that include Eucharistic adoration.

"The fruits are in the small conversion events or spiritually directed retreats," Peterson says.

FaithLife

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

"...the road of faith also passes through darkness and doubt, and is nourished by patience and perseverance."

April 6, 2014

Pope meets Obama, Pennsylvania delegation Archbishop Chaput, governor invite pontiff to Philadelphia

Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In their first encounter, Pope Francis received U.S. President Barack Obama at the Vatican March 27 for a discussion that touched on several areas of tension between the Catholic Church and the White House, including religious freedom and medical ethics.

The pontiff also met briefly the day before with a delegation of government, religious and community leaders, including Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

The Pennsylvania dignitaries were in Rome March 24-26 to meet with Vatican officials to plan the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia Sept. 22-27, 2015. After hand-delivering letters and drawings for the pope from Pennsylvania students, the Philadelphia contingent urged the pope to attend next year's gathering.

Pope Francis' meeting with Obama, however, took top priority during the week. During an unusually long 50-minute encounter, the two leaders discussed "questions of particular relevance for the church in (the U.S.), such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection as well as the issue of immigration reform," the Vatican said in statement.

The mentions of religious freedom and conscientious objection presumably referred to the contraception mandate in the new health care law, which has become a major source of conflict between the administration and the church.

Last September, Pope Francis launched a high-profile campaign against Obama's proposal for military strikes to punish the government of President Bashar Assad for its presumed use of chemical weapons.

At the end of their talk, Pope Francis gave Obama a bound edition



Pope Francis accepts a replica of the Liberty Bell from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter as Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput looks on during the pope's general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 26.

The pope wrote to Russian President Vladimir Putin, host of a G-20 summit, decrying the "futile pursuit of a military solution," and a few days later led a prayer vigil for peace in Syria that drew some 100,000 people to St. Peter's Square.

The Vatican did highlight two points of harmony with Obama in the discussions: immigration reform, on which the administration's position is close to that of U.S. bishops, and a "common commitment to the eradication of trafficking in human persons in the world."

At the end of their talk, Pope Francis gave Obama a bound edition

of his apostolic exhortation *Evan gelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), published last November. The gift prompted the president to respond: "You know, I actually will probably read this in the Oval Office when I am deeply frustrated, and I am sure it will give me strength and will calm me."

"I hope," the pope replied with a laugh.

In a December speech, Obama quoted a passage from the exhortation in which the pope lamented: "How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news

when the stock market loses two points?"

Pope Francis also presented Obama with a pair of bronze medallions, one commemorating the 17th-century construction of the colonnades around St. Peter's Square; another portraying an angel that brings together the world's North and South in "solidarity and peace founded on justice."

"This gift is from the pope," Pope Francis said of the first medallion. "But this other one is from Jorge Bergoglio. When I saw it, I said: 'I'll give it to Obama; it's the angel of peace.'

Franklin parish reaches out to Merida

Mary Solberg
FaithLife



Read about
Gannon University's
spring trip to the
Mission of Friendship
on page 2.

Sandy Koziara of St. Patrick Parish, Franklin, enjoyed her first visit with a sponsor child, Diana, at the Mission of Friendship in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

floors and painted homes as well as the exterior of the mission's Amigos office.

"My family here has been pretty blessed," Koziara says. "I think at my age you start thinking about life and what difference I am making in the world. What can I do?"

For Koziara, the answer was to go to Mexico, where she says the poverty is unlike anything in this country. She was happy to join

Friends on a Mission in its effort to raise money this past year for a new, used van for the Merida mission.

While in Mexico, St. Patrick's Friends on a Mission presented a \$17,400 check to Tricia Pipkin, the coordinator of the Mission of Friendship, promising to raise the additional funds that would meet a goal of \$20,000. In the past year, the group

raised \$10,000 through a mail fundraising campaign, and held numerous breakfasts, netting another \$4,700. Other money was raised through holiday bake sales and donations.

"The parishioners formed this group. I think it's wonderful that they have become so committed and involved in the Mission of Friendship. They have seen for themselves the good that it does," says Sister Claire, who is the chaplain at Polk Center in Polk.

Pipkin believes the visit from the Franklin parish and its donation already has begun to change lives.

"We are excited that the van is now within reach and grateful for all of their efforts to support this mission in this way," Pipkin adds.

According to Pipkin, the 12 members of the Friends on a Mission group at St. Patrick sponsor eight families served by the Mission of Friendship. Deb and Dan Drayer, owners of Drayer Electrical Service, Franklin, sponsor two of those families and have been to the Yucatan three times.

"You come back home with a whole different attitude, a respect for life," Deb Drayer says.

■ Bless me, Father: Pope leads by example, goes to confession

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Leading a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis surprised his liturgical adviser by going to confession during the service.

After an examination of conscience March 28, the pope and 61 priests moved into confessional booths or to chairs set up against the walls to offer the sacrament to individual penitents.

However, as Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, was showing which confessional the pope would be using to hear confessions, the pope pointed to another confessional nearby, indicating that he himself was going to first confess.

The pope, dressed in a simple white alb and purple stola, spent about three minutes kneeling before the priest's open confessional and received absolution. The priest also clasped the pope's hands and kissed his simple silver ring.

Pope Francis then went to another confessional and spent about 40 minutes hearing confessions.



CNS photo/L'Observatore Romano via Reuters

■ Priest's research still guides modern-day cosmology

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The work of researchers who reported detecting the signal left behind by the rapid expansion of space billions of years ago is rooted in the efforts of a Belgian priest whose mathematical computations in the 1920s laid the groundwork for the Big Bang theory.

Msgr. George Lemaitre, a mathematician who studied alongside leading scientists of the first half of the 20th century exploring the origins of the universe, suggested that the cosmos began as a super-dense "primeval atom" that underwent some type of reaction that initiated the expansion of the universe which continues today.

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ADJUMANI, Uganda, (CNS)—It has been two months since Father Raphael Ayiga Lebo has had a good night, or a good day, of sleep.

His parish in the village of Dzaipi, 18 miles from the border of South Sudan, has become a safe haven for refugees fleeing the conflict that began in Juba, the fledgling country's capital, in mid-December. Father Ayiga said the number of refugees was so great that he and two fellow priests at the parish felt their efforts fell far short of what the beleaguered people need.

"Many people slept in the open, under trees, in tents and under the verandas (porches) of our house," he told Catholic News Service.



CNS photo
Samuel Nyariel, a church hygiene-promotion volunteer, gives a hand-washing demonstration in a displacement camp in Ahou, South Sudan.

■ Harrisburg installs new bishop

HARRISBURG (CNS)—Joyously welcomed into St. Patrick Cathedral for his installation Mass as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg March 19, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer held up St. Joseph—whose feast the church celebrated that day—as "a challenging example" for members of the church.

Speaking of Joseph's designation as a "just man," Bishop Gainer said the description of the saint goes far beyond his decision to take Mary into his home.

"Everything we were told about Joseph indicates that he was indeed a just man. This primary attribute of Joseph gives us not only an overall appreciation of who he was, but it aligns him with the greatest figures in the Old Testament," he said.

Bishop Gainer, who succeeds the late Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, had been bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.

Gannon U. visits Merida



Contributed photo

Gannon University's Alternative Break Service Trip (ABST) took students and staff to the diocesan Mission of Friendship in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. The group is shown standing in front of the pyramid known as El Castillo. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: students Jackie Pfleil, Lexie Mastro, Linden Lester and Natalie Pertz, and mission coordinator Tricia Pipkin. In the second row, left to right, are: Gannon's president, Keith Taylor; students Madeline Boucher, Katie Kapp and Randy Clapp; Janet Armbruster of Gannon's Career Development Office; mission volunteer Ron VanDyken; and Dan Carr. (Read more about the Mission of Friendship at www.ErieRCDC.org/missions4.asp.)

GANNON students and staff blog from Merida

The following are some of the blog posts by Gannon University students and staff who participated in the Alternative Break Service Trip (ABST) this March to the diocesan Mission of Friendship in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico:

"Not using my phone all week reduced so much of my stress I had from school, friends, my job and other responsibilities.... The people in Yucatan live simply every day. They live in small houses and make do with what they have."

— Madeline Boucher, junior communication arts major

"There is constant warmth here. I'll miss it as soon as I leave. The people here surprise me. They base their lives in love."

— Natalie Pertz, senior theatre and communication arts major

"What did I experience, what did I learn, how did this trip change my life? Every attempt I've made to verbally answer those questions just seems to fall so short. I've learned that you can be truly happy without money, social status and things."

— Janet Armbruster, Gannon's Career Development Office

"What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other? Coming back home, I am trying to adopt that quote as my new motto for life. For me personally, I am happiest when serving others and giving myself to those in need."

— Linden Lester, sophomore early childhood education/special education major

"I will now and forever be very intentional in serving others as their equal. We are all human beings in this world, so we should start acting like it."

— Lexie Mastro, senior physician assistant major

"The Mission of Friendship was a terrific environment for the students to reach out from. Our daily mix of service and cultural immersion kept us busy, engaged, entertained and oftentimes in awe and tired."

— Keith Taylor, PhD, Gannon president

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ishes/schools and individuals to recognize the tell-tale signs of abuse and do something about it are the first steps.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Let's remain vigilant.

♦ ♦ ♦

Congratulations to the people of St. Boniface Parish in Kersey on the dedication of their renovated church building and new altar. **Bishop Lawrence Persico** spoke at the dedication Mass on March 22, thanking parishioners and **Father James Faluszek**, pastor, for making the beautiful changes a reality. "Because of its essential connection to the celebration of the Mass, which is at the center of our lives as Catholics, the dedication of an altar is of great importance," the bishop told the congregation.

♦ ♦ ♦



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Question: Do alumni of a Catholic high school need to get criminal record checks before using the school weight room in the evenings?

Answer: No, unless the alumni will be in direct contact with students.

Karen Streett, the safe environment coordinator for the Office of Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie, was presented this exact scenario recently.

Although the question points to troubling problems in our society, it's kind of what pleases Streett.

"What's impressive to me is that it shows how aware our principals, pastors and religious education leaders are in keeping children safe," Streett says.

Since 1995, the Diocese of Erie has had a policy in place for the protection of children. Like all dioceses, Erie is acutely aware of the pain, anger and confusion that have been caused by the sexual abuse of children in the care of individuals in the church and elsewhere. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI have issued public apologies, taking responsibility for suffering endured by abused children.

Every year the Diocese of Erie is audited by the USCCB to ensure that parishes, schools and administrative offices are complying with regulations. Last July, the diocese passed its latest audit. In 2007, it made one of its biggest revisions when state law changed regarding the definition of mandated reporters of sexual abuse of children.

"We don't just let the policy sit there. It's a living policy. We try to keep it relevant to what's going on in our own diocese," Streett says.

Policies and audits aside, we all know that silence is the most significant hurdle in ending this scourge. Encouraging families, par-

ishes/schools and individuals to recognize the tell-tale signs of abuse and do something about it are the first steps.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Let's remain vigilant.

♦ ♦ ♦

Good luck to the teenagers at St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth parishes in Corry as they try to raise funds to attend this summer's Catholic Heart Work Camp in Oil City. According to **Paula Levine**, director of religious education, the kids have been raising money through bake sales and sub sales. On April 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., they'll be holding a craft show at the St. Thomas School gym.

This year, eight students from these parishes will be participating in the weeklong outreach to the needy. If they're willing to get dirty for others, then we can surely support them!

♦ ♦ ♦

There are many events and pilgrimages planned throughout the world in preparation for the upcoming canonization of the late Popes John Paul II and John XXIII. Because traveling to Rome is prohibitive for some, The Verdin Company, a well-known bell-maker in Cincinnati, Ohio, has come up with an ingenious idea.

Verdin invites Catholic churches around the globe to ring their church bells on April 27 to celebrate the canonizations.

"The sound of bells ringing out across the country to mark this historic day will be a memorable celebration for your parish and community," says Jim Verdin, president.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife.

Email: msolberg@erieRCDC.org

Call 814-824-1171

[Twitter.com/ERIERCDSolberg](http://www.ERIERCDSolberg)

News Briefs

Spanish language Cursillos scheduled this spring for men and women

ERIE—The men's and women's Cursillos this year in the Diocese of Erie will be offered in Spanish. Those interested in attending either Cursillo should have a sponsor who will provide an application and more information.

Both Cursillos will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek. The men's will be held April 10-13 and the women's May 15-18.

Applications and more information also are available at the Cursillo website at www.eriecursillo.org or by contacting the Cursillo office at 814-824-1118.

Plan to attend 19th annual Catholic Charities Ball

ERIE—The 19th annual Catholic Charities Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie is set for May 16. Formal invitations will be mailed out in mid-April, but reservations are now being accepted. To secure your seat early, visit <http://www.ErieRCD.org>.



Former Cayarie Club organizing reunion

ERIE—The Cayarie Club (Catholic Young Adults of Erie) was founded in the early 1950s to promote Catholic marriages. About eight couples married after meeting through Cayarie, and many socialized together at Christmas or at summer picnics.

Former Cayarie members are trying to organize a 60th reunion this spring or summer. Past club members are asked to contact Peggy Boniger Mitchell at 814-833-3966.

Empty Bowls dinner supports Second Harvest Food Bank

ERIE—The annual Empty Bowls hunger awareness dinner—where a variety of donated soups and fresh bread make up a simple meal—will be held April 13 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Egan Dining Hall at Mercyhurst University in Erie.

The public is welcome to attend the dinner, the proceeds of which will benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania.

According to John Herrmann, a member of Mercyhurst Student Government, "The Empty Bowls event allows us to not only raise money and awareness about hunger in the immediate community, but to bring attention to hunger as a worldwide problem."

The cost for soup and a handcrafted bowl is \$15; soup only is \$5. Live music will accompany the event, as well as a silent art auction. This year's vendors include: Bertrand's Bistro, The Brewhouse, Joe Root's Grill, Molly Brannigan's, Pufferbelly Restaurant, U Pick 6 Publick House and Whole Foods Co-op.

More than 250 handmade bowls have been crafted for the meal, with the bulk of the work completed by art education majors. Tickets can be purchased at Second Harvest Food Bank or through John Herrmann at jherm9@lakers.mercyhurst.edu. Email Michelle Ahrens at mahren36@lakers.mercyhurst.edu for more information. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door, although it is recommended they be purchased in advance.



Photo by Jen Cassano

These are some of the bowls being created for the Empty Bowls dinner at Mercyhurst University.

Forum addresses youth and religion

ERIE—Mercyhurst University will host a panel discussion, "Religion Matters—The Impact on Youth & Delinquency," on April 15 from 3 to 4 p.m. in Mercy Heritage from Room, Sullivan Hall.

Panelists will review information from a study of Erie County youth and discuss the relationship between religiosity and youth problem behaviors. Co-sponsors are Mercyhurst University Civic Institute, the Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics and Society, Religious Studies Department and the Criminal Justice Department.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Peter Benekos at 814-824-2328.

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New grotto dedicated to St. Joseph

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Jane Knoll Lyons will be 94 in a couple of weeks, but that doesn't stop her from attending 7 a.m. Mass every weekday at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Parish in Erie.

It's a habit she learned growing up at the parish with her 13 brothers and sisters and late parents, Edmund and Ida Mary Knoll, who became parishioners of St. Joseph more than 100 years ago.

"A big family is one of God's greatest blessings," says Jane, who is the last surviving member of the original Knoll family.

Jane and several members of her extended family gathered at St. Joseph one evening in March to memorialize Edmund and Ida Mary at an outdoor grotto constructed with funds bequeathed to the parish by Jane's two sisters, the late Dorothy Marie Knoll and the late Alice Clare Knoll. Neither had married.

Before their deaths, both sisters had talked to Father Larry Richards, pastor, about their devotion to St. Joseph. They wanted to see a grotto created someday on the parish grounds. Once he received funds from their wills, Father Richards fulfilled the sisters' wish by planning the structure on W. 24th Street between Peach and Sassafras streets.

"The Knoll family has been such a pillar of the parish," Father Richards says.

In 1944, the Knolls were honored by the late Bishop John Mark Gannon as the Catholic family of the year. One of their 14 children was a Redemptorist priest; a daughter became a Sister of St. Joseph.

Despite their generous gifts to St. Joseph Parish, neither Alice nor Dorothy would have wanted their names affixed to the grotto in any way, Father Richards



Photo by Andrew Boyd

The extended Knoll family has deep roots at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Parish in Erie. Several family members gathered with Father Larry Richards, pastor, at the dedication of a new grotto to St. Joseph in memory of the late Edmund and Ida Mary Ilia Knoll, who became members in 1912. Pictured in the first row are Morgan Eastman, George Maxwell Craig, Emily Lyons Craig, Father Richards, Jane Knoll Lyons, George Lyons, Mark Knoll Lyons and Paula Lyons. In the second row are Erin Eastman, Mary Ida Eastman, Molly Hudson, Edward Menger, Mary Therese Lyons Menger, Thomas Hudson, Emily Hudson and Ginger Steenberge.

says. Humility epitomizes the family.

"The last thing either one of them wanted was to be the center of attention," Father Richards adds.

The grotto features a large statue of St. Joseph that was once a fixture on top of the old school. It later was moved to a corner of the property, so it is in need of much repair.

Father Richards expects to have the statue restored sometime this summer. Also, permanent outdoor candles will be

added to the grotto, which is lit for nighttime use. A meditation garden is a long-term goal as well.

Mary Therese Lyons Menger is a parishioner of St. Joseph/Bread of Life and currently is executive director of the Reason for Our Hope Foundation, based at the church and founded by Father Richards. She knows the community will benefit from the grotto that her aunts envisioned.

"If the grotto can inspire anyone to grow stronger in their faith, that would be their wish," she says.

St. George 2nd in state

PHILADELPHIA—Congratulations to the Lancers of St. George School in Erie who captured second place in the Pennsylvania CYO State Tournament at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia March 30.

St. George narrowly lost to St. Thomas the Apostle School, Philadelphia, by a score of 42-39.

"Our boys' effort was remarkable. They fought very hard," said Coach Ben Noble.

St. George advanced to states after defeating St. Stephen of Oil City in the Erie Diocesan Championship on March 9.

Members of the team include: John, Matt and Anthony Lupo, Tommy Russo, Nick Wisinski, Terry Roberts, Noah Noble, Matt Zupan, Mike Bevan, Joseph Corsale, Paul Causgrove, Dan O'Brien, Sean Johnson, Ethan Skarzenski and Jordan Covato.



Photo by Amy Skarzenski

Northwest Savings Bank helps students in diocese

Northwest Savings Bank has contributed more than \$700,000 since 2004 toward scholarship assistance to children attending Catholic schools in the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie.

On March 27, Northwest's Erie Region President James E. Martin presented Bishop Lawrence Persico with the bank's latest contribution: \$149,778.

"Northwest knows the importance of Catholic education. If we can give back, then we're happy to do it," Martin said.

Northwest has contributed to the diocese's STAR Foundation with funds from Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. The money provides scholarships to 250 Catholic school students.

Martin, who is a parishioner at St. George Parish in Erie, calls the annual contribution to STAR "the single easiest way" that Northwest can assist children and families.

When Northwest Savings Bank first gave to the STAR Foundation in 2004, the total reached about \$23,000. Contributions have steadily climbed since then, with a total of \$700,766 given in the past decade.



Northwest Savings Bank Erie Region President James E. Martin, center, presents a check for more than \$149,000 to Bishop Lawrence Persico, right, and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education.

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Franciscan Peace Award given to two eighth-graders



GREENVILLE—Eighth-graders Matthew Goodwin of Kennedy Catholic Middle School and Andrea Emmett of St. Michael School in Greenville were awarded the Franciscan Peace Award this winter at St. Michael Parish in Greenville. The students were recognized by their school principals and teachers for their Christian behavior and how they serve as role models for the student bodies of their respective schools.

Parish helps police obtain grant



EDINBORO—Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro helped the Edinboro Borough Police obtain a \$10,000 grant from the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation at the Giving Back Fund to assist and develop the department's K-9 unit. Father Dan Hoffman is shown presenting the check to Officer Landon Silva, who initiated the grant application. The mission of the Roethlisberger Foundation is to support K-9 units of police and fire departments throughout the U.S.

Swimming in memory of a coach



ERIE—The swim team at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie hosted a "Swim a Mile for Bill Jones" this winter, raising \$2,714 in memory of Jones, who was a respected coach and mentor for more than 30 years. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Lisa Keating, advancement director; swimmers Katy Rose, Rachel Kreidinger and Logan Nikolic; and Colleen Jones Strain, Jones' daughter. In the second row, left to right, are: coaches Natalie Kreidinger, Lisa Lutherling, Theresa Imler and Michelle Rose. In the third row, left to right, are: coaches Jim Malone, Don Meyer and Sean Head.

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Eucharistic ministers installed at Penn Highlands



DUBOIS—Fourteen people from throughout the Diocese of Erie were installed this winter as new Eucharistic ministers at Penn Highlands DuBois, formerly DuBois Regional Medical Center.

The commissioning occurred at a Mass celebrated in the PH DuBois West Chapel by Pastoral Care Department staff chaplain, Father Matias Quinnino, and assisted by Deacon Robert DeNoon, Pastoral Care Department director and staff chaplain.

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Virginia Good and Olga Chioldo, both of St. Michael the Archangel Church, DuBois; Mary Ann Piccirillo of St. Catherine of Siena Church, DuBois; Judy Landini of St. Tobias Church, Brockway; Father Quinnino and Deacon DeNoon; Sandy Bertini of St. Michael the Archangel Church, DuBois; and Tim Decker and Eugene Strishock, both of St. Tobias Church, Brockway.

Pictured in the back, left to right, are: Sean

Garred Jr. and Marilyn Green, both of St. Bernard Church, Falls Creek; Elsa Barrow and William Aravich, both of St. Tobias Church, Brockway; and Sherri Lang of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Sykesville.

Missing from the photo are Della Nasuti of St. Catherine of Siena Church and Scheldean Jose of St. Joseph Church, DuBois.

Three cheers for Catholic schools



HERMITAGE—Cheerleaders at St. Michael School hosted the St. Michael School cheerleading tournament at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage Feb. 16. Our Lady's Christian School in Erie took second

place in the junior varsity elementary level and third place in the varsity middle school level. St. Luke School in Erie took third place in the junior varsity elementary, and Kennedy Catholic High School took first place in

the varsity high school competition. Blessed Sacrament School also competed in the tournament, which attracted more than 16 teams from Pittsburgh, Ohio, Erie and Mercer counties.

St. Gregory School supports American Heart Association



NORTH EAST—Students at St. Gregory School in North East raised \$1,327 for the American Heart Association by participating in a "Hoop and Jump-A-Thon" at the school this winter. The focus of the event was on cardiovascular fitness. All students in multi-age groups from preschool through eighth grade participated in the fundraising event.

Clarion students attend Chorus Fest in Rural Valley



CLARION—Seven fourth- and sixth-graders from Immaculate Conception School in Clarion recently participated in Chorus Fest, an event in Northumberland County that attracted 235 students from 33 schools. Guest conductor was Erik Winger, an employee at Walt Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando, Fla.

Participants from Immaculate Conception, pictured in the front row left to right, are: Makenna Aaron, Gabrielle Miller, and Leah Bauer; and in the second row, left to right: Natalie Cussins, Clara Beck, Abby Mingo and Alex Cussins.

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