

SHE IS CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH AND DIGNITY. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

PROVERBS 31

Happy Mother's Day

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ERIE



Prep student reflects on life after Parkland. PAGE 2

FaithLife



How do you spell applaud?

PAGE 2

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 13, 2018

DIOCESAN NEWS

Anticipating ordination



Rev. Mr. Andrew Boyd



Rev. Mr. Ian McElrath

The Rev. Mr. Andrew Boyd and the Rev. Mr. Ian McElrath are expected to be ordained to the priesthood Friday, June 8, at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie.

Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the ceremony, which begins at 7 p.m. The occasion coincides with the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All are invited to attend the ordination.

Pope appoints skin stem-cell biologist to science academy

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis named a pioneering U.S. scientist specializing in stem-cell research to the Pontifical Academy for Sciences.

Elaine Fuchs, professor and head of the laboratory of mammalian cell biology and development at The Rockefeller University in New York, was appointed to the papal think tank, according to a Vatican press release published May 5.

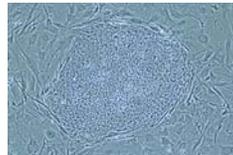
Fuchs, 68, has done groundbreaking research on the biology of skin stem cells, studying how these cells make and repair tissues, how they "communicate" with other neighboring cells, and how the communication malfunctions in cancer and aging, according to the press release.

The research is aimed at developing therapies that enhance wound repair and impact the stem cells of tumors.

Born in Hinsdale, Ill., Fuchs earned a degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois and got her doctorate in biochemistry from Princeton University. She was the first woman hired in the biochemistry department at the University of Chicago in 1980.

In addition to working at Rockefeller University, she is also an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a philanthropic organization working to advance biomedical research and science education.

She is a member of many top science associations, including the National Academy of Medicine, and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the National Medal of Science.



CNS photo/Oregon Health & Science University via EPA

A photo provided by the Oregon Health & Science University shows a stem cell colony produced from human skin cells.

'LIFE IS GOOD'



Photo by Mary Solberg

Nathan Englund and his mom, Diana, share a similar sense of humor and a desire to show the world that Down syndrome adds to a full life.

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

When Diana Englund of Erie learned that her newborn son Nathan had Down syndrome, she worried about how people would treat him. She even wondered if the demands of caring for such a dependent child would snatch away her own freedom.

That was 23 years ago, and Englund, now 62, says, "Everything I worried about was useless. None of it ever came to pass."

A parishioner of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Englund reflects on her life with Nathan in light of legislation currently before the Pennsylvania Senate.

House Bill 2050 (Down syndrome Protection Act) proposes to ban abortions based on a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives passed the bill April 16 by a resounding bipartisan vote of 139-56. Although the measure will be taken up by the Senate, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf already has expressed his opposition to it and could veto the bill.

"There's no reason justified to abort a person with Down syndrome," Englund says. "They're such a joy to everyone. I have never met a parent who wasn't happy with their child with Down syndrome and who didn't love them to death. And I have never met a person with Down syndrome who says, 'I have Down syndrome and I don't like my life.'"

Englund's fierce love for Nathan is obvious when the

two sit across from each other. Their easy repartee indicates a lifetime of mutual care, appreciation, and even a shared sense of humor.

"She is a fantastic lady," Nathan says, laughing. "She drove us on trips some summers. She is busy. She's a likeable lady."

Englund good-naturedly accepts the compliment, but adds that Nathan wasn't so happy with her recently. She turned off his computer one night after he did not shut it down when she asked him a half-hour earlier.

"You were a little bit mad at me the other night," she chides

“

I have never met a parent who wasn't happy with their child with Down syndrome and who didn't love them to death.

— Diana Englund

”

him, adding, "You said mothers should be merciful and I wasn't being merciful. But we got over it."

"Any parent might empathize with this situation. But what's exceptionally telling is how much Englund and her husband of 38 years, Richard, establish normal, everyday routines despite Nathan's Down syndrome.

At 23, Nathan is considered high functioning. He reads at a

Mother and son show beauty of Down syndrome



Photo by Steve LaBian

Nathan Englund carries the cross as an altar server at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie.

fourth-grade level and graduated in 2015 from the Harborcreek School District's life skills program.

After taking a year-long culinary arts class at Mercyhurst University's North East campus, he got a job working part-time at Penn State Behrend's dining hall.

He cuts meats at a food station and tends to the salad bar. He's also an altar server at St. Joseph, where he participates in the parish's Friendship Ministry, a program for peo-

Nathan describes himself as "joyful."

"I am...yep," he says. "Life is good."

Michelle Inter, director of the Office of Disabilities Ministries for the Diocese of Erie, has watched Nathan contribute to the community on many levels. He offers assistance with Joy Ministries, a diocesan program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and he visits St. Joseph Church every Friday afternoon for a committed hour of personal prayer and adoration.

"Nathan has a true heart for service and a true heart for God," Inter says.

Inter is lobbying for passage of House Bill 2050 so that the world may benefit from future Nathans.

The National Down Syndrome Society estimates that one in every 700 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common chromosomal condition. About 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born in the United States each year.

Aborting these babies, Inter says, would be a travesty. "We would be missing the gift of pure love and pure joy, which those with Down syndrome give so wholeheartedly," Inter says. "The Holy Spirit is working through them."

Support the Down syndrome Protection Act



Photo by Steve LaBian

The Office of Social Justice and Life and the Office of Disabilities Ministries of the Diocese of Erie—along with the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference—urge people to advocate for House Bill 2050, the Down Syndrome Protection Act.

Under current law, a woman can obtain an abortion prior to 24 weeks gestational age for any rea-

son if a physician deems it is necessary, except if the woman's sole reason is to select the sex of the child. The proposed bill will expand that exception to prohibit aborting the child solely due to a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

For more information about the bill and proposed action, go to www.pacatholic.org.

Ice cream, anyone?

ROME (CNS)—People raise their ice cream cones as they toast Pope Francis at a Sant'Egidio soup kitchen in Rome April 23. In honor of the feast of St. George, the pope—born Jorge Mario Bergoglio—donated 3,000 servings of ice cream to soup kitchens and homeless shelters around Rome. The ice cream included mostly vanilla cones with chocolate and nuts on top, but also a few pistachio and strawberry cones.



CNS photo

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

From Catholic News Service

■ Catholic Church reaches out to help displaced in South Sudan



CNS photo

A child swallows an oral cholera vaccine at a displaced persons camp at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Wau, South Sudan, April 17.

WAU, South Sudan (CNS)—In the land where traditionally you'd look for a steeple and a cross to identify a church, today in South Sudan you're just as likely to find a church by looking for a collection of dirty, tarp-covered rustic huts, where the internally displaced have sought refuge from the country's seemingly incessant fighting.

Father Marko Mangu lives in the middle of such a jumble of precarious shelters. As diocesan coordinator for the Diocese of Wau, Father Mangu lives on the grounds of the Cathedral of St. Mary, where almost 10,000 internally displaced people continue to find refuge.

"It's a challenge to live here. The problems are endless. You either have to be a priest or someone extremely committed to the people, or you will get tired and quit," Father Mangu told Catholic News Service.

Since civil war began to rip apart South Sudan's fragile democracy in 2013, roughly one-third of the country's 12 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

In Wau, soldiers of the Sudan People's Liberation Army attacked local opposition groups and members of other ethnic communities in 2016. More than 400 people were killed and some 120,000 sought refuge in churches and a nearby United Nations base.

■ App offers new connections

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Convinced that faith communities would want to share prayer requests, announcements and service opportunities without going to multiple platforms and without being awash in advertising, a group of friends created a new app.

With \$2 million in seed money, Pray.com was beta tested with 100 churches in 2016. Today, 6,000 faith communities and thousands of other groups use the app to host their members' need for prayer and offers of support, as well as to recruit volunteers for local service projects and to collect donations.

The faith-social app Pray 2.0 is designed specifically not to "gamify" the experience of the

parishes, mosques, synagogues, churches and temples that use it, Matthew Potter, one of the app's co-founders, told Catholic News Service April 23.

People become obsessed, consciously or not, he said with attracting followers and likes, which in turn gives the advertising a wider market.

The communities that set up one of the closed groups on Pray.com and the community members who join those groups pay nothing.

Pray.com does not accept advertising but earns money by taking a small percentage of the donations it facilitates for the groups.

Potter and co-founder Michael Lynn were at the Vatican in late April where Pray.com was used as the community platform of choice for Humanity 2.0, a gathering of financiers, philanthropists, artists, tech experts, physicians, politicians and religious leaders. They came together to discuss ways to work together to make a positive impact on the world.

As a first step, they decided to raise \$100,000 to give to Pope Francis. The donations and pledges are being made through the app.



CNS photo

Michael Lynn, co-founder of the newly developed app Pray.com, holds a phone with the app during an interview in Rome April 23.

■ Bishops support new pathway to citizenship for young adults

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration announced support April 25 for a bipartisan bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for young adults brought into the country as minors without legal documentation.

The proposed bill also calls for an increase in security at the border between Mexico and the U.S., and an increase in immigration judges.

It ties U.S. aid to certain Central American countries based on their efforts to address smuggling.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, of Austin, Texas, voiced support for the USA Act, or Uniting and Securing America Act of 2017.

"We are hopeful our support of the current version of the USA Act, and our continued support of the Dream Act, will encourage Congress to act now and find a humane legislative solution for Dreamers," said Bishop Vasquez, referring to the group of young adults who would be affected by the legislation.

Reflecting on life after Parkland



Guest Commentary

Ethan Junkin

Editor's Note: *Ethan Junkin, a sophomore at Cathedral Prep in Erie, won first place this spring in the ninth- through 10th-grade competition of Erie People for Life's annual high school oratory contest. The following is an excerpt of his presentation.*

On Feb. 14, 17 people were killed at Parkland High School in Parkland, Fla. This horrific event, among a series of other violent acts, had the world shaken to its core.

Two days later, my English teacher, Matthew Hubert, announced that we would write letters to the students at Parkland to show support for what they were experiencing. He also asked for a moment of silence during which he said a phrase that I will not easily forget: "We as a nation are good with feeling sympathy for others; what we lack is the ability to feel empathy." This means we are able to feel sorry for people, but have a hard time putting ourselves in their shoes to understand what they're feeling.

I looked around my classroom, trying to imagine what it would be like with 17 of my classmates dead. As hard as I tried, I could not imagine half of the people in my classroom gone.

We can all feel bad for what people go through when it comes to death and dying, but we can't put ourselves into their perspectives because we don't have to.... While death may be a natural part of all existence, humanity has been taken out of it by all of the unnatural causes that bring death to humans before their time.

...Approximately 900,000 innocent lives are taken away each year [to abortion], with no funeral, no fond memories to serve as reminders of their lives, and no name to mark their graves.

Our culture has become so accustomed to death that the means of how a human dies are overlooked. If a friend or a classmate's grandparent passes on due to natural death,

flowers are sent to the funeral and condolences sent to the family.

...If a friend or classmate has a relative who is murdered by gun violence, flowers and condolences will be sent to the family, the victim is given a funeral filled with bitter tears, and the memories of them will be passed on through stories of what they might have been if they were given the chance of living a full life. If that same friend or a classmate's parents have an abortion, there are no flowers or condolences given to the family, no funeral for the lost child, and no stories to be told of them.

...Since ancient times, abortions have been practiced in nearly all civilizations, by cruel and primitive ways. In the past 50 years, abortions have become more "civilized" due to medical advances, taking the guilt out of murder and making abortions more of a normality than an anomaly.

...We live in a generation of social activists fighting for equality among all ethnicities, genders, religions and orientations. In this era of social activism, we must fight for the lives of those who have no say in whether or not they get the right to live. We can be the generation that ends how sex is seen as a commodity in our modern day society, rather than as a gift. We must educate and be educated on all aspects of sex, both on the physical and emotional aspects of it.

...We must be the generation that ends any and all prejudice on all forms of life. Life is a beautiful gift that we are given. So we, as a nation, must ask ourselves, "What makes one human life greater than another?"

A-P-P-L-A-U-D!



Photo by Anne-Marie Wesh

Ss. Cosmas and Damian fifth-grader Emily Wisneski of Punxsutawney, standing, correctly spelled the word "applaud" and captured the Diocesan Spelling Bee crown this month at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. Fourteen contestants from grades 4 to 6 assembled from all corners of the diocese to take on words ranging from "physical" to "rhythmic."

Second-place honors went to Anthony Phillips, seated at left, of St. Patrick School, Franklin. Morgan Sigler of St. James Parish, Erie, far right, took third place.

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EVENTS

■ Silent Walk for Peace

The Benedictines for Peace in Erie will hold a Silent Walk for Peace May 17 from 7 to 7:30 p.m., beginning at the Eastside Grassroots Coalition, 2021 E. 20th St., Erie. The walk promotes inner peace to support and deepen a shared constructive action for justice and peace.

■ Life in the Spirit course

St. Joseph Parish in Lucinda is hosting The Gift: A Life in the Spirit course May 18-19 at the church hall, 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda. The May 18 class runs from 6 to 9 p.m.; the May 19 class from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Registration is required by calling Denise Vano by May 16 at 814-744-8199. The Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Erie is sponsoring this free course.

■ Transitions peer ministry

Transitions is a monthly peer ministry for those who are widowed, divorced or separated. The next meeting is May 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. For more information, call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or visit www.ErieRCD.org/transitions.htm.

■ Evening of prayer, music

An evening of prayer and music will be held May 20 beginning at 6 p.m. at St. Bernard Church in Falls Creek. Music will be provided by Shalom. The evening will include a homily, Scripture reading and prayers for healing with Deacon Daniel Satterlee. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-5930 or Rich Kenawell at 814-771-7932.

■ Blossom Time Card Party

The St. Casimir Rosary Society of St. Casimir Church, 629 Hess Ave., Erie, is sponsoring its Blossom Time Card Party May 30 at 6 p.m. at the church social hall. There will be a luncheon, raffles, door prizes and a gift auction. A \$7 donation is requested.

■ Good Shepherd course

St. Mary Parish, 325 Church St., St. Marys, is offering a rare opportunity for anyone who would like to be trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Level 1 class this summer.

This class is for anyone, not just catechists. It would be helpful for parents, grandparents, teachers, priests, sisters and anyone interested in having and/or sharing an encounter with Jesus in his Word. If catechists complete all course requirements, they will receive a certificate from the CGS National Association. Tuition is waived due to a grant from the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania and the Disciples Life Faith Formation in St. Marys.

To request a registration form or for more details, contact Elena Radkowski at 814-834-5149 or at elenam73@aol.com.

■ Golf Scramble

Join the ninth annual Holy Rosary Golf Scramble June 27 at Venango Valley Golf Course in Venango, Erie County. The cost is \$80 per person. The event is open to women and men over 21 years of age. Sign in at 11 a.m., enjoy lunch and be ready for the shotgun start at noon. There will be skill prizes, a skins game and raffle baskets. Dinner and prizes will be at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Ken Kendziora at 814-825-7375.

■ Summer Discipleship Camp

The Diocese of Erie's Summer Discipleship Camp (Camp Tonus Tonus) will be held July 15-18 at St. Philip Church in Linesville. The camp is for middle school students who want to strengthen their relationship with Jesus and who want to spend time with other Catholic Christians. Camp begins with a family Mass at 1 p.m. on July 15, and ends with a family picnic at 6 p.m. on July 18.

The cost is \$175 per person. The cost includes all snacks and meals, overnight accommodations, a T-shirt, binder and materials for the week. Register online at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?est=8fc13d> or contact Jennifer Durney of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at jdurney@ErieRCD.org or at 814-824-1219.

Alpha offers new beginning in faith journey

FAITHLIFE staff report

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. It's also the name of a 40-year-old spiritual renewal program that has inspired hundreds of thousands of people around the world, including about 85 from the Erie region.

Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSI, adult formation director at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, introduced Alpha at the west Erie parish four years ago.

For those who have participated in the 11-week program, it's been a way to begin a new relationship with Jesus and others.

"Alpha gives people an opportunity to talk about their relationship with Jesus in a way we don't normally have the ability to do," Sister Ricarda says. "It has changed the way people pray. Some of the people who have participated now meet in small groups."

According to Linda Allen, a member of the Alpha core group at Sacred Heart, some of the men who attended the first Alpha program organized a prayer group that meets regularly at Wegman's in Erie.

"They are growing and looking to start a second group," Allen says.

Founded in an Anglican church in England in 1977, Alpha welcomes anyone, even non-churchgoers, to attend. Two-hour sessions extend over a period of 11



Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSI, leads a discussion during an Alpha session held May 7 at St. Andrew Parish, Erie.

weeks, including a one-day trip. Participants share a meal, watch a video, and join in a discussion in a non-judgmental environment.

"It's about developing relationships," Allen explains.

Over a period of weeks, participants get to know each other and look forward to sharing their thoughts on the Christian faith. According to Allen, Alpha is not only for active parishioners, but anyone, even those who have left the church.

Many people have traveled from other towns in the Erie area, looking to experience Alpha and a new way to explore the Christian faith.

Currently, Alpha is in its fifth week at Erie's St. Andrew Church, which is now a partner parish of Sacred Heart. The group meets Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The next Alpha at Sacred Heart will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 11, from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. For more information about Alpha, contact Sister Ricarda at Sacred Heart Church at 814-456-6256.

VOCATION NEWS

Four deacon candidates installed as new lectors



Courtesy photo

Bishop Lawrence Persico, center, stands with newly installed lectors, from left: Matthew Ochalek of Holy Rosary Parish, Erie; Glenn Bailey of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie; Randy Kondrik of St. Thomas Parish, Corry; and Martin Aubel of St. Michael Parish, Greenville.

Four men are one step closer on their journey to the permanent diaconate after they were installed as lectors April 14 at St. Mark Catholic Center Chapel in Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico entrusted each of the men as bearers of Holy Scripture to the faithful in the Diocese of Erie.

The newly installed lectors are Martin Aubel, Glenn Bailey, Randy Kondrik and Matthew Ochalek. Bishop Persico presented each candidate with the Bible, saying, "Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people."

Installation into the ministry of lector occurs in the fourth year of diaconate formation. The next step is acolyte, and the final step is ordination.

Sister transfers vows to Erie Benedictines



Courtesy photo

Benedictine Sister Jacinta Conklin, left, and Benedictine Sister Anne Wambach, prioress, talk during the community's vigil prayer.

For the past two years, Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, has been living with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie to discern her decision to transfer her monastic vows from her community of origin, St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys. St. Joseph Monastery had announced its closure due to a climbing median age of sisters and a lack of new members.

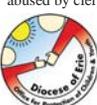
On April 21, Sister Jacinta became a full incorporated member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie when she officially transferred her monastic vows in the presence of Sister Anne Wambach, prioress, and members of the community and her family and friends. The public ritual took place during the community's vigil prayer and was followed by a celebratory dinner.

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The Diocese of Erie is seeking a Director of Human Resources to oversee all aspects of human resource practices and processes and to serve as a contracted consultant to parishes and agencies of the Diocese of Erie. Go to www.ErieRCD.org/employment.htm for a full position profile and application process.

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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



125 cans of chicken noodle soup...
ERIE—A Lenten service project at St. Luke School in Erie netted 125 cans of chicken noodle soup, 50 boxes of crackers, 120 boxes of granola bars and more than 300 toothbrushes, combs and travel-size toothpaste, deodorant, soap and shampoo for the homeless at Our Neighbor's Place overflow shelter in Erie. The students also created decorations and placemats for the shelter. Pictured, front to back, are sixth-graders Caylen Spano, Ella Fedor, Vivian Sanders and Caitlin Dugan.

Lenten project benefits SPCA in McKean County



SMETHPORT—Students in the religious education program at St. Elizabeth Parish in Smethport collected items and money for the McKean County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), as part of a Lenten service project. They collected enough money to pay the adoption fees for the cat and dog that have been at the shelter the longest, in hopes that this will help them find homes soon. Pictured are students from first through fifth grade.

Campus ministry spreads Easter spirit



CLARION—Students from Catholic Campus Ministry at Clarion University of Pennsylvania handed out plastic Easter eggs to students, staff and faculty at the state university in Clarion County. Each egg contained chocolate candies and a blessing from the Campus Ministry staff and students, along with Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion. Getting ready to distribute the Easter treats, from left, are: Sofia Pineda Lopez, Soukaina Asri, Chopper the Wonder Dog, and Ann Enderle Liska, campus minister.

Altar servers recognized for commitment to parish

ERIE—More than 50 altar servers were recognized for their service to St. George Parish at all Masses the weekend of March 17-18. Claire Caulfield and Thomas Caulfield are pictured receiving their award certificates and religious medals from Father Brian Vossler, pastor, and Deacon Bob Ball. Each server was presented an award certificate and a medal of St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of altar servers.

Father Michael Polinek, vocation director for the Diocese of Erie, initiated the altar server recognition program with the help of Father Vossler, Father Jamie Power, parochial vicar, and members of the Serra Club of Erie. It is considered an important way to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to recognize the commitment of altar servers to the parish.



St. Luke students hone their art skills

ERIE—Four students from St. Luke School in Erie were named winners in this year's Villa Maria Academy art show for grade school children. Twenty-five students from St. Luke entered the contest, using different mediums.

Pictured are the winners, from left: third-grader Leah Habursky, first-grader Vayda Giannelli, fifth-grader Kayden Weitzel and seventh-grader Amelia Sala.



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