



Inner-city kids work for their bicycles.
PAGE 3



FaithLife

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 22, 2016

Supreme Court sends religious liberty case to lower courts

Diocese of Erie responds to new twist

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE AND MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court May 16 sent the *Zubik v. Burwell* case, which challenges the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive requirement for employers, back to the lower courts.

The justices' unanimous decision—explained in a nine-page order—was another step in the long court process undertaken by the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh, along with five other petitioners, in their fight over religious liberty.

The latest decision by the high court was based on information that the federal government and the plaintiffs' attorneys submitted after oral arguments were heard in March. At issue is how and if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to this coverage.

The court specified that it is not expressing an opinion on the merits of the cases that are challenging aspects of the federal government's health care legislation. Also, justices stated they are not ruling on the issue of a potential violation of religious freedom.

Because of the "gravity of the dispute and the substantial clarification and refinement in the positions of the parties," the court stated that religious employers and the government should be "afforded an opportunity to arrive at an approach going forward that accommodates petitioners' religious exercise while at the same time ensuring that women covered by petitioners' health plans receive full and equal health coverage, including contraceptive coverage."

Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico says he is "optimistic" about preserving religious liberty as *Zubik v. Burwell* takes yet another detour in the court system.

"We'll wait until our attorneys review the order and see what steps we now have to take," Bishop Persico said. "What especially pleases me is the fact that the Supreme Court stated in their order that the government may not impose taxes or penalties on petitioners for refusing to agree with the government in this matter."

Attorney Lee DeJulus of Jones Day, the Pittsburgh-based firm representing Erie and other plaintiffs, said he is happy with the court's recent ruling.

"The court recognized that the government admitted it was feasible to protect the diocese's religious views and required the government to work with us to provide an accommodation that does so," DeJulus said. "In the meantime, the court made clear that the Erie Diocese remains free from the punishing fines and penalties that are mandated by the Affordable Care Act."

This is not the first time that justices have sent a case back to the lower courts in light of new developments. Their opinion on May 16 stressed that remanding the case to lower courts should not affect the government from making new orders covered by petitioners' health plans obtain FDA-approved contraceptives.

Oral arguments for *Zubik v. Burwell* were heard March 23 and the court asked for additional information March 29. Besides the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Washington, other petitioners include the Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, Southern Nazarene University and Texas Baptist University.

These groups argue that providing contraceptive coverage, even indirectly through a third party, violates their religious beliefs.

Venango Catholic remains open

Community 'stepped up to the plate'

FAITHLIFE staff report

Faculty, students and the Oil City community had prayed that Venango Catholic High School would be allowed to stay open despite persistent difficulties with enrollment and finances.

After nearly two months of around-the-clock organizing and fundraising, their prayers were answered.

On May 4, Bishop Lawrence Persico announced that VCHS would remain in operation for the 2016-17 school year, and perhaps beyond if it strengthens its enrollment, finances and planning.

"It's been exhausting and exhilarating," longtime English teacher Cindy Eckert said. "I'm so thankful for the bishop's openness. I'm thankful he gave us the chance."

Several students who attended an open meeting with the bishop immediately began tweeting messages: "We are VC, one family together," and "Crying because my school is staying open."

Destinee Sheffer, a senior, said keeping the school open is meaningful to alumni, too.

"I'm absolutely ecstatic. Even though we're seniors, we're ready to come back next year and be part of the alumni squad."

Since first hearing in February that the 54-year-old school would close at the end of this academic year, faculty, students, alumni, parents and local residents got behind a major effort to convince the bishop to reverse his decision. Called Save VCHS, the effort managed to stir emotions and secure pledges of \$323,000 for next year and more than \$800,000 for the next five years.

That pledged money will start com-



Photo by Anne-Marie Webb

Venango Catholic High School seniors Ian Hidinger, Josie Gabler, Destinee Sheffer, Sarah Groner and Daniel Baumeratz do a lot of tweeting upon hearing the news their school would remain open.



File photo

Venango Catholic High School in Oil City

ing in as soon as a pledge collection drive commences in the near future, according to Greg Merkel, a partner in the Seneca, Pa., law firm of McFate and Merkel. So far, pledges have ranged from \$20

individual donations to a \$66,000 gift from an estate. "The whole community has gotten behind this. We've more than doubled our donors in two months," Merkel said. "We're

fully funded for next year and I think we can meet all of our marks."

Although enrollment continues to be a major concern—with only 54 students projected for next year—the bishop recognizes the extensive work that went into rescuing the school. A viability plan presented to him on April 18 includes full-time advancement and marketing/enrollment positions, as well as a computer technology expert/teacher and a campus ministry professional.

Under the plan, Father T. Shane Mathew will remain as headmaster and an interim school board will be established.

"The plan does not address every concern we have," Bishop Persico said, "but the VCHS community stepped up to the plate and made a tremendous effort. Enrollment remains a challenge, but with

SEE VENANGO, page 2

Northwest Savings Bank tops \$1 million in gifts to Catholic education

Over the past 12 years, Northwest Savings Bank has contributed \$1.3 million for scholarship assistance to children attending Catholic schools in the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie.

In April, Northwest's Erie Regional President James E. Martin presented Bishop Lawrence Persico and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for Education, with its latest donation of \$239,944. That alone will provide needed scholarship money to 400 children attending diocesan schools.

"Northwest has been a great partner," said Chuck Banducci, director of School Financial Services for the diocese.

Northwest Savings Bank has contributed to the diocese's STAR Foundation with funds from Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Pro-

gram. Northwest is among some 100 companies, banks and other institutions that have committed more than \$2 million in EITC money for the 2016-17 school year.

"We have a huge commitment to Catholic education in the 13 counties of the diocese," Martin said. "This one check today helps 400 students. That's a great number, especially with everything going on in the world today and in the economy. The pressures these children are under to get into good schools is big."

Martin credited other Northwest officials in their ongoing commitment to Catholic education: Julie Marasco, regional president in Bradford and Warren; William Harvey, CFO; and William Wagner, president and CEO.



Bishop Lawrence Persico, far left, accepts the latest contribution from Northwest Savings Bank Regional President James E. Martin, center, for scholarships to children attending schools in the Diocese of Erie. Also pictured is Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for Education.



The universal church in motion

SILVER SPRING, Md.—School children from Our Lady of Vietnam Church in Silver Spring, Md., perform a liturgical dance for the call to prayer on May 7 during the 14th annual Asian and Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

CNS photo

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

Vatican explains pope's statement on women deacons

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis on May 12 met members of the International Union of Superiors General, the leadership group for superiors of women's orders, and accepted a proposal that he establish a commission to study the role of New Testament deaconesses and the possibility of women serving as deacons today.

After some news outlets reported the pope was considering ordaining women deacons, and after comments surfaced about women deacons leading to women priests, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi issued a clarification.

Pope Francis told the sisters that he thought it would be a good idea to form a commission "to take up this question again in order to view it with greater clarity," Father Lombardi said. "But one must be honest: The pope did not say he intends to introduce a diaconal ordination for women and even less did he speak of the priestly ordination of women."

Low priest to donate kidney to longtime friend, brother

BALLTOWN, Iowa (CNS)—Christian Brother Stephen William Markham and Father Scott Bullock already shared a strong spiritual bond as two men who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ as a consecrated religious and a priest.



CNS photo

Christian Brother Stephen William Markham, left, is scheduled to receive a kidney from his friend, Father Scott Bullock.

Very soon, they also will be connected by blood.

On June 16, Brother Markham is scheduled to receive a kidney from his friend through transplant

surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Since March 2015, Brother Markham, 72, a native of Rickardsville, Iowa, has been dependent on dialysis to survive. A flare-up of chronic glomerulonephritis, a kidney disease he has had since age 14, caused his organs to fail. The surgery is expected to end treatments.

Father Bullock and Brother Markham became friends when they served from 1999 to 2002 at parishes in nearby towns southeast of Dubuque. Father Bullock, the current pastor at St. Edward Parish in Waterloo, said he is not nervous about the surgery.

Pope: Health care is a human right, not a privilege

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Catholic Church is not a fancy medical clinic for the rich, but a "field hospital" that—often literally—provides the only medical care some people will ever receive, Pope Francis said.

"Health is not a consumer good but a universal right, so access to health services cannot be a privilege," the pope said May 7 during a meeting with members, volunteers and supporters of Doctors with Africa, a medical mission begun by the Diocese of Padua, Italy, 65 years ago.



CNS photo

Doctors with Africa includes dozens of young doctors who volunteer their services in Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Angola, South Sudan and Sierra Leone.

Pope Francis blesses a child as he arrives to lead a special audience with members of Doctors with Africa at the Vatican May 7.

W-i-n-n-i-g spellers



Photos by Anne-Marie Welsh and Mary Solberg

ERIE—Congratulations to the top three finishers in this year's Diocesan Spelling Bee at St. Mark Catholic Center. Sixteen fourth- through sixth-graders who had won their school-level spelling bees participated in the championship bee on May 4. Pictured, from left, are: third-place finisher, Brady Meyer of

St. James School in Wesleyville; first-place champion, Katie Harakal of Our Lady's Christian School, Erie; and runner-up, Hannah Figurski of St. Luke School, Erie. In the photo at right, Katie Harakal celebrates her win, enjoying a special moment with dad, Sam Harakal.

Mercy at work in the diocese



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

There are many stories of mercy and caring going on in the religious education programs of the Diocese of Erie.

- Here are just a couple:
- Second-grade religious education students at Holy Rosary Parish in Johnsonburg put together materials for portable mats for the homeless.
- The fifth-grade religious education



Contributed photos

Fifth-grader Ryan Fiscus helps run a drink stand at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Edinboro, with his mom, Sandra, and teacher Pat Mayton.



Students at Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg, helped the local Mats for the Homeless Ministry. Seated, from left, are: Jocelyn Cherry, Gianna Zimmerman, Tessa McCabe, Mya Allegretto, Josselyn Lowe, Jada Fitch and Kaya Mellquist. Standing are: Shauna Miller and Carol Black, from Mats for the Homeless, stand with students Hunter Newman, Gavin Lehman, Parker Calla, Gino Casilio, Jude Schreiber and Aidan Galsick.

class at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro sold lemonade, coffee and hot chocolate to raise money for people who don't have safe drinking water in Flint, Mich.

For the kids at Holy Rosary, their effort at outreach began with a lesson on The Good Samaritan, taught by their religious education instructors Melinda Lewis and Crystal Galsick.

"The kids were very excited to be a part of something bigger than themselves," Lewis says. "Kids learn and care by doing. This was a way to give them ownership and a sense of responsibility for those less fortunate than they are."

The Johnsonburg class helped to fold plastic shopping bags and cut them into loops that are used to make waterproof, bug-resistant sleeping mats distributed by the local Mats for the Homeless Ministry.

At Our Lady of the Lake, students set up a drink stand at Masses one weekend in April. Their teacher, Pat Mayton, had just been talking to them about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

"The kids said, 'We should do something,'" Mayton explains.

They raised \$416 selling drinks. The parish religious education office pitched in more funds to make an even \$500. All the money was forwarded to the American Red Cross in their work with the people of Flint.

Mary Solberg is editor of FaithLife. Email: msolberg@ErieRCD.org Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIERCDsolberg

Venango Catholic open

Continued from page 1

the significant success in fundraising, it's important to give the community an opportunity to put the proposal to work."

Father Mathew urged everyone involved in the effort to maintain "a sense of urgency."

"I believe our good work will not only prove the liveliness of our faith, but also transform the possible into the real," he added.

The future of the school depends largely on whether or not it can meet or exceed its target goals. For now, Merkel and Amanda Slider, the wife of a VCHS faculty member who provided marketing and financial planning expertise throughout the effort, believe that anything is possible, especially with the help of committed parents.

Merkel and Slider, both parents of young children, are expected to serve on the newly formed school board. Additional members are being considered for the board, which will be appointed by the bishop in consultation with Father Mathew and the Catholic Schools Office. On May 22, Venango Catholic will host an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. The pledge collection drive is ex-



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

WICU-TV's Jamison Hixenbaugh interviews Bishop Lawrence Persico after the announcement to keep VCHS open.

pected to begin soon thereafter.

Slider, who has an MBA and is a certified economic development finance professional, believes the effort to keep VCHS open was a lesson learned.

"At least I hope what we've all learned is that a combination of faith and hard work is what it's all about," she said.

The bi-weekly newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Erie.
 St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16504
 Publisher: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

FaithLife
 Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Welsh
 Editor: Mary Solberg
 Graphic Design: Rich Papalia
 Advertising Manager: Brenda Williams
 Advertising Design: Elizabeth Butterfield

Member of the Catholic Press Association
 Subscription: \$10/year
 Periodical postage paid at Erie, PA
 Postmaster: Send address changes to: FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center

Email: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org
 Editorial: 814-824-1171
 Advertising: 814-824-1161
 General Information: 814-824-1161

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1874.

McGonigle
 Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.
 724-347-7575
www.McGonigleFuneralHomeandCrematory.com

YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY
 B.J. Moon, R.Ph.
 John Pontoriero, R.Ph.
 Chad Jantzi, Pharm. D.

3106 Buffalo Road
 Erie, PA 16510
 Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

814 / 898-2085
 Fax 814 / 898-2086

Since 1950
RAS AUTO BODY
 All your collision needs.
 Special Wash, Wax/Interior - \$125.00 plus tax
814-453-6185
 66 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

ProximoTravel
 Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths
 Prices starting at \$2,499 - with Airfare Included in this price - from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Viking Cruises; Caribbean Cruises; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

Call us 24/7
 Hablamos Español
www.proximotravel.com
 anthony@proximotravel.com

508-340-9370
 855-842-8001

Largest memorial display in the area!

Monday-Friday 9 to 5 • Saturday 9 to Noon
 Evenings & Weekends by Appointment
 32980 Route 66 • Leeper, PA 16233

BORLAND MEMORIALS
 (814) 744-8340
www.borlandmemorials.com

EVENTS

'Grease' to be performed at Prep

ERIE—The musical "Grease" is being performed this month at the H. David Bowes Auditorium at Cathedral Prep in Erie. The last performance will be held May 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per person; \$5 for students and seniors. This is the final show of the school year.

Made2Worship to begin first Wednesdays

ERIE—Made2Worship is sponsoring monthly Wednesday evenings of story, song and Eucharistic Adoration by candlelight, beginning June 1 at 7 p.m. at St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie. Confessions begin at 6:30 p.m. Individuals, young people and families are welcome. Fellowship follows each event. A prayer team also is available to minister to those with specific prayer requests. Music is provided by Daniel Cabanillas and the M2W Band.

For more information, visit the new Made2Worship website at www.made2worshiperie.com. All 2016 Made2Worship evenings are: June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2.

Looking to buy some plants?

ERIE—St. Andrew Parish will hold a plant sale May 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Reflection Garden behind the parish center, 1116 W. 7th St., Erie. A variety of transplanted plants from parishioners' gardens will be available for a free will offering. Flats will be available and there will be potted plants and miscellaneous gardening items for sale from Potratz Garden Center in Erie. Coffee, juice and coffee cake will be served. For more information, call 814-454-2486.



Corpus Christi procession scheduled

ERIE—The annual Corpus Christi procession at St. Stanislaus Parish will be held May 29 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the church, 316 E. 13th St., Erie. The procession will conclude with a prayer service. Father Matt Kujawinski will be the celebrant and Father Stanley Swacha will be the guest homilist. Priests, deacons and deacons' wives are invited to attend the dinner afterward. Those attending the dinner must RSVP by calling the rectory at 814-452-6606 no later than May 23.

Concert held to rededicate historic organ

FARRELL—Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann Church, 601 Roemer Blvd., Farrell, is hosting a concert June 26 at 2 p.m. in the church to rededicate its historic 1909 Tellers pipe organ. The organ was restored by master organ builder Vic Marsilio of Victor Organ Company of Austintown, Ohio. The concert is free and open to the public.

Holy Rosary sponsors golf scramble

ERIE—Put a team together and get your reservations in for the 7th annual Holy Rosary four-person golf scramble June 29 at Venango Valley Golf Course in Venango, Pa.

Entry fee is \$80 per person and includes golf, skins game, skill prizes, air fare for a hole-in-one, lunch, steak dinner, gift auction baskets and more. Reservation deadline is June 13. Sponsorships are available for \$50 to \$200. For reservations and questions, call Ken Kendziora at 814-825-7375. Checks may be made payable to Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave., Erie, Pa. 16504.

Festival planned this June at St. Boniface

ERIE—St. Boniface Parish is hosting its Old-Fashioned Country Festival June 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Coleman Center, 9363 Watsburg Road, Erie. There will be a chicken dinner, outdoor games, bluegrass music, a bake sale, gift auction and pony rides.

The dinner costs \$9 per adult, \$5 per child and \$22 per family (two adults and two children). Festival-goers have a chance to win many prizes and cash awards. Proceeds benefit St. Boniface School and Kuhl Hose Company.

PEDAL METTLE

Inner-city youth work for their bicycles

STORY, PHOTOS BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Heather Garczynski of Erie still gets the jitters when she recalls that day a year ago when 18-year-old Jacob Pushinsky was murdered over a bicycle.

As a mom living in the violent inner-city, she's afraid of what owning a bike might mean for her own children. A year ago this July, Pushinsky was shot to death in the 200 block of E. 8th Street when he wouldn't give up his bicycle to another teenager wielding a gun. Yet Garczynski knows that her 11-year-old son Trevon Bibbs, like so many other boys, considers a speed bike a prized possession.

"There has been some anxiety for me because I know he [Trevon] wants to be independent," Garczynski says. "We live in a really bad area. I told him to just give the bike up if someone comes up to you and wants to steal it."

Despite her reservations, Garczynski was delighted May 3 when Trevon attended a bike safety class offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) at the former St. John the Baptist School in Erie, only about 12 blocks from the Pushinsky murder scene. Trevon, a sixth-grader who attends an online charter school, worked for five weeks this spring to earn a Roadmaster bicycle through the SSJNN's bicycle cooperative, called Pedal Mettle.

The SSJNN collaborates with Bike Erie, a local non-profit that encourages individuals, businesses and government agencies to become a more bicycle friendly community. Volunteers with Bike Erie work directly with youth, ages 11 to 17, teaching them the basics of bicycle care, safety and repair.

If a young person in the neighborhood attends all five workshop sessions at the St. John site, he or she gets to keep the bike of their choice. At the program, Trevon learned proper riding signals, how to fix tires and brakes, and how to replace inner tubes. The final class included about 10 students, most of them immi-



Several kids from inner-city Erie enjoy getting their newly repaired bikes from the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network. Abdi Aden, center, and Yusef Abdihi, far right, are natives from Somalia who benefit from the Pedal Mettle program.



Zyriah Lindsey, 12, maneuvers through a safety course.



Trevon Bibbs, 11, takes ownership of his new bike.

grants from Somalia, who rode through an obstacle course at a nearby parking lot.

"It was pretty fun," Trevon said. "Now I can get places faster. I can ride with my friends. I can exercise."

Young Abdi Aden, a native of Somalia, has been living in Erie the past four years. His newly repaired Diamondback bike is a real gift.

"I'm excited to get it," Abdi says.

For Margarita Dangel, site director of SSJNN at St. John, exercise is only one of the many benefits of the program. Youth learn about tools and problem-solving.

Eric Brozell, a founder and board member of Bike Erie, offers his expertise in bike repair and already has inspired young Trevon to consider having his own bike repair business someday.

"I'd like to think I give them a feeling of accomplishment," Brozell says. "I've had young kids I've worked with who look very rough and immigrants who went through who knows what. When you hand them tools, then you hand them information on how to do something. You see something click in their heads and their whole look changes. It's a wondrous thing."

While the program helps kids at-risk in the inner-city, it still faces some challenges. More volunteers are needed, of course, but safety is utmost on everyone's minds.



Eric Brozell, a founder and board member of Bike Erie, enjoys the interaction with kids as they earn their new bikes.

"I think we have a long way to go to make biking safe in Erie," Dangel said. "There are still drivers who don't respect bike riders on the street. The other thing is to make young bikers comfortable enough to ride on the street and not on the sidewalks."

Since starting Pedal Mettle about 18 months ago, 40 repaired bicycles have been given to youth and even some adults, upon request. In the future, organizers would like to take participants on long-distance rides, perhaps to the Erie Zoo or Presque Isle State Park.

Despite the possible safety risks, Garczynski is proud of her son and the others for earning their own bicycles. In the process, they learned valuable lifelong tools.

"This program saves them," she says.

Your Perfect Cook Forest Getaway

Cherry Run Cabins

www.cherryruncabins.com

814-752-6481
Luxury Cabins • Year-Round Rental

FISCHER ORGAN

COMPLETE PIPE ORGAN SERVICES
TUNING • MAINTENANCE • REBUILDS
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICES AND UPGRADES

2107 W. 12th St. • Erie, PA 16505
(814) 833-8863

Serving the Erie Diocese for over 25 years

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

Doctor Robert Nelsen
Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Erie
814.451.1521 (This is a dedicated number for victim assistance.)

For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org click on *For the Protection of Children*

Nearly **33%** of Americans feel the **LOSS** of the **PRIMARY EARNER** IN THE HOUSEHOLD would be felt **within the month.**

60% Still feel they won't buy life insurance due to perceived high cost.

Source: 2015 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA

Call to learn the true cost!
800.234.5222
www.lcbalife.org

DISCOVER WHY MORE AND MORE SENIORS ARE CHOOSING SAINT MARY'S FOR REHABILITATION!

Physical, Occupational, Speech, and Respiratory Therapies!

Saint Mary's Home of Erie
A Continuing Care Retirement Community

Saint Mary's East 607 East 26th Street
Erie, PA 16504 Ph: (814) 459-0621

Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge
4855 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16506 Ph: (814) 836-5300

www.StMarysHome.org

A PERSONALIZED APPROACH TO YOUR REHAB, WITH PRIVATE ROOMS, RESTAURANT-STYLE DINING, BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS, ON-SITE CHAPEL, GIFT SHOP AND ACTIVITIES WHILE YOU RECOVER!

Rehabilitation specifically for seniors seven days a week!

A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Non-discriminatory in admission, services & employment.



Students win art awards



ERIE—Several students at Erie's St. Luke School were recognized recently for their artwork submitted to the Villa Maria Art Show in Erie. Students worked in many mediums.

The winners, pictured in the bottom row, are: **Chase Daugherty**, a kindergartner who won first place; and **Isabella Yocum**, a first-grader who also won first-place honors. Pictured in the middle row, from left, are: **Sarah Pelkowski**, a fourth-grader who took an honorable mention; and **Elizabeth Golden**, a third-grader who won second place. In the top row, from left, are: **Maggie Zimmer**, a sixth-grader who captured first place; **Jordyn Miklinski**, an eighth-grader who won an honorable mention; and their art teacher, **Gretchen Petrarca**.

Two other winners absent from the photo were sixth-grader **Lauren Baloga**, who took first, and fourth-grader **Caylen Spano**, who won second.

St. Boniface celebrates blessings of the earth



ERIE—St. Boniface School students in Erie gathered recently to remember Earth Day. They worked with their teachers to plant several flats of flowers, compliments of Stan's Garden Cen-

ter in Erie. **Father Marc Stockton**, pastor of St. Boniface, led the children in a special blessing ceremony.

Galeton students confirmed



Photo by Andy Lydall, Jr.

GALETON—Three students from St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, received the sacrament of confirmation May 1 at St. Peter Church in nearby Wellsboro, Pa.

Pictured, from left, are: **Father Joseph Dougherty**, pastor of St. Bibiana; students **Andrew Macensky**, **Hunter Post** and **Brandon Ruef**; and **Lee Irish**, instructor.

Faculty members serve as godparents to Mercyhurst Prep students



ERIE—Five members of the Mercyhurst Preparatory School community received baptism, first Holy Communion and confirmation at St. Luke Church in Erie last month. Three of the five sets of godparents were Mercyhurst Prep faculty. Pictured, from left, are: sponsor **Illion Nolan** with freshman **Savanna Nolan**, and her second sponsor, **Billie Jo Keller**; sponsor **Judy Johns**, theology teacher, with senior **Thomas Picotte**; sponsor **Nancy Zimmerman**, coordinator of the

International Baccalaureate CAS coordinator/community service coordinator, with alumnus **Christopher Picotte** (Class of 2014); sponsors **Manuel Miranda** and **Virginia Lopez** with sophomore **Elaida Martinez**; and freshman **Ketara Hinman** with sponsor **Anne Osborn**, theology teacher. **Father Steve Schreiber**, chaplain, is pictured in the center, back.

Bishop Persico accepts donation to Bishop's Breakfast Program



ERIE—Our Lady's Christian School in Erie recently sponsored a dress-down day to raise \$400 for the Bishop's Breakfast Program. Three student council representatives worked at the breakfast and made the check presentation to Bishop Lawrence Persico and the leadership of St. Martin Center, Erie.

Pictured, from left, are: eighth-grader **Abigail Stubenbort**; **David Gonzalez**, executive director of St. Martin Center; sixth-grader **Charlie Rutkowski**; **Bishop Persico**; and eighth-grader **Stella Przybylinski**.

PULAKOS Chocolates
A Sweet Stop!
PRESENT THIS AD IN-STORE TO RECEIVE 10% OFF
2530 Parade Street, Erie, Pa 16503
380 Millcreek Plaza, Erie, Pa 16565
www.pulakoschocolates.com 800.627.0926

ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES
cordially invites the public to attend the
Memorial Day Mass
Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, celebrating
Monday, May 30th at 9 a.m.
Gate of Heaven Cemetery
5711 West Lake Road, Erie
Call (814) 838-7724
or visit www.eriecd.org
for more information.

COLLEGES OF
CATHOLIC
2015 2016
DISTINCTION
The region's only
Catholic College of Distinction
MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY
like. tweet. follow. snap.
mercyhurst.edu

Local Catholic - Family Owned
Activecare Physical Therapy, LLC
NEW BUSINESS LOCATION:
3425 Peach Street
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 864-4100
www.activecareerie.com
Ehren Trout MPT, ATC, Cert. MDT
Owner/Physical Therapist
• 20 Years Experience
• Athletic Trained, Division I
• McKenzie Certified
• Hands-On Therapy
• Private Treatment Rooms

Johnston's Evergreen Nursery, Inc.
"Thank you for thinking of us for all your plant needs."
GARDEN CENTER
10000 Wales Road
Erie, PA 16510
(814) 739-2820
johnstonplants.com
WHOLESALE OFFICE
(814) 897-1900
I-90, Exit 35, South 3.5 miles (or) From Route 8, North onto Wales Rd.

OPEN HOUSE!
Sunday, June 5 • 1 - 4PM
Celebrating Mass at noon
• Camp Information
• Refreshments
• Wagon Rides
• Friends / Family
ages 4-16
day or overnight
SUMMER FUN!
boys girls
CAMP NOTRE DAME
Est. 1960s
Fairview, PA • 814.474.5001 • CampNotreDame.com
CELEBRATING 56 YEARS