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Freedom to serve through education



Fortnight for Freedom 2017 Freedom for Mission June 21 - July 4

Freedom to serve migrants and refugees

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# FaithLife



Local doctors to volunteer at free dental clinic.

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 28, 2017

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Two appointed to new positions; Venango Catholic remains open

FAITHLIFE staff report

Venango Catholic High School in Oil City will remain open, and new appointments have been made recently within two diocesan school systems.

Bishop Lawrence Persico lauded the efforts of the Venango community in keeping the high school in operation despite a threat of closure last year.

"I've been impressed with the commitment shown by the board of directors, school administrators, parents and the wider community," Bishop Persico said. "It's my expectation that they continue working together and collaborating with the Catholic Schools Office."

Venango's administration and board worked closely with the diocese to strengthen the school despite declining enrollment and a challenging financial situation in recent years. According to Father T. Shane Mathew, school headmaster, collaboration and commitment contributed to the success story.

According to Father Mathew: "The work of our director of admissions and our director of advancement and the renewed curriculum we're launching next year show that we're moving in a fantastic direction."

Diocesan-wide, new appointments have been made in DuBois and in Erie.

Effective June 1, Gretchen Caruso will take over as headmaster of DuBois Central Catholic, replacing



Gretchen Caruso



John Schroeck

outgoing headmaster Michael Armani, who had fulfilled a three-year commitment to the post.

Caruso currently is principal for pre-school through fifth grade at DCC.

"I believe in the development of the whole child: mind, body and spirit. I want to make sure that each child grows academically and is able to work to their full potential, while recognizing and celebrating their individual talents and successes," Caruso said.

John Schroeck, the current technology coordinator at St. George School, Erie, has been named the director of technology for the newly created Erie Catholic School System (ECSS). He will oversee the implementation and use of technology throughout the system's six elementary schools.

In addition to his tenure at St. George, Schroeck has been a technology consultant for the diocese since 2004. As a consultant, he has been instrumental in the long-term planning and development of technology for ECSS. Previously, he served as chairperson of the Diocesan Technology Curriculum Committee.

Teachers who have been hired for ECSS's six schools will be notified of their appointments by the end of May.

## EXPRESSIVE THERAPY HYS dedicates new arts center

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

He's only 17, but Nick Smith (not his real last name) says the past year has been the best of his life. He credits Harborcreek Youth Services (HYS), a psychiatric residential treatment center for young people.

"It saved my life," says Nick, whose last name is withheld to protect his privacy.

Located in Harborcreek not far from the shores of Lake Erie in the Diocese of Erie, HYS is home to about 65 mostly young men who have been court-appointed or placed because of mental health issues or a history of personal trauma. It operates under the auspices of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, offering not only residential care, but behavioral health services, foster care and specialized family therapy.

"This is home right now, I definitely think if I wasn't here, I'd be in a lot more trouble," Nick says. "I've been here for a year and two months and it's been the best year and two months of my life."

On May 11, Nick had even more reason to celebrate as HYS dedicated its new Father Jim Fahey Therapeutic Arts Center. More than 100 guests from the Erie community—including church, education and judicial representatives—were on-hand as Bishop Lawrence Persico blessed the site.

The Therapeutic Arts Center aims to reach troubled youth through various expressive therapies, including art, music and movement. Its goal is in keeping with the vision of the late Father Fahey, a diocesan priest who served as a past administrator at HYS.

Art, music and movement therapies are considered a vital treatment approach for those who have experienced both acute and chronic levels of trauma, severe emotional problems and other social skill development issues.

"This gives the boys a lot more opportunity for different kinds of activity and therapy," says John Petulla, executive director of HYS and the main mover behind the three-year effort to build the Therapeutic Arts Center. "Talk therapy is good, but the expressive therapy is important, too."

Sam Krahe, a music therapist at HYS, coordinates three groups of music classes three times a week. Although the center just opened, the buzz is positive among the boys, he says.

"It's a lot easier to write something in a song than to talk about it," Krahe explains. "If you can-



Photos by Mary Solberg

Above: Harborcreek Youth Services resident Nick, foreground, plays a guitar riff for music therapist Sam Krahe and Catholic Charities Executive Director Ann Badach.

Below: John Petulla, executive director of HYS, shows Bishop Lawrence Persico the new art studio.



actively put something in lyrics or arrange the music to get your emotions out, it's easier than just talking. It's a great starting point to jump into traditional talk therapy and discussion and counseling."

For Nick, playing the guitar or banging on some drums have helped.

"In my opinion, it's an outlet for emotions and trauma," Nick says. "If you don't want to sit there and explain it to a therapist, if you don't want

to sit there and tell your mom exactly how you feel, then put it in a song, record it and do something with it."

Mercyhurst University President Michael Victor spoke at the dedication ceremony, expressing his appreciation for the longtime relationship Mercyhurst has had with HYS.

For many years, Mercyhurst's criminology and criminal justice programs have offered students experi-

ential learning opportunities at HYS.

In 2015, the Mercyhurst University-Harborcreek Youth Services Partnership was established to help build the Therapeutic Arts Initiative.

Mercyhurst students now assist HYS residents in exploring their treatment goals through music and art therapies. Another goal is to add dance and movement therapy.

"Through music, art and movement therapy combined with counseling, we are making great strides in helping these young people discover self-worth, emotional expression and social skills," Victor told those gathered for the dedication ceremony. "What could be more motivating or more inspiring?"

To learn more about the Father Jim Fahey Therapeutic Arts Center or to donate to the Therapeutic Arts Initiative, go to <http://www.hys-erie.org>.

## Religious freedom celebrated in June

FAITHLIFE staff report

Each year, the Diocese of Erie joins other dioceses around the country in planning special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom.

This year's Fortnight for Freedom, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be celebrated June 21 to July 4. Its theme is, "Freedom for Mission," highlighting the importance of being missionaries of Christ to every person.

"Religious liberty is a central issue both in our country and throughout the world," said Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life of the Diocese of Erie. "People of all faiths must



Fortnight for Freedom 2017 Freedom for Mission June 21 - July 4

recommit themselves through prayer and action to protecting this most basic right set in place by our founding fathers."

To prepare for this annual event, parishes and individuals are encouraged to go to [www.eriecd.org/fortnight.htm](http://www.eriecd.org/fortnight.htm) for more

information.

Resources include suggestions on ways to pray, reflect and advocate to protect religious liberty. Also featured are daily statements, homily suggestions, liturgical resources and fact sheets on religious liberty.

According to Landini-Grogan, religious liberty involves the freedom to serve the vulnerable, the freedom to educate, the freedom to serve families and children awaiting adoption, among many others.

Text FREEDOM to 377377 to receive religious freedom updates from the U.S. bishops.

Sign up for Free to Serve, the e-newsletter of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.



## FATIMA SHEPHERD CHILDREN DECLARED SAINTS



CNS photos

ROME—In left photo, Pope Francis blesses the sick with the Eucharist at the conclusion of the May 13 canonization Mass of Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the three Fatima seers, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. The Mass marked the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Marian apparitions, which began on May 13, 1917. At right, banners showing Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto hang from the facade of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

## Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### ■ Pope Francis meets with Huntington's disease patients

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis' meeting with families affected by Huntington's disease will bring much-needed attention and hope to men, women and children who often are ostracized and even left to die alone and unloved, a U.S.-based neuroscientist said.

Especially in poor countries, people suffering from Huntington's, a neural degenerative disorder, face discrimination and are forced to live in areas that "almost look like a leprosy colony" because "nobody wants to mix with them," the neuroscientist Ignacio Muñoz-Sanjuan told Catholic News Service May 17.

"I think the fact that a figure like the pope is going to speak about (Huntington's) disease will hopefully generate enough interest," he said. "Because I think it's just unacceptable in any country that people are left to starve. I think we need to do better as a society."

Muñoz-Sanjuan co-founded HDdenmore (pronounced "Hidden no more"), a coalition of neuroscientists, research experts and institutes with the goal of "ending the stigma and shame around the disease."

He joined Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, and several families from South America at a Vatican press briefing on the eve of their May 18 meeting with Pope Francis.

Huntington's disease, an incurable disorder that is genetically inherited, results in the death of brain cells and causes problems with a person's mental abilities, body coordination and movement.

According to the Huntington Study Group, the disease is prevalent in Europe and countries of European origin, such as the United States and Australia. However, in South America, Huntington's disease rates are 1,000 times higher than in the rest of the world.

### ■ Vatican, Jewish museums explore menorah in art



CNS photo

A replica of the 1st-century Arch of Titus showing Roman soldiers carrying the menorah is seen in a two-part exhibition at the Vatican May 15. The replica is the central motif in the exhibition, which is also at the Jewish Museum in Rome.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican Museums and the Jewish Museum of Rome are exploring together the significance of the menorah, although they also give a nod to the centuries-old legend that the Vatican still holds the golden menorah from the Temple of Jerusalem.

A two-part exhibition, one at the Vatican and the other at the Jewish Museum of Rome, prominently features a replica of the 1st-century Arch of Titus, showing Roman soldiers carrying the menorah and other treasures into Rome.

From a coin minted in the century before Christ's birth to a 1987 Israeli comic book featuring a superhero with a menorah on his chest, the exhibit, "The Menorah: Worship, History and Myth," documents the use of the seven-branched candelabra both as a religious item and a symbol of Jewish identity.

The exhibit is scheduled to be open through July 23.

## Bishops tell lawmakers to focus on poor

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Decrease military spending and help the poor, said the U.S. bishops in a May 19 letter addressed to Congress, before lawmakers prepare to work on the federal budget for the upcoming 2018 fiscal year.

The budget requires difficult decisions, but lawmakers must "give central importance to the least of these," said the letter sent to all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and signed by the chairmen of six USCCB committees.

The letter urged lawmakers to "promote the welfare of workers and families who struggle to live in dignity."

Increasing funding for defense and immigration enforcement while cutting "many domestic and international programs that assist the most vulnerable, would be profoundly troubling," said the letter signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishops Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vt., Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., George V. Murry of



CNS file photo

A homeless man pushes his belongings in a cart while walking along a Chicago street.

Youngstown, Ohio, and Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas.

An early budget proposal unveiled in March by President Donald Trump's administration called for a \$54 billion increase in military spending and cutting nonmilitary programs by an equal amount.

The proposal also asked for more money for immigration enforcement, while seeking deep cuts in social safety-net programs as well as environmental programs and dramatically reducing funding for the State Department and its foreign aid programs.

The bishops said in the letter that diplomacy and international development are "primary tools" for peace, regional stability and human rights and lawmakers should "not adopt deep cuts to these budgets." As it is, the U.S. spends more than any other country on military and its spending is about a third of worldwide military spending, the bishops said.

It's unclear when Congress will take up talks on the budget for the 2018 fiscal year.



## Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

You know someone's music is popular when an 18-year-old can sing it.

That was the case recently when my youngest son heard me singing "Eye Has Not Seen," written by Marty Haugen in 1982. I was humming Haugen's song before he appeared in concert at Holy Cross Parish last weekend with two other Christian music greats, David Haas and Steve Petrunak.

Haugen's and Haas' lyrics have been mainstays in Catholic music liturgies since the 1980s. The fact that my son and his contemporaries know and sing their songs is a testament to the unmatched quality of their work.

Also inspiring was hearing 500 people join in the sing-along-style concert in the church. Joyce Kulyk was particularly happy to see so many people gathered at the event held in memory of her late husband, Mark Kulyk.

◆ ◆ ◆

Congratulations to the 18 students from various Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie who participated in the May 4 spelling bee at St. Mark Catholic Center.

After 22 rounds, the first-place



From left, Neel Gupta, Isaac Schaaf and Tadhg McNamara pose after placing in the diocesan spelling bee.

award went to Neel Gupta, a student at DuBois Central Catholic Middle School.

Gupta won by correctly spelling the words "khaki" and "outrageous."

Second place went to Isaac Schaaf, a student at Villa Maria Elementary School, Erie. The third-place winner was Tadhg McNamara of Immaculate Conception School in Clarion.

◆ ◆ ◆

At a recent meeting of the Lake Shore Post #105 of the American Legion, awards were presented to the organization's essay contest winners. Students from five area schools were eligible to participate.

The first-place winner was Casimara Berdis, an eighth-grader at Holy Family School in Erie.

◆ ◆ ◆

It's interesting to note that, like the Diocese of Erie, other Catholic dioceses throughout the country also are facing parish consolidations and church closings.

On May 7, the Archdiocese of Hartford in Connecticut announced that its 212 parishes will be consolidated into 127 by June 29. Essentially, this downsizes the archdiocese by about 40 percent.

◆ ◆ ◆

The 22nd annual Catholic Charities Ball was held at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie May 20. More than 400 people purchased tickets to the event, which netted more than \$130,000.

One of the big prizes of the night went to Father Jim Gutting, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren, who won \$400 in gift cards.

But the real winners were the thousands of people served by the various agencies under the umbrella of Catholic Charities in the 13 counties of our diocese.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife.

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## Students boost environment

Preschool and kindergarten students at St. Luke School in Erie are doing their part to help the environment. Pope Francis would be proud.

The children earned a Farm to School mini grant to help them grow a garden at the school. The grant is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition in collaboration with Penn State University, also known as Project PA.

The Farm to School grant helps bring locally grown, nutritious foods to schools so students can learn to make healthy choices.

Mike Bailey, a master gardener at Penn State Behrend, has been overseeing the project.

Students have started their garden from seeds in the classroom and then will transfer the plants to the garden at the appropriate time.

During the summer, families will have the opportunity to visit the garden on "Garden Nights" and will help with the maintenance. In the fall, students will harvest the produce and enjoy what they have grown for daily snacks. Some of the produce also will be given to the St. Luke Food Pantry and parishioners in need.



Contributed photo

Pre-school gardeners, in the front row, from left, are: Emma Bille, Macy Giannelli, Christopher Rettger, Max Wehler, Miles Prindle, Cara Swoger and Avery Mattern. In the second row, from left, are: Kasidee Winkler, Quinn Jaworski, Grayce Berarducci, Chelsea Denslinger, Gabrielle Gallenstein and Randall Hodges IV. In row three, from left, are: Teighan Mozdy, Matthew Miller, James Swoger, Tanner Wisniewski, Penn State master gardener Mike Bailey, Norah Mashborn, Brody Myers, Connor Beer and Randy Jimenez. In row four, from left, are: Tommy Dylewski, Karter DeLucia, Giancarlo Bartone, Andrew Pelkowski, Maddie Platz, Calvin Dunbar and Derrick Stevens.

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EVENTS

**Memorial Day Mass planned at Gate of Heaven**

ERIE—Erie Diocesan Cemeteries invites the public to attend a Memorial Day Mass May 29 at 9 a.m. at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 5711 West Lake Road, Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate the Mass. For more information, visit [www.eriadc.org](http://www.eriadc.org) or call 814-838-7724.

**Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries invited to attend annual event**

ERIE—Diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2017 will be held this summer at the following two locations in the Diocese of Erie:

- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway—Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.
- St. Jude the Apostle, Erie—Aug. 13 at 2 p.m.

Couples may complete a registration form online at <http://www.eriarc.org/anniv.htm>.

If not submitted online, registration forms may be printed, filled out and mailed to: Family Life Office, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504; or faxed to 814-824-1264.

For further questions, call the Family Life Office 814-824-1250, or email [chess@eriarc.org](mailto:chess@eriarc.org).

**Our Lady of Mercy to hold rummage sale**

HARBORCREEK—A rummage sale at the gymnasium of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, will be held June 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and June 3 from 9 a.m. to noon (\$1 bag day).

Consider donating to the sale by dropping off items to the gym between May 27 and June 1. Items not accepted include furniture, large appliances, food items, televisions and computers.

**St. Boniface alumni invited to weekend event**

ERIE—St. Boniface School in Erie is hosting its 160th Alumni Reunion Weekend June 3-4. Everyone is invited to attend the 5 p.m. alumni Mass on June 3 at the church, 9367 Wattsburg Road, Erie, and the alumni adult dance in the parish center.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes subs, refreshments, music and dancing. A Mass also will be held June 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Bring a dish for a tureen dinner for your entire family. Memorabilia items will be on sale. For more details, contact Joni Biletnikoff Gross at [Joni.Gross@va.gov](mailto:Joni.Gross@va.gov).

**Turkey dinner planned at St. Charles Parish**

NEW BETHLEHEM—St. Charles Parish, 201 Washington St., New Bethlehem, will serve a turkey dinner on June 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the social hall next to the church. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5 and older, and free to children under 5. For further details, call the parish office at 814-275-3446. All are welcome.

**Mount Carmel to celebrate final school event**

ERIE—Celebrate 55 years of Catholic education at a final school event at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, 1531 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, on June 8 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Food will be available at reasonable prices; bring chairs and blankets. Enjoy a DJ, a bouncy house, a 50/50 raffle and fireworks. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the gym, there will be a silent auction on sports banners. Sport uniforms and trophies also will be on sale (cash or checks only).

**Youth invited to Steubenville conference**

STEBENVILLE, Ohio—Franciscan University at Steubenville is hosting “Elevate!”—a summer high school youth conference July 14-16 on Steubenville’s main campus. Spots are still available to teens who will be in high school as of this fall.

Travel to the event is being coordinated by Disciples Life in St. Marys, and Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. The deadline to register is July 1. To attend, contact the following based on your area:

- Eastern Vicariate: Meredith Bon at 814-512-3112 or [mmb2391@icloud.com](mailto:mmb2391@icloud.com).
- Northern or Western Vicariates: Kathleen Peterson at 814-833-7701 or [kathleen.peterson@olp.org](mailto:kathleen.peterson@olp.org).

Visit <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/youth> to find out more about the conference.

**Free dental clinic comes to Erie**

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

As the saying goes, a dentist gets to the root of the problem.

Two Erie dentists who are parishioners of local Catholic churches are doing just that next month. Dr. Stephen Radack and Dr. Ronald Helminski will be among many dentists, hygienists and other medical personnel volunteering at a two-day, free dental clinic at Gannon University in Erie.

The problem they’re tackling is the great number of people who need—but cannot afford—regular dental care.

“When there is a choice between taking care of your teeth and putting food on your table, then some people have to put food on the table,” said Dr. Helminski, a lifelong member of Erie’s St. Hedwig Parish, now merged into St. Stanislaus Parish. “If there is something I can do to make their life easier, then you’ve got to do it.”

Dr. Helminski and Dr. Radack, a parishioner of St. Luke in Erie, will join the non-profit MOM-n-PA dental mission on June 16-17 at Gannon’s Recreation and Wellness Center, 130 W. 4th St. Doors open at 6 a.m. each day, with patients treated on a first-come, first-served basis.

MOM-n-PA is the Pennsylvania division of Mission of Mercy, a non-profit, faith-based community organization that provides free healthcare, dental care and prescription medications to the uninsured and underinsured.

Because it receives no government funding, MOM can provide healthcare without any pre-qualifications. Patients attending the free dental clinic at Gannon do not need to prove their poverty or residency; they do not need to show an insurance card or identification.

Dr. Mary Jane Taylor, wellness director at Gannon, believes the MOM-n-PA dental clinic is in keeping with the social teaching of the Catholic Church and the mission of a Catholic university.

“It’s an incredible opportunity and people will be treated with kindness and respect,” Taylor said.

MOM-n-PA organizers expect the turnout at the Erie clinic to be similar to those held in other larger Pennsylvania cities the past four years. Volunteers treat up to 1,000 people per day.

Dr. Radack is co-leading the effort with Dr. Joseph Kohler, who attends St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. Radack started volunteering with MOM-n-PA when he was presi-



Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Dental Association

Dr. Stephen Radack, center, volunteers at a free dental clinic in Allentown, Pa.



Contributed photo

Dr. Ronald Helminski at his office.

dent of the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

A few years ago in Allentown, Pa., Dr. Radack saw people sleeping outside overnight waiting for the dental clinic to open. He treated one man who had large cavities in his upper front teeth.

“It screams out at you when you first look at that, but I was able to restore those teeth. It made a huge difference to him. He was able to go out and move on with confidence,” Dr. Radack said.

Many dentists, nurses and practitioners from throughout the tri-state area already have signed up for the Erie clinic. Organizers are seeking more help, including non-medical people to serve as laboratory technicians, translators, patient ambassadors, and set-up and clean-up crews.

Dr. Helminski is volunteering at his first MOM-n-PA event. As a dentist in private practice the past 34 years, he believes that everyone deserves good dental care, even those who cannot afford to pay for it.

“People trust their bodies to us. That’s a pretty sacred trust,” Dr. Helminski said. “We have been given this privilege and we need to pay it forward.”

**MOM-n-PA DENTAL MISSION**

June 16-17—Gannon’s Recreation and Wellness Center, 130 W. 4th St., Erie. Doors open at 6 a.m.

Those interested in volunteering can visit [www.MOM-n-PA.com](http://www.MOM-n-PA.com) or call the Gannon Recreation Center at 814-871-7770.

OBITUARY

Father John F. Bauer

**Served as chaplain at Warren State Hospital**

Father John F. Bauer, 77, died May 15 at UPMC Hamot in Erie. He was a priest of the Diocese of Erie for 52 years.

Father Bauer was born March 13, 1940, in Wilmington, Del., the son of the late Charles and Helen (Wilk) Bauer.

After attending St. Joseph School and Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie, he entered St. Mark Seminary, studying at Gannon University. He completed his priestly formation at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore.

Father Bauer was ordained at St. Peter Cathedral on May 27, 1965.

He was parochial vicar at the following Erie parishes: St. Patrick, St. Joseph, Holy Rosary, and St. Luke.

He served as pastor at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutaw-

ney, and at St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport.

He was administrator of the following parishes: St. Anthony Parish, Sheffield; St. Anthony Parish, Walston; St. Adrian, DeLancey; and St. Joseph in Anita.

From 1967-75, he served as director of the Deaf Apostolate in the Diocese of Erie. For 25 years, he was chaplain at Warren State Hospital.

After his retirement in 2007, he served for one year as chaplain of Christ the King Manor, DuBois,



Father John F. Bauer

where he was a resident.

Survivors include his sister, Geraldine Hamill, and her husband, Tom, of Olney, Md.; and several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Carl and Joseph Bauer.

Visitation was May 21 at the Dealey Funeral Home in Punxsutawney. Bishop Lawrence Persico was the main celebrant at the funeral liturgy on May 22 at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Church.

Burial was at Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ss. Cosmas and Damian Roman Catholic Church, 616 West Mahoning St., Punxsutawney, PA 15767.

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# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

Check out more photos at [www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm)



## St. Basil students receive First Eucharist



COALPORT—On April 30, students at St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport received their First Eucharist. Pictured in the front row, from left, with Father Zab Amar, pastor, are: Jadon Fry, Karly Braniff, Rachel McClellan, Kylee Ginter, Carter Boslet, Logan Skebeck, Lawrence Dick and Zachary Hamilton. In the back row, from left, are: Brielle McMillen, Brianna Cree, Sophia Leiden, Daniel Williams, Nicholas Oshall and Scott Beers. Absent from photo is catechist Colleen Bacher, who had heart surgery earlier that week.

## HELPING OTHERS WITH BOOKS

ERIE—Eighth-grade girls from St. Luke School's Mother/Daughter Book Club recently donated more than 600 books to the City of Erie School District.

The club collected new and gently used books during a two-week book drive at the school and parish. Jamie Ferrante, the Erie School District's librarian, brought a thank-you poster signed by students at Jefferson Elementary School.

Ferrante processed the books and placed them in Jefferson's library, which had not received any new books this school year. Pictured with Ferrante, far right, are Julianna Sergi, Mia Mirazek (a parishioner who used to attend St. Luke), Halle Brown and Katie Benson.



## Children pose in cutouts to promote vocations



ERIE—Children at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie were encouraged to have their photos taken on May 7, Good Shepherd Sunday, with priest and sister cutouts to promote vocations. Kathy Wayman, a member of the parish and the Serra Club of Erie, is shown taking a photo of Christopher and Alyssa Bruschi, children of Chris and Michelle Bruschi.

## St. Leo principal, students celebrate May crowning and Fatima

RIDGWAY—St. Leo School principal Mary Detwiler is retiring after this school year, but she recently enjoyed one last May crowning.

Detwiler crowned the Blessed Mother statue at St. Leo Church while three students dressed up as the three shepherd children who saw apparitions of Mary in Fatima, Portugal, 100 years ago.

Pictured, from left, are Father Justin Pino, pastor; Mary Detwiler; and students Isabella Beimel, Katie Petrosky and Isaiah Nicklas.



## Students work at overflow homeless shelter



ERIE—Several students from St. George School in Erie recently helped at the overflow homeless shelter at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Erie.

Before going to the shelter, these seventh-graders created many desserts to share with the homeless.

## OLP teen earns Eagle Scout award for Presque Isle picnic table project

ERIE—Spencer Ross of Troop 59 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie recently earned his Eagle Scout award after building 10 picnic tables for use at Presque Isle State Park.

A junior at Fairview High School, Spencer is the son of Dawn and Gary Ross.

Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Dawn Ross, Spencer Ross and Gary Ross.

In the second row, from left, are: Father Richard Toohey, pastor; and Scout leaders Vincent Debernardo, Doug Fleming, Carol Richards, Howard Richards, Dick Eisert, Jim Serafin, Larry Daley and Dean Werner.



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