

\$1 million donated

Biology professor donates largest gift ever given to Gannon by a faculty or staff member.
PAGE 3



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS:
"Please, let's not unload our faults on children."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

May 3, 2015

Catholic radio network launches new mobile app

FAITHLIFE

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Station of the Cross Catholic Radio Network, which airs in the Diocese of Erie, has announced an upgraded mobile app intended to attract a new generation of listeners to Catholic programming.

The iCatholicRadio app enables listeners from anywhere in the world to listen to the radio network's informational and inspirational programs anytime on an iPhone, Android, or other mobile device.



"We expect the new app to accelerate our growth in our radio markets across the United States and throughout the world," said Jim Wright, the radio network's co-founder and president.

New users can download the upgraded app online at no charge from iCatholicRadio.com.

The app includes broadcast streams from all of the network's radio markets, including the Diocese of Erie (89.5 FM, 92.1 FM, both in Erie; and 88.3 FM, OI City).

Reserve your seat at the Charities Ball

More than 400 people are expected to turn out for the 20th anniversary Catholic Charities Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie May 30 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Organizers hope to raise significant funds to help those most in need in the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie.

There is still time to consider attending this year's Charities Ball. Tickets are not issued for the event, but reservations can be made by calling 814-824-1258 or by going to www.ErieRCD.org/charitiesball.asp.



— 'CHURCH OF MARTYRS' —
Pope Francis urges prayers, action for migrants, victims of terrorism



A child is carried by a rescue worker as migrants arrive on a boat at the Sicilian harbor of Pozzallo April 19.

In April, Islamic State militants lead what are said to be Ethiopian Christians along a beach in Libya.

Drownings at sea call for compassion

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The poor and unemployed, as well as migrants fleeing intolerable situations in their homelands, want life, dignity and a chance to earn a decent living, Pope Francis said in several speeches urging compassion and assistance by both governments and individuals.

Reciting the *Regina Coeli* prayer April 19, just hours after reports that more than 700 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to reach Europe, Pope Francis asked thousands of people in St. Peter's Square for a moment of silence and then to join him reciting a Hail Mary for the victims and survivors.

The Italian coast guard reported that 28 survivors had been rescued and 24 bodies had been recovered from the Mediterranean.

Pope Francis called on the international community to act decisively and quickly to prevent the deaths of more migrants. Also, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) has called upon governments, in particular European Member States, to urgently adopt a comprehensive plan of action to save lives and develop adequate longer-term solutions.

"It is totally unacceptable to stay still in front of these tragedies and wait for more to happen," said Jo-

han Keteler, secretary general of ICMC.

Pope Francis had spoken April 18 with Italian President Sergio Mattarella about the continuing wave of migrants who set off from North Africa, often in overcrowded and unsafe fishing boats, hoping to land in Italy and make their way to other European countries.

The pope has expressed his deep concern recently for what he terms a "church of martyrs."

"They are men and women like us, our brothers and sisters who seek a better life, hungry, persecuted, injured, exploited, victims of war—they seek a better life. They were seeking happiness," the pontiff said.

Pope Francis also spoke April 18 with members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, which dedicated its plenary assembly to examining the phenomenon of human trafficking, including the trafficking of migrants.

The Bible insists that Christians will be judged by how they cared for the least of their brothers and sisters, he said, adding, "And today among these most needy brothers and sisters are those who suffer the tragedy of modern forms of slavery, forced labor, prostitution" as well as the victims of trafficking in organs and in drugs.

Pope Francis said nations also must be encouraged to grant asylum to the migrants who have fallen prey to vicious traffickers.

Vatican wants dialogue with Muslims

BY LAURA IERACI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican said interreligious dialogue with the Muslim community must be strengthened given "the barbarism underway" by terrorists claiming to be Muslims.

The statement, issued by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, comes after hundreds of Christians have been killed in recent months, often barbarically, by Islamist extremist groups in the Middle East, Libya, Nigeria, Kenya and several other African nations. Most recently, more than 20 Ethiopian Christians were killed by Islamic State militants in Libya. Thousands of other Christians in war-torn regions have been run out of their homes by radical Islamist groups.

Pope Francis and other church leaders have called on the international community to come to the aid of persecuted Christians in these regions.

In the face of the atrocities, the pontifical council said some people are questioning whether interreligious dialogue with the Muslim community should continue.

"The answer is yes, more than ever," said the council in its April 22 statement.

The council cited Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI in saying that the use of religion to justify violence must be condemned. Lamenting that "religion is often associated with violence" today, the council said people of faith must instead demonstrate that "religions are called to be heralds of peace and not of violence."

In the wake of the attacks on Christians, the council said there was a "radicalization of communitarian and religious discourse," which it warned only risks increasing "hated, violence, terrorism and the growing and trivial stigmatization of Muslims and of their religion."

The proper response, the council said, is to strengthen dialogue.

"To continue dialoguing, even when you experience persecution, can become a sign of hope," the council said. "It's not that believers want to impose their vision of the person or of history, but they want to propose the respect of difference, freedom of thought and religion, the protection of human dignity and love for truth."

How can you help?

Consider supporting the International Catholic Migration Commission, an outreach of Catholic bishops' conferences around the world.

www.icmc.net

FOUR POPES AND COUNTING ...

Woman hopes to see Pope Francis

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Some people follow movie stars. Others can't get enough of their favorite athletes. But for 81-year-old Vincenzina Grasso, it's all about popes.

A parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Farrell, Vincenzina rattles off the names of popes she has seen:

- Pope Pius XII, in war-torn Italy, in August 1941
- Pope Paul VI, in New York City, in October 1965
- Pope John Paul II, in Reggio, Italy, in June 1988
- Pope Benedict XVI, in Rome, in June 2008.

Now that Pope Francis has announced his visit to the United States this fall, Vincenzina is determined to be blessed by her fifth pontiff. Despite the millions of people expected to turn out in Washington, New York and Philadelphia, she and her husband, Sebastian, who is 89, hope to be there.

"I don't mind crowds, even with my aching knees. I'll take a couple of A-d-vents and just go!" she jokes.

Sebastian, in fact, was the first one who asked Vincenzina if she wanted to see Pope Francis. After all, he has seen



Photo by Mary Solberg

Vincenzina Grasso holds the original newspaper from Reggio, Italy, that documented Pope John Paul II's visit there in June 1988.

the same popes as she has, except for Pope Pius XII.

Vincenzina was just 8 years old when—as a patient at a Rome hospital—she and her mother, along with several nuns, took a horse-drawn carriage to St. Peter's Basilica. They were blessed by Pius XII.

"I was excited to see the tall, thin pontiff dressed in white garments giving hundreds of people his papal blessing," Vincenzina remembers.

Fast forward to Oct. 5, 1965. The

Grassos had been married only seven years when they decided to travel to the World's Fair in New York City and, hopefully, see Pope Paul VI at St. Patrick Cathedral. Standing in front of the church—along with some 50,000 spectators—they were blessed by the pope, who wore a brilliant crimson robe that day.

"I to mark their 30th wedding anniversary, the couple returned to their homeland in June 1988 to visit relatives. While in Sebastian's hometown

of Reggio, in southern Italy, they got tickets to see Pope John Paul II, who was at a factory where Sebastian's nephew worked.

"I was in the front row. It was an incredible moment. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm shaking hands with our pope,'" Vincenzina recalls.

"I said, 'Ben venuto, Santo Padre' [Welcome, Holy Father], and he looked at me with his beautiful blue eyes and said, 'Grazie [Thank you].'"

Then, in June 2008, two of the Grassos' four sons treated them to a trip to Italy to mark their 50th anniversary. While there, they attended a general audience with Pope Benedict XVI, and received his papal blessing.

"To me, a pope is the head of the church. He represents our Catholic faith. You have that awe when you see him," Vincenzina says.

This summer, the Grassos will celebrate their 57th anniversary, and are still going strong. In September, one of their seven grandchildren will be getting married the same day that Pope Francis will be in Philadelphia. They're hoping to find a way to see him in Washington earlier that week.

"I'm going to pray and I'll ask around if there will be any buses go-

Vincenzina's pope encounters:

Pope Pius XII
Rome, 1941

Pope Paul VI
New York City, 1965

Pope John Paul II
Reggio, Italy, 1988

Pope Benedict XVI
Rome, 2008

Graphic by Rich Papalia

ing," Vincenzina says. "I'm going to pray and I'll ask around if there will be any buses going." Vincenzina says.



■ \$150 million goes toward child protection, abuse allegations

WASHINGTON (USCCB)—The Catholic Church in the United States spent a total of \$150,747,387 in costs related to child protection efforts and to allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors in dioceses and religious orders between July 2013 and June 2014, according to an annual survey conducted by Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) included in the annual audit report on the response of the Catholic Church in the United States to clergy sexual abuse.

The church spent a total of \$31,667,740 on safe environment training programs, background checks, and other protective efforts, and \$19,029,647 on settlements paid to victims, therapy for victims, attorneys' fees and other costs related to allegations. The full audit report is available online: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/index.cfm.

■ Ukrainian Catholic cathedral displays Shroud of Turin replica

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—A trip to see the Shroud of Turin in Italy is probably out of reach for most people, but for Catholics and others in the United States, there's an alternative: a full-size, Vatican-authorized replica on permanent display in Philadelphia.

The replica is situated in front of a mosaic of Christ's resurrection in the city's golden-domed Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. It is the ninth such replica to be sanctioned by the Vatican.

The cathedral welcomes visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Visiting hours and the cathedral's location can be found at <http://ukrcathedral.com>.



CNS photo
A Shroud of Turin replica exhibited in front of a mosaic of Christ's resurrection in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia.

■ Pope to visit Cuba before heading to the United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will visit Cuba in September before his trip to the United States.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters April 22 that the pope has decided to visit the island before going to the United States Sept. 22-27.

Visiting Cuba and the United States on the same trip abroad signals Pope Francis' continued interest in encouraging the normalization of relations between the two countries. In December, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced that they would work toward re-establishing official diplomatic relations.

Both leaders credited Pope Francis with helping to secure the deal.



CNS photo
Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo attend a meeting in Havana April 20.

■ Professor priest found murdered

ROME (CNS)—Italian military police are investigating the murder of a 60-year-old priest and theologian, who taught at two pontifical universities in Rome. According to media reports, Father Lanfranco Rossi was found face down in a pool of blood April 12 near his community's retreat center in San Feliciano, about 21 miles south of Italy's capital.

An autopsy found that the priest suffered several blows to the head with a blunt object and was strangled; there were no signs of a struggle. Police say the priest's death of asphyxiation was not immediate, though his assailant left him for dead. Theft has been excluded as a possible motive for the murder.

A professor of spirituality at both the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Father Rossi was on a weekend retreat at the center. He was known to suffer from insomnia and to go into the woods at night to meditate.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

In a world besieged by poverty, terrorism, human trafficking and natural disasters, it's no wonder children at a Catholic school in Louisiana recently prayed more than a million Hail Marys for the safety of Pope Francis.

The Holy Father literally seems to be carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. It seems that nearly every day there are reports of Christians being executed, and whole populations of people in Africa and the Middle East being forced to leave their homes because of terrorism. And then there was the April 25 earthquake in Nepal that killed at least 3,600 people.

As the moral compass for 1.2 billion Roman Catholics worldwide, the pope must stay strong physically and mentally. According to the *Catholic Herald* of London, Francis, not surprisingly, turns to prayer, asking to maintain a light-hearted approach to life. Every day, he prays the following prayer to St. Thomas More:

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it. Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't flinch easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I."

Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke in order to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others.

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alma mater, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1968. It is the largest gift ever given to Gannon by a faculty or staff member (see page 3).

For Gustafson, it's all about the students and his own Catholic faith. He graduated from St. Joseph Grade School, Cathedral Prep, Gannon, and did graduate work at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y.

He also puts his money where his mouth is. This summer, Gustafson is heading up a student trip—his 35th—to Yellowstone National Park.

As he told *FaithLife*: "The message is to give yourself to the students. Touch the lives of the students and show them how to live their lives."

◆ ◆ ◆
Congratulations to **David Carter** and **James Power** who were ordained transitional deacons by **Bishop Lawrence Persico** last week. Deacon Carter and Deacon Power will now begin the final year of preparation on their journey to priesthood.

The diocese also is gearing up for the June 5 ordination to the priesthood of **Deacon Tom Trocchio**.

◆ ◆ ◆
The Helmer family of Corry has reason to celebrate, too. *Faith* magazine and the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie have selected **Rick** and **Amy Helmer**, and their 15-year-old son, **Kyron**, to represent the diocese at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia this September.

They will join an estimated 7,000 families for a week of workshops, service opportunities, prayer and celebrations designed to strengthen family life. They will also be present for the events expected to include Pope Francis. *Faith* magazine will report on the family's experiences in a special World Meeting of Families edition to be published in November.

The Helmers are members of the Corry Catholic Community. Their pastor, **Father Mark Hoffman**, helped orchestrate the surprise announcement of their selection at the St. Thomas School Mass on April 27.

News Briefs

ECCSS receives \$150,000 grant

ST. MARYS—The Elk County Catholic School System recently received a \$150,000 grant from the A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust. Most of the money will fund Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses at the high school, while \$50,000 is set aside for scholarships and tuition assistance.

ECCSS President Sam MacDonald expressed his gratitude, saying, "The A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust has a long relationship with Elk County Catholic. Their strong support allows us to provide an affordable, world-class academic experience for all families that want to pursue a values-based Catholic education."

Looking for a few good quilts?

LUCINDA—Members of the Lucinda Quilt Club make handmade quilts at St. Joseph Parish from September through January. Twenty-four of those quilts will be displayed May 17 at the parish Rosary Society's annual spring quilt show and dinner at St. Joseph Social Hall in Lucinda.

A country-style turkey and ham dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. One of the quilts will be awarded at the end of the dinner. The majority of the quilts will be awarded at the St. Joseph Parish Festival on July 4, and one quilt will be awarded at the fall dinner Oct. 11.

The public is welcome to attend all events. For information, call 814-226-6075, email stjosephcare@gmail.com, or visit the parish website at www.stjoseph-lucinda.org to see pictures of the quilts and get more information about parish events.

Paint 'Swirly Birds on a Wire'

EDINBORO—The Social Concerns Committee of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, invites anyone 21 years of age and older to attend Paint Nite, a fundraising event for Vision for the Poor, on June 30 at Our Lady of the Lake social hall, 128 Sunset Drive, Edinboro.



Wine and cheese will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m. Painting begins at 7 p.m. No artistic talent or painting experience is necessary. The Paint Nite facilitator will guide participants through each step of painting the image titled, "Swirly Birds on a Wire."

The cost is \$45 per person. Bring your own drinks/snacks. Due to the limited class size, please register soon by going to: <http://paintnite.com/pages/events/view/erie/880640>. Call 814-734-3113 for further information.

Recite the rosary in May

ERIE—Recite the rosary every Saturday in May at 9:15 a.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery mausoleum chapel, 6000 Lake Pleasant Road, Erie.

Exhibit on Eucharistic miracles in Farrell

FARRELL—Dominic Caggese will share his Vatican-approved exhibit, Eucharistic Miracles of the World, at St. Adalbert Parish in Farrell May 9 at 5 p.m., following the 4 p.m. Mass. Call the church at 724-931-3307 for further information.

The Caggese family invested in printing 100 poster-size panels to create a traveling exhibit. Anyone interested in scheduling the exhibit at their church or school may email the Caggeses at dcaggese@yahoo.com or call 814-756-4102.

Backpacks represent students lost to suicide

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITH/LIFE

Father Michael Kesicki walked through rows and rows of backpacks exhibited on Gannon University's downtown Erie campus last month. Words wouldn't come easily—but emotions did—as he considered a disturbing fact: the backpacks represent 1,100 college students who die to suicide every year in the U.S.

Active Minds, a national advocacy group dedicated to raising awareness of mental health issues, brought the backpacks to Gannon as part of its Send Silence Packing tour.

"These represent all the precious individuals who carried a bag and went off to class and now are no longer," said Father Kesicki, associate vice president for Mission and Ministry. "The message here is that we need to talk more about this."

Dr. Jodi Giacometti of Gannon's Student Counseling Services said between 300 to 600



Photo by Mary Solberg

Father Michael Kesicki of Gannon University takes a sobering walk through a backpack exhibit representing the 1,100 college students who die by suicide in the U.S. every year.

Gannon students seek counseling for mental health issues every year, many of those students have thought about suicide.

"It's 100 percent preventable," Giacometti said, looking over the vast array of backpacks. "It's like a graveyard."

To learn more about Send Silence Packing: www.activeminds.org

Prof gives \$1 million to Gannon University

FAITH/LIFE

Biology professor David Gustafson recently donated \$1 million to Gannon University, his alma mater and the school where he has taught the past several decades.

It is the largest gift ever given to Gannon by a faculty or staff member.

"Basically, he's leaving the accumulated assets of his life to this institution," said Jack Sims, vice president of University Advancement, in announcing the gift April 23.

The funds will be used to establish the David J. Gustafson Biology Scholarship Endowment Fund, the David J. Gustafson Undergraduate Biology Student Research Endowment Fund, and the Carolyn A.

Gustafson Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, in honor of his sister, who died in 2014.

Part of Gustafson's gift comes from his sister's estate. Carolyn Gustafson earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Villa Maria College; she appreciated Gannon's commitment to the nursing profession.

David Gustafson earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Gannon in 1968 and began his teaching career as director and assistant professor of biology at Villa Maria College in 1971. He later served in many capacities at Gannon, including chairman of the biology department. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1999 and, in 2014, received the Bishop Persico *Veritas in Caritate* Award for exemplifying faith, hope and love both in and out of the Gannon community.

OBITUARY

Sister Mary Therese served as educator, hairstylist

Benedictine Sister Mary Therese Eichenlaub, formerly Sister Mary Jane, died April 21 at UPMC Hamot in Erie. At the time of her death at age 86, she was in her 68th year of religious life.

A native of Erie, Sister Mary Therese was the daughter of Louis and Gertrude (Rasatter) Eichenlaub. She was a 1947 graduate of St. Benedict Academy and entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie that same year from St. Mary Parish. Her celebration of first vows in 1948 was followed by perpetual monastic profession in 1951.

Sister Mary Therese held a

bachelor's in education from Villa Maria College and spent 25 years in elementary education, three of which were in administration.

Her teaching assignments in the Diocese of Erie included: St. Gregory, North East; St. Stephen, Oil City; Immaculate Conception, Clarion; Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, Sharon; and St. Mary, Erie.

In 1970, she began studies in cosmetology and received her operator's license in 1972. She pursued a teaching certification and taught at the Wil-Mar Beauty Salon before becoming a full-time hairstylist in 1973.

At a time when cosmetology was unusual work for a religious woman, Sister Mary Therese considered it a special ministry.

Sister Mary Therese also worked for a number of years as a staff member in the business office at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. Most recently, she was a monastery receptionist, a ministry she continued until the time of her death.

Sister Mary Therese never stopped looking for ways to help others. Her most recent outreach included donating a large collection of Beanie Babies to UPMC Hamot as gifts for children undergoing medical procedures.

She also made a weekly trip to the UPMC Hamot Surgery Center to collect "disposable" socks that she laundered, bagged and distributed to guests and clients at both Emmaus Ministries and St. Benedict Education Center.

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



Sister Mary Therese Eichenlaub, OSB

ST. JOSEPH MONASTERY CLOSING SALE
Benedictine Sisters of Elk County
303 Church Street, St. Marys, PA 15857
May 1-2, 2015; 9 am - 1 pm
Extended sale: May 4-8; 10 am - Noon
Treasures of all sorts. Come find your treasure!
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Our Lady of Mercy Knights of Columbus GOLF AND SPORTS RAFFLE
Looking ahead for some weekend fun? On **Friday, May 15**, the Knights of Columbus at Our Lady of Mercy Church will hold their **22nd Annual Golf and Sports Raffle** in Sperry Hall at Bartlett and Dutton Roads in Harborcreek.
GRAND PRIZE is a six-day Royal Caribbean Cruise for 2 to Bermuda. Our **18 prizes** include golf course memberships, sets of clubs, day golf passes, Steelers tickets, a sailing charter, Seawolves passes, passes for a day fishing charter, large screen TV and more.
Tickets are \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00. Tickets are sold at the door. **Free food and refreshments** provided (Must be 21 or over to attend). Also included are **casino games, raffles, Chinese auction, cash prizes** for those in attendance and door prizes. **Proceeds** go to youth programs at Our Lady of Mercy Church. **If you have questions, call 572-5437.** The Knights welcome you and hope to see you there!

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Knights of Columbus recognize youth, school

ERIE—The Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council #11454 presented \$25 checks to the winners of the organization's Christmas poster contest. Checks were given to winners in three different age groups at Our Lady of Peace. Also, the Knights gave \$300 to the school's scholarship fund. Pictured are teacher Laura Hirsch; students Kaitlyn Troutman and Tessa Gonzalez; Father David Renne, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace; student Evelyn Louise Bundy; Principal Mary Beth Elk; Grand Knight Leonard Kuzma; and the Knights' financial secretary, Robert Koshinski.



Kennedy Catholic students win CDA honors

SHARON—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Sharon Court #507 awarded five top honors to Kennedy Catholic High School students who participated in the CDA's Pennsylvania State Education Contest. Pictured from left are: Pauline Radaevich, Court Sharon education co-chairperson; Michael Scanga, second place for his essay; Emily Simpson, first place in photography; Carmen Nevant, second place in computer art; and Antoinette DeAngelis, Court Sharon regent and education co-chairperson. Absent from the photo were Gerald Zachar, first place for poetry, and Isabella Morocco, second place for art.



Prepping for confirmation



EMLENTON—Confirmation students at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Emlenton celebrated a "preparatory" to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation, which was held April 26. In attendance, besides the students, were parents, sponsors and members of the parish community. Connie Miller, the coordinator of the event, said, "We prepare for the big game in high school, let's prepare for the big game of our faith!" Pictured from left are: confirmand MaryAnn Steinmiller, and her sponsor, Danya Hefferan.

Students raise \$800 for Rice Bowl



CLEARFIELD—Second-graders at St. Francis School, Clearfield, worked hard during Lent on the annual Rice Bowl collection, raising \$800. Pictured from left are: Olivia Mitchell, Christian Welker, Luke Dixon and Ava Wisniewski.

St. Boniface School has cookies galore



ERIE—St. Boniface School in Erie created the Great Cookie Project as a service-learning experience for its students. Mothers, grandmothers and other family bakers donated individual batches of their favorite homemade cookies. School students created an assembly line to make boxes of assorted cookies for the clients of St. Boniface Food Pantry. Seen here are some of the pre-school through fourth-graders with their finished product of 60 dozen cookies!

Women's Retreat League gathers



SHARON—More than 100 women braved the snow and cold weather March 8 to attend the annual day of recollection of the Mercer County Women's Retreat League at St. Joseph Church in Sharon. Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Sharpville, was the retreat master and delivered a talk titled, "Being Quiet and Listening for God's Message." Msgr. Edward Zeiler of Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage, is the league's spiritual director. Women's Retreat League officers are Pat Demas, president; Veronica Garry, vice president; Betty Shelley, treasurer; and Carol Seward, secretary.

Kids donate to Our Neighbor's Place



ERIE—The St. Luke School community in Erie recently donated a variety of items to Our Neighbor's Place, a homeless shelter in Erie. Pictured sorting and packing in the front row, left to right, are: Johnny Moore, Brady Rice and Alex Miklinski. In the background, left to right, are: Lauren Habursky, Nate Firman, Nate Lutz, Jacob Wiczorek, Elizabeth Kuhn and teacher Maggi Minick.

Parish celebrates reconciliation



SMETHPORT—Nine children received their First Reconciliation at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport on April 14. A pizza party reception was held afterward for friends and family. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Brayden Cosper, Landon Francis, Gavin McCabe, Dominic Ritts and Carter Vandermark. In the back row, left to right, are: Lila Costa, Jocelyn Alieri, Liberty Christjohn, and Kearstin Sherry.

TURKEY AND HAM DINNER AND QUILT SHOW/SALE

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015
 St. Joseph Social Center, Lucania
 Serving 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 (Takeouts available)

Cost:
 Adults: \$8.00; Children: \$3.50
 Preschoolers: Free

Raffle Prizes:
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 click on For the Protection of Children