

Belize native becomes Catholic

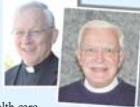
Matt Gillett's faith journey leads to baptism in the Catholic Church, see page 3.



www.ErieRCD.org

Special Collection

Good Shepherd Collection, May 10-11



Give to the Good Shepherd Collection next weekend on Good Shepherd Sunday. The collection helps cover the cost of assisted living and long-term health care fees for retired priests.

Go to www.ErieRCD.org/goodshepherd.asp for more details or to donate online. See where 48 retired priests from the Diocese of Erie are now living.

Remember Mother's Day, May 11



St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the patron saint of mothers, pregnant women and childless couples. Her feast day is July 26.

Shrine of St. Anne, St. Jean Baptiste Church, New York

St. Anne standing with a young Mary

A gift for mothers
St. Peter's B-list includes poetry for moms

By Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ
Catholic News Service

St. Peter's B-List: Contemporary Poems Inspired by the Saints, edited by Mary Ann B. Miller, contains more than a hundred poems, referencing various saints in the context of contemporary spiritual struggle. Honest, touching, sometimes startling, the poems address both the fragmentation and the beauty of ordinary life today.

Published in time for Mother's Day on May 11, the collection contains a few poems about motherhood. "In Praise of Single Mothers," a poem by Kate Daniels, shows the difficulty of a mother attempting to write poetry while her children sleep. Interrupted once, Daniels reflects on St. Zita and St. Paula—disciplined, generous women—as well as St. Therese of Lisieux, who inspire her to find "sainthood and sanity in the daily round of cleaning up and bringing order."

"I lower myself into it as a mother and arise, rinsed into a poet/baptized back into words," Daniels writes. Her daughter then cries; she leaves the poem to breastfeed, declaring, "I love her more, much more than poetry."

Many of the poems reveal the mystery and miracles hidden in everyday experience.

Martha Silano's "Poor Children of Eve" depicts the endless, regular tasks of a mother who prays, "Lead us away from the temptation to chuck it all ... and glory be to dishwashing liquid and the sponge ... and to the microwave and Mr. Coffee." Erika Meitner, in "Miracle Blanket" describes the difficulty of putting her infant son to sleep by alluding to Nicholas of Tolentino, patron saint of babies, who reportedly resurrected 100 dead children, telling those around him to "say nothing of this." When her son finally sleeps, the speaker asks the saint, "O faithful and glorious Martyr, say nothing of this" miracle.

A parental reversion happens in Susan Rich's poem about watching over her mother in the intensive care unit when she prays, "O Jude, Patron of the Impossible/Man of the Last Moment/come, sit with me. I have become my mother's mother."

Miller, as editor, explains that her collection of poems is written by both Catholics and non-Catholics but is an expression of an "incarnative view of art." Much of the poetry expresses how the divine manifests itself in human experience.

The title, *St. Peter's B-List*, reflects the last poem, which questions the pre-Second Vatican Council dogma underlying the belief that ordinary people with imperfections can only be second-class saints. The collection as a whole belies this idea, revealing the divine spark alive and well in the diversity of human experience.

Editor's Note: *St. Peter's B-List: Contemporary Poems Inspired by the Saints* is published by Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2014).

FaithLife

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

"There is no religious justification for violence."

May 4, 2014

Church celebrates two new saints



People pray during a Mass April 27 in Mexico City's metropolitan cathedral to celebrate the canonizations of the two new popes.



A priest celebrates Mass in honor of Saints John Paul II and John XXIII at the Kasprowy Wierch resort in Poland's Tatra Mountains.



A boy prays next to a statue of St. John Paul II at an exhibit of the pontiff's relics in Manila, Philippines.

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis praised the new Saints John XXIII and John Paul II as men of courage and mercy, who responded to challenges of their time by modernizing the Catholic Church in fidelity to its ancient traditions.

"They were priests, bishops and popes of the 20th century," the pope said April 27, in his homily during a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

"They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful."

"John XXIII and John Paul II cooperated with

the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the church in keeping with her original features, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries," he said.

Speaking before a crowd of nearly 1 million that included retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis praised St. John for his best-known accomplishment, calling the Second Vatican Council, which he said "showed an exquisite openness to the Holy Spirit."

"He let himself be led, and he was for the church a pastor, a servant-leader," the pope said of St. John. "This was his great service to the church. I like to think of him as the pope of openness to the Spirit."

"John XXIII and John Paul II cooperated with

Pope Francis characterized St. John Paul as the "pope of the family" a title he said the late pope himself had hoped to be remembered by. Pope Francis said he was sure St. John Paul was guiding the church on its path to two upcoming synods of bishops on the family, to be held at the Vatican this October and in October 2015.

The pope invoked the help of the two new papal saints for the success of the synods.

He prayed, "May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives,

See SAINTS, page 3

The Saint effect Elementary school, nursing home expect to change their names

HERMITAGE—Now that Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII are saints, an elementary school and a nursing home in the Diocese of Erie are likely to change their names.

Blessed John Paul II Elementary School and John XXIII Home, both located in Hermitage, Mercer County, have begun discussions on how to properly acknowledge the new saints, canonized on April 27.

A name change process can be lengthy—perhaps a half-year or more—due to all the paperwork with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as changes to corporate charters. That's not even taking into account the ramifications to public relations and marketing tools, even stationery.

"I think it's wonderful and we're proud to change the name, to be able to now say that John XXIII is a saint," said Kirk Hawthorne, administrator of John XXIII Home. "It's a great spiritual foundation to have a saint for this home."

Hawthorne said the home would likely be called St. John XXIII Home.

"It's funny because most people in the Shenango Valley already call it St. John XXIII. Maybe it was a premonition," Hawthorne said.

The canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII will likely mean a name change for John XXIII Home and Blessed John Paul Elementary, both in Mercer County.

Discussions on a name change have begun at both sites, with the board at John XXIII deciding to move forward after the canonization. An attorney will be hired to assist the nursing home in the process, Hawthorne said.

Father Michael Allison, president of the Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools, which includes Blessed John Paul II Elementary, will be meeting with his advisory board in the near future to determine a plan of action.

"It [the canonization] is a great occasion for the church and for the faith," Father Allison said.

John XXIII Home is a diocesan-owned residential care facility for the elderly, including personal care, independent living and home and community-based services. It has 160 residents.

Blessed John Paul II Elementary has 265 students in pre-K through grade 5.



Contributed photos

Three diocesan priests attend canonization

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

ROME—Three priests who were ordained in the Diocese of Erie 25 years ago reunited in Rome in April for their silver anniversary and for the canonization of Pope John Paul II, under whose papacy they first committed to the priesthood.

Fathers Ed Lohse, Larry Richards and Nicholas Rouch celebrated a Mass for their anniversary while in Rome the week after Easter, and—as a bonus—got tickets to witness the April 27 canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII.

"I don't remember Pope John XXIII, but Pope John Paul has had an enormous influence in my life," said Father Lohse, who currently is an official at the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vati-

can Curia. "He [John Paul] was pope for over half of my priesthood so far."

The three priests, ordained together at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie in 1989, were among an estimated 5,000 who were seated in a section reserved at the canonization Mass for non-concelebrating clergy. Only bishops and cardinals were invited to concelebrate the Mass with Pope Francis.

"Our participation in the Mass was the same as for any of the faithful, except that we wore the attire proper for the clergy and sat in the clergy section," Father Lohse explained.

When all three priests heard about the canonization, they immediately made plans for a reunion in Rome this spring. As classmates, they have maintained close ties. They sit together for the annual Chrism Mass, when priests renew their vows to the



Contributed photo

Fathers Larry Richards, Ed Lohse and Nicholas Rouch stand outside St. Peter's Basilica for the canonization Mass at the Vatican on April 27.

priesthood, and got together during the year they all spent teaching or ministering in the Bradford, St. Marys and DuBois areas in the early 1990s.

"From the beginning, we recognized how different our personalities were, but from the start we saw the brotherhood," Father Rouch said of his ordination classmate.

That brotherhood was solidified even more in Rome last month. The three priests concelebrated Mass April 21 in a chapel within St. Peter's Basilica, near the tomb of the apostle for whom it is named. It was an opportunity to give thanks for blessings received over the past 25 years.

"For me, the most important thing was to be together on our anniversary, wherever it might be, to celebrate in unison our common priestly vocation," Father Lohse added.

For Father Richards, pastor of St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community, Erie, attending the canonization was an honor. The two saints, he said, exemplified Jesus in and through their lives.

"We were born and baptized during the pontificate of Pope John XXIII and ordained under John Paul II," Father Richards said. "I always loved that Pope John had a great sense of humor and Pope John Paul loved Our Lady so much. Pope John Paul has always been a great inspiration in his living out the new evangelization. I strive to do the same every day."

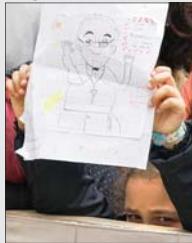
Father Lohse met Pope John Paul II twice while in Rome and attended his beatification several years ago. He occasionally stops to pray at the new saint's tomb in St. Peter's Basilica.

"He has been, and continues to be, a tremendous example for me of one who has given his whole being to God through the church," Father Lohse said.

Father Rouch, who is vicar for education of the Diocese of Erie, fondly remembers a private Mass he attended with his parents and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. The pontiff, he said, was a significant inspiration in his decision to become a priest.

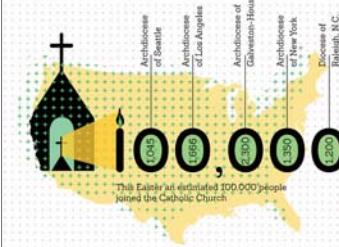
"John Paul II helped me see the Catholic Church as a living, relevant, meaningful presence of Christ," Father Rouch said.

Papal art



A child holds a drawing of Pope Francis as the pope leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 23.

New Catholics: A snapshot



About 100,000 people joined the Catholic Church in the United States (198 in the Diocese of Erie) during rites held at the Easter Vigil this year, according to Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

Teresian Carmelites in India dispatch first sister to U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A group of four Teresian Carmelites from India are quickly adjusting to their new life in the Diocese of Bismarck, N.D., helping out in the Catholic Indian Mission and teaching at St. Bernard Mission School in Fort Yates.

This is the first time members of the congregation have lived and served in the Western Hemisphere. Their order, founded in 1866, is based in Kerala, India.

"It's a great encouragement to the Catholic people that we're able to have religious women in the diocese who



CNS photo

Sister Silvin of the Teresian Carmelites from Kerala, India.

Catholics, Anglicans discuss ecclesiology and moral discernment

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Understanding the differences in how the Catholic Church and member churches of the Anglican Communion structure authority and exercise it is key to understanding how each body arrives at its teaching and practices on critical issues in ethics and moral theology. That is the declaration of a joint 23-page statement by the Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in the United States, *Ecclesiology and Moral Discernment: Seeking a Unified Moral Witness*, issued April 22.

"Both our churches teach the faith in the hope of greater understanding, in a process that must include reception of what is taught," the statement said. The document focuses on Catholic and Anglican teaching on two specific issues: immigration and same-sex relationships.

are active in the apostolate of Catholic school education," Bishop David D. Kagan of Bismarck told Catholic News Service. "I can see many good things coming from their presence here."

As of last week, Catholics around the world may now officially celebrate the feast days of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II.

St. John's feast day is Oct. 11, the anniversary of the day in 1962 when he opened the Second Vatican Council. St. John Paul's feast day is Oct. 22, the anniversary of the beginning of his pontificate in 1978.

The momentous two popes were declared saints; they could be venerated by the whole church, Pope Francis said at the canonization Mass on April 27.

Another interesting aspect of their sainthood is that parishes no longer need Vatican approval to name churches after either saint. Those who were beatified—John XXIII in 2000 and John Paul II in 2011—special Vatican permission was required to publicly celebrate their feast days outside the Diocese of Rome. Vatican permission was required to name parishes after them.

I clearly remember that day in October when John Paul II became pope. I was a freshman in college, and the world had just learned about the untimely death of Pope John Paul I.

How significant it was that Cardinal Karol Woytila took the name John Paul II. It showed a level of humility that seemed to personify his pontificate.

Of course, I was only a child when John XXIII died, but I have come to appreciate his writing ability.

The following words of John XXIII are a daily inspiration: "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

Inspiration comes in many forms. For several days now, I have been keeping tabs on my cousin Carol (Felix) Ryan and her husband, Rusty, as they walk the renowned St. James' Way, commonly known by its name in Spanish: El Camino de Santiago. It's the name of the pilgrimage route to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried there.

On May 8, Carol and Rusty are expecting to finish their long journey, despite suffering blisters and some mild sickness. One day, they climbed the highest point on the Camino, over 1,500 meters above sea level. During the Easter season, they were able to attend Masses at some ancient churches in Spain.

Carol graduated from St. George School and Villa Maria Academy, both in Erie.

♦ ♦ ♦

Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG



On May 8, Carol and Rusty are expecting to finish their long journey, despite suffering blisters and some mild sickness. One day, they climbed the highest point on the Camino, over 1,500 meters above sea level. During the Easter season, they were able to attend Masses at some ancient churches in Spain.

Carol graduated from St. George School and Villa Maria Academy, both in Erie.

♦ ♦ ♦

Congratulations to another Villa grad, Kayla McBride, who recently was selected as the No. 3 overall pick in the WNBA draft. The 5-foot 11-inch guard is currently preparing for the May 16 season opener with her new team, the San Antonio Stars.

This is one busy woman. Since draft day on April 14, McBride has been finishing her studies at Notre Dame University, where she is scheduled to graduate on May 18 with a degree in marketing.

♦ ♦ ♦

Bishop Lawrence Persico was in attendance this spring for the installation of nine seminarians to the Ministry of Lectio at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. The bishop is a member of the seminary's board of regents. One of the seminarians is Peter D. Crowe of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, who completed the pre-theology program at Gannon University in 2013.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*.

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Diocesan graphic designer wins two Addy Awards



Congratulations to Elizabeth Butterfield with the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Erie who won both gold and silver Addy Awards presented by the Erie Ad Club in March. These honors make nine Addy Awards that Butterfield has won in her six-year tenure at the Office of Communications. This year, she took gold for the diocesan Christmas card, titled "Gift Fit for a King," and silver for an invitation she created for the Catholic Charities Ball.

Primary candidates respond to survey

FaithLife and PCC reports



See detailed survey results at: www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp

■ 66th Pennsylvania House of Representatives District (includes Jefferson County): Republican Paul Corbin and Democrat Robert "Toby" Santik

■ 17th Pennsylvania House of Representatives District (includes Crawford and Mercer counties): Republicans Ed Franz and Gary J. Temple, and Democrat Dennis P. Webber

■ Pennsylvania's 50th Senatorial district (includes Mercer County): Democrat Michael T. Muha.

Five of the six candidates, both Democrats and Republicans, said they favored increasing funding for textbooks and instructional materials for nonpublic school students at the same rate as increases in subsidies to public school students. Santik abstained from answering that question.

All six candidates support the death penalty. But on the hotly contested debate over same-sex marriage, four oppose legalizing it, while two support it.

Raction was split down the middle over whether Pennsylvania should accept funds from the new Affordable Care Act. But on

the issue of abortion, only one candidate—Muha—stated that he was in favor of legalized abortion in all circumstances.

For detailed survey results, go to www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, which neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office, sent a questionnaire to every statewide candidate for governor and lieutenant governor, giving them an opportunity to state their positions in their own words.

Gov. Tom Corbett was the only candidate who responded (read his completed questionnaire at www.ErieRCD.org/justice.asp).

The other Republicans and the Democratic candidates did not respond. However, all of the candidates have made public statements and published campaign materials that give clues about where they stand.

These are a couple of the issues that may be of interest to Catholic voters:

Dignity of the human person:

Republican Corbett indicated on PCC's questionnaire that he opposes legalized abortion, except

when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. In a Jan. 26, 2014, story, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reported that Republican Bob Guzzardi agrees with restricting abortion and on his Facebook page he describes partial-birth abortion as infanticide.

All four Democratic candidates described themselves as "pro-choice" on the abortion issue during a debate at Carnegie Mellon University in January 2014.

Access to health care:

Corbett told the PCC he believes Pennsylvania should use the additional federal funds under the Affordable Care Act to allow more people, including the working poor, to access the private insurance market.

He has proposed a plan to this effect called Healthy Pennsylvania. Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, Guzzardi told the *York Daily Record*, "The Forgotten Taxpayer cannot afford these programs ... There are consequences to spending more than we can afford."

All four Democrats say they would expand Medicaid immediately if elected governor. According to his campaign website, Democrat Tom Wolf would "take an active, aggressive role in expanding access to health care in Pennsylvania."

FaithLife

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Ireland/Scotland: May 31-Jun 12, Jun 7-19, Jun 14-26, Jun 21-31, Jun 23-Jul 5, Jun 28-Jul 19, Jun 24-26, Jun 27-Jul 1, Jun 28-Jul 19, Jun 29-Jul 1, Jun 30-Jul 19, Jun 31-Jul 2, Jul 1-2...

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Lourdes/Fatima: Jun 19-26, Sep 4-12, Sep 11-19

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News Briefs

Perpetual Novena now held at St. Andrew

ERIE—St. Andrew Parish at W. 7th and Raspberry streets in Erie has opened its chapel doors to allow Deacon Jerry Peterson to conduct the Perpetual Novena to the Miraculous Medal on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. This novena began in the 1930s at St. Patrick Parish in Erie and recently moved to St. Andrew.

The St. Andrew chapel is located west of the rectory between Raspberry and Cranberry streets and has plenty of lighted parking. Call 814-825-7375 for more information.

Kindergarten open house scheduled at OLC

ERIE—Our Lady's Christian School, 606 Lowell Ave., will offer a kindergarten open house on Thursday, May 22, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Come for personal tours, information, demonstrations and a chance to win a gift basket and a \$500 tuition voucher (for new families). For more information, call 814-838-7676 or 814-838-0927, ext. 6.

Volunteers needed at St. Mary's Home

ERIE—Want to be a part of making a difference in someone's life? Want to share and give back to those who have served us?

St. Mary's Home of Erie is recruiting volunteers for St. Mary's East and St. Mary's Asbury Ridge. To learn more about this opportunity, attend an open house at either location on Monday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m. No reservations are required.

Use the Reed Street entrance for St. Mary's East, and the main lobby at Asbury Ridge. There will be information on the volunteer program, tours and light refreshments.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends planned this summer

PITTSBURGH—Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith-based marriage enrichment experience that helps couples improve communication while focusing on their relationship. Two weekends are scheduled this summer: June 6-8 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel near the Pittsburgh airport, and July 25-27 at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow.

Marriage Encounter is a private weekend with no group sharing. A non-refundable \$75 application fee saves a space and a free-will offering helps continue the work of WWME. Space is limited. Registration for the June weekend closes May 15.

To learn about Marriage Encounter or to apply for a weekend, call 814-823-4600 or 412-635-7775. Those who are interested also may apply online at www.YourMarriagelIsWorthIt.org.

Carmelite luncheon tickets on sale now

ERIE—The Friends of the Carmelites Annual Luncheon will be held July 16, the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, at the Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Club Road, Erie.

The luncheon will include a gift auction and door prizes. The cost is \$20 per person and must be purchased by July 4. No tickets will be sold at the door.

To request tickets, email carmel.friends.erie@gmail.com or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Carmelite Tickets, c/o Susan Mehler-Bostick, 47 September Circle, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Checks can be made payable to Susan Mehler-Bostick. If anyone wishes to make a prize donation, contact Ann Mehler at 814-864-9124.

Belize native becomes Catholic

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Matt Gillett attended Catholic elementary and high schools in Belize, a mostly Roman Catholic country located on the northeast coast of Central America.

Naturally, most people assumed he was Catholic...but that wasn't the case until this Easter. Gillett finally was baptized into the Catholic Church—at age 29—at the Easter Vigil Mass at Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage.

"My value system has always been Catholic," Gillett told *FaithLife* the day before his baptism.

"I wouldn't be the guy I am if it weren't for my Catholic education. It gave me a sense of compassion for other people, diligence in my everyday life and spiritual discipline."

Gillett, who works as an engineer at General Electric Co. in Grove City, is getting married in the Catholic Church in less than one month. His fiancee, Natalie Nacheff, served as his sponsor through the entire conversion process, known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

"It definitely was his decision," Nacheff said. "I knew he was living a Christian lifestyle—his kindness and generosity—so the title of Catholic wasn't so important to me, but it meant a lot."

Nacheff, 26, said she enjoyed sponsoring her husband-to-be. She attended several Sunday

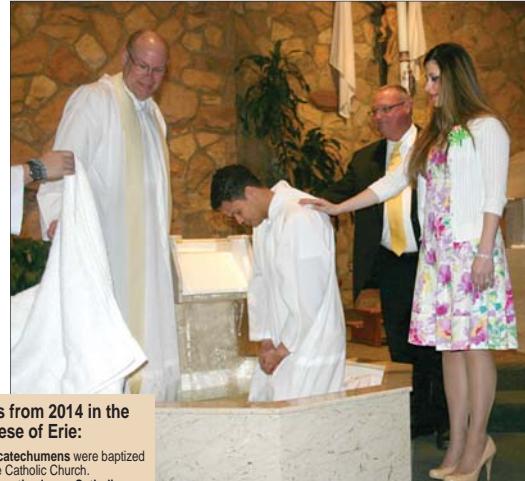


Photo by Carrie Hannah

Facts from 2014 in the Diocese of Erie:

- 54 catechumens were baptized into the Catholic Church.
- 97 baptized, non-Catholics were welcomed into the fullness of the Catholic Church.
- 47 baptized Catholics completed their initiation with first Communion and/or confirmation at Easter Vigil services.

Father Jeff Noble, pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, completes the baptism of catechumen Matt Gillett. Gillett's fiancee, Natalie Nacheff, served as his sponsor. Frank Hannah, pictured in the back, served as parish sponsor companion.

to start our lives together. This was a step in that direction."

For Gillett, becoming Catholic fulfilled what was missing in his life: a feeling of fellowship and community. His mother, who still

lives in Belize, is Catholic, but his late father was not. He wanted to share the same faith with his own wife and children.

"Our values start from day one," Gillett said.

Saints celebrated

SAINTS, from page 1

because it always loves."

Pope Francis repeatedly mentioned mercy in his homily, which he delivered on Divine Mercy Sunday, an observance St. John Paul put on the church's universal calendar in 2000. The Polish pope died on the vigil of the feast in 2005 and was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2011.

In addition to Pope Benedict, making only his third public appearance since he resigned in February 2013, concelebrants included some 150 cardinals and 700 bishops.

During the canonization ceremony, devotees carried up relics of the new saints in matching silver reliquaries, which Pope Francis kissed before they were placed a small stand for veneration by the congregation.

St. John's relic was a piece of the late pope's skin, removed when his body was transferred to its present tomb in the main sanctuary of St. Peter's Basilica.

Roberto Mora Diaz, a Costa Rican woman whose recovery from a brain aneurysm was recognized by the church as a miracle attributable to the intercession of St. John Paul, brought up a silver reliquary containing some of the saint's blood, taken from him for medical testing shortly before his death in 2005.



An estimated 800,000 gather at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on April 27 as Pope Francis celebrates the canonization Mass.

The Mass took place under cloudy skies with temperatures in the low 60s. Huge tapestries bearing portraits of the two saints hung from the facade of the basilica, and the square was decorated with 30,000 roses and other flowers donated by the nation of Ecuador.

The square and the broad Via della Conciliazione leading up to it were tightly packed with about 800,000 people. Overflow crowds watched on giant-screen TVs set up at various locations around the city. Among the many national flags on display, the majority were from Poland, the native land of St. John Paul.

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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



Just hanging around



ERIE—These students from Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie enjoy new fitness equipment purchased with a grant from the Highmark Foundation. Villa parent Sean Heasley was instrumental in the grant application process. Pictured on the bottom, left to right, are Tatiana Yurchak, Tyler White and Grant Deuterman. Highmark Senior Community Affairs representative Neil Parham attended a recent dedication, and was joined by Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, who blessed the equipment.

FBLA students take fourth in state



DUBOIS—Members of the Future Business Leaders of America at DuBois Central Catholic High School sold baked goods to students and staff to fund a recent trip to the state FBLA competition in Hershey. The DCC contingent placed fourth in the state in the category of Market Share, or the number of students participating based on student population. Pictured left to right are students Trisha Gupta, Madeline Robison, Natalie Curtis, Maria French and Alexandra Huckestein.

Mercyhurst students help needy kids go to camp



ERIE—Students at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie raised \$1,336.75 through various activities during Catholic Schools Week, donating all the money to the House of Mercy in Erie to help send needy children to camps. Pictured presenting the check to Mercy Sister Michele Marie Schroock, House of Mercy director, are: Rosie Pregler, Michelle Fugagli, Assistant Principal Ed Curtin, Griffin Schaeftel and Eric Baer.

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Confirmations

Bishop Emeritus Trautman confirms students in Greenville



GREENVILLE—Students from St. Michael Parish in Greenville were confirmed at a parish Mass on April 5. The students are pictured here with Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, top center, and Fathers David Foradori, Paul Schill and John Miller, at right.

Confirmation class makes retreat



DUBOIS—Confirmation students from St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian, St. Francis Parish in Clearfield, and Immaculate Conception Parish in Oscoda Mills attended a retreat together at Gasbarre Landing in Treasure Lake, DuBois.

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Nicole Harker and Alaina Stiles.

In the back row, left to right, are: Noah Stephens, Michael Fleming, Trey Rauchhorst, Logan Alton, Harrison Bloom and Jacob Stiles.

No birthday gifts, please



CLARION—Gabrielle Miller, a fourth-grader at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion, wanted only one thing for her 10th birthday this year: to make a difference in someone's life. With the help of her parents, Dawn and Brad Miller of Mayport, she asked her friends and family to donate to a charity, Camo Cares, instead of giving personal gifts or money. Gabby collected and donated \$700 to Jason Say, owner of Wired Outdoors, through which Camo Cares is coordinated. Camo Cares sends terminally ill children and wounded veterans on the hunt of a lifetime.

Smethport children receive sacrament of reconciliation



SMETHPORT—Religious education students from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Smethport received the sacrament of reconciliation on April 8 at the parish. The children enjoyed a pizza party afterward with their friends and families. Pictured with Father Vince Cieslewicz, pastor, are Isabella Learn and Evan Ruffner, both in the front row, and Preston Alfieri, Elizabeth Hungerville, Tristan Dragone and Carter Himes, all in the middle row.

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