



Out with the old,  
in with the **news.**

FaithLife's last issue will be June 24, but stay tuned and connected with us. [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

Plus, check out [nwpaCatholic.com](http://nwpaCatholic.com) — your source for the latest news, features and other stories covering our diocese.

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Sisters celebrate milestone anniversaries. **PAGE 3**

# FaithLife



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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 10, 2018



## Get to know Andrew Boyd and Ian McElrath

In the weeks preceding their ordinations to the priesthood on June 8, Deacons Andrew Boyd and Ian McElrath shared with *FaithLife* some of their thoughts on the Catholic Church, priesthood, even their favorite foods and pastimes.

Watch daily YouTube videos that were published in the days prior to ordination at St. Peter Cathedral. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search "Diocese of Erie."



Andrew Boyd on saxophone



Ian McElrath on the organ

## New priests welcomed



Photo by Mary Sillberg

Read the June 24 issue of *FaithLife* for full coverage of the June 8 ordinations of Ian McElrath, left, and Andrew Boyd at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. This weekend, each is celebrating his first Mass at his home parish. Boyd will preside at Mass on June 9 at 10 a.m. at

St. James Church, Erie. McElrath's first Mass as a priest will be at the Carmelite Monastery, Erie, on June 9 at 9 a.m. He will celebrate his first Mass at his home parish of St. Joseph, Sharon, on June 10 at 2:30 p.m.

## Supreme Court rules on high-profile cases

*Catholic leaders await more decisions*



CNS photo

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As the U.S. Supreme Court wraps up its current term this month, Catholic Church leaders are among those paying attention to how the court ruled this week on two high-profile cases, and how it will rule on others.

The justices—in a 7-2 decision on June 4—sided with a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of his religious beliefs.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had violated the Constitution's protection of religious freedom in its ruling against the baker. Kennedy noted that the case—*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*—had a limited scope, writing that the issue "must await further elaboration."

Across the country, similar appeals are pending. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' brief in support of the baker was joined by the Colorado Catholic Conference, Catholic Bar Association, Catholic Medical Association, National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA and National Catholic Bioethics Center. Chairmen of three USCCB committees issued a statement saying: "America has the ability to serve every person while making room for valid conscientious objection."

The court's opinion honed in on the argument of free speech and religious neutrality, saying the baker's refusal was based on "sincere religious beliefs and convictions." When the Colorado Civil Rights Commission considered the case, the court said, "it did not do so with the religious neutrality that the Constitution

Above: The Supreme Court as seen on May 21.

Below, from left: Baker Jack Phillips decorates a cake in his Masterpiece Cakeshop Sept. 21, 2017, in Lakewood, Colo.; international arrivals in Boston; and an abortion protest in Washington, D.C.

>> See SUPREME COURT, page 2

## Serra honors clergy, religious and laity

*FAITHLIFE* staff report

The Serra Club of Erie recognized the contributions and good works of a religious sister, a lay person and members of the clergy June 5 at its annual banquet in the Yehi ballroom at Gannon University.

Bishop Lawrence Persico was presented this year's Achievement Award for Outstanding Priest.

In presenting the honor to the bishop, Serra President Charlie Rutkowski noted that Bishop Persico has exemplified the finest qualities necessary to lead the Diocese of Erie the past five years.

"He [Bishop Persico] has been a true priest in offering his vocation to Christ in service for the people of God in our diocese," Rutkowski said. "In these times of challenge and change, he governs and leads with steadiness, commitment, determination and humility. His faith guides us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ as we look to the future."

The following is a complete list of 2018 Serra Club Achievement Awards for Outstanding Service:

- **Sister Clare Beichner, SSI**  
Religious of the Year
- **Deacon Denis Coan**  
Deacon of the Year
- **Bishop Lawrence Persico**  
Priest of the Year
- **James Speice**  
Layperson of the Year.



### Peace through Taekwondo

VATICAN CITY—Taekwondo athletes from Korea performed for Pope Francis during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 30.

The young athletes—one group wearing a white "dobok," or uniform, and the other side wearing black—symbolized the division of their peninsula by standing on opposite sides of a large colored mat and creating a line down the middle with white scarves.

The two sides embraced and held hands after their display and released a white dove. They then came together to hold boards up



CNS photo

high, flip in the air to smash them with their feet, and then send red flower petals flying. Before greeting the pope, they unfurled two banners,

one saying, "One World, One Taekwondo," and the other saying in Italian, "Peace is more precious than triumph."

## Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

### ■ Sports on Sundays OK, except when used to skip Mass: Vatican



CNS photo

Msgr. Mike Burke prays with Wisconsin Badger football players before their game Nov. 11, 2017, against Iowa. The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life released a document June 1 at the Vatican on sports, offering guidelines, recommendations and warnings.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A new Vatican document cautions against the dangers of highly competitive children's sports, political and economic pressures on athletes to win "at all costs," and the unsportsmanlike or violent behavior of fans.

The document on sports also calls on every group or institution sponsoring sports programs to have expert-guided child protection policies in place and it urged bishops, parishes and lay Catholics to be proactive in helping "humanize" sports.

The document, "Giving the Best of Yourself," also condemned sports on Sundays as a means of bringing families and communities together in joy and celebration, but only as long as such events are not used as an excuse to miss Mass.

The document was released June 1 by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, and is the first Vatican document on sports, said Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the dicastery's prefect.

In a message to the cardinal, Pope Francis applauded the document and said, "Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people."

### ■ Cardinal urges action on climate

BRAINTREE, Mass. (CNS)—Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley and other faith leaders joined scientists in issuing a call to action to address the "ecological and moral emergency" of climate change while there "is still time."

The group issued the statement at an afternoon news conference held May 23 at the head-

quarters of the Boston Archdiocese in Braintree. Its release marked the third anniversary of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

Climate change affects all aspects of "our shared lives and requires us to work together to protect our common home," the group's statement said. "As a community of scientists, we see greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and deforestation causing dangerous changes to the climate and threatening the stability of the planet."

The full document, which has more than 500 signatures to date, is posted on the website of Woods Hole Research Center (<http://whrc.org/joint-appeal>), a climate change think tank.

### ■ Revision of bishops' protection charter nears completion

NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—The chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People said a two-year project to revise the charter that guides the U.S. church in protecting minors from sexual abuse is nearly ready to be presented to the full body of bishops.

Lafayette Bishop Timothy L. Doherty, the committee chairman, told the 13th annual Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference in New Orleans that the proposed revisions of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" will be discussed and voted on at the bishops' June 13-14 spring general assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

### ■ Pope Francis names apostolic visitor to Medjugorje

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has named as apostolic visitor to Medjugorje the archbishop he had initially sent to the town as his personal envoy to study the pastoral needs of the townspeople and of the thousands of pilgrims who visit the site of the alleged Marian apparitions.

The pope appointed Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the retired archbishop of Warsaw-Praga, Poland, to be apostolic visitor to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, for an indefinite period, the Vatican announced May 31.

"The mission of the apostolic visitor has the aim of assuring a stable and continuous accompaniment of the parish community of Medjugorje and of the faithful who go there in pilgrimage, whose needs require special attention," the Vatican announcement said.



Archbishop Henryk Hoser



Editor's Notes  
Mary SOLBERG

local bank to develop a plan to purchase their own homes in the Our West Bayfront neighborhood.

"I truly believe God called me to be working in Erie and gave me this opportunity to have affordable housing, while putting my faith into action. It is a beautiful illustration of God's faithfulness," Falk said.

When it comes to giving, the people of the Diocese of Erie are quite generous every year when inevitable natural disasters occur.

According to Jim Bogniak in the diocesan Finance Office, parishioners gave nearly \$1 million to aid the victims of all the hurricanes that hit the United States last year. If you recall, those hurricanes included Harvey, Irma and Maria.

That's an amazing amount of money considering that all of the Catholic dioceses in the United States gave a total of \$58.7 million to hurricane relief and earthquake aid in Mexico, according to a recently released statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As Archbishop Thomas Rodi, chairperson of the USCCB's Committee on National Collections, said, "The support of parishioners is an act of charity and a reflection of love for neighbor."

Gannon University dedicated its new St. Joseph House of Faith in Action on May 18, witnessing to what President Keith Taylor has called "a home base for transformation."

Bishop Lawrence Persico blessed the interior and exterior of the 2,400-square-foot house in the 400 block of West Fourth Street in Erie.

The St. Joseph House is an outreach ministry for Gannon's Center for Social Concern. As reported in FaithLife's March 18 edition, many student and staff volunteers helped build the structure.

Gannon employee Kaitlyn Falk will live at the house, serving as a caretaker, along with another employee/resident, who is yet to be determined. They will work with a

Everyone should like the new Facebook page of the Mission of Friendship/Misión de Amistad, a partnership established in 1971 between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatán, Mexico.

For more than 45 years, the Mission of Friendship has ministered to the needs of the people in both dioceses and has offered many mission opportunities for individuals, parishes and schools.

If you visit the Facebook page, you'll see some heartwarming photos of the *Nueva Vida* girls who recently took a trip to the zoo, and another picture of our seminarians Joe Petrone and Kevin Holland, who recently visited the mission.



*Nueva Vida* girls at the Mission of Friendship enjoy a trip to the zoo in Mexico.

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Twitter: @ERIECNDsolberg

## Supreme Court

Continued from page 1

requires."

The opinion also noted the delicate balance at stake, saying, "Our society has come to the recognition that gay persons and gay couples cannot be treated as social outcasts or inferior in dignity and worth. For that reason, the laws and the Constitution can, and in some instances must, protect them in the exercise of their civil rights. ... At the same time, the religious and philosophical objections to gay marriage are protected views and in some instances protected forms of expression."

Delving further, the court deemed the specific cake in question as an artistic creation, not just a baked good. The court stated, "If the baker refused to sell any goods or any cakes for gay weddings, that would be a different matter."

Also on June 4, the Supreme Court threw out a lower court's rul-

ing that allowed a 17-year-old last year to obtain an abortion while she was in a detention center after an illegal border crossing.

If the Supreme Court had not acted, the lower court's ruling could have set a precedent that would have allowed minors in similar situations to obtain abortions.

In this case—*Azaz v. Garza*—the legal battle began when the teenager sought, but was denied, permission to leave the government-funded center to seek an abortion of a baby conceived by rape.

The Texas Catholic Conference in Austin had criticized the American Civil Liberties Union's efforts in support of the teenager, saying no one should "facilitate and participate in ending the innocent life of the unborn child."

At press time, Supreme Court decisions were pending on a California law requiring state pro-life pregnancy centers to visibly display information about abortions, and President Donald Trump's travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority countries.

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The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1974.

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

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

For more information, visit [www.ErieCND.org](http://www.ErieCND.org)  
click on *For the Protection of Children*

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EVENTS

Silent Walk for Peace

Erie's Benedictines for Peace will hold a Silent Walk for Peace June 20 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. along the Bayfront Promenade beginning and ending at Bayview Park near Cherry Street. The walk promotes inner peace that eliminates fear, divisions and hatred and brings about peace and unity in the world. All are welcome.

St. Peter's anniversary gala

All are invited to attend the 125th anniversary gala of St. Peter Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese of Erie, on June 30 at Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center, Yehli Ballroom. Cocktails begin at 5 p.m.; dinner and live music begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$65 per person and \$125 per couple. For more information or to reserve tickets, go to <https://stpetercathedral.com>.

Kentucky mission trip

All high school students in the Diocese of Erie are invited to participate in the annual Kentucky mission trip to Vanceburg, Ky., July 14-21. This trip was first organized in 1972. For more information or for an application, contact Father Mike DeMartinis at [mikedemartinis@prep-villa.com](mailto:mikedemartinis@prep-villa.com).

Divine Mercy Encounter

The Divine Mercy Encounter Retreat Program offers two opportunities to make a DME retreat this summer: July 6-8 in Erie, and Aug. 10-12 in St. Marys. Applications can be submitted online at [www.divinemercyencounter.com](http://www.divinemercyencounter.com). Questions? Contact Jessica Nelson at [jnelson@divinemercyencounter.com](mailto:jnelson@divinemercyencounter.com) or at 814-449-9533.

St. Andrew School reunion

All alumni and families of St. Andrew School in Erie are welcome to attend the 2018 Grand Reunion Aug. 4 from

3 to 8 p.m. at UPMC Park in Erie.

Anniversary celebrations

Diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2018 will be held at two locations in the Diocese of Erie this summer:

- Aug. 5 at 2 p.m., St. George Parish, Erie
- Aug. 19 at 2 p.m., St. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney.

Couples and/or parish staff may complete a registration form online at <https://www.ErieRCD.org/familylifeforce/anniv.html>. For questions, call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1250.

NCCYM in Florida

Register now at [www.nccym.info](http://www.nccym.info) for the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) Dec. 6-8 at the Tampa Convention Center in Florida. This conference is designed to inspire, strengthen and nourish those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ. Early bird registration ends July 15.

Quo Vadis retreat

The Diocese of Erie and the Diocese of Greensburg are teaming up for the first annual Quo Vadis Days (QVD) at St. Philip Church and Retreat Center in Linesville July 8-11.

This retreat/camp is designed for high school boys who are considering seminary formation, the priesthood, and striving to follow God's call in their life. Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico and Greensburg Bishop Edward Malec will celebrate Masses.

To learn more details and to register, contact Father Mike Polineck, vocation director, at [mpolineck@ErieRCD.org](mailto:mpolineck@ErieRCD.org) or at 814-824-1200, or go to the Vocation website at [www.erievocations.org](http://www.erievocations.org).

Sisters celebrate milestone anniversaries

Twenty-three sisters of three religious orders in the Diocese of Erie came together May 24 for a special Mass celebrating the anniversaries to the vowed religious life.

Bishop Lawrence Persico presided at the early evening Mass at St. Mark Catholic Center Chapel in Erie. Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, director of the Office for Religious, arranged the annual celebration.

In his homily, Bishop Persico told the jubilarians: "We celebrate each of you who have abandoned your very lives, and with deep trust and the recognition of your own human limitations, doubts and struggles, have handed yourselves over to God in the sure and certain hope that comes from the resurrection of Jesus—in order to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free."

The bishop further discussed Pope Francis' thoughts on the consecrated life, saying that "God's promise does not come to fulfillment merely in individuals...but within a community, the church."

The journey of religious life, Bishop



Photo by Anne-Marie Walsh

Bishop Lawrence Persico stands before the altar at St. Mark Catholic Center Chapel in Erie with the women religious marking jubilees this year.

Persico added, is one "against the current," especially in a world that rejects the very things to which the sisters vowed to devote their lives: to serve the poor and to be chaste.

"Encouraged by the gift of your faithful service, we look beyond our doubts and struggles to walk together in faith, reflecting always the love and mercy of Jesus in our lives," the bishop said.

'O God, you are the center of my life' (PSALM 16)

The following sisters are celebrating jubilees this year:

75 years

- Sister Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ
- Sister Mary Julia Scully, SSJ

70 years

- Sister Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ

60 years

- Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ
- Sister Mary Therese Egan, OSB
- Sister Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ

- Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ
- Sister Justina Gutowski, OSB
- Sister Frances Therese Matia, SSJ
- Sister Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ
- Sister Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ
- Sister Margaret Pellerite, SSJ
- Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB
- Sister Carol Ann Voltz, RSM
- Sister Naomi Wood, SSJ
- Sister Rita Zatosky, OSB

50 years

- Sister Mary Ann Bader, RSM
- Sister Marla Bleil, OSB
- Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ
- Sister Susan Freitag, OSB
- Sister Janet Goetz, OSB
- Sister Mary Susan Hallstein, OSB
- Sister Dorothy Stoner, OSB

## 2018 Summer & Fall events

**JUNE 23 Our Lady of Lourdes Old-Fashioned Strawberry Social**  
**TIME** 4-7 pm  
**PLACE** 151 S. Franklin St., Cochranston  
**FOOD** Ice cream, cake and strawberries: adult \$4, child \$3; additional food for sale: chicken and sausage sandwiches, sloppy joes, hot dogs and macaroni salad  
**MORE INFO** 814-789-2022

**JULY 29 122nd Annual Frenchtown (St. Hippolyte) Ham or Chicken Dinner**  
**TIME** Noon-7 pm; dinners served noon-5 pm (or until sold out)  
**PLACE** 26012 N. Frenchtown Road, Frenchtown. *Shuttle service to parking lots*  
**FOOD** Half chicken or ham dinners, and homemade pies; take-outs available  
**FUN** Games, bingo, gift auction, quilt/afghan raffle and kids area  
**Cost:** Adult \$10, senior citizen \$9, child \$7  
**MORE INFO** 814-789-2022

**Saturday:** Noon-10 pm, music by *Lil John & the ATM Band* (Lattrobe), *Mar-Vels* (Erie) and *The Boys* (Baltimore), polka  
**Mass** 5 pm, music by *Mar-Vels*  
**Sunday:** Noon-6 pm, music by *Dyna Brass* (Detroit); Polish Heritage Mass 11 am celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico; hymns by the Holy Trinity Choir  
**EVENT MC** DJ Ken Olowin  
**FOOD** Polish foods, bakery and drinks  
**FUN** Drawings, games and kids area  
**MORE INFO:** 814-456-0671 or [www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)

**JULY 4 St. Joseph's 79th Annual 4th of July Celebration**  
**TIME** 11 am-4 pm (rain or shine)  
**PLACE** Parish grounds (toppy covered); 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda (along Route 66)  
*Handicap accessible and parking shuttle*  
**FOOD** All-you-can-eat chicken and ham dinners, soup with homemade noodles and homemade pies. *Dinner tickets on sale at 10 am; dinner 11 am-3 pm, take-outs 11 am-2 pm*  
**COST** Adult \$9, child 6-12 \$4.50, under 6 free  
**FUN** Games of skill and chance, live entertainment and bingo; more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes, including a \$5,000 grand prize and over 15 handmade quilts  
**MORE INFO** [www.stjoseph-lucinda.org](http://www.stjoseph-lucinda.org), on Facebook @stjoseph4thofjuly or 814-226-7288

**AUG. 3-5 St. James Annual Summer Festival**  
**PLACE** School grounds/St. James Place; 2602/2622 Buffalo Road, Erie  
*Air-conditioned hall, handicap accessible and security on the grounds*  
**EVENT INFO**  
**Friday:** 5 pm pasta dinner featuring Chuck and Ginny's famous sauce; adult \$8, child 12 and under \$4  
**Saturday:** All-day festival fun (no dinner)  
**Sunday:** 11:30 am polka Mass; noon-6 pm: full-course turkey dinner; adult \$9, child 6-12 \$6, under 6 \$3  
**FUN** Money Mania drawings: six cash drawings ranging from \$500-\$10,000; plus, bean bag toss tournament, games of chance, casino tent, pony rides and bingo

**SEPT. 13 Saint Mary's Follies: "Hearts of Gold"**  
**TIME** 5-8 pm  
**PLACE** Bayfront Convention Center  
**EVENT INFO** Cocktails, elegant sit-down dinner, entertainment and awards  
**COST** \$75 per person/\$600 per table of 8  
*All proceeds benefit the James E. Mantyla Benevolent Care Fund at Saint Mary's Home of Erie*  
**MORE INFO** 814-451-1316 or [aallegretto@stmaryshome.org](mailto:aallegretto@stmaryshome.org)

**AUG. 10-12 St. Paul Italian Festival**  
 Celebrating the Feast of the Assumption  
**PLACE** W. 16th and Walnut Streets, Erie Church and festival grounds are handicap accessible; more parking and free shuttle service at E. 34th and Ash streets  
**EVENT INFO**  
**Friday:** 4:30 pm opening Communion Service followed by pasta fagioli dinner until 8 pm; activities 6-10 pm, live music 8-10 pm and \$2,000 prize drawing 10 pm  
**Saturday:** 4:30 pm Mass; activities 1-10 pm, children's activities 1-5 pm, music 6-10 pm and \$2,000 drawing 10 pm  
**Sunday:** 11 am Mass celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico followed by a procession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through "Little Italy" Spaghetti dinner 12-6 pm, activities noon-8 pm, music 5-8 pm and \$8,000 drawing 8 pm  
**MORE FUN** Games and bingo, too!  
**MORE INFO** 814-459-3173

**SEPT. 16 Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival**  
**TIME** Noon-5 pm  
**PLACE** Geiger Hall; 1626 W. 26th St., Erie  
**FUN/FOOD** Cash drawings every 30 minutes starting at 12:30 pm (extra cash if present); theme basket auction, à la carte food, delicious goods by Fuhman's Cider Mill, kids games and inflatables, games of chance and bake sale  
**OTHER** Flu shots available; Community Blood Bank blood drive from noon-3 pm  
**MORE INFO** 814-454-0171

**AUG. 24-26 25th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival**  
**PLACE** Holy Trinity Parish; E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie. *Free admission*  
**EVENT INFO**  
**Friday:** 5-10 pm; music by *Squeezebox* with Ted Lange and Mollie B. (NW Ohio) continued...

**OCT. 5-7 Oktoberfest St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community**  
**PLACE** W. 24th and Sassafras streets, Erie  
**EVENT INFO**  
**Friday:** 5-11 pm; live music daily  
**Saturday:** 1-11 pm; **Sunday:** 12-6 pm  
**FOOD** Authentic German cuisine, dinners, à la carte, desserts and take-outs, too  
**FUN** \$25,000 cash raffle, plus smaller cash raffles, basket raffles and vendors  
**MORE INFO** 814-452-2982 or [www.stjoesbol.org](http://www.stjoesbol.org)

**OCT. 27 St. Mary Parish Oktoberfest Craft Show**  
**PLACE** St. Mary Parish Center cafeteria; 325 Church St., St. Marys  
**TIME** 9 am-3 pm  
**FOOD/FUN** Cash show, basket raffles and food; for a craft table reservation (\$15 for a six-foot table), call Mary Secco at 814-781-6228

**Squeeze in time for these great events!**

Find this listing on [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) and share on Facebook!

OBITUARY

Father Donald E. Berdis

Father Donald E. Berdis, 80, died May 27 at Westlake Woods, Erie.

A native of Erie, he was born June 9, 1937, a son of the late Joseph and Mary Ann (Janosik) Berdis.

After attending Holy Family Grade School and graduating from Cathedral Preparatory School, both in Erie, he entered St. Mark Seminary and began studies at Gannon University in 1955.

He continued his formation for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, where he remained until 1963. He earned a bachelor of arts degree and a bachelor's in theology, as well as a licentiate in sacred theology.

Father Berdis was ordained to the priesthood May 23, 1963, by Bishop Edward P. McManaman at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. He began his priestly ministry as a faculty member of DuBois Central Catholic High School, while serving as weekend assistant at Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookville. At Immaculate Conception, he also celebrated daily Mass and helped with catechesis and other ministries.

After 17 years of teaching, Father Berdis was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Farrell, where he served faithfully for the rest of his active ministry, retiring in 2017 at the age of 79.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Sister Eileen Berdis, OSF; Mildred Merski, Eleanor Tarasovitch and Sister Audrey Berdis, OSB; and his brothers, Joseph, Thomas and Francis "Frank" Berdis.

Survivors include his sisters, Sister Kevin Berdis, OSF, of Pittsburgh, Ann Krauzza (Paul) of Erie, and Jean Abate (Frank) of North East; his brothers, Lawrence Berdis and James Berdis (Barbara), both of Erie, and Robert Berdis of Akron, Ohio; and several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Bishop Lawrence Persico was the main celebrant of a funeral Mass June 1 at Holy Family Church, Erie. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Erie.

Memorials may be made to the Prince of Peace Center, 502 Barr Ave., Farrell, PA 16121. Condolences may be expressed at [www.bruggerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bruggerfuneralhomes.com).



Father Donald E. Berdis

Sharing Catholic news in northwest Pennsylvania

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# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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



## Mercy Sister celebrates her 50th jubilee



ERIE—Sister Mary Ann Bader, a local leader of the Sisters of Mercy in Erie, celebrated her 50th jubilee with a Mass and reception May 19 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse. She is pictured with Francis Father Thomas Hartle, left, a friend who celebrated the Mass, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, who was present in the sanctuary.

## Math and science can be fun



ERIE—Seventh-graders at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie recently planned and hosted a Math & Science Fun Day for the rest of the school community. After researching different grade-appropriate experiments, the seventh-graders set up stations in the school cafeteria.

Pictured is seventh-grader Corey Webber, standing, who demonstrates surface tension for first-graders Logan Delavern, Landon Kemmer, Nicholas Ehratic and Bode Dimperio. Webber shows how paper clips can float on the water surface.

## St. James students recognized for their artistic flair



ERIE—Four students from St. James School in Erie were named winners in this year's Villa Maria Academy art show for grade school children. Nineteen students from St. James entered the contest, using different mediums. They were under the direction of art teacher Gretchen Petrarca.

Winning students, in the bottom row, from left, are: second-grader Emily Althof and first-grader Caleb Sidelinger. In the top row, from left, are: sixth-grader Savannah Nelson and fourth-grader Mathias Armstrong.

## STAR Foundation provides tuition assistance to families in DuBois

DuBOIS—John Oberlin, vice president and development officer at S&T Bank, visited DuBois Central Catholic recently to present a check for tuition assistance.

The bank supports the STAR Foundation through participation in the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC).

Accepting the check, from left, are: Headmaster Gretchen Carnso, left, and DCC's Chief Financial Officer Belinda Vashbinder.

Students who qualify for assistance benefit from the gift.



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