



FaithLife



POPE TWEET

Pope Francis
@Pontifex

"Dear parents, have great patience, and forgive from the depths of your heart."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 14, 2015

Thomas Trocchio ordained a priest of the Diocese of Erie

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Tom Trocchio's childhood wish was fulfilled June 5 when he was ordained a Catholic priest at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie. The little boy who liked to pretend to be a clergyman is now among 122 active priests in the Diocese of Erie.

"As a young kid, he always wanted to play a priest. It's surreal. He's worked so hard for this and now it's here," says Father Trocchio's half-sister, Dana Caldoro. "I guess now I'll have to call him 'Father.'"

Caldoro attended the ordination along with her 7-year-old son, Cameron, and several other members of Trocchio's family, including his grandmother, Marga Deer, and his aunt, Cindy Caldoro, whom he once told, "I want to serve the people of God."

At 32, Father Trocchio is excited to begin his new assignment as parochial vicar at St. Luke Parish in Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico announced the appointment during the ordination Mass, saying during a reflection, "Make no mistake about it, Tom, the Spirit of God will work mightily in and through you in spite of your own frailties and in ways far beyond your imagining."

Father Tom Trocchio

"I look forward—wherever I am—to meeting people and asking them, 'How can I help you?'"

To watch an interview with Father Tom Trocchio, visit www.ErieRCD.org

For the new Father Trocchio, whose home parish is St. Patrick in Franklin, the power of the Holy Spirit brought him to ordination. Growing up in Plum Borough, outside of Pittsburgh, Father Trocchio was baptized Lutheran. After his mother died when he was only 6, he lived with his father and grandfather. Increasingly, he became interested in the Catholic faith through members of his family who were Catholic or who were married to Catholics.

At about age 14, he asked his father if he could become Catholic. Once he converted, he continually felt what he calls "a pull to serve the people of God."

"I look forward—wherever I am—to meeting people and asking them, 'How can I help you?'" Father Trocchio says. "I'm also excited about celebrating Mass. That's what I'm most excited about: bringing the Eucharist to the people."

The journey to priesthood was a circuitous one for Father Trocchio. Although he felt drawn to be a priest, he decided to enroll at Edinboro University.

While at Edinboro, however, he became involved in the Newman Center and its campus ministry program affiliated with Our Lady of the Lake Parish. In his junior year, while attending a weeklong silent retreat, he was moved to take "the leap" to the seminary.

He enrolled at St. Mark Seminary and finished his degree at Gannon University. He then began studies at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, but took a year off for a pastoral experience at St. Joseph Parish in Warren.

Putting his studies into action convinced him to commit to the priesthood. The person who friends in Edinboro called "Church Tom" would finally become "Father Tom."

In May, he graduated from Saint Vincent with a master of divinity degree.

"I'm very happy," Father Trocchio says. "I've said this before when people ask me about my vocation: It's the best decision that God has ever made for me."



Photos by Mary Solberg

Bishop Lawrence Persico, above, lays his hands on Tom Trocchio in the rite of presbyteral ordination. The ordination Mass was held June 5 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie.

Reserves: his grandmother, Marga Deer; his nephew, Cameron; and his aunt, Cindy Caldoro.

(Middle) Bishop Lawrence Persico, left, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, right, pose with the newly ordained Father Tom Trocchio.

(Bottom) Father Tom Trocchio greets well-wishers outside the Cathedral following his ordination Mass.

Meet the new deacons

Bishop ordains largest class of permanent deacons

STORY, PHOTOS PAGE 3

Todd Sommers poses at St. Peter Cathedral just before being ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Erie.

Data released on diocese

FAITHLIFE staff report

The pastoral planning process for the Diocese of Erie is at the halfway point, with several hundred parishioners, diocesan employees, clergy and school officials gathering recently to hear presentations on data collected so far about the state of the diocese.

Alan Meitler, the consultant working with the diocese on the planning process, presented findings June 2-4 at three locations: Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys; Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage; and Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie. Attendees had an opportunity to review information related to various aspects of

the church's outreach, including finances, education, parishes, clergy personnel and sacramental life. The results of surveys taken in parishes also were reviewed.

"A lot of dioceses are facing the same things. The difference is how we respond to it," Meitler told those gathered at Notre Dame Parish June 3. "There's a readiness and a desire for change to create a stronger church."

The charts shown here are among several presented at recent information sessions. They give a glimpse of some of the important issues facing the Diocese of Erie today.

Church leadership

- 122 active priests
- 295 women religious in the diocese
- 68 active permanent deacons
- 165.6 lay/deacon professional staff

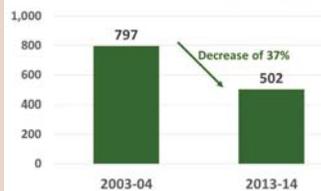
Parish restructuring

In the years 1995 to 2014 in the Diocese of Erie:

- 2 new parishes were created
- 10 parishes ceased to exist through mergers
- 4 existing parishes were renamed to reflect the fact of a merger
- 8 church buildings were closed and no longer used for divine worship

Meitler graphics

Marriages





■ New website helps Catholics be 'salt and light'

WASHINGTON (USCCB)—A new website will help Catholics respond to Jesus' call to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" as found in the Gospel of Matthew. WeAreSaltAndLight.org, a project of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, includes:

- More than 50 inspiring stories of real Catholic communities being salt and light.
- More than 100 resources on praying, reaching out, learning and acting together.
- Assessment tools to find ways to grow as faith-filled disciples at home and abroad.
- An introductory video.

The website equips Catholics to live out Pope Francis' call to "go forth" on mission. It also seeks to help Catholic communities—especially parishes, dioceses, schools, universities, seminaries, religious communities and ecclesial movements—to carry out the vision of the U.S. bishops' 1994 document, "Communities of Salt & Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish."

■ Vatican to announce decision, guidelines on Medjugorje



CNS photo

Pope Francis receives a Marian image during a meeting with priests, men and women religious and seminarians in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, June 6.

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (CNS)—Pope Francis said the Vatican was nearly ready to make an announcement concerning the alleged Marian apparitions in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith met re-

cently to discuss the issue and "we've reached the point of making a decision" the pope told journalists on the flight back to Rome from Bosnia-Herzegovina on June 6. The announcement on Medjugorje is expected to include guidelines.

An international commission of cardinals, bishops, theologians and other experts, working under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was set up in 2010 to investigate the claims of six young people who said Mary had appeared to them daily beginning in 1981. The apparitions purportedly continue and thousands travel to the small town each month to meet the alleged seers and to pray.

For years the local bishop, Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno, has said he believes nothing supernatural is happening in Medjugorje. While the Vatican has said dioceses should not organize official pilgrimages to Medjugorje, it has said Catholics are free to visit the town and pray there, and that the Diocese of Mostar-Duvno and the Franciscans should organize pastoral care for them.

■ Forthcoming book documents history of black sisters in U.S.

LONDON (CNS)—Shannen Dee Williams stumbled onto the subject of black nuns by accident. Later, she would wonder if she had done the right thing by digging further.

"Had I known what I was going to uncover, I probably wouldn't have done this project," Williams said. "It was naive. I didn't get it."

What she didn't get—that she never expected to find—was that the history of black women religious in the United States is replete with shocking examples of racism, racial segregation and marginalization, perpetuated by some white religious leaders and peers. At their peak around 1965, there were about 1,000 African-American sisters, Williams said, but there are only about 300 today.

Initially, her project was a doctoral thesis and is now a forthcoming book, *Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I*. In early May, she presented some of her research at an international symposium in London.



CNS photo

Sister Cora Marie Billings, in 1956, desegregated the Philadelphia chapter of the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

At their peak around 1965, there were about 1,000 African-American sisters, Williams said, but there are only about 300 today.

Initially, her project was a doctoral thesis and is now a forthcoming book, *Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I*. In early May, she presented some of her research at an international symposium in London.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

For the Catholic press, June is Oscar season. The Catholic Press Association hosts its annual Catholic Media Conference to recognize Catholic leaders for their service and members of the press for outstanding writing, layout/design and photography.

This year, the Diocese of Erie is particularly happy to report that our own Bishop Lawrence Persico is one of three finalists for the prestigious Bishop John England Award.

Bishop England was a renowned defender of religious liberty and a journalist and publisher who founded the first Catholic newspaper in the United States.

In 1992, the Catholic Press Association inaugurated the award to recognize publishers who used the Catholic press to defend the rights of religion and individuals in a free society.

Bishop Persico is specifically recognized for pursuing the right of church-related organizations, including the Diocese of Erie, to oppose the federal government's health care policies related to contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

Bishop Persico is in good company. The other two nominees are the late Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, and Bishop Richard Sitka of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn.

Congratulations to Bishop Mark Barckhak of our neighboring Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown who was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree at recent commencement exercises at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. He also delivered the commencement address to enthusiastic applause.

Also at Saint Vincent this spring, Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman delivered

a lecture, "The Role of the Liturgy in the New Evangelization," during a Vesper service that completed the academic affiliation of Saint Vincent Seminary and the Rome-based Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo, both Benedictine institutions.

Msgr. Thomas Snyderwine and Father John Malthaner joined in the festivities this spring that concluded the 60th anniversary year of St. Luke Parish in Erie. They are among only four pastors who have served the east Erie parish in six decades.

The two other longtime pastors were Msgr. Richard Stack and the late Msgr. Robert Goodill.

A Legacy Gala event was held at the Erie Maennerchor and included live and silent auctions led by Tim Spaeder and Marietta Stalsky.

Where would our parishes be without committed volunteers? At Holy Rosary Church in Johnsbury, Elk County, two women have dedicated much of their lives to their faith and church.

Margaret Benedict has been an organist at the parish for some 70 years. For just about as long, Kay Yonker has been an active member of the adult choir.

Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell, who is retired and living at St. John XXIII Home in Hermitage, doesn't let old age get in his way of making the rounds.

He attended a recent information session about the pastoral planning process, asking Bishop Persico if he could make some impromptu remarks. To great applause, Msgr. Mitchell expressed his desire for the church to reach out to youth and to offer them meaningful activities.

"That's the future of the church," Msgr. Mitchell said. "We have to develop unity. That's what's important."

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife.

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Fortnight for Freedom bears witness to faith



Guest Commentary
Erin Landini-Grogan

"I die the king's good servant but God's first."

These were the last words spoken by St. Thomas More as he was martyred 480 years ago for his religious convictions. He gave his life as an expression of the importance of protecting religious liberty and conscience rights.

As we begin this year's Fortnight for Freedom in dioceses throughout the country, the questions before us are: What does St. Thomas More's message mean for us today? How are we able to bear witness to our faith? How do we share our faith openly with others?

The principle of religious freedom is rooted in the foundational belief in the dignity of the human person. Since the days of St. Thomas More—up to and including current times—we see men and women throughout the world martyred for their religious beliefs and

convictions.

Individuals are being stripped of their basic dignity and being murdered for professing their belief in Jesus Christ. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reported that during the 20th century alone, the world witnessed 45 million Christians die for their faith.

Presently, 70 percent of the world's population lives in countries with restrictions on religious expression. This should be of grave concern to people throughout the world, most especially in the United States where we currently are seeing threats to our ability to express our religious beliefs in our communities. Issues such as the Health and Human Services mandate and challenges to Catholic adoption services have left many Americans questioning the future of religious liberty in our nation.

The Fortnight for Freedom brings to light these concerns and provides us with a unique opportunity to pray and advocate for religious liberty. The simple act of praying each

USCCB graphic

Text the USCCB using the above information to receive updates about issues related to religious liberty.

day for your right to live out your faith is a gift. The freedom to express one's religious beliefs is the bedrock of our free and just society.

The life of St. Thomas More reminds us that we all should be able to express our religious beliefs and convictions without fear, coercion or death. I invite you to learn about the lives of the martyrs pray for peace and become a voice for the protection of religious liberty both in our country and throughout the world.

Erin Landini-Grogan is the director of the Parish Social Ministry/Respect Life Office of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Erie.

Erie, Pittsburgh dioceses approach Supreme Court

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Attorneys representing the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court on May 29 to hear their case against the Affordable Care Act.

The law firm of Jones Day filed a petition for *certiorari*, asking the country's highest court to review aspects of the federal law that the dioceses contend infringe on their religious liberty. Both dioceses and their affiliated agencies and schools oppose the mandate to their employees that includes contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

"The Diocese of Erie is delighted that Jones Day has filed a petition requesting that the U.S. Supreme Court hear our case for religious liberty. This is an important next step in defending our sincerely held religious beliefs," Bishop Lawrence Persico said.

The legal maneuverings surrounding the Affordable Care Act have extended far beyond Erie and Pittsburgh. There are at least 40 other cases pending in the lower courts challenging provisions of the federal law. The process for Erie and Pittsburgh began in 2012.

The latest actions in the Erie-Pittsburgh case occurred in February when the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit reversed a lower court's ruling that allowed Erie and Pittsburgh to offer health insurance that doesn't include contraceptive drugs. Both dioceses expressed disappointment at the ruling, stating that they shouldn't be forced to provide drugs that they find morally objectionable.

In mid-April, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito issued an order staying that court's decision. His stay remains in place, giving Erie and Pittsburgh an opportunity to approach the U.S. Supreme Court. Given the usual schedule of the High Court, it might be fall before it decides whether or not to hear the case. And even if it is heard, a decision would not come down until next year at the earliest.

According to a published statement by Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh, "We've been told from our attorneys that we have a pretty good chance that maybe our case will be heard."

The government is expected to file a response to the Jones Day petition to the Supreme Court.

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News Briefs

Evening of prayer and music in DuBois

DuBois—An evening of prayer and music is scheduled on Father's Day, June 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 15 Robinson St., DuBois. The evening will include a homily, Scripture reading, Benediction, and prayers for healing with Father Mark Mastrian. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-5930 or Rich Kenawell at 814-375-0328.

Volunteer opportunities available to families

ERIE—Get Connected Erie is kicking off its summer campaign for family volunteerism June 22-27. The Families Serve program is an opportunity for local families to get involved with service projects as a group and learn more about local nonprofit organizations, including numerous Catholic-related ministries.

Many opportunities will be available throughout the summer. Volunteering as a family is an opportunity to spend time together, give back to the community and instill an ethic of service in children. Additional information and current Families Serve opportunities can be found at www.getconnectederie.org/familieserve.

Questions may be directed to Melissa Fenn by calling 814-454-8800, ext. 2, or e-mailing mfenn@thenonprofitpartnership.org.

Neighborhood Art House celebrates its 20th

ERIE—The Neighborhood Art House in Erie is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The occasion will be marked—rain or shine—at the Art House, located at 201 E. 10th St., Erie, on July 12 from noon to 3 p.m. There will be cake, ice cream, and entertainment by Tennessee Back Porch.

Call 814-455-5508 or visit www.neighborhoodarthouse.org for more information.

Giveaways at Families Always Matter site

ERIE—Visit the Families Always Matter website to get prepared for the upcoming World Meeting of Families and to win prizes.

Through September 2015, go to www.ErieRCD.org/fam.htm for monthly giveaways and reflections in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which begins Sept. 21. In addition to giveaways and reflections, visitors to the website will find excellent resources for families.



Current giveaways on the Families Always Matter website.

Cathedral Prep offers retreat services

ERIE—Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie offers retreat services for parish religious education programs, schools and/or parishes.

The Cathedral Prep Retreat Team is comprised of students who offer retreat experiences for elementary-aged children and/or high schoolers. The team will accommodate any need or topic, but their availability is limited. Team members are eager to share their faith in a real and caring way. For information, contact Father Jason Feigh, campus minister, at 814-453-7737, ext. 2249, or email him at jason.feigh@prep-villa.com.

14 men ordained permanent deacons

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Jim Moss is a former police officer from Baltimore, Md., but today he serves the people of God in the Diocese of Erie.

On May 29, Moss and 13 other men were ordained to the permanent diaconate during a Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie. They represent the largest class of permanent deacons in the history of the diocese.

"I would suggest that our class is a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work in the new evangelization. And I think what we are seeing here is the 'first wave' of things to come," Moss said.

The large number of permanent deacons this year is indicative of what is happening across the country, according to Deacon Richard Shewman, associate director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Erie.

"Overall, the permanent diaconate is growing at a healthy pace," Deacon Shewman said.

Ranging in age from 47 to 67, the men have worked or currently are working in professions as varied as criminal justice, education, sales, law, business and nursing. The following are members of this year's ordination class, with their wives (if applicable), and their home parishes:



Photo by Mary Solberg

Bishop Lawrence Persico, center, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, at top right, pose at St. Peter Cathedral with newly ordained permanent deacons. This is the largest class of permanent deacons in the history of the Diocese of Erie.

- Paul Bauman (Mary)—St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
- Nicholas Cirell (Elisa)—St. Michael the Archangel, Emlenton
- Michael Dittman (Heather)—St. Mary, Crown; and St. Ann, Marienville
- Stephen Frezza (Margaret)—St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community, Erie
- Edward Horneman (Diane)—St. Mary of Grace, Meadville
- Frank Luciano (Tia)—St. Michael, Greenville
- Tom McArthur (Pam)—All Saints, Waterford
- James Moss St. (Jeanne)—St. Luke, Erie
- David Romanowicz—Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

- Stephen Rowan (Ruth)—Immaculate Conception, Brookville
- Raymond Sobina (Deb)—St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
- Todd Sommers (Julianne)—St. Bridget, Meadville
- Robert Wilson (Sally)—St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
- Richard Winschel (Rosemary)—St. Gregory Thaumaturgus, North East

Deacon Shewman and Father Mark Nowak, director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, are in the process of establishing a new first-year class that will begin formation in September 2016.

For more information about the diaconate, contact Deacon Richard Shewman at 814-824-1140 or email him at rsheyman@ErieRCD.org.

OBITUARY

Father Matuszak, Erie native, served parishes in Indiana

Father Edward S. Matuszak, a native of Erie and a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind., died May 24 in Erie. He was 90.

Born in Summit Township, he attended St. Casimir School and later graduated from East High School. While working for General Electric, he was drafted into the United States Army in 1943. He served with the 84th Infantry Division 333rd Infantry Regiment in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II.



Father Edward Matuszak

Father Matuszak served four parishes in the Diocese of Lafayette, either as a parochial vicar or pastor. He retired in July 1995, returning to his native Erie.

While in active ministry in the Diocese of Lafayette, he served as advertising/business manager for the diocesan newspaper and was Pro-Synodal Judge on the Marriage Tribunal. He also served on the board of the Diocesan Clergy Relief Association.

Survivors include his sister, Blanche Griffin of Texas; and several nephews and nieces, including Carole McFadden of Erie.

A funeral Mass was celebrated May 29 at St. Stanislaus Church, 516 E. 13th St., Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico was the main celebrant. Burial was at Trinity Cemetery, Erie.

Mark your calendar!

2015 Parish Events

Ready for some fun!

JUNE 20 - Our Lady of Lourdes Old-Fashioned Strawberry Social
251 S. Franklin St., Cochranon, 4-7 pm. Ice cream, cake and strawberries: \$3.50. Also available: chicken sandwiches, sloppy joes, hot dogs and homemade macaroni salad; 814-789-2022.

JUNE 24 - Holy Rosary 6th Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble
Venango Valley Golf Course. Sign-in 11am. Lunch 11am-Noon, shotgun start Noon, dinner and prizes 5 pm; \$80 per person, includes golf cart, lunch, beverages, skill prizes, gift auction and steak dinner. Win \$5,000 in the Sink-A-Putt contest. Everyone attending will receive "a little something." Proceeds benefit Holy Rosary Church, Erie. Contact Ken at 814-825-7375 to register and/or for more info. Make checks payable to Holy Rosary Church and send it to 2701 East Ave., Erie, PA 16504.

JUNE 27 - St. Bernadette Strawberry Festival and BBQ Chicken
222 Renner Lane, Saegertown; 12-6 pm. Sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, pulled pork, BBQ chicken, cakes, ice cream and strawberries. Children's menu, auction raffle, bake sale and pastry pantry; 814-763-2745.

JULY 4 - St. Joseph's 76th Annual 4th of July Celebration
St. Joseph Parish grounds, 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda (along Route 66); 11 am-4 pm. Rain or shine (canopy-covered). Handicapped accessible and parking shuttle available. 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; takeouts: 11 am-2 pm. Adult: \$8, child 6-12: \$3.50, 5 and under: FREE. Games of skill and chance, live entertainment, bingo and over \$40,000 in cash and prizes including a \$5,000 grand prize and over 20 handmade quilts.

JULY 3 - Pre-Festival Kickoff!
St. Joseph's Liberty 5K Run/Walk, 7 pm at the Antler Club, 231 Sunset Drive, Lucinda. www.st-joseph-lucinda.org; 814-226-7288.

Squeeze in time for these great events! Look for this EVENTS LISTING on www.ErieRCD.org

JULY 12 - Our Lady of Mercy SummerFest '15
837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek. Noon-5 pm. BBQ chicken dinner in A/C dining room, \$1,000 grand prize, raffles, bake sale, bingo and children's activities; 814-899-5342.

JULY 23 - St. Teresa of Avila Lawn Festival
9 Third Ave., Union City. 5-9:30 pm, rain or shine; games, food, raffles, prizes, gift auction, pony rides, bake sale, crafts and music. Grand prize drawing of \$500 and other prizes awarded at 9 pm (need not be present to win). Come to the festival for good food, family fun and games; 814-438-2000.

JULY 26 - 119th Annual Frenchtown Ham or Chicken Dinner
St. Hippolyte, 26012 N. Frenchtown Road on Route 27, Frenchtown. Dinners served noon-6pm (or until sold out); 1/2 chicken or ham, homemade pies. Noon to 7 pm: games, bingo, gift auction, quilt/afghan raffle and kids area. Shuttle service to parking areas; takeouts available. Adult: \$9; senior citizen: \$8; child: \$6; 814-789-2022.

AUG. 7-9 - St. Paul Italian Festival
453 W. 16th St., Erie; FRIDAY 6-10 pm; SATURDAY 1-10 pm; SUNDAY 12-8 pm. FRIDAY 5 pm Mass, pasta fagioli dinner, music by DJ. Paul Yoculan from 7-10 pm; SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass and music by Cugini Italiani from 7-10 pm, \$2,000 prize drawing at 10 pm; SUNDAY 11 am Mass followed by procession of the Virgin Mary statue. Spaghetti dinner from 12-5 pm and music by DJ. Paul Yoculan, continuous Italian music all day, the Italian Dancers and Ruby Port from 6-9 pm. \$8,000 prize drawing at 8 pm. Daily activities include: homemade foods, games, prizes, games of chance and children's activities. FREE trolley shuttle service from Erie Central Mall. Additional parking at 16th and Chestnut and St. Paul's Free Clinic. www.stpaulcerie.org; 814-459-3173.

AUG. 21-23 - 22nd Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival
Holy Trinity Church, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie; FRIDAY 5-10 pm; SATURDAY 11-30 pm; SUNDAY 12-6 pm. Polka Masses: SATURDAY 5 pm with Bishop Lawrence Persico; SUNDAY 11 am. Live music with nationally known bands. FRIDAY: Polka Family Band, SATURDAY: Polka Country Musicians and Marvels, SUNDAY: The Knezw and Wiaty Folk Dancers; DJ Ken Oklowin as M.C.; plenty of authentic Polish foods, bakery items and beverages daily.

Drawings, games, kids area and FREE admission. Church and festival grounds handicapped accessible; additional parking and FREE shuttle service from lot at E. 34th and Ash streets. holytrinity.org; 814-456-0671.

SEPT. 11-13 - Oktoberfest St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community
W. 24th and Sassafras streets, Erie; FRIDAY 5-11 pm (dinner 5-9 pm); a la carte food items available until 10 pm; SATURDAY Noon-11 pm (dinner Noon-9 pm); a la carte food items available until 10 pm; SUNDAY Noon-6 pm (dinner Noon-5 pm); a la carte food items available until 5 pm. Takeout available. NEW this year: Bavarian waffles!

SEPT. 20 - 12th Annual Slavic Festival
Ss. Peter & Paul Social Center. 3415 Wallace St., Erie; Noon to 7 pm. Welcome Divine Liturgy at 11 am; ethnic foods and pastries, religious and heritage displays, Polka music, church tours, gift shops, hourly cash card drawing, gift basket raffle. FREE parking and FREE admission, 814-825-8140.

SEPT. 20 - Blessed Sacrament School's Fall Festival 2015
1626 W. 26th St., Erie; Noon-5 pm. \$500 prize drawings every half hour starting at 12:30 pm. Grand prize drawing of \$10,000 at 5 pm. Win an extra \$50 if you are present and your name is pulled. Games for children and adults, inflatable for children, bake sale, flu shots, our famous theme basket raffle, fall plant sale, apples, cider and pumpkins. Come enjoy the fun with family and friends! 814-454-0171.

OCT. 4 - Sacred Heart Fall Festival
816 W. 26th St., Erie; 11 am-6 pm. Pig roast, theme baskets, grand award of \$10,000. Kids games and activities and bake sale; 814-456-6256.

OCT. 3 - Teen Night
Call 814-456-6256 for more info.

OCT. 25 - St. Jude Serafini's Spaghetti Dinner and Corvette Raffle
St. Jude Church, 2801 W. 4th St., Erie. Win a 2015 Corvette Stingray Z51 convertible or \$40,000! You need not be present to win. Tickets: 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, 10 for \$50, 25 for \$100, 120 for \$300, 500 for \$1,000 (credit cards accepted). Send your contact info and payment to St. Jude Church Raffle at the address above. For more info and to order tickets online: www.winovette.com; 814-833-0927.

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Serra Club of Erie honors priests and sisters



ERIE—The Serra Club of Erie hosted a luncheon at the Erie Yacht Club in May to honor priests and women religious celebrating jubilees this year. Twenty-three sisters and 19 priests were recognized for their years of service, ranging from 25 to 75 years. Pictured with **Norb Dunn** of Serra are: Benedictine Sister **Michelle Wilwohl**, celebrating 60 years; Benedictine Sister **Mary Bernadette Ladner**, 60 years; and Benedictine Sister **Jerome Eustace**, marking her 70th jubilee.

Four St. Luke students win at Villa Maria Art Show



ERIE—More than 27 students at St. Luke School in Erie participated in the recent Villa Maria Art Show. **Gretchen Petrarca**, art teacher, is pictured with the four winners from St. Luke. In the first row are **Callia Ferraris** and **Jillian Kranz**. In the second row are **Kayleigh Geary** and **Katie Benson**.

Student gets creative collecting shoes for needy



REYNOLDSVILLE—A lot of good can come from bingo! DuBois Central Catholic seventh-grader **Lindsey Reiter**, second from right, worked with her parish of St. Mary's in Reynoldsville and its bingo program to boost the effectiveness of her school's shoe drive for the needy in Third World countries. She created and distributed a flier that of-

fered free early bird specials for every three pairs of shoes donated to the effort. The response was overwhelming. Helping Lindsey unload the hundreds of shoes she collected are fellow classmates **Dylan Foster**, **Jonathan Kurtz** and **Bradley Huey**. Lindsey's flier slogan was, "If you bring in shoes, you will leave footprints on other people's hearts."

Handprints remind students to do God's work



DuBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic Elementary School students **Abby Suplizio**, **Kyan Peck**, **Ben Gritzer** and **Aiden Engle** try to locate their handprints on the bigger-than-life wall display outside the DuBois Elementary library. The display features the handprints of every student in second through fifth grade, a daily reminder that they must be God's hands on earth. The hand project was part of the school's Extended Learning Opportunities Program, featuring monthly classes and enrichment activities.

Student wins essay contest



ERIE—**Emily Lubak**, a seventh-grader at Holy Family School, Erie, was named the regional winner of the American Legion Junior Essay Contest this spring. The daughter of Kevin and Leslie Lubak, Emily won \$100 for her effort. The topic of this year's essay contest was, "Should Violent Video Games be Banned?" The runner-up in the contest was **Christopher Gertz** of St. Gregory School, North East. Pictured with Emily are Holy Family English teacher **Patricia Andrychowski** and American Legion representative **Frank Abate**.

Reading is a real trip in Hermitage



HERMITAGE—Sixth-graders from Kennedy Catholic Middle School in Hermitage are pictured heading out to the New Castle Reading Festival this spring, along with their teacher, Heather Wood. The students enjoyed activities based on reading assignments completed ahead of time.

Boy Scout Troop #59 celebrates Eagle Scout honoree



ERIE—**Jacob Fleming**, standing at center, earned the rank of Eagle Scout this spring and celebrated with all of his friends and leaders in Boy Scout Troop #59 at Our Lady of Peace Church, Erie.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jacob replaced the stage floor in the Our Lady of Peace gym, an effort

that took 331 hours of planning and work. He is pictured—donning his many badges—with his parents, **Doug** and **Carla Fleming**; his sister, **Megan**; and **Father Glenn Whitman** and **Father David Renne**. Jacob currently attends McDowell High School, where he is a member of the Honors College, and the swim and water polo teams.

Prep students do spring clean-up



ERIE—These Cathedral Preparatory School students stand with Prep alum **Gary McEnery**, seated at far right, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network's urban community garden at the

corner of W. 19th and Myrtle streets in Erie. The boys did community service there this spring as part of the Prep/Villa Community Outreach Day.

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