

## 5k for Catholic education

Race proceeds to benefit Catholic education throughout the diocese, page 3.



# FaithLife

## May crownings

A roundup of Marian events in Around the Diocese, page 4.



www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 17, 2012

## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Benedict Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

- June 21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga
- June 22 Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More
- June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- June 29 Ss. Peter and Paul
- June 30 First martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
- July 3 St. Thomas
- July 11 St. Benedict
- July 14 Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- July 23 St. Bridget
- July 14 St. James
- July 26 Ss. Joachim and Anne

### Peter's Pence collection – June 23-24

Every year near the feast of St. Peter and Paul (June 29), the church throughout the world takes up the annual Peter's Pence collection.

This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, the successor of St. Peter, as he responds to some of the most urgent needs on earth. These needs include sending relief to victims of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. The Holy Father also supports seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers and other medical facilities in developing nations, as well as many other charitable works.

Parishes in the Diocese of Erie will take up the Peter's Pence collection at Masses June 23-24.



Pope Benedict XVI

### Natural Family Planning Awareness Week – July 22-28



Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week coincides with the anniversary of the promulgation of *Humanae Vitae* (July 25). Pope Paul VI's encyclical which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

"NFP is so beneficial to married life," said Barb Burkett, director of the Diocese of Erie's Office of Natural Family Planning and Chastity Education. "Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is an opportunity to understand there is another beautiful and holy way to live out your marriage. NFP helps preserve and protect the marital bond."

NFP ambassador couples will be holding events throughout the diocese. Please consult your parish bulletin.

For more information on Natural Family Planning, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/nfp.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/nfp.asp), call 814.824.1259 or e-mail [BBurkett@ErieRCD.org](mailto:BBurkett@ErieRCD.org).



Watch a video of Father Brandon Kleckner talk days before his ordination about growing up at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, his vocation discernment, his experience at World Youth Day and his thoughts on his ministry as a priest.

# 'Love one another as I love you' John 15:12

## Father Brandon Kleckner ordained to the priesthood

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE – Jacob Kleckner said growing up he had an inkling about his brother Brandon's vocation.

"I always knew in the back of my mind that he would be a priest some day," he said. "I just didn't know when it would happen."

Jacob, who is older by slightly more than a year, recalled growing up at Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, attending



Father Brandon Kleckner prays during the Eucharistic Prayer of his ordination Mass June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.



the parish school. The two were so close in age, he said it seemed like everything happened for them at the same time—being in Boy Scouts, making Eagle Scout and re-

ceiving the sacraments. "This is a great day for our family," he said. "I'm really happy for him."

Deacon Brandon Kleckner was ordained to the priest-

hood by Bishop Donald Trautman on June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. "Tonight we come to the Lord's table with joyful hearts, hearts full of gratitude that the Lord has given new life to his church through the ordination of a deacon into priesthood," Bishop Trautman said following the opening prayer. Among the crowd gathered for the ordination Mass and

See **KLICKNER** page 3

## FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

### A message from Bishop Trautman

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Beginning this month, dioceses throughout the United States will be observing the Fortnight for Freedom. This landmark event will begin June 21 and culminate on Independence Day, July 4. This 14-day event is a time for prayer, study, catechesis and advocacy to focus on the protection of religious liberty in our country.

Fortnight for Freedom is an excellent opportunity to emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Throughout these 14 days, the liturgical calendar celebrates a

series of great martyrs such as St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist and the First Martyrs of the Church to Rome—all of whom remained faithful in the face of political and religious persecution. Although no diocesan-wide events are planned, I invite you to visit our diocesan website at [www.ErieRCD.org/fortnight.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/fortnight.asp) for resources and to find ideas for participation.

I encourage you to join with family members, fellow parishioners and neighbors to mark this event. Be assured of my prayers for all of you and of my gratitude for your efforts to protect life and our cherished religious freedoms.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Donald W. Trautman*

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie

### Religious freedom resources

The diocesan website at [www.ErieRCD.org/fortnight.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/fortnight.asp) offers numerous resources regarding Fortnight for Freedom and religious liberties. They include:

- Daily reflections for the Fortnight for Freedom from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- Frequently asked questions on religious liberty
- Current threats to religious liberty
- "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty," a statement on religious liberty from the USCCB
- Vatican encyclicals
- Examples of religious liberty discriminations affecting the Catholic Church and Christians in the United States

For more, visit [www.Fortnight4Freedom.org](http://www.Fortnight4Freedom.org).

### Masses in Baltimore, Washington to open, close Fortnight

Masses at well-known basilicas in Baltimore and Washington will open and close the Fortnight for Freedom.

Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore will celebrate the opening Mass at Baltimore's historic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 7 p.m. June 21 to kick off the Catholic Church's national education

campaign on religious liberty.

The closing liturgy will be at 12:10 p.m. July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington will celebrate the Mass and Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia will be the homilist. EWTN will carry the closing Mass live.

## Catholic Charities Ball raises more than \$76,000 for people in need

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

The 17th annual Catholic Charities Ball was the most successful ever, netting more than \$76,000 in proceeds for families and individuals in need throughout the 13-county Diocese of Erie. In 2011, the Catholic Charities Ball granted \$70,855 to area agencies.

More than 450 people attended the ball April 27 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

"That number has been growing remarkably over the years, and we're very grateful for that," said Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, director of development for Catholic Charities.

The record amount of proceeds can be attributed to a number of factors, McCloskey said, including an increase in major sponsors to more than 50, 34 host



Celebrating the Catholic Charities Helping Hands Award for exemplary service to church and community are recipients Bridget and John Barber, Catholic Charities Executive Director Mary Maxwell and Bishop Donald Trautman.

couples and attendees, as well as the work of the volunteer planning committee, which was chaired by Wendy Weber. "We also had a number of donors to help make this our best year ever," McCloskey said.

The ball is Catholic Charities' major fundraiser of the

Catholic Charities' board of directors has already responded to a number of grant requests. Thus far, those receiving funds include Catholic Charities Counseling & Adoption

See **BALL**, page 2

## Director of Disabilities and Deaf Ministries retires; new director named

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

In her 15 years of working with the physically and mentally disabled through Catholic Charities, Jackie Johnson said she's the one who feels blessed for the encounters she's had.

"The thing that stands out in my mind the most is some of the people—more than one for sure—has said, 'I thank God for my disability because it was through this that I came to know the Lord,'" Johnson said. "To me that is so profound."

Johnson, the longtime director of Catholic Charities' Office of Disabilities and Deaf Ministries, recently retired from her post. Her last day of service was June 1.

Catholic Charities has announced that Michael Adamus, who has an extensive background in advocacy, will serve as the new director.

The initial motivation of full inclusion into church life began with the U.S. bishops' 1978 pastoral statement on people with disabilities, Johnson said. After years of laying the groundwork,



Jackie Johnson



Michael Adamus

See **DISABILITIES**, page 2

**IN THE U.S.**

**Federal court overturns DOMA**

With a ruling that acknowledged the final decision will be up to the Supreme Court, a federal appeals court declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional May 31. The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the provision of the 1996 federal law, known as DOMA, that defines marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, which had urged the court to uphold the law, jointly issued a press release June 1 calling the ruling disappointing. The panel of judges cited previous Supreme Court rulings that struck down laws determined to be discriminatory against a class of people as being among the keys to their ruling.

**Bill on sex-selection abortion fails in House**

A bill that would have prohibited abortions motivated by the gender of the unborn child failed to gain a needed two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives May 31. The vote to suspend the rules and pass the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, known as PRENDA, was 246 in favor and 168 against. In addition to banning sex-selection abortions, the legislation would have prohibited the coercion of abortions based on gender, the solicitation or acceptance of funds for such abortions and the transportation of a woman into the U.S. to obtain such an abortion. The bill was proposed after an undercover video by the group Live Action showed Planned Parenthood staff members advising a woman on how to get an abortion if the child she was carrying was female.

**LCWR board responds to Vatican order**

The national council of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious June 1 said it feels the assessment that led to a Vatican order to reform the organization "was based on unsubstantiated accusations and the result of a flawed process that lacked transparency." The LCWR board called the sanctions "disproportionate to the concerns raised" and said they "could compromise" the organization's ability "to fulfill their mission." The statement was in response to an eight-page doctrinal assessment issued to LCWR by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Citing "serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life," the congregation announced in April a major reform of LCWR to ensure its fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**Pope deplores 'VatiLeaks' scandal**

Pope Benedict XVI voiced regret at the end of his weekly general audience May 30 for the turmoil surrounding the recent publication of leaked Vatican documents.

Paolo Gabriele, the pope's private assistant, was arrested after private

Vatican documents were found in his possession in connection to the so-called "VatiLeaks" scandal that began in January. Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said Gabriele was arrested the evening of May 23 by Vatican police after they found the illegally obtained documents in his home, which is on Vatican territory. Gabriele has been accused of aggravated theft, a crime that under Vatican laws is punishable with a prison term of 1 to 6 years, a Vatican judge said. An investigation is currently under way regarding Gabriele and his alleged involvement in the publication of hundreds of private letters and notes to or from Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials.



Paolo Gabriele

**Pope opens possibility of U.S. visit**

As Pope Benedict XVI closed the World Meeting of Families in Milan, Italy, he opened the possibility of his heading to the United States when he named the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the next venue of the world gathering. "God willing," he said, he would attend in 2015 as greeted Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia and "the Catholics of that great city," saying he looked forward to meeting U.S. Catholics and other families from around the world there. The surprise announcement came as the 85-year-old pope wrapped up the May 30-June 3 world meeting, which gathers every three years to celebrate and help families live out their Christian values.

**PEOPLE**

**Girl Scouts, bishops working on questions**

Girl Scouts of the USA is working with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "to answer some questions they have" the organization's chief executive officer said May 30. Anna Maria Chavez, a Catholic who has been the Girl Scouts CEO since November, made the comments during a luncheon address at the National Press Club. She said the Girl Scouts does not take a position on "issues that we're being alleged to take positions on," such as birth control and sexuality, adding that the organization only focuses on the leadership development and growth of millions of young women. GSUSA, as it's known, has 3.2 million girl and adult members. About 500,000 Catholic girls and adults in the U.S. are involved in Girl Scouts. Chavez said she welcomed the opportunity to set the record straight and dispel recent "myths and misconceptions" about the century-old organization that, she said, were fueled by social media. "Girls Scouts USA does not have a relationship with Planned Parenthood," she said.



Anna Maria Chavez

*By the Way...*

Father Brandon Kleckner, who was ordained a priest June 8, has the singular honor of being Villa Maria Academy's first—and at this time only—priest alum. Villa, originally founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1892 as an all-girls Catholic prep school in Erie, became co-educational in 1989. Father Kleckner graduated in 2004, several years before the academy returned to an all-girls school in 2009-10.



Jason Koshinski

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, will be taking a sabbatical in the fall. Father Larry will be studying at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education (ICTE) at the Pontifical North American College in Rome from Sept. 3 through Nov. 17. The institute is an opportunity for priests to "study, pray and become enlivened disciples of the Lord in a newer and deeper way." Father Gerald Wright, O.M.V., will be the temporary parochial administrator during Father Larry's absence.

The priests and deacons of the diocese will meet June 18-21 at St. Vincent College in Latrobe for their annual Emmaus convocation. Parishioners are advised to consult their parish bulletin regarding the Mass schedule for these days, as many parishes will have Communion services during this time. During Emmaus the clergy of the diocese gather together for prayer, conference, relaxation and fraternal support. Please keep them in your prayers this week.

We offer our condolences to Joan Martin-Rall, director of the diocese's Catholic Boy Scouts Office, on the loss of her husband, John Rall, who died April 27. Martin-Rall was her usual, beaming self May 20 during the annual religious Scouting awards at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Her pride is very evident in watching the many Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in her care walk up the marble steps to greet Bishop Donald Trautman and receive the emblems, badges and patches they earn for learning about their faith.

Two Mercyhurst Prep students were honored at the school's May 25 graduation ceremony for perfect attendance during their high school years. Amanda Berchold and P.J. Wyeach both graduated without missing a day of their academic careers. Their attendance records actually stretch back to their preschool days.

It's still status quo on the new bishop front. However, the Diocese of Erie recently got pushed closer to the front of the line as far as U.S. appointments go. Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Samuel Aquila of Fargo, N.D., as the new archbishop of Denver and also named Bishop Richard Malone of Portland, Maine, to head the neighboring Diocese of Buffalo.

That leaves the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., and the Archdiocese of San Francisco as the only two that have waited longer for a new bishop to be named. Bishop Trautman turned 75 last year on June 24, the age at which canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope.

FaithLife will be taking a one-issue break for the summer. The next issue will be published July 29.

Jason Koshinski is editor of FaithLife. Contact him at [JKoshinski@ErieCND.org](mailto:JKoshinski@ErieCND.org) or 814.824.1171.

## Catholic Charities Ball raises more than \$76,000 for people in need

BALL, from page 1

Services, Catholic Rural Ministry of Oil City, Catholic Rural Ministry of McKean and Potter counties, Good Samaritan Center in Clearfield, Harborcreek Youth Services, Maria House Projects, Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City and St. Martin Center in Erie.

"These agencies have successfully identified how these dollars will directly help individuals and families who are struggling below the poverty line," McCloskey said.

"We're really heartened that we have so much support from our volunteers, sponsors, hosts and attendees. In these difficult economic times, we're continuing to grow this event to meet the increasing demand for help."

Attorney John and Bridget Barber were honored with the 2012 Helping Hands Award. Created by Catholic Charities in 2006, the Helping Hands Award is given annually to an individual, family or organization that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to their community.

John Barber is the nephew of Dr. Gertrude A. Barber, founder of the Barber National Institute, which provides children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families with support, advocacy and resources. He has served as president and chief executive officer of the Barber National Institute since 2000, while Bridget Barber is the institute's privacy officer and director of external relations. In addition, the couple has a history of public and church service.

During the ball, Catholic Charities awarded the Barber National Institute the first grant from its proceeds.

Evening festivities featured a served dinner, silent auction and a local celebrity swing dance competition.

First-place winners of the dance competition included Tom Kennedy, president of Professional Development Associates, paired with dancer Tracy Balczon; and Molly Martin, a junior physician assistant science major at Gannon University, paired with dancer Mitch Montgomery.

## Director of Disabilities and Deaf Ministries retires

DISABILITIES, from page 1

the Diocese of Erie has seen the fruits from the labor of countless volunteers and advocates.

Catholic Charities' parish advocacy program has volunteers in 45 parishes who welcome and include people with disabilities and provide ongoing support.

"They help provide the accommodations needed—both architectural and attitudinal," Johnson said.

The office provides a number of spiritual enrichment activities such as retreats, evenings of prayer, Bible studies and seasonal days of reflection which include an activity, Mass and the sharing of a meal.

"It has evolved," Johnson said. "I see many more people who have disabilities taking part in the church."

Architecturally, many churches have ramps and automatic doors at entrances and ramps leading to the sanctuary and altar, enabling those with disabilities to be involved in liturgies as lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, gift bearers, ushers and greeters.

"All we have to do is provide the accommodation and we can

enjoy the gifts that people with disabilities bring to their faith communities," she said.

In recent years, there have been a number of changes, Johnson said, including interpreters for the deaf at three locations in the diocese—Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, St. Joseph Parish in Sharon and St. Agatha Parish in Meaville.

"When I came in, there wasn't a lot on mental illness," Johnson said. "Now we just finished having our 10th annual conference on spirituality and mental health. Recently, there has been more focus on autism because of the need now. The numbers are rising."

Adamus shares Johnson's philosophy that inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the church creates a mutually beneficial sharing of gifts. He is inspired by "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," a video featuring Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago and Father Henri Nouwen explaining useful ways to include persons with disabilities into full membership of their faith communities.

"It's not just about letting people with disabilities come in and participate and making it available to them; it's about enrich-

**Upcoming events**

**Deaf and hard of hearing retreat**

July 15 at Blessed Sacrament, Erie. Schedule includes ASL interpreted Mass, lunch, retreat program with Father Tom Coughlin and dinner. Cost: \$15 to cover meals

**Faith, Family & Fun**

Aug. 8 at WLD Ranch, 7351 Woolsey Road in Girard. Schedule includes campfire meal, activities such as horse rides, archery and pool, prayer service and hayride. Cost: \$17 per person (Add \$5 to ride horses)

For details or to register, contact Michael Adamus, director of Catholic Charities' Disability and Deaf Ministries at 814.824.1257 (w/relay), toll free at 1.800.374.3723 Ext. 257 or e-mail [MDadamus@ErieCND.org](mailto:MDadamus@ErieCND.org).

ing our parish with their gifts," Adamus said. "You're making your church accessible so these people with these certain gifts can come in. Not only are you helping someone else, but your faith community is benefiting from the gifts of these people. They need to be encouraged to come in."

A native of North East, Adamus is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek. He is an active member of Our Lady of Mercy Council No. 11144 of the Knights of Columbus. He

is also a fourth degree member in the John Mark Gannon Assembly and participates in the Knights' color corps. Adamus has an extensive background in advocacy, having worked for Independent Living Centers in Erie and Olean, N.Y. He has also served as chair of several advocacy groups and committees at both the local and state levels.

He holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in counseling, both from Edinboro University.

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**Italy/Switzerland:** September 8-20, September 15-27 ...  
**Italy Regular:** Sept. 1-9, Sept. 8-16, Sept. 15-23, Sept. 22-30, Sept. 29-Oct. 7, Oct. 6-14, Oct. 13-21, Oct. 20-28 ...  
**Holy Land:** Sept. 3-13, Sept. 10-20, Sept. 17-27 ...  
**Holy Land/Italy:** Aug. 27-Sept. 9, September 3-16 ...  
**France:** Sept. 11-23, Sept. 25-Oct. 7, Oct. 9-21 ...  
**Medjugorje/Lourdes/Fatima:** September 2-13  
**Italy South:** Sept. 8-20, Sept. 15-27, Sept. 22-Oct. 4 ...

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Carmela A. Dupire  
Executive Director

## Briefly

### Refugee program seeks English teachers

Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services (CCAS) Refugee Resettlement is seeking several volunteers who could help motivated clients learn basic to intermediate English.

Those able to volunteer for a few hours in the morning, afternoon or perhaps in the evening should contact Deacon John Brophy at 814.528.3623 (days) or 814.897.8327 (evenings and weekends) or e-mail brophy@roadrunner.com.

### Carmel days of prayer July 11-16

ERIE – The 55th annual Carmel days of prayer anticipating the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be held July 11-16 at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery, 510 E. Gore Road, Erie.

The morning service, each day at 8 a.m., consists of Mass, homily and prayers. The evening service, daily at 7:30 p.m., consists of homily, prayers, confession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

The guest priest and homilist will be Father Kevin Fimian from Arlington, Va.

There are no services the evening of the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 16.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

### Enrichment series at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE – The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will host the next installment of their enrichment series on Wednesday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Road in Erie.

The topic is "Understanding Islam: Is What They Say About Islam True?" Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, will be the presenter. This event is free and open to the public.

A Benedictine Sister of Erie, Sister Joan is an international lecturer and award-winning author of more than 45 books. She is the founder and executive director of Benedicta, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality located in Erie.



Sister Joan Chittister, OSB

### 5k for Catholic education

ERIE – The third annual 5k for Catholic education will be held Saturday, Aug. 18 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie.

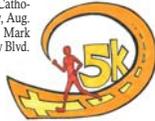
The entry fee is \$15 (\$20 if you register after Aug. 1). Register by Aug. 1 and receive a free T-shirt. Registration can be done online at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

Participants can run or walk the 5k or 1 mile. Donations and volunteers are appreciated.

All proceeds will benefit Catholic education throughout the Diocese of Erie.

The initial race raised more than \$2,000 for the Bishop's Tuition Assistance Program. The project, organized by local youth, for youth, looks to continue raising both awareness and funds for education within the diocese, as well as promoting youth activism within the church.

For more information on the 5k for Catholic education, visit [www.eriecatholic.org](http://www.eriecatholic.org), e-mail [eriecatholic@gmail.com](mailto:eriecatholic@gmail.com) or call 814.881.5459.



## Father Brandon Kleckner ordained to the priesthood

KLECKNER, from page 1

ceremony were family members, friends, priests, religious, deacons and seminarians. There were attendees from his home parish of Sacred Heart and a group from St.

As a priest, Father Kleckner receives the power to make Christ present in the Eucharist, to forgive sins, anoint the sick and to teach, sanctify and shepherd God's peo-

"It's at that point where you lay down in submission realizing that I can't do this all on my own," Father Kleckner said. "This isn't about me. You realize it isn't my priesthood; this is Christ's priesthood. And it's a priesthood for the church. You're laying yourself down for the church."

Through the imposition of the bishop's hands, he received the gift of priesthood. Following the ordination rite, Father Kleckner was vested with a stole and chasuble by Father John Detsch, who as a parochial vicar at Sacred Heart, baptized him. As his pastor, he was present for his first Communion and confirmation and wrote the recommendation for Father

he was coming down the aisle, it was announced that he was going to enter St. Mark Seminary. I beamed with pride and joy. And I beam again this night with pride and joy."

In announcing Father Kleckner's assignment, Bishop Trautman teased that, "He will serve a large parish of almost 1,000 families." He paused before confirming the parish as St. Francis of Assisi in Clearfield. The announcement was met with a loud roar of approval from the Clearfield contingent, which gave him a standing ovation.

Judy Bungo, a St. Francis parishioner, sent a text message to her daughter who couldn't attend



Father Brandon Kleckner reclines on the cathedral floor during the Litany of Saints. "For me it was a very meaningful part of the ordination ceremony," Father Kleckner said.

Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield where Kleckner has served as a deacon, who traveled by bus.

Bishop Trautman directed his homily toward Deacon Kleckner who was seated directly in front of his cathedra chair.

"This evening we all rejoice in the Lord's choosing you—calling, consecrating and commissioning you to be his priest, his co-worker in the ministry of salvation," the bishop said.

In the evening's Gospel reading (John 15:9-17), Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment.

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you," Jesus said. "This I command you: love one another."

"But remember—service not power—must first characterize a priest of Christ," Bishop Trautman said. "Being a servant, like Jesus washing feet at the Last Supper, is a key concept in understanding the priesthood. At its deepest level, the priesthood stands for special friendship with Christ. The Lord has personally taken the initiative in forming that friendship with you."

Father Kleckner said a personal highlight of the ordination rite was during the litany of saints when he reclined face down on the cathedral's marble floor in front of the altar. The sung prayers invoke God's saving mercy and the intercession of the saints to send down the Holy Spirit on the candidate, soon to be a priest.



Father Kleckner distributes Communion during his ordination Mass June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Kleckner to enter seminary. Following Communion, Bishop Trautman gave some remarks from the pulpit. He recalled presiding at Villa Maria Academy's graduation in 2004 when Father Kleckner graduated.

"I remember so clearly that young man coming out of the pew in his tax coming up to me to get his diploma," the bishop said. "As

the Mass. The message was brief but in all capital letters: "HE'S COMING HOME TO US!"

"He's a wonderful young man, and we're so excited to have him," Bungo said.

Her thoughts were echoed by other parishioners.

"If there's a seat on the bus, we'll take him home tonight," said Sheila Capatch.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Cathedral Prep names new principal

ERIE – Trevor Murnock has been named principal of Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie.

A member of Cathedral Prep's class of 1998, Murnock has served on the Prep faculty and administration for the past eight years.

Murnock spent the first five years of his career at Prep as the inaugural director of Prep's Music, Visual and Performing Arts Program (MVP) and the past



Trevor Murnock

three years as assistant principal. He is a graduate of Our Lady's Christian Elementary School, Cathedral Prep, Mercyhurst University (bachelor's

of music education) and Gannon University (master's of education and administrative certification).

Murnock will follow in the footsteps of Rick Fessler (Cathedral Prep class of '68), who served the past year as Prep's interim principal.

Murnock, who will begin his duties in June, said he is looking forward to his new role.

"I am very excited to work with such an intelligent and dedicated

faculty, staff, administration and board," he said. "Prep has been a pillar of Erie since 1921 and has a storied history of developing leaders for the community, the nation and the world. Knowing your school has unwavering moral integrity, superior academics and outstanding extra-curricular programs—all in the true Catholic tradition—makes me extremely proud to help move Prep into the future."

### ECCHS band director inducted into bandmasters fraternity

ST. MARYS – Raymond Knight, band director at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, was recently inducted into the international bandmasters fraternity Phi Beta Mu, Nu Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Phi Beta Mu is a non-political, non-profit fraternity organized to promote fellowship among its members, encourage the building of better bands and the development of better musicians in schools throughout the world, foster a deeper appreciation for

quality wind literature and encourage widespread interest in band performance.

Knight's induction occurred during the annual Phi Beta Mu luncheon and meeting April 19 at the Pennsylvania Music Educators

Association State Conference in Lancaster. Frederick Ellsworth sponsored Knight and inducted him into the membership.

"After observing Mr. Knight's outstanding work and dedication to his band students and seeing their continual improvement over the past several years, I feel that he is extremely worthy to be a member of Phi Beta Mu," Ellsworth said of Knight. "He has developed and maintained a strong band program at Elk County Catholic High School.

He has also been very active in PMEIA having hosted many band festivals at all levels."

He noted that Knight's leadership, partnered with school and parent support, has helped ECCHS develop an accomplished and successful marching band program.

The Nu Chapter of Pennsylvania assists the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association in the promotion of school band music and educational opportunities for music students.



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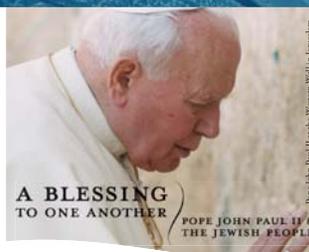


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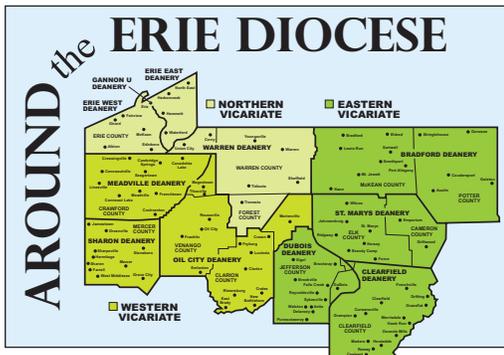
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AROUND the

# ERIE DIOCESE

## May crownings

### Immaculate Conception School, Clarion

CLARION — The first Communion class at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion, along with the faculty and other members of the student body, celebrated a May crowning following Mass on May 4.

Father Monty Seyers was the celebrant of both Mass and the ceremony which followed. Isabela Barboza (pictured) crowned the statue of Mary located in the statuary area of the church.

Pictured left to right is the school's first Communion class: (front row) Zachary Troese, Holden Linnan, Gavin Weaver, Hannah Smith, Isabela Barboza, (back row) Tobias Avery Maz-



### Mother's Day at St. Luke, Youngsville

YOUNGSVILLE — More than 115 people celebrated Mother's Day at St. Luke Parish in Youngsville with a Mass and breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 13006.

The guest speaker for the breakfast was Carolyn Seymour of the Pregnancy Support Center of Warren County. Seymour spoke about the services and supplies that the center provides for its clients from a pro-life perspective.

She also encouraged parishion-



ers to speak out and oppose the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that threatens the religious freedom of all non-profit, faith-based organizations.

### St. Peter Cathedral School, Erie

ERIE — Father John Miller (center) celebrated the May crowning with the eighth grade class at St. Peter Cathedral School in Erie. Students in grades 4-8 participated in a prayer service honoring the Blessed Mother. Brooke Mucha, who served as May Queen, crowned a state of Mary accompanied by a Marian court.



### Giving Quilt at Seton Catholic School, Meadville

MEADVILLE — The third grade class at Seton Catholic School in Meadville recently completed a Giving Quilt.

The class began in September by reading the Jennifer Chivaverini novel, "The Giving Quilt." Under the direction of LuAnn Wheeler and John McMillen, students learned to thread needles, make knots and create squares using the appliqué technique.

The project took almost the whole school year to complete. When the quilt was finished, the third graders held a raffle during the school's Grandparents' Day celebration. The money collected for the raffle was used to purchase a crib, a mattress, a car seat and diapers for the Meadville Pregnancy Center.



Pictured left to right are: (front row) Thomas Wheaton, Carrie Longo, Cameron McLaugh, Jesse Orr, Sarah Dean, (middle row) Sydney Pearson, Andrew Derlink, Kai Soerensen, Pallas Athena Cain, Ethan Klie (winner of the quilt), Riley Hayek, Anthony Abbott, Adrienne Sopher, (back row) John McMillen, LuAnn Wheeler, Tiffany Onyeiwu, Hunter Hanaway, Kay Gage, Charlie Waid, Ava Waid and Jarrett Harry.

### St. Michael School, Greenville

GREENVILLE — St. Michael School in Greenville held a May crowning on May 11.

Eighth grader Mikealina Stancic crowned the statue of Mary. Molly Best's first grade class was in charge of preparing for the school Mass. Students served as lectors, gift bearers and ushers and led the petitions. The class also sang a tribute to the Blessed Mother at the end of Mass.



### Veterans remembered at St. Bernard School, Bradford

BRADFORD — In observance of Memorial Day, Denise O'Neil led students in grades 3-5 at St. Bernard School in Bradford as they assisted the local American Legion Post No. 108 in placing American flags on the graves of fallen soldiers in St. Bernard Cemetery on May 24.

O'Neil, a 32-year veteran teacher at St. Bernard, along with her father, Clair D. Butler, adjutant of the American Legion, set out to mark close to 300 of the graves in the cemetery. Butler is a Korean War veteran, having served from 1952-54, and has teamed up with the students in this endeavor for three years.

"Being able to include the students in this commemorative and civic exercise is a real-life illustration of what service for others means," O'Neil said. "Our freedom is so precious. It also enables me personally to recognize the service of my own father, which continues through activities like this."

O'Neil thanked Commander Donald McClelland of Post No. 108 for his assistance in making the project possible, as well as the cooperation and input from fellow teachers Roberta Myers, Brandy Elison and Kelly Srotman.

To finish the year, students visited the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park on June 4 to focus on the remembrance of veterans and the freedoms they have helped obtain and maintain for citizens of the United States of America.



(Photo courtesy of the Olean Times Herald)

### DuBois Central Catholic graduates EMT class

DUBOIS — All eight students enrolled in the year-long EMT course offered through DuBois Central Catholic School's science curriculum were recently notified that they had passed the Pennsylvania state-required written exam and the accompanying practicum, according to Jenn Graeca, DCC's EMT and medical technology instructor.

Through a unique program, DCC students have earned basic EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certification. A limited number of high schools in the state offer this course during the school day as part of their science curriculum.

This is the second year that DuBois Central Catholic has graduated an EMT class.

Pictured left to right are: Instructor Jenn Graeca, Ayden Hanes, Katelyn Pegher, Dom Goldbach, Alexandra Hucklestein, Jake Heigel, Arianna Martino and Craig Lindemuth. Missing from the photo is Garrett Randolph.



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