

The H.O.G. meets Pope Francis

The pope gets a new jacket, page 3.



FaithLife

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Look for the next issue of *FaithLife* on July 21. The special *Faithful Servants* edition honoring jubilarians will be published Aug. 4.

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BI-WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 23, 2013

Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

Feast days



Ss. Peter and Paul

St. Thomas

June 24 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

June 28 St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

June 29 Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles

July 3 St. Thomas, Apostle

Confirmations

Bishop Lawrence Persico will visit the following church to offer the sacrament of confirmation:

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield — Saturday, June 29, at 10 a.m. Confirmation classes include St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield, and St. Timothy, Curwensville.

Special Collections

July 6 — National Needs Collection (combined collection for *Catholic Home Mission Appeal* and *Black and Indian Home Missions*).

June 30 — Peter's Pence Collection (supporting the charitable works of the Holy Father).

Clergy appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointments:



Father Charles Schmitt, parochial administrator, Saint Mark Parish, Emporium, effective June 1, 2013, term unspecified.

Father Glenn Whitman, parochial administrator, Saint Stanislaus Kostka-Holy Trinity Parish, Sharon, while continuing as pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Sharon, effective June 14, 2013, term unspecified.

Father Richard Tomasone, pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville, and Saint Mary, Reynoldsville, effective June 21, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father John Walsh, reappointed as pastor, Saint Peter Church, Conneautville, effective June 14, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father Jeffrey Lucas, pastor, Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, Conneaut Lake, effective June 14, 2013.

Father Christopher Hamlett, pastor, Saint Philip, Linesville, and Saint Philip, Crossingville, effective June 14, 2013.

Father Michael Allison, president of the Shenango Valley Catholic School System, while continuing as pastor of Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City, effective July 8, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father Regis Meenihan, sacramental assistant, Saint Stanislaus Kostka-Holy Trinity Parish, Sharon, effective June 14, 2013, term unspecified.

Father Richard Allen, pastor, Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys, effective June 10, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father Marc Stockton, diocesan administration, Saint Mark Catholic Center, Erie, with residence at Saint Andrew Parish, effective July 8, 2013.

Father Matias Quimno, pastor, Saint Bernard Parish, Falls Creek, while continuing as chaplain at DuBois Regional Medical Center, DuBois, effective June 21, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor, Saint Bartholomew Parish, Sharpsville, effective July 8, 2013, for a term of six years.

Father Jason Feigh, faculty of Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, with residence at Saint Jude the Apostle Parish, effective June 26, 2013, for a term of five years.

Father David Renne, parochial vicar, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, effective June 26, 2013, for a term of three years.

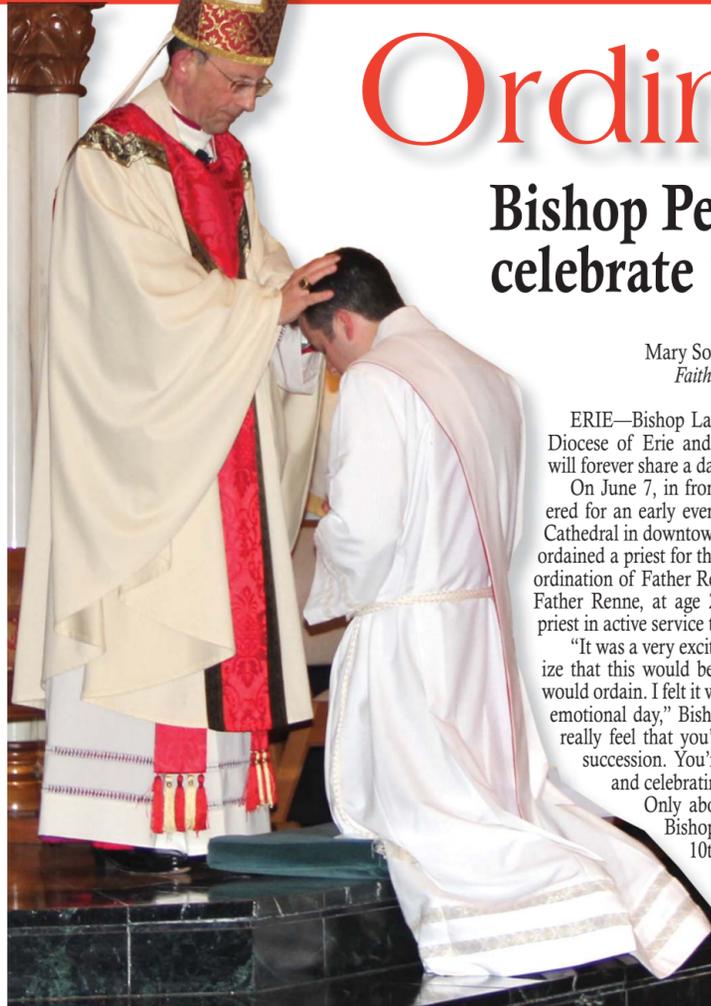
Retiring from the active ministry with Bishop Persico's approval is:

Father George Strohmeyer, effective June 28, 2013.

Ordination

Bishop Persico and Father Renne celebrate 'emotional' rite

Mary Solberg
FaithLife



ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie and Father David Renne will forever share a day of firsts.

On June 7, in front of 800 people gathered for an early evening Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie, Bishop Persico ordained a priest for the first time, calling the ordination of Father Renne "overwhelming." Father Renne, at age 26, became the 196th priest in active service to the diocese.

"It was a very exciting day for me to realize that this would be the first priest that I would ordain. I felt it was a very spiritual and emotional day," Bishop Persico says. "You really feel that you're part of the line of succession. You're passing on that rite and celebrating that rite."

Only about eight months ago, Bishop Persico became the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Erie. At that time, Father Renne was a deacon who held the book of Gospels over Bishop Persico's head during the bishop's episcopal ordination Mass on Oct. 1, 2012.



Father David Renne appointed parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie.

An ordination, Bishop Persico says, forever changes a person, and it also creates a bond between the bishop and priest. Unfortunately, there are no ordinations planned next year.

"God willing, I hope to ordain as many as I can," the bishop adds. "The lack of vocations is disappointing, so this is why I install pastors because I want to go out into the parishes and talk about vocations. I want parishioners to know that I am giving them a priest and I want them to give me seminarians."

In his homily at Father Renne's ordination Mass, the bishop thanked all of those who nurtured Father Renne's calling to religious life, including Father Renne's parents, Peter and Jennifer Renne of Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish, Punxsutawney, and diocesan priests—including Msgr. Joseph Riccardo—who guided Father Renne in his seminary formation.

Directing his homily remarks to Father Renne, the bishop added, "A great deal of time and effort has been expended by you and

See ORDINATION, page 3

The laying on of hands is the most solemn moment of the ordination ceremony. Here, Bishop Lawrence Persico confers the sacrament of holy orders on Father David Renne at St. Peter Cathedral.

Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Catholic schools get new director

Curriculum focuses on design, data, distance

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

It's been nearly 30 years since Samuel Signorino left his teaching position at Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, Pa., but he plans to bring his love of the church to the schools of the Diocese of Erie.

Effective July 1, Signorino, who holds a doctorate in educational administration from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, will take on new duties as director of Catholic schools and school personnel. He will support the operation of seven high schools, three middle schools and 28 elementary schools in the 13-county diocese.

"I am excited to return to Catholic education," says the 54-year-old Signorino, whose father taught for 44 years at Johnstown's Bishop McCort High School, the same school from which the younger Signorino graduated. As a new teacher, Signorino taught at Bishop Guilfoyle and the elementary schools of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. "I am looking forward to working with the pastors, principals, teachers, and students to continue the tradition of developing students with a strong mind, a strong body, a strong spirit and a strong sense of their Catholic faith," Signorino says.

Kim Lytle, director of curriculum for the Diocese of Erie since 2008, is excited to tap into Signorino's energy and experience in both the Catholic and public education spheres. Signorino

served as superintendent of schools for the Iroquois School District for the past five years, and previously had been a high school principal in Fairview for 10 years.

"He [Signorino] gets the Catholic school philosophy. A lot of people see us [Catholic schools] as public schools with crosses, but it is much bigger than that. He gets it," she says.

Up until now, Lytle had been serving as both director of curriculum and director of teacher personnel, but Signorino will now assume Lytle's personnel duties, as well as take on principal personnel issues. The change, Lytle says, will free her up to focus more on curriculum.

"All these years when I



Dr. Samuel Signorino, the new director of Catholic schools and school personnel, met recently with Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education.

Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

was focusing on both, it was difficult to dedicate the time to some bigger curriculum issues," Lytle explains.

Currently, Lytle is focused on three areas: curriculum design, data-driven instructional decisions and distance learning. With a half-million-dollar state grant, the diocese purchased 29 large units that provide what some might call an enormous Skype screen. Three schools enjoyed art

classes provided by a teacher at another location using the screen technology.

Also, Lytle is providing teachers and administrators with a lot of data to help them make decisions about individual students and classrooms. "The technology we have now has helped with the consolidation issues facing our schools," she adds.

And while there are plenty of issues in front of Catholic

educators here and throughout the country, including declining enrollment and funding, Signorino sees only hope. "My strategy includes observing the day-to-day delivery of education in the classrooms throughout the diocese," he says.

"Through walk-around visits in every school, sitting in on classes and experiencing the school day as our students and employees do every day, I will come to understand on a more personal level the successes, challenges, goals, values and spirit of each of the schools."

Father Nicholas J. Rouch, vicar for education, anticipates that Signorino's initiatives will be in the areas of enrollment stabilization, teacher recruitment, training, evaluation and collaboration among schools.

"Much of his [Signorino's] time in the first several months will be spent getting to know the principals and teachers in our schools, to learn the common and the unique challenges they face," Father Rouch says.

Signorino is a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Fairview. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two sons, Dominic and Devin.



Curriculum Director Kim Lytle stands in front of one of the large screens used in Catholic schools.

Photo by Mary Solberg



Around the World

■ Pope, Anglican leader pledge to continue search for unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, pledged to support each other with their prayers and to continue the search for full unity between their communities. Meeting at the Vatican June 14, praying together in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Apostolic Palace and eating lunch together in the papal residence, both saw their similarities. “Since we began our respective ministries within days of each other, I think we will always have a particular reason to support one another in prayer,” Pope Francis said. Archbishop Welby told him, “I pray that the nearness of our two inaugurations may serve the reconciliation of the world and the church.” The two Christian leaders did not ignore the issues that have stalled hopes for unity in recent years. “The history of relations between the Church of England and the Catholic Church is long and complex and not without pain,” Pope Francis told Archbishop Welby.



CNS photo by Stefano Spaziani

Pope Francis exchanges gifts with the Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, England, during a private audience at the Vatican June 14.

mitted disease. No public health consideration justifies the unregulated distribution of such drugs to children.”

■ Monastery evacuates during Colorado wildfire that destroyed homes, land

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — For the second year in a row, a wildfire got out of hand on a hot and windy afternoon in Colorado Springs in mid-June, leaving thousands of people fleeing for safety and thousands of others reliving a nightmare. The Black Forest Fire, as it is being called, started in a forested area in the far northeast corner of El Paso County, just outside the Colorado Springs city limits, that goes under the name Black Forest. As of June 13, it was estimated that more than 360 homes had been destroyed in the blaze—surpassing the state record-setting Waldo Canyon wildfire last June—and the fire had consumed nearly 15,000 acres. No injuries had been reported, and it was not known at press time how the fire started. The sisters of Benet Hill Monastery, located in the heart of the Black Forest area, voluntarily evacuated June 12. “We’ve got everybody ready in case the fire changes direction,” Benedictine Sister Jan Ginzkey said in an interview before they left.



CNS photo by John Wark, Reuters

An aerial photo shows wildfire burning near homes in a Black Forest community near Colorado Springs, Colo., June 11.

In the United States

■ Obama administration drops fight to limit age restrictions on Plan B

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic officials expressed disappointment with the June 10 announcement that the federal government will comply with a judge’s ruling to allow girls of any age to buy the morning-after pill without a prescription. The decision reversed a recent course of action by the federal government. On May 1, the Justice Department announced that it would appeal a ruling by a federal judge in early April that said the Food and Drug Administration must make emergency contraceptives available to all ages by May 6. In a June 10 letter to U.S. District Judge Edward Korman in Brooklyn, N.Y., department officials said they will submit a plan for compliance with his ruling and will drop their appeal. The letter also said the FDA has advised the drug’s manufacturer to submit an application to make Plan B One-Step available over the counter without restrictions. Catholic officials faulted the federal government’s decision even as some groups advocating women’s rights called it a step forward and a public health benefit. Deirdre McQuade, spokeswoman for the USCCB’s Secretariat for Pro Life Activities, said in a June 11 e-mail to Catholic News Service: “Many studies have shown that wider access to ‘emergency contraception’ among young people does not reduce pregnancy or abortion rates, but can contribute to higher rates of sexually trans-

People in the News

■ Irish missionary says women can foster peace in Nigerian conflict

DUBLIN (CNS) — Women can play an important role in bringing peace and stability to violence-wracked northern Nigeria if some of the country’s discriminatory social rituals ended, an Irish missionary sister working in the West African nation said. Sister Kathleen McGarvey, 45, a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles and a lecturer at Good Shepherd Seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria, told Catholic News Service that women can bring new perspectives based on their experience and knowledge to the peace effort. She likened the untapped potential of Nigerian women to their sidelining in the long-practiced Igbo tribal ritual of the breaking of the kola nut, a fruit of the tropical rainforest in much of Africa. The nut is broken at weddings, church gatherings and major social events as a symbol of acceptance and welcoming of visitors. “At any church gathering, after the opening prayer, the kola nut is blessed by the priest and if there is no priest, one of the men will pray over it; then it is broken,” Sister Kathleen said. Women, she said, can enrich the service.



CNS photo

Sister Kathleen McGarvey

Diocesan parishes mark Fortnight for Freedom

Dan Cooney
FaithLife

Bishops across the nation have called on Catholics to participate in this year’s Fortnight for Freedom, an effort against challenges to religious liberty.

Erin Landini-Grogan, the director of the Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Erie, says Catholics here are asked to offer prayer and participate in outreach from June 21 to July 4.

“This fortnight is an opportunity to highlight our freedom and religious liberty for future generations,” Landini-Grogan says. “This is a time when we celebrate the teachings of the church.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is organizing the second-annual fortnight, encourages Catholics to offer prayer, either personally or communally. St. Thomas More House of Prayer in Cranberry will hold its weekly all-night adoration beginning Thursday, June 27, at 8:30 p.m. with exposition. It ends at

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2013



FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

FORTNIGHT4FREEDOM★ORG

3 p.m. Friday with Benediction. The house held an outdoor showing June 21 of “A Man for All Seasons,” depicting the life of St. Thomas More.

St. Michael Parish in Fryburg is offering an entire day, July 3, to the fortnight effort, highlighting different intentions during Liturgy of the Hours. There will be exposition and repossession of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as a pizza and salad buffet. The event concludes with a 10 a.m. Independence Day Mass at St. Mi-

chael Cemetery.

Father D.G. (Skip) Davis, pastor of St. Michael, says there was good participation during the parish’s festivities last year. He expects more people this year.

“It’s better to be proactive than reactive,” Father Davis says about the importance of the fortnight.

During the two-week event, U.S. bishops are calling Catholics to action. Landini-Grogan, from parish social ministry, encourages people to

reach out to their entire communities. Specifically, she suggests thank-you notes to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and state legislators for passing and signing a bill into law that prohibits abortion coverage by health insurance plans offered through the state’s health insurance exchange set up by the Affordable Care Act. Health insurance plans offered through the exchange will

See FORTNIGHT, page 3



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

The Blessed Mother statue that welcomes people at the north entrance to St. Mark Catholic Center seems a little weathered since the last time I examined it 18 years ago. There are cracks in the mortar near her face and hands, but otherwise her steady pose reminds me of the peace I always have felt in her embrace. It is good to see her again, to walk under her gaze after so many years.

I left my position as a writer/copy editor with the former *Lake Shore Visitor* when my first son was born in 1995. This week, I took on full-time duties as editor/writer of *FaithLife*, as well as contributor to *Faith* magazine and the social media sites for the Office of Communications. I, too, have weathered a bit...there’s more gray in my hair than I care to admit, and there are a few more worry lines on my brow from having raised three children into their teens. Sister Rebecca Costa, SSI, who is retired now from the Marriage Tribunal Office, was correct when she advised me several years ago—during the eight-year period when I hadn’t slept through the night—that my sons were now my prayer. That kind of prayer—the daily, sometimes exhausting, commitment of nurturing children—is never silent, nor is it ever clear, but it is always humbling.

So it’s fitting that our director of communications, Anne-Marie Welsh, showed me a photograph of the Blessed Mother and Jesus in the grotto on the grounds of Harborcreek Youth Services, a residential center for adolescents in Harborcreek. The photo, taken by Barb Lindstrom, campus minister at HYS, shows a bird’s nest tucked in the embrace of mother and child. [See photograph below.] To me, it says that whatever stage we are in life, Mary and Jesus always provide a home, a place of warmth and security.

For me, the Diocese of Erie is that home again. I see so many familiar faces, people like Father George Strohmeier, who recently received the Outstanding Priest Award from the Serra Club. I remember when Father George introduced me to Jean Vanier, the founder of the international L’Arche movement, who envisioned communities of faith, rooted in prayer and trust in God. Father George to this day is dedicated to a life of unity with those in our society whom people consider weak. (In fact, his table at the awards reception was filled with members of his L’Arche family.) As Father George said in his acceptance speech at Gannon University, “The weak support the strong, and the strong support the weak.”

It’s good to see new movements gain strength, too, like Relay for Life. A fellow parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro, Mary Beth Kroemer, worked closely with a non-denominational group to organize 100 free giveaway baskets for cancer survivors at the Crawford County Relay for Life event this weekend in Meadville. Mary Beth had at least 50 of those baskets covering her basement ping-pong table!

I look forward to hearing from and reporting on individuals and groups actively living out their Catholic faith in a complex, sometimes conflicted world. I am particularly interested in meeting students at the Catholic universities in our diocese, Gannon and Mercyhurst, as well as Catholic students at our public institutions. Having just left Allegheny College, I am inspired by the zeal of the students who taught me the power of social media.

Through our website, Facebook, and Twitter pages, there are endless opportunities to share our thoughts and spread the word that the Diocese of Erie is a vibrant, ever-responsive community.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*. E-mail msolberg@ErieRCD.org, or call at 814-824-1171. Follow her on Twitter: @3littlebirdsss.



A family of birds found a home in the statue of Mary and Jesus in the grotto at Harborcreek Youth Services.

Photo by Barb Lindstrom

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Holy Land/Italy: Aug. 26-Sep. 8, Sep. 2-15, Sep. 9-22, Sep. 16-29, Sep. 23-Oct. 6, Sep. 30-Oct. 13, Oct. 7-20 ...
Italy South: Aug. 31-Sep. 12, Sep. 7-19, Sep. 14-26 ...
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Briefly

Social media, outreach to youth on evangelization agenda of U.S. bishops



SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Bishop Lawrence Persico joined bishops throughout the country June 10-14 at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops symposium, “The Ministry of Bishops in the New Evangelization.”

The annual spring gathering this year focused on spirituality—featuring days of reflection on reigniting the evangelization spirit among Catholics—and was kicked off with a news conference by three bishops warning against amending a Senate bill that would block the path to legalization for undocumented immigrants.

“This was really more of a spiritual conference,” Bishop Persico explained. The bishop attended daily talks on such topics as the role of bishops and preaching, participation in the Eucharist, practical outreach to youth and outreach through social media. The keynote speaker for the event was Cardinal Thomas Collins, archbishop of Toronto.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter hosts summer event at Cook Forest

JEFFERSON COUNTY—Worldwide Marriage Encounter is hosting a summer community event for all Marriage Encounter couples and their families at Cook Forest State Park on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Activities include group canoeing at 10 a.m., an afternoon picnic beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a Marriage Encounter presentation. Father Chuck Schmitt will celebrate the Saturday vigil in the pavilion later in the afternoon. Guests are welcome to bring games, beverages and a covered dish to share. RSVP for canoeing no later than Friday, July 19, and for the picnic no later than Friday, Aug. 3.

For more information, contact Richard and Kris Gosnell at kandrgosnell@gmail.com, or call 814-398-9165. For lodging information, visit www.cookforest.com.

St. Patrick alumni planning summer picnic

ERIE—The third annual reunion of St. Patrick Alumni will be held at the Polish Falcons (East 3rd and Parade streets in Erie) on Saturday, July 6, from 3 to 7 p.m. (reservations required). For further information, contact Joan Peterson at 814-456-0639, or e-mail pascalshamrocks@aol.com.

Healing Mass scheduled at Erie parish

ERIE—The Son of God prayer group at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie will celebrate a healing Mass on Tuesday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. Father David Poulson, V.F., of Saint Anthony Parish, Cambridge Springs, will officiate. For more information, contact Gerry Valahovic at 814-452-2499.

Giant Eagle awards Meadville school \$2,500 in fitness equipment

MEADVILLE—Giant Eagle awarded \$2,500 in fitness equipment to Seton Catholic School in Meadville for participating in the Apples for the Students' Sprite Active Living Contest. Apples for the Students, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this school year, lets Giant Eagle customers earn points for their school with every swipe of their Advantage Card. The contest invited students to make an Apples for the Students 25th anniversary sign, take a picture of it and post it to the Apples for the Students Facebook page. Seton was one of 17 schools to receive the most “likes” for its picture, and won the \$2,500 prize package.

Parishes mark Fortnight for Freedom

FORTNIGHT, from page 2

taxpayer funds. State Rep. Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion/Armstrong) and Sen. Donald White (R-Indiana) sponsored the bill in their respective legislative bodies. White represents part of Clearfield County, located within the Diocese of Erie.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference compiled a list of state representatives and senators and their votes on the legislation. The organization encourages Catholics across the state to thank their legislators for their supportive vote or write asking them to reconsider their stance on taxpayer-funded abortion. A link to

see how state legislators voted, as well as e-mail links to their offices, can be found at www.pacatholic.org/pro-life-bill-passes-senate-heads-to-governor.

Bishops highlighted other challenges to religious liberty, including the recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate. Religious organizations are required to comply with the mandate by Aug. 1 of this year. Also, during the fortnight, the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on two cases regarding the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8.

Zoom...zoom



CNS photo by L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters

Pope Francis is presented with a leather Harley-Davidson jacket during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican June 12.

Serra Club presents annual awards

ERIE—The Serra Club of Erie gathered in June to honor what its new president called “the prayerful role in building up our church” by priests, religious, deacons and lay people.

“It's a great time to be Catholic,” Dan Schaaf, new Serra president, told the approximately 150 gathered at Gannon University for the annual Outstanding Priest, Religious, Deacon and Lay Awards. Schaaf succeeds Paul Lorei, who served two years as president.

Honorees this year are:
 • Outstanding priest—Father George Strohmeier
 • Outstanding religious—Mercy Sister Mary Felice Duska
 • Outstanding deacon—Deacon William Sproveri
 • Lay Person of the Year—Greg Schlueter

In accepting the award for Schlueter, who was unable to be at the ceremony, Linda Kemper enumerated Schlueter's many activities, including bringing 500 youth to see the pope at World Youth Day in Toronto.

“At their core, that's what the Schlueters are all about: family,” Kemper said.

Mercy Sister Duska, a longtime music educator and currently executive director of Mercy Terrace Apartments in Erie, commented on the driving force behind her 60 years in religious life: her parents and fellow Mercy sisters. She told the audience, “Without your prayers, we will have a hard time accomplishing anything.”

Deacon Sproveri remarked on the great inspiration he felt working side-by-side with the late Msgr. James Peterson with Maria House Project. “This ministry has brought me great joy, and the thing that flows from this joy is the freedom to be able to see Christ in everyone and everything,” Sproveri said.

Marking nearly 50 years as a priest, Father Strohmeier said he is still evolving into the fullness of his calling. He is founder of the first L'Arche community in the United States, and is chaplain at Gannon University.

His priesthood and affiliation



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Serra Club honored Deacon William Sproveri, far left, Mercy Sister Mary Felice Duska, and Father George Strohmeier.

with L'Arche, he said, gave him an appreciation for the needs of the world. He urged those gathered to “have the courage to embrace more and more people.” He added: “I'm not finished yet; I've just begun. And, of course, you're not finished either. The harvest is waiting.”

The Serra Club, an organiza-

tion of men and women who are committed to fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life, was pleased to welcome Bishop Lawrence Persico to the awards for the first time. Visit the Serra Club website at www.erieserra.com.

‘Emotional’ rite celebrated

ORDINATION, from page 1

so many others who have helped you to discern the will of God in your life. Today you respond to that call to be a co-worker with your fellow priests and with me, your bishop.”

Msgr. Riccardo shares Bishop Persico's sentiments, saying it was a joy to watch Father Renne grow up at St. Cosmas & Damian. Msgr. Riccardo currently is pastor at the Jefferson County parish.

“There's an emotional tie and we're very proud and happy,” Msgr. Riccardo says. “When you see a young man who is interested in serving the church and hopefully following in your footsteps...there's a feeling of peace about it.”

“There's a sense of peace, fulfillment, satisfaction that someone is following in the steps of Christ, of course, but also personally in your own footsteps. He is a good man.”

Before the ordination Mass began, Father Renne shared his excitement and nerves, saying, “I am ready.”

His parents, too, talked about the anticipation and preparation for the big day.



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Father David Renne lies prostrate before the altar at St. Peter Cathedral during his ordination Mass June 7.

Peter Renne said he had never been to an ordination and didn't know what to expect. “I'm a little numb,” Mr. Renne told *FaithLife*. Jennifer Renne added: “I was very emotional when I first got to the church and when I stepped into the back [sacristy] and saw him I became very emotional. But once that was over I was fine.

My hope is that the Holy Spirit is with him and he brings joy to everybody he's with.”

Anne-Marie Welsh contributed reporting for this story.

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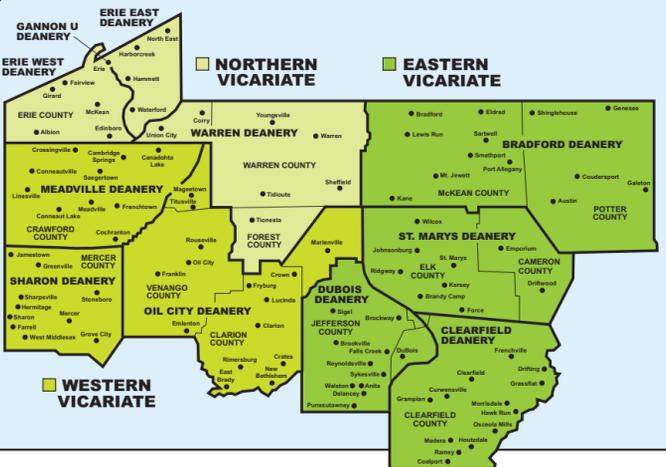
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AROUND the ERIE DIOCESE



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www.ErieRCD.org/atd.asp

St. Boniface represents diocese at state Odyssey contest



ERIE—For the second consecutive year, St. Boniface School in Erie competed successfully at the Western Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind contest, winning the right to move on to the state championship.

St. Boniface sponsored three teams: one Division I team for

second- through fourth-graders, and two Division II teams for middle-school students.

Odyssey of the Mind challenges students academically to develop team-building and problem-solving skills.

In costume, left to right, are members of the winning mid-

dle school team: Eion Russell, Courtlynn Stuckey, Rachel Praetzel, Emily Matczak, Becca Praetzel and Susie Urash.

They are dressed to portray their answer to a quest for missing art from the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Their team mentor was Cari Russell.

St. Michael's has busy spring

GREENVILLE—Eight students from St. Michael School in Greenville participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) state competition. (Other diocesan schools have participated in PJAS.)

The competition was held at Pennsylvania State University, State College, May 12-14. To participate, the students had to receive a first place at the regional competition at Slippery Rock University.

The students created science experiments/projects, completing every step of the scientific method. Of the eight students who participated in the state competition, Matthew Mathias and Edward Cianci received first-place awards.



Pictured in the front row left to right are: Edward Cianci, Kathy Williams, Anna Marie Berger, and Sarah DelMaramo. Back

row, left to right, are: Abram Shannon, Matthew Mathias, John Cianci, Rachel Micsky, and teacher Staci Beckman.

Eleven people were welcomed as newly professed members of the Holy Spirit Fraternity of the Order of Secular Franciscans on May 26 at St. Michael Church in Greenville.

Secular Franciscans are lay people who follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi in living a life according to the Gospel.

Pictured with the newly professed members are spiritual assistant, Father Gary Stakem, O.F.M., far left, and the oldest fraternity member, 88-year-old Irene Gedeon O.F.S., far right.



DuBois students excel

DUBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic High School's Autumn Carlson earned a trip to the Future Business Leaders of America national conference and competition by placing third at the state competition this past spring in Hershey.

Carlson, a junior, will meet other students from across the country June 25 to July 1 at the Anaheim Conference Center in California. She will compete in the "help desk" category of the competition.

Along with participating in the conference and FBLA workshops, Carlson also will tour Warner Brothers Studios and attend a Dodgers game. Pictured are Autumn Carlson and her adviser, Lisa Bladell.



Eight juniors at DuBois Central Catholic High School were chosen to represent the Diocese of Erie in the National Campaign for Human Development.

The team's entry won a diocesan multimedia contest to earn the right to represent the Diocese of Erie. The contest—"Be a Disciple! Put Two Feet of Love in Action"—required participants to stretch across disciplines and visually show the root causes of poverty in the United States.

Kneeling left to right are: Alex Huckestein, Arianna Martino, Kylee Schaffer, and Amy Tomasko. Standing left to right are: Kayla Bittner, Rachel Stoltz, Madeline Meyers, and Maria French.



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St. Marys parishes reach out to disabled youth

ST. MARYS—Three parishes in the St. Marys community celebrated a St. Henry's Mass for youth with disabilities and handicaps on May 11.

St. Henry's is a faith formation program that began six years ago to meet the religious formation/instruction needs of young people with different abilities in Catholic parishes.

Youth from participating churches gathered at Sacred Heart Parish to greet parishioners, bring gifts to the altar, read petitions, pass the collection basket and lead the congregation in the communion song.

The purpose of the Mass is to help everyone recognize the dignity and worth of each person. The community hopes to rotate St. Henry Masses at all parishes in St. Marys throughout the coming year.



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 Saturday: 4:30 pm Mass; Music by Cugini Italiani from 7-10 pm
 Sunday: 11 am Mass celebrated with Bishop Persico followed by procession of Virgin Mary statue; Spaghetti dinner from 12-5 pm;
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