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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 28, 2015

FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS
FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"All creatures are moving forward, with us and through us, towards a common point of arrival, which is God."

Special Collections

Peter's Pence, June 27-28

The collection benefits the charitable works of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, including his support of seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers, and other medical facilities in developing nations.

National Needs, July 4-5

This collection helps Catholic communities stand in solidarity with poorer ones in our own country. Also, it combines two other collections: Catholic Home Missions Appeal and the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

Parishioners give \$180,000 to religious

Parishioners in the Diocese of Erie gave more than \$180,000 to last December's Retirement Fund for Religious Collection.

Three major religious orders of sisters based in the diocese are among those who benefit directly from the fund every year. Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, director of the Office for Religious of the diocese, announced the 2014 collection total in June.

"The generosity of the people here shows their deep gratitude and love for the sisters who have served them for so many years," Sister Nancy said.

Nationwide, the collection raised \$28 million to benefit 33,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Gannon grows gift

Some would call Thomas and Loretta Power's 2005 donation to Gannon University a gift that keeps on giving. Their sizable contribution already has helped more than 100 students attend the downtown Erie Catholic school.

But this year, officials expect even more students to benefit from the couple's generosity. Between 65 and 75 new scholarships are expected to be offered this fiscal year, according to Jack Sims, Gannon's vice president for advancement.

Gannon matched the Power's original donation and created the Power Challenge Fund, which matches gifts of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 and creates scholarships in donors' names. Currently, the school has submitted another 28 proposals to prospective donors who have expressed an interest in giving through the matching fund.

Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointments, all for a term of three years each, effective Friday, June 26, 2015:



Priest

Father Thomas N. Trocchio, parochial vicar, St. Luke Parish, Erie

Deacons

Deacon Eugene Miller, deacon assistant, Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale

Deacon Owen Wagner, deacon assistant, Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City; ministry staff at Shenango Valley Catholic School System

Deacon Paul Bauman, deacon assistant, St. Catherine Parish, DuBois

Deacon Nicholas Cirelli, deacon assistant, St. Michael Parish, Emlenton; Prince of Peace Center, Farrell

Deacon Michael Dittman, deacon assistant, St. Mary Parish, Crown, and St. Ann Mission Church, Marienville; chaplain ministry, State Correctional Institution—Forest, Marienville

Deacon Stephen Frezza, deacon assistant, St. George Parish, Erie; campus ministry, Pennsylvania State University, Behrend Campus

Deacon Edward Horneman, deacon assistant, St. Mary Church, Meadville; campus ministry, Allegheny College, Meadville

Deacon Frank Luciani, deacon assistant, St. Michael Parish, Greenville; campus ministry, Thiel College, Greenville

Deacon Thomas McCraw, deacon assistant, All Saints Parish, Waterford; chaplain ministry, State Correctional Institution—Albion

Deacon James Moss, deacon assistant, St. Mark Parish, Lawrence Park

Deacon David Romanowicz, deacon assistant, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro; chaplain ministry, Erie County Prison

Deacon Stephen Rowan, deacon assistant, Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville, and St. Dominic Mission Church, Sigel

Deacon Raymond Sobina, deacon assistant, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Deacon Todd Sommers, deacon assistant, St. Brigid Parish, Meadville

Deacon Robert Wilson, deacon assistant, St. Francis Parish, Clearfield

Deacon Richard Winschel, deacon assistant, St. Gregory Parish, North East; campus ministry, Mercyhurst University, North East Campus.

Hand in hand with the Earth



Contributed photo

CLARION—Students in Laura Beichner's first-grade classroom at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion put into action Pope Francis' message to care for the earth and all of its creatures. This spring, the students explored the life cycle of butterflies and then prayed before releasing them.

Encyclical comes alive in diocese

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Gardens of hope are sprouting in every corner of the Diocese of Erie. And so are the seeds of a healthier planet.

Just ask Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, of Catholic Rural Ministry in Potter and McKean counties; Sister Suzanne Thibault, CA, of the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville; and Rose Graham of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Erie. They're all helping to carry out the message of Pope Francis in his recently released encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home."

"We see the pope's message coming alive here," says Graham, execu-

tive director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

The organization oversees three community gardens and numerous programs meant to improve the physical and spiritual lives of struggling Erie neighborhoods.

In his lengthy and much-anticipated encyclical, Pope Francis placed the Christian call for an "integral ecology" front and center of efforts to sustain a healthy and holy planet.

"We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it," the Holy Father states in paragraph 229 of the encyclical.

Graham and others point to already established efforts in the diocese that support Pope Francis' message. He speaks out against rampant consumerism and the need to improve our human and natural

environments.

In Erie, the Neighborhood Network operates community-run gardens at W. 19th and Myrtle, W. 18th and Walnut, and on Sassafras Street. Residents who adopt a garden box enjoy the crop production.

Other environmentally based projects in the works include development of green space, with 60 new trees being planted along W. 18th Street, and construction of green bus shelters.

In Potter and McKean counties, Benedictine Sisters Phyllis Schleicher and Mary Hoffman deliver the bounty from their community garden to area food pantries. They also educate residents about food production and living within their means. Many people, according to Sister Phyllis, have trouble budgeting for living expenses and need help prioritizing their needs.

"The pope's message is very affirmative. It excites me because it's

for the good of all of us to be aware and responsible for the well-being of people who are suffering and in poverty," Sister Phyllis says.

In Frenchville, Clearfield County, Sister Suzanne Thibault is excited to continue week-long retreats this summer at the Bethany Youth Retreat Center. Some 250 young people will discuss at least once a week the topic, "Care for all that God Has Created."

"Creation includes the earth, but it also includes all of our interpersonal relationships, which is exactly what the pope is saying," Sister Suzanne says.

According to Father Michael Kesicki, an associate vice president at Gannon University, Erie, the Catholic Church plays a significant role in environmental discussions. "That's who we are as a church. We're not a political organization, but we do have a prophetic voice," Father Kesicki says.



Photo by Ari Becker

POTTER COUNTY—Benedictine Sisters Phyllis Schleicher and Mary Hoffman nurture the earth as part of Catholic Rural Ministries in Potter and McKean counties.



Photo by Ari Becker

FRENCHVILLE—Walking the earth on this labyrinth at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville takes individuals on a journey toward the heart of God.



Contributed photo

ERIE—Christopher Dyleski works at one of the gardens run by the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Erie.

Pope changes conversation on environment

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The earth, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it, Pope Francis says in his long-awaited encyclical, "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home."

All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to take steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation—including poor people—with respect and concern, he states in the document released at the Vatican June 18.

A lack of respect for creation is a lack of respect for God who created all that exists, the pope says. In fact, he continues, a person cannot claim to respect nature while supporting abortion, nor can one claim to be pro-life without a commitment to reversing damage to the environment.

With unusually blunt language for a papal document, the pope decries centuries of exploiting the earth, exploiting other people and

acting as if the point of human life is to buy and consume as much as possible.

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth," the pope writes in the document.

While acknowledging science is not the Catholic Church's area of expertise, Pope Francis says "a very solid scientific consensus" points to global warming and indicates "human activity" has seriously contributed to it.

Pope Francis insists that wealthier nations must bear more of the costs of remedying the damage and must work in solidarity with the poorest of the earth. He urges generosity in transferring clean technology, protecting small farms, opening access to markets and protecting people's jobs.

The encyclical presents the vision of an

U.S. CATHOLICS' RISING CONCERN FOR GLOBAL WARMING



U.S. CATHOLICS' VIEWS ON GLOBAL WARMING



Source: Pew Research Center survey, May 5-June 7, 2015

"integral ecology" that highlights not only the interconnectedness of all created life, but recognizes how political, economic, social and religious values and decisions are interrelated and impact the way people live with one another on the planet and use its resources.

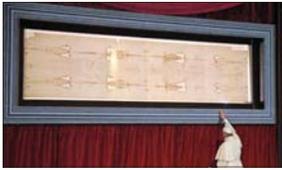
"Everything is connected," Pope Francis writes.

■ Governor Wolf waives fee for criminal background checks

HARRISBURG (PCC)—Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced recently that fees for child abuse clearances and criminal background checks required by the Child Protective Services Law will be waived for volunteers working with children.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania State Police will be reducing the cost of both the child abuse and criminal history record checks from \$10 to \$5 for all other applicants. These changes will take effect July 25.

■ Pope calls shroud 'icon of love'



CNS photo

TURIN, ITALY—Pope Francis touches the case holding the Shroud of Turin after praying before the cloth.

TURIN, Italy (CNS)—Pope Francis on June 21 prayed and sat before the Shroud of Turin in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, calling the revered burial cloth of Jesus an "icon of love."

The visit to the shroud was the second stop on the pope's packed itinerary for his two-day visit to the northern Italian town of Turin.

"At the end of our celebration, our thoughts go to the Virgin Mary, loving mother and attentive to all her children, whom Jesus entrusted to her from the cross, while he offered himself in the greatest act of love. The icon of this love is the shroud," Pope Francis said before reciting the midday Angelus prayer.

The shroud, said the pope, "impels us toward the face of every suffering and unjustly persecuted person."

The pope's two most recent predecessors also visited the shroud: Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, calling it the "icon of Holy Saturday," and Pope John Paul II in 1998.



Pope Francis will visit Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay during a July trip to South America.

■ Senate adopts anti-torture amendment backed by Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Senate in a bipartisan vote June 16 approved a measure that would prohibit all U.S. government agencies and their agents from using torture as an interrogation technique.

Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, sponsored the anti-torture amendment. Catholic and evangelical leaders in separate letters urged U.S. senators to support it.

"In Catholic teaching, torture is an intrinsic evil that cannot be justified under any circumstances as it violates the dignity of the human person, both victim and perpetrator, and degrades any society that tolerates it," wrote Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Pope Francis' powerful new encyclical, "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home," is quite a lengthy document, but Catholic News Service culled from it some practical tips to protect our environment.

For anyone who may be discussing the encyclical in small faith-sharing groups, the Catholic News Service story (www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1502641.htm) is helpful in that it provides references to the paragraphs from which the pope's environmental suggestions can be found.

I can't resist offering my top 10 favorites of Pope Francis' recommendations put forth in "Laudato Si'." They are:

- Be consistent. Pro-life, environmental and social justice movements are all connected. Protecting vulnerable species must include the unborn, endangered animals and the exploited.
- Keep oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and in businesses.
- Be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides will hurt birds and insects that are helpful for agriculture.
- Put an end to "mental pollution." Think deeply, live wisely, love generously.
- End the tyranny of the screen, information overload and distractions. Watch out for media-induced melancholy and isolation. Cultivate real relationships with others.
- Get to know the poor and suffering; it will wake up a numbed conscience and inspire real action.
- Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that "we were made for love."
- Use technology to solve real problems and serve people, helping them have

more dignity, less suffering and healthier lives.

- Provide essential services to rural areas.
- Sing as you go.

♦ ♦ ♦

Best wishes to Deacon Robert DeNoon, who retired from Penn Highlands DuBois after 16 years in its Pastoral Care Department. Deacon DeNoon was ordained to the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Erie by Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman in 1999 and served as a chaplain at Penn Highlands DuBois since that time.

He will continue to serve on the hospital's ethics committee and will assist with liturgy and other assignments at St. Tobias Parish.

♦ ♦ ♦

A young design assistant from Pittsburgh was among a group of architectural students from Catholic University of America recognized for their keen liturgical talent. Matthew Hoffman, who is affiliated with Rohn & Associates Design of Pittsburgh, helped design the altar, ambo and other liturgical furniture in preparation for Pope Francis' visit to Washington, D.C., this fall.

A papal Mass featuring the furniture will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

♦ ♦ ♦

Lakeland Area Hospice of Erie recently established the Sister Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB, Benevolent Fund to recognize Sister Norma Jean Kingsley's years of service to the agency. Sister Norma Jean recently retired as chaplain in the spiritual care and bereavement departments at Lakeland. She has been involved in hospice ministry for many years, first through Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, then through Heartland Hospice, and finally at Lakeland.

"To be with folks as they attend to their own personal leave-taking from this earth to move toward fullness of life with God has been very special," Sister Norma Jean says.

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife.

Email: msolberg@ErieRCD.org

Call 814-824-1171

Twitter: @ERIERCDsolberg

Charities Ball nets more than \$102,000

FAITHLIFE staff report

More than 430 people attended the 20th annual Catholic Charities Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie last month.

The gala featured the popular celebrity dance competition and other activities, which netted more than \$102,000 for affiliate

agencies of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Erie. In July, several of those agencies will receive a share of the proceeds to provide vital outreach services.

The female winner of the dance competition this year was Emily Chiappazzi, executive meetings manager at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, with her ex-

perienced dancing partner, Rick Boldizar. The male winner was Justin Carter, reporter for WICU-TV 12, Erie, with his experienced dancing partner, Dianne Porter.

Ann Badach, executive director of Catholic Charities, was pleased with this year's event. "We were delighted and grati-

fied for the generosity of people who helped to make this year's Catholic Charities Ball a success.

As our one major fundraiser of the year, we will distribute 100 percent of the proceeds to help families in need throughout the 13 counties of our diocese," Badach said.



The 2015 winner of the female Charities Ball dancers was Emily Chiappazzi, executive meetings manager at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. Her experienced dancing partner was Rick Boldizar.



Photos by Steve LaJohn

The 2015 winner of the male Charities Ball dancers was Justin Carter, reporter with WICU-TV 12, Erie. His experienced dancing partner was Dianne Porter.

National youth conference planned

Students from diocese expected to attend event

FAITHLIFE staff report

About 100 high school students and chaperones from the Diocese of Erie are expected to attend the 2015 National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis this fall.

Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the diocese,

already is gearing up for the trip. She encourages youth ministry and religious education leaders to promote the opportunity among students in grades 9 through 12.

"In November 2013, we took about 65 students from the diocese en route to Indianapolis on fire," Peterson said.

The National Catholic Youth Conference is a biennial, three-day experience of prayer, com-

munity-building and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones.

There will be keynote presentations, workshops, Mass, and opportunities to participate in reconciliation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as recreational activities, concerts and exhibits.

The National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry sponsors the event.

According to Peterson, a grant from The Catholic Foundation-Education Fund has made it possible for the diocese to reduce the cost of this year's

trip. The round-trip bus ride, three days in a hotel, breakfasts, t-shirt and other items will cost only \$230 per person. Some youth groups already are planning fundraisers.

Buses are expected to pick up students at key locations in the diocese en route to Indianapolis.

For more information about the excursion, call Kathleen Peterson at 814-824-1218, or email her at kpeterston@ErieRCD.org.

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McDavid's autographed jersey to be raffled

ERIE—The St. Peter Cathedral Women's Council and the parish Knights of Columbus are raffling a framed autographed jersey of Connor McDavid, the center of the Erie Otters hockey team. Only 1,000 tickets are available at a donation of \$10 each or three tickets for \$25. The raffle will benefit the charitable works of the Cathedral Women's Council.



Tickets are available at Pony Express, 1903 W. 8th St., Erie, or by calling 814-825-3639. The drawing will be held July 5 at noon at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie.

Afternoon of Reflection for Women planned

MOUNT JEWETT—The Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry are sponsoring an Afternoon of Reflection for Women July 19 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Mount Jewett. The event is an opportunity to renew faith and personal commitment. Benedicte Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski is the presenter.

Reservations are due July 16 by calling Margaret French at 814-945-6245 or Benedicte Sister Phyllis Schleicher at 814-544-8017. To learn more about the event, email sisterpf@gmail.com.

Sacred Dance Guild conducts six-day festival

ERIE—The Sacred Dance Guild at Mercyhurst University in Erie will host Dancing on Waves of Grace Sacred Dance Festival, six days of sacred dance classes, concerts and events July 24-29 at Mercyhurst's Erie campus.

Faculty members will present a sacred dance concert July 28 at 8 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. The evening features dance performances by Ronya-Lee Anderson, Stella Malsuda, Deborah Mauldin, Barbara Supowitz and Kim Vetter, and music by Debbie Danbrook and Emmalyn Moreno. A reception and session with the artists will follow. Tickets are \$20 and are available from the box office at Mercyhurst at 814-824-3000.

The public is welcome to attend all events. Day rates are available for local participants. For more information on the festival, visit www.sacreddanceguild.org or call 877-422-8678.

Faith community nursing course offered

ERIE—Foundations of Faith Community Nursing is a six-day course offered this fall by Gannon University and Saint Vincent Hospital. Faith community nursing is a specialty practice and professional model of health that reclaims the historic roots of health and healing found in many religious traditions. The spiritual dimension is central to faith community nursing practice.

The application/registration deadline for the course is Aug. 31. For information or to request an application, contact Diann C. Cooper at Villa Maria School of Nursing, Gannon University, at 814-871-5466 or email her at cooper019@gannon.edu.

Mercyhurst plans for 90 more years

\$3 million renovation underway

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Alex Bowes believes that the \$3 million in renovations underway at Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie will make for an unforgettable and inspirational senior year.

With exposure to state-of-the-art technology next year, Bowes expects even more opportunities to come his way well into the future.

"I want to be a radiologist and we'll have a 3-D printer that will be able to print organs functioning in human beings. This will help prepare me to use a 3-D printer and to see how the body works," Bowes says.

On June 10, the Catholic co-ed high school announced its "Next 90" fundraising campaign to raise \$3 million for capital improvements that include the creation of a performing arts center, a new fitness center, and "dream labs" that feature the latest technology.

The school already has raised \$887,000, including a \$600,000 donation from alumna Betsy Vorcheck.

An anonymous donor has pledged to match the next \$225,000 in gifts, according to Don Baxter, chairman of the school's major gifts campaign whose two children graduated from Mercyhurst Prep.

"The value of these changes is that more kids will be drawn here and take away the same Mercy



Photo by Mary Solberg

Mercyhurst Preparatory President Mary Ellen Dahlkemper and Sean Baer, Mercyhurst's technology integration coach, proudly display the area to be used as a technology hub.

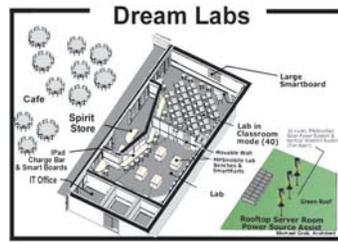
values that my own kids did," Baxter says.

Some of the renovation work already is complete, with improvements made to faculty space and the school chapel. The second phase began in June and includes transforming the cafeteria and the library, as well as creation of "dream labs" that include, among other features, computer-aided drafting and design and a 3-D printer.

Sean Baer, Mercyhurst's technology integration coach, believes the improvements will engage students at a higher level expected in the 21st century.

"It's going to change the way they learn," Baer says. Future renovation phases in-

clude changes to performance center and outdoor field space in 2016-17, and a new fitness center and outdoor field space in 2017-18.



Erie architect Michael Grab's rendering of the "dream labs" area of Mercyhurst Preparatory School.

Erie native ordained Capuchin Franciscan

FAITHLIFE staff report

John Paul Kuzma first considered becoming a Catholic priest when he was a first-grader at Holy Family School in Erie. The thought never left him until he was ordained a Capuchin Franciscan on June 6.

"After much prayer and discernment, especially at Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament, I discovered my home among the Capuchin Franciscans. And now by God's merciful grace, I am a Capuchin priest. The heart of the reason why I am a priest is the Eucharist," Father Kuzma says. Father Kuzma, 33, has been assigned as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Cumberland, Md. He served there as a deacon since last September.

The son of Mike and Linda Kuzma of Erie, Father Kuzma was ordained by Cardinal Sean

O'Malley, OFM Cap., at St. Augustine Church (Our Lady of the Angels Parish), Pittsburgh. It was the capstone of a lifelong spiritual journey.

"In high school, I began to learn about St. Francis of Assisi and was very attracted to his way of life," says Father Kuzma, who is a graduate of Cathedral Prep in Erie.

He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Mark Seminary/Gannon University in 2004, and then studied theology for two years at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. He lived at St. George Parish, Erie, for a pastoral year and joined the Capuchin Franciscans as a postulant in the summer of 2009.

After completing his studies for the priesthood at The Catholic University of America, he made solemn vows as a Capuchin in August 2014.



Contributed photo

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., left, ordained Erie native John Paul Kuzma a Capuchin Franciscan on June 6.

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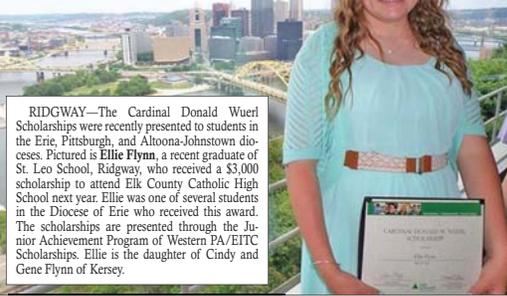
DuBois students excel at PJAS



DuBOIS—DuBois Central Catholic High School students enjoyed a dress-down day following their successful participation in the recent Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in State College. Several DCC students were state-wide winners and three earned perfect scores.

Seated, from left, are Sabrena Starr, Michael Zafuto and Gabriele Caruso. Standing, from left, are Trisha Gupta, Jordan Frank, Jackson Frank, Jenn Graeca (science instructor), Macey Hanes and Meghan Graeca.

Ridgway student receives Cardinal Wuerl Scholarship



RIDGWAY—The Cardinal Donald Wuerl Scholarships were recently presented to students in the Erie, Pittsburgh, and Altoona-Johnstown dioceses. Pictured is Ellie Flynn, a recent graduate of St. Leo School, Ridgway, who received a \$3,000 scholarship to attend Elk County Catholic High School next year. Ellie is one of several students in the Diocese of Erie who received this award. The scholarships are presented through the Junior Achievement Program of Western PA/EITC Scholarships. Ellie is the daughter of Cindy and Gene Flynn of Kersey.

St. George participates in #orangejumpsuit-Hebrews13:3

ERIE—Students at St. George School in Erie are pictured participating in this spring's national #orangejumpsuit-Hebrews13:3 event to remember Christians around the world facing violence, persecution and brutality. Based on the Scripture passage from Hebrews that asks the faithful to pray for those who are mistreated, the event had participants wearing orange, the color used to represent today's Christian martyrs. Student council members handed out orange ribbons for students and teachers to wear on their wrists. Seventh- and eighth-graders prayed the Divine Mercy chaplet.



Meadville parishioners march on Corpus Christi



MEADVILLE—About 130 people from Meadville's three Catholic parishes marched through neighborhoods June 7 to mark the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ). The 40-minute procession began after the noon Mass

at St. Brigid Church, proceeded to St. Agatha Parish for a Benediction service, then continued to St. Mary of Grace for Benediction and fellowship. Marchers are pictured leaving St. Brigid Church on Arch Street.

Photo by Ed Maillard

St. Luke students place in PJAS competition

ERIE—Seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Luke School in Erie competed and placed in the recent Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in State College, Pa.

Pictured in the front row are: Rachael Surkala, Lauren Habursky and Grace Rhodes, all of whom took second place.

In the back row are: Margaret Kuzma and Alexis Parnell, both of whom took first place; Caitlin Nies, second place; Faraan Parker, first place; Rachel Zimmer, third place; and science teacher Rachel Burbules.



Miss Heard is 'outstanding'

ERIE—Corinne Heard, a first-grade teacher at Villa Maria Elementary School in Erie, was awarded the Chick-fil-A "Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award" for the 2014-15 school year.

Heard was nominated by a parent for her positive influence on students. She is pictured with her class, Principal Damon Finazzo and the Chick-fil-A cow.



Students celebrate first Communion

FRANKLIN—The First Communion class at St. Patrick Parish in Franklin is shown here with Msgr. John Herbein, pastor, and Deacon Richard O'Polka, who gave the homily.

It is a tradition at the Venango County parish for both boys and girls to wear white robes for their first Communion. The parish rents the robes.



St. Gregory School takes first-place honors

NORTH EAST—St. Gregory School in North East captured first-place honors at the 2015 Erie County Middle School Environment this spring at Headwaters Park in Erie.

Teams from Fairview Harborcreek, North East and St. Gregory School participated in the competition. Pictured are: Hannah Pollack, Alex Aulenbacher, Christian Girls, Corinne Ferrick and Morgan Bradley.



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Our Lady of Mercy Church
837 Bartlett Road in Harborcreek

Sunday, July 12
AIR CONDITIONED Sperry Hall
12-5 PM, BBQ chicken dinner

Adult: \$9
Age 6-12: \$4
5 and under: \$3

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE
Plus raffles, bake sale, bingo and children's activities!

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SAVE THE DATE!

1:38 Women
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
Warner Theatre • Downtown Erie

Registration begins at 8:00 AM
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
COST: \$40/PERSON; \$25/STUDENT (includes lunch)

Inspiring national speakers:
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KITTY CLEVELAND
KELLY WAHLQUIST

All faiths are welcome!
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1:38 Women

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

