

Mission celebrates 50th

Today is the 50th anniversary of St. Peter and Paul Mission Church in Grassflat, see page 3.



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS
FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"Sport is a school for peace—it teaches us how to build peace."

www.ErieCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 29, 2014

Special Collections

Peter's Pence Collection, June 28-29

Peter's Pence supports the charitable works of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he responds to some of the most urgent human needs, including relief to victims of natural disasters. The pope also supports seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers and other medical facilities in developing nations.

Collection for National Needs, July 5-6

The Collection for National Needs is a combination of two others: The Catholic Home Mission Appeal, which funds catechesis for children and adults, seminarian education, lay ministry training, Hispanic ministry and other programs in needy dioceses, and The Black and Indian Mission Collection, which evangelizes and supports African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities with mission schools, religious education programs, the purchase of catechetical materials and ministry training.

St. Patrick's Haven prepares to roar



The 8th annual Roar on the Shore charitable motorcycle rally in Erie, July 16-20 will benefit St. Patrick's Haven, a shelter for homeless men in Erie.

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the SSJ Associates, St. Patrick's Haven offers nightly refuge, food and friendship to homeless men, about 60 percent of whom are veterans.

"With the funds raised at this year's rally, we will be able to continue offering shelter to men in the Erie area with more stability than we've ever had," said Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, director of St. Patrick's Haven.

Roar organizers are introducing the first Faith and Freedom Bayfront Ride: A Ride with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania. It will kick off the huge four-day event.

The SSJ Faith and Freedom Ride will leave from St. Patrick's Haven, 147 E. 12th St., Erie, at 5 p.m. on July 16. Riders will continue along the bayfront and stop at Perry Square.

The cost to participate in the SSJ ride is \$10 per bike, with registration from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Haven.

On July 17, the popular Roar on the Shore parade of motorcycles will begin at 6 p.m. at Presque Isle Downs and Casino in Erie. Since its inception in 2007, the Roar event has raised more than \$500,000 for charitable organizations in Pennsylvania.

To find more details of the Manufacturer & Business Association's Roar on the Shore, go to <http://roarontheshore.com/events>.

NFP Awareness Week recognizes volunteers

Natural Family Planning, the practice of achieving or postponing pregnancy by observing and recording fertility signs, will be recognized in the coming months in the Diocese of Erie and nationwide.

For the first time next month, a diocesan-wide Mass will be celebrated to recognize the commitment of NFP volunteers, their families and parishes that are strong supporters of NFP. Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the Mass July 20 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

According to Barbara Burkett, director of the Office of Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education for the Diocese of Erie, the Mass is an opportunity to kick off national NFP Awareness Week July 20-26.

"This is the first time we've had a Mass in the cathedral celebrated by the bishop to honor these volunteers," said Burkett, who has been coordinating the office with her husband, Ed, the past 30 years.

This year, the diocese welcomed new NFP teachers: Peter and Mary Burkett of St. Agatha Parish, Meadville, and Kathy Elenchin of St. Eulalia Parish, Coudersport.

Elenchin has been taking online NFP training through Marquette University.

For Burkett, this year's NFP Awareness Week theme—"It's Worth It! Join the Revolution!"—is appropriate.

"NFP definitely is worth it and it would be great if more people took the leap and tried it," Burkett said. "NFP makes clear what marriage is meant to be."

For more information and resources to help mark NFP Awareness Week, go to www.ErieCD.org/nfp.asp.



Photo by Mary Solberg

A "gentle giant," Michael Vicentini stands with his mother, Rochelle, outside of Holy Rosary Church in Erie. Besides Michael, these special-needs students also were confirmed at Sacred Heart Parish this spring: Michael Thompson, Andrew Syrek, Cassie Kitza and Joshua Manley.

Special-needs students confirmed

Mom asks church to keep reaching out to people with disabilities

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

When Bishop Lawrence Persico asked a group of students why they were receiving the sacrament of confirmation this spring, Michael Vicentini—diagnosed with autism at age 2½—quickly raised his hand.

"I love God and I love trains," said Michael, 23, who was among five special-needs students confirmed May 19 at Sacred Heart Church in Erie.

His response was honest and heartfelt. As a person with autism, a group of complex disorders of brain development, Michael was expressing—in the only way he knew—his deep love for God and the Catholic Church.

"These are all wonderful kids with wonderful families. They have enriched our lives and helped our faith to grow more than we have theirs," said Bobbie Wood, Michael's religious education instructor since age 8.

Michael and the others are believed to be the largest group of people with disabilities to receive the sacrament of confirmation in one year in the Diocese of Erie. According to Wood, they are her

"special students."

For the past 15 years, Wood has taught religious education to children and young adults with disabilities. They meet every Saturday morning during the academic year at St. Andrew Parish in Erie. Some, like Michael, continue into their 20s.

"It was our desire to provide something for those who couldn't be included in regular religious education classes [because of their disability]," Wood said. "There are significant numbers of kids who cannot sit through a regular class."

Michael's parents, Rochelle and Nick Vicentini, promoted his religious instruction at home, too. They took him regularly to Sunday Mass at St. George Parish, Erie, even though it probably would have been easier to stay at home. He was enrolled in preschool at the Barber National Institute in Erie and then attended autism support classes in Mill-

creek schools until age 21.

When Michael was 12, Rochelle Vicentini sought the help of Stairways Behavioral Health in Erie. A support specialist worked with Michael for several months, taking him to churches to learn specifically how to sit and behave during Mass.

Today, Michael lives in a group home in Erie and attends Mass at least three times a week at various churches in the city of Erie. Standing at 6 feet 2 inches, he is known as a "gentle giant" among all those who meet him, particularly during the sign of peace.

"He knows what church is and what Catholicism is. It is part of the church. It's what I wanted," Rochelle said.

During the confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart last month, Rochelle was impressed with how many of the regular religious education high school students supported the group of five with disabilities. The congregation as a whole clapped for each of the special-needs students as they were confirmed.

"I saw many students come up to Mike and congratulate him," Rochelle said. "It was very touching. It gives you an idea of how far our society has come in the treatment of people with disabilities."

She hopes that more and more people embrace those with special needs. The church, she said, should continue to reach out regularly to individuals with disabilities and their families, asking if they have been receiving the sacraments and attending Mass.

"People are afraid of people with disabilities because they're different," Rochelle said. "But we're all made in the image and likeness of God. People with disabilities are the face of God to me."

GEARING UP FOR

July 4th



Contributed photo

MEADVILLE—Meadville Knights of Columbus Council 388 recently donated a new 3-by-5-foot American flag to be flown at St. Agatha Cemetery in Meadville. It was the second large flag that the club purchased and installed recently. The other flag is at the Marian Shrine on Route 19 south of Saegertown.

Pictured raising the flag at St. Agatha Cemetery recently are club members, from left: William Mantz, Mark Bellini, Richard Albaugh, Dave Rusilko, Gaynell Mailliard and Grand Knight Scott Hamilton.

Faith, FaithLife capture four national CPA awards

FaithLife newspaper and Faith magazine of the Diocese of Erie won national recognition June 20 at the 2014 Catholic Press Awards at the Catholic Media Conference in Charlotte, N.C.

FaithLife took three honorable mentions:

- **General Excellence**
Diocesan newspapers with a circulation of more than 40,000
Mary Solberg and Rich Papalia
- **Best Feature Photo**
"Blessing of the pets gets wet"
Mary Solberg
- **Best Regular Special Supplement**
Annual *Faithful Sermons* jubilee edition
Elizabeth Butterfield, Cindy DeCoursey, Mary Solberg, Brenda Williams.

Faith magazine captured one honorable mention:

- **Best Essay**
Diocesan magazines
"I promise to pray for you..."—Nov./Dec. 2013
Father Justin Pino, diocesan archivist.

Anne-Marie Welsh, director of the Office of Communications for the Diocese of Erie, was pleased with the awards, especially considering that the competition included publications in large markets, including New York and Los Angeles.

"Our goal is always to find and present stories in the most compelling way possible so that we inform and inspire readers in our diocese. We are fired up to get right back to work," Welsh said after accepting the awards on behalf of the staff.

Blessing of the pets gets wet



This FaithLife photo took honorable mention in the national Catholic Press Awards in Charlotte, N.C. The photo shows Matthew Whitman of Our Lady of Peace School, Erie, wincing as his dog is sprinkled with holy water by Bishop Lawrence Persico at a Blessing of the Pets ceremony.

National stats on U.S. Catholic Church (1965-2014)

	1965	1990	2014
Total priests	58,632	52,124	38,275
Diocesan priests	35,925	34,114	26,265
Religious priests	22,707	18,010	12,010
Priestly ordinations	994	595	494
Graduate-level seminarians	8,325	3,658	3,631
Permanent deacons	na	9,356	17,464
Religious brothers	12,271	6,721	4,318
Religious sisters	179,954	102,504	49,883
Parishes	17,637	19,620	17,483
Catholic population	46.3m	55.7m	66.6m



Statistics from Frequently Requested Church Statistics (2014)

Sources: The Official Catholic Directory (OCD), the Vatican's Annuario Statistico Ecclesiale (ASE), Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), and other CARA research and databases.



Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

Ethical economy needs cooperation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Given Pope Francis' call for a more ethical economy of inclusion, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Catholic Relief Services and the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business held a two-day conference in mid-June.

Top experts in finance, including executives of Goldman Sachs and other investment firms, and representatives from development agencies and religious charities looked at how government, business, and the church could work together to alleviate poverty and serve the common good.

"Each sector working alone is not enough," in part because government agencies and charitable organizations don't have enough money to solve today's social and economic problems, said Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services.



CNS photo

Carolyn Woo of Catholic Relief Services speaks at a Rome conference.

Community says farewell to murdered priest; suspect arrested

PHOENIX (CNS)—Clergy, religious and laity jammed into St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Phoenix for a standing-room-only funeral Mass for Father Kenneth Walker June 16.

The 28-year-old priest was fatally injured June 11 in an attack at a different church, one that stands in the shadows of the state Capitol buildings. A second priest, Father Joseph Terra, 56, was critically injured.

Father Walker died at the hospital, and Father Terra was hospitalized in critical but stable condition. He has since been released from intensive care.

Phoenix police announced hours before the funeral Mass that they had a suspect in custody for the slaying and assault. Gary Michael Moran, 54, a transient who was released from prison in April, was arrested June 15 at a psychiatric treatment center some four miles northwest of Mater Misericordiae (Mother of Mercy) Mission, where the two priests served.

Phoenix Police Chief Daniel Garcia said the attack on the two priests was a "heinous crime" and that the department felt an urgency to find the perpetrator.

Father Walker, a priest since 2012, was parochial vicar at Mater Misericordiae. Father Terra, a priest since 1989, was the pastor. Both were ordained for the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

Enrichment Series continues at Mount St. Benedict

Father Casimir Wozniak featured speaker

Are you interested in learning more about the early Christian church?

The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will host its continuing Enrichment Series next month at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie. Father Casimir Wozniak, an assistant professor of theology and an instructor in the master's Pastoral Studies Program at Gannon University in Erie, will be the guest lecturer. He will address the topic, "The Early Church 30 AD-130 AD: From a Jewish Messianic Sect to the Body of Christ."

The series installment will be held Wednesday, July 16, at 7 p.m. at the monastery, located at 6101 East Lake Road.

Since 2012, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie have offered the Enrichment Series. Throughout history, monasteries such as Mount St. Benedict have been committed to ongoing education and have been renowned centers of learning and culture.

Father Wozniak holds a licentiate of sacred theology from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada, and a doctorate from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Besides teaching at Gannon,



Mount St. Benedict Monastery

non, he served as chair of the school's Department of Theology from 2006-12.

On more than one occasion, Father Wozniak has received the Student Government Association Teacher of the Year Award. He has served on a number of university committees and is a weekend sacramental assistant at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, director of Monastic/Ongoing Formation at Mount St. Benedict, at 814-899-0614, ext. 2511.

Sisters of OLC gather for Gannondale closing

Bishop Lawrence Persico joined the Gannondale community June 6 for a Mass marking the closing of the 80-year-old residential treatment center for girls.

In his homily, Bishop Persico said: "Today we are filled with mixed emotions as we celebrate this closing Mass—sadness, because after 80 years this ministry of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity is coming to an end for their congregation, the Diocese of Erie and this community, yet gratitude to God for the good work that the sisters and staff of Gannondale were able to carry out in helping countless adolescent girls who have passed through these doors over the years."

In March, the religious community of women announced that Gannondale would close due to a "significant and continual decrease" in the number of youth being placed in residential care throughout the state.

The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity founded Gannondale in Erie in 1934, under the auspices of the late Archbishop John Mark Gannon.

For many years, Gannondale operated at full capacity, housing a maximum of 47 girls in its three cottages. At its closing, there were fewer than 10 residents.



Courtesy photo

Bishop Lawrence Persico is pictured with members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity from Erie, Pittsburgh, and Marietta and Carrollton, Ohio. Seated, left to right, are: Sisters Margaret Greenly and Dolores Jasmán. Standing in the first row, left to right, are: Sisters Severiana Morales,

Catherine Gentile, Mary John Francy, Sheila Rooney and Agnes McCormick. In the third row, left to right, are: Sisters Maria Estrada and Rose Clement, Bishop Persico, and Sisters Carol Prengno and Francisca Aguilón.

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Ireland/Scotland: Sep 6-18, Sep 13-25, Sep 20-Oct 2...
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Lourdes/Fatima: Sep 4-12, Sep 11-20, Sep 18-26...

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Friday: 5:00 pm Mass; Pasta fagioli dinner; Music by Cugini Italiani from 7-10 pm
Saturday: 4:30 pm Mass; Music by Gli Italiani of Canton, OH 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; Music by Cugini Italiani from 3-6 pm and Ruby Port from 6-9 pm.

Drawing for 2014 Fiat 500L at 8 pm!
Other: Homemade foods, games, prizes, games of chance, children's activities. Services: FREE trolley shuttle from Erie Central Mall. More parking at W. 16th and Chestnut streets and St. Paul's Free Clinic.

MORE DETAILS
814.459.3173, www.stpaulcerie.org

Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

There's a sense of independence when you've got car keys in your pocket. But for some women in Erie, having their own wheels is life-saving.

So far this year, three cars have been donated to Erie Dawn, a non-profit agency that helps homeless women and children move from emergency shelters to permanent housing. A shared ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Erie Dawn is looking for even more vehicles this year.

Transportation, after all, is a necessity for the estimated 12 families that participate in Erie Dawn's two-year program of subsidized housing and support services.

"People have just randomly donated their cars this year. That's a big, big deal to a woman out there struggling to get by, to find employment, to take care of her family and get back on the road to self-sufficiency," says Maureen Dunn, executive director of Erie Dawn.

Lack of transportation, according to Dunn, is a major need for women served by Erie Dawn.

All of the women accepted into the program must be single—with or without children—and have a job earning a minimum of \$1,200 per month. Also, they are required to have rehabilitation in place for any mental health, drug or alcohol issues. Many come to Erie Dawn due to circumstances beyond their control, including abusive situations and foreclosures.

Regaining independence with transportation is a concrete, simple way to improve a life.

If you have a second car you don't know what to do with, make a difference by calling Erie Dawn at 814-453-5921.

Homelessness will be the focus of next month's Roar on the Shore charitable motorcycle rally in Erie. The popular annual event will benefit St. Patrick's Haven, a Sisters of St. Joseph ministry that provides shelter for homeless men in Erie.

This year's gigantic four-day event will include a Faith and Freedom Bayfront Ride with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, scheduled for July 16 at 5 p.m. (Read page 1 for more details.)

The Faith and Freedom Ride will leave from St. Patrick's Haven on Erie's east side. Many sisters, including Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, director of St. Patrick's Haven, will join SSJ associates and St. Patrick's Haven board members on motorcycles or in sidecars.

Mgr. Henry Kriegel, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Erie, will offer a blessing at the beginning.

I, for one, want to see the good sisters rev it up for a good cause!

Greensburg is yet another diocese in the United States that has been granted a preliminary injunction against the Affordable Care Act.

The injunction prevents the federal government from imposing heavy fines on the diocese if it did not provide health insurance for contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs beginning July 1.

The dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh this year both won permanent injunctions against the law.

Greensburg Bishop Lawrence Brandt, former chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, sought the injunction on the grounds that the law violated religious liberty.

In a letter to parishioners before the ruling, Bishop Brandt wrote, "We must remain firm in our convictions and not succumb to accommodations, including third-party payments of premiums for coverages that are contrary to our beliefs."

Mary Solberg is the editor of FaithLife.
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News Briefs

St. Stephen holds Heritage Festival

OIL CITY—St. Stephen Parish in Oil City will hold its annual Heritage Festival July 24-26 in conjunction with Oil City's Oil Heritage Festival.

Festivities at St. Stephen will be held on the parish grounds at the corner of State and Front streets. Events will include games for kids and adults, a bake sale, plus quilt and basket raffles. Also, there will be concession stands and a large gift auction of new items. Game booths and concession stands will be open July 24 from 5 to 10 p.m., July 25 from 6 to 10 p.m., and July 26 from 4 to 10 p.m.

For more information, contact Connie Schwabenbauer at 814-677-5928 or Bonnie Zacherl at 814-827-6397.

Small Christian Communities plan 25th anniversary Mass, celebration

ERIE—Small Christian Communities will celebrate 25 years in the Diocese of Erie this summer.

Anyone who has been a member of a Small Christian Community is invited to attend a 25th anniversary celebration at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Brother Robert Moriarty, SM, director of the Pastoral Department of Small Christian Communities for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., will be the featured speaker at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass.

During the Mass, each parish that is present will be recognized for its faithful effort to develop and continue Small Communities.

Individuals who have participated in a Small Christian Community since the RENEW program are asked to share stories about how the experience shaped their lives and faith.

Reflections can be submitted to Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ, director of the Office for Religious, P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514 or email nfisher@ErieRCD.org.

Union City parish plans three events

UNION CITY—Parishioners at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Union City are busy preparing for three events this summer: a golf outing on July 12, a lawn festival on July 24, and a Golf Balls from Heaven celebration on July 27.

"It's a busy month for us," said Father Thomas Suppa, pastor. Proceeds from all three events will benefit the church building fund and stained glass window project.

On July 12, the 11th annual St. Teresa of Avila Golf Outing will be held at the Union City Country Club, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

On July 24, the St. Teresa Lawn Festival will be held, rain or shine, from 5 to 9 p.m. There will be a grand prize drawing of \$500 that evening.

On July 27, Golf Balls from Heaven will be held at the Union City Country Club, with a shotgun start at noon. Special events that day will include a chicken barbecue dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m., helicopter rides from 1 to 6 p.m., and a golf ball drop at 6 p.m. The person closest to the hole will win \$1,000. For more information on the events and costs, call the parish at 814-438-2000.

Annual flea market scheduled at St. Jude

ERIE—The ladies auxiliary of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie will host its annual flea market July 26 on the front lawn of the church at W. 6th and Peninsula Drive.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those who want to sell items must provide their own tables and purchase space for \$10. Sellers are responsible for their own garbage and clean-up. Set-up begins at 6 a.m. For questions, contact Melissa at 814-397-5998.

Save date for Catholic Women's Conference

ERIE—More than 1,200 women are expected to gather in Erie on Oct. 4 for the inaugural 1:38 Women, Catholic Women's Conference at the Warner Theatre in Erie. Enjoy fellowship and inspiring national speakers along with lunch, adoration and the opportunity for reconciliation. The event will conclude with Mass offered by Bishop Lawrence Persico. For more information, search 1:38 Women on Facebook.

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Immigrant church in Grassflat marks 50th anniversary

By David Solberg
FaithLife

The people of Ss. Peter and Paul Mission in Grassflat are celebrating in a big way today, June 29.

Not only is it the 50th anniversary of their church building, but it's the Feast Day of Ss. Peter and Paul.

"It's going to be a big reunion and a big homecoming for a lot of people in the area," said Father David Perry, pastor.

People from as far away as Ohio and Virginia are expected to attend the event

and Bishop Lawrence Persico will join the festivities by celebrating the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Afterward, an estimated 300 parishioners and visitors will attend a banquet at the parish social hall in this rural Clearfield County community.

The event is expected to draw parishioners from neighboring churches, including St. Severin in Drifting and St. Mary of the Assumption in Frenchville, both of which Father Perry also serves as pastor.

The churches share deep roots that extend well be-



Contributed photos

Ss. Peter and Paul Mission Church, Grassflat

yon 50 years, Father Perry said. Ss. Peter and Paul Mission was founded as a community 110 years ago, in 1904. The original church was built as a mission of the former Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Winburne. The new church was built in 1964.

According to lifelong parishioner Richard Brnik, the 50-year-old mission church was a special project of the late Father Michael Tutokie.

"Father Tutokie took care of his parishes—and he left ours in great financial shape," Brnik said.

The late Archbishop John Mark Gannon assigned Father Tutokie to Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in 1949. The predominantly immigrant commu-

nity had requested a pastor like Father Tutokie who could speak Slovakian. The new pastor soon began significant reconstruction plans for the mission churches in Hawk Run and Grassflat—both named Ss. Peter and Paul. In Father Tutokie's own words at the time, the Grassflat church was "dilapidated and unworthy of further repair."

After the Hawk Run mission was completed in the 1950s, Archbishop Gannon gave Father Tutokie permission to begin construction in Grassflat. The parish worked hard to meet the \$75,000 building cost.

In a correspondence between Archbishop Gannon and Father Tutokie regarding the hard-working immigrant community, the archbishop wrote, "It was a great effort on your part and theirs to save enough money to do such wonderful work, but I am sure our Lord has been watching you and will prepare a blessing for you all when this life is over."



Father David Perry, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Mission Church, Grassflat, greets Patricia Viehdorfer after Mass.

DEATH NOTICE

Benedictine Sister loved the creative arts

Benedictine Sister Veronica Byer, 95, died June 15 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie. She was in the 67th year of her religious life.

She was born April 7, 1919, in Mahanoy City, Pa., the daughter of the late Mary and Victor Byer. In 1947, she entered St. Mary's Priory, Victoria, British Columbia, where she professed first vows in 1949 and perpetual vows in 1953.

She transferred to St. Benedict Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn., in 1963. Six years later, Sister Veronica moved to Erie to be closer to her aging mother. In 1971, she decided to begin the transfer pro-



Sister Veronica Byer, OSB

cess to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. The transfer was completed four years later. In 2009, Sister Veronica celebrated her 60th anniversary as a woman religious. For 10 years, she was a nurse aide at St. Mary's Home, Erie. She was engaged in internal ministry at the monastery, where she conducted household duties and

A master of illustration, Sister Veronica rarely signed her name to a card or letter without the inclusion of a meaningful drawing.

support services. She was a staff member at Benet Press in Erie. Most recently, Sister Veronica embraced the ministry of prayer and presence at the monastery. She was faithful to prayer and was never without her rosary as she walked the halls or the grounds.

Sister Veronica took great pleasure in God's creation and all things beautiful. She was an artist and was well known for the cloth dolls she sewed and dressed with carefully chosen outfits purchased from the Salvation Army or Good Will. Each doll was unique, with a charming, hand-painted face. Sister Veronica was a master of illustration and rarely signed

her name to a card or letter without the inclusion of a meaningful drawing.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by five brothers and four sisters. Survivors include members of her Benedictine community; a brother, Victor; a sister, Kate Minarski; a sister-in-law, Shirley; and nieces and nephews.

Services, visiting hours and a Mass were held at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie. Burial was at Trinity Cemetery on June 18.

Memorials may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511 (www.eriebenedictines.org).

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1:38 Women

K of C gives \$10,000 to Mercer County parishes

SHARON—Knights of Columbus Sharon Council 684 recently presented a \$10,000 check to Father Joseph Campbell, pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Anthony parishes in Mercer County.

The Knights raised the funds through a 200 Club raffle last April. The \$10,000 donation will be split evenly between St. Adalbert and St. Anthony.

"We are very proud of these men and are greatly indebted to them," Father Campbell said.

Pictured, left to right, are: Tim Conlin, Knights treasurer; Father Campbell; and Pete Lombardi, grand knight.



Students enjoy colorful science camp



CLARION—Students from various regional school districts recently attended the Camp Hands On Science program at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion June 9-12.

The academic camp is directed and instructed by Nadine Babington, a third-grade teacher at Immaculate Conception. Participants investigated a wide

variety of topics, including animal classification, bubbles, volcanoes, water cycle, stars, planets, the moon, herbs and rocks.

"I had a blast gathering the materials for the activities and teaching the camp," Babington said.

Pictured are Immaculate Conception students Alex Cussins and Avery Fallor.

Warren parish awards scholarships

WARREN—Todd Fasenmyer, left, and Jacob Papalia, both graduating seniors at Warren Area High School, were this year's recipients of the Holy Redeemer Parish Scholarship Award. Established in 1999, the award recognizes students who have given much of their time and talents to the parish during their four years of high school.

Both students have been altar servers since fourth grade and also have helped with the religious education program. They have helped with special liturgies and have attended local, diocesan and national youth events. Both scholarship winners are furthering their education. They are pictured with Father James Gutting, pastor.



Punxsutawney school receives \$100,000



PUNXSUTAWNEY—Students in grades kindergarten through 8 at St. Cosmas and Damian School in Punxsutawney will benefit from scholarship money made available through Frank Roberts & Sons, Inc. of Punxsutawney. The Roberts corporation recently gave \$100,000 to the school through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC). The business has been a longtime supporter of tax-incentive giving.

"It's amazing. Their support helps quite a few families attend the school who might not otherwise be able to attend," said Tony Bofinger, the school business manager.

Pictured in the back, left to right, are: Msgr. Joseph J. Riccardi, pastor of St. Cosmas and Damian; Fred Roberts of Frank Roberts & Sons; and Jessica Dinger, principal. In the foreground are students Griffin White, Noah Kengersky and Olivia Roberts.

Eighth-graders graduate from St. Patrick

FRANKLIN—Three students graduated June 6 from St. Patrick School in Franklin. The speaker for the evening was Deacon Walt Jones. Benediction followed the presentation of the graduates and their awards. Graduates greeted their families, friends and teachers in Cenedella Hall for light refreshments. Homeroom teacher Julie Parquette produced a video of the graduates and presented it to those in attendance at Dion Auditorium.

Pictured, left to right, are: Msgr. John Herbein, pastor; students Aaron Foreman, Michael Prince and Eric Crockett; and Deacon Jones. All three boys will attend Venango Catholic High School in the fall.



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