



ULTRASOUND BLESSED PAGE 3

FaithLife

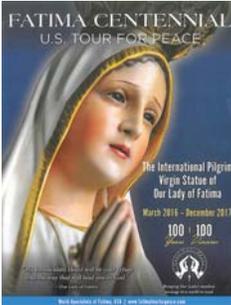
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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 5, 2016

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit diocese



NORTH EAST—St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish in North East will host a two-day visit next month by the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The world-famous statue has been traveling the globe since 1947 and is currently on a two-year journey in the United States to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother at Fatima in Portugal.

St. Gregory is planning Fatima celebrations June 29-30 at the church, 48 S. Pearl St., North East. There will be processions, Mass, rosary, confessions, talks on Fatima, anointing of the sick, scapular enrollment and private veneration of the statue.

Since its creation nearly 70 years ago, the statue has visited more than 100 countries. During its U.S. tour—called the Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace—it is expected to visit 100 dioceses in all 50 states. The tour will culminate on Dec. 20, 2017, the centenary of Mary's six apparitions to children in Fatima.

STATUE SCHEDULE AT ST. GREGORY

Wednesday, June 29, 2016
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

- 5 p.m. Confessions
- 6 p.m. Opening Mass and procession (Mass celebrated by Father David Poulson, spiritual director of the Erie Diocesan World Apostolate of Fatima. Following Mass, there will be a brief talk by the statue custodian, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, anointing of the sick, public recitation of the rosary, and all-night adoration.)

Thursday, June 30, 2016
Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8 a.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10 a.m. Confessions/rosary
- 11 a.m. Procession/Mass celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico followed by hospitality in the lower level of the church
- 2 p.m. Talk by the statue custodian (The church remains open all afternoon for private prayer, visitation and veneration.)
- 5 p.m. Public rosary

2,000 react to parish restructuring

Bishop to review feedback

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

About 2,000 parishioners from throughout the Diocese of Erie—and even 148 people who live elsewhere but attend Mass here during hunting seasons—have submitted feedback on the preliminary parish restructuring plan proposed by Bishop Law-

rence Persico.

"It tells us that people truly care about their parishes," said Deacon Mary Eisert, chairperson of the Pastoral Planning Committee.

Catholics and their parish communities in the 13-county diocese had until May 20 to respond to the bishop's initial proposal to significantly restructure parishes.

Under the proposed plan, numerous parishes will be closed due to mergers with other parishes. The church buildings of these former parishes, however, will remain available for feast days, and weddings and funerals upon request.

Also under the preliminary plan, 21 churches in the diocese will begin new partnerships with each other. These churches will continue to exist as distinct parishes with their own

parishioners, parish church and finances, but will share one pastor, one parish council, one staff and one office.

The majority of parishes that currently stand alone or are partnered parishes will remain as they are now, with no changes forthcoming.

Responses were mailed to St. Mark Catholic Center, or were submitted electronically via a form on the diocesan website.

Another petition, signed by 103

people, requested that St. Hedwig Church be affiliated with St. Stanislaus Parish, both of which are mostly Polish communities. Under the plan, St. Hedwig is to become a secondary church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie.

According to Deacon Eisert, the bishop's proposal presented in April was not a final document.

"No final decisions have been made," he said. "Those final decisions will be arrived at only after a thorough review of the feedback."

Over the summer, Bishop Persico will analyze the feedback with the pastoral planning team and members of the Presbyteral Council. Appropriate adjustments may be made. The bishop is expected to announce a final decision on parish restructuring in mid-September.

ORDINATION SEASON

Deacons prepare for the priesthood

A generation separates Deacons David Carter and James Power, but they have one thing in common: Both will be ordained to the priesthood June 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Deacon Carter is 62 years old; Deacon Power is 26. "I'm so happy that he [Carter] discerned his call in this way and at this time in life that I get to be his classmate," Deacon Power says.

A native of Baltimore, Deacon Carter came to his vocation late in life, having entered major seminary at St. Vincent in Latrobe in the fall of 2012. He had worked for 21 years in the retail division of Paulist Press, and another 11 years at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

"I don't have quite the level of energy that 26-year-olds do, but on the other hand, I'm a little bit more calm than some of them," Deacon Carter says.

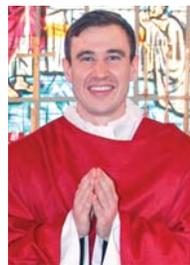
Deacon Power is a native of St. Patrick Parish in Erie. He completed his priestly formation at St. Mary's Seminary.

The public is invited to attend the ordination at St. Peter Cathedral.

See more ordination coverage in the June 19 issue. VIDEO INTERVIEWS at www.ErieRCD.org/seminary.asp



Deacon David Carter



Deacon James Power

North East native ordained



Father Ryan Gray, center, is pictured with his parents, Gary and Eileen Gray, following his ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio. Father Gray is a graduate of St. Gregory School in North East.

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio — Eileen Gray, a parishioner of St. Gregory Parish in North East, felt an affinity to the Blessed Mother when her son Ryan was ordained to the priesthood May 20 in the Diocese of Steubenville.

When she took gifts to the altar at his first Mass the next day at Holy Rosary Parish in Steubenville, she clearly understood her role as the mother of a priest.

"When I took up the gifts at his first Mass, I knew I was taking up the gifts for him to consecrate for the first time, but I also knew I left him at the altar as a gift to the Catholic Church," Gray says. "God gave him to me and now I gave him back to God."

Father Ryan's dad, Gary Gray, called the ordination weekend "a whirlwind" of activity, with Masses, receptions and time to celebrate with family and friends traveling from 10 different states.

Eighty-five-year-old Dolores Gray, Father Ryan's paternal grandmother and also a parishioner of St. Gregory's, was on-hand, too.

"It was really emotional and heartwarming," Gary Gray says. The youngest of the Gray's five children, Father Ryan is 30. His path to the priesthood, some might say, was no surprise.

"He was always a sweet kid; loving and kind, so it wasn't a shock to us," Gary Gray says. A graduate of St. Gregory

School in North East, young Ryan went on to graduate from North East High School. He attended Clarion University of Pennsylvania, but later decided to enroll at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The spiritual energy at Franciscan provided a perfect environment for Father Ryan to explore his calling. He started to attend daily Mass.

In 2010, Father Ryan graduated from Franciscan University and then entered the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. In 2012, he earned a bachelor of philosophy degree from the Josephinum, and on May 14 was awarded his bachelor of sacred theology degree and a master of divinity degree.

"I feel great about being a priest. One of the highlights is being able to offer the sacrifice of the Mass for various people who have been extremely generous to me during my time in the seminary and throughout my life," Father Ryan says.

Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton ordained Father Ryan and assigned him to The Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, as parochial vicar.

Father Thomas Brooks, pastor of St. Gregory, celebrated at the ordination Mass.

For the Grays, the ordination and its meaning are settling in.

"It's hard to comprehend your own child being able to bring Jesus to the entire world," Eileen Gray says.

Diocesan graphic designer and FaithLife editor win awards this spring

Addys and Golden Quill

The awards season has just begun for the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Erie.

This spring, two staff members have been honored for their work in graphic design and editorial content.

Graphic designer Elizabeth Butterfield won two Silver Addys from the American Advertising Federation, sponsored by the Erie Ad Club.

She won a Silver Addy for her Christmas card, titled, "Oh Christmas Three," and another Silver Addy for the 20th anniversary Catholic Charities Ball invitation.

Mary Solberg, editor of FaithLife newspaper, won first place in the 52nd Annual Golden Quill Awards sponsored by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania.

She won the Golden Quill for her article submitted in the history category for non-dailies. Published April 19, 2015, the article was titled, "Saints & Witches," the story of an Oil City couple related



Elizabeth Butterfield



Mary Solberg

to both a saint and a woman hanged for witchcraft in Massachusetts. The article was picked up by Catholic News Service and re-published in diocesan newspapers

across the country. Also, Solberg was a finalist in two other categories: sports and feature articles published in non-dailies.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

ROME—Salvatore Ruiu and Davide Paulis carry a torch during the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics soccer tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in Rome May 20. The tournament brings together players with and without intellectual disabilities as a model for how communities can include those with disabilities



CNS photo

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

■ Slovak nun killed in South Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)—Missionaries and other Catholics gathered in Nairobi May 23 for a requiem Mass for a Slovak nun killed in Yei, South Sudan.

Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Veronika Theresia Rackova, 58, director of St. Bakhita Medical Center in Yei, was shot the night of May 16 while driving an ambulance after taking an expectant mother to the hospital. When the ambulance was attacked by soldiers, Sister Rackova was wounded in the hip and abdomen.

After two surgeries in Yei, she was evacuated to Nairobi, where she died May 20. Sister Maria Jerly, regional superior for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, told Catholic News Service that Sister Rackova was shot as people marked John Garang Day. A motive for the shooting was not known.

Three soldiers were arrested in connection with the incident. Sister Rackova was born Jan. 8, 1958, and professed final vows in 1994. As a medical doctor with specialization in tropical diseases, she worked in Ghana. She served as head of the province of Slovakia 2004-2010, after which she was assigned to South Sudan.



CNS photo

Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Veronika Theresia Rackova

■ Two appointed to monitor diocesan response to sex abusers

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A Catholic school educator and a retired U.S. Navy officer have been named to serve on the U.S. bishops' National Review Board, the all-day group that monitors dioceses' performance in dealing with sexually abusive priests and creating a safe environment for children throughout the church.

Educator Ernest Stark and retired Rear Adm. Garry E. Hall, CEO and president of the Association of the U.S. Navy, were appointed by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Beginning in June, they will serve four-year terms.

The archbishop also reappointed Francesco C. Cesareo, president of Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., as chairman of the board for a four-year term, beginning in June.

■ Aid groups welcome global fund for refugee children

ISTANBUL (CNS)—Aid groups, including Catholic organizations, welcomed the establishment of the first global fund for education for refugee children, announced at the World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey's financial capital.

"Thirty million children have lost their homes—they must not lose their education," Kevin Watkins, executive director of the London-based Overseas Development Institute, said earlier. The United Nations estimates that one in four of the world's school-age children now live in countries affected by a crisis.

The "Education Cannot Wait" initiative initially seeks to raise \$3.85 billion to help 20 million refugee youth over the next five years. Ultimately, it aims to address \$11.6 billion needed to support 75 million children worldwide, the institute said.

Direct from the Vatican

In the words of Pope Francis

The following is the official English-language summary of Pope Francis' May 25 general audience remarks on the importance of persevering in prayer:

In our continuing catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now turn to the parable of the unjust judge and the widow (Luke 18:1-8). In telling us that even an unscrupulous judge will finally render justice to a poor woman because of her persistence, Jesus encourages us to persevere in prayer to our heavenly Father, who is infinitely just and loving.

He also assures us that God will not only hear our prayers, but will not delay in answering them (vv. 7-8). The Gospels tell us that Jesus himself prayed constantly. His own intense prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is a model for our own: It teaches us to present our petitions with complete trust in the Father's gracious will.

The parable of the unjust judge and the widow ends with a pointed question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (v. 8).

Perseverance in prayer keeps our faith alive and strong. For in that prayer, we experience the compassion of God who, like a father filled with love and mercy, is ever ready to come to the aid of his children.



CNS photo

Pope Francis enjoys meeting throngs of people during a general audience at the Vatican May 25.

The following is an excerpt from Pope Francis' homily at a May 23 Mass in the chapel of the Santa Marta guesthouse at the Vatican:

A Christian is a man or a woman of joy; a man and a woman with joy in their heart. There is no Christian without joy! ...

The Christian identity card is joy, the Gospel's joy, the joy of having been chosen by Jesus, saved by Jesus, regenerated by Jesus; the joy of that hope that Jesus is waiting for us, the joy that—even with the crosses and sufferings we bear in this life—is expressed in another way, which is peace in the certainty that Jesus accompanies us, is with us. ...

The Christian grows in joy through trusting in God. God always remembers his covenant.

■ Editor's Notes by Mary Solberg will return June 19

'God weeps'—Church reaches out to sex abuse survivors



Guest Commentary

By A.B. Hill

"I am deeply sorry. God weeps," Pope Francis said last September after meeting with several sexual abuse survivors during his visit to Philadelphia.

All of us in the Catholic community must do what we can to understand the pain, anger and isolation experienced by a survivor of the crime of childhood sexual abuse.

The news of the grand jury investigation of abuse allegations in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has provoked confusion about the church's response. Many

Catholics may not realize how dioceses continue to take responsibility for the abuse that occurred in our church.

For more than a decade, the Catholic community has consistently enforced strict safe environment policies and offered assistance to survivors and their families. While recognizing and respecting that every individual must take his or her own personal journey to heal, the church is committed to offering assistance.

All survivors of abuse are offered assistance no matter how long ago the crime occurred. Each diocese has trained and deployed professional victim assistance staff to provide a response that is compassionate, supportive and sensitive to the needs of survivors.

Every diocese has an office for victim/survivor assistance, which provides a range of support.

To date, Pennsylvania's dioceses have spent more than \$16.6 million on victim/survivor assistance services to provide compassionate support to individuals and families.

The Catholic Church has a sincere commitment to the emotional and spiritual well-being of indi-

viduals who have been impacted by the crime of childhood sexual abuse.

One survivor from the Diocese of Pittsburgh said: "After years of hurt and anger, I broke my silence and reached out to this church for help. What I found surprised me: caring Catholics who weren't afraid to hear my story and share my pain."

"They taught me to trust again, restoring my wounded faith. With their help and God's grace, I experienced the healing I'd longed for. Forgiveness dispelled anger, love washed away pain, and dignity replaced shame. If you or a loved one has been hurt—even if you've left the church—I pray you will reach out to this diocese for help. You don't have to carry your burden alone."

We pray that the Catholic Church's painful past will contribute to a better understanding of sexual abuse in all sectors of society.

We must always encourage anyone who has been abused to report the abuse and seek help immediately by calling the toll-free Pennsylvania ChildLine number at 800-932-0313 or local law enforcement.

For more information, contact your diocesan victim/survivor assistance coordinator who is available to help victims/survivors make a formal complaint of abuse to the diocese or eparchy, arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, and to obtain support services for the needs of the individual and families.

In the Diocese of Erie, that role is fulfilled by Karen Streett, who can be reached at 814-824-1195, or at kstreett@ErieRCD.org.

Despite these efforts to support survivors of abuse, state lawmakers are now considering a proposal that could lead to the closure of parishes, schools and ministries of today's Catholics, who are in no way responsible for abuse that occurred decades ago.

Go to www.pacatholic.org to learn how House Bill 1947 would open nonprofit private organizations like our parishes and schools to costly and unfair lawsuits from decades ago, but gives public schools and government entities a pass.

A.B. Hill is director of communications for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference in Harrisburg.

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EVENTS

St. Anthony novena scheduled at St. Paul Church

ERIE—All are welcome to attend a novena to St. Anthony at St. Paul Church, 1617 Walnut St., Erie, June 5-13. A Mass will be held each day, with Father Jerry Priscaro officiating. Following is the novena schedule:

- June 5-10 at 9 a.m.
- June 11 at 4:30 p.m.
- June 12 at 10 a.m.
- June 13 at 9 a.m., followed by a breakfast (cost is \$6).

Sharon parish hosts three nights of prayer

SHARON—St. Anthony Church, 804 Idaho St., Sharon, will host three nights of prayer and reflection June 14-16, beginning at 7 p.m. each evening.

St. Joseph to hold annual rummage sale

WARREN—St. Joseph Church and School in Warren are holding their annual rummage sale June 16-17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, and June 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

June 18 is \$1-a-bag day. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph School.

Wedding anniversary celebrations scheduled

ERIE—Diocesan anniversary celebrations for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more years of marriage in 2016 will be held at two locations in the Diocese of Erie this summer:

- July 31 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek
 - Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. at Queen of the World Church, St. Marys.
- The deadline to register for the July 31 event is July 22. The deadline to register for the Aug. 7 celebration is July 29.
- A registration form is available at www.ErieRCD.org/anniv.htm. For more information, call the Family Life Office at 1-800-374-3723 or 814-824-1250.

Youth invited to Summer School of Excellence

ERIE—Students interested in the sciences and who would like to study health effects related to environmental issues are invited to apply for Gannon University's two-week Summer School of Excellence July 5-15.

Applicants must be current high school sophomores and juniors. Students will work aboard Gannon's research vessel, the Environator, while studying Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.

There is no cost to participate and lunches are provided at no fee. Students are encouraged to apply on or before June 17. Students must provide their own transportation.

For more information, contact Stanley J. Zagorski at 814-871-7641 or at zagorski001@gannon.edu.

For an application, visit www.gannon.edu/campgannon. The Summer School of Excellence is sponsored by Gannon University, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit.

Ultrasound machine blessed

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

About half of the 20 to 50 women who annually visit Boro Women & Family Services in Edinboro want an abortion.

That's a statistic Betty Jo Lyons, executive director, cannot accept.

Thanks to a new 3-D ultrasound machine, she hopes to reverse those numbers and instill confidence in women afraid of

the consequences of their pregnancies.

"If you're in crisis pregnancy outreach, you always hope that you'll have the ability to get someone an ultrasound because it's tangible," Lyons said. "When you're pregnant in the beginning, you don't feel it or see it. All you know is that a test says you're positive. When you scan the stomach and the pregnancy comes up and there's a life, then it's real."

Boro Women & Family Services operates only on grants and private donations. It considers itself "life-affirming."

On May 13, the \$35,000 ultrasound machine was blessed at the nearby Rolland Chiropractic Center. Chiropractor Chad Rolland offered his space, he said, to do his part "to help preserve life and to serve God wherever we can."

Several members of the Edinboro community—including Father Daniel Hoffman, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish; members of the Knights of Columbus; and individual donors—came together for the blessing. It was the final step in a nearly four-year fundraising effort.

Our Lady of the Lake parishioners contributed a significant amount through a baby bottle fundraiser program organized by the Knights of Columbus. Other local faith communities donated, too, along with private donors and the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council from New Haven, Conn., which provided matching funds.

After blessing the machine, Father Hoffman lauded the commitment of those who had a part in its purchase and installation. He called them "courageous witnesses of the culture of life."

"This is a big step in the right direction," Father Hoffman said.

Three trained technicians affiliated with Boro Women & Family Services will operate the machine, but they will not provide medical or diagnostic services. Clients are encouraged to follow up with a physician.

"The ultrasound machine gives an image and an estimated gestational age," Lyons explained. "When a mother says 'baby,' then we can say 'baby.' It's important that we do that because otherwise those who challenge us would say that we are trying to intimidate. That's not our intention. Our intention is to share the truth. The truth will speak for itself. It always does."



Father Daniel Hoffman, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, blesses the new ultrasound machine for Boro Women & Family Services.

Photo by Mary Solberg

OBITUARY

Father Regis J. Meenihan

Served as pastor, teacher, campus minister

PITTSBURGH—Father Regis J. Meenihan, 74, died May 21 at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Father Meenihan was born Sept. 28, 1941, in Pittsburgh, the son of the late Regis Leo and Marita (Harper) Meenihan.

After graduating from Taylor Allderdice Senior High School, he attended California University of Pennsylvania, where he received his bachelor's degree in education. He en-

listed in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1960, serving until 1966. He worked in various capacities and later earned his master's and doctorate in education before seeking admission in 1986 to St. Mark Seminary, Erie. He completed his formation

for the priesthood at St. Vincent Major Seminary in Latrobe, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie on April 24, 1992, at St. Peter Cathedral.

Father Meenihan began his priestly ministry as parochial vicar at Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale, and continued in the same capacity at St. Michael Parish, Greenville, from 1992-93 and 1994-95. He was pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Force, from 2002-04; St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish, North East, from 2004-05; and St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda, in

2005. He also was parochial administrator of St. Adrian, Delancey; St. Anthony, Walston; and St. Joseph, Anita.

He worked in secondary education at Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage, from 1993-94; at Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie, from 1995-98, and at Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys, from 2003-04.

Father Meenihan also served as chaplain of Harborcreek Youth Services, Erie, from 1995-98; Allegheny College, Meadville, from 2000-02; and St. John XXIII Home, Sharon, from 2008-10. He also served as campus minister at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania from 2007-08.

He retired in 2010. Survivors include his sister, Maralee Murray, and her husband, David, of Beaver Falls, Pa.; his niece, Marci Fitzgerald, and her husband, Michael, and their two children, Jacob and Brooke.

Visitation was held May 26 at St. Stanislaus Kosciuszko-Holy Trinity Church in Sharon. Bishop Lawrence Persico celebrated a funeral Mass there May 27. Burial was private.



Father Regis J. Meenihan

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Sisters make special visit to Clearfield



CLEARFIELD—Two Franciscan Sisters of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother in Toronto, Ohio, recently visited students at St. Francis School in Clearfield. **Sister Carrie Ann McKeown, TOR**, far left at top, and **Mother Mary Ann Kessler, TOR**, center top, are pictured with **Father John Miller**, pastor, second-graders, and **Susan Thorp**, second-grade teacher.

Students at St. Gregory School win first place at Envirothon



NORTH EAST—St. Gregory School won first place in the Erie County Middle School Envirothon on May 12 at Headwater Park in Erie. St. Gregory competed with middle schoolers from North East, Harborcreek and Warsawburg. Students participated in an oral presentation on invasive species, as well as tests on aquatic, forestry, wildlife and soils. Pictured, from left, are members of the winning team: **Aiden Kemp**, **Morgan Bradley**, **Corinne Ferrick** and **Christian Girts**.

It's pancake dinner time in Kane



KANE—Parishioners at St. Callistus Church in Kane enjoyed a pancake dinner May 15 to benefit the people of Flint, Mich., who are still undergoing difficulties from lead in their drinking water. This year's confirmation class and other parish kitchen helpers made and served the breakfast. Pictured, from left, are: **Mary Tunall**, **Sue Zampogna**, **Camryn Cummings** and **Ellen Cecchetti**. With their backs to the camera are: **Alyssa Zampogna** and **Angela Cecchetti**.

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Gannon students collect Box Tops



ERIE—Members of Delta Sigma Phi at Gannon University in Erie recently conducted a service project to benefit St. Luke School in Erie. They collected more than 300 Box Tops from various commercial products. The money raised from Box Tops is used for various school needs. Pictured with the school frog, **CruSadie**, are: Gannon student **Anthony Herman**, first-grader **Joey Wagner**, eighth-grader **Jake Kruzewski**, seventh-grader **Matt Luce**, seventh-grader **Lydia Wagner**, and Gannon student **Randy Clapp**.

First Communion class celebrates two special occasions in Franklin



FRANKLIN—Father **Jason Mitchell**, far left, was the celebrant at the First Communion Mass May 7 at St. Patrick Church in Franklin. Father Mitchell, a faculty member at Gannon University, has been at the parish every weekend since **Mgr. John Herbin**, pastor, had back surgery in December. Other clergy pictured with Father Mitchell are **Deacons Walt Jones**, top right, and **Dick Reed**. After Mass, the congregation and first communicants processed to the rectory lawn for the May Crowning. **Anthony Phillips** carried the crown, and **Katie Boal** placed the crown on Mary.

Franklin kids enjoy visit to St. Peter Cathedral and other locations



ERIE—St. Patrick School students from Franklin visited Erie recently for a tour of St. Peter Cathedral, a lunch at St. Peter Cathedral School, and a trip to Erie's Maritime Museum. The students are pictured on the altar of St. Peter Cathedral.

Cursillo Movement hosts annual charity dance to benefit CRM



ERIE—The past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently hosted their annual charity dance at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie, raising \$1,095.48.

The funds were shared with Catholic Rural Ministry in the Oil City Deanery. Catholic Rural Ministry provides pastoral care to people through home visits, community retreats, spiritual workshops and youth-building activities.

Pictured, from left, are: **Tim Nowakowski**, lead coordinator of the dance; **Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler** and **Mercy Sister Tina Geiger**, both of Catholic Rural Ministry; and **Jim Hess**, Cursillo president.

Pre-K and kindergarten class make blankets for Project Linus



SMETHPORT—Pre-K and kindergarten students at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Smethport recently created two blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need. Pictured with the finished blankets are some of the students and their high school helpers. In the front, from left, are: **Lilly Vandermark**, **Wyant Hungville** and **Jonah McKeiran**. Pictured from the left in the back row, with a cut-out of Pope Francis, are: **Kevin Long**, **Brooke Morgan** and **Abbey Woodard**.

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