



Drifting catechist, Greenville principal retire after 50, 40 years of service, respectively, page 4.



## Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church

### Feast days



St. Maximilian Kolbe



St. Rose of Lima

- Aug. 11 St. Clare
- Aug. 13 Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
- Aug. 14 St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Aug. 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug. 16 St. Stephen of Hungary
- Aug. 20 St. Bernard
- Aug. 21 St. Pius X
- Aug. 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Aug. 23 St. Rose of Lima
- Aug. 24 St. Bartholomew
- Aug. 25 St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz
- Aug. 27 St. Monica
- Aug. 28 St. Augustine
- Aug. 29 Passion of St. John the Baptist
- Sept. 3 St. Gregory the Great
- Sept. 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Confirmations

Bishop Donald Trautman will visit the following churches to offer the sacrament of confirmation:

**Immaculate Conception, Clarion** – Sunday, Sept. 16 at 11 a.m.

**Sacred Heart, Erie** – Sunday, Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Confirmation classes include St. Andrew, Erie, and Sacred Heart, Erie.

### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holiday of obligation) – Aug. 15

"Finally the immaculate virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her son, the Lord of Lords and conqueror of sin and death."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 966



### 5k for Catholic education

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

The entry fee is \$20. Registration can be done online at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

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

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

The initial race raised more than \$2,000 for the Bishop's Tuition Assistance Program.

The project, organized by local youth for youth, looks to continue raising both awareness and funds for education within the diocese, as well as promoting youth activism within the church.

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



Watch videos of Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico's news conferences in Erie and Greensburg, view photos and learn about the Diocese of Erie's past bishops.

## A new shepherd – Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico

### Pope appoints Greensburg priest as Diocese of Erie's 10th bishop

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE — Msgr. Lawrence Persico, JCL, a priest and vicar general of the Diocese of Greensburg, has been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the new bishop of the Diocese of Erie.

The appointment was announced by the Vatican at Roman noon (6 a.m. EST) July 31. Announcements were made by the papal nuncio's office in Washington, D.C., and by the Diocese of Erie.

With the appointment, the pope accepted the resignation of Bishop Donald Trautman and appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese until Oct. 1 when Bishop-elect Persico will be installed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Erie. Bishop Trautman, 76, submitted his resignation last year when he turned 75, the mandatory retirement age for bishops.

Bishop-elect Persico entered the auditorium at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie to a standing ovation from diocesan staff members and employees. Bishop Trautman opened the news conference by reading a prayer for a new bishop which he composed last year and requested it be placed in parishes.

"The Lord has answered our prayer and the Diocese of Erie without any preconceived



Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico smiles during the July 31 news conference announcing his appointment as the new bishop of the Diocese of Erie. "I am delighted to be coming to Erie," Bishop-elect Persico said.

plans and is eager to listen and learn.

"I am eager to listen and learn," he said. "It would be foolish of me to come here with a grand plan for the Diocese of Erie. I don't know what the needs are. I need to hear what the people have to tell me. I need to hear what the priests have to say. I need

to hear what all of my constituents need. And then, together, we find solutions."

He said the church in northwestern Pennsylvania is similar to the church in western Pennsylvania where he has lived and ministered throughout his priesthood.

"It's the same type of people—blue collar, hard working. I think that they care about their faith, their church. I think like the people in western Pennsylvania, they want to be close to God and get to know him."

He said one of the biggest challenges facing the larger church is secularism.

"Our world today faces a secularism that tries to set itself up as a god almost in the sense of holding us away



Bishop Donald Trautman places a zucchetto on the head of Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico. The fuchsia zucchetto, a small, round silk skullcap, is a symbol of the office of bishop.

from our relationship to Jesus Christ," he said. "That can be very dangerous because the culture cannot give us what Jesus Christ can give us. No matter what material things we may have, what wealth we may have, that doesn't take the place of Jesus Christ."

When asked if he would be willing to continue the diocese's lawsuit against the federal government seeking to overturn the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate, he said, "Oh, absolutely." His comment was followed by applause from diocesan employees. The mandate would force employers to provide insurance cover-

See NEW SHEPHERD page 2

## Statement from Bishop-elect Persico

*Editor's note: The following text is a statement from Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico which he read at the July 31 news conference announcing his appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Erie.*

On this day my thoughts go first to giving thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings that he has bestowed upon me through-out the course of my life. I am grateful to God first and foremost for the gift of life itself. Also thanking him for giving me the privilege to share in the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ for the

past 35 years. I thank him now for the opportunity to shepherd his people in the church of Erie.

I am deeply humbled by the confidence that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has placed in me by this appointment as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Erie, and pledge him my loyalty and fidelity.

I express heartfelt thanks to Pope Benedict for entrusting to me the responsibility of leading the good people of this local church, in these 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania in their pilgrimage of faith, as we

journey together toward the fullness of the kingdom of God.

I am grateful to Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, for his solicitude and support in this appointment.

I am grateful to Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt, the bishop of Greensburg, who has been a wonderful mentor and friend to me. I have been privileged to serve as his vicar general, and now look forward to working together with him as a brother bishop

**"I come with only one agenda, and that is to share with you my faith in Jesus Christ."**

— Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico



in the province of Pennsylvania.

I am delighted to be coming to Erie! I look forward to building on the wonderful work which Bishop Donald Trautman has accomplished during his 22 years as the bishop of Erie. He has set the bar high for any future bishop of Erie. He was gracious enough to call me after the nuncio informed him of my appointment. Bishop Trautman expressed how much he loved being the bishop of Erie and the great respect he has for the deep faith of the

See STATEMENT, page 3

## Bishop-elect Persico – curriculum vitae

Bishop-elect Lawrence Thomas Persico, JCL, was born in Monessen, Pa., on Nov. 21, 1950. He is the son of the late John B. and the late Helen Gush Persico. His brother, John E. Persico, lives in Monessen with his wife, Nira; he also has a late sister, Betty E. Angeline, as well as seven nieces and nephews.

He attended St. Cajetan Elementary School in Monessen and St. Joseph Hall, the diocesan high school seminary in Greensburg, Pa., graduating in 1969. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1973 from St. Pius X in Erlanger in the Diocese of Covington, Ky., and graduated from Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., in 1975 with a Master of Divinity degree.

Bishop-elect Persico was ordained a deacon on June 8, 1976 and served as deacon at Holy Family Parish in Latrobe. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Greensburg on April 30, 1977 by Bishop William G. Connor at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. Following ordination



Bishop-elect Lawrence T. Persico, JCL

to the priesthood, Bishop-elect Persico was appointed parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish in Irwin, Pa.

In June of 1980, he was

released from parish ministry to study canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

See VITAE, page 3

## Ordination, installation of bishop-elect set for Oct. 1

By Jason Koshinski  
FaithLife editor

ERIE — Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico will be ordained and installed as the 10th bishop of Erie on Monday, Oct. 1 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie during a 2:30 p.m. Mass and ceremony.

The announcement was made by Bishop Donald Trautman July 31 during Bishop-elect Persico's appointment announcement and introduction at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie.

The ordaining prelate will be Archbishop Charles Chaput, the archbishop of Philadelphia. Bishop Trautman and Bishop Lawrence Brandt of the Diocese of Greensburg will act as co-consecrators. The homilist at the Mass will be Archbishop Chaput.

There will be a vespers service on Sunday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the cathedral. At that time, the bishop-elect will take an oath of office. But his actual ordination will

be Oct. 1

Bishop-elect Persico has already chosen six days in October when he will visit the three vicariates of the Diocese of Erie. Plans call for him to visit the Eastern Vicariate Oct. 9 and Oct. 22. He will visit the Western Vicariate Oct. 11 and Oct. 23. He is scheduled to visit the Northern Vicariate Oct. 24 and Oct. 25. Each evening will include a social hour with area priests and Mass at 7 p.m. followed by a social reception for the public. The details of each location are being organized by the diocesan vicars and will be announced at a later date.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2 for the first time, the bishops of Pennsylvania will meet in Erie at their semi-annual provincial meeting at St. Mark Catholic Center. Bishop Trautman said it is a convenient time for the bishops, as they will attend Bishop-elect Persico's episcopal ordination and installation the previous day.

**IN THE U.S.**

**Government pressure on religious groups growing in U.S., says archbishop**

Government pressure on religious entities "goes well beyond" the current federal contraceptive mandate and has become "a pattern in recent years," said Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput. "It involves interfering with the conscience rights of medical providers, private employers and individual citizens," he said in a July 27 keynote address at the Napa Institute Conference. "It includes attacks on the policies, hiring practices and tax statuses of religious charities, hospitals and other ministries. These attacks are real. They're happening now. And they'll get worse as America's religious character weakens," the archbishop said in a speech titled "Building a Culture of Religious Freedom."

He said Catholics have to fight for what they believe about abortion, sexuality, marriage and the family and religious liberty. "We have a duty to treat all persons with charity and justice. We have a duty to seek common ground where possible. But that's never an excuse for compromising with grave evil. ... And it's never an excuse for standing idly by while our liberty to preach and serve God in the public square is whittled away," he said.

**Community urged to turn doubts, fears over to God after shooting**

Denver Auxiliary Bishop James Conley said July 22 the "senseless and evil act of violence" at an Aurora movie theater has left many wondering how and why such a tragedy could have happened. In his invocation at an evening prayer service at the Aurora Municipal Center that drew thousands, he said the community will never be the same after a gunman killed 12 people and wounded 58 at a midnight showing of the latest Batman movie, "The Dark Knight Rises."

"Questions arise when the everyday securities and certainties of life — the trust we carry in our fellow human beings, that we can safely go to work each day, or to school, or to the movies, are shaken," Bishop Conley said at the prayer service. "It's natural for us to wonder why does this kind of suffering happen and what does it really mean? We who gather tonight have come to seek answers. Not the answers that the commentators on television might provide, but answers to the real questions that leave us feeling insecure and fearful." He urged the crowd to place their questions, fears and uncertainties "in the hands of our loving and merciful God."



A man holds a sign during a July 22 vigil for victims behind the theater in Aurora, Colo.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**Papal book completed; new encyclical next?**

Pope Benedict XVI has finished the third volume of his opus, "Jesus of Nazareth," and perhaps also will publish an encyclical letter during the upcoming Year of Faith. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Pope Benedict's top collaborator and Vatican secretary of state, told reporters Aug. 1 that the pope had finished his manuscript on Jesus' infancy and childhood. "It is a great gift for the Year of Faith," the cardinal said. The first volume of "Jesus of Nazareth," covering the period from Jesus' baptism to his Transfiguration, was published in 2007. The second volume, looking at his passion and death, came out in 2011. The third volume is currently being translated into a variety of languages.

The Vatican press office did not comment on a possible new encyclical. However, many observers expect there to be a document focusing on the virtue of faith to complete a series of Pope Benedict's reflections on the theological virtues. His encyclical on charity ("Deus Caritas Est") was published in 2005, and two years later he released his encyclical on hope ("Spe Salvi"). The pope has called for a special Year of Faith, which will open Oct. 11 — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council — and run through Nov. 24, 2013.

**Catholic aid workers find Syrian refugees are in dark about the future**

Refugees from Syria are in "complete darkness" about their future, said an official with Caritas Lebanon. Father Simon Faddoul, president of Caritas Lebanon, which has been working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon for 14 months, said there was a large influx of people during the last week of July as more than 20,000 refugees fled violence in Damascus and Homs. "The situation we are in at the moment is terrible. What tomorrow will bring? Unfortunately, we estimate a worse situation," he said. "The human plight and wound in this part of the world is getting deeper." A Catholic Relief Services staff member chronicling the stories of refugees in border communities in Jordan and Lebanon found people fraught with concern for relatives and friends left behind as they were forced to flee the escalating violence with little advance notice.



Syrian refugees fleeing the violence in their country make their way to a refugee camp in the Jordanian city of Mafraq July 31.

**By the Way...**

Habemus episcopam! (We have a bishop!) The timing of Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico's appointment caught many observers off guard. Pope Benedict XVI is currently at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. Typically, many of the episcopal appointments are made and announced before the Vatican shuts down for the summer.



Jason Koshinski

Bishop-elect Persico's episcopal motto—"Veritas in Caritate" or Truth in Charity—is drawn from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: "Rather, living the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, Christ." (Eph 4:15)

The bishop-elect has already begun to design his coat of arms, which will include his motto. For continuing coverage of Bishop-elect Persico's appointment, visit [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

Father Dan Hoffman recently passed his comprehensive exams and is now a canon lawyer. In 2010, he was assigned to graduate studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he received his licentiate degree in canon law (JCL). Father Hoffman has been appointed vice chancellor of the Diocese of Erie and a priest in residence at St. Luke Parish in Erie.

Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville on July 15 and blessed the parish's new elevator, which has been a project in the making for a number of years.

"We have an aging population here at St. Bart's," said Tom Demas, a member of the parish's finance council and Holy Name Society. "There was some discussion about installing an elevator over the years."

The seeds of the project began when parishioner Rose Marie Baker told her husband, Elmer, that when she died instead of flowers she wanted a fund established for a handicap-accessible elevator. Her family honored her request. Fundraisers such as spaghetti dinners and the sale of microwaveable baked potato bags contributed to the project.

"A lot of people stepped up," Demas said. "There was a lot of satisfaction among the parishioners. And people were able to come back to church."

We offer our condolences to Father Monty Sayers, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion, on the passing of his brother, Guy "Scott" Sayers. Scott Sayers died July 27 at Shady-side Hospital in Pittsburgh. Please remember Scott, his wife and family, Father Monty and the members of the Sayers family in your prayers.

The announcement of Bishop-elect Persico's appointment pushed back the publication of *Faithful Servants*, our annual tribute to the priests, religious and deacons celebrating jubilee anniversaries, to Aug. 26. The next regular edition of *FaithLife* will be published Sept. 9.

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

**Pope appoints Greensburg priest as Diocese of Erie's 10th bishop**

NEW SHEPHERD, from page 1  
age that includes abortion-inducing drugs, as well as contraceptives and sterilization procedures.

"The mandate could really cripple what the Catholic institutions in this diocese would be able to do," Bishop-elect Persico said. "I think that Bishop Trautman had no other choice. We had to maintain our religious freedom and right of conscience."

While Bishop Trautman said there isn't a vital connection between the neighboring dioceses of Erie and Greensburg that determined Bishop-elect Persico's appointment, he noted an exchange of sorts between the two dioceses from several years ago. In 2004, Pope John Paul II appointed then-Msgr. Lawrence Brandt, a priest and chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, as the bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg.

"So we can say that the gift that the Erie Diocese gave to Greensburg is being returned in the person of a native son," Bishop Trautman said.

"I'm your return gift," Bishop-elect Persico added. The bishop-elect also shared a bit of his vocation story.

"I was growing up in a time when you had more priests in parishes," he said. "In my home parish, we were very fortunate because there was a pastor and the parochial vicar was always a newly ordained who would take an interest in the altar servers. Also, I was interested in going into the seminary."

In fact, he wrote to Divine Word Seminary in Gi-

lard. The associate pastor told him to go to his diocesan seminary, so he did.

"I guess eventually I was to get to Erie," he added. Bishop-elect Persico said he plans on moving to Erie toward the end of September.

"I am delighted to be coming to Erie," he said. "I look forward to it."

**Prayer for a new bishop**

*Editor's note: Bishop Donald Trautman welcomed Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico July 31 with an adaptation of a prayer he composed as the Diocese of Erie awaited the announcement of a new bishop.*

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and pastor of the church, you have guided our Erie Diocese in 13 counties for 159 years. In your love and care for this flock, we thank you for guiding your vicar on earth, Pope Benedict XVI, in the selection of our new bishop. We pray that you bless our holy shepherd and servant, Bishop-elect Persico. May he be a courageous teacher of the faith and a humble, wise, prudent, collaborative leader.

May he be caring and compassionate. Endow him with the gifts your church needs at this time. Lord Jesus, we trust in your providence and love. Help us welcome our new shepherd, Bishop-elect Persico, with prayer and open hearts. This we ask in your name. Amen.

**Nuncio's phone call to bishop-elect came during coffee with parishioners**

By Jason Koshinski  
*FaithLife* editor

ERIE — Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico was having a cup of coffee with his parishioners when he got "the call."

Every day after the 8 o'clock Mass at St. James Parish in New Alexandria, where Bishop-elect Persico has served as pastor since 1998, parishioners venture downstairs for the kaffeeklatsch.

"For me, it's a great thing because I get all the information in the parish on what's going on," the bishop-elect said. "It's like pastoral practice 101."

It was a Friday and parish secretary and bookkeeper Betty Nemchik had the day off. Amid the chitchat between sips of coffee, the phone in the hall rang.

"Everyone turned to me because I'm on duty," Bishop-elect Persico said. "I have to pick up the phone."

He answered the phone and it was Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

"I thought to myself, 'You've got to be kidding,'" the bishop-elect said.

Archbishop Viganò visited the Diocese of Greensburg just that week. Bishop-elect Persico noted, concelebrating Mass June 30 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg.

The nuncio started the phone conversation by telling then-Msgr. Persico how much he enjoyed his visit to Greensburg and meeting him.

"I'm thinking 'Why would the nuncio call me?'" Bishop-elect Persico said. "Then in the next breath was, 'The Holy Father has appointed you as the bishop of Erie. Do you give consent?'"

At this point, the bishop-elect chuckled when telling the story.

"What? I said, 'Archbishop, I can't speak. I'm in a public place.'"

"Call me back right away," the nuncio replied.

"What else could I say but yes?" Bishop-elect Persico said. "That's how I got the news."

He describes his time since the phone call as "a whirlwind."

"Once you're asked to assume this appointment, then it's under pontifical secret so you can't talk to anyone," he said. "And waiting for that time when I could have the announcement made and start moving forward ... it's like sitting in your car with the engine running. You're not in gear."



Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò

**FaithLife**  
The official news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie  
Volume 8, Issue 14  
General Information: (814) 824-1161  
Fax: (814) 824-1170  
E-Mail: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)  
Editorial: (814) 824-1171  
Advertising: (814) 824-1168

Member of the Catholic Press Association. Published bi-weekly. Owned and operated by the Bishop of Erie. Subscription \$10/year. For more information, call (814) 824-1161.

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics in the Diocese of Erie since 1974. Offices are located at: St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. Periodical postage paid at Erie, Pa. Postmaster: Send address changes to FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center.

**CLOCK REPAIR**  
**Burdie's Clock Shop**  
238 South Main St.  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(814) 398-8263  
"We Make House Calls"

**mi souzi**  
Hours: ristorante italiano  
Tuesday through Thursday, 5 to 9 pm  
Friday and Saturday, 5 to 10 pm  
NOW OPEN SUNDAYS! 1 to 5 pm  
Reservations recommended  
Please call us at 814-454-4533  
27th & Myrtle Street, Erie, PA 16508  
[www.misouzirestaurant.com](http://www.misouzirestaurant.com)

60 Years of Excellence  
Since 1947  
**RAS AUTO BODY**  
All your collision needs.  
Special Wash & Wax...\$55  
**453-6185**

Dave Ras, owner  
Amy Ras, office  
Carol Ras, office  
Jim Winanski, info

**ProximoTravel**  
Your Catholic Tour Company  
Trips to Scotland, France, Ireland, Shrines of Europe and much more... ranging from \$3,599—\$4,699 for 2012.  
Prices are ALL-INCLUSIVE W/ Airfare from anywhere in the continental USA

Italy/Switzerland: Sept. 8-20, Sept. 15-27 ...  
Italy Regular: Sept. 1-9, Sept. 8-16, Sept. 15-23 ...  
Holy Land: Sept. 3-13, Sept. 10-20, Sept. 24-Oct. 4, Oct. 1-11, Oct. 8-18, Oct. 15-25, Oct. 22-Nov. 1 ...  
Holy Land/Italy: Aug. 27-Sept. 9, Sept. 3-16 ...  
Ireland/Scotland: Sept. 8-20 Greece/Turkey: Sept. 8-20  
France/Portugal/Spain: Sept. 8-20, Sept. 22-Oct. 4 ...  
Tuscany/Assisi/Cinque Terre: Sept. 3-14

Visit our website [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com) for more information and dates!

[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com)  
email: [anthony@proximotravel.com](mailto:anthony@proximotravel.com)

855-842-8001 | 814-479-4166  
Carmela A. Dupuis  
Executive Director

**St. Joseph's Church**  
Bread of Life Community  
**Win this New Mercedes Benz**  
visit us at [winanewbenz.com](http://winanewbenz.com)

Purchase your tickets NOW!  
Buy \$50 or more and get entry into a drawing every two weeks to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card.  
(one entry per person)

Buy tickets online or stop at the Parish Office  
24th and Sassafras St., Erie

# Briefly

## YCEA – Young Church Eucharistic Adoration

YCEA – Young Church Eucharistic Adoration – (ya-kee-ah), is a new effort of the Diocese of Erie's Youth and Young Adult Ministry to bring the young people of the diocese together once a month in front of the Blessed Sacrament. YCEA evenings include praise and worship music, exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, short reading and reflection, reading of youth Intentions, benediction and fellowship.

The kick-off date for YCEA is Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. and will be held at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Corry.

Mercyhurst Prep will host YCEA on Sept. 19, and St. Luke Parish in Youngsville will host on Oct. 17. St. Thomas has made the commitment to be a regular monthly YCEA site, Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage offers adoration of the Blessed Sacrament twice a month and other churches and schools are currently considering becoming YCEA sites, as well.

YCEA sites will be listed at [www.Onthevine.us](http://www.Onthevine.us) with dates and times for youth adoration programs.



## High school youth rally

ST. MARYS – Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys will host this year's High School Youth Rally on Sunday, Sept. 30. The theme is "True North: Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," from John 6:68.

Doors open at 9 a.m., with the rally running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. National youth speaker and musician Cooper Ray ([www.cooperay.com](http://www.cooperay.com)) will be the main presenter. Included in the day are workshop sessions, confession, Mass, eucharistic adoration, games, lunch and afternoon snack, a leaders' roundtable discussion and service project opportunities. Attendees will receive a wrist band and T-shirt.

Early bird registration is \$10 if received by Aug. 31 (\$15 if received after Aug. 31). All registrations must be received by the Youth Office by Sept. 17. Students 18 and older are considered adults, so please have them fill out the forms accordingly. Contact Kathleen Peterson in the Youth Office at 814.824.1218 with any questions. All registration forms can be downloaded at [www.onthevine.us](http://www.onthevine.us) or contact your parish youth leader or school's campus minister.



## Motor for the Mission road rally

ERIE – The Motor for the Mission road rally to benefit the Mission of Friendship will be held Saturday, Oct. 6.

This event, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's Mission Office, is similar to TV's "Amazing Race." Teams of navigators and sleuths will follow clues, collect points and vie for prizes.

The road rally will begin and end at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. in Erie. Check-in is at 9 a.m., with the rally beginning at 9:30. Lunch is at noon followed by a basket raffle at 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch (early registration \$10 per person due Sept. 4). Children under 8 ride free. To register a team, call 814.824.1250 or e-mail [kochs@ErieRCD.org](mailto:kochs@ErieRCD.org) or visit [www.eriecd.org/missions.asp](http://www.eriecd.org/missions.asp)

The Mission of Friendship is a cultural exchange between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan, Mexico. The mission coordinates and provides volunteer staff for a variety of projects that serve the poor.

## For Art's Sake Gallery & Frames

The Cat's Meow Village • Custom Framing  
Original Art • Prints • Gifts

We're the official framer for several area schools.  
Quality work at a reasonable price.

## For Heaven's Sake

Religious Gifts (inside For Art's Sake)  
Largest selection of DeColores gifts in the area!  
7547 W. Ridge Rd. Fairview, PA 16415  
(814) 474-3033

# Statement from Bishop-elect Persico



Photo by Tim Robbath

Bishop-elect Lawrence Persico enters the auditorium at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie to a standing ovation from diocesan staff members and employees, priests, religious and well-wishers.

STATEMENT, from page 1

clergy, religious and laity of this diocese. I pray that I may be as effective as Bishop Trautman in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging all people of good will in this diocese to come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior.

This is also an exciting time to be named the bishop of Erie when our Holy Father has proclaimed a Year of Faith beginning October 11, 2012 and concluding on November 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King. This Year of Faith is a time for us to renew and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and recommit ourselves to his church. Our faith is so important to us, especially in our contemporary world, where we are increasingly vulnerable to secular movements that pull us away from our relationship with God. The start of this Year of Faith also coincides with the

anniversaries of two great events that have marked the life of the church: the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

This is also a time when Pope Benedict XVI is calling for a new evangelization. This is why I have chosen as my motto for my ministry here in Erie, *Veritas in Caritate* — Truth in Charity — as found in St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians 4:14-15, and also expressed in Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical letter, *Caritas in Veritate* of June 29, 2009.

I am anxious to begin to get to know all of the faithful of the church in Erie. I look forward to meeting and working with the good priests of this diocese who will be my closest collaborators. The clergy of Erie have an excellent reputation as being loyal, de-

vout and generous men who love the Lord and serve his people. I look forward to collaborating with them in being God's servant to all the people of this region.

In the days ahead, I know that I have a lot to learn, and I am eager to listen and to learn. I do not come to you with any preconceived plans. I come with only one agenda, and that is to share with you my faith in Jesus Christ. I will encourage you to embrace Jesus and to open your hearts to the God who loves us so much that he sent his only son, Jesus, to die for us so that we might have life and have it to the fullest.

At this time, I would be remiss if I do not say a word of gratitude to the church of Greensburg that has nurtured my faith from my infancy, and has been such a blessing to me. I am especially grateful to all the clergy, religious and laity that I have had the privilege of

servicing as a priest of the Diocese of Greensburg. Their faith has been a source of great strength for me throughout the course of my priesthood. In particular, I am grateful to the priests of the Diocese of Greensburg. They have been supportive brothers and friends, and I will sorely miss them and the parishioners of St. James Parish, New Alexandria, where I served as pastor while being vicar general, as I now move on to this new place of pastoral ministry.

I ask for the people of the Diocese of Erie to pray for me that I may be a good shepherd, so that together we may be effective in helping to build the kingdom of God here in the Diocese of Erie.

On this day the words of that great bishop and doctor of the church, St. Augustine come to mind: "For you I am a bishop, with you I am Christian."

# Bishop-elect Persico – curriculum vitae

VITAE, from page 1

ton, D.C., where he received his licentiate degree in 1982.

On Jan. 20, 1983, Bishop-elect Persico was appointed assistant chancellor, pro-synodal judge of the Tribunal and chaplain of Assumption Hall, the retirement home of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg. He was named vice chancellor of the Diocese of Greensburg on Oct. 2, 1984 and on Feb. 11, 1988, was appointed chaplain of the Benedictine Sisters' Monastery of St. Emma in Greensburg.

The new bishop-elect was appointed chancellor of the Diocese of Greensburg by Bishop Antho-

ny G. Bosco on Sept. 18, 1989. On Jan. 27, 1998, he was appointed pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria while continuing in his role as chancellor.

He has served as the bishop's representative to the administrative board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference since Nov. 25, 1998.

Bishop-elect Persico was named a monsignor with the title of Prelate of Honor to his Holiness by Pope John Paul II on Feb. 28, 2005.

On Aug. 4, 2005, Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt appointed him as vicar general, moderator of the

curia, acting chancellor and the bishop's delegate for clergy sexual abuse, while continuing as pastor of St. James Parish.

Five months later, Bishop-elect Persico was elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference for two three-year terms, which concluded in 2011. He was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Oct. 2, 2010. And on June 1, 2012, he was reappointed as judge, defender of the bond and advocate of the diocesan Tribunal by Bishop Brandt, while continuing in his

roles as vicar general, moderator of the curia, acting chancellor, the bishop's delegate for clergy sexual abuse and pastor of St. James Parish.

Bishop-elect Persico has been a member of the Canon Law Society of America since 1983 and is a member-at-large of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Order Sons of Italy in America.



## ERIE DIOCESAN CEMETERIES

VARIOUS OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE NEW CALVARY MAUSOLEUM

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT  
814-838-7724

[www.eriecd.org](http://www.eriecd.org)

### STUMP GRINDING

By Ken Eaton  
Back yards - tight spots - No problem  
Free estimates, insured, Shrubs and small trees removed, Prompt service  
Ken (814) 474-2195 or  
(814) 397-0384 LICENSE PA 058587

### LEARN ROSARY MAKING

LEWIS & COMPANY  
Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer.  
[rosaryparts.com](http://rosaryparts.com)  
(800) 342-2400

## THOMAS M. CLICKEIT MEMORIALS, INC.

When Caring Matters!

GRANITE BRONZE

FINAL DATE LETTERING

COMPETITIVE PRICES

814-438-7349

Route 8 South Union City, PA

# GANNON UNIVERSITY SUMMER CAMPS 2012

Basketball • Engineering  
Journalism • Soccer • Theatre  
Volleyball • Writing



Enroll now at  
[GANNON.EDU/CAMPS](http://GANNON.EDU/CAMPS)



... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

— Matthew 25:40

### PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

Sponsorship helps you and your family get on the Catholic Church's social teachings by helping you make the needs of the world's poor and vulnerable a priority in your lives. Put your faith into action by sponsoring a child in need through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), the country's largest lay Catholic child sponsorship organization!

[www.hopeforfamily.org/erie](http://www.hopeforfamily.org/erie)

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND AGING  
Offering hope. Restoring dignity. Worldwide.

I'm interested in sponsoring a:  Boy  Girl  
We'll mail you a child folder along with payment info. Sponsorship costs \$20 per month.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: CFCA Sponsor Services  
1 Elmwood Avenue, Canasota, NY 13613



800.875.6564



## Family Fun Weekends

Father & Son  
Sept. 21-23, 2012  
Oct. 19-21, 2012  
Jan. 11-13, 2013

For parents and their children ages 6 to 14!

Mother & Daughter  
Oct. 5-7, 2012  
Nov. 2-4, 2012  
Feb. 1-3, 2013

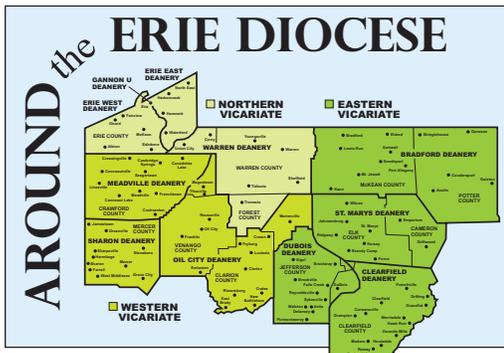
Spend a great weekend with your child.



For more information or to reserve a spot, visit our web site or call:  
814-474-5001  
[www.campnotredame.com](http://www.campnotredame.com)  
P.O. Box 74 • Fairview, PA 16415

Fairview, PA • 814.474.5001 • CampNotreDame.com

## CELEBRATING 52 YEARS



All parishes, missions, schools and groups are encouraged to choose a **correspondent** who can regularly e-mail news items to "Around the Erie Diocese" at <mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org>

### Photo Tips

Quick, important tips for taking good digital pictures.  
<http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp>



## Parish improving cemetery at St. Joseph, Force

FORCE — St. Joseph Cemetery in Force, a well-known landmark for those traveling on Route 255 in Elk County, will soon be getting some sprucing up.

St. Joseph Parish is already taking steps to improve the cemetery next to its church and parish center, according to **Father Thomas Tyler**, pastor.

"The church's cemetery board decided that improvements were needed," Father Tyler said. "Over the course of the past few years, you may have noticed some significant improvements. But there is still a long way to go to restore and enhance its attractiveness."

The parish is removing overgrown trees and adding lighting to the altar area. In the spring, low-maintenance deer- and elk-resistant plants and grasses along with decorative pear trees will be planted at the cemetery entrance near the fountain. The board has also started to restore a number of old, worn and damaged headstones.

The project will be done in stages as funds permit, Father Tyler said. The first phase of the landscape project will involve the



**Pictured (left to right) with a rendering of the projected improvements to St. Joseph Cemetery in Force are Father Thomas Tyler and cemetery board members Brenda Boyer, John Lobb, Don Chiappelli, Betty Lear, Jim Betta and Fran Bleggi. Missing from the photo is John Muccio.**

restoration from the entrance to the altar. To complete the work, the parish is conducting a capital campaign to meet the projected \$60,000 cost. The first \$10,000 has been donated already by the A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Foundation.

The board has asked parishioners, parish vendors and families of those buried in the cemetery for donations. For more information about the project, call the parish at 814.787.4151. Donations may be sent to St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, P.O. Box 124, Force, PA 15841.

## Grads receive scholarships at Holy Redeemer, Warren

WARREN — Five students recently received scholarship awards from their home parish of Holy Redeemer in Warren.

This year's award recipients are **Kayla Bullock**, daughter of Robert and Melissa Bullock; **Nicole McClement**, daughter of Ron and Kim McClement; **Kelsey Morrison**, daughter of Karl and Kathy Morrison; **Bernadette Nollinger**, daughter of Denny and Marcella Nollinger; and **Jessica Schumann**, daughter of Mark and Paige Schumann.

The scholarship fund at Holy Redeemer was established in 1999 as an award fund to recognize students who have given much of their time and talents to the parish during their four years of high school.

Recipients must have regular attendance at Sunday Mass, plan on attending a school of higher learning, participate in religious education and provide a service



to the parish beyond the requirements of their religious education class.

The fund has grown over the years with the help of parishioners. In the 14 years since the award was established, 37 scholarships have been given to youth of the parish. The amount of the awards has varied over the years

depending on the amount of interest available from the fund, the number of qualified recipients and their degree of involvement within the parish.

**Pictured left to right are Bullock, McClement, Msgr. John Lucas, pastor of Holy Redeemer, Nollinger, Morrison and Schumann.**

## Catechist retires after more than 50 years of teaching

DRIFTING — St. Severin Mission in Drifting recently honored **Rose Fenush**, a long-time catechist, upon her retirement from teaching after more than 50 years of service.

Fenush said she was asked if she'd be interested in teaching the year her daughter, Alice, received her first holy Communion. She said she answered the call and found that she loved teaching young people about the faith.

More than 50 years later (parish staff members say it's closer to 55), Fenush said she finally decided it was time to retire. She still plans to be a substitute teacher and will continue in her other ministries as eucharistic minister and choir member.

**Pictured are Shelley Cowder**



(left), facilitator of religious education, and **Father David Perry** (right), pastor, presenting Fenush

with a plaque, potted plant and gift card to celebrate the occasion.

## Principal retires after 40 years at St. Michael School

GREENVILLE — The St. Michael School community in Greenville recently recognized **Mary Jo Lipani** for her 40 years of service as school principal.

Lipani, who retired following the 2011-12 school year, was honored with a retirement Mass and dinner reception June 24. Many friends, family members, former students and school faculty attended the event.

Lipani, pictured with her great nephews and great niece who traveled from Virginia to celebrate with her, said she plans to travel in her retirement.



## DACS students support local animal shelters

DUBOIS — For the past 16 years, DuBois Area Catholic School students in Pre-K through fifth grade have been collecting food, supplies and funds for local animal shelters including Gateway Humane Society and Clearfield County SPCA.

The collection starts near Earth Day and continues through the end of the school year. Students, their parents and families and local friends of animals have responded generously each year. A jeans day at the school help students collect \$400.

"It's a simple and effective way for our students to realize how special animals are in our lives and how we can help them," said elementary art teacher **Janice Kness**.

**Pictured (left to right) are (sitting) Christopher Rhoades,**



**Sydney Orr, (standing) Melissa Ross, Ashley Usaitis, Samantha Harris and Giavana Consentino.**

## Gala benefits St. Boniface School, Erie

ERIE — The third annual St. Boniface School Joan Pisano Legacy Gala and Auction was held on May 19 at the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie. Seven distinguished alumni were recognized at this year's event.

**Pictured (left to right): Father Jay Schultz**, pastor; **Barbara Pontenier**, school principal; **Mari Moritz Rose**; **Cari Mester Russell**; **Jean Bundy Urash**; **Michael Zbovyski**; **Kelly Matczak**; **Michael Allgeier Sr.**; and **Joseph Pudick**.

A live and silent auction followed the dinner and awards ceremony.



**Pontenier** said the alumni honored represent one from each of the past seven decades.

**YOUR HOMETOWN PHARMACY**  
**B.J. Moon, R.Ph.**  
**John Pontonero, R.Ph.**  
3106 Buffalo Road Erie, PA 16510  
814 / 898-2085 Fax 814 / 898-2086  
Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

**WE BUY TEXTBOOKS!**  
**WERNER BOOKS**  
3514 Liberty Street Liberty Plaza Erie, PA  
814-864-1565

**Family was number one,**  
says niece **Kathy Kern**. A dietician for 40 years, **Captain Clare Baldauf** acted on her beliefs. Her will provided for her nieces and nephews and also for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.  
Today, the **Captain Clare Baldauf Endowment Fund for Emerging Needs** at The Catholic Foundation funds collaborative work that improves the quality of life for men, women and children.  
**Beliefs + Action = Legacy**  
What will your legacy be?  
Contact Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey  
429 East Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA  
814.824.1236 / mycatholicfoundation.org

View all FaithLife pages **ONLINE**  
[www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/faithlife.asp)

## While you're living longer, you can also be living better.

People are living longer than ever before. Still, not everyone is equally prepared for what that might entail.



Knights of Columbus long-term care insurance can help. Our plans protect you from the expense of nursing home or assisted living care, which are beyond those provided by most health insurance policies.

### Contact me to schedule an appointment.

#### Ardire Agency

Seven Agents Servicing the Diocese of Erie  
**Mark Masolotte, Erie** **Bill Winger, Oil City**  
**Paul Hohman, Philipsburg** **Dick Bowser, Brookville**  
**Tyler Weaver, New Bethlehem** **John Ghering, Franklin**

Call 814-375-1205 or email [arthur.ardire@kofc.org](mailto:arthur.ardire@kofc.org)



**Knights of Columbus INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

LIFE • DISABILITY • LONG-TERM CARE • RETIREMENT  
There is no more highly rated insurer in North America