

FaithLife



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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 20, 2017

Faith magazine, FaithLife win big



Staff members Schuyler Stupica, Rich Papalia, Anne-Marie Welsh, Mary Solberg and Elizabeth Butterfield celebrate their CPA awards. Missing from photo are Abby Badach and Brenda Williams.

Faith magazine and FaithLife newspaper of the Diocese of Erie captured nine awards this summer at the Catholic Press Awards in Quebec City, Canada. The Catholic Press Association presents the awards every year to recognize outstanding work by journalists from across the United States and Canada. "We are happy to continue to provide our readers with top-quality news and features from our diocesan publications," said Anne-Marie Welsh, director of communications.

Father McGivney Award
 • **Best Story on Volunteerism**—"The Heart of Christmas" by Abby Badach

- First Place Awards**
- **Best Effective Use of Small Space**—MercyWorks series
 - **Rich Papalia and Mary Solberg, FaithLife**
 - **Best Interview**—"I'm Amazed that I'm Still Alive" by Schuyler Stupica, Faith
 - **Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues: Solidarity**—"Encountering Islam" by Schuyler Stupica, Faith
 - **Best Reporting of Social Justice Issues: Call to Family, Community and Participation**—"Deacon Ralph Shakes Things Up" by Anne-Marie Welsh, Faith

- Second Place Awards**
- **Best Multiple Picture Package: Year of Mercy**—"That's Mercy? Who Knew" by Schuyler Stupica and Anne-Marie Welsh, Faith

- Third Place Awards**
- **Best Front Page Broadsheet**—Mary Solberg, Rich Papalia, FaithLife
 - **Best Single Photo: Year of Mercy**—"Glass Holy Door Closes" by Mary Solberg, Faith

- Honorable Mention**
- **Best Title and Lead-in**—"I'm Amazed That I'm Still Alive" by Schuyler Stupica.

CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, JCL, bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointments:

Father David Carter, parochial administrator, Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Parish, Conneaut Lake, effective July 17, 2017.

Deacon Kevin Harmon, deacon assistant, St. Titus Parish, Titusville, effective July 10, 2017, for a term of six years.

Father Jeffrey Lucas, pastor, St. Brigid, St. Mary of Grace and St. Agatha parishes, all in Meadville, effective July 17, 2017, for a term of six years.

Deacon Gerald Peterson, deacon assistant, Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge, Erie, effective July 10, 2017, for a term of six years.

Deacon Kenneth Reisenweber, chaplain ministry, SCI Cambridge Springs, effective June 30, 2017, with continued diaconal ministry at St. Mary of Grace, St. Brigid and St. Agatha parishes, all in Meadville.

Father David Renne, graduate studies in theology, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., effective July 10, 2017, until completion of graduate studies, with residence at St. Peter Cathedral when in Erie.

Deacon Daniel Satterlee, deacon assistant, St. Mary Parish, Reynoldsville, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sykesville, effective July 10, 2017, for a term of six years.

Deacon Joseph Yochim, deacon assistant, Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, effective July 10, 2017, for a term of six years.

REAPPOINTMENT
Father Scott Jabo, president of Erie Catholic Preparatory School, effective May 15, 2017, for a term of five years.

RETIREMENTS
Father Donald Berdis, retired, effective May 16, 2017.

Deacon Thomas Matusiak, retired, effective May 31, 2017.

COME TO CHURCH

36 Erie parishes join campaign to boost attendance

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Father Brian Vossler has been pastor at St. George Parish in Erie for only six months, but this summer he's taking full advantage of living on Peach Street, one of the busiest, most congested roads in Erie County.

As part of an ecumenical campaign to encourage regular participation in organized religious institutions, he has placed seven "Take Me to Worship" signs outside St. George Parish and School, located in the 5100 block of Peach Street, just north of the entrance to the Millcreek Mall. One could argue that he has a captive audience, as thousands of cars pass the church every day.

"This is a no-brainer," Father Vossler says. "Take Me to Worship" is an ingenious statement. It takes it out of the realm of "Father says go to church," and puts it into the family context.

The campaign is the brainchild of Unified Erie's Religiosity Committee, whose research indicates that weekly participation in religious services helps reduce violence, drug and alcohol use, and the incidence of suicide.

Thirty-six Catholic parishes in Erie County are participating in the initiative through Oct. 30.



With Erie's busy Peach Street as a backdrop, Father Brian Vossler, pastor of St. George Parish, invites people to return to weekly worship.

With the support and permission of Bishop Lawrence Persico, the parishes received at least one free "Take Me to Worship" sign and car decals with the parish name printed on them. The Evangelization Endowment of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie paid for the items.

Participating churches—including other denominations—benefit from television, social media, radio and billboard advertisements purchased by the Religiosity Committee.

"It is the hope of the Diocese of Erie that the 'Take Me to Worship' campaign will spark the interest of Catholics who have fallen away from the faith and/or individuals who are looking to join the rich tradition of our faith by becoming Catholic," says Christine Hess, diocesan director of the Family Life Office.

Additionally, Father Vossler and St. George's parochial vicar, Father Jamie

Power, are hoping that the effort will encourage school children and their families to get more involved in their Catholic faith.

"Children inspire parents, too," Father Vossler says.

The initiative came at an opportune time at St. George, which—like many parishes—has experienced a decline in Mass attendance over the years. Currently, only about 1,000 of St. George's 1,423 registered households are active, Father Vossler says.

With more than 500 students enrolled in the parish school, Father Vossler and Father Power know it's vital to reach families.

"This an appeal to people to make their faith a priority in their life," Father Vossler says. "We are at a critical point [in our society], with increased violence, drugs and unrest. We need religion more than we ever needed it before."

New principals, new system, bright future

FAITHLIFE staff report

Enrollment is strong, an inner-city school starts over with a new name, and administrators strategize to enhance Catholic education in the Diocese of Erie.

Such is the state of Catholic schools in the 13 counties of northwestern Pennsylvania. With the first day of school set for Aug. 28, Superintendent Jim Gallagher and others have high hopes.

"We've been given the support to grow by Bishop [Lawrence] Persico, so it's up to us now," Gallagher told some 60 principals, headmasters, presidents and teachers gathered for this summer's Catholic School Leadership Conference.

This academic year is the start of a new era for diocesan schools. Educators are putting into action the historic plan ("Building in Truth and Love") that was formulated the past couple of years in face of declining enrollment and financial concerns.

Although some schools were forced to close, the diocese created the new Erie Catholic School System (ECSS), which begins its inaugural year this fall with six campuses. Additionally, the former Holy Family School on Erie's east side is now known as Mother Teresa Academy, an inner-city mission owned and operated by Erie Catholic Preparatory School, which includes Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy.



Damon Finazzo, president of the Erie Catholic School System, talks to Catholic school staff at the June Catholic School Leadership Conference at the Intermediate Unit in Edinboro. In conversation with Finazzo, from left, are Lisa Dietrich, second-grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament School, Erie, and Allison Reynolds, principal at St. George School, Erie.

"It's going to be fabulous for the families and the students," said Chris Hagerly, director of strategic initiatives for Erie Catholic Preparatory.

According to Hagerly, there is a waiting list of applicants for the 180 available seats at Mother Teresa Academy.

Superintendent Gallagher also is pleased with the current enrollment figure for ECSS: 2,225. That represents about 90 percent of those enrolled in

nine Erie schools last year.

"That is unbelievable," Gallagher said.

On Aug. 23, ECSS will celebrate its official launch at a convocation at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. Dr. Mary McDonald, the former Catholic schools superintendent in the Diocese of Memphis, Tenn., and Sister Carol Cimino, S.S.J., superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Buffalo, are the featured speakers.

McDonald spent 40 years in Catholic education, 14 as superintendent.

"I'll be talking about Catholic education being the arms of God in the world," she said. "Those arms not only lift up the students we serve—and the faculty and principals and the staff—but also the families."

In addition to ECSS principals previously announced, the following are other recently named principals: Laura Blake—Seton Elementary, Meadville; Jamie Brim—Mother Teresa Academy, Erie; Linda Cecchetti—St. Bernard, Bradford; Sheila Clancy—St. Francis, Clearfield; Michael O'Brien—St. Stephen, Oil City; Besty Ochs—St. Joseph, Lucinda; and Monica Schloder—St. Boniface, Kersey, and St. Leo, Ridgway.

The newly named acting headmaster at Venango Catholic High School in Oil City is Brian Slider.

CELEBRATING 40



Carol Long, principal of St. Patrick School in Franklin, is celebrating 40 years of ministry in Catholic education this year.

"It's the blink of an eye," Long says. "I love the classroom always."

Her career began as a cadet teacher at St. Stephen School in Oil City, a position she held for two years before moving to St. Patrick. In 1997, Msgr. John Herbein, pastor, asked if she'd be the interim principal.

"First, I turned to God, then I asked my husband, and then I talked to two people who were principals. I said yes," Long recalls.

The following academic year, she took over as principal, a post she has held the past 20 years.

Knights get new look

PHOENIX (CNS)—The Knights of Columbus, long associated with swords, capes and chapeaus, will be going through a significant uniform change.

The traditional regalia worn by fourth-degree knights will be replaced with a blue blazer, tie and beret, pictured at right. The announcement was made by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson Aug. 1 during the international fraternal organization's 135th annual Supreme Convention in St. Louis.



CNS photo

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

from Catholic News Service

■ Bishops plea for peace after deadly white nationalist rally



CNS photo

Two people comfort Joseph Culver of Charlottesville, Va., as he kneels at a late night vigil to pay his respects for a friend injured in the Aug. 12 car attack.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic bishops and groups throughout the nation called for peace after three people died and several others were injured following clashes between pacifists, protesters and white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 11-12.

Thirty-two-year-old Heather Heyer was killed when a car plowed into a group in Charlottesville Aug. 12. Various news outlets have identified the driver as James Alex Fields.

Reports say the car allegedly driven by Fields plowed into a crowd during a white nationalist rally and a counter-rally the afternoon of Aug. 12.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Aug. 14 the attack meets the legal definition of domestic terrorism and suggested pending charges for Fields, who was in custody and has been charged with second-degree murder. He was being held without bail.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops, called the events "abhorrent acts of hatred." He said they were an "attack on the unity of our nation."

On Aug. 13, Cardinal DiNardo, along with Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued a statement saying: "We stand against the evil of racism, white supremacy and neo-Nazism. We stand with our sisters and brothers united in the sacrifice of Jesus, by which love's victory over every form of evil is assured."

■ Guam Catholics pray for peace amid threats by North Korea



CNS photo

Catholics on the island of Guam pray during Mass at Santa Barbara Church Aug. 13.

HAGATNA, Guam (CNS)—The Catholic Church on Guam is urging its members and all people on the island to be prayerful and stay centered in Christ amid threats of missile attacks by North Korea.

Coadjutor Archbishop Michael J. Byrnes of Agaña asked all priests to promote prayers of peace at all Masses Aug. 13 as tensions continued, following threats by North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un to attack this American territory in the Marianas Islands.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

It's never too late to take Pope Francis up on his recommendation for a healthy summer.

At his Aug. 6 *Angelus* talk, the pope advised people to take extra time for prayer.

According to Pope Francis, "When we put ourselves in this situation, with the Bible in hand, in silence, we begin to feel this interior beauty, this joy that the word of God generates in us."

Students at Gannon University's Bishop Trautman House, a faith-based living and learning community, are enjoying their new regulation-size corn hole set, emblazoned with the coat of arms of Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman.

Christopher Beran, the coordinator of the house, took a photo of the coat of arms at daily Mass at St. Peter Cathedral. He then had the image professionally affixed on the tops of the corn hole boards.

"It came out beautifully," Beran says. "We'll be able to use it for the house, but for campus-wide events, too."

Now they'll just have to wait for a corn hole challenge from Bishop Trautman.

The photo of Bishop Lawrence Persico sitting atop a Harley Davidson at Erie's Roar on the Shore parade this summer has been published in the Catholic and secular press throughout the region. It even was featured on the Eternal Word Television Network's nightly news program.

As Bishop Persico says, it was for a good cause. Proceeds benefited the Mercy Center for Women, an outreach of the Sisters of Mercy.

On Aug. 8—as part of the annual Erie Gives campaign—people in the Erie area gave more than a

half-million dollars to organizations affiliated with the Catholic Church—from elementary schools and universities to Catholic Charities agencies and outreach efforts sponsored by communities of women religious.

All beneficiaries also will receive a pro-rated portion of matching funds from the Erie Community Foundation and several sponsoring partners of Erie Gives.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Sister Mary Gertrude McElhinny, SC**, who at age 89 is officially retired this month.

A former teacher at St. Michael School in Greenville, she founded Michael's Mantle, a care and concern ministry of St. Michael Parish. She was 62 when she established Michael's Mantle. Since then, she and numerous volunteers—including Sister Mary Gertrude's own sister, **Sister Mary Joseph McElhinny, SC**—have cared for the sick and dying, served at food pantries and distributed clothing to the needy, among many other acts of mercy.

"Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of people have been helped because of her," says **Deacon Frank Luciani**.

Father Jeff Lucas got quite a jolt last month when he started as pastor of the partnered parishes of St. Agatha, St. Brigid and St. Mary of Grace in Meadville.

On July 7, just days before officially taking over as pastor, a bolt of lightning struck the steeple of St. Agatha Church. Father Lucas was standing in the kitchen with **Father Phil Oriole**, outgoing temporary administrator, when the strike occurred.

The event caused extensive damage to digital and electrical systems, but all repairs have been completed, except for a few minor glitches, Father Lucas says.

Everyone, though, is still reflecting on the symbolism of the lightning strike.

"My favorite is that I have come to spread a new current of Christian life to the parish," Father Lucas says.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*. Email: msolberg@ERIERCD.org Call 814-824-1171 Twitter: @ERIERCDsolberg

Blending parishes requires heart

The partnering of my home parish, St. John the Baptist, with Holy Rosary Parish in Erie was years in the making. And it has taken years for us to form what is now a healthy, life-giving relationship.

I empathize with fellow Catholic parishioners who, in the past several months, have faced mergers and partnerships with other churches due to our pastoral planning in the Diocese of Erie. It wasn't long ago that we at St. John and Holy Rosary faced similar uncertainties about what it meant to bring together two parishes that had been independent of each other for so long.

In 2010, St. John and Holy Rosary began blending under the leadership of Father John Jacquet. Over the next few years, we began sharing many things, including our liturgical musicians. We published one bulletin, organized a joint liturgy committee, and even started to plan events and community outreach projects together.



Guest Commentary

Lori Follett

Eventually, our parishes agreed that having one Saturday Mass was a win-win for everyone. The schedule evolved to shifting the Mass every six months between the two locations. Over time, attending each other's church more regularly melded us together in a way that only the love of our Lord can do.

The model on which I base our partnering is my relationship with my sister, Julie, who is a parishioner of Holy Rosary. I love being with my sister and so I really enjoyed meeting new friends at her parish. But like any relationship, there were challenges.

Doing many things twice to keep the parishes unified and connected led me to think that it would be easier to have just one parish.

Somehow, though, we knew we were serving God in this relationship. We remained committed to whatever plan he had for us; we kept putting our hearts into the partnership!

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- I offer these suggestions for parish partnering:
- **Don't force a solution.** Pray to God often to bless your efforts. This allows you to feel good about what you're doing and keeps you going even after something may "flop."
 - **Go where the people are.** Even if you don't attend a certain Mass, drop by to say "hi" to other parishioners.
 - **Be true to yourself.** It's healthy to voice your honest, sincere opinion and participate in discussions with an open mind and heart.
 - **Don't gossip and criticize.** No good can come of it.
 - **Accept.** Let people process change in their own time and in their own way.
 - **Invite.** Everyone likes to know that they are wanted.
 - **Focus.** Keep your mind on doing things to the best of your ability.
 - **Celebrate what you share.** Share photos of your parish life. Good things come from staying positive and pointing out the commonalities of our Catholic faith and parishes.
 - **Add food.** It brings people together in a special way, while also providing comfort.
 - **Be grateful.** Say "thank you" for deeds big and small.
 - **Include God.** Keep Christ at the helm. God's plan is always good. Pray, be patient and trust.
 - **Ask for help.** We don't have to do anything alone... and probably shouldn't. Committees that have people from both parishes bear great fruit.

Lori Follett serves on the pastoral council of St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie, where she also is an extraordinary minister, lector and active in liturgical environment. She is the production manager at Johnston's Evergreen Nursery, Inc. in Erie.

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EVENTS

Zabawa Festival celebrates Polish heritage

ERIE—Holy Trinity Parish, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie, will host its 24th annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival Aug. 25-27. Festival hours are Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

There will be two polka Masses: Saturday at 5 p.m. with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating, and Sunday at 11 a.m. Free admission, with free additional parking and shuttle service from St. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, E. 34th and Ash streets. For more information, go to www.holytrinityrc.org or call 814-456-0671.

Benedictines to lead two silent peace walks

ERIE—The Benedictines for Peace in Erie are sponsoring two silent peace walks to mark the International Day of Peace Walk Day, Aug. 30, and the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21. Both walks will be held from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

The Aug. 30 walk begins and ends in the playground area at 345 E. 9th St. The Sept. 21 walk begins at Perry Square in downtown Erie. For more information, contact bf@mtsbenedict.org.

12-week divorce ministry program offered

ERIE—The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie is offering a 12-week program for men and women who have suffered the pain of divorce or separation. *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide* (CDSG), also known as *Surviving Divorce*, begins Sept. 6 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Each week features a 30-minute DVD that covers such topics as shock, denial, anger, forgiveness, the courts and kids.

For more information, contact the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or chess@ErieRCD.org.

Register for contemplative prayer retreat

ERIE—Register now for the Sept. 15-16 ecumenical retreat, sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Erie, that features Father William Menninger from St. Benedict Monastery in Snowmass, Colo.

Father Menninger will lead the retreat at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

The retreat begins with a meet-and-greet Sept. 15 at 4 p.m., and will end the evening of Sept. 16. Attendees can commute from home or lodge overnight either in or near the facility.

For information on the retreat, contact Joe Sarbak at jasarbak@gmail.com.

Save the date for the Father Peterson tourney

UNION CITY—The annual Father Peterson Golf Tourney will be held Sept. 16 at the Union City Country Club. The event is named after the late Msgr. James Peterson, a diocesan priest who founded Maria House Project in the Diocese of Erie in 1971.

Registration and refreshments will begin at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

For more information or to register, call 814-665-0021 or 814-438-281, or visit www.unioncitycountryclub.com and click on the events button.

Disabilities Office plans several events

ERIE—The Office for People with Disabilities in the Diocese of Erie invites people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to the following events:

- **Hoe Down**—St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Festivities begin with an anticipated Mass at 4 p.m., followed by a potluck picnic supper and an evening of dancing.
 - **Christmas preparation and fellowship**—St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.
- Visit www.ErieRCD.org/disabilities.htm or call 814-824-1257 to register for upcoming events.

Save the date for Senior Outreach Day

ERIE—The Mercy Hilltop Center Senior Outreach Day will be held at the Presque Isle Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park in Erie Sept. 27 from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a free event and is sponsored by Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Tickets are available at the Mercy Hilltop Center, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, or by calling 814-824-2214. Registration is required.

Thirsting for more in your life?

DuBOIS—Women are invited to "The Woman at the Well," a one-day retreat sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois and presented by Vesta Siple. Siple holds a master's in pastoral ministry and is a retired faith formation director.

The retreat is scheduled Sept. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville. The \$30 cost—payable to St. Catherine of Siena Parish—includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For reservations, call the St. Catherine of Siena Parish office at 814-371-8556.

Sharpsville parish organizes Panama trip

SHARPSVILLE—Join St. Bartholomew Church in Sharpsville for a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama Jan. 22-27, 2019.

The cost is \$2,700 per person; a deposit of \$500 is due Sept. 15, 2017. The trip is open to all adults, young people and families.

The total cost includes roundtrip airfare, four-star hotel, registration fees, breakfast daily, WYD lunches and dinners, WYD tour guide, day trips to the Panama Canal and rainforest, and Mass with Pope Francis.

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OBITUARIES

Sister Michele (Mary Frances) Leeahan, RSM**Mercy Sister served as teacher, principal**

Sister Michele (Mary Frances) Leeahan, RSM, died June 19 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie. She was in her 74th year of religious life.

Born in Greenville on May 15, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Susan (Lininger) Leeahan.

On March 24, 1943, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent in Titusville. She professed perpetual vows Sept. 25, 1948.

She earned degrees in the classics, a bachelor's from Mercyhurst University, Erie, and a master's from John Carroll University in Cleveland. She further studied the classics at St. Louis University and Fordham University, New York, and pursued religious studies at

the University of Dayton.

For more than 25 years, Sister Michele was an educator, teaching high school at St. Justin, Pittsburgh; DuBois Central Catholic, DuBois; Sacred Heart Academy, Franklin; and St. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney.

She served as principal and teacher at St. Joseph Academy, Titusville, and Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie.

Sister Michele served as secretary



Sister Michele (Mary Frances) Leeahan, RSM

general for the Erie Sisters of Mercy from 1970-75, and was assistant director of financial aid at Mercyhurst University from 1969-90. She also was director of communications and development for the Erie Sisters of Mercy from 1990-98.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by four sisters: Cora O'Hara, Mercedes Havicani, Eva Barry and Kathleen Baskin; and one brother, Robert Andrus.

A vigil service was held June 23 at the Sisters of Mercy chapel in Erie. A funeral Mass was celebrated there on June 24, followed by burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Fund, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.

Archabbot Paul R. Maher, OSB**Saint Vincent archabbot oversaw expansion**

LATROBE, Pa.—Archabbot Paul R. Maher, OSB, the 10th archabbot of Saint Vincent Archdiocese, died June 29 at age 91. He served as archabbot from 1983-90.

He is remembered by many seminarians from the Diocese of Erie who studied at Saint Vincent College and Seminary, where he served as chancellor.

He was chairman of the Saint Vincent College Corporation and a member of the Saint Vincent College board of directors.

He was chairman of the Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County. In 1991, he was awarded the Saint Vincent College Presidential Medal of Honor for his lifelong service to the Saint Vincent community.

Before entering Saint Vincent College, he served for two years in the European Theater of operations during World War II. He was a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber and flew 21 combat missions over southern Germany and Austria.

In 1947, he was admitted to the

Benedictine Order as a novice and made his simple profession of monastic vows on July 2, 1948. He professed solemn vows on July 11, 1951.

Archabbot Maher studied theology at Saint Vincent Seminary and, in 1951, was sent to Rome to complete his theological studies at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo.

Two years later, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi. After ordination, he continued graduate studies at Sant' Anselmo for another four years, earning a doctorate in philosophy in 1957.

Upon completion of his doctorate, he returned to Saint Vincent, where he taught philosophy in the college and seminary from 1957-66,



Archabbot Paul R. Maher, OSB

serving as chairman of the college's Department of Philosophy from 1961-66.

In 1966, Archabbot Maher was named prior (superior) of Saint Vincent's mission to China and a member of the faculty of Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan.

He remained in Taiwan as monastic superior and university professor for 17 years.

During his tenure and under his direction, Saint Vincent College was reorganized, the academic programs were expanded and improved, and the college became a co-educational institution.

Following his retirement in 1990, Archabbot Maher became a parish assistant at St. Benedict Church, Carrolltown, Pa., where he resided until 1996. He returned to the archdiocese that year to serve as guest-master and archivist until 2009.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Health and Welfare Fund, Saint Vincent Archdiocese, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690.

Sister Carol Wilcox, SSJ**Sister co-founded both SSJ Neighborhood Network and the PALS ministry in Erie**

Sister Carol Wilcox, SSJ, 74, died July 19 in her 57th year of religious life. She was the co-founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJN), and of People After Loss from Suicide (PALS).

A native of Bradford, Sister Carol graduated from St. Bernard High School.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Bernard, and professed her final vows in 1969.

Sister Carol taught at St. Andrew, St. John, Our Lady of Peace, and St. Michael and St. Paul schools, all in Erie; at Holy Rosary School in Johnstown; and St. Leo School in Ridgway.

She was administrative assistant at the Perceptual Development School at Villa Maria College, Erie; director of religious education at St. Bernard in Bradford; and director of religious education and pastoral minister at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sheffield, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie.

In 1994, Sister Carol co-founded PALS, a support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one from suicide.

She also began a group for widowed persons in Warren.

In 2010, Sister Carol and Sister Mary Herrmann founded the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Erie's historic Little Italy.

Sister Carol's ministry at the SSJN included establishing its "Time Out for Moms and Grandmothers" mentoring program, and numerous children's programs.

Sister Carol continued her ministry at SSJN until she retired in 2015. In her retirement, she resided at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, where she



Sister Carol Wilcox, SSJ

started a reading program for children. She developed inspirational art pieces, too, which combined her painting and writing skills.

Sister Carol earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie; a master's in education/reading from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and a degree in pastoral counseling from Gannon University, Erie.

Besides members of her religious community, Sister Carol is survived by two sisters, Janet Yoke of Anniston, Ala., and Mary Patrick of New Bern, N.C.; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visiting hours and a prayer service were held July 21 at the Community Living Center. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated there July 22. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Community Support Fund of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506-1249.

Immaculate Conception Annual Fall Festival

129 Graham Ave., Brookville

SEPTEMBER 8-9 from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

SEPTEMBER 10 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Flea Market, Crafts, Theme Baskets, Cornhole Tournament and Kids Games

\$2,500 Cash Raffle

Saturday - BBQ Chicken Dinner

Sunday - Roast Beef Dinner

INFO 814-849-8697

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24th Annual Polish Heritage Celebration

Holy Trinity Parish

East 23rd and Reed Streets - Erie, PA

AUGUST 25, 26 & 27, 2017

Friday 5-10 pm + Saturday 12-10 pm + Sunday 12-6 pm

Live Bands Friday-Sunday M.C. DJ Ken Olwin

Polka Masses Sat. 5 pm with Bishop Persico, Sunday 11 am

Food, bakery, drawings, games, kids area!

Additional free parking and shuttle from lot at E. 34 and Ash Sts.

FREE ADMISSION! INFO 814-456-0671 or holyltrinityrc.org

PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Check out more photos at www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm



Catholic elementary choir sings on the baseball diamond in Warren



WARREN—St. Joseph Catholic School's choir, under the direction of Rachel Harvey, is pictured here singing the national anthem at a recent Jamestown Jammers baseball game. The Jammers are the minor league baseball team in Jamestown, N.Y.

Corpus Christi celebrated at area churches

ERIE and ST. MARYS—Corpus Christi processions were held in June at various churches in the Diocese of Erie.

Holy Rosary Parish, Erie, and St. Mary's Parish in St. Marys contributed the photos at right.
At Holy Rosary on Erie's eastside (top), parishioners from the merged parishes of Holy Rosary and St. John the Baptist processed around the block. Participants stopped at three outside altars along the way, and ended back at the church for song, prayer and a blessing.

Clergy who attended included Father Kyle Seyler (celebrant), Father John Jacquell (concelebrant), and Deacon Denis Coan (St. John the Baptist). Altar servers all were from Holy Rosary: Logan Hannah, Garrett Hannah, Logan Rossi and Mackenzie Rossi.

For the 172nd year, parishioners of St. Mary's Church in St. Marys (bottom) celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with a procession from the church to the adjacent Benedictine convent and Benedictine Gift Shop.

The clergy who participated included Father Alfred Patterson, OSB, Father Canice McMullen, OSB, and Deacon Ray Ehrensberger.



Photo by Joe Mattis



Students recycle crayons for special needs



ERIE—Students at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie recently donated used crayons for recycling to Two Sparrows Learning System. Two Sparrows recycles used crayons to make "effortless art crayons," an adaptive crayon for special needs children.

BSS students saved 60 pounds of crayons from going to the trash when they cleaned out their desks. Eva and Olivia Rupp, sisters, represented the students who donated.

Blue-Knight Ride for Fallen Officers held in Erie

ERIE—The first annual Blue-Knight Ride for Fallen Officers was held July 11 beginning in the parking lot at St. Jude the Apostle Church, Erie, and continuing around Presque Isle State Park.

Pictured, from left, are: Millcreek Police Chief Scott Heidt; Capt. James Basinger of the Pennsylvania State Police; Father John Detisch, pastor of St. Jude and captain chaplain with the Erie Police Department; Chief Donald Dacus of the Erie Police Department; and Erie's Deputy Police Chief Gregory Baney.



Grove City youth, chaperones attend national conference at Notre Dame

GROVE CITY—Several youth and chaperones from Church of the Beloved Disciple in Grove City joined about 300 people from around the country at the June 26-30 Notre Dame Vision 2017 conference presented by the McGrath Institute for Church Life.

Speakers helped participants reflect on the theme, "The Word Made Flesh," while Notre Dame mentors and staff encouraged participation in Liturgy of the Hours, reconciliation, Mass, Adoration, praying of the rosary, and an hour of silence.

Pictured in the bottom row, from left, are: Juliana Bablak, Kaitlin Novak, Ellie Chuzie, Mary Duda, Georgia Coulter, Sydney Adams, Melissa Ralston (chaperone/youth minister), and Nathan Felicetty.

In the top row, from left, are: Katie Snyder, Lena Valenza, Katelyn Harris, Arielle Reiser, Angie Felicity (chaperone/director of religious education), Tristan Shaffer (St. Columbkille), Peter Birmingham and Mark Armour. Not pictured are chaperones Father Mike Allison, pastor, and Alex Boarts.



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814.451.1521 (This is a dedicated number for victim assistance.)
For more information, visit www.ErieRCD.org click on For the Protection of Children