



FLAMINGO RAIDS
PAGE 2

FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS
FROM POPE FRANCIS:
"Peace is built day by day. ...
It is not an industrial product;
it is an artisanal product."

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

August 30, 2015

BASEBALL HEAVEN

MLB draft pick, priest/coach find faith on baseball diamond

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

ST. MARYS—For those who love baseball, Berwind Park in the small Elk County community of St. Marys is a field of dreams.

In fact, it was at that ballpark this summer where Benedictine Father Eric Vogt made a prediction: Ryan Uhl, one of his young parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys, would be drafted by a big league team.

Father Eric walked onto the Ber-

wind Park diamond where Uhl's dad, Jeff, was working one day in early June. They talked about how several Major League Baseball teams were scouting 22-year-old Ryan throughout his senior year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"I was saying how hard it is to get drafted, and Father Eric said, 'Uhl's going to make it. I believe that,'" Jeff Uhl recalls. "Just a few days later, the Seattle Mariners called him."

On June 9, Ryan Uhl was selected by the Mariners in the seventh round of the 2015 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

Standing at 6-foot-6 and weighing 230 pounds, Ryan began his professional career this summer playing rookie ball for the Everett AquaSox, the Seattle Mariners' Class A short-season affiliate based out of Everett, Wash.

"I watched Ryan grow up in Little League and throughout high school and at the parish," Father Eric says. "He's a nice kid, too."

As the head baseball coach at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, Father Eric recalls coming up against Ryan, who played for cross-town rival, St. Marys Area High School.

"He hit fastballs out of sight," Father Eric says. "I told my players, 'Don't let him beat us.'"

Ryan recalls Father Eric serving not only as his pastor but as an umpire at American Legion games during the summers.

"Father Eric was behind the plate and I would always talk to him. It was pretty cool," Ryan says.

For the young men in St. Marys who grew up seeing a Catholic priest give signals from the third-base line, faith is an integral part of the game of baseball. Even now that he's made the big leagues, Ryan Uhl remembers his roots and the importance of keeping prayer central to his favorite sport.

"After the national anthem is over, I ask God to help me play to the best of my abilities and watch over me and my teammates," Ryan says. "My Catholic faith just gives me the mental attitude that I can do anything I put my mind to and God's always there to help me."

Once this summer, Ryan attended a Sunday service with a Catholic priest who regularly visits the ballpark in Everett. It's a vital time-out for players in the midst of an otherwise demanding schedule. The team practices nearly every day, including Sundays, from noon to 11 p.m.

"There are other things away from



Photo by Shari Sommerfeld/Everett AquaSox

Ryan Uhl, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys, was picked in the 7th round of the Major League Baseball draft this summer. He's currently playing for the Seattle Mariners' minor league team, the Everett AquaSox.

RYAN UHL STATS:



- Height: 6' 6" Weight: 230 lbs.
- Position: 1st base, Everett AquaSox (Seattle Mariners)
- Through Aug. 7, reached base at every home game
- Led NCAA Division II (IUP) in home runs, home runs per game, RBIs per game and slugging percentage

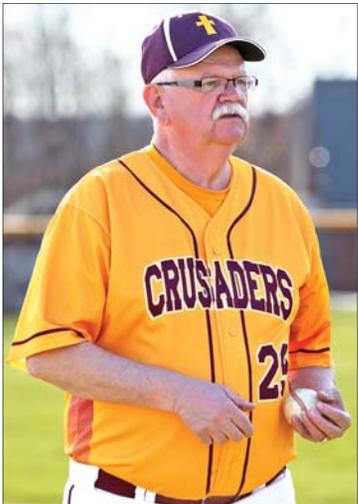


Photo by Becky Polaski

Benedictine Father Eric Vogt, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys, is the winning baseball coach of Elk County Catholic High School.

baseball that are important, like church. The priest talks to you about your family and how to deal with all of the things going on in your life," Ryan says. "It's difficult, but I pray every night and try to not take everything for granted."

It's the same attitude that Father Eric has tried to instill in his own players at Elk County Catholic. With 118 career coaching wins under his belt, he is excited to continue mentoring the Crusaders. He has led the Class-A team to four district championships, with the 2014 season being his best.

"Baseball gives you a little bit of heaven," Father Eric, 64, says. "When you're playing baseball, you don't care about anything else at the moment."

Marsha and Jeff Uhl, Ryan's parents, are grateful for Father Eric's influence on the parish and sporting communities, especially among youth who sometimes need a spiritual boost on the playing fields. Not

only is Father Eric a head baseball coach, but he umpires for local softball games and for American Legion baseball.

"It's great to have him as an umpire and as a pastor," Marsha Uhl says.

The Uhls have always talked openly about their Catholic faith at home, with Ryan and his brother, Eric, 19.

"We talk about religion and faith and believing in God," Marsha says. "I think Ryan is very connected to his faith. He might not talk about it, but I think it's growing in him."

The Uhls, like nearly everyone in St. Marys, have spent their lives praying for their favorite Major League team, the Pittsburgh Pirates. But now that Ryan Uhl is a Seattle Mariner, allegiances may have to change, even for Father Eric.

"I'm sure hoping he's going to be a Mariner fan for a while," Marsha Uhl says of her pastor.

Three deacons trained as auditors for Tribunal

Three deacons serving the Diocese of Erie have been trained this summer to serve as auditors for the Office of Matrimonial Concerns and the Tribunal.

Deacons Larry Caggesso, Dennis Socash and Richard O'Polka are now available to assist people who are starting the annulment process, according to Barb Betwy, outgoing director of the Tribunal.

It's the first time the diocese has used deacons in this capacity. "The ministry of the deacon is to serve and this is certainly a way to be of service to the church and the people of God," Betwy says.

An auditor fulfills an important role in the annulment process. He or she meets with petitioners who ask for assistance, offering help to fill out forms and complete a marital history. After the retirement of one of the Tribunal's two auditors at St. Mark Catholic Center, Betwy and Deacon Richard Shewman, a Tribunal judge, discussed how they could best serve people in the farther reaches of the diocese with just one auditor in the office. It was then that the idea of utilizing the services of trained deacons was developed.

Deacon Caggesso will provide auditor services to the St. Marys Deanery, while Deacon Socash will serve the Clearfield Deanery and Deacon O'Polka the Oil City Deanery.

Clergy Appointment

The Most Rev. Lawrence Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie, makes the following clergy appointment:

Deacon Robert L. Walker, deacon assistant, St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie, effective July 31, 2015, for a term of three years.



Gannon opens satellite campus

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

RUSKIN, Fla.—Bishop Robert Lynch of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., jokes that he may be among the first patients of future graduates of Gannon University's new occupational therapy program in Ruskin, Fla.

"At 74, I know my knees are going to have to be fixed soon, so I wish you well and I'll see you professionally someday," Bishop Lynch told the inaugural class of Gannon's Ruskin campus Aug. 19.

More than 250 people—including Bishop Lynch and Erie's Bishop Lawrence Persico—attended the blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening Gannon's new branch campus, housed in a 175,000-square-foot building off Interstate 75 in Hillsborough County, Fla.

Gannon University, founded in Erie in 1925 by Archbishop John Mark Gannon, decided to open its first satellite campus more than a year ago. After intense discussions between the two dioceses, as well as among community, civic and health-care entities, the Gannon University Ruskin campus opened with 24 students enrolled in its doctor of occupational therapy program.

"Who would have ever thought 90 years ago, when Archbishop Gannon started Cathedral College, that it would be such a university—not only in the City of Erie, but now in Ruskin, Fla.?" Bishop Persico said.

Bishop Lynch recalls when Bishop Persico first called him to explore the possibility of opening the branch campus.

"I fell for it immediately," Bishop Lynch said. "One caveat was that Gannon would 'work closely' with nearby St. Leo University, a private, non-profit



Photo courtesy of Gannon University

Gannon University President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., speaks at the podium during the dedication of the school's new branch campus in Ruskin, Fla. Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico and St. Petersburg Bishop Robert Lynch listen at right.

Catholic liberal arts institution. Gannon President Keith Taylor said the move to Ruskin was a creative response to challenges facing all of higher education.

Florida opened Gannon's influence to another geographic area that has a demonstrated need for graduate programs in the health-care professions.

"This exciting adventure will provide opportunities for Gannon University students and faculty to help meet the

need for health professionals in a county and state where the population of both older adults and school-age persons is growing rapidly," Taylor said.

Also on-hand for the dedication ceremony were Gannon trustees Robert Barker, Mark Minnaugh and Msgr. Richard Sullivan; Steven Mauro, dean of Gannon's Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences; and Carolyn Masters, Gannon's provost and vice president of academic affairs.

■ **Consecrated virgin shares story**

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS)—Jessica Hayes, a popular high school theology teacher in Fort Wayne, Ind., said her consecration as a virgin is her place in the Catholic Church.

On Aug. 15, Hayes' students from Bishop Dwenger High School, graduates of the school, friends and fellow parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish—along with priest, brothers, seminarians and religious sisters—filled the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne for her consecration.

Hayes said she felt a "deep gratitude for the church and for being Catholic, knowing whatever desire is placed upon our hearts by God, the church has a place for us. And this is my place," she told *Today's Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

■ **Pope to challenge U.S. Congress**

VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis' speeches to the U.S. Congress and the United Nations in late September will be less pastoral than his homilies, and more about policy. They will be crafted carefully with the assistance of the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Pope Francis will praise the founding ideals of both the United States and the United Nations; the challenges will come when he urges the leaders of both to live up to those ideals and to do so consistently.

At the center of both speeches will be a call to work for the common good—not just the interests of their campaign supporters or even of all their constituents.



Pope Francis meets a group of Nigerian refugees at the Vatican Aug. 12.

■ **Deacon builds second papal altar**

POOLESVILLE, Md. (CNS)—They say lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but at the St. Joseph Carpenter Shop in Poolesville, Md., Deacon Dave Cahoon is having his second "once-in-a-lifetime" experience in the past seven years.

In 2008, Deacon Cahoon built the altar Pope Benedict XVI used for his papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington. And this summer, the carpenter is building an altar Pope Francis will use Sept. 23 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"It's just by the grace of God," said Deacon Cahoon, who described the honor of building two papal altars.



Deacon Dave Cahoon works on a column for the altar that will be used during Pope Francis' Sept. 23 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

■ **Pro-life trek is 'life changing'**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Liz Moran said the experience of trekking across the country this summer to spread the Catholic Church's pro-life message was "life changing."

"The pro-life movement is close to my heart," said the Mississippian, who was one of more than 40 young people who ended their cross-country journey with a pro-life rally Aug. 15 in Washington.

The group was divided into three simultaneous 12-week walks across the United States organized by Crossroads. They set out May 23 from Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. A fourth walk took place in Canada, from Vancouver to Ottawa.

During the journey, participants walked an average of 1,000 miles.



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

Summer is winding down, but the news hasn't always been good.

Teen-agers are murdered nearly every week on our streets. Aborted babies are sold for profit. Heroin overdoses overwhelm emergency rooms.

Here's what Pope Francis recently tweeted: "Christian witness is concrete: words without actions are empty." Let's act.

The annual Emmaus Convocation is a significant event for the clergy of our diocese. Bishop Lawrence Persico recently announced the appointment of the following priests to the Emmaus Convocation Committee:

- Father Johnathan Schmitt, chair
- Father Brandon Kleckner
- Father Matthew Kujawinski
- Father Michael Polinek
- Father Paul Siebert
- Father Thomas Whitman

Sympathies to the family of Father James Faluszcak, whose mother, Barbara Clare Flaherty Faluszcak, died Aug. 11 at Golden Living—Walnut Creek, Erie.

Catholic colleges in Erie have had some exciting news in recent weeks.

First, Mercyhurst University welcomed Michael Victor as its 12th president. Victor who had been president of Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, previously taught at Gannon University and was dean of Mercyhurst's Walker School of Business.

Ball grants distributed

Nearly \$100,000 collected from this spring's Catholic Charities Ball was distributed recently to nine agencies and ministries serving the Diocese of Erie.

All of you here today are part of an unbroken chain of assistance that began with Christ our Lord, who taught us the meaning of love and sacrificed himself for us," Bishop Lawrence Persico told administrators and representatives of the affiliated agencies who gathered at St. Mark Catholic Center.

Ann Badach, director of Catholic Charities, presented a total of \$99,850 to the agencies, which included:

- Better Housing for Erie
- Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services
- Catholic Rural Ministry of the Bradford Deaneary
- Catholic Rural Ministry of the Oil City Deaneary
- Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield
- Harborcreek Youth Services, Erie
- Prince of Peace Center, Farrell
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary Center, Oil City
- St. Martin Center, Erie.

Badach proudly presented the grants, which will be used for a wide-ranging list of services, including utility assistance, emergency aid to families, and even art supplies for students.

"In some small way, I hope that these grants—that are the result of the generosity of others who believed in you and in what you do—tell you that you are held in high esteem and what you do is so integral to the work of the church," Badach said to the grant recipients.



Catholic Rural Ministries—represented by Sister Tina Geiger, RSM, Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, and Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB—were among the many beneficiaries of the 2015 Catholic Charities Ball.

Flamingos flock to Clearfield

Religious education students raise funds for November trip

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

A flamboyance of pink flamingos has been appearing on the lawns of several homes in the parish communities of St. Mary of the Assumption in Frenchville, St. Peter and Paul in Grassflat, and St. Severin in Drifting, all in Clearfield County.

Plastic flamingos, that is.

"They've been on people's lawns all summer," says Sister Suzanne Thibault, CA, director of the Bethany Youth Retreat Center in Frenchville. Sister Suzanne ordered 64 fake flamingos for a fundraiser involving the religious education students from the three parishes. The high school youth are raising money for a trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference this November.

They charge \$20 to have several of the plastic birds placed on someone's yard overnight. After 24 hours, a homeowner can pay a minimal fee to have the flamingos removed.

"They stay for only 24 hours because we don't want it to be obnoxious to the home-

owner, especially if they were planning to mow their lawn," Sister Suzanne explains.

Of course, there are always party-poopers who want to prevent a flamingo invasion. Flamingo insurance costs \$50.

According to Sister Suzanne, about 15 homes already have been raided by the flamingos. Another seven homeowners have purchased insurance.

"So far, we've raised close to \$4,000 of the \$6,000 needed for the trip," Sister Suzanne says.

Fifteen students and adults from the Clearfield area are expected to

travel to Indianapolis for the 2015 National Catholic Youth Conference, a three-day experience of prayer, community-building and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The flamingo fundraiser is expected to continue through the end of October so that those attending the fall conference will only have to pay the registration fee.

For more information about the National Catholic Youth Conference, call Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at 814-824-1218, or email kpeterson@ErieRC.org.



Photo by Anne-Marie Webb

Sister Suzanne Thibault, CA, holds a sign for the flamingo fundraiser that benefits a youth trip to Indianapolis this fall.

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EVENTS

Cross-country teams host race at Frontier

ERIE—The cross-country teams of Villa Maria Academy and Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie are sponsoring the Rambler-Victor Euro-Cross Challenge Sept. 5 beginning at 8 a.m. at Frontier Park in Erie.

The course will include hay bales, water, hills and fast flats. Grades 1 to 4 will participate in a 1K course; grades 5 to 8 will race a 3K course. A 3K race also is planned for the public. The cost is \$8 to pre-register; \$12 the day of the race.

Go to www.prep-villa.com for details or find a registration form at www.prep-villa.com/uploaded/News/Entry_Flyer_New.pdf.

10-week Alpha Course offered in diocese

ERIE—The Alpha Course is a 10-week program that includes meals, presentations and discussions about the basics of the Christian faith. Recommended by the U.S. Catholic bishops, it is considered a tool for the New Evangelization.

Sacred Heart Parish, Erie, is offering The Alpha Course beginning Sept. 10 from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the parish auditorium, 816 W. 26th St., Erie. Bring a friend. To register, contact Sister Ricarda Vincent, SSI, at rvincent@velocity.net or call 814-436-6256.

Father Peterson Golf Tournament Sept. 19

UNION CITY—The annual Father Peterson Golf Tournament to benefit Maria House Project is scheduled Sept. 19, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start at Union City Country Club. This tournament is a four-person scramble format.

Activities will include a hole-in-one contest for a new car, raffles and door prizes, skins game and a putting contest.



The tournament costs \$65 per person or \$260 per foursome, and includes golf with cart, skill prizes for men and women, coffee and donuts at registration, drinks and a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner. Registration that day will be from 8 to 8:45 a.m. For information or to register, call 814-438-2810.

Oktoberfest in September?

ERIE—The St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community's Oktoberfest 2015 is Sept. 11-13 at W. 24th Street between Peach and Sassafras, Erie. The 9th annual Oktoberfest begins Sept. 11 from 5 to 11 p.m., with festivities continuing Sept. 12 from noon to 11 p.m., and Sept. 13 from noon to 5 p.m.

The www.WinNewBenz.com raffle drawing will close the event on Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. Purchase Benz tickets online or at Oktoberfest. Visit www.ErieOktoberfest.com for more information.

All are welcome to attend Mass on Sept. 12 at 5:15 p.m., and Sept. 13 at 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. This year's Oktoberfest features Bavarian waffles, German dancers and the "wine experience" tent. Old favorites include authentic German food, kids' games, Opa's Store, German beer and much more.

'Radical' decisions
Seminarians admitted as candidates; women enter religious orders

FAITH/LIFE staff report

This summer marked momentous transitions to religious life for seminarians of the Diocese of Erie, as well as for two women entering the Sisters of Mercy and the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

In his homily at the Aug. 8 Rite of Admission to Candidacy for three seminarians of the diocese, Bishop Lawrence Persico termed as "radical" the public commitment to continue the formation toward the priesthood.

"Recall Pope Francis' words: 'Authentic power is found in service,'" the bishop told seminarians Sean Kerins, Kyle Seyler and David Whiteford.

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy marks in a formal way the church's judgment that a seminarian's vocation is authentic and that he possesses the qualities necessary for the ordained ministry.

In July, the Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community welcomed its

newest novice, Colleen O'Toole, during a ceremony at the Mercyhurst University Chapel in Erie.

Mercy Sister JoAnne Courneen, president of the religious community, presided.

Sister Colleen, a native of Wallingford, N.Y., is now moving to the St. Louis Institute Novitiate for her canonical year.

In August, Katherine Frazier, the former coordinator of the Bishop Donald Trautman Catholic House at Gannon University, Erie, entered the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Holy Rosary, the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

The Michigan-based order welcomed Frazier during a Rite of Entrance into Candidacy ceremony, signifying the next step in the initial formation process.

As a candidate, she will live in Siena House, the formation house, study the identity and history of the congregation, and serve in ministries on the mother-house campus in Michigan.



Photo by Andy Boyd

Bishop Lawrence Persico poses with seminarians Sean Kerins and Kyle Seyler, both studying at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md.; and David Whiteford, studying at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe.



Contributed photo

Katherine Frazier, former coordinator of the Bishop Donald Trautman Catholic House at Gannon University, was accepted as a candidate into the Adrian Dominican Sisters.



Contributed photo

Colleen O'Toole, right, was welcomed as a novice in the Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community. Standing with her is Mercy Sister JoAnne Courneen, president of the religious community.

OBITUARIES

Sister Gemma Cuccaro, OSB, devoted life to children

BRISTOW, Va.—Benedictine Sister Gemma Cuccaro, formerly of St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, died July 17 at St. Benedict Monastery in Bristow, Va.

Upon her golden jubilee last year, Sister Gemma reflected on her five decades in religious life, saying, "I feel the Lord calling me closer and closer and my love for the Lord grows deeper and deeper."

A native of Irwin, Pa., Sister Gemma entered St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys in 1962. She made her profession as a Bene-

dictine sister in 1964. She taught second and fourth grades at Sacred Heart School, St. Marys, and third grade at St. Boniface School in Kersey.

Later, she was assigned to Kronwetter Nursery School in St.



Sister Gemma Cuccaro, OSB

Marys at St. Joseph Monastery, she served as procurator, treasurer, subprioress, council member and sacristan.

In March 2014, Sister Gemma moved to Bristow after St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys closed. She began the transfer process to St. Benedict Monastery and was fully incorporated as a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia on June 30, 2015.

All who knew Sister Gemma commented on her smile and exceptional singing voice. She was an avid fan of all Pittsburgh

sports. Her gracious presence was a gift to all who met her.

Sister Gemma is survived by her nephews, Jerome Sadorsky and Richard Siniawski of North Huntingdon, Pa., Father John Cuccaro of Duquesne, Pa., Marty Siniawski of Riverside, Calif., John Sadorsky of Leewood, Kan., and Nick Zona of Jacksonville, Fla.

Memorials may be made to the Benedictine Sisters Retirement Fund, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136.

Father Gilio Dipre spent career at Gannon University

Father Gilio Dipre lived by one motto: "Strive for excellence."

Having taught at Gannon University for 43 years, Father Dipre made priesthood, philosophy and education his main focus. He once said that he considered it "a spiritual encounter" when a student wrote an essay expressing the very ideas that he had been trying to teach.

Father Dipre died July 14 at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge, Erie. He was 86 and in his 60th year of priesthood.

Born on Winslow Hill, Elk County, he was the son of the late Romano and Matilda (Cesa) Dipre. He attended Benecette Catholic School and Cathedral Preparatory School,



Father Gilio Dipre, Ph.D.

Erie, entering St. Mark Seminary in 1947. While in formation, he attended Gannon until 1949. He received his major seminary formation at Christ the King Seminary of St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y., where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1951, and a master's in guidance in 1955. He returned to St. Bonaventure for his doctorate in philosophy.

Ordained at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, on May 19, 1955, he immediately began his teaching career at Gannon. He taught through 1998, serving that entire time as a weekend assistant at Holy Trinity Parish, Erie. For nearly a decade, he was active in Marriage Encounter. He also

was active in the House of Prayer ministry in Erie, and was a chaplain to the Knights of Columbus. He spent one month each year at Madonna House, a religious retreat/living center in Ontario, Canada.

He retired from Gannon and from active ministry in 1998.

Father Dipre is survived by his brother, Joseph Dipre Sr. of Erie; nieces Virginia Rogers and Laura Luddy, both of Erie; nephews Joseph Dipre Jr. of Erie, and John Dipre of Ohio; and nine great-nephews and one great-niece.

Interment was at St. Boniface Cemetery in Kersey. Memorials may be made in Father Dipre's name to the charity of one's choice.

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May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

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POSITION OPENING

DIocese of Erie

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie is in search of an executive director for The Catholic Foundation and Diocesan Development Services. In addition, this position is also responsible for leading and managing the overall fund development activities of the Diocese of Erie. The executive director must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, have strong commitment and knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church and be willing to support and embrace the vision and mission of the diocese.

For a complete position profile, visit <http://www.ErieRCD.org/employment.asp>. Application and nominations are to be submitted in confidence to Catholic Foundation Search Team, 429 East Grandview Blvd., P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514-0397 or to cfSearchTeam@ErieRCD.org. Only applications received before Sept. 25, 2015, will be assured full consideration.

To our dear friends of the past four decades:

We, the members of St. Michael the Archangel Church in DuBois, regretfully announce that we will NOT be having our Polish Festival during the Labor Day weekend this year.

Dziękujemy bardzo—"Thank you so very much" for driving down to, up to or over to DuBois to support our ethnic festivities since the '70s.

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Women recognized for membership in Court St. Victoria #646



HOUTZDALE—The women of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Victoria #646 of Houtzdale recently were awarded membership pins for their years of commitment. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Madeline Duke (60 years), Anna Dixon (15 years), Evelyn Janocko (25 years), and Elizabeth Reese (25 years). In the back row, from left, are: Mary Louise Hughes (60 years), Patricia Walderk (25 years), Rita Powell (25 years), Joyce Greslick (25 years), and Delores Hormanski (20 years). Absent from the photo were Joann Dotts, Lisa Kitko, Pam Moyer, Kathy Withrow, Marie Sherkel, Johanna Dietrick, Elaine Murawski, Ada Tiesi, Christine DeLattre, Sister Agnes Hughes, SSI, Ann Moscollic, Agnes Rusnak, Margaret Jones and Anna Mae Reifer.

CDA recognizes contest recipients



CORRY—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) Court Conception #35 in Corry recognized six students from the now-closed St. Thomas School who won this year's CDA education contest. Students entered original works depicting their choice of two themes: "Love your neighbor as yourself" or "Be a good neighbor." Submissions were made in the following categories: essay, poetry, art, computer art, music and photography. Winners were presented with certificates and cash awards. Pictured, seated from left, are: CDA President Rosemary Baker, students Emily Munsee, Chloe Anthony, Allison Zaczekiewicz and Jonny Munsee. Kneeling are Anthony Boves and Kyron Helmer; and standing are Father Mark Hoffman, pastor, and principal, Kathleen Boves.

Spirit moves women at gathering



MOUNT JEWETT—Several women from the Bradford Deanery and from St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Olean, N.Y., attended the Reflection Afternoon for Women July 19 at St. Joseph Parish, Mount Jewett. The program was sponsored by the Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry. Among those at the event, standing from left, were: Gertie Baldoni, St. Raphael Parish in Eldred; Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, Catholic Rural Ministry of Potter and McKean counties; and Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB, spirituality coordinator for Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie, who gave a presentation. Seated is Margaret French of St. Callistus Parish, Kane.

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St. Eusebius parishioners like to run



EAST BRADY—Congratulations to parishioners of St. Eusebius Parish in East Brady who competed in the recent East Brady Riverfest 5K. The parishioners did not compete as a team, but posed for this photo after realizing that they had all completed the race individually. The Riverfest event is an annual celebration that includes the 5K, a parade, carnival and games. Pictured, from left, are: Ean King, Dave King, Dean Murray (kneeling), David Olszak, John Olszak, Jenna Buechele, Emily Schumacher, Laurie Schumacher, Katie Schumacher and Sarah Clark. "It was rather serendipitous that we all were there together," said Jenna Buechele, parish secretary.

Summer disciples take to the woods

ALLEGANY STATE PARK, N.Y.—A number of Mercyhurst Preparatory School students attended this summer's Discipleship Hike sponsored by the school's campus ministry office. Participants hiked Blacksnake Mountain Trail at Allegany State Park in New York. They also prayed and discussed Pope Francis' new encyclical on the environment. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Jacob Barilla and Jay Cooney. In the second row, from left, are: Father Steve Schreiber, Anna Czulewicz, Leah Haas, Brooke Lutterbaugh, Daniel Rathburn, Emily Matczak, Angelina Randazzo, Courlynn Stuckey, Kimberly Stevenson, and Campus Minister Director Hannah Tatar.



Photo by Matthew Ochulak

Families enjoy 11th summer Bible school

MEADVILLE—Families from the three Catholic parishes in Meadville enjoyed the 11th annual Vacation Bible School this summer. Participants learned about the Christian virtues of courage, trust and prayer, and for a local service project collected children's clothes that were donated to The Clothes Line Store at St. Mary of Grace Church, Meadville. Families also enjoyed a fun outing to Splash Lagoon, Erie.



Pictured are Kaylee Allen, Deacon Ken Reisenweber, Jack Best, Lori Maxeiner, Pat Traversari, Arlene Wilson, Katie Allen, Jean Beerbower, Shari Bronson, Amy Mosbacher, Hanna Mosbacher, Dana Roae, Rachel Roae and Abby Mosbacher.

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