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FaithLife



POPE TWEET

Pope Francis
@Pontifex

"The one who helps the sick and needy touches the flesh of Christ, alive and present in our midst."

DIOCESAN NEWS

CRS's Woo to lecture at Gannon Univ.



Carolyn Y. Woo, Ph.D.

Carolyn Y. Woo, Ph.D., president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, will deliver the Thomas J. and Mary H. Loftus Lecture on Catholic Thought and Action on Oct. 21 at Gannon University in Erie.

The talk will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Veli Room of Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center, 214 W. Seventh St., Erie.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Woo was one of five presenters in Rome at the release of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment in June 2015. Her faith journey and work at CRS are recounted in her book, *Working for a Better World*, published in 2015 by Our Sunday Visitor.

Erie Gives boosts Catholic affiliates

Catholic-affiliated nonprofit organizations—including parochial schools and churches—received more than \$400,000 in the annual Erie Gives fundraiser, a 12-hour online philanthropic event held in the Erie community Aug. 11.

Maria House Project—an agency founded by the late Msgr. James Peterson to help men recovering from alcohol and other addictions, imprisonment, homelessness and mental illness—ranked among the top 10 non-profits receiving the most donations. It was awarded \$52,598, which does not include the pro-rated matching funds from Erie Community Foundation, an anonymous donor, and local businesses.

Thirty-eight Catholic agencies, schools, charities and other ministries received \$416,550 during Erie Gives. About \$146,000 of that went to Catholic schools.

"Once more, we are witnessing the remarkable generosity and support for Catholic school education in our community," said Father Nick Rouch, vicar for Education for the Diocese of Erie. "The Erie Community Foundation is to be commended for their innovative campaign to draw forth the support of our faithful donors."

This year's Erie Gives took in a record \$2.8 million for a host of charities in the Erie area.

SSJs to host encyclical series

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania will host a three-part discussion series through November on Pope Francis' environment encyclical, *Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*.

The series will begin Sept. 17 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie, and continue Oct. 15 and Nov. 19, also from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Community Living Center.

The series is free and open to the public. To receive summary materials in advance, call 814-836-4204 and provide an email address. The text of the full encyclical is available at <https://laudatosi.com/watch>.

ROME • WASHINGTON • PHILADELPHIA

Bishop logs miles for papal visits, World Meeting of Families



Art illustration David Solberg/Rich Papula

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Bishop Lawrence Persico will travel by plane, train and automobile this month, crisscrossing the Atlantic Ocean and meeting Pope Francis on two continents.

"I'm really a homebody," the bishop says, "but I'll probably be doing more traveling in the month of September than I have in my whole life."

Pope Francis—arguably the most famous person on earth—will meet Bishop Persico at the Vatican during the bishop's Sept. 6-13 trip to Rome for a meeting of new Catholic bishops from around the globe. Although it is his third year at the helm of the

Diocese of Erie, Bishop Persico has been unable to attend the Colloquium for New Bishops until now.

"This will be my first trip to Europe. I look forward to it because I get to meet the Holy Father and my brother bishops," Bishop Persico says. While in Rome, he plans to attend

conferences, make a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter, and meet Pope Francis Sept. 10 with a group of fellow bishops.

After Bishop Persico returns to Erie, he'll catch up on business for a couple of days and then depart Sept. 22 for Philadelphia in preparation for

the opening ceremony of the World Meeting of Families. He will travel to Philadelphia with Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, and then both will board a train for Washington, D.C.

Pope Francis will join bishops there on Sept. 23 for midday prayer at St. Matthew Cathedral, and for the canonization Mass for Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Then it's back to the City of Brotherly Love. Bishop Persico and Bishop Emeritus Trautman will return by train to Philly, where Bishop Persico will serve as a session chair for a presentation on families and finances at the World Meeting of Families.

Also, both bishops will join their peers at a papal Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, and at Sunday's papal Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The World Meeting of Families is a great occasion for the entire world, Bishop Persico says, adding, "I think this is a wonderful opportunity for the church to come together to show support for the family and the role the family plays in society. The family is important for the development of the human person."

Erie pilgrims head to papal events



Contributed photo

These Mercyhurst Prep students can't wait to see Pope Francis in Philadelphia this month.

More than 200 people from the Diocese of Erie are headed to next week's papal events in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

Pope Francis' first trip to the United States is expected to draw

millions of people to those cities, as well as to New York, where the pontiff is scheduled to speak to the United Nations.

Anne-Marie Welsh, director of Communications for the diocese, orchestrated the overall planning

for the diocesan pilgrimage to Philadelphia, along with Kathleen Peterson of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Five busloads of adults and youth are headed to the World Meeting of Families and papal Masses.



"We're hoping people will have a transformational, spiritual experience," Welsh said.

Nearly 80 adults from throughout the diocese will fill two buses bound for Philadelphia Sept. 24, returning Sept. 28 after attending the Sept. 27 final Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. About 155 students and their chaperones will fill three more buses that will leave the diocese Sept. 25. They will stay at a fitness center five blocks from the Parkway.

Father Nick Rouch and Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, will accompany 13 seminarians to the Sept. 23 canonization Mass of Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Follow https://twitter.com/erie_pope for updated posts from Philadelphia.

Catholic Education Collection Funds create 'gold standard' in teaching faith

FAITHLIFE staff report

A kindergartner at St. Marys Catholic Elementary School didn't want to be in his religious education classroom—known as the atrium. He just sat there—scowling—in the corner.

"His whole body language screamed that he did not want to be there," recalls Janet Van Eerden, director of religious education for the three Catholic parishes in St. Marys.

But after only a few weeks of participating in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium last year, the youngster made an about-face. Like other three- to six-year-olds at Queen of the World, Sacred Heart and St. Mary's churches, he experienced a hands-on approach to his faith.

The atria are specially prepared rooms that allow a child to

flourish in an age-appropriate environment. Using materials and themes developed and created for use by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, young students more easily find the Spirit of God already active within themselves.

Children interact with child-sized, three-dimensional representations of a particular Scripture or of items from Mass, including chalices, a tabernacle or baptismal font.

"We later saw that some little boy holding a processional cross," Van Eerden recalls. "Unable to suppress a huge grin, he said, 'I am the holiest boy in the world.'"

Reactions like this excite Van Eerden and other religious educators in the St. Marys area. They have taught the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for about

10 years, mostly to kindergartners, but also now to students undergoing sacramental preparation. Several women in the parishes have been trained as Good Shepherd catechists, thanks to grants received from the Religious Education Endowment Fund (REEF) of the Diocese of Erie.

REEF funds are made possible through the annual Catholic Education Collection (CEC), held in parishes this year Sept. 19-20.

"We feel so grateful to the people who give to the Catholic Education Collection," says Van Eerden. "The Good Shepherd program is a gold standard catechesis. If people could only see the transformation in these children, they would see that their money is very well spent."

This year, one religious educator in St. Marys has been trained in the Catechesis of the Good



Contributed photo

Abby Gregory of St. Marys Catholic Elementary School, St. Marys, practices pouring water in the Good Shepherd atrium.

Shepherd; REEF grants will be used to train two more in the near future. It's just one of the many benefits of the CEC offered to parishes, schools and individuals throughout the diocese.

According to Bill Grant, director of Stewardship and Annual Giving, Catholics in the diocese have donated more than \$3 million to the CEC over the past 25 years. Every year, half of the money donated in a parish stays in the parish, with the rest distributed to REEF and The Catholic Foundation. A portion also supports Catholic University of America.

Donate to the Catholic Education Collection Sept. 19-20 at your parish.



News-makers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world
from Catholic News Service

■ Pope gets 'virtual' in America

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Pope Francis held a "virtual town hall" with Catholics in Chicago, Los Angeles and McAllen, Texas, in advance of his Sept. 22-27 visit to the United States.

The town hall was arranged by ABC News, and was aired on the network's "20/20" program Sept. 4. "Pope Francis & the People" can be seen in its entirety in both English and Spanish on www.abcnews.com.

■ Priests worldwide permitted to give abortion absolution

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In an extraordinary gesture for the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has extended to priests worldwide the authority to absolve women and others for the sin of abortion.

"This jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one," the pope wrote in a letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization, the office organizing events for the holy year, which opens Dec. 8.

The pressures exerted on many women to abort led to "an existential and moral ordeal," Pope Francis said.

Although church law generally requires a priest to have special permission, called faculties, from his bishop to grant absolution to a person who has procured or helped another to procure an abortion, the pope said he decided "to concede to all priests for the jubilee year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it."

Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie said bishops over the past 30 years in the northwestern Pennsylvania diocese have given priests this faculty.



CNS photo

The pope is coming!

Catholic school anticipates meeting Pope Francis

NEW YORK CITY—Fourth-grader Noah Rodriguez of St. Ann School in New York's Harlem community is interviewed by radio reporter Marla Diamond outside the school Sept. 1.

Rodriguez is among six St. Ann's students who will meet Pope Francis when he visits their neighborhood Sept. 25.

Remembering a Middle East hero



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Most people don't know Father Jacques Mourad. He's not in the headlines; he's not a First-World superstar. Rather, his name appears at the end of international news stories listing the atrocities occurring every day in the Middle East.

Father Mourad is from the Syriac Catholic Mar Elian monastery in Qaryatayn, Syria, which was overrun this summer by militants of the Islamic State. His whereabouts remain unknown, along with 60 other Christians abducted in August.

Father Mourad, in fact, was a hero to many Christians and Muslims under daily assault in this decimated corner of the world. At the time he was kidnapped, he was preparing aid for an influx of refugees.

In July, Pope Francis mentioned the priest in public prayer. We should do the same in our private petitions, because sometimes praying is all we can do half a world away.

Bishop Lawrence Persico often receives calls from Catholics in our diocese, wondering what they can do about the suffering of our fellow Christians and so many others in the Middle East. "What is the Catholic Church doing?" they ask.

For one, the International Catholic Migration Commission (www.icmc.net), an outreach of Catholic bishops' conferences around the world, is trying to answer the needs of millions of people displaced by war throughout the world today.

And consider that in early August, the 133rd Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus convened in Philadelphia to hear directly from two Catholic archbishops

of Eastern Catholic churches who have seen first-hand the effects of terrorism. Chaldean Archbishop Bashir Matti Warda of Iraq told the Knights that funds from America are helping refugees living in tents and suffering day-to-day.

"It is your responsibility to speak for them, not because they are Christians, but because they are persecuted," Archbishop Warda said.

To date, the Knights of Columbus have given \$3 million toward humanitarian assistance for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. They encourage everyone to give to their efforts at www.christiansatrisk.org.

Last week, In Defense of Christians (www.indefenseofchristians.org) met in Washington to mobilize Americans. The organization's goal is to increase ecumenical prayer, political advocacy and discussions that enlighten others to the fact that Christian minorities are threatened to near extinction in the Middle East, the birthplace of many religious faiths.

According to Eliza Griswold, in her excellent *New York Times Magazine* article, "Is this the end of Christianity in the Middle East?" (published July 22, 2015), the percentage of the Middle Eastern Christian population declined from 14 percent in 1910 to roughly 4 percent in 2010.

This doesn't even take into account the huge numbers of Christians tortured and killed in the past year. ISIS, Griswold writes, "is looking to eradicate Christians and other minorities altogether."

So, what are we Christians in America to do? How can Catholics in the Diocese of Erie help?

Probably the first thing would be to read more about Father Jacques Mourad. And then act—just like he did.

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

Teen named Eagle Scout of the Year

Weight loss contributes to success

BY MARY SOLBERG / FAITHLIFE

FORCE—The only thing standing between Devin Anderson and his Eagle Scout Award was doing pull-ups for the personal fitness merit badge.

At 5-feet-4, 250 pounds, Devin found it impossible to pull himself up on a steel bar. That was nearly four years ago, when he was 13 years old.

A longtime altar server at St. Joseph Parish in Force, Elk County, he knew obesity was preventing him from achieving his greatest goal: to become an Eagle Scout representing Troop 94 of Kersey.

"I saw where there was a weakness and I wanted to do what I could to fix it," recalls Devin, now a 17-year-old senior at St. Marys Area High School in St. Marys. "I wasn't going to stop until I accomplished what I wanted."

Not only did Devin eventually lose enough weight to achieve the highest rank in Boy Scouting, but this year he was named the Pennsylvania American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.

A challenging diet and an intensive physical fitness program brought him from 250 pounds to 165 pounds in one year. In September 2012, at age 14, he became one of the Eagle Scout's youngest members.

"You can accomplish anything if you really want to," Devin says. "A lot has to do with the effort you want to put into it."

Devin's drive to overcome his weight problem, as well as his outstanding accomplishments as a Scout, helped the American Legion select him as this year's state winner.

"That's why we picked him," says Frank Abate, state chairman of the American Legion. "It showed he was able to overcome something and still make the highest rank. He didn't lose faith in himself."

In 2011, an Anderson family friend, Michael Frey, offered to take Devin to the local YMCA. They began a year-long regimen: two-and-a-half hours a day, four days a week, doing weight-training and other exercises. And, of course, Devin laid off extra cake, cookies and other fattening desserts that he had become used to eating while playing video games.

In 2012, he completed his Eagle Scout project by building a 16-by-24-foot pavilion for the Bennett Valley Senior Center, and then a week later did those once-impossible pull-ups, finally earning the elusive personal fitness badge. He earned the Eagle Scout Award that September, but has continued his association with



Devin Anderson is pictured above, in 2011, weighing roughly 250 pounds. At right, he is pictured today, at age 17, a trim 180 and the Eagle Scout of the Year.

the organization, earning the maximum three Eagle merit palms.

Early this year, American Legion Post #511 in Kersey sponsored Devin for the Eagle Scout of the Year honor, recognizing his achievements in his parish, in his community and, most importantly, within himself.

His parents, Karen and Joe Anderson of Weedville, were more than proud when the American Legion called to say Devin was selected the 2015 Eagle Scout of the Year.

"Honestly, I think it's amazing. I look up to him," Karen Anderson says. Today, at 5 feet 8 inches tall, Devin

weighs 180 pounds, most of it muscle. He still helps out with the local Scouts, but now is focused on other dreams, including college, where he hopes to study electrical technology. "I'm very goal-oriented," says Devin.



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Catholic Perspective

Panel discussions review end-of-life, medical issues

Several physicians, attorneys, priests and sisters in the Diocese of Erie will offer their expertise and insights next month during panel discussions addressing palliative care.

Catholic Charities' Office of Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life is hosting four panel events, titled "Caring for Each Other." They will be held at various locations around the 13-county diocese.

"The baby-boom generation is getting older and with the ongoing changes in technology, we want to share the Catholic perspective on handling chronic illness and end-of-life issues," says Erin Landini-Grogan, director of Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life.

Panelists will feature area physicians, attorneys, priests and sisters who regularly deal with the challenging and complex moral decisions people face in the final months and hours before they die.

"Significant advances in medical science have made it possible to extend life even for individuals with chronic and incurable illness, when previously such conditions would have resulted in death much sooner," Landini-Grogan explains.

The panel discussion schedule is as follows, with meetings from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at each location:

Oct. 4 St. Callistus Parish, Kane
Attorney Bradley Krause
Sister Karen Willenbring, CA, MD
Father Ray Gramata

Oct. 11 St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie
Attorney Colleen Stumpf
Dr. Geoffrey Dunn
Father Dennis Martin

Oct. 18 St. Patrick Parish, Franklin
Attorney Colleen Stumpf
Dr. Michael Cooney
Father Dennis Martin

Oct. 25 Christ the King Manor
Community Center, DuBois
Attorney Edward Ferraro
Dr. Renee Allenbaugh
Sister Trish Tyler, RSM
Sister Margaret Park, RSM

The events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after each session.

Principals receive tuition funds



Ten Catholic school principals in the Diocese of Erie each received \$1,000 this summer to provide tuition assistance to children in their pre-k through kindergarten classrooms. The diocese awarded the money from the Barbara Behan Endowment Fund of The Catholic Foundation.

"Dr. Behan was a remarkable woman of faith," said Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education, "She was very gifted as an educational leader, but unassuming and humble. When I spoke with her about her philanthropic priorities, her eyes would light up when talking about early childhood education in Catholic schools."

Picture, left to right, are: **Karen Beer**, St. Luke, Erie; **Father Nicholas Rouch**, vicar for Education for the Diocese of Erie; **Denise Long**, St. Francis, Clearfield; **Mary Gibson**, St. Peter, Erie; **Sister Colette Hilow**, CDS, St. James, Erie; **Bill Grant**, representing The Catholic Foundation; **Julie Strzalka**, Seton School, Meadville; **Carol Long**, St. Patrick, Franklin; **Jane Wagner**, Blessed Sacrament, Erie; **Marge Hajduk**, St. Stephen, Oil City; **Kim Mooney**, St. Bernard, Bradford; and **Bill Lyon**, St. John Paul II, Hermitage.

EVENTS

Everyone's Irish at the Irish festival

ERIE—The Erie Irish Festival will be held at St. Patrick Church in Erie Sept. 18 from 5 to 11 p.m., Sept. 19 from noon to 11 p.m., and Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be free admission and free parking.

The festival will feature a bake sale, authentic Irish food, Irish dances, whiskey tasting, raffles, prizes, vendors, jewelry and more. Irish entertainment will include Gabe Donohue and many other bands. New this year will be a sports bar televising both college and NFL football games. For information, go to www.erieirishfestival.com.

Our Lady of Peace Parish plans 5K run/walk



ERIE—Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie will celebrate its 60th anniversary by hosting a 5K run/walk Sept. 19 at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 1. Proceeds will benefit the Our Lady of Peace Scholarship Fund.

The cost is \$20 per person or \$50 for a family of four. Participants may pre-register at www.olp.org or may register the morning of the race beginning at 6:45 a.m. The race, which will be timed, starts at 8 a.m. Prizes will be awarded and a DJ will provide music.

Monk, friar, sisters join panel discussion

ERIE—A monk, a friar and two vowed sisters will discuss the meaning of their religious vocation and the consecrated life at a panel discussion, "Religious Life: Crossroads or Crisis," on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. at Walker Rectal Hall, Mercyhurst University, Erie.

Speakers will be Mercy Sister Anne Curtis, Franciscan Father Daniel P. Horan, Brother Anthony Weber, OCSO, and Erie Benedictine Sister Charlotte Zalot. Earlier in the day, Father Horan will celebrate Mercyhurst's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The event is sponsored by Mercyhurst's William C. Sennett Institute for Mercy and Catholic Studies and the Office of Mission Integration in observance of the Year of Consecrated Life.

For more information, contact Mary Hembrow Snyder, Ph.D., at msnyder@mercyhurst.edu.

Benedictines to host 'On the Move' event

ERIE—The Benedictines for Peace of Erie will celebrate the environment, peace, hope and opportunity at an event Sept. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. in downtown Erie. The afternoon's theme is "On the Move," a title meant to inspire a more sustainable, nonviolent world.

"On the Move" will involve four groups that will assemble at four different locations and then march to Griswold Plaza at W. 14th and Peach streets. In case of rain, the event will be held at The Brewery, 123 W. 14th St., Erie. For more information, email Janice Etchison at jetchison17@gmail.com.

Spiritual enrichment programs offered

CLARION—Benedictine Sister Marian Welher and Mercy Sister Tina Geiger of Catholic Rural Ministry are offering two spiritual enrichment programs this fall.

"Contemplative Prayer: An Introduction" will be held Sept. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Clarion Center, formerly the

rectory meeting room, at Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be available. A free will offering is accepted.

"Blessed are the Peacemakers," an overnight retreat at Olmsted Manor Conference Center in Ludlow, will be held Oct. 27-28, from noon to noon. Guest presenter is Benedictine Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski. The cost is \$50. Register with a non-refundable \$25 by mailing to: Catholic Rural Ministry, 7 Pulaski St., Oil City, PA 16301. The remaining \$25 is due upon arrival. For more information on either event, call 814-677-2032.

Tea Cups for Charity event set for Sept. 27

ERIE—The St. Peter Cathedral Women's Council will host the fourth annual Tea Cups for Charity Sept. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center in Erie. The event benefits the charitable works of the Women's Council.

The luncheon will feature a grand-prize drawing, refreshments, basket raffles, boutique vendor shopping, entertainment, and, most importantly, fellowship. This is a time for all moms, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, and old and new friends to come together in support of a common cause.

The event costs \$30 for adults; \$15 for ages 5 to 15. For reservations and grand-prize tickets, contact Noel Burgoyne at 814-868-3525 or ncburg35@aol.com, Deb Sobina at nrmommydeb@gmail.com or 814-571-4077, or Laurie Gressler at laursea@roadrunner.com or 814-840-4025.

Engagement Encounter is offered in October

ERIE—A wedding is one day, but a marriage is for a lifetime. Get away from the stress of planning for the "big day" by attending Engagement Encounter Oct. 16-18 at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. To register or for more information, call the Family Life Office at 814-824-1261 or visit www.ErieRCDD.org/ee.asp. Space is limited.

21st Annual Erie Diocesan Rosary March

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"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38



150 attend St. Michael School reunion



GREENVILLE—Graduates of St. Michael School in Greenville gathered this summer for their annual reunion at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Greenville. There were 150 former students in attendance at the event, hosted this year by the Class of 1965, the last graduating high school class. Master of ceremonies was Vern Swartz, who welcomed alumni, guests and former teachers. Members of the Class of 1965 who were present were: Toni Bailey Kurelko, Susan and George Stanfa, Phyllis Canale Donner, Mary Ellen Couch Kidd, Anthony Daniello, Ben Eddy, Annette Fier Rowan, Nita George, Mary Duell, Carolyn Holzapfel Nelson, Cleo Hovis Myers, Joseph Krachkowski, Mary Jo Lipani, Frank Luciani, Shirley Liszka Whitaker, Bill Murrin, Delores Peden Holzapfel, Mike Reuff, Duke Rutter, Donna Schehl Dulany, Vern Swartz, Bernie Szawan, Rosemary Tobash Zerr, Tom Toplisiek, Bob Tuttle, Majorie Urda Morgan, and Mike and Phil Zarecky.

Praying the rosary at Mary, Queen of Peace



ERIE—Several people gathered for a photo after praying the rosary every Saturday in May at Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum chapel in Erie. Participants surround Linda Chrzanowski, seated, who is the family services representative for Erie Diocesan Cemeteries. Beginning Oct. 3, the rosary will be recited every Saturday at 9:15 a.m. in the month of October at the mausoleum chapel.

Knights make donations to diocese



ERIE—The State Council of the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus on Aug. 31 presented two checks to the Diocese of Erie for vocations and for retired religious. Bishop Lawrence Persico, left, accepted the donations from Kenneth Grugel, state advocate for the Knights of Columbus. The Knights gave the diocese a total of \$3,889.60 from two separate fundraising programs.

Where the WILD THINGS are



ERIE—Patrick Iaquina, a partner of All Things Wild in Erie, displays a young American alligator at the 8th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish/School alumni picnic Aug. 16. All Things Wild provides hands-on presentations during which children and adults are invited to touch a tarantula, African spurred tortoise and a blue and gold macaw, to name just a few. Taking a peek at the gator is 10-year-old Amara Papalia, a parishioner at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Thank you, Elaine Uzdale!

EMPORIUM—Father Paul Siebert, pastor of St. Mark Parish, Emporium, congratulates Elaine Uzdale, who completed her last scheduled day of work as office secretary on July 31.

Elaine served the parish for 32 years, having worked for Father William Rice, Father Robert Rarick, Msgr. Charles Kaza and, of course, Father Siebert.

She is recognized for her excellent knowledge of church operations, including Mass scheduling, sacramental record-keeping, lay ministry scheduling and, most especially, formatting and typing done to perfection.



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