

# FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 17, 2017

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Elk County church to close

RASSELAS—Holy Cross Church in Rasselas, founded in Elk County in the latter half of the 19th century, has been closed according to a decree signed Sept. 7 by Bishop Lawrence Persico.

Father David Wilson, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg, announced that the parish finance and pastoral councils had voted in favor of requesting the bishop to close Holy Cross, which was one of the parish's two secondary churches. St. Anne Church in Wilcox, the other second-



The former Holy Cross Church, Rasselas

ary church, will remain open as a mission church and still have weekly Sunday Mass.

When a Catholic church is closed, the official verbiage used in the United States is that it will be "relegated to profane but not sordid use." This phrase refers to the canon law process by which a bishop removes the blessing or consecration of a church building.

Through that process, the building ceases to be reserved for divine worship, and, therefore, the building can henceforth be used for non-religious purposes.

Holy Cross discontinued the celebration of Sunday Masses in 2003 due to a diminishing population and a declining number of available priests.

Although it had continued as a secondary church of Holy Rosary, it was rarely used and required "substantial" maintenance.

### Tribunal goes on road

In October, the Office of the Tribunal and Matrimonial Concerns of the Diocese of Erie will travel to four areas of the diocese to present evening sessions on the process for a declaration of nullity, or annulment.

The evenings also offer an opportunity for individuals to meet with members of the Tribunal staff to begin the nullity process. For questions, call the Tribunal at 814-824-1140.

Each session will begin at 7 p.m. according to the following schedule:

- Oct. 4, Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- Oct. 11, St. Bernard Parish Bradford
- Oct. 18, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois
- Oct. 25, St. Boniface Parish, Erie.

## CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Father John Murphy**, senior associate of St. Luke Parish, Erie, effective July 21, 2017.

Appointed after presentation by Archbishop Douglas Nowicki, OSB:

- **Father Peter Augustine Pierlok**, OSB, pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Marys, effective July 17, 2017, for a term of six years.
- **Father Michael Gabler**, OSB, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys, effective Sept. 1, 2017, for a term of six years.

## REAPPOINTMENTS

- **Father Michael Allison**, pastor of Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City, effective Aug. 4, 2017, for a term of six years.
- **Father Thomas Brooks**, pastor of St. Gregory Parish, North East, effective Aug. 4, 2017, for a term of six years.
- **Father Thomas Brown**, pastor of St. Raphael Parish, Eldred, and its secondary mission churches of St. Mary, Sartwell, and St. Theresa, Shinglehouse, effective Aug. 4, 2017, for a term of six years.
- **Father Vincent Cieslewicz**, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish, Smethport, and its secondary mission church of St. Joseph, Mount Jewett, effective Aug. 4, 2017, for a term of six years.
- **Father Walter Packard**, pastor of St. Titus Parish, Titusville, with its secondary churches of St. Walburga, Titusville, and Immaculate Conception, Magestown, effective Aug. 4, 2017, for a term of six years.

## NATURE'S FURY

### Gannon's Florida campus weathers the storm

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Sara Golshiri, a first-year doctoral student at Gannon University's satellite campus in Ruskin, Fla., is a transplanted Northerner who's never experienced the ravages of a hurricane.

The weekend of Sept. 10-11 changed all that. Life-threatening Hurricane Irma churned over the Sunshine State, forcing what some consider to be the largest mass evacuation in U.S. history.

Golshiri, 23, was among thousands of university students from throughout the state who were advised that classes were cancelled until further notice.

"Honestly, prepping for the hurricane was the most terrifying thing I've done," Golshiri told *FaithLife* via text from her refuge with friends north of the Ruskin campus. "This is my first hurricane and I had to go into it blind. Thankfully, we have a good network at school and in the community to provide us with information."

Gannon University officials in Erie were in close contact with Ruskin's physical plant manager before, during and after the hurricane.



Sara Golshiri



A man is rescued from a flooded neighborhood in Havana, Cuba, after Hurricane Irma swept through the Caribbean and then made its way to Florida.

Classes were cancelled beginning Sept. 7 and were expected, at press time, to resume Sept. 18.

According to Dr. Sarah Ewing, the Erie-based dean of the Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences, students received text and email alerts, and Gannon President Keith Taylor issued a video expressing his heartfelt concern.

"Student safety was and continues to be our top priority," Ewing said.

The graduate/doctoral-level campus is located no more than a half-hour's drive from the Gulf Coast, which was expected to be one of the hardest hit areas. As it turned out, Irma weakened as it traveled inland.

Buildings on the Ruskin campus experienced no structural damage from the high winds, but there was minimal ground water seepage, Ewing said.

Golshiri commended Gannon for maintaining ongoing communication, even after students moved to safe locations.

She added, "I felt very supported and I'm thankful that it was not as bad as it could have been."

A native of Maryland studying occupational therapy, Golshiri said she went from "worrying about snowstorms to worrying about hurricanes." Now she's eager to get back to her house in Ruskin.

"I'm spending the next couple of days cleaning," she said. In a statement released during Irma's onslaught, President Taylor told Ruskin students, "May God bless you, and may He bless your families and all those you love. May you be blessed with His safety, security and help in these days of challenge."



Residents wade through floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey Aug. 28 in Beaumont Place, Texas.

Before Hurricane Irma hit Florida, Hurricane Harvey pummeled southern Texas and caused unprecedented devastation. Bishop Lawrence Persico asked parishes throughout the 13-county Diocese of Erie to hold a special hurricane relief collection Sept. 2-3.

At press time, more than a dozen parishes donated nearly \$37,000. All of those funds will be forwarded to Catholic Charities USA, the agency working with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Those wishing to donate to Hur-



Gannon University's Ruskin campus in Florida reportedly sustained little damage from Hurricane Irma.

ricane Harvey relief efforts may still give at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).

Students at Villa Maria Academy and Cathedral Prep in Erie held a dress-down day to support the work of the American Red Cross in Texas.

The Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools in Hermitage and Seton School in Meadville held similar events, raising a total of \$3,000 to help Harvey victims.

On Sept. 8, the Prep and McDowell High School football teams put aside their rivalry and agreed to donate receipts from their game to benefit Texas emergency efforts.

## Bishop, universities push for DACA solution

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE AND CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Bishop Lawrence Persico and Erie's Gannon University and Mercyhurst University joined the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in pushing for a legislative solution to President Donald Trump's decision Sept. 5 to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

DACA was established through executive action in 2012 by President Barack Obama. Congress could not agree then on legislation that would have legalized youth brought to the U.S. as children. Hours after President Trump rescinded DACA, he challenged Congress to come up with a legal way to protect DACA's 800,000 beneficiaries.

If Congress doesn't act in six months, Trump vowed to "revisit" the issue.

"The United States of America made promises to young people known as the 'dreamers,' immigrants whose parents brought them across the border into the United States before their 16th birthday," Bishop Persico said in a statement Sept. 6.

Bishop Persico, who also is chairperson of Gannon's board of trustees, called on lawmakers to find a legislative solu-

tion to the matter.

Mercyhurst President Michael Victor, in a statement the same day, encouraged the community to urge legislators "to seek a long-term remedy that will afford these young people the opportunity to study and work in the U.S. without fear of deportation."

Victor added: "DACA beneficiaries at Mercyhurst University have been commendable students and their presence has enriched the learning environment for our entire community. Mercyhurst stands with its founding Sisters of Mercy, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic organizations in support of compassionate immigration reform."

Gannon University joined Bishop Persico in his push for a compassionate solution. President Keith Taylor said: "We stand with our bishop in his call for a sound legislative solution, and we stand with our students who may be affected by the rescinding of DACA."

Bishop Jose Vásquez of Austin, Texas, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration; Sister Donna Markham, president



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals supporters demonstrate near the White House in Washington Sept. 5.

of Catholic Charities USA; and Jeanne Atkinson, executive director of Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) have issued a letter calling on President Trump to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"Your decision to continue this program would ensure that young people can continue to work, study, and be protected from deportation while Congress debates broader legislative fixes to our broken immigration system. "A decision to end this program would turn our nation's back on immigrant youth who are seeking to reach their full God-given potential and fulfill the promise of gratefully giving back to the only country most have ever known," the letter notes.

## Famine threatens four countries in 2017

20 million people could be affected

**YEMEN**  
Famine is possible amid heavy conflict and deteriorating economic situation; globally, the largest food insecure population is in Yemen. A severe cholera outbreak has expanded to most areas of Yemen, with more than 185,000 suspected cases identified as of late June.

**NIGERIA**  
Much of Borno state remains at risk of famine because it is inaccessible to aid workers due to conflict; famine might already have occurred there in 2016. Large areas of the northeast are expected to continue facing food emergencies.



**SOUTH SUDAN**  
Over half of the 13 million people need humanitarian assistance because of ongoing conflict, which disrupts life, including farming.

**SOMALIA**  
Three consecutive very poor rainy seasons have severely limited food access; famine is possible in the absence of continued large-scale intervention. After September, households will have exhausted their stocks of food.

Source: Famine Early Warning Systems Network <https://www.fews.net/> © 2017 Catholic News Service

## Newsmakers



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

### ■ Pope Francis visits Columbia



*CNS photo*  
Pope Francis greets a crowd as he arrives Sept. 8 to celebrate Mass at Catama field in Villavicencio, Colombia.

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia (CNS)—If just one victim of Colombia's civil war forgives his or her aggressor, it can set off a chain reaction of hope for reconciliation and peace, Pope Francis said during a Sept. 8 Mass in this South American city.

Villavicencio is filled with those who fled their homes during the war and with former fighters trying to start over. Pope Francis pleaded for honesty and courage.

At Mass, he held up two heroic examples of those who gave their lives to "rise up out of the swamp of violence and bitterness." They are

Bishop Jesus Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve of Arauca, who was murdered by Colombian Marxist guerrillas in 1989, and Father Pedro Maria Ramirez, who was killed at the start of the Colombian civil war in 1948. Pope Francis beatified the two at the Mass, which was celebrated in the middle of a broad field, typical of the area's cattle ranching terrain.

### ■ Magnitude 8.1 earthquake strikes off coast of Mexico, Guatemala

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck the Pacific coast of southern Mexico and Guatemala Sept. 7, causing buildings to collapse and tremors that rocked as far away as Mexico City and Guatemala City.

At press time, the full effect of the earthquake was not known. It did, however, prompt warnings from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center of "tsunami waves reaching more than three meters (9.8 feet)" along the Mexican coast as well as lower-level waves in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.

"God strengthen us as brothers in the faith to [be] available to those that have suffered in this strong earthquake," the Mexican bishops' conference said in an early morning tweet.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales took to Twitter to reassure citizens. Pena Nieto called it "the strongest in almost a century."

The quake appeared to do little damage to Mexico City, which was devastated by a similarly strong quake in 1985.

### Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

With all eyes fixed on our southern border, those of us who live in the Erie area have been counting our blessings.

Hurricanes that hit Texas and Florida in recent weeks made me especially thankful as I rode my bicycle at Presque Isle State Park.

Complete strangers shared their thoughts on how lucky we were to enjoy sunny skies and warmer temperatures...at least until winter arrives.

Last summer was Pokémon Go; this summer was all about painted rocks, a project of Rock Out Erie.

The fad encouraged people to decorate and then hide decorative rocks around town for others to find. The creators of Rock Out Erie stated on their Facebook page that the idea was to "bring a little joy to people's day."

It sure did. Children at the Benedictine Sisters' Kids Café in Erie also joined the bandwagon by painting their own stones and hiding them in downtown Erie.

Ebony King, a summer staff member, helped the students with the project.

For nearly 20 years, Jim Mantyla humbly worked as the owner and CEO of Glenwood Beer Distributors in Erie. After his sudden death from a heart attack in April, the community found out just how much Mantyla cared for others.

He left \$1 million to be distributed among four Catholic organizations: St. Peter Cathedral, Gannon University, Cathedral Prep and Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

Through the J.E.M. Foundation, \$100,000 will be given to St. Peter's, \$250,000 will be given to Gannon to start the James Mantyla Memorial Scholarship, \$250,000 will go to Prep to provide \$5,000 scholarships to students, and \$400,000 will be given to Saint Mary's Home for their Benevolent Care Fund (to be renamed in his honor).

"I think anyone that generous or that thoughtful for other people should receive some major recognition from us," said Sister Phyllis McCracken, Saint Mary's president and CEO.

Mantyla graduated from Prep

and Gannon, and his mother was cared for at Saint Marys Home. The donations are expected to be given annually.

"He wanted to take care of the middle-class person," said John Stefanik, president of Glenwood Beer. Glenwood Beer Distributors represents 32 breweries serving 12 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to **Brother Mark Maximilian Jaskowak**, a member of Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City, a graduate of Gannon University, and a former theology teacher and coach at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage.

In August, he made his first profession of vows in the Order of Preachers, also known as the Dominican Order.

He is now preparing for his priestly ordination, while studying at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations also to Cathedral Prep grads and brothers **Tommy** and **Greg Van Volkenburg**, who added their names this summer to the list of swimmers who crossed Lake Erie from Long Point, Ontario, Canada.

On Oct. 6, Gannon University in Erie will honor five distinguished alumni for their accomplishments and service to others. They are:

- **Lisa Spiller, Ph.D.**, is the distinguished professor of marketing at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va.
- **Scott Krall** serves as the U.S. head of corporate environmental sustainability and remediation for the Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh.
- **Daniel Daube** is IT business consultant for the Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta.
- **Autumn Marshall** is therapy coordinator at the Miriam Center of the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in Haiti. She is the recipient of Gannon's Young Alumni Award.
- **Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ**, serves on Gannon's board of trustees and the Erie Catholic School System's board of directors. She will receive the Msgr. Wilfrid J. Nash Principles of Christian Conduct Award.

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### Statement regarding Father Daniel Kresinski

Previously, a civil complaint was filed against the Diocese of Erie and St. Joseph Parish and St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois in the U.S. District Court. The parties have reached a resolution of the case, but neither side can comment further because of a mutual confidentiality clause.

To provide the faithful clarity concerning the status of Father Daniel Kresinski, Bishop Lawrence Persico brought the matter to the Clergy Review Board for consideration. The bishop has accepted its recommendation that Father Kresinski refrain from public ministry until further notice for the good order of the Church.

The bi-weekly newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Erie. St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16504  
Publisher: The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico

**FaithLife**  
Executive Editor: Anne-Marie Welsh  
Editor: Mary Solberg  
Graphic Design: Rich Papalia  
Advertising Manager: Brenda Williams  
Advertising Design: Elizabeth Butterfield

Website: [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)  
Volume 13, Issue 16  
Member of the Catholic Press Association  
Subscription: \$10/year  
Periodical postage paid at Erie, PA  
Postmaster: Send address changes to: FaithLife at St. Mark Catholic Center

The Office of Communications has been serving Catholics of the Diocese of Erie since 1974.

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EVENTS

Registration is open for Family Fest

ERIE—This year's Family Fest will be held Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico will preside at the 4 p.m. Mass. The cost is \$10 per person or \$40 for a family. The fee covers speakers, materials and lunch. Visit [www.CatholicFamilyFest.com](http://www.CatholicFamilyFest.com) for more information or to register.

Evening of prayer, music scheduled

DuBOIS—An evening of prayer and music will be held Sept. 17 beginning at 6 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 15 Robinson St., DuBois. Leading prayer and prayers for healing will be Father Bill Barron, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sykesville, and St. Mary Parish, Reynoldsville. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-5930 or Rich Kenawell at 814-771-7932.

'The Groove' featured at dance

HARBORCREEK—The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a dance Sept. 23 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish gym, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek. Enjoy the sounds of "The Groove." Beer and snacks will be provided. Tickets are \$15 per person, or \$25 for two. Tickets may be purchased at the parish office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call the office at 814-899-5342.

St. Michael's to host cruise, raffle

GREENVILLE—St. Michael School will host a car raffle and car cruise on the church grounds, located at 85 N. High St., Greenville, Sept. 24 from 2 to 6 p.m. The event will include theme baskets, food, and a raffle of a 2017 Shelby GT-350 Mustang. Purchase raffle tickets at [www.msncardrawing.com](http://www.msncardrawing.com) or on the day of the event.

Theology professor to speak at mission

MEADVILLE—All are welcome to attend a tri-parish mission at St. Brigid Parish, 383 Arch St., Meadville, on Sept. 24-25. John Bergsma, Ph.D., professor of theology at Franciscan University, is the featured presenter both days, beginning at 7 p.m. There also will be Adoration and Benediction.

Speakers will share their ministries

FAIRVIEW—Holy Cross Parish in Fairview will present a speaker series at the church, 7100 West Ridge Road, for five consecutive Tuesdays at 7 p.m., beginning Sept. 26 and ending Oct. 24. Speakers will share their personal experiences ministering to people on the margins. The schedule:
 

- Sept. 26: The Rev. Lou Vallone—"Social Justice: The Church's Gift and Challenge"
- Oct. 3: Joseph Haas—"You, Too, Must Befriend the Alien"
- Oct. 10: Dr. Brian Stark and Edward Grode—"Ministering to a City of Refugees"
- Oct. 17: Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, and Sister Tina Geiger, RSM—"God's People Are Everywhere"
- Oct. 24: Sister Clare Marie Beichner, SSI, Sister Linda Ronney, OSB, and Sister Joanne Courneen, RSM, will moderate "Sisters and the Needy in the Diocese."

24-part Bible series scheduled

SHARON—St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Sharon is sponsoring "The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation," a 24-part study that will take participants on a journey through the entire Bible. Session I begins Sept. 26 and will run every Tuesday through Nov. 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 370 Spruce Ave., Sharon. The one-time cost for all sessions is \$35. For more information, call Mary Ann at 724-342-7391.

Parish to host one-day women's retreat

FRENCHVILLE—"The Woman at the Well," a retreat for women hosted by St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois, will be held Sept. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville. Vesta Siple, who holds a master's degree in

pastoral ministry, will be the presenter. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Registration and fee are due by Sept. 22. Checks may be made payable to St. Catherine Church, and mailed to 118 S. State St., DuBois, PA 15801. For more information, call 814-371-8556.

SBA alumnae to hold purse bingo

ERIE—The St. Benedict Academy Alumnae Association will hold a designer purse bingo event Oct. 1 at the Harborcreek Social Hall, 7275 Buffalo Road. The cost is \$25 per person. Food, beer and wine will be available. For tickets and more information, contact Ann Comstock at 814-899-0614, ext. 2573, or [sbaalum@mstsbenedict.org](mailto:sbaalum@mstsbenedict.org).

Rosary March celebrates Fatima

ERIE—The 23rd annual Rosary March in the Diocese of Erie will be held Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, W. 10th and Sasfras streets, Erie. Bishop Lawrence Persico will give the homily at the Cathedral following the march through the downtown area. There also will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The World Apostolate of Fatima is sponsoring the event, which this year marks the 100th anniversary of the appearance of the Blessed Mother to three children in Fatima, Portugal.

Healing Mass planned in Erie

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group in Erie will host a healing Mass Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave., Erie. Father David Poulson, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Cambridge Springs, will preside. Music will be provided by St. Joseph's Bread of Life, Erie. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to provide time to write petitions that will be presented at the offertory procession. For more information, call Pat at 814-823-3968.

Camino is the subject of evening event

ERIE—The Rev. Dr. Carol Vaccariello will share stories and pictures of a first-hand experience of the Camino de Santiago, the 787-kilometer pilgrimage trek across Spain, on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. The talk, sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, is free and open to the public. Contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, at [formation@mstsbenedict.org](mailto:formation@mstsbenedict.org) or at 814-899-0614, ext. 2511, for more information.

Sisters plan estate, will presentation

ERIE—The public is invited to a will and estate planning presentation Oct. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie. Shaun Adrian of MacDonald Illig Attorneys, will speak, followed by conversation, refreshments and music. To reserve a seat by Sept. 25 or for more information, call 814-899-0614, ext. 2415.

Musicians, liturgists invited to retreat

KANE—The Erie Diocesan Chapter of the Association of National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) presents "The Role of Spiritual Formation for Musicians and Other Liturgical Ministers" Oct. 14 at St. Callistus Parish, Kane. The cost is \$10 per NPM member and \$12 for non-members. Send name, contact information, and check (payable to NPM Erie Diocese Chapter) to: Neil Himber, 102 6th St., Youngsville, PA 16371. For details, call 814-734-5446.

'Romance in Venice' coming soon

ERIE—The Italian American Women's Association in Erie is hosting its fund-raiser dance, "Romance in Venice," Oct. 21 from 7 to 11 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Hall at St. Joseph Parish, 147 W. 24th St., Erie. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Money raised will benefit charities and scholarships. Ray Massa's EuroRhythms will provide music. A \$25 donation per person is requested. For information about the event or for information about student service hour opportunities, call Pat Rossi at 814-881-1975 or email her at [Patrossi16@gmail.com](mailto:Patrossi16@gmail.com).

OBITUARIES

Sister Ann Amen, SSI

Sister of St. Joseph Ann Amen, Ph.D., died Aug. 29 at age 99. She was in her 67th year of religious life, having devoted the majority of her ministry to parish care and concern.

A native of Quincy, Ill., she decided to pursue a religious vocation while serving as director of American Red Cross Clubs in Europe and seeing Theresa Neumann experience the stigmata. She was dean of women and a member of the administrative board of Quincy College from 1947-50, and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Aug. 30, 1951. She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1956.

Sister Ann earned a bachelor's degree in English and social science from Quincy College, and her doctorate and master's degrees in sociology from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. She served as a guidance director and later professor and head of the Sociology and Social Work Department at Villa Maria College, Erie, and as chairperson of the Division of Human Behavior. She also taught at Villa Maria Academy, Erie, before professed her final vows.

She briefly worked as a consultant to the Gertrude Barber Center in Erie before an extended sabbatical in Brisbane, Australia. While in Australia from 1973-91, Sister



Sister Ann Amen, SSI, Ph.D.

Ann served on the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau and co-founded the parish care and concern model. She also served on the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission in Sydney and Canberra, Australia.

After returning to the United States, she served as director of Parish Social Ministry for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, from 1991 to 2000.

In 1993, she wrote *Directory of Social Services in Twelve Counties*, a 500-page listing of social services in 12 of the 13 counties in the diocese.

In 1996, she wrote *Jumpstart Your Parish Social Ministry with Parish Care and Concern*, a blueprint for establishing parish care and concern and a volunteer training manual.

The manual was used in more than 90 dioceses in 40 states in the United States, in addition to being sold in Australia, Canada, England and Switzerland. In 1998, the book was translated into Spanish.

Sister Ann served on the boards of United Community Services of Erie County and Catholic Social Services, Erie. She was one of the incorporators of the Marriage Counseling Service of Erie, Inc., and also served on its board.

In her retirement, Sister Ann resided at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie, and wrote her life story, *Beyond My Dreams*.

Besides members of her religious community, survivors include several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission and Ministries Foundation, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506-1249.

Sister Leonie Shanley, SSI

Sister Leonie Shanley, SSI, died Aug. 28 in her 72nd year of religious life. She was 89.

Born in Pawtucket, R.I., she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Sept. 2, 1945, from her home parish of St. Helena in Hobbs, N.M. She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1951.

Sister Leonie attended St. Joseph's Academy in Schenectady, N.Y., and then graduated from Villa Maria Academy in Erie. She earned a bachelor's degree in French from Villa Maria College, Erie, and a master's in French from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Gannon University, Erie, and the Médaille D'Or Award from Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

Sister Leonie spent several years in education, having taught at the following schools in the Diocese of Erie: St. Peter, Sacred Heart, St. Patrick, and Villa Maria Academy, all in Erie; and Bradford Central Christian High School in Bradford. She was dean of students at Villa Maria College from 1968-73, and served on many boards, among them Villa Maria College, Villa Maria Academy, Saint Vincent Hospital and Spencer Hospital. At Saint Vincent, she also was a corporator.

One of Sister Leonie's most significant achievements was in response to the publication of the 1965 Vatican II document



Sister Leonie Shanley, SSI

*Perfectae Caritatis*, which called for the renewal of religious life. The U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph assembled a team of sisters, including Sister Leonie, to research the congregation's primitive documents in LePuy, France, to rediscover the original intent of its founder, Father Jean-Pierre Médaille. The consensus statement of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which articulates the original inspiration and defines a Sister of St. Joseph, was the result of this research.

Sister Leonie served for eight years as her congregation's general superior. She also was vice president and president of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In the Diocese of Erie, she led the Secretariat for Evangelization, and later served as interim president of Villa Maria College.

In 1989, she became vice president of Gannon University, where she ministered until 1991, when she became associate superintendent of education for the Diocese of Erie. Other ministries included serving as administrator of Villa Maria Center, and director of services for the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center.

In commemoration of the congregation's 150th anniversary in the Diocese of Erie, Sister Leonie co-authored *Come to the Waters*, a book that explores the rich history of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She retired in 2011.

Besides members of her religious community, including her close friend, Sister Phyllis McCracken, SSI, survivors include a brother, Leo B. Shanley Jr. (Bette); and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission and Ministries Foundation, 5031 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA, 16506-1249.

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 October 1, 2017 • 12:00-5:00 PM  
 Parish Hall • 520 E. 13th St., Erie  
**Polish Platter Dinner** (Cassina/quart containers to go)  
 Adult \$10 • Child (6-12) \$5, Child under 5 FREE  
**Cash prizes - TOP PRIZE \$1,500!**  
 Children's games • Raffles • Theme baskets • Bake sale  
 • Gift auction (All proceeds benefit the parish)

**ST. LAWRENCE ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER**  
 PLACE 180 E. State St., Albion  
 WHEN Sunday, October 8, 2017  
 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
 COST Adult: \$10, Child 6-10: \$5  
 Child under 5: Free  
 FUN 50/50, Gift Auction!  
 MORE INFO (814) 756-3623

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 5:00 to 11:00 PM  
 Keystone Bavarians 5-8 pm  
 Man's Room Band 8-11 pm  
**OCTOBER 7**  
 1:00 to 11:00 PM  
 The Mad Bavarian 1-4 pm  
 Keystone Bavarians 4-8 pm  
 The Groove 8-11 pm  
**OCTOBER 8**  
 12:00 to 5:00 PM  
 The Cornish Pipers alternating with The Mad Bavarian 12-6 pm  
**GRAND PRIZE \$25,000**  
 Drawing Sunday, October 8 at 5:00 pm  
 Tickets 814-452-2982 or Church Office

**23rd ANNUAL ERIE DIOCESAN Rosary March**  
**Fatima's 100 Year Anniversary**  
**SUNDAY: OCTOBER 8, 2017**  
**Saint Peter Cathedral, 2:00 PM**  
 10th and Sasfras Streets, Erie  
**SPEAKER: BISHOP PERSICO**  
 More info: John Walsh 814-868-1100  
 Sponsored by the WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

Check out more photos at [www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm)



## Catholic Rural Ministry celebrates 10th anniversary in Oil City Deanery



OIL CITY—Catholic Rural Ministry in the Oil City Deanery is marking its 10th anniversary this year. Pictured at a recent celebration, from left, are: **Sister Tina Geiger, RSM**, **Sister Marian Wehler, OSB**, **Ann Badach**, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie; **Msgr. John Swoger**, retired, who had served as vicar of the Western Vicariate when the ministry was formed in 2007; and **Sister Clare Marie Bechner, SSJ**, who founded the outreach with Sister Marian.

Sister Tina and Sister Marian currently serve the needs of the people of the area, including 14 parishes, four elementary schools and one high school. They also serve on local social needs boards, minister at the State Correctional Institution-Forest, and offer Bible studies and youth and adult retreats.

"We were asked to be women of hope for the area," Sister Marian says.

## Barbara Behan Education Endowment provides scholarships to school families



ERIE—Ten Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie recently received \$1,000 each from the Dr. Barbara Behan Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Endowment to support families in need. Behan was committed to early Catholic formation opportunities in the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms.

Pictured, from left, are: **Laura Blake**, principal of Seton School, Meadville; **Michael O'Brien**, principal of St. Stephen, Oil City; **Linda Cecchetti**, principal of St. Bernard, Bradford; **Sheila Clancy**, principal of St. Francis, Clearfield; **Nancy Pless**, principal of St. Gregory, North East; **Karen Burton-Horstman**, chair of the Catholic Foundation's board of directors; **Heidi Patterson**, principal of St. John Paul II Elementary, Hermitage; **Carol Long**, principal of St. Patrick, Franklin; **Monica Schloder**, principal of St. Boniface, Kersey; and St. Leo, Ridgway; **Lisa Norton**, principal of St. James, Erie; **Jim Gallagher**, superintendent of Catholic Schools; and **Jane Wagner**, principal of Blessed Sacrament, Erie.

## Gannon University welcomes 728 new students



ERIE—Gannon University faculty, staff, students and **President Keith Taylor** on Aug. 19 helped first-year students move in to their dorms at the downtown Erie campus. There were an expected 728 new students, with a total enrollment for the fall semester expected to top 4,300. Pictured are President Taylor, the Knight mascot and the new first-year class.

## Mercyhurst president and wife treat Mercy Sisters to an afternoon tea



ERIE—Mercyhurst University President **Michael Victor** and his wife, **Craige**, recently hosted 14 Sisters of Mercy in Erie for a garden party at their home. The sisters enjoyed lunch and admired the grounds, which feature brightly colored zinnia reefs, pansy beds, poolside patio pots of salmon-colored tuberous begonias, and towering dahlias.

Some of the Victor gardens take on the splendor of an overgrown meadow, others are meticulously manicured, still others have the feel of a rural sanctuary, and wherever you are, butterflies and hummingbirds aren't far behind.

Pictured, from left, are: **Sister Joan McCabe, RSM**, **Craige Pepper Victor**, **Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM**, **Sister Kathryn Preston, RSM**, **Sister JoAnne Courneen, RSM**, **Sister Carol Ann Voltz, RSM**, **Sister Mary Matthew Baltus, RSM**, and **Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb, RSM**.

## Bishop joins more than 200 who participate in Silent Peace Walk



ERIE—**Bishop Lawrence Persico**, center, joined more than 200 people who participated in the Aug. 30 Silent Peace Walk sponsored by the Benedictines for Peace in Erie. The event was held as part of the International Peace Walk Day to promote inner peace and inspire peace and unity in the world. "People responded to this invitation because more than anything, right now, we need a peaceful resolution to what's going on in our world today," said **Kathleen Kuntz**, who helped organize the event.

**Are you 65 or older and concerned about your Medicare benefits?**

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St. John the Baptist & Holy Rosary invite you to our four evening Parish Mission!

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"Ignite the Spirit within You"

A sacramental focus each evening  
Sunday: "Do you know what you've received?"  
Monday: "The Healing Love of Jesus"  
Tuesday: "We are a Community of Believers"  
Wednesday: "God calls - Our response?"

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WHEN Sunday, October 22, 2017  
WHERE Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 West 8th Street, Erie, PA  
MASS 10:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
EXEMPIIFICATION CEREMONY 1:00-3:00 P.M.  
LADIES LUNCHEON 1:00 P.M.  
BANQUET 5:00 P.M.

CONTACT Carl Antonucci, 814-790-3386 or carlantonucchi@paol.com  
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