



Marathon runner teams up with Sisters of St. Joseph to defend immigrants.

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 18, 2016

DIOCESAN NEWS

Gannon University receives U.S.-India 21st Century Award

The U.S. Department of State and the University Grants Commission have announced that Gannon University in Erie has received a U.S.-India 21st Century Knowledge Initiative Award.

The award for \$190,000 will support "Partnership for Global Orientation for Teaching Education Advancement for Comprehensive Health Education" (Partnership GO TEACH Education), a cooperative effort of Gannon University's Villa Maria School of Nursing and Sacred Heart Nursing College, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.

GO TEACH will design a nursing education curriculum to be jointly implemented at both institutions. Indian students will have the opportunity to learn and perfect nursing techniques on simulation equipment.

U.S. students will learn how to respond to and provide care in a public health context and in settings with high patient volumes.

To complete the project, teams from Gannon and Sacred Heart will spend two weeks a year in exchange visits over a period of three years.

Nine principals appointed

Nine schools in the Diocese of Erie have new principals this year.

One of the principals, Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ, has been appointed to Our Lady's Christian School, Erie, for only the 2016-17 academic year. She previously served as principal at Villa Maria Academy.

Dr. Michael Spencer has been named interim principal at St. Francis School, Clearfield. Diocesan officials and the pastor will continue to search for a permanent replacement.

Seven other principals appointed are:

- Brenda Karlinchak, Villa Maria Academy, Erie
- William Lyon, Kennedy Christian middle and high schools, Hermitage
- Lisa Norton, St. James School, Erie
- Heidi Patterson, St. John Paul II Elementary, Hermitage
- Jim Smith, Cathedral Prep, Erie
- John Schneider, St. Marys Middle School and Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys
- Nancy Warner, St. Joseph School, Warren.

Currently, the Diocese of Erie has 26 elementary schools, three middle schools and seven high schools, serving about 7,500 students.

HOPE in the CROSS

Hungarian immigrant spreads peace through woodwork

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

People stop to pray nearly every day before the eight-foot wooden cross in front of Tashawna Harden's house at 2307 Holland Street in Erie.

Two years ago, Harden's cousin Tyshaun Thrower was shot and killed just north of Harden's home in one of Erie's most violence-prone neighborhoods. The cross stands as a magnet of hope, surrounded by flowers and stuffed animals left by people who knew the 20-year-old victim.

"You see people here anytime of the day or night. They talk to the cross just like they're talking to Tyshaun. Or they pray," Harden says. "The cross brings peace. It brings people together."

Harden, 23, has come to love the cross in her front yard; it seems to keep her cousin close. But an unlikely consequence of the tragedy is that she and her extended family have developed a friendship with Erie resident Frank Juhasz, a Hungarian immigrant in his 70s, who made the cross and offered to place it at the murder scene.

A member of Erie's Son of God Prayer Group at Holy Rosary Church, Juhasz was moved to tears when he saw people gathered to pray at E. 23rd and Holland streets just days after Tyshaun's murder on Oct. 24, 2014.

"It breaks your heart what's happening in the city," Juhasz says, standing next to Harden



Photos by Mary Solberg

Above, top: A large cross created by Frank Juhasz of Erie is displayed at East Avenue and Buffalo Road.

Above, bottom: Frank Juhasz stands with Tashawna Harden and a wooden cross he made to remember Tashawna's cousin who was murdered in 2014.

one recent summer afternoon. "When someone drives by the cross, they can't help but think of Christ and that he died for us. We should flood this town with crosses."

Juhasz and the Son of God Prayer Group have installed several pressure-treated crosses throughout Erie. Some of them stand at 20 feet; others are 18 feet and 14 feet. Juhasz made them all.

He spent his career rebuilding industrial machinery, having owned and operated the former Juhasz Industry in Erie. On a business

trip to Lithuania in September 1993, he first became inspired by the powerful nature of the cross when he made a personal pilgrimage to the site known as the Hill of Crosses.

Years later, Juhasz started to build his own.

"When you see a cross, it represents God. It represents your faith," Juhasz says. "I know Christ was crucified on one of those. It reminds people to get hate out of their heart. If you love Christ, then you have no hate. That young man would not have been killed if there was no hate."

Besides the cross in front of the Harden home, there are others that encircle the neighborhood. An 18-footer is located across the street next to a playground. Another one is outside Missionary Baptist Church at E. 21st and Holland.

About 18 months ago, Juhasz asked Par- ris Baker, pastor of Believers International Worship Center, if he could install a 20-foot cross—complete with a barbed wire crown of thorns—on the community's currently vacant property at East Avenue and Buffalo Road.

Pastor Baker agreed. As program director of Gannon University's Social Work Department, he and his congregation are searching for any and all ways to curb the violence that has plagued city streets. They are working closely with police, doing ride-alongs with patrolmen and conducting diversity training.

"The cross is a powerful symbol; it has a galvanizing effect and reminds people of the answer," Pastor Baker says.



Photo by Mary Solberg

9/11 remembered 15 years later

Faculty and students at St. Luke School, Erie, joined Bishop Lawrence Persico, other diocesan officials and state representatives at a Sept. 8 Patriot Day event recognizing the work of emergency responders and U.S. military representatives.

The annual event carried special meaning this year as the country commemorated the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

On Sept. 11, the bishop also presided at a Blue Mass at St. Luke, telling police, firefighters and military members: "Every day I am amazed, as are so many, by the sacrifices that you make to bring peace and harmony to our world."

City of Erie firefighter Darin Beckes enjoys a moment with St. Luke fifth-graders Joshua Chermack, far left, and Adam Wentz at a school event marking the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

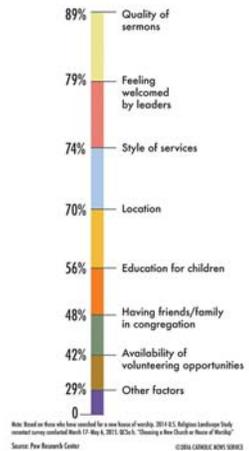
Newsletters



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

When searching for a new congregation, Americans value quality of sermons and feeling welcomed

Among U.S. adults who have looked for a new congregation or house of worship, % who say each factor played an important role in their choice



USCCB urges agreement on contraceptive mandate case

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A Sept. 9 letter from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the Department of Health and Human Services stressed that an agreement could effectively be reached in the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive requirement.

The letter, in response to the government's request for comments on a proposal mandating contraceptive coverage, echoed the Supreme Court's May 16 decision in *Zubik v. Burwell*—

the combined lawsuit of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh, and several other religious groups—that said providing contraception coverage to employees through their insurance plans violated their religious beliefs.

Catholic school grad wins gold at Paralympics in Rio



CNS photo

U.S. swimmer Rebecca Meyers competes in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro Sept. 8.

BALTIMORE (CNS)—U.S. swimmer Rebecca Meyers, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Cockeysville, Md., won gold in the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, setting a world record in the S13 100 butterfly.

A 2013 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson, Md., Meyers earned silver and bronze medals at the London Paralympics in 2012.

Meyers also holds the world record in seven other events, including the 200 and 400 freestyle, and both individual medleys. Meyers was born deaf but found advocates at both St. Joseph School and Notre Dame who helped her navigate her way through her Usher syndrome and use of cochlear ear implants.

Papal trip to Sweden to focus on ecumenical relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis' trip to Sweden Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 will focus heavily on ecumenical relations, especially with the Lutheran Church.

Although the pope will preside at a Mass with Catholics, the trip is designed around Pope Francis' participation in events marking the beginning of a yearlong commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The pope will join Lutheran leaders at an ecumenical event at a sports arena in Malmö Oct. 31.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

If you talk to **Erin Landini-Grogan** for any length of time, you know that she's in love with her two young boys. That's natural, of course, but her passion extends to a lot of issues that fall under the umbrella of the diocesan office that she directs: Parish Social Ministry and Respect Life.

Next month, Landini-Grogan will oversee a series of panel discussions, titled "A Catholic Understanding of Immigration and Refugee Resettlement." Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services will provide fact sheets and guest speakers will be on-hand to discuss the state of immigration and resettlement in the U.S. and in the Diocese of Erie. Also scheduled will be refugees and immigrants who will talk about the challenges of leaving their homelands.

"If personal testimony can change one heart, then we've done what we've set out to do," Erin Landini-Grogan says.

The series schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 2, St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie
 - Oct. 9, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Smythport
 - Oct. 16, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Oil City
 - Oct. 23, St. Tobias Church, Brockway.
- Each seminar will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Congratulations to **Mercyhurst President Michael Victor**, who was installed as the university's 12th president on Sept. 10.

Bishop Lawrence Persico attended the installation and presid-

ed at an inaugural Mass, entrusting to President Victor the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI regarding Catholic education: "First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."

Hundreds attended both the Mass and the inauguration ceremony at the Erie campus.

Two diocesan officials were recognized this month with individual honors.

Msgr. Edward Lohse, episcopal vicar for canonical services in the diocese, was named Alumna of Distinction by St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. He was honored Sept. 13 at St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica, Greensburg.

This is the second year in a row that diocesan clergy have been recognized by St. Vincent. Last year, **Bishop Persico** was named Alumna of Distinction.

This week, **David Murphy** will be recognized for 40 years of attendance at the annual Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference. Murphy has been chief financial officer for the diocese since 1977.

Fall officially begins Sept. 22, so it might be worth checking out the foliage at Erie Bluffs State Park, a little-known area of interest to most people in our sprawling diocese. Gannon University biology professor **Michael Ganger** and his colleagues recently published a paper on the 587 acres of the park along Lake Erie's shoreline. Thanks to **Ganger, Ephraim A. Zimmerman** and **Steven P. Grund** of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and **James K. Bissell** of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, we now know that the park is home to 555 vascular plant species.

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

Catholic Charities Ball grants distributed to benefit needy

FAITHLIFE staff report

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie distributed more than \$100,000 recently to agencies and affiliated programs that serve the poor and needy.

The distribution of the grants was made possible with funds collected at the annual Catholic Charities Ball, held in May.

"We remain deeply grateful to all our donors who make these grants possible," said Ann Badach, executive director of Catholic Charities. "The Catholic Charities Ball, our annual fundraising event, is an evening designed to showcase our ministries and thank our many benefactors."

Eleven affiliates and pastoral ministries that serve people in the diocese and at the diocesan mission in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, shared \$101,847.

The affiliated agencies that received grants include:

- Better Housing, Erie

- Catholic Charities Counseling & Adoption Services
- Catholic Rural Ministry of Potter/McKean counties
- Catholic Rural Ministry of Oil City
- Family Life Office, Erie
- Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield
- Harborcreek Youth Services, Harborcreek
- Mission of Friendship, Mérida, Yucatán
- Prince of Peace Center, Farrell
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary Center, Oil City
- St. Martin Center, Erie.

The grant money will be used for a wide-ranging list of services, including emergency assistance to families in need, music and art therapy, and transportation, food and utility aid.



Photo by Anne-Marie Weh

Representatives of Catholic Charities affiliated agencies each received a portion of the proceeds from the annual Catholic Charities Ball. Pictured, from left, are: Doug Kennedy, interim director, St. Elizabeth Center; Indira Suarez, director, Office of Diocesan and International Missions; Makenzie Hanlin, service coordinator, Better Housing; Deacon Anthony Indelicato, director, Good Samaritan Center, Clearfield; Heather Postler, site manager, Better Housing; David González, CEO, St. Martin Center; Christine Hess, director, Office of Family Life; Mercy Sister Tina Geiger, Catholic Rural Ministry, Oil City Deanery; Joe Flecher, director, Prince of Peace Center; Joe Haas, executive director, Catholic Charities and Adoption Services; Benedictine Sister Phyllis Schlicher, Catholic Rural Ministry, Bradford Deanery; and John Petulla, executive director, Harborcreek Youth Services.

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EVENTS

Concert Series begins at St. Peter Cathedral

ERIE—St. Peter Cathedral in Erie begins its 2016-17 Concert Series on Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. with an organ concert by Kevin Dill, music director at First Presbyterian Church of Meadville. The concert is free and open to the public.

Sister, bishop emeritus to speak in Erie

ERIE—Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman and Sister Melannie Svoboda, SND, will be the guest speakers in the September Speaker Series at St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary churches this month.

Bishop Emeritus Trautman will speak at Pastor's Hall at St. John the Baptist, 509 E. 31st St., Erie, Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Sister Melannie, a popular workshop leader and author of six books, will speak at Hastings Hall at Holy Rosary, 2701 East Ave., Erie, Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow each presentation.

Father Singer to speak on *Amoris Laetitia*

HARBORCREEK—Father Christopher Singer, chancellor of the diocese, will present a talk Sept. 28 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek, on *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), the apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. Father Singer will explore the contents of *Amoris Laetitia* and what it means for people who experience the joys and challenges, even sorrows, of marriage and family life.

Meditation instruction workshop offered Oct. 1

HARBORCREEK—Mercy Sister Rita Panciera will facilitate a centering prayer workshop Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek.

This workshop is suitable for beginners and those already practicing centering or contemplative prayer. Lunch is included. Pre-registration by Sept. 26 is requested.

For information, call Donna Clark at 814-899-5342 or email her at dclark@ourladyofmercychurch.org. There is no cost to attend, but a free will offering is accepted.

Recite the rosary Saturdays in October

ERIE—Recite the rosary every Saturday in October at 9:15 a.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery mausoleum chapel, 6000 Lake Pleasant Road, Erie. For more information, call Erie Diocesan Cemeteries at 814-838-7724.

Day of Renewal scheduled at St. Joseph Church

ERIE—A Day of Renewal—Mercy in Families—will be held Oct. 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Community Center at St. Joseph Church, Erie.

The cost is \$20. Drinks will be provided, but bring a bag lunch. For information, call 814-824-1286 or 814-833-9717, or email wolccc@ErieRCD.org. Registration is due Oct. 3 with payment to: Word of Life Center, c/o St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514.

Navigating life with an adolescent boy?

EDINBORO—Fathers and adolescent sons are invited to gather for a day of conversation and activities at Our Lady of the Lake social hall in Edinboro.

The Office of Chastity Education is sponsoring the Oct. 22 event, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Discussion and activities will include such issues as growing into manhood, communication, the dignity of human life, listening to God's call, and the beauty of married life.

To register, visit www.ErieRCD.org/nfp.htm and click Calling All Dads under the events tab, or call Kate Whitford at 814-824-1259.

Marathoner, SSJs help immigrants



A group of friends, family and members of the Sisters of St. Joseph community surround Aja Glavasevic, pictured standing seventh from left, at the Erie Marathon held at Presque Isle State Park.



Aja Glavasevic smiles immediately after finishing her first marathon in Erie on Sept. 11.

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Aja Glavasevic and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania have teamed up for a cause close to their hearts.

At 27, Glavasevic finished the Erie Marathon Sept. 11 to help raise money for the new Sisters of St. Joseph Initiative for Immigration Fund. The goal is to collect \$10,000 to finance legal assistance for the increasing number of immigrants in northwestern Pennsylvania.

At press time, Glavasevic—who is an attorney with Jones, Gregg, Crehan & Gerace in Sharon—raised \$2,610 through the fundraising site www.crowdrise.com.

"My goal is to let immigrants know about the options available. Legal services do exist and there is a way that we can alleviate the financial stress and pressures," Glavasevic says.

Glavasevic, who at age 6 immigrated to Erie with her family from Bosnia and Herzegovina, understands the plight of displaced people. The genocide and war in the former Yugoslavia had claimed at least six members of her extended family.

"This has been a driving force. I know the sacrifices that many of these people endure when they come into this country," she says.

Growing up in Erie, Glavasevic got to know the Sisters of St. Joseph through her best friend, Meredith Pompeani, who is the daughter of Stephanie Hall, the religious community's public relations director. Over the years, Glavasevic attended many events sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

They share a common vision of peace and social justice. So when Glavasevic approached Hall about doing a marathon, ideas started rolling.

Hall and the SSJ leadership team brainstormed about ways to combine the community's peace and justice outreach with Glavasevic's

legal expertise and passion for immigrants.

"The passion Aja has...oh my gosh," Hall says. "She's a go-getter."

Glavasevic earned her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she attended as a Division I track and field captain and scholarship student. In May 2014, she earned her law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. An elite athlete, she spent a year competing as a member of the USA women's bobled team, through which she met her fiancé, who is a member of Austria's men's bobled team.

Since January 2016, she has practiced law with Jones, Gregg in the areas of immigration, domestic relations, criminal and employment law.

Erie, she says, is the fifth largest resettlement community in the nation, yet there are no attorneys in the region strictly devoted to practicing immigration law.

"I think immigration law will be growing 100 percent. How long that growth will last will depend on the policies and laws that are implemented in this country," she says. "If we become more isolationist, there could be changes in deportation. If we become more open, we will see an influx of refugees."



To donate to the Initiative for Immigration Fund, search Aja at www.crowdrise.com.

For those who want to send a contribution by mail, checks may be made payable to the Sisters of St. Joseph, earmarked for the Initiative for Immigration Fund, and mailed to:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania
5031 West Ridge Road
Erie, PA 16506

OBITUARY

Father Jeremy J. Bolha, OSB

Monk served two parishes in St. Marys

LATROBE, Pa.—Benedictine Father Jeremy J. Bolha, a monk of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, died Sept. 1.

He was 83.
A native of Wilpen, Pa., Father Bolha served as pastor of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys, from 1981-85, and as associate pastor there from 1995 to 2000.
From 2003-08, he was a senior



Father Jeremy J. Bolha, OSB

priest at Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys.

Father Bolha graduated from Saint Vincent Preparatory School in 1950, and received a bachelor of arts degree from Saint Vincent College in 1955. He graduated from Saint Vincent Seminary in 1959.

He made simple profession of vows on July 2, 1953, and solemn profession of vows on July 11, 1956. He was ordained before Bishop Hugh Lamb in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, on May 23, 1959.

Besides his service in the Diocese of Erie, Father Bolha mostly served parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg. He served as *socius* of novices at St. Vincent Archabbey for two years, and as a prefect in the preparatory school for two years. He retired to St. Vincent Archabbey in 2008.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 7 at the basilica, with Benedictine Father Earl Henry, prior, officiating. A Rite of Committal was held at Saint Vincent Cemetery.

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

Picking blueberries for a good cause



FRENCHVILLE—The youth group at St. Bonaventure Church in Grampan recently picked blueberries at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. Bethany sells the berries to raise money for housing for homeless women. Participating students were Noah Mendat, Ethan Mendat, Jarod Grimm, Cameron Weber, Jaiden Weber, Kendra Turner, Henry Mendat, Cole Turner, Madison McKeown, Simon Mendat, Breanne Spencer and Jordan Turner. The youth group leader is Barb Johnson.

Celebrating Sainthood



ERIE—St. George eighth-grader Rachel Ferrick, right, made the blue and white sari worn by seventh-grader Megan Maholic to help celebrate the canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta on Sept. 4. The St. George student council also made yarn bracelets for students, staff and parents who attended a special Mass that remembered the life and contributions of the new saint.



EDINBORO—Seven-year-old Charley Spurlin, a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro, looks up at the large banner of St. Mother Teresa on display in the church the weekend of the saint's canonization Sept. 4.

Wooden cross placed in DCC gym



DuBOIS—Bob Boland, left, assists Brad Pifer, head of maintenance at DuBois Central Catholic, with hanging a handcrafted wooden cross in the school gymnasium. The cross was designed and hand-made by Bob Skraba of Skraba Construction of Ridgway. Skraba is a parishioner of St. Leo Parish, Ridgway, but has longtime connections to the DuBois school.



Mercyhurst Prep students visit Kinzua

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST—Several Mercyhurst Preparatory students visited Allegheny National Forest at Kinzua for a day-long retreat in July. The group took part in prayer, hikes and shared a meal as part of the annual summer excursion sponsored by the school's campus ministry.

Pictured in the front, from left, are: Hannah Tatar, campus minister; and students Emily Matczak and Ashley McWilliams. In the middle row, from left, are: students Jon Redding, Gianluca Ianiro, Anna Czulewicz, John Bauman, Maia Magerle and Jacob Barilla. In the back row, from left, are: students Jacob Zimmerman, Lauren Habursky, Ben Glennon, Courtney Stuckey and Molly Manafo; Matthew Ochalet, theology department chairperson, and students Michael Deutsch, Ben Guild and Daniel Rathburn.

22nd Annual Diocesan Rosary March and Marian Jubilee for the Year of Mercy

Sunday, October 9, 2016
Procession begins at 2:00 PM
Saint Peter Cathedral
10th and Sassafras Streets

Pray the rosary with Bishop Lawrence Persico in a 10-block procession in downtown Erie followed by prayers, Benediction and a homily to be given by Fr. Jerry Priscaro

MORE INFO: John Walsh 814-868-1100

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1:38 Women CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"REMEMBERING HIS PROMISE OF MERCY"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016

Warner Theatre • Downtown Erie

REGISTRATION begins at 8:00 AM • Conference 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

COST: \$40/PERSON; \$25/STUDENT (includes lunch)

• Adoration • Reconciliation • Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico
MC - Fr. Larry Richards • Inspiring NATIONAL SPEAKERS:

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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

All faiths are welcome!
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for more details and to register.

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Late Nite Catechism

Enjoy dinner and a show. All proceeds will benefit our mission to serve those in need and assist in the care of our elderly and infirm sisters.

For Tickets Call (814) 824-2485

Thursday, October 13
Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center
7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA

\$100 per person
\$175 per couple

5:30pm - Open Bar
6:30pm - Dinner
7:30pm - Show