



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE
INSPIRING WORDS
FROM POPE FRANCIS:
 "Saying 'thank you' is such an easy thing, and yet so hard."

DIOCESAN NEWS

Gannon among 'Great Schools'

Gannon University is the only university in western Pennsylvania to be named to the "Great Schools, Great Prices" list in the 2016 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's American's Best Colleges*. Gannon is ranked ninth among all universities in the north region of the U.S. for providing exceptionally high-quality education at an affordable price.

The "Great Schools, Great Prices" ranking takes into account an institution's academic quality, based on its overall ranking in America's Best Colleges, and the 2014-15 actual cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

Recently, Gannon also was named in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Great Colleges to Work For." Feedback from employees was the primary factor determining the recognition.

Villa graduate remembers mom

Carla Miller Noziglia, a 1963 graduate of Villa Maria College, Erie, recently established the Eileen Miller Endowed Power Scholarship at Gannon University, in memory of her mother.

The gift of \$25,000 will be matched by Gannon under the provisions of the Power Scholarship Challenge.

Noziglia is a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a recipient of Gannon's Distinguished Alumni Award, and currently serves on Gannon's national alumni board.

Her mother, Eileen Miller, was a teacher of Latin and English for many years at the Erie Day School, and was an accomplished pianist who also sang in the St. Andrew Church choir.

Prep grad hosts new TV show

Cathedral Preparatory School graduate Justin Fatica visited Erie recently, bringing his nationally known *Hard as Nails* ministry with him.

An Erie native, Fatica has a new television show airing on EWTN and YouTube, with episodes featuring the Erie area. The Catholic evangelist, author and speaker hosts "You're Amazing with Justin Fatica," which airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. on EWTN Global Catholic Network. The episodes are posted in advance on YouTube.

Episodes show Fatica and his team of young missionaries traveling by bus across the United States. One recent show stopped in Hermitage and at a retreat with Prep students. While in Erie in mid-September, Fatica and his team presented programs at Villa Maria Academy and at Prep.

PAPAL FIRSTS



Photographic Service of L'Osservatore Romano

Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico enjoys a moment with Pope Francis at the Vatican's Clementine Hall on Sept. 10.

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

ROME—Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico met his first pope and took his first trip to Europe this month, just days before Pope Francis made his own inaugural trip to the United States.

"As a priest and as a bishop, it was a very emotional experience being at the Vatican," Bishop Persico said. "It was such an honor to be in the Holy Father's presence. You could sense the holiness about him."

Bishop Persico joined about 130 new bishops from around the world in the Clementine Hall at the Vatican Sept. 10. The pope, speaking only in Italian, advised

them in a written address to let the Holy Spirit "continually turn your life upside down," challenge faithful Catholics, seek out those who have left the church, and meet with non-believers.

Bishop Persico waited in a long line to meet Pope Francis, shaking his hand and asking him to pray for the people of the Diocese of Erie. The pope does not speak English well, but acknowledged the request.

While in Rome Sept. 6-13, Bishop Persico attended several classes that covered everything from canon law and administration to interreligious dialogue. He also made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter.

Pope reforms annulment process

Erie Diocese reviews amendments to canon law

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE AND CINDY WOODEN | CNS

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis' recent reforms to marriage annulments—making the process simpler, quicker and less expensive—were made in response to requests from bishops around the world since before 1980.

According to Deacon Richard Shewman, a judge in the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie, canonists and bishops worldwide were asked seven months ago to provide the Vatican with specific concerns regarding the annulment process.

"I think it's great that Pope Francis has introduced all of the changes," Deacon Shewman said. "It's something most canonists for years have thought should be done and he's doing it."

The diocese handles about 150 annulment cases per year. It takes roughly six months for a case to be resolved here, but in some cases longer, depending on appeals

See Annulment, page 3

School receives \$3.2 million

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Norman and Agnes Allgeier—who lived well into their 90s—were frugal country folk from Greene Township. But their generosity is unmatched in the history of St. Boniface School.

Located on Wattsburg Road, near Waterford, the school sits across the street from the parish cemetery where the Allgeiers are now buried. It seems an ideal burial plot for a man and woman who loved children and dedicated their hearts and pocketbooks to the advancement of Catholic education.

"Now Uncle Norman and Agnes can see the kids coming to school every day," says Gary Winschel, nephew and executor of their estates.

Norman Allgeier died at age 98 in 2012; Agnes died this past January. They bequeathed \$3.2 million to St. Boniface School.

Allgeier roots go deep in Greene Township, where Benjamin Allgeier helped found St. Boniface Church in 1857. Over the years, Norman and Agnes

gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to the school and the parish, assisting in renovations and capital campaigns.

With no children of their own, they poured their energies into the lives of many nieces, nephews and extended family. Norman became a father figure to Winschel, whose own dad died when he was 13.

"Norman just loved kids. He believed in Catholic education and the morals that he was brought up with," says Winschel, who is senior vice president at PNC Wealth Management in Erie.

Beginning this school year, every child in kindergarten through fourth grade at St. Boniface received \$1,000 for tuition assistance from the Allgeier gift.

St. Boniface students in grades five through eight who have transferred to nearby Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish also have received \$1,000 per year to defray tuition costs.

Additionally, the Allgeier fund gives \$500 a year to pre-school students who can save it for use when they attend kindergarten.

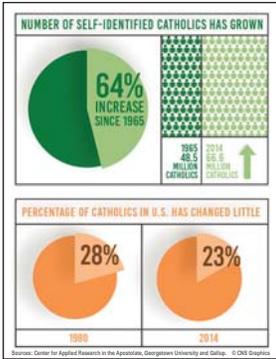


Gary Winschel, left, and his cousin Mike Allgeier are proud of the legacy of giving passed down by their relatives at St. Boniface Parish/School, Erie.

"We are very thankful and blessed to receive this gift," says Lisa Panighetti, principal of St. Boniface and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. "Catholic education is a financial sacrifice for some people, so this has really helped many families."

Tom Feeney, who serves on the parish finance council, says \$1.3 million of the total gift is to be used for scholarship assistance for St. Boniface students, while the remainder goes to tuition assistance and school operations.

Currently, St. Boniface has 27 students in kindergarten through fourth grade; another 28 are enrolled in its pre-school program.



■ U.S. church 'stands ready' to help Syrian refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Catholic Church "stands ready to help" in efforts to assist refugees fleeing war-torn countries in the Middle East, said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Sept. 10.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., said Catholics in the U.S. and "all people of good will should express openness and welcome to refugees fleeing Syria and elsewhere in order to survive."

■ Interviews reveal 'inner' pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A pope needs friends, needs mercy and needs to reach out to all people, Pope Francis said in two radio interviews released in mid-September.

Pope Francis told Portugal's Catholic Radio Renascença that he goes to confession every 15 to 20 days and confesses to a Franciscan priest. Laughing, the pope said, "I've never had to call an ambulance" to carry him away "in shock over my sins!"

In a separate interview with Argentina's Radio Mileium, Pope Francis was asked how he feels when he hears people refer to him as a global moral leader and a point of reference for all humanity.

"I know that I am a sinner," the pope responded, and "so I speak with Jesus and tell him, 'People are so good to think this of me.' But the good that is in me, I owe to him. It is a gift from God."

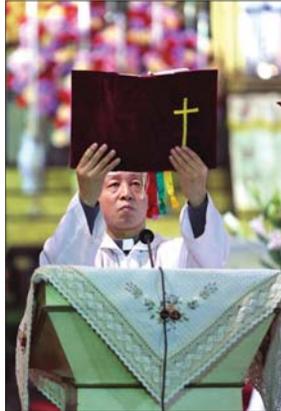
■ Hong Kong cardinal opposes the removal of crosses in China

HONG KONG (CNS)—Cardinal John Tong Hon of Hong Kong has issued an "urgent appeal" to Communist Party chiefs in Beijing, calling on them to order a halt to an ongoing cross-removal campaign from Christian churches in Zhejiang province.

"I sincerely and urgently appealed to the central government to contact the Zhejiang provincial government and investigate the real situation and stop all illegal cross removals," the cardinal said in a statement this summer.

The Chinese authorities should "return to the right path, placing supreme importance on the constitution, ruling the country according to the law, and governing by the law," he said. The cardinal also called on Catholics in Hong Kong to pray and fast for religious dignity and freedom in order to share the sufferings of their persecuted brothers and sisters on the mainland.

A day earlier, Chinese authorities discounted rumors circulating among Christian leaders and on social media that the 20-month campaign, which has seen the removal of more than 1,200 crosses, would be halted.



A Catholic priest raises the Book of Gospels during a Mass in Beijing.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

They say news travels like the speed of light, but it's still not fast enough to share my thoughts about today's historic Mass with Pope Francis in Philadelphia. Readers will have to wait until *FaithLife's* Oct. 11 edition for that reflection.

As you read this, I am standing in a crowd of more than 1 million people on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, waiting for the Holy Father to celebrate the long-anticipated Mass that ends the World Meeting of Families.

I may not get any closer to the pope than five blocks, having to watch him on a Jumbotron. Still, I count myself as singularly fortunate to be present for this historic event.

To get up-to-the minute reactions to today's Mass, go to @erie_pope on Twitter. The 230 pilgrims from the Diocese of Erie who are in Philadelphia are using #ericlovesthepope. Even if you don't want to sign up for a Twitter account, you can go online (https://twitter.com/erie_pope) to read what people from our diocese are saying. Also, watch for photos on Instagram by searching for "diocesoferie."

For a live stream of the papal Mass today at 4 p.m., go to the following website: www.ewm.com/america.

Joe Flecher of Prince of Peace Center in Farrell was among many who attended the Sept. 23 canonization Mass for Juniper Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in

Washington, D.C. Joe represented Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.

Others from the diocese who attended the Mass in Washington were Bishop Lawrence Persico, Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, Father Nicholas Rouch, Sister Mary Andrew Himes, RSM, and 21 of our seminarians.

October is Respect Life Month, but for some, standing up for life is a year-round calling.

On Sept. 12, Jim Burik of Erie and a handful of others braved torrential rains to gather at the chapel of Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Erie for the third annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

And meet Joanie McCoy, a parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, and a registered nurse at the Women's Care Center in Erie. She is proud of the pro-life services offered by the agency.

The Women's Care Center does not provide birth control services or referrals and does not provide abortions or referrals. Instead, it gives alternatives to abortion, as implied by the Pennsylvania agency that funds it: Real Alternatives.

"It's so nice to show the other side of this issue and help these girls and women choose life," McCoy says.

Did you know that the Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools in Hermitage offers the only school-based equestrian program in the region?

Students in pre-school through 12th grade (at St. John Paul II Elementary, Kennedy Catholic Middle School and Kennedy Catholic High School) may opt to receive training in basic horsemanship.

Father Mike DeMartinis, parochial administrator of Mount Calvary Parish, Erie, will soon announce details of a Bible study he will teach on Wednesday nights beginning Oct. 14. Sessions are free, but participants are asked to bring a revised standard version of the Bible.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*.
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Pope extends mercy in abortion, divorce



Guest Commentary

Father Christopher Singer

During this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites the human race to encounter God's immense love and mercy in powerful ways.

Even before his visit to the United States this month, the Holy Father announced new ways in which the Catholic Church will open wide the doors of mercy to persons facing two of life's most difficult situations: divorce and abortion.

First, all priests throughout the world will be given the faculty (ability) to fully forgive the sin of abortion. Because abortion is such a violent and devastating act, those who freely have an abortion, or directly help someone else to procure an abortion, automatically have a penalty imposed upon them, restricting them from receiving the sacraments until

the penalty is lifted. The penalty isn't a punishment, but rather a stark reminder to the person of the seriousness of abortion, and the need to be reconciled and reform their lives. Normally, this penalty can only be lifted by a bishop, but Pope Francis is extending the faculty to all priests within the context of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We priests often hear of the inner turmoil suffered, sometimes for decades, by women who have had abortions. The pope now allows persons in this situation to receive forgiveness more quickly, so that they can continue the process of healing. It is important to note that most bishops in the United States (including in the Diocese of Erie) have been giving this special faculty to their priests for decades. Thus, the pope's announcement will be more significant elsewhere in the world than in the U.S.

Here is the bottom line: If you have ever confessed abortion, or have ever cooperated in an abortion, rest assured that the priest you spoke with had the faculty to lift the penalty and grant forgiveness. If you have ever confessed abortion, it has been forgiven and you can move on with healing.

Second, Pope Francis has announced significant changes to the church's process of determining the nullity of marriages. Jesus told us very clearly that marriage is a lifelong, unbreakable bond between one man and one woman. Marriage can only be dissolved by the death of one of the spouses. But we are all aware that today, for lots of complex human reasons, nearly half of all marriages fail and a civil divorce becomes necessary. The church's annulment process is a great act of mercy, helping people to move on in their lives after experiencing the trauma of divorce.

Pope Francis has simplified the process in some cases, and has given the local bishop more discretion to intervene to help the process move along more quickly. Pope Francis also has asked that dioceses absorb the cost of the annulment process, so that they can be offered for free to those who need them.

Divorce and abortion are two of the most devastating experiences that can happen in life. Pope Francis has opened up new doors of mercy to help heal those who experience these tragedies. If you are one of these people, talk to your local priest, or call the Erie Diocese Office of Matrimonial Concerns at 814-824-1140.

Come and experience God's mercy.

Father Christopher Singer is the chancellor of the Diocese of Erie.

Letter points to pope's environment concerns

FAITHLIFE staff report

Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment ("*Laudato Si'*—On Care of Our Common Home") is a key point in Erie Benedictine Sister Pat Lupo's recent letter written on behalf of Pennsylvanians Against Fracking.

The letter, dated Sept. 17, was sent to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, asking him to stop the use of fracking and evaluate environmental policies in the state.

"Pope Francis understands that our current path is unsustainable and that the poorest among us are already witnesses to that fact," the letter states.

Pennsylvanians Against Fracking is a coalition of organizations around the state opposed to the process of hydraulic fracturing used to release natural gas from rock formations.

Sister Pat, who is an environmental educator at Erie's Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, said many faith leaders from the region signed the document.

The letter can be found online at http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/PAF_Faith_Letter_to_Wolf_2.pdf.



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21st Annual Erie Diocesan Rosary March

Sunday, October 11, 2015
Saint Peter Cathedral
(10th and Sassafras Streets, Erie)

Assemble at 2:00 pm
Speaker: Fr. John Malthaner
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More info: John Walsh, 814-868-1100

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Annulment reform

ANNULMENT, from page 1
or delays due to jurisdiction issues.

The need to reform the annulment process and cut the costs were supported by an overwhelming majority of bishops—about 90 percent—at last year's extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

Pope Francis' new rules respond to that request. Except for what is needed for an appropriate salary for tribunal workers, the pope prefers that the annulment process be free "so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the church—by demonstrating to the faithful that she is a generous mother—may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which saves us all."

The U.S. bishops' website notes that the fees vary from diocese to diocese within the United States. Several dioceses already waive fees, but most charge between \$200 and \$1,000 for a formal case.

"Getting rid of the fee is getting rid of a burden for some people, but it hasn't in my experience been an obstacle to being granted an annulment. If someone can't afford it, we waive the

fee," Deacon Shewman said.

Catholic marriage tribunals do not dissolve marriages, but assess whether or not a valid sacramental marriage was present from the beginning. Catholics who are divorced are free to receive the sacraments, but if they wish to remarry, an annulment is necessary. Bishop Lawrence Persico and members of Erie's Tribunal are still reviewing the details of Pope Francis' two *motu proprio* (papal decrees) governing the procedures for how the church determines that marriage was invalidly contracted.

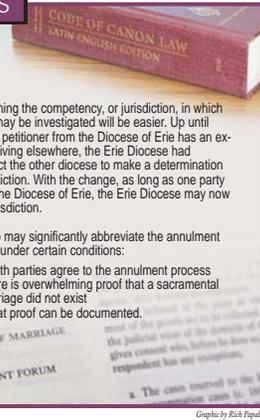
Father Christopher Singer, chancellor of the Diocese of Erie, said marriage, in the eyes of the Catholic Church, remains a life-long, unbreakable bond between one man and one woman.

"Marriage can only be dissolved by the death of one of the spouses," Father Singer said. "But we are all aware that today, for lots of complex human reasons, nearly half of all marriages fail and a civil divorce becomes necessary. The church's annulment process is a great act of mercy, helping people to move on in their lives after experiencing the trauma of divorce."

A CLOSER LOOK AT ANNULMENT CHANGES

Here are some key points of the reforms, as well as the situation in the Diocese of Erie:

- Canons 1671-1691 of the Code of Canon Law are being replaced.
- The indissolubility of marriage is still a firm stance of the Catholic Church.
- Pope Francis urges that fees be eliminated, but he is not demanding it. Currently, the Diocese of Erie charges \$450 per case, but the fee may be waived because of inability to pay.
- Elimination of the potentially lengthy automatic second judgment for all annulment cases. No longer will annulment cases in the Diocese of Erie be sent automatically to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; the decision made locally will be the final decision, unless there is an appeal.
- Determining the competency, or jurisdiction, in which a case may be investigated will be easier. Up until now, if a petitioner from the Diocese of Erie has an ex-spouse living elsewhere, the Erie Diocese had to contact the other diocese to make a determination on jurisdiction. With the change, as long as one party lives in the Diocese of Erie, the Erie Diocese may now have jurisdiction.
- A bishop may significantly abbreviate the annulment process under certain conditions:
 - If both parties agree to the annulment process
 - There is overwhelming proof that a sacramental marriage did not exist
 - If that proof can be documented.



Graphic by Rick Pajula

OBITUARY

Sister Marcia McDonald, RSM

Devoted life to education, administration, research

Mercy Sister Marcia McDonald, a member of the Sisters of Mercy, Erie, devoted her days to education, administration and research. She died Sept. 5 in her 77th year of religious life.

Born in DuBois, Feb. 12, 1921, she was baptized Mary Marcella. On June 27, 1938, she entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Joseph Convent, Titusville, from St. Catherine Parish, DuBois.

She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 16, 1944. She received her bachelor's degree in commercial education from Mercyhurst University, Erie, and her master's in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Her teaching years were spent at St. Cosmas and Damian in Punxsutawney, where she also served as principal, Mercyhurst University, Erie; Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie; and these former high schools: St. Michael in Greenville, St. Joseph Academy in Titusville, and St. Justin's in Pittsburgh.

She went on to become registrar, director of admissions, and assistant to the dean at Mercyhurst University. She also served as development director at Mercyhurst Prep.

During the 1970s, she worked for the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) in Washington, D.C. Shortly before retirement, she returned to Mercyhurst University, where she assisted in the student financial aid office.

Survivors include members of her religious community; her sisters, Jean Earnshaw of Long Beach, Calif., and Nancy Fiasco of St. Louis, Mo.; and her brother, Patrick McDonald of Long Beach.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 9 at the Sisters of Mercy Chapel in Erie. Burial was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

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



Sister Marcia McDonald, RSM

Mercy Sisters celebrate Eire to Erie

ERIE—The Sisters of Mercy will celebrate their history in Erie at a special event, Eire to Erie, Oct. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the community's motherhouse, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

All proceeds will benefit the mission of the Sisters of Mercy, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, who will assist those in need and care for their elderly and infirm sisters.

Tickets are \$75 per person and include cocktails, hearty hors d'oeuvres, an auction and entertainment. To purchase tickets, sponsor a sister to attend, or purchase program ads, contact Sister Bernadette Bell, RSM, at 814-824-3635 or at bell@mercynypapaw.org.

Benedictine Sisters reflect on *Laudato Si'*

ERIE—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie will continue their Enrichment Series with a presentation on Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*—On Care of Our Common Home," Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie.

The presenter is Benedictine Sister Dorothy Stoner, with Benedictine Sister Katherine Horan, representing the environmental community, and Marco A. Monsalve, CEO of McManis & Monsalve Associates. The event is free and open to the public.

For information, contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, at 814-899-0614, ext. 2511.

Made2Worship scheduled through November

ERIE—Made2Worship (M2W) is an evening of story, song and Eucharistic Adoration every first Wednesday of the month through November at St. George Church, 5145 Peach St., Erie. M2W is an ideal event for an RCIA class, Cursillo group, Bible study, youth groups and more.

Families and individuals are welcome to the next Made2Worship events at St. George on Oct. 7 and Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. Confessions begin at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship concludes the evenings. A prayer tent is available to minister to those with specific prayer requests. Music is provided by Daniel Cabanillas and the M2W Band.



EVENTS

40 hours devotion to be held in Emlenton

EMLENTON—The annual 40 hours devotion will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 811 Chestnut St., Emlenton, Oct. 4-6 at 7 p.m. each night. All are welcome to attend. Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available after Mass each morning at 10 a.m., and continue until the close of the evening service. Father John Paul Kuzma, OFM Cap., will preach.

Discover the 'Epic' story of the church

SHARON—Experience church history from a Catholic perspective by watching "Epic: A Journey through Church History" at St. Stanislaus-Holy Trinity Church, Sharon, beginning Oct. 6.

"Epic" is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church, beginning with the lives of the Apostles to the present day. Join the St. Stanislaus-Holy Trinity community as it journeys through the first 1,000 years of church history. Sessions begin Oct. 6 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and continue every Tuesday through Nov. 17 at the same time. For more information or to register, call the parish office at 724-342-7391 or send an email to themustardseed@yahoo.com by Sept. 30. A \$30 registration fee will include an illustrated work book, the "Epic" timeline chart, and an "Epic" bookmark.

Prayer group organizes healing Mass

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group—affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes, Erie—invites the public to attend a healing Mass with Father David Poulson and Father Jason Feigh at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th and East Avenue, Erie, on Oct. 6. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to provide time to write petitions on a simulated brick wall. Petitions will be offered with the presentation of the gifts at Mass, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by St. Joseph Bread of Life Community.

Rosary March scheduled in downtown Erie

ERIE—The 21st Annual Diocesan Rosary March—sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima—will be held Oct. 11 beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral, W. 10th and Sassafras streets, Erie. Participants will march through downtown Erie, returning to the Cathedral, where there will be Benediction and a homily by Father John Malthaner, pastor of St. Luke Parish, Erie.

Students from Catholic schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Erie are invited to march behind a banner with their school or parish name. For those unable to march, the rosary will be said in the Cathedral. All are welcome to participate. For more information, contact John Walsh at 814-866-1100.

Holy Cross offers speaker series this fall

FAIRVIEW—Holy Cross Parish in Fairview is offering a speaker series to address mercy from different perspectives, all within the framework of Pope Francis' call for a Jubilee Year of Mercy. All talks will be held in the worship space of Holy Cross, 7100 West Ridge Road, Fairview, beginning at 7 p.m. Here is the schedule:

- Sept. 29 Kathy Felong, "Mercy Within Mercy Within Mercy"
- Oct. 6 Joe Street, "Faith: What's Culture Got to do With It?"
- Oct. 20 Keith Sundberg, "The Spider Web of Grief"
- Oct. 27 Paul DeSante, "Literature: A Crooked Line to Holiness."

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Centering Prayer Method
—As taught by Fr. Thomas Keating
Introductory Program
Sponsored by: Contemplative Outreach of Erie, PA
Saturday, October 10, 2015
Saint George Church
In the Saint George School Multi-Purpose Room
(entrance from the Georgian Way parking lot)
Registration: 9:10am-9:25am
Program runs from 9:30am-3:30pm
Presented by Joseph Sarbak, LCSW
What is Centering Prayer?
Find out at <http://stgeorgeerie.org/content/contemplative-prayer>

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Rural ministry sisters, bishop gather



DuBOIS—The sisters from the Rural House of Mercy, which serves the DuBois Deanery of the Diocese of Erie, hosted the annual luncheon for sisters who minister in the rural areas of the diocese. Bishop Lawrence Persico, who was in attendance for the third year in a row, enjoyed informal conversation and hearing about the sisters' ministries. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Sister Marian Wehler, OSB; Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB; Sister Margaret Park, RSM; Sister Trish Tyler, RSM; and Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB. In the back row, from left, are: Sister Ruth Ann Madera, CA; Sister Tina Geiger, RSM; and Bishop Lawrence Persico.

Hibernians support St. Martin Center



ERIE—The Ancient Order of Hibernians Erie Division 3 recently presented a \$500 donation to St. Martin Center in Erie to provide the needy with immediate and long-term services. The AOH in Erie was first organized on May 12, 1896. Pictured, from left, are: David Gonzalez, St. Martin Center's chief executive officer; Bill Riordan, AOH treasurer; Tom Welch, AOH president; Tim Donlin, AOH secretary; and Rita Zawacki, St. Martin's administrative assistant/special events coordinator.

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Saint Stanislaus Church Annual Parish Day

Sunday, October 4, 2015 • 12-5:00 PM
 Parish Hall • 520 E. 13 St., Erie

Polish Platter Dinner (carnaria/takeouts available)
 Adult \$10 • Child (6-12) \$5, under 5 FREE
Cash prizes up to \$1,000!
 Children's games • Raffles • Theme baskets • Bake sale
 • Chinese auction (All proceeds benefit parish)

9/11 remembered by Franklin community



FRANKLIN—The administration, faculty and students of St. Patrick School in Franklin joined local police officers and firefighters to remember those who died in the 9/11 attacks 14 years ago. Principal Carol Long, center, led the group in prayer. Msgr. John Herbein, pastor, offered a closing blessing. During the prayer service, Chad Rugh of

the Boy Scouts of America, along with his son and St. Patrick School student, Andy, lowered the old school flag and raised a new one donated by the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly Council #0965.

Parishioners remember St. Bartholomew, enjoy picnic

SHARPSVILLE—A carnival atmosphere permeated the second annual St. Bartholomew Parish picnic in Sharpsville this August.

Father Matthew Strickenberger, pastor, oversaw the festivities carefully planned by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Guild, with the help of the Holy Name Society. Parishioners attended Mass and said a novena to St. Bartholomew.

Pictured preparing the sweet elephant ears, left to right, are: Jennifer Wallace, Colleen DeJulia, Brian Wallace and Vince DeJulia.



St. Gregory students participate in team-building retreat



NORTH EAST—Seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Gregory School in North East participated in a retreat Sept. 3 at Adventure Park at Peek'n Peak Resort in Clymer, N.Y. Students started the day with a liturgy celebrated by Father Steve Schriber, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, then took on the challenges of the Adventure Park. The purpose of the outing was to build leadership and a sense of community. Pictured, from left, are: students Kia Schulte and Hailey Martin; Principal Nancy Pierce; students Corinne Ferrick, Karl Kirschner and Brian Baumgratz; teacher Lori Helffrich (behind); and students Hunter Reinken (kneeling), Cole Elkin-Lexow, Aiden Kemp and Christian Girts.

Mount Jewett youth enjoy three-week summer program



MOUNT JEWETT—This year's Summer Youth Program at St. Joseph Parish in Mount Jewett attracted elementary to high school students from throughout the area. Even the volunteer firefighters showed up one day! The program is in its 15th season.

Family Fun at Camp Notre Dame

NEW FAMILY FUN DAY NEW

October 3, 2015
 11am - 9 pm

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1:38 Women CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Warner Theatre • Downtown Erie

Registration begins at 8:00 AM
 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
 COST: \$40/PERSON; \$25/STUDENT (includes lunch)

Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass and Inspiring national speakers
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KITTY CLEVELAND
KELLY WAHLQUIST

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 Or Call 814-455-7364

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

1:38 Women