



"The rich man in the Gospel has no name, he is simply 'a rich man.' Material things, his possessions, are his face; he has nothing else."

Liturgists gather in Erie

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

ERIE—Archbishop Piero Marini of Rome recalls watching bishops day after day pour out of the Vatican hall where they gathered 50 years ago to formulate the constitutions, decrees, and declarations that would forever change the Roman Catholic Church.

A young priest at the time, Archbishop Marini came to Rome in September 1965, only a few months before the close of the historic Second Vatican Council. Bishops and theologians began gathering in 1962 to address more than a dozen aspects of church life, ranging from interfaith relations to greater lay participation in the liturgy, from social communication to the church's outreach to the modern world.

"Fifty years later, I feel a great nostalgia and a desire to understand more fully and to experience anew the spirit of the council," Archbishop Marini told nearly 200 people gathered this month in Erie for the annual national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC).

Clergy, sisters, and lay people in charge of Catholic worship in dioceses across the United States came together Oct. 8-12 to conduct regular FDLC business. But the larger purpose this year was to mark the 50th anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, or the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, one of the best known documents of Vatican II.

The weeklong conference al-

Vatican II document described as 'matrix for other reforms'

lowed participants to explore the theological principles of the document and its place in the world today. Issued Dec. 4, 1963, the document ordered an extensive revision of worship so that people would have a clearer sense of their own involvement in the Mass and other rites.

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, Archbishop Marini told the audience, was really "a matrix for other reforms" and possible changes yet to come. It is not enough, he said, to look at the written document as a manual for reforming the church's rites.

"It was an event that continues even today to mark ecclesial life," the archbishop said. "It has marked our ecclesial life so much that very little of the church today would be as it is had the council not met."

Archbishop Marini, who is president of the Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses, told the liturgists that Vatican II did not give the world static documents. In our ever-evolving culture, the Catholic liturgy is incomplete unless it renews communities of faith.

"The council is not behind us.



Photo by Mary Solberg

Three archbishops attended the annual national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) in Erie Oct. 8-12. Pictured, left to right, are: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship; Archbishop Samuel Aquila of the Archdiocese of Denver; and Archbishop Piero Marini, president of the Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses.

"Liturgy has to spread to the people. It has to be relevant to our lives. How do we make people go out and do the mission of the church? How do we get back to the basics?"

—Bernadette McMasters
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va.

It still precedes us," Archbishop Marini said.

Two other archbishops attended the national meeting, co-sponsored by the FDLC and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Divine Worship. Archbishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, reviewed the workings of the various commit-

tees, and Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver spoke on the sacraments of initiation as a source of life and hope.

Also speaking was author and Scripture scholar Sister Dianne Bergant, CSA, a distinguished professor of Old Testament Studies in the USCCB Theological Union in Chicago.

All speakers referred to Vati-

can II as only the beginning of reforms within Catholic liturgy and the church as a whole. The traditions of the church, Sister Bergant added, are kept alive through contemporary culture.

The best way the church can share Jesus' story, she said, is if it follows the lead of Pope Francis, who has opened his arms to the suffering, the outcast, the poor, and the marginalized. For Jesus, there were no "outsiders," she said, adding that some in the church are not accepting of people who don't fit certain standards.

"This is not the church of Christ," Sister Bergant said.

Dolores Martinez attended the national meeting with Father Heitor Lucaturo, director of the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. As a former

See LITURGISTS, page 2

New suit filed against Affordable Care Act

FaithLife

The Diocese of Erie—along with Bishop Lawrence Persico and several diocesan-affiliated agencies and schools—filed a new suit in federal court Oct. 9 over the revised contraception mandate in the new Affordable Care Act.

The 59-page suit that was filed in U.S. District Court in Erie asks the government to not enact the mandate, which becomes effective Jan. 1. The 13-county diocese claims that a revision made to the original Affordable Care Act still violates the diocese's First Amendment right to religious freedom.

"The simple truth is that the U.S. government is forcing the Catholic Church to facilitate what it considers immoral," Bishop Persico said in a statement. "As Catholics and as Americans, we are obliged to defend the right to religious liberty for ourselves and for others."

The plaintiffs in the suit—led by Bishop Persico—say they need time to plan for what benefits they will provide to their employees beginning in 2014. Other plaintiffs include: St. Martin Center, Erie; the Prince of Peace Center, Farrell; and the Erie Catholic Preparatory School, which includes Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy.

See NEW SUIT, page 3

Flock of birds gives added meaning to weddings, funerals

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife



Photo by Mary Solberg

Jim Berdis of Erie handles a white pigeon in his backyard. At left, the flock sits atop its wooden loft.

The 80 pigeons Jim Berdis keeps in his backyard are like family. He has even hung a picture of the Blessed Mother on an inside wall of their loft to watch over the cooing creatures.

"I put that picture there because I don't want anything to happen to the loft or the birds. I thank God for allowing me to get up every day to enjoy them," says Berdis, 75, a parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church in Erie. A member of the Erie Racing

Pigeon Club since 1955, Berdis is carrying on a family tradition started by an older brother in the 1940s. He uses 50 of his racing, or homing, pigeons in contests to see how fast and how quickly the birds return to his home on E. 12th Street.

Selectively bred to find their way home over extremely long distances, Berdis' pigeons have won numerous races. The longest distance successfully traveled by his pigeons was 600 miles—from St. Louis, Mo., to Erie.

About 13 years ago, Berdis' hobby took a spiritual twist when someone asked if he would release his pigeons at a wedding. Berdis bought some white doves for the occasion, but he soon discovered that doves don't have as much stamina as pigeons.

He began breeding white pigeons instead. Today, a family of 35 white homing pigeons lives in Berdis' loft. Upon request, he takes them to weddings and cemetery services throughout the area, setting the pure white birds free to spread their beauty and comfort.

White pigeons, which belong to the same family as doves, symbolize many things: peace, hope, and, in the Christian faith, the Holy Spirit. Consider St. Matthew's account in chapter 3, verse 16: "And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him."

That image inspires Berdis to share his birds with others. He takes up to 10 of his white pigeons to cemetery services, allowing a grieving spouse or loved

one to release the first bird. "After the service is over, the grieving person releases one white dove to symbolize their loved one going home to heaven. And then I let the others free, like they are angels taking that person home," Berdis explains.

Usually, Berdis is contacted by grieving families through local funeral homes. He has released birds at a number of cemeteries, including Gate of Heaven and Calvary, both in Erie.

"When I see a grieving person release the birds, it gets very touching. I've lost family myself," Berdis says.

Weddings are a different matter. Usually, Berdis meets with a couple before their wedding date so that they can get used to handling the birds. On the wedding day, the bride and groom set a male and female pigeon free. Other doves are tossed into the air to represent the children that may come from the marriage.

Berdis has released birds at many of his children's and nieces' and nephews' weddings. He has been to St. Luke, St. George, Our Lady of Mercy, and Holy Family parishes, all in the Erie area.

But he's also taken his white pigeons to weddings as far away as Greenville, Pa., and Ashtabula, Ohio.

"When I got married 48 years ago, I didn't have white doves, but I got the feeling that when I do this I'm helping a couple start their marriage off," Berdis says.

Although Berdis offers his services free to family, he is forced to charge others a nominal fee. The cost of gas and the time involved in attending weddings and funeral services adds up. For weddings, he usually charges about \$100, which includes a

pre-wedding handling session. Anyone who has gone to the opening day of Erie Seawolves baseball likely has seen Berdis and his birds. He has released his pigeons at the downtown Erie baseball park for five years.

"It's a hobby," says Berdis, who is the brother of Father Donald Berdis, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima-St. Ann, Farrell, and Sister Kevin Berdis, OSF, principal at Holy Family School, Erie.

For Berdis and his wife, Barbara, the care and upkeep of the creatures are worth it. Barbara's own father raced pigeons and was a founding member of the Erie Racing Pigeon Club.

"Whether it is the first race or the 500th race, it is so edifying that a bird that went so far eventually comes home," Barbara Berdis says.

Photo by Mary Solberg

A baby homing pigeon is expected to live for eight years. Fully grown, it can fly 40 miles per hour.

Clergy Appointments

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



Father Daniel Hoffman, parochial administrator, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, effective Oct. 4, 2013. Term of appointment presently unspecified.

Father William Sutherland, pastor, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, granted leave of absence, effective Oct. 4, 2013, with residence at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie.

Msgr. Robert Barcio, change of residence to Blessed Sacrament Parish, Erie, effective Sept. 28, 2013.



Number of multicultural parishes in the U.S. is growing

WASHINGTON (USCCB)—The percentage of multicultural parishes in America is on the increase, according to research by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

CARA located parishes that self-identify as serving racial, ethnic, cultural, and/or linguistic groups in the nation. It is the first comprehensive listing and mapping of multicultural parishes.

CARA estimates that there are about 6,700 multicultural parishes in the United States, many located in the South and West. The Official Catholic Directory lists more than 17,400 parishes in the country.

Overall, about three in 10 U.S. parishes, or 29 percent, celebrate at least one Mass a month in a language other than English or Latin.

Roo, amateur athletes race with faith to St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Seminarians, Vatican guards, Olympic champs, regular children, and people with disabilities all took part in a morning "Race of Faith" to highlight how the church can help foster a world of sport that better respects human dignity.

Organized by the Pontifical Council for Culture, a 100-meter, three-lane tartan track was temporarily laid down along the main boulevard leading right to the edge of St. Peter's Square.

After reciting the Angelus with people gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis greeted the race participants and asked them to remember that "the believer is an athlete of the spirit."



CNS photo

James Parker, a Catholic coordinator for the London 2012 Olympics, left, and Father Leandro Lenin, a Catholic coordinator for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics run in a 100-meter relay race.

Palestinian president hopes to use pen from pope to sign peace treaty

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis gave Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas a fancy pen as a gift, and Abbas told the pope, "I hope to sign the peace agreement with Israel with this pen."

Pope Francis responded with his hope that the agreement would be reached "soon, soon."

The exchange took place Oct. 17 in the papal library after the pope and Palestinian president had spent almost half an hour meeting privately.

Abbas had given the pope a Bible and a framed scene of Bethlehem, West Bank. The pope gave Abbas a framed scene of the Vatican along with the pen, "because you obviously have many things to sign," which is when Abbas spoke about his hopes to sign a peace treaty.



CNS photo

People can draw own conclusions by reading official papal texts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican's online access to official papal texts and speeches free people from relying on media coverage that may be manipulative or biased, said a top official in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

People can go directly to the @Pontifex Twitter feed and www.news.va/en to see exactly what the pope has said so "you can make your own conclusions, because his words are often very different than the way they are presented by certain media outlets," U.S. Msgr. Peter B. Wells, assessor for general affairs, said Oct. 18.

The monsignor's remarks came in a rare question-and-answer encounter when he spoke in a frescoed hall of the apostolic palace. More than 300 benefactors of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums were in attendance.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

The universal church is in our own backyard.

This past week, the president of the Republic of Cameroon had an audience with Pope Francis. At first glance, the meeting didn't seem all that interesting—that is, until I learned about something happening at St. Andrew Parish in Erie.

Members of the parish choir are trying to find a way to help Mary Nyar, who sang with the choir last year until she returned to her native Cameroon. Mary had come to the U.S. to earn enough money to help her eight children, but she grew homesick and her financial situation never improved.

Now, Mary is trying to scrape up money to help her daughter finish training as a registered nurse at the Catholic School of Health Sciences at St. Elizabeth Catholic General Hospital in Shisong, Cameroon.

St. Andrew choir member **Mary Kay Smith**, a nurse, became quite close with Mary Nyar during her time at the Erie parish. Mary Kay wants to help her new friend but can't think of a way to offer assistance overseas without getting tangled up in a bureaucratic mess.

If anyone has advice on how to assist the St. Andrew choir, let me know and I will pass it along.

The exterior of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs has come to life again. The original sandy-brown hues of its Pennsylvania sandstone can now be seen after a lot of power washing by **Tirpak Building Maintenance** of Erie.

Besides power washing, workers have been removing old mortar and resealing the exterior. The work started in July and is expected to be completed this fall.

"I was born and raised here, but I forgot what it looked like," **Josie Osiecki**, the parish secretary, told me.

Father David Poulson, pastor, said the exterior work has helped define the four gargoyles that sit on the bell tower of the 100-year-old Gothic-style church. "They really show up a lot better now," Father Poulson said.

The church's beautiful stained-glass windows and rose window at the entrance are much more noticeable now, too.

Who can walk 100 miles the fastest? Stay tuned to St. Luke School in Erie, where physical education teacher **Heather Kimball** is challenging the school community to get more fit. Kimball received a grant to increase the overall wellness of the school by getting everyone to walk 100 miles this academic year.

Participants will use pedometers during recess so that students and teachers can walk together. Every day, steps are tracked and then calculated into miles (2,000 steps equals 1 mile). If 75 percent of the student body makes it to the 50-mile mark first, then select students will have a chance to throw a pie in the face of teachers. If teachers make it to 50 first, then they can return the favor!

It was nice to have fifth-graders from St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in St. Marys, St. Boniface School in Kersey, and St. Leo School in Ridgway visit Erie recently. **Father Steve Schreiber** showed them St. Mark Seminary and the Carmelite monastery. **Father John Miller** and **Father Michael Ferrick** gave a tour of St. Peter Cathedral, which included an organ demonstration by Queen of the World Parish music minister **Stephen Toney**. **Msgr. Henry Kregel**, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Erie, also showed the group the life-sized, hand-carved Stations of the Cross.

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Feminist says church is not anti-woman, not anti-sex

Mary Solberg
FaithLife

CLARION—Erika Bachiochi has all the cred of a feminist. At 38, she holds a law degree from Boston University and is a savvy, published author and popular speaker on the college lecture circuit. By all accounts, she is a fiercely independent thinker.

But add to this the fact that Bachiochi is a Roman Catholic with six children between the ages of 2 and 12, and you've got the makings of a new Catholic feminist.

"I want to provide a coherent and compelling challenge to the idea that the church is against women. I want to question that in a fundamental way," Bachiochi told *FaithLife* in anticipation of her upcoming lecture at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

She will discuss her 2010 book, *Women, Sex & the Church: A Case for Catholic Teaching*, at the Gemmel Multipurpose Room at Clarion on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. The Newman Association and Students for Life at Clarion are sponsoring her visit.

Bachiochi wasn't always so supportive of the Catholic faith



Erika Bachiochi

To read more about Bachiochi, visit <http://erika.bachiochi.com>.

and its moral teachings. Born just a couple of years after *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling that gave women the legal right to have an abortion, she grew up believing that the church's stand on abortion and contraception subjugated women. Her own mother was married and divorced three times.

In *Women, Sex and the Church*, she describes herself as a one-time radical feminist, the product of a "broken, non-churchgoing" home. As a teenager, she lived an unhealthy lifestyle and was filled with anxiety and despair. Her worldview began to change, however, when two of her friends committed suicide.

"Through tragic events in my life, I fell to my knees. I came back to God and through search-

ing and asking lots of questions, I came back to the church," Bachiochi said.

Published in Harvard University's *Journal of Law & Public Policy*, Bachiochi was the keynote speaker this summer at the national conference of ProLife Activities with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Although she also holds a master's degree in theology from Boston College, Bachiochi does not focus on theology when she lectures. Instead, she presents data, studies, and observations on the human experience in the 40 years that have lapsed since *Roe v. Wade*.

"What we've seen in the last 40 years, straying from the church teachings has basically harmed women and the poor the most because it's given men the message that sex has no consequences," Bachiochi explained.

But Bachiochi doesn't focus entirely on abortion and contraceptive arguments. Pope Francis' focus on social justice has edified Bachiochi's belief that the controversial church teachings on sexuality actually prove the church's love of women and its care for the poor.

"When we stray from the sexual teachings of the church, that's when you see poor women and children suffering the most," Bachiochi said.

Liturgists

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director of worship, Martinez said the discussions at the national conference of ProLife Activities with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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of the church's sacramental life. He is at the forefront of a national effort to restore the order of the sacraments of initiation.

Even Vatican II called for a revision of the sacramental rites, and a 1983 code of canon law called for confirmation to be administered at the age of reason, which ranges from ages 7 to 16.

The order of sacraments, he said, should begin with baptism, followed by confirmation, and then Eucharist. Holy Eucharist is what Archbishop Aquila called "the crown of the sacraments," and as such, should be placed in its rightful place.

"Baptism and confirmation lead to the Eucharist. This is an attempt to make Eucharist the center of our lives," Archbishop Aquila said.

Matt Clark, administrator of the Diocese of Erie, organized the meeting locally. He was happy to see liturgists gather from every corner of the country.

"We need to continue to look at the liturgy and see that it is accessible to people," Clark told *FaithLife*.

We invite you to join us for the ST. JUDE'S 'Serafini's Spaghetti Dinner' Sunday, October 27, 2013

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Briefly

Mercyhurst showcases archives of former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge

ERIE—Mercyhurst University in Erie now houses the public archives of former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, who served at the helm of the Keystone State from 1995 to 2001.

The collection spans Ridge's career as a U.S. congressman representing northwestern Pennsylvania, as governor of Pennsylvania, and as U.S. secretary of homeland security. It contains more than 1.1 million pages of documents, 3,000 audiovisual materials, 10,000 photographs, and 1,500 artifacts.

According to Mercyhurst President Tom Gamble: "Housing an archive of this caliber and historic significance on the Mercyhurst University campus will provide students and scholars an understanding of Ridge's leadership in the formation of public policy and insight into one of America's most prominent politicians."

Gannon's literary arts magazine wins awards

ERIE—Gannon University's literary arts magazine, *Totem*, was awarded two high awards by the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) for its 2012-13 issue.

Totem won first place with special merit, as well as outstanding creative binding. According to judges, "Totem showed superior efforts of talented and creative editors, writers, artists, photographers, layouts and design, staff members and adviser."

Mass scheduled for deceased religious

ERIE—Bishop Lawrence Persico invites members of religious communities, their associates or oblates, seminarians, members of the Serra Club, and the public to join in prayer for deceased men and women religious. A Mass will be held at the chapel of the Mercy Motherhouse, 444 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. A social gathering will follow in the motherhouse dining room.

Final day of St. Jude novena tomorrow

ERIE—A closing Mass for the nine-day novena to St. Jude at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Erie, will be held Monday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community, is the speaker for the final day of the novena. His talk is titled, "The Reason for Our Hope."

The event is free and open to the public.

Courage awards recognize seven

ERIE—The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania recognized seven Erie area residents at this month's 17th annual SSJ Spirit of Courage dinner.

"We're looking for those individuals in our own community who have beaten the odds, who have overcome incredible obstacles and persevered," said Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, S.S.J. "It's those people—the ordinary people—who refused to give up in the face of illness, injury, or other adversity who represent courage in its truest form."

This year's honorees are: Carol Alberstadt and the late Joe Alberstadt, Lyda Fowler, Shelby Kelly, Josue Ocasio, and Buddy and Melanie Brannan.

Diocese of Erie wins national poster award

DALLAS, Texas—The International Catholic Stewardship Council recently presented the Diocese of Erie with the "Award of Excellence" for its 2013 Catholic Services Appeal poster.

The poster, which features a young girl holding a lit candle, was recognized for its creativity, attractiveness, and its reflection of God's active presence in diocesan stewardship efforts.

A committee of 16 stewardship leaders from across the United States judged posters that were submitted from many dioceses.

Erie advertising agency, Engel O'Neill, worked with the Diocese of Erie to create the winning "Sharing the Light" poster design. Bill Grant, the director of the Office of Stewardship and Annual Giving, particularly credited the creativity of Nancy



O'Neill and Leslie Gordon of Engel O'Neill.

Representatives of the Diocese of Erie accepted the national award this fall at the annual International Catholic Stewardship Conference in Dallas.

Cursillo celebrates 50 years of 'fourth days'

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

Arcio and Janet Wasserman of Linesville were music ministers at their parish. They read the Bible regularly and participated in prison ministry in the Diocese of Erie.

They weren't sure why people kept asking them to attend a Cursillo, an intense three-day spiritual retreat. The purpose of Cursillo is to bring participants to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ so that they can take their faith into the world on what is known as "the fourth day."

"I didn't want to sit around a table with a bunch of guys being touchy-feely," Arcio Wasserman told FaithLife.

But the prodding by friends continued until Arcio finally agreed to make his Cursillo in June 2004. Janet followed with a women's Cursillo the next month. Nearly 10 years later, Arcio is now president of the organization in the Diocese of Erie. With Janet, they are the self-described "first couple" of the diocesan Cursillo movement.

After attending his Cursillo, Arcio wrote, "I finally saw the church as it could be, should be, all the time, everywhere."

Janet added, "Before Cursillo, I knew about God. Through Cursillo, I know God."

Their passion spread visibly to the 500 people who gathered Oct. 6 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the movement in the diocese. The late Msgr. James Peterson first introduced it here on Thanksgiving



Photo by Mary Solberg

Arcio and Janet Wasserman of Linesville are the "first couple" of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Erie.

weekend 1963.

In his homily at St. Peter, Bishop Lawrence Persico congratulated those in attendance. Since the movement started in the diocese 50 years ago, an estimated 18,000 people have participated.

"When we deepen our encounter with Jesus, it also strengthens and deepens our faith," Bishop Persico said.

For Arcio Wasserman, faith in action is the hallmark of Cursillo. Cursillistas (the title given to people who have attended a Cursillo) encounter God's unconditional love at a weekend experience and then live out the second half of the retreat for the rest of their lives.

"Then you go out and change the world," Wasserman said. An apostolic movement of the

Roman Catholic Church, Cursillo was founded in Majorca, Spain, by a group of laymen in 1944. It focuses on showing Christian lay people how to become effective Christian leaders through numerous talks by clergy, religious, and lay people.

The late Msgr. Peterson and the late Father Tex Hilbert nurtured the movement in the Diocese of Erie. Since 1963, there have been 227 men's Cursillos and 236 women's Cursillos. Also, the Erie Cursillo movement has sponsored the establishment of Cursillo in the New York dioceses of Rochester and Buffalo, and the Pennsylvania dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg.

"Cursillo has really been transformative," says Msgr. Dan Arnold, a co-director with Father Bill Sutherland of Cursillo in the Erie Diocese.

Father Sutherland said that Cursillistas are so deeply moved by their experience that many become parish leaders.

"The Cursillo movement is a way of living our faith. It's a joyful way to live," Father Sutherland said. "It shows you can be a Catholic and enjoy your faith at the same time. It takes the faith that we wear really well on the outside and draws it inside and into our lives."

Organizers are particularly excited about offering two Spanish-language Cursillos for the first time next year. The men's Spanish Cursillo is scheduled for April 2014 and the women's in May 2014.

"We are going back to our roots," Father Sutherland said.

Parishes, mission celebrate anniversaries this fall

Bishop Lawrence Persico is helping to celebrate anniversary Masses at four different parishes and one mission church in the Diocese of Erie this fall.

75th



Blessed Sacrament Church-Erie
75th anniversary
Bishop John Mark Gannon placed the cornerstone on Oct. 12, 1938.

100th



St. James Mission-Driftwood
100th anniversary of second church
Father Bartholomew McAvinue oversaw construction, beginning in 1912.

100th



St. Adalbert Church-Farrell
100th anniversary
Father Casimir Rybinski, first pastor, and Father Andrew Ignasiak said Mass when cornerstone was laid on Sept. 15, 1913.

125th



St. Mark Church-Emporium
125th anniversary
Bishop Tobias Mullen placed the cornerstone on Sept. 9, 1888.

175th



St. Francis Xavier-McKean
175th anniversary
Bishop Francis Kenrick of Philadelphia accepted church deed on Aug. 18, 1838.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
St. Peter Social Hall
501 Washington St., Conneautville
Sunday, Nov. 10th from 8-11:00
Come enjoy breakfast items and beverages
Cost Adults - \$8 (ages 12 and up)
Seniors and Children under 12 - \$6
Children under 6 - free

MPS OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, NOV. 3, 12-3 PM

GENERAL SESSIONS: 1 & 2 PM

- Outstanding Faith Life Academics, Sports and Arts
- 8th graders are eligible to win one of \$1,000 tuition drawings by submitting their MPS application at Open House.

(Certain restrictions apply, details posted at MPS)

MERCYHURST PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Northwest PA's ONLY International Baccalaureate World School

New suit filed against Affordable Care Act

NEW SUIT, from page 1

This is the second time the diocese has gone to federal court over the Affordable Care Act. The first time was in May 2012.

Then-U.S. District Judge Sean J. McLaughlin dismissed that initial suit, saying it was premature because the government had not yet formulated the final rule for the mandate and had pledged to

work with religious organizations to address their concerns.

McLaughlin advised the diocese that it could refile the suit if it found the government's revisions to be inadequate. The diocese, in its new suit, claims that the revisions remain unconstitutional.

"The government ignored the views of religious organizations like the plaintiffs by promulgating a final rule that is more damaging than the initial regulations," the new suit states.

The revised mandate exempts houses of worship, religious orders, and dioceses from providing contraceptive services as part of the Affordable Care Act, but it does not exempt so-called "religious organizations," such as Catholic social-service agencies and schools.

The bishop told FaithLife: "They're telling us we can worship, but we can't put our faith into action."

If the mandate proceeds as planned, agencies and schools like St. Martin Center, Prince of Peace, and Erie Catholic Preparatory School will be required to comply with the government mandate or face steep fines.

Should the diocese be forced to provide coverage for services it finds objectionable, then it may have to refuse to offer insurance coverage for the entities named in the suit. Fines, in that case, could be \$100 per day per person and could be "financially crippling," according to a statement from the diocese.

The revised rule exempts houses of worship and other "religious employers" from providing contraceptive coverage, but it also allows non-exempt religious organizations, such as social-service agencies and schools, to opt out of the contraception mandate.

The opt-out provision allows women employed by those religious organizations to get contraception coverage under a separate plan at no cost to the employer. "They're telling us we can worship, but we can't put our faith into action."

If the mandate proceeds as planned, agencies and schools like St. Martin Center, Prince of Peace, and Erie Catholic Preparatory School will be required to comply with the government mandate or face steep fines.

JOB OPENING: CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTER

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (January 2014)

DESCRIPTION: This full-time campus minister in the diocese of Altoona-Johnstown coordinates Sunday liturgies, social outreach activities, faith formation for young adults, retreats and the development of student leadership. Salary is negotiable based upon qualifications and experience.

REQUIREMENTS: The successful applicant will be a practicing Catholic, lay or religious, with a Masters in Theology/Pastoral Ministry, or an equivalent experience in campus ministry. Good communication skills and a collaborative spirit are essential, as is a proficiency in Microsoft Office and social networking.

APPLICATION: Applications for position beginning immediately, and will be accepted until the suitable candidate is found. Send résumé (paper or electronic), and the names, addresses and current phone numbers of at least three current professional references to:

Msgr. Michael A. Becker
St. John the Evangelist Church, 309 Lotz Avenue,
Altoona, PA 16602 / Mbecker253@aol.com



DuBOIS—About 180 young people and adult leaders walked the one-mile distance from DuBois Area Catholic High School to Christ the King Manor in DuBois on Oct. 12 as part of the annual diocesan High School Youth Rally.
"It was powerful to see the kids and see how

reverent they were on the procession," says Kathleen Peterson, program coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie.
Father Stephen Schreiber, director, celebrated the Mass and led the procession with the Eucharist.

Grandparents Day at Our Lady of Peace

ERIE—Our Lady of Peace School in Erie is in the Ohmer bloodline. **Carol Ohmer**, center, was a member of the first eighth-grade graduating class at Our Lady of Peace in 1957.

All of her five children graduated from OLP and all of her five grandchildren also either attend or graduated from the school.

She is shown here with two of her grandchildren: eighth-grader **Sara DiPietro**, and sixth-grader **Mark DiPietro**. They attended a recent Grandparents Day at OLP. Ohmer has been in charge of the school cafeteria the past 32 years. "I can't retire," she jokes, "until all of them graduate."



9/11 victims remembered with flags

ERIE—Students at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie placed more than 450 American flags around the perimeter of the church and school to remember those who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The students also participated in a memorial Mass.



International day of peace

WARREN—The students and staff of St. Joseph School in Warren gathered around a peace pole in recognition of International Peace Day in September.

The students sang "The Prayer of St. Francis," read poems, and placed pinwheels around the peace pole that is located in front of the school.

Father Rich Toohey read from the Gospel of John, and the children sang "The Peace Song."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, student representatives of the classes released 15 white doves.

Pictured with **Dr. Howard Ferguson**, principal, are fourth-graders **Logan Johnson** and **Lauren Walker**.



Pets blessed in Kane and Erie

The feast day of St. Francis this month brought out lots of animals in the Diocese of Erie.

Children from Our Lady of Peace School, Erie, at right, gathered for a blessing of a litter of kittens on Oct. 4.

Pictured in the front is **TJ Murnock**. In the middle, left to right, are: **Miriam Murnock**, **Regina Murnock**, and **Andrea Wilson**. In the back, left to right, are: **Sophia Wilson**, **Christina Wilson**, and **Julia Wilson**.

In the bottom photo, **Father Phil Pinczewski**, pastor of St. Callistus Parish, Kane, blesses pets outside the church.



Picking a Mustang winner

GREENVILLE—St. Michael Parish in Greenville picked top winners during its 15th annual golf scramble at Pine Hill Golf Course this summer.

The winner of the top prize, a 2015 Shelby Mustang GT 500, was **Janette Deal** from New Albany, Ind. The second-place prize of \$1,000 went to **Jim and Lina Perry** of Greenville, and the third-place prize of \$500 went to **Mike Yurisc** of Greenville. **Ralph and Rosanne McConnell** of Greenville won the super-seller prize of \$1,000.

Pictured, left to right, are: **Scott Haynes**, disc jockey; **Dawn Blair**, principal of St. Michael School; **Roseanne and Ralph McConnell**, co-chairs of the car committee; and **Father David Foradori**, pastor of St. Michael.



Clarion Campus Ministry holds textbook drawing

CLARION—Students at Clarion University of Pennsylvania who are registered with Catholic Campus Ministry and Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion, were eligible for a textbook reimbursement drawing recently. Catholic Campus Ministry paid for the student's most expensive textbook, up to \$100.

Pictured, left to right, are: **Father Monty Sayers**, campus minister; sophomore **Becky D'Amico**, the drawing winner; and **Ann Enderle Liska**, director of religious education at Immaculate Conception.



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**Knights of Columbus
Swiss Steak Dinner**

St. Peter Social Hall
501 Washington St., Conneautville
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27
11:30 AM-2:30 PM or until sold out
Adults: \$8, Ages 5-12: \$4; Children under 5: Free
Includes meat, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, beverage and dessert

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