

# FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

October 29, 2017

## Religious liberty prevails

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

After more than five years of legal maneuverings that took the Diocese of Erie all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, the federal government on Oct. 13 signed an agreement that ensured the First Amendment rights of religious organizations.

The action was followed on Oct. 16 by another legal step that finally brought a close to the contentious 2012 lawsuits involving the so-called “contraceptive mandate” of the Affordable Care Act.

The lawsuits claimed the government did not have the right to tell religious entities to provide health insurance for items they deemed morally objectionable, even if the government offered a third-party accommodation. The signed agreement this month expands exemptions to previous regulations.

“This agreement allows faith-based organizations to uphold our religious mission in a diverse society. For that, we are deeply grateful,” Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico said in a prepared statement. “We have maintained from the beginning that the government cannot force anyone—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, or other—to do something that violates their sincerely-held religious beliefs. The government has finally acknowledged that there is a reasonable path to accomplish its goals while also respecting the core beliefs of our faith.”

In 2012, the Diocese of Erie was among 70 religious organizations to file federal lawsuits. Complainants included dioceses, Catholic Charities agencies, schools, universities, health care systems and others across the country. Erie was among the suits combined under the case *Zubik v. Burwell* and argued, pro bono, by the law firm of Jones Day.

The suits claimed that the government’s accommodation to religious organizations that objected to providing health insurance coverage for items it found morally objectionable was inadequate.

While churches and their employees would have been exempt, a large percentage of church-affiliated



Bishop Lawrence Persico stands in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in this March 2016 file photo.

organizations—from hospitals and universities to Catholic agencies—were not.

The Diocese of Erie and others argued that freedom of religion is much broader than the freedom to worship. Under the Affordable Care Act, if the diocese had refused to provide health coverage for contraceptives or other abortion-inducing drugs, for example, it would have had to pay as much as \$100,000

a day in fines.

According to the bishop: “It has been difficult for people to understand that this lawsuit was not just about contraceptives. The real issue was the government attempting to narrow the definition of freedom of religion, using the HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] mandate to exempt only a small subset of religious employees. Churches were declared exempt, but their hospi-

“The government has finally acknowledged that there is a reasonable path to accomplish its goals while also respecting the core beliefs of our faith.”

— Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico

tals, Catholic Charities agencies, schools and universities were not.”

Jones Day attorney Noel Francisco argued before the Supreme Court in March 2016 that the government was incorrect in saying that some of these organizations were not sufficiently religious to be exempt from regulations.

The diocese, Bishop Persico explained, believes “that all of the ministries of the Catholic Church are inextricably tied to the practice of our faith.” He added, “The Church serves all God’s people—whether they are Catholic or not—because it is our mission to help anyone in need. Bringing this litigation to a close frees the Catholic Church to continue to do just that.”

The settlement agreement signed Oct. 13 followed news from a week earlier that President Donald Trump issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers. But the federal lawsuits were not brought to an official close until Oct. 16, when Jones Day attorneys filed official dismissals of the appeals that were pending in the federal courts.

Paul “Mickey” Pohl, a partner with Jones Day, praised the steadfast commitment of the Diocese of Erie and Bishop Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, as well as Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C., and Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

“As an Erie native, I am very proud that Bishops Trautman and Persico, along with Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop Zubik, were among the very first to join the legal challenges to federal regulations that substantially burdened the exercise of the Catholic faith,” Pohl said. “They never wavered in their courage to be plaintiffs in our cases, to preserve the good works of religious organizations such as Catholic Charities. This is an important victory for religious freedom, and Bishop Persico’s testimony before the district court played an important role in securing the extremely favorable outcome for the diocese.”

## New environmental center dedicated

SPRING CREEK—Gannon University on Oct. 4 dedicated the Donald M. and Judith C. Alstad Environmental Center situated on 3.57 acres of land along Brokenstraw Creek in Warren County.

Judith Alstad presented the property as a gift to Gannon last December. The center is named in honor of her and her late husband, Donald, who was a chairman of Lord Corporation and a longtime Gannon supporter.

The property features two main buildings built around a 50-foot observation tower overlooking the creek and 98 acres of hardwood forest administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

“It is entirely fitting that we dedicate a center that will, in turn, be dedicated to the twin pursuits of education and science,” said Gannon President Keith Taylor.

Students and faculty will use the center to live, learn and conduct research in a setting that offers direct access to diverse ecosystems. It is expected to encourage collaborations with government and non-profit agencies, as well as primary and secondary schools throughout the region.



Gannon student Matthew Loughner and environmental engineering and science professor Michelle Homan experiment with water sampling from Brokenstraw Creek.

## St. Marys native takes global lead in child internet safety

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Baroness Joanna Shields—a native of the small Elk County community of St. Marys in the Diocese of Erie—credits her tight-knit Irish Catholic family for providing “the moral compass” that helped catapult her to be a global leader in child internet safety.

A graduate of Queen of the World School and Elk County Catholic in St. Marys, the 55-year-old Shields went on to become the only American woman who earned, because of her work, a life peerage in the House of Lords of the United Kingdom.

In her current position as Prime Minister Theresa May’s special representative on internet safety, she brings simple values and a lot of smarts she put to use at such mega tech firms as Google, Facebook, AOL and Bebo.

“I always wanted to be a good person and do something more than just business,” Shields told *FaithLife* in a telephone interview from her home in London. “I’ve been in all these great companies, but the impact of what I’m doing now has been incredible and satisfying and the greatest gift I’ve ever been given.”

On Oct. 3, Shields was a keynote speaker at the Child Dignity in the Digital World Congress at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. The event was organized by the university’s Centre for Child Protection in partnership with WeProtect Global Alliance ([www.weprotect.org](http://www.weprotect.org)), an organization Shields founded with former Prime Minister David Cameron.

Her parents, Tom and Kaye Shields



Pope Francis shakes hands with Tom Shields of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys, and greets his wife, Kaye, and their daughter Baroness Joanna Shields at the Child Dignity in the Digital World Congress at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome on Oct. 6.

of Queen of the World Parish in St. Marys, attended their daughter’s talk and met Pope Francis at the conclusion of the four-day congress. Also in attendance was Shields’ 18-year-old son, Ben, who is a student at University College London.

“She never ceases to amaze me,” Tom Shields, 80, says of his second-oldest daughter. “It was quite a speech she gave. She really got everyone thinking about what is happening with this [internet safety].”

Meeting the pope and hearing her daughter speak about protecting the safety, security and dignity of children was “really tip-top,” Kaye Shields, 77, says. She and her husband have followed Baroness Shields around the world as she pursued her career in the tech industry working for Silicon Valley companies for more than 25 years. Most recently, from 2009-12, Baroness Shields ran Facebook in Europe, the

>> See CHILD INTERNET SAFETY, page 3

## Holy Land anniversary

**JERUSALEM—U.S. Franciscan Father Michael Perry, minister general of the order, center, speaks with another Franciscan Oct. 16 outside the Church of St. Saviour in Jerusalem's Old City. Franciscans are celebrating 800 years of the order's presence in the Holy Land.**



CNS photo

## News-makers



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

### Translation norms clarified

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican is not to “impose” a specific liturgical translation on bishops’ conferences, but rather is called to recognize the bishops’ authority and expertise in determining the best way to faithfully translate Latin texts into their local languages, Pope Francis said in a letter to Cardinal Robert Sarah.

In the letter, released by the Vatican Oct. 22, Pope Francis said he wanted to correct several points made in a “commentary,” which Cardinal Sarah sent him and which was published on several websites in a variety of languages.

Cardinal Sarah is prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The commentary looked at changes Pope Francis made to the Code of Canon Law in the process for approving liturgical translations. The changes were ordered in the pope’s document, “Magnum Principium” (“The Great Principle”), which went into effect Oct. 1.

Pope Francis, saying he wanted to “avoid any misunderstanding,” insisted the commentary could give an erroneous impression that the level of involvement of the congregation remained unchanged.

However, while in the past “the judgment regarding the fidelity to the Latin and the eventual corrections necessary was the task of the congregation,” the pope said, “now the norm concedes to episcopal conferences the faculty of judging the worth and coherence of one or another text in translations from the original, even if in dialogue with the Holy See.”

### Pope: Greed at root of starvation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Thousands of starving children around the world today are innocent victims sacrificed upon the altar of the god of money because of humanity’s greed and attachment to wealth, Pope Francis said.

In his homily at Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae Oct. 23, Pope Francis said the day’s Gospel reading of the parable of the rich man who stores up treasure for himself “isn’t a fairy tale that Jesus invented; it is today’s reality.”

“Let us think about just one case: 200,000 Rohingya children in refugee camps. There are 800,000 people there; 200,000 are children. They barely have food to eat, are malnourished, without medicine. Even today this happens,” the pope said.

The Rohingya, a mostly Muslim ethnic group in Myanmar, have been fleeing the country for Bangladesh. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit both countries in late November.

### U.S. bishops to meet in Baltimore

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In November, U.S. bishops—including Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman—are scheduled to elect the next secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, a religious liberty committee chairman and chairmen-elect for five committees, as well as hear an update from the working group on immigration.

They will gather for their fall general assembly Nov. 13-14 in Baltimore.



Editor's Notes  
Mary SOLBERG

The past couple of months have challenged all of us to help others affected by natural disasters—whether hurricanes or forest fires.

The people of the Diocese of Erie stepped up in a significant way by donating more than \$906,000 for hurricane relief efforts through Catholic Charities USA.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked dioceses across the country to hold special collections in September for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

According to Jim Bogniak, director of accounting for the diocese, the total amount collected here represents the most ever given to one special cause in the history of the diocese.

One hundred percent of the contributions will go directly to hurricane relief.

“This really hit home with a lot of people,” Bogniak says.

The previous highest amount given to a special collection in the diocese was \$711,384, for victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

♦ ♦ ♦

Congratulations and best wishes to **Benedictine Sister Placida Anheuser**, who celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 15.

She is the first Benedictine Sister of Erie to reach the age of 100. An avid reader with a keen interest in current events, Sister Placida is always ready for discussions and the exploration of new ideas. She is known for her love of Scripture, her wit and keen sense of humor, and

her faithfulness to the monastic way of life.

Sister Placida became a nun in her mid-30s, considered to be a “late vocation” by 1954 standards.

“Maybe so,” she jokes, “but with many women now entering religious life after the age of 35, I like to think of myself as ahead of the times.”

She entered the Benedictines of Benet Lake, Wis., with advertising experience, a degree in journalism and additional education in philosophy, theology and Scripture. When the Holy Family Convent in Benet Lake closed in 1986, Sister Placida transferred to the Erie Benedictine community.

She worked as a clerk in the gift shop at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, and was a community



Happy birthday, Sister Placida!

receptionist, a duty that ended just two years ago. Today, her main ministry is that of prayer and presence, but she hasn’t quit yet.

She uses an iPad to send emails and take photos. In fact, recently she took a selfie and asked that it replace her current file photo.

“She is definitely one who knows how to move forward with the times,” says **Sister Charlotte Zalot, OSB**, communications director for the Benedictine Sisters.

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## SHARE the JOURNEY

Pamphlet outlines ways to welcome migrants and refugees

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS)—Catholic News Service has published a new pamphlet that is a call to action to every parish community and Catholic family on how to be hospitable to the stranger.

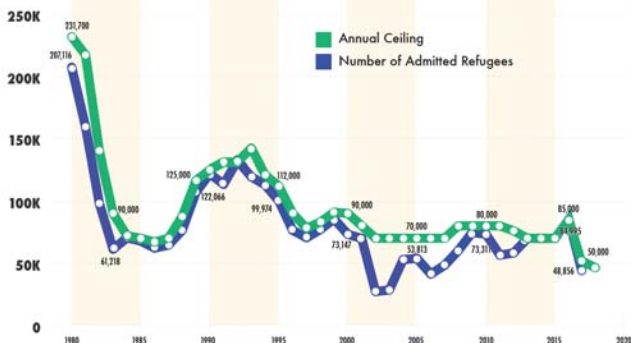
Titled “Our Faith Teaches: Welcoming the Refugee and Migrant,” the publication is available in English and Spanish (“Nuestra Fe Enseña: Acoger al Refugiado y al Migrante”). It is designed to be an accessible, easy-to-read explanation of what the Catholic Church teaches regarding hospitality, especially to refugees and migrants.

The church’s support of migrants and refugees is not the result of a political ideology or agenda, the pamphlet explains, but is rooted in the deepest traditions and teachings of both Judaism and Christianity. It offers several suggestions for hospitality as a corporal work of mercy.

The pamphlet complements Pope Francis’ two-year international campaign, “Share the Journey,” the intent of which is to accompany—spiritually or practically—the millions who have been the victims of forced migration in the world today.

For more information or to purchase copies of the pamphlet, go to <http://store.usccb.org/Welcoming-the-Refugee-and-Migrant-p/7-579.htm>.

## U.S. refugee admissions and ceilings 1980-2018



This chart illustrates the number of refugees admitted into the United States since 1980.

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# Child internet safety

Continued from page 1

Middle East and Africa. "Some people don't believe all the things she's done," Kaye Shields says.

Baroness Shields' sister, Diann Buttery, a parishioner of Queen of the World, was glued to the live stream of her sister's talk at the Vatican in early October. Baroness Shields is one of five Shields siblings.

"She has worked all her life in technology, but I think she knows in her heart that this is her life's mission," Buttery says.

With 3 billion internet users worldwide, it's going to take a lot of faith, skill and commitment to rein in the ever-increasing online prevalence of pornography, human trafficking, bullying, prostitution and "sexting," to name a few of the worst

**3 billion** internet users globally

**800 million** children regularly browse the internet

**500 million** in India will have access to a network in two years

Source: Vatican Publishing Library



problems. An estimated 800 million children around the globe regularly browse the internet, prompting Pope Francis, in his speech at the

Child Dignity in the Digital World Congress, to assure the "availability and commitment" of the Catholic Church.

On Oct. 6, the congress released a "Declaration of Rome," which stated that the global internet safety problem "cannot be solved by one nation or one company or one faith acting alone."

The declaration, Baroness Shields says, is a "call to action" to world leaders in government and religion, technology companies, ministries of public health, law enforcement and medical institutions. She encourages the average person anywhere to contribute to change by being aware of online dangers.

In her speech in Rome, Baroness Shields challenged her listeners, asking: "Years from now, when history writes the chapter entitled 'the digital age,' will it celebrate the immense benefits that technology has delivered and the great human progress that followed? Or, will it be a requiem of regret for childhood lost?"



Baroness Joanna Shields and Jesuit Father Hans Zollner of the Center for Child Protection at Rome's Gregorian University present a declaration for global internet safety to Pope Francis Oct. 6.

## Family Fest big success



Photo by Mary Solberg

Olivia Mosier, Jordan Huff and Rachel Johnson, all of St. Marys, enjoyed creating colorful blankets at the diocesan Family Fest on Oct. 15.

FAITHLIFE staff report

More than 400 people—kids and teens to families and parish leaders—attended the diocesan Family Fest 17 on Oct. 15 at the Bayfront Convention Center in downtown Erie. The event was sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Erie.

The Disciple Life faith formation group of parishes in St. Marys and Kersey brought a lap blanket project to Family Fest with the hope of making enough cozy coverings to distribute to nursing homes in Elk County.

Participants in Family Fest enjoyed a day of games, fellowship, prayer and talks by various speakers, including Christine Hess, director of the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie, and Greg Willis, an international Catholic speaker, author and new media specialist.

About a dozen priests were on-hand during the day, hearing confessions, and Bishop Lawrence Persico celebrated the afternoon Mass.

Sean Radkowski, a member of the Diocesan Youth Board, enjoyed helping organize the event. "This gives the youth a chance to have a voice," Radkowski said. "My favorite part is seeing everyone together here."

### ■ Pro-life holy hour

All are welcome to attend a pro-life holy hour Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Church, E. 13th and Wallace streets, Erie. There will be time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for a greater respect for all human life and other special intentions.

### ■ 'Women in the Word'

All women are invited each Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to noon to the social room at Our Lady of Peace Church, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie, for faith-enriching get-togethers called "Women in the Word." These are designed for women to help build strong Christian friendships. Each week features a different Scripture verse and discussion about how it applies to the busy lives of women of faith. Babies and toddlers are welcome. For more information, contact Kathleen Peterson at 814-833-7701 or at [kathleen.peterson@golp.org](mailto:kathleen.peterson@golp.org).

### ■ Adult formation series

All are welcome to attend an adult formation series at St. Boniface Church, 9367 Wattersburg Road, Erie, addressing some of the most common questions regarding end-of-life. The schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 28 at 10 a.m.—Deacon Tim Good and Mary Good, the afterlife and the saints
- Nov. 4 at 10 a.m.—Dennis Schmidt and Austin Brugger, funerals
- Nov. 11 at 10 a.m.—Steve and Jean Urash, estate planning
- Nov. 18 at 10 a.m.—Father John Murphy, end-of-life medical care; and Father Marc Stockton, the funeral liturgy and interment.

### ■ 'Peter and the Starcatcher'

Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy in Erie will present the award-winning play "Peter and the Starcatcher." Performances are at the H. David Bowes auditorium at Cathedral Prep, 225 W. 9th St., Erie, on Nov. 2, 3 and 4 at 7 p.m., and on Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For additional information, call Father Mike DeMartini at 814-838-2061, ext. 3275.

### ■ All-you-can-eat soup

Mount Calvary Parish, 2022 East Lake Road, Erie, is hosting its Harvest Ladle at Feeney Hall on Nov. 3 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Enjoy all-you-can-eat homemade soups, plus salad, bread and dessert. Take-outs available. There will be a basket raffle, a \$0/\$0.50 fun and fellowship. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. For more information, call the parish office at 814-454-0061.

### ■ MPS open house

Mercyhurst Preparatory School's open house will be held Nov. 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at the school, 538 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Sessions will be held at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Guest students are eligible to enter for a chance to win an instant camera with \$100 worth of film. If eighth-graders apply at [www.mpslakers.com/admissions](http://www.mpslakers.com/admissions) on or before Nov. 5, 2017, they become eligible for one of five drawings for a \$1,000 tuition voucher to Mercyhurst Prep for their freshman year. The first 300 students to attend open house will receive a free MPS T-shirt.

### ■ Pancake breakfast

The Knights of Columbus of St. Andrew Parish in Erie are sponsoring an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast Nov. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish center, Arundel Hall, 1116 W. 7th St., Erie.

The cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 4 to 12, and free to kids under 4. The cost for a family is \$20.

### ■ Remember veterans

The Mercy Hilltop Center in Erie is hosting a free Veterans Day program Nov. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. Veterans are invited to enjoy speakers, bingo and refreshments. For questions, call Amy Chevalier, program director, at 814-824-2214.

### ■ Santa's Workshop

The 43rd annual Santa's Workshop Craft and Vendor Show will be held Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cross Creek Resort, Route 8, south of Titusville. Proceeds benefit youth in the Faith Formation Program at St. Titus Parish, Titusville. The event features more than 60 vendor booths, a bake sale, raffles, food, photos with Santa, a gift auction and a tree decorating contest. For more information, call 814-827-4636. Vendors interested in securing booth space are asked to email Sharon at [sase1114@gmail.com](mailto:sase1114@gmail.com).

### ■ TECHNO bingo

The House of Mercy in Erie will host TECHNO bingo with 15 large electronic prizes on Nov. 11 at the Harborcreek Social Hall, 7275 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek. Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase tickets, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search "TECHNO bingo" or contact Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, at 814-898-0167.

### ■ Sharpville 5K run/walk

The Sharpville Community Food Pantry will hold its annual 5K run/walk

Nov. 11 beginning at 9 a.m.

The race starts and ends at St. Bartholomew Church, 311 West Ridge Ave., Sharpville. Register at [www.smileymiles.com](http://www.smileymiles.com) or [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) or in person at the St. Bartholomew Parish office during regular business hours.

### ■ 'Dream Coat' to open

The Mercyhurst Preparatory School Performing Arts Department will present "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat" on Nov. 16, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. at the MPS Performing Arts Center, 538 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Tickets will be available at the door. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for students.

### ■ Erie Bible study

The partnered parishes of Holy Rosary and St. John the Baptist in Erie are hosting "A Biblical Walk through the Mass," a five-part Bible study featuring Dr. Edward Sri, from Nov. 14 through Dec. 12.

The \$20 fee includes a study book. Financial assistance is available. To register, call the Faith Formation office at 814-454-6322. The schedule options are:

- Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave.
- Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. John rectory, 509 E. 26th St.

### ■ Feather Party

The 57th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feather Party will be held Nov. 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. in Scheffner Hall, 1531 E. Grandview Blvd. Admission to the event is free.

There will be small games of chance, cash prizes, free refreshments, a wine and craft beer booth, fruit basket raffles, and the opportunity to win a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

For more information, go to [www.OLMC-erie.org](http://www.OLMC-erie.org) or call the parish office at 814-825-7313.

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**Fifteenth Annual Retreat**  
 St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
 165 Beach Ave., Cambridge Springs  
 Saturday, November 4, 2017  
 Retreat Master: **Very Rev. David L. Poulson**  
 Pre-register by Oct. 31 for meals and attendance  
 Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.  
**The day includes:** Three talks by Very Rev. Poulson, Lunch (will be provided or bring your own), Divine Mercy prayer, Meditation, Confessions, Rosary; Ends with 4:30 p.m. Mass.  
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**Our Lady of Mount Carmel 57th Annual Feather Party**  
 Saturday, November 18, 2017  
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 The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania is in search of a Development/Major Gifts Officer. It is seeking an experienced fundraising professional to work with major donors. This full-time position will work in a team setting to connect donors and prospective donors with opportunities to financially support Catholic ministries.  
 For a complete profile and application instructions, visit [www.ErieCDF.org/employment.htm](http://www.ErieCDF.org/employment.htm). Applications accepted through November 17, 2017.

# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org

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

## Perpetual monastic profession celebrated



ERIE—Sister Patricia Wituski, OSB, left, celebrated her perpetual monastic profession Oct. 7 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie. Over the past five years, Sister Patricia has passed through the various stages of initial formation. Now, having made her perpetual profession, she is a fully incorporated member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. She currently is ministering at St. Benedict Education Center, Erie, where she is working with the refugee population. Pictured with Sister Patricia is Sister Ann Wambach, OSB, proress.

## Sixth-grader excels at math



ERIE—Belated congratulations to Graydon Brugger, a current sixth-grader at Our Lady of Peace School, Erie, who took the bronze medal in his bracket while representing OLP at the Challenge 24 Pennsylvania State Competition in Harrisburg in June. He is pictured with Bob Sun, inventor of the "First in Math Online Program" and "Challenge 24."

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Photos and news  
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## Cleaning the earth in Clarion



CLARION—Newman/Campus Ministry students at Clarion University of Pennsylvania have been reading parts of Pope Francis' environment encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and decided to undertake a litter pick-up project. In collaboration with the university's Green Team Ecology Club, they joined together to pick up litter in the Cook Forest area. A

barbeque followed.

Members of the Newman Association litter patrol, from left, are: Brianna Harvey, Melissa Totin, MacKenzie Porter, Emily Henderson, Campus Minister Ann Enderle Lisika, Marissa Monnin, Matt Dovidick, Nick Mattes, Katie Welsh, Shannon Goreczny and Allie Vega.

## Women consecrate themselves



SHARPSVILLE—Several women recently consecrated themselves to the Blessed Mother through the 33 Days of Morning Glory book club at St. Bartholomew Parish in Sharpsville. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Beth Mazur, Joanna Malencia and Eleanor Henwood. In the second row is Blanche Cwynar, and in the third row, from left, are: Marliou Rossi, Lauren Belin, Lynne Bresnahan and Kim Conti. Missing from the photo are Anne Becker, Christina Reitz and Leanne Micsky.

## Students help hurricane victims



HERMITAGE—Students and faculty at St. John Paul II Elementary School in Hermitage and Kennedy Catholic Middle/High School dressed down this fall and raised \$1,300 for hurricane victims. The funds were sent to Catholic Charities USA. Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Chaise Shultz and Peyton Shultz. In the back row, from left, are: teacher Tracy Laidlaw, aide Donna Wilds, secretary Colleen Astey, teacher Katie Tiefenthal and Principal Heidi Patterson.

## Women create prayer shawls during retreat



ERIE—Several members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Diocese of Erie gathered recently for a retreat at St. Boniface Parish in Erie. Participants listened to presentations and made shawls to give away to the homebound, pregnant women, the sick, and nursing home residents. Since St. Boniface started its ministry in 2009, it has given away more than 1,000 shawls.

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