

FaithLife



A mission experience in Uganda. PAGE 3

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

November 12, 2017

DIOCESAN NEWS

myParish App launches

Parishioners of all ages in the Diocese of Erie are ready for their parish to go mobile this week.

Beginning Nov. 18-19, all 97 parishes in the diocese will be in a position to launch myParish App, an easy-to-use parish-based resource through which people may access important information, including Mass and confession times, as well as daily Mass readings from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic news, and an array of common prayers ranging from the Act of Contrition to the Stations of the Cross.

Thirty parishes in the diocese already have customized the app, taking advantage of features such as parish-specific photos, a link to their bulletin and the option to post homilies.

These parishes will invite people to put the app on their phone on Download Sunday (Nov. 19), but any parishioner can download it from the App Store or Google Play.

"Then they can search for their parish and have access to at least the basic features, as well as messages that will come from Bishop [Lawrence] Persico or the diocese," says Anne-Marie Welsh, director of communications for the Diocese of Erie. "I've had the app on my phone for a while, and am a big fan. It's very easy to navigate, and I especially like having the daily readings on my phone each morning."

More than 1,800 parishes across the nation are already using myParish App.

"One of the biggest selling points for me was how easy it is for parish staff to upload information," Welsh says. "If they're comfortable with word processing, they'll find this to be a straightforward tool."

The \$787 start-up fee and \$49 monthly charge for each parish has been waived, thanks to the diocesan relationship with Faith magazine, Lansing, Mich. A basic app has been created for every parish in the diocese, and a launch kit should have arrived in each parish last week.

Parishes that still need to customize their app or to train staff will find information in their kit about how to do so.

In addition, the Communications Office is available to help parishes make the necessary connections.



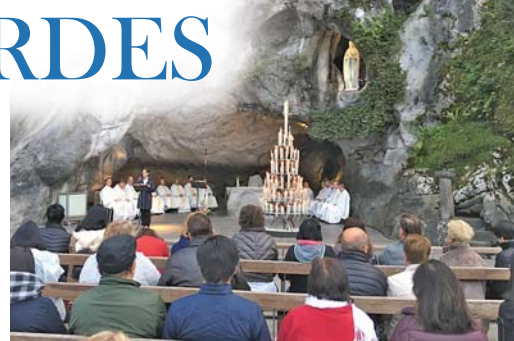
The myParish App is free to parishioners in the diocese.

LOURDES

Sharon parishioner volunteers as nurse on pilgrimage to renowned Marian site



Dede Radkowski served for a week as a volunteer nurse with the St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage organized by the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, headquartered in Syracuse, N.Y. She is a full-time registered nurse at Sharon Regional Health System.



Pilgrims gather in the grotto at Lourdes during Dede Radkowski's weeklong pilgrimage in October.

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Some 160 years ago, the Blessed Mother appeared 18 times to St. Bernadette Soubirous in a small rural town in the foothills of the Pyrenees in southern France.

This fall, Dede Radkowski, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Sharon, felt called to continue "the Blessed Mother's work" at the now world-renowned apparition site in Lourdes.

A registered nurse the past 25 years at the Sharon Regional Health System, Radkowski took a week's vacation to volunteer with the St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage organized by Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. The organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity based in Syracuse, N.Y.

"I feel that the Blessed Mother called me to go to Lourdes," Radkowski says.

A single mom of two adult children, Radkowski joined more than 100 volunteers—including nurses, doctors and priests—who traveled at their own expense to Lourdes Oct. 15-21. Like the other medical personnel on the trip, she was assigned two people with medical conditions who were seeking a blessing—maybe even a cure.

Visitors from around the globe travel to Lourdes looking to be healed from some type of suffering of their own or that of a

loved one. The Blessed Mother's message of prayer, penance and poverty, as well as the reported healing waters of the grotto where she appeared, attract an estimated 6 million people a year.

The Catholic Church has proclaimed as valid the apparitions to St. Bernadette and, thereby, Lourdes, as a place worthy of pilgrimage. It is considered to be among the most important sites of international Catholic pilgrimage, including Rome and the Holy Land.

"Lourdes is a whole experience—physical, spiritual and mental," Radkowski says. "Pilgrims have to be willing to accept that they may not always get the physical cure that they want, but they may get the graces bestowed on them that they need."

Radkowski's lifelong devotion to the Blessed Mother prompted her to attend a 2016 presentation by the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage. She took a packet of information about the program, which was founded in 2002 as a way to accommodate the many people—both sick and well—who travel to Lourdes.

According to Pamela Ryan, pilgrimage director for the organization, the North American Volunteers offer 10 to 12 pil-

>> See LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, page 2

Diocesan Youth Board seeks new applicants

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Erie is accepting applications through Dec. 1 for the Diocesan Youth Board. Positions are available for youth and adult team members.

To apply, go to www.ontbevine.us. For more information, contact Jennifer Durney, coordinator for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at jdurney@ErieRCD.org or call her at 814-824-1219.

CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Father John P. Maltaner**, parochial administrator, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie, while remaining pastor of St. Luke Parish, Erie, effective Oct. 9, 2017.
- **Msr. Casimir Bogniak**, sacramental assistant, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie, effective Oct. 9, 2017.
- **Deacon James Moss**, deacon assistant, Mount Calvary Parish, Erie, while continuing as deacon assistant at St. Mark Parish, Lawrence Park, effective Oct. 13, 2017.

HEALTH LEAVE:

- **Father Raymond Hahn** was granted a health leave of absence from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie, effective Oct. 9, 2017.

RETIREMENT:

- **Father Henry Andrae**, retired, effective Oct. 9, 2017.

CCHD remembers poor in society

WASHINGTON (USCCB)—The annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) will be held in most parishes throughout the country and in the Diocese of Erie Nov. 18-19, coinciding with the celebration of the first World Day of the Poor instituted by Pope Francis.

In his statement establishing the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis called for Christian communities to mark the occasion with "moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance" with people living in poverty.

"Poverty challenges us daily in the United States, but it also presents an opportunity for true encounter with the suffering flesh of Christ. CCHD is a concrete sign of the church's solidarity with people living in poverty and its commitment to bringing hope and the joy of the Gospel to our sisters and brothers in need," said Bishop David P. Talley, chair of the CCHD subcommittee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

This collection supports the work of groups that empower low-income people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and work to break the cycle of poverty in their own communities.

Many of the projects supported by CCHD embody the corporal works of mercy, including the protection of worker rights, expanding access to healthcare, and reforming the criminal justice system.

CCHD is the official domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic bishops. It is the primary source of funding for CCHD's community and economic development grants and education programs aimed at fostering a culture of life and hope in communities across the nation. Twenty-five percent of funds collected remain in each diocese to support local anti-poverty projects.

Easy-to-use resources for the collection can be found by visiting www.usccb.org and typing "CCHD collection" in the search bar. Additional resources to learn about poverty in the United States can be found at www.povertyusa.org.

Materials include a "Poverty USA Tour" video, a poverty map, and stories of hope from groups supported through the annual collection.



POVERTY FACTS in the U.S.

43.1 million people live in poverty

Poverty threshold for a family of four is \$24,000

14.5 million children live in poverty

2.5 million children experience homelessness in a year

13.7% of senior citizens live in poverty

15.8 million people in the U.S. are "food insecure" (difficulty providing food for themselves/family)

SOURCE: Poverty USA, USCCB

Newsmakers

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

CATHOLICS ON THE GO WORLDWIDE



CNS photo

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, announced that since 2014, the Knights' Christian Refugee Relief Fund has donated more than \$17 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq, Syria and the surrounding region.



CNS photo

KIBERA, Nairobi—Sister Josephine Muthoni Kwenga of the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya rides a motorcycle Oct. 13 to enter a Nairobi slum to educate voters. She met with Kenyans and fielded questions about the Kenyan voting process during a voter education forum. Kenyans went to the polls to elect a president Oct. 26. The sisters served as poll observers.



CNS photo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Archbishop Roberto González Nieves of San Juan has remained at his residence more than a month after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. The archbishop uses his cell phone outside when the generator for his home is not working.

Groups urge TPS extension

WASHINGTON—On Oct. 30, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, joined representatives of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) in sending a letter to acting secretary of Homeland Security, Elaine Duke, urging an 18-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras and El Salvador.

TPS is a temporary, renewable, and statutorily authorized immigration status that allows individuals to remain and work lawfully in the U.S. during a period in which it is deemed unsafe for nationals of that country to return home.

Pope: International Space Station crew is a 'tiny U.N.'

VATICAN—Before his first space mission began this year, Catholic astronaut Mark Vandev Hei of Falls Church, Va., requested a call from Pope Francis. On Oct. 26, his wish came true. The pope linked up live from the Vatican with the six-man crew as they orbited 250 miles above Earth.

During their 20-minute link-up, Pope Francis asked questions about how their unique perspective from the frontier of the universe has changed or enriched them and what lessons they could share with people back on Earth.

Flight engineer Joseph Acaba of Ingleswood, Calif., said it is the diversity of each individual that makes the team stronger.



CNS photo

Pope Francis speaks from the Vatican to astronauts aboard the International Space Station Oct. 26.

"We need to embrace who we are as individuals and respect those around us, and by working together we can do things much greater than we could do as individuals," he told the pope.

Pope Francis said they were like a tiny United Nations, in which the whole was greater than the sum of its parts. Thanking them for their work, he said they were "representatives of the whole human family" working on such an important project in space.

When the pope asked what brought them joy during their long mission, Commander Randolph Bresnik from Fort Knox, Ky., told the pope that it was being able to see every day "God's creation maybe a little bit from his perspective."



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

Another blustery northwest Pennsylvania winter isn't far away now. When the thermometer dips below freezing, I am reminded of the many homeless people I met a few years ago when *FaithLife* did a story about emergency overflow shelters provided by area churches.

As we move into the winter of 2017-18, churches again are preparing to offer temporary shelter from the elements. There are a host of other organizations, too, that are doing their part to help.

Jennie Hagerty and **Mary Therese Riley** are collecting donations through Dec. 5 for the Bishop's Breakfast Christmas gathering in downtown Erie.

Anyone is welcome to donate gently used or new items, including blankets, hats, socks, gloves and adult clothing for men and women. Other needed items are men's boxer shorts (all sizes) and \$5 gift cards to McDonald's or Tim Horton's.

To contribute, contact **Jennie at jhagerty94@gmail.com** or **Mary Therese at mriley1@verizon.net**.

The Bishop's Breakfast provides thousands of warm meals to those in need throughout the year.

On Nov. 14, St. Patrick's Haven, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, is opening its new shelter for homeless men at 239 E. 12th St., Erie.

Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, executive director, and **Betsy Wiest**, social justice coordinator, have been overseeing the move from its previous location a few blocks away.

The need is great, as about 170 men a year seek nightly refuge at the Haven.

♦ ♦ ♦
Congratulations to **Msgr. Gerald Ritchie**, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek, and all of his parishioners, for paying off the mortgage to their new church, which was dedicated in April 2000.

On Sept. 24—the feast day of Our Lady of Mercy—the mortgage was officially burned in a ceremony at the church.



Courtesy photo

Frank and Joanne Cargioli, chairwoman of the Capital Campaign Committee at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Harborcreek, perform the honor of burning the church mortgage.

♦ ♦ ♦
Best of luck to Cathedral Prep senior **Matt Bauer** and Mercyhurst Prep senior **Jesse Luketa**, who are among 51 nominees for the high school version of the Butkus Award, which is presented at the end of the season to the top linebacker in the country.

♦ ♦ ♦

In October, **Matt Clark**, administrator of the Office of Worship, attended the national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC). Their focus was on the pastoral care of the sick. According to Clark: "The national liturgy meeting was a reminder of the power of the church's rituals for the sick. Both clergy and laity have roles in caring for them. For the seriously sick, the world shrinks to the size of their bed. They may feel vulnerable, lonely. Still, they remain full members of our church community and we are called to care for them through visits and notes, through intercessions at Mass and in our private prayers."

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Lourdes pilgrimage

Continued from page 1

grimage packages a year to Lourdes. Two of those trips are geared to special-needs pilgrims.

As a nurse, Radkowski couldn't think of a better way to use her talents and put her faith into action. She finally decided last summer to apply to be a medical volunteer for the St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage.

"We're all in this together. We're passing through this life and we have to help each other and be kind and gentle to each other," Radkowski says.

Of the two patients she was assigned, one did not need constant care. So, Radkowski ended up mostly helping a middle-aged man recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS. The man was traveling with his sister, and they all lodged at Accueil Notre-Dame, a hospital-like facility designed specifically for pilgrims with medical needs.

Radkowski assisted the



Courtesy photo

The Immaculate Conception Basilica in Lourdes

man with bathing and eating, and comforting him with his breathing difficulties. Meanwhile, they took part in visits to the grotto, saying the rosary and attending Mass.

"It was a struggle for him to travel," Radkowski re-

members. "I give a lot of credit to people with disabilities. God bless them for taking a journey like this."

Besides their individual patient assignments, medical personnel also coordinate a 24-hour schedule in

which they make rounds among all of the special needs pilgrims in their group. Radkowski sometimes took the 3 to 7 a.m. shift.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the North American Volunteer program, according to Pamela Ryan. She says Radkowski "brought great joy and enthusiasm" to Lourdes.

Many volunteers, Ryan says, get "hooked" on helping and return for more pilgrimages. She jokingly calls it the "Marian Vortex." Ryan estimates that there are about 300 people who volunteer every year.

Radkowski wants to go back to Lourdes, having learned that the simple act of caring for another person, and bringing that person to the Blessed Mother, is enough.

"I feel like there's more work to be done," she says, adding, "I would like to go to Calcutta next."

For more information, go to www.lourdesvolunteers.org or contact Pamela Ryan, pilgrimage director, at 315-476-0026.

Emmaus, Pa., native professes first vows



Courtesy photo

Sister Valerie Luckey, OSB

Sister Valerie Luckey, OSB, made her first profession of monastic vows Oct. 21 in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

Sister Valerie professed stability, obedience and fidelity to the monastic way of life with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, for a period of three years.

With this profession, she enters the Scholasticate, the third stage of initial monastic formation.

She will continue her study of the monastic way of life and discern a permanent commitment guided by Sister Diane Rabe, OSB, Scholastic director, while also engaging in full-time ministry.

Sister Valerie, 29, is from Emmaus, Pa., and was an elementary school teacher in Philadelphia before entering the Erie Benedictines. She now cares for 1- and 2-year-olds at St. Benedict Child Development Center in Erie.

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Mercy in Uganda

FIRST-PERSON NARRATIVE

Holy Spirit calls us to do mission work

BY DAVE WAYMAN | SPECIAL TO FAITHLIFE

Editor's Note: Dave Wayman of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie shares his experience of a recent mission trip to Uganda.

Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Ransom the captive. Bury the dead.

These are the traditional corporal works of mercy that we are all called to do as Catholic Christians. Most of us reach out in mercy in our own communities, but sometimes, God calls us out of our comfort zone to help those in need in places we never dreamed of going.

For me, it was Africa. Traveling to Africa was never on my bucket list, but two Lenten years ago, the Holy Spirit showed me that while giving up sweets is nice, helping someone is actually much better. I decided to sponsor a child through Mary Mission, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit headquartered in Bismark,



Thirty-two children made their first Communion at St. Philomena School this past summer.

N.D. The mission had just built St. Philomena Primary and Nursery School, which is located in a rural area of East Africa where an estimated 800 children have lost one or more parents to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These children need to learn English and obtain a Catholic education if they ever hope to avoid making the same potential mistakes as some of their parents. They need to be given the chance to advance economically in the wider world outside of their tribal area.



Contributed photo

Dave and Kathy Wayman of Erie, center, are shown presenting a bicycle to David Kisekka and his mother, Benedicita, at a celebration at St. Philomena School in Lwabikere, Uganda. Kathy and Dave sponsor David and his little brother, Augustine, so that they are able to attend the school. Roads in this remote area of Uganda are just dirt tracks, so bicycles are a useful means of transportation.

I sponsored a boy, David Kisekka, and my wife, Kathy, sponsored his little brother, Augustine. We were able to help them attend St. Philomena, which currently has 285 students and a waiting list of 400.

I was invited to go along on Mary Mission's July 2016 trip to the school. Although reluctant at first, the Holy Spirit got the better of that argument, so I went.

I mostly wanted to make sure the charity was legitimate and the work they were doing was worthwhile. I also wanted to be certain that it was safe before Kathy would join me in the future.

To my delight, it was both legitimate and safe. What joy I felt in being part of the mission! I traveled with four others, called "mission partners," who took clothes, dental supplies and worm medicine, in addition to financial assistance provided by Mary Mission.

What love we were given in return! The people and the children are very poor and deeply appreciative of anything done for them. On the



Nicole Maxson of Erie teaches the finer points of basketball outside St. Philomena School in Lwabikere, Uganda.

Sunday I was there, we celebrated the first-ever Mass at the school and afterward the children entertained us with dancing and singing and plays for about five straight hours. I was moved to tears several times as I watched them. I remember thinking, "I've done virtually nothing to deserve this gift of love I am being given as part of the team."

God is so good. You really can't out-do him.

Because it was relatively safe to travel there, Kathy accompanied me on a return trip last July. This time, we had a total of 13 mission part-

ners, including a doctor, two nurses, and Erie resident Nicole Maxson, a student at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Donors previously built a basketball court at the school, but the children are not familiar with how basketball is played. There is no electricity, so they are not exposed to the game via television.

A former varsity standout on the Villa Maria Academy basketball team and on the Clarion University women's basketball team, Nicole didn't hesitate to accept the invitation to be part of our mission team and teach basic basketball skills to the children.

She says: "I learned so many life lessons about who I am as a person, about what I can give to others. The people of Uganda and the children taught me perhaps the most valuable lesson of all: you don't need much in life to be happy. As long as you have Jesus and those you love around you, all will be well."

Kathy loved her experience as well, and is eager to return.

"I was most moved by the children—especially the 32 children who made their first Communion in a half-built church that is already full of love—and the faith exuded by the people of the villages," Kathy says.

St. Philomena School opened in February 2016 and already is bearing much fruit for the faith. The sacraments and the gifts and graces they offer are preparing the children for a better future.

Much has been accomplished by the grace of God, but there is much more to do.

Among the most rewarding experiences of my life has been going to Uganda and seeing so much good accomplished in such a short time—and seeing children and families hopeful about their future. I pray that others listen to their hearts and reach out in mercy, too.

My advice to anyone is, "If the Holy Spirit prompts you to go on a mission, just go, no matter where it leads."

Dave Wayman is a retired publisher. He can be reached at dave@americannimages.org. He is willing to speak at parishes and schools about his mission experiences.

INFORMATION ON MARY MISSION

Visit <https://marymission.com> and/or go to the website of the Ugandan non-governmental organization Green Village Children Center at www.greenvillagechildrencenter.org.

EVENTS

■ Concert fundraiser

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek, is hosting a concert Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. as a fundraiser for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians-Mark Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry. A free-will offering will be taken. Stephen Petranak, president of NPM and a nationally-known liturgical guitarist, will be the special guest at the concert, titled "My Heart Shall Sing." The adult and children's choirs of Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Cross Parish, Fairview, will be featured. A light reception will follow the concert.

■ "Technicolor Dream Coat"

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.

■ Feather Party

The 57th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feather Party will be held Nov. 18 from 6 to 10 p.m. in Scheffler Hall,

1531 East 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 or call the parish office at 814-825-7313.

■ Evening of prayer, music

There will be an evening of prayer and music Nov. 19 beginning at 6 p.m. at St. Bernard Church, 205 Taylor Ave., Falls Creek. Father Matias Quinno will lead the Scripture reading, homily and prayers for healing. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-5930, or Rich Kenawell at 814-771-7952.

■ Cathedral Concert Series

The Cathedral Concert Series at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie continues Nov. 19 with an organ recital at 4 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. Kenneth Danchik, associate organist of St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, is the featured organist.

■ Order your favorite Christmas foods

The Catholic Education Program at Holy Trinity Parish in Erie is sponsor-

ing its annual Christmas Market Dec. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m., and Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Holy Trinity Social Center—The Gathering Place, 2220 Reed St., Erie.

Supplies are limited during the market due to pre-orders. Download a pre-order form for a variety of your Christmas favorites at www.holytrinityrc.org.

Pre-orders will be accepted through Dec. 4. Payment is due with orders. To submit orders, fax to 814-461-1150, call 814-456-0671, or mail to: Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

■ Advent retreat in Coudersport

St. Eulalia Parish in Coudersport will hold an Advent retreat Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church, 6 E. Maple St., Coudersport. All are welcome to attend the event, which will feature Father Justin Cimnante, a Carmelite priest from Middletown, N.Y.

Pre-registration and payment of a \$15 retreat fee per person is due by Dec. 3. Send the name(s) of person(s) attending, a contact phone number and check made payable to St. Eulalia Parish.

Mail to: Judy Castano, c/o St. Eulalia Church, 6 E. Maple St., Coudersport, PA 16915. For further questions, contact the parish office at 814-274-8646.

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

Learning about sensory perception



DuBOIS—Kadin Danch, right, a junior at DuBois Central Catholic, tests the sensory perception of Caleb Benson, a fifth-grader, at one of 10 learning stations at the school's recent Carnegie Science Day. High school students were trained by the visiting Carnegie staff from Pittsburgh on how to demonstrate the science concept being presented at each of the stations.

Kids create cards to benefit Toys for Tots



ERIE—Fourth-graders at St. Luke School in Erie learned about assembly lines and production in their social studies class this fall. They put their knowledge into action by creating thank-you cards in an actual assembly line. St. Luke staff now have the opportunity to buy the cards, with the sales revenue going toward the purchase of toys for the Toys for Tots program. Pictured standing, from left, are students Natalie Spano and Brady Rice. Seated, from left, are students Mischa Castello and Julian Lewkowicz.

Fatima Cadet Program gathers monthly



ERIE—The World Apostolate of Fatima Cadet Program meets every third Thursday at St. George Parish in Erie. Recently, members of the World Apostolate's Erie Division posed with members of the Cadet Program. Pictured, from left, are Michael Caulfield, Timothy Caulfield, Anna Gilson, Thomas Caulfield, Peter Caulfield, Theresa Walsh (organizer), Teresa Caulfield and Father Jamie Power, parochial vicar.

COLLEGES OF
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Pods make studying other-worldly

NORTH EAST—Mercyhurst University's North East campus recently unveiled its new student union, featuring colorful custom-built study pods. The new union also includes random platforms where students can sit or stretch out, mini-golf and other games, and floor-to-ceiling glass that lets in lots of natural light.

Keyman Asefi, an architecture design instructor at Mercyhurst, designed the space, calling it "emotional architecture."

Pictured in a pod, from left, are students Melissa Johnson, Michala Medved, Elise Yungwirth and Teah Bins.



Mercyhurst University photo

Erie seminarians become acolytes



LATROBE—Erie seminarians Joseph Petrone, left, and John Hepinger, right, stand with Bishop James Checchio of the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., after the seminarians were instituted into the ministry of acolyte Oct. 18 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe.

Hepinger earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Gannon University in Erie in 2016. Petrone earned undergraduate degrees in biology and philosophy from Gannon.

They were among six seminarians from the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Erie, Metuchen and Saint Vincent Archabbey who were instituted into the ministry of acolyte. Acolytes serve at the altar and assist the priest and deacon.

Rock painting inspires



OIL CITY—St. Stephen School participated in a rock-painting project inspired by the book *Only One You* by Linda Kranz. Students and teachers painted rocks representing themselves and then placed the stones on the school grounds as a visible reminder of individual uniqueness. Pictured, back to front, are students Konner Beichner, Gary Hartle, Beatrice Popescu and Matthew Giancola.

Cut-out pope joins celebration



CURWENSVILLE—The St. Timothy Parish Altar Rosary Society in Curwensville celebrated Halloween early at their October meeting. Pope Francis (in cut-out form) joined in the fun with officers and some of the membership. Dressed in their favorite costumes, seated, from left, are Sonya Greene, Barbara Caldwell, Doe Augustine and Helen Warren. Standing, from left, are: Cathy McCorkle, Lois Stadtmiller, Marie Kavelak, Joan Domico, Rebecca Anderson, Janice Kephart and Cindy Spencer.

BSS wins Bread Box Award



ERIE—Blessed Sacrament School in Erie recently accepted the 2017 Bread Box Award in the elementary school division from Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. The award recognized Blessed Sacrament students and staff for collecting more than 1,000 cans of corn in its Corn Challenge, and for giving all of the proceeds from the school's yearly mission auction to Second Harvest. Eighth-graders Mitchell Hamm, left, and Elijah Hunt attended the 29th annual award luncheon with Principal Jane Wagner.

Prep and Villa Winter Sports
SPAGHETTI DINNER
 Sunday, November 12
 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.
 Prep and Villa Events Center
 501 West 12th Street, Erie
 \$8/person, \$35/family
 Takeout available

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 Fax 814 / 898-2086
 Hours: 9:00-6:00 Monday-Friday, 9:00-2:00 Saturday

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
57th Annual Feather Party
 Saturday, November 18, 2017
 OLMC Scheffner Hall
 1531 East Grandview Blvd., Erie
 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Food Available plus Free Refreshments
 Turkey Dinner Raffles - Wine/Craft Beer Booth
 Games of Chance - Fruit Baskets
CASH DRAWINGS! \$1,500, \$250 and \$150
 Partial proceeds to benefit the
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<https://olmc-erie.org/carmelite-parish-scholarship/>

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