



Photo by Theresa Carl Serafin

HAVE MERCY

Sponsor a child through the Mission of Friendship as one way to mark the Holy Year of Mercy.

SEE STORY BELOW



HOLY LAND VISIT
PAGE 2

FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"One cannot live without forgiving, or at least one cannot live well, especially in the family."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

December 20, 2015

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Year of Mercy lets Christmas last all year

God's unconditional love is revealed to us this week as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in a faraway land.

The human face of God's love is as present to us today—here in the Diocese of Erie—as it was more than 2,000 years ago. And, especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we will come to know his love through every person we meet, through every action we take, through every prayer we say.

It is because God became man that we are able to see our full potential as human beings. We encounter the living God through mercy. We can forgive and be forgiven; we can love and be loved in return. Death—or sin—has no hold on us because we are one with Jesus.

This Christmas, take advantage of visiting one of the seven Year of Mercy pilgrimage sites in our diocese. The holy doors at each church invite each of us to cross into a new life with Christ.

We have the opportunity to profess our faith and to pray for the pope and his intentions. Further, we can commit to doing spiritual and corporal works of mercy by feeding the poor, clothing the naked, forgiving all injuries, to name a few.

If we remain open and allow the graces of these actions to fill our lives, then Jesus' birth and life continue through us. Undoubtedly, all of us can emerge at the end of this Holy Year of Mercy—radiant as the Christ Child's face this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all, and God's blessings for a holy, happy new year.



Bishop Lawrence Persico

Lawrence T. Persico
The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie

Interfaith prayer service planned

FAITHLIFE staff report

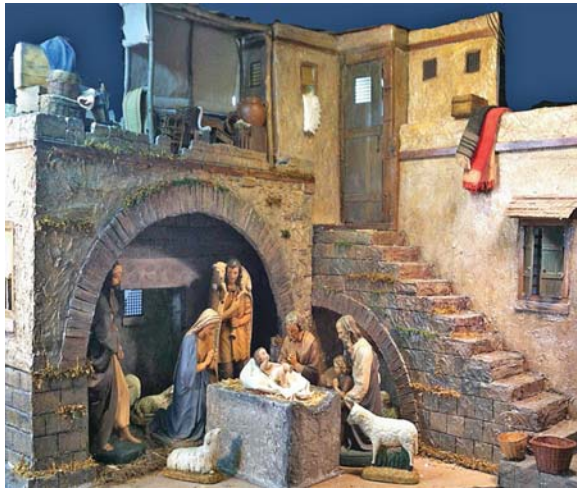
Increasing street violence and the City of Erie's growing murder rate has prompted various religious leaders to plan an interfaith prayer service Jan. 17 at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie.

The event, titled "Unity in Faith—A Time for Hope, a Demonstration of Love," comes the day before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

"We need to promote more healing in the Erie community," said Father John Jacquel, pastor of St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes, and one of the organizers of the ecumenical event. Religious leaders representing Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and Muslims each will have time to lead a prayer at the Cathedral. The service is expected to last about 75 minutes, followed by a light meal at the Cathedral Prep cafeteria.

According to Father Jacquel, Bishop Lawrence Persico first suggested the idea while talking to priests/deans in Erie.

A SIMPLE BIRTH



Contributed photo

This simple nativity on display at Gannon University, Erie, reflects the architecture of ancient Palestine.

Professor's nativities inspire lessons

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Christmas is every day for Michael DeSanctis, Ph.D., a professor of theology and fine arts at Gannon University in Erie.

From early January to before Advent, he is busy creating large nativity sets for which he has come to be well-regarded in Erie and nationally.

"I contemplate the incarnation all year," says DeSanctis, 58, who over time has created at least 50 nativity sets for personal use and, most notably, for the annual window display at Gannon's bookstore in downtown Erie.

This year's creation depicts the traditions of ancient Palestine. The architecture—with intricate steps and brick walls—resembles house forms that survive even today in

parts of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

And instead of a cozy crib, there is a substantial feeding trough that looks like an ancient tomb. Together, the two elements show the inseparability of Christmas and Good Friday, in what DeSanctis calls "the story of human salvation."

A self-described icon painter, DeSanctis considers art a form of prayer. His tools include acrylic paints, spackling compound, foam core board, glue and, of course, a Dremel tool. Working in the basement of his home, he creates nativities out of cast-off items that he hopes evoke Christ's humanity and divinity.

"This (Christ's birth) is so scandalous to groups like ISIS because God assumes human flesh," De-

Sanctis says. "It's all still as radical today as it was 2,000 years ago."

In the past five years, DeSanctis' nativity sets have graced the Gannon bookstore window. He loaned three of them to this year's St. Andrew Parish nativity fundraising exhibit.

St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., has expressed interest in doing an exhibit of DeSanctis' sets at its Richard F. Brush Art Gallery. And Friends of the Crèche, a national organization dedicated to furthering the tradition of DeSanctis' nativities online.

A professor the past 30 years at Gannon, DeSanctis is the father of four. In the early 1990s, he served as one of the consultants in the renovation of St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Pope and bishop open holy doors

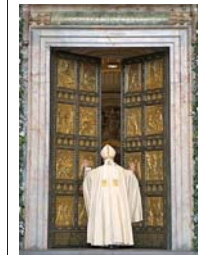
BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE AND CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Pope Francis and Catholic bishops from around the world—including Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico—literally thrust open the doors of mercy this month as the Catholic Church officially began its Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In Rome, on Dec. 8, Pope Francis' voice echoed in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica: "Open the gates of justice." He then pushed open the Holy Door.

Amid a crowd of dignitaries and pilgrims, a familiar face also was present at the historic event: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who followed Pope Francis through the Holy Door into St. Peter's.

During his homily, Pope Francis stressed that the Year of Mercy is a gift of grace that allows Christians to



CNS photo

Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican Dec. 8.

experience the joy of encountering the transforming power of grace and rediscovering God's infinite mercy toward sinners.

"How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment be-

>>> See HOLY DOORS, page 3

Mercy extends to children of mission

FAITHLIFE staff report

MÉRIDA, Yucatán, Mexico—The children and families served by the Diocese of Erie's Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, sometimes don't have enough food, clothes or money.

Meeting these vital needs is just one thing Catholics can do to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy, according to Theresa Carl Serafin, associate director of the Office of Diocesan and International Missions for the Diocese of Erie.

"Sponsoring a child gives you a concrete thing to do," Serafin says. "You're not just leaving Pope Francis' invitation to mercy as an abstract thought. You are sharing with someone who really needs it."



Children from the Mission of Friendship's day care center pose for the camera in this undated photo.

For \$20 or more a month, individuals can sponsor a child or family in the mission's Amigos Program. Currently, people in the diocese sponsor about 100 children and/or families served through the mission,

a joint outreach of the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of the Yucatán.

Currently, five families at the mission are on a waiting list for sponsorship.

"In many instances, there is a real need for food and medicine. A monetary donation helps very much," Serafin explains.

Most of those served by the mission live on \$5 a day. Sponsorship eases many burdens, but in order for it to be effective, participants are asked to commit to giving for at least one year.

For information about the Amigos Program and how to become a sponsor, contact Theresa Carl Serafin at tserafin@eriercd.org or write to: Office of Diocesan and International Missions, P.O. Box 10397, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514.

Nature comes alive

ROME—A lion is seen during a light show illuminating the facade and dome of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 8. The show was sponsored by a coalition of production companies and charitable foundations with the intent to raise awareness about climate change.



CNS photo

Newsmakers



Snippets of Catholic headlines and stories from around the world

From Catholic News Service

■ 'Call Me Francesco' premieres

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A Vatican movie premiere is not your typical star-studded event.

"Call Me Francesco," the first movie based on the life of Pope Francis, took place in the Vatican audience hall Dec. 1. Those considered celebrities in the eyes of the pope were in attendance.

"To this exceptional premiere, the Holy Father wished to invite the poor, the homeless, refugees and the people most in need, together with the volunteers, religious and lay people, who work daily in charity," a Francis statement from the papal almoner's office said.



CNS photo

Rodrigo de la Serna stars in a scene from the movie "Call Me Francesco," the first movie based on the life of Pope Francis.

Parishes and charitable associations in Rome were given 7,000 tickets for the poor to attend the premiere at the Vatican. The night also included a concert featuring the Pontifical Swiss Guard's musical band. The papal almoner's office said that many of the Swiss Guards offered to play during their free time as a gift to the homeles.

The poor were also offered a brown-bag dinner donated especially for the occasion by several benefactors.

■ No euthanasia advised for 'psychological suffering'

OXFORD, England (CNS)—Belgium's Catholic bishops welcomed a statement by top medical professors, psychiatrists and ethicists, who rejected a proposal to allow euthanasia for patients facing "psychological suffering."

"Although the church holds no position on the scientific arguments around euthanasia, we can see these medical practitioners have explained them effectively here. Although strong suffering can be very difficult to bear, palliative care will always offer a better answer," said Jesuit Father Tommy Scholtes, spokesman for Belgium's bishops' conference.

■ Faith groups present signatures to French President Hollande

PARIS (CNS)—Faith-based groups presented French President Francois Hollande with 1.8 million signatures of people seeking a fair climate change agreement that would stop global warming and protect the poor, reported religious groups in Paris for the U.N. climate change conference.

The petitions were in the form of hundreds of thousands of signatures and messages, presented by a group of religious leaders to Hollande in a private ceremony at his presidential palace.

"Today the messages of over 900,000 Catholics calling for climate justice were delivered to President Francois Hollande in coalition with other faith-based groups," said a statement from the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

France hosted the U.N. summit in the Paris suburb of Le Bourget until mid-December.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land leaves indelible mark on the spirit



Guest Commentary

Father Richard Toohey

"You will never read the Bible the same again." I first heard those words from the spiritual director who led my pilgrimage to Israel in 1999, when I was a seminarian. I found myself saying those words repeatedly as I led my first pilgrimage to the Holy Land last month as a priest. Once again, the "Land of the Bible" helped me grow in my understanding and appreciation for sacred Scripture.

Twenty-eight pilgrims from throughout the Diocese of Erie journeyed with me to Israel Nov. 9-19. I was blessed to be joined by newly ordained priest, Father Tom Trocchio, permanent deacons Ed Horneman and Dick Brogdon, along with their wives, Diane (pilgrimage coordinator) and Victoria; as well as other parishioners from Meadville, Warren and Erie.

The Scripture came alive as we meditated and prayed at the sites of 19 of the 20 mysteries of the rosary. It allowed us to enter more deeply into the life and minis-

try of Jesus and Mary. Talk about a "living rosary!"

The literal land and water of the Bible spoke to me in new ways. I was surprisingly moved by our visits to such bodies of water as the Mediterranean Sea, the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. We took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, floated in the Dead Sea, and renewed our baptismal promises in the Jordan.

I was struck in new ways by the breadth of God's love and humility, reinforced in the fact that Jesus came to the lowest place in the world (the Dead Sea) to save us. And the lushness of Galilee, in contrast to the desert of the land around Jerusalem, reinforced the crosses that we are called to bear sometimes as Christians.

In Jerusalem, the events of the paschal mystery came to life in new and exhilarating ways as we

"The lushness of Galilee, in contrast to the desert of the land around Jerusalem, reinforced the crosses that we are called to bear sometimes as Christians."

walked the Palm Sunday road with 75 Nigerians. Together, we sang "Hosanna in the Highest." We also celebrated Mass in the same complex that houses the upper room of the Last Supper and the first Mass where Jesus appeared after the resurrection.

We awoke at 4 a.m. to walk the *Via Dolorosa* through the dark, silent and empty streets of the Old City of Jerusalem.

We concluded our Way of the Cross at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, where we celebrated Mass in the very tomb where Jesus rose from the dead and conquered sin and death forever.

Our pilgrimage to the Holy Land truly "incarnated" the Incarnation for us in concrete and tangible ways. Once again, I will "never read the Bible the same again."

Father Richard Toohey is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Warren.



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

My 13th Christmas is one I'd rather forget. Between bouts of delirium and a 104-degree fever, the day dragged on for what seemed like years.

The doctor advised my parents to take me to the hospital early that evening. Diagnosed with pneumonia, I woke up a day later. My mother and father stood over me, looking relieved.

My mother gave me a beautiful Christmas pin (which I still wear every year) and my dad, a stoic World War II veteran and avid historian, said that President Harry Truman just died. (Dec. 26, 1972). A day or two later, a surprise visitor came, bearing a gift.

My seventh-grade history teacher, Mr. Rendos, gave me a candy bar and stayed only a few minutes. But the visit has stayed with me all these years as an example of real caring and mercy.

As we celebrate this upcoming Year of Mercy, remember to do spiritual or corporal works of mercy—i.e., feeding the hungry, visiting the sick—and then watch their long-lasting effects.

More than 2 million people worldwide viewed a photo and story I posted online of a 10-point buck that she killed on the first day of hunting season near St. Marys. She donated some of the meat to local families.

We took the post down after several days due to obscene and personal attacks made against Sister John Paul by people opposed to hunting. The photo generated supportive comments, too, but the vulgarity and public vilification of Sister John Paul seemed inappropriate to leave on our Facebook page and website.

Jamie Longo, director of advancement at Seton Catholic School in Meadville, is proud of students who this fall did a lot of work to make a difference worldwide and locally.

Seventh-graders collected more than 33,000 pop tabs for the girls of St. Monica's Tailoring Center in Gulu, Uganda. The tabs are used to make purses, the proceeds of which provide a woman and her family with a mattress, meals and water for six months.

Seton students also donated more than 1,000 food and toiletry items for the Meadville Food Pantry, operated by St. Brigid Parish.

Best wishes to Edna Lutz Foy of Oil City, who will celebrate her 100th birthday Jan. 2. A resident of the Golden Living Center in Oil City, Edna was a long-time member of St. Stephen Parish in Oil City.

Congratulations also to Angeline Mary Scolio, a Sacred Heart Grade School grad, who just celebrated her 100th birthday with her children and extended family.

Parishioners, friends and family recently recognized Lou Ann Nowosielski for her 50 years as the church organist at St. Hedwig Parish in Erie. According to Rory Nowosielski, a grandchild, Lou Ann received a standing ovation at the Rosary Society's Christmas party.

Susan Hutchins, associate director of the National Pastoral Musicians, recently presented \$500 to Mercy Sister Tina Geiger and Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler, of Catholic Rural Ministry, Oil City Diocese, who are collecting funds for Our Lady Help of Christians African Benedictine Sisters for the purchase of an organ to enhance their liturgy.

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



Contributed photo

Twenty-eight people from the Diocese of Erie walked the *Via Dolorosa* (The Way of the Cross) and attended Mass in the tomb of Christ as part of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November. Pictured on the steps of the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem are: Barb and Bob Crowley, Pete and Barb Sirirami, Jeff Choffel, Tom Kollar, Father Rich Toohey, Barb McNamara, Jim and Cathy Price, Jim Anders, Joan Fels, Sylvia and Greg Bosner, Henri and Holly LeMeur, Victoria and Deacon Dick Brogdon, Carol Goff, Christine Cataldo, Diane and Deacon Ed Horneman, Diane and Bill Stumpf, Father Tom Trocchio, Joan Olson, Chris and Tom Grana, and tour guide Sami Tawil.

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EVENTS

Key West fundraiser planned

HERMITAGE—Kennedy Catholic High School is planning one of its major fundraisers of the year, Key West at KC, on Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. at the high school gymnasium, 2120 Shermango Valley Freeway, Hermitage.

For \$20 per person, enjoy a full Cuban-style buffet dinner, adult beverages, entertainment, dancing, gift and silent auctions, and games of chance. The grand prize for the evening is a four-day, three-night trip to Key West for two adults.

For more details on the event, for raffle information, or to purchase tickets, go to <http://svcss.k12.pa.us/key-west>.



People for Life to sponsor three events

ERIE—People for Life in Erie is sponsoring three separate pro-life events this January:

- **Erie March for Life, Jan. 9**, beginning at 10:45 a.m. at the stage pavilion in West Perry Square, Erie. The theme: "No Choice but to Love, Protect, and Defend."
- **38th annual Pro-Life Breakfast, Jan. 16** from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Speaker: Steven W. Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute.
- **March for Life, Jan. 22-23**, bus trip to Washington, D.C.

For more details on all events, including prices and registration, call 814-882-1333 or go to www.peopleforlife.org. People for Life is seeking bus trip sponsors to assist individuals who cannot pay for the trip to Washington. A donation of \$55 covers the cost of a single bus seat or makes it possible for two people to go at half-price.

Navigating life with an adolescent boy?

EDINBORO—Save the date for an upcoming father-son event sponsored by the Diocese of Erie's NFP/Chastity Education Office.

Address such issues as growing into manhood, improving father/son communication, sacredness and dignity of human life, the beauty of married life, and listening to God's call. The event will be held Feb. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake social hall, 128 Sunset Drive, Edinboro. The day will include food, games, talks and conversation time between dads and sons. Reservations are required by going to www.ErieCD.org/nfp_dads.asp. For questions, call 814-824-1259. The early bird cost is \$20 per family by Jan. 29. After that date, the cost is \$25.

Orders accepted for 2016 diocesan directory

ERIE—The Office of Communications of the Diocese of Erie is accepting orders for the 2016 diocesan directory.

The price of the directory is \$22 per copy. To place an order, call 814-824-1161 or go to www.ErieCD.org/directory.asp. Make checks payable to the Office of Communications and mail to: St. Mark Catholic Center, Office of Communications, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.

The directory shipment is expected to arrive in late January, at which time orders will be mailed out.

Enter a commercial for 'Cool 2B Catholic'

IRONDALE, Ala.—EWTN Global Catholic Network is accepting submissions to its "Cool 2B Catholic: Contest" from Catholic students in any high school, college or film school.

For more details and contest rules, go to <https://c2bc.ewtn.com>.

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Holy doors

Continued from page 1

fore we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy," he said. "We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event, God's judgment will always be in the light of his mercy. In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love."

In the Diocese of Erie, on Dec. 12, Bishop Persico opened the Holy Door at St. Peter Cathedral, the mother church of the 13-county diocese.

More than 250 people from throughout the diocese attended the Mass that officially started the Holy Year of Mercy. Many processed behind the bishop and clergy as they walked through the Holy Door.

In his homily, Bishop Persico quoted from Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus*, which announced the Year of Mercy.

"The first sentence says: 'Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy.' With these simple and direct words of Pope Francis, he invites us to engage in the central mystery of our faith. It

There are seven pilgrimage sites with holy doors in the Diocese of Erie:

- **St. Peter Cathedral, Erie Harborcreek**
- **Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek**
- **St. Bernard, Bradford**
- **St. Michael, Greenville**
- **Sacred Heart, St. Marys**
- **St. Joseph, Warren**
- **Ss. Cosmas and Damien, Punxsutawney**

is not a concept or a commandment, but the human face of Jesus Christ, who reveals God's unconditional love."

Dan and Diane Neubert and their two daughters, Sophie, 13, and Grace, 10, drove to Erie from St. Marys to attend the Holy Door event at St. Peter's.

"I thought it was pretty cool. During the Mass, I thought that we were so lucky to be here," said Diane Neubert.

Many remained after the Mass to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation, which is one of the recommendations after passing through a holy door.



Photo by Mary Solberg
Bishop Lawrence Persico walks through the Holy Door moments after its opening at St. Peter Cathedral Dec. 12.

A letter from Bishop Lawrence Persico

Holy Year invites everyone to seek mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Dec. 12, 2015, at the Vigil Mass, I opened the Holy Door of Mercy in St. Peter Cathedral and thus inaugurated the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy for the Diocese of Erie. A number of you were able to join me for that celebration.

It is the desire of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and mine as well, that this Holy Year be a time of profound grace and conversion for the whole church. My hope is that it may be an opportunity for people to discover the mercy of God for themselves, and to bring that mercy to those around them and to those on the periphery.

It is important for us to grow in our understanding of the mercy of God. Divine mercy is not opposed to justice, but is, rather, justice infused with love. God's mercy is most evident in the sacrament of reconciliation and I urge all of you to take advantage of that sacra-

ment on a regular basis. It is when we experience the mercy of God in our lives that we are able to pass it on to others.

I share the Holy Father's wish that as many people as possible may be able to receive the indulgence associated with the Holy Year of Mercy. I have therefore designated six pilgrimage sites, in addition to St. Peter Cathedral, where there will be a Holy Door and the possibility of obtaining the indulgence. The sites are: Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek; Shrine of Mercy, St. Bernard, Bradford; St. Michael, Greenville; Ss. Cosmas and Damien, Punxsutawney; Sacred Heart, St. Marys; and St. Joseph, Warren.

Those who are physically unable to access a Holy Door — the sick and elderly, as well as those in prison — may nonetheless receive the indulgence through special provisions given by our Holy Father:

■ **For the sick and homebound:** Those unable to pass through a Holy Door may receive the indulgence by spiritually uniting their suffering with the suffering of the Lord, receiving Communion and reconciliation as is possible in their condition, and participating in Mass or communal prayer — even through television or other means of communication.

■ **For those in prison:** Pope Francis extends the Year of Mercy indulgence to prisoners who, with the intention of receiving God's mercy, see the doorway to their prison chapel, and even the doorway to their own prison cell, as a Door of Mercy symbolizing their desire to pass from an old life to a new experience of God's forgiveness.

It is my hope that each parish, individually or in conjunction with neighboring parishes, will seek ways of celebrating this Holy Year of Mercy, liturgically, sacramentally

and socially as a community. Perhaps performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy as a parish community would be a way of entering more deeply into this Holy Year and building community spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of the faithful of our diocese, as well as the clergy and religious, to live this Holy Year of Mercy in a spirit of faith and of openness to the working of the Holy Spirit, that mercy may become the distinguishing characteristic of all of us as Catholic Christians.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

OSBs sign Paris Pledge

ERIE—The Benedictine Sisters of Erie have joined 150 other religious organizations and 3,500 individuals who have signed the Paris Pledge to reduce their carbon pollution by 50 percent by 2030 and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

"Care for the earth has been integral to the Benedictine charism since our very foundation in the 6th century," explains Sister Anne Wambach, OSB, prioress.

The Paris Pledge was developed by Interfaith Power and Light, an organization of 18,000 religious congregations and organizations located in 40 states throughout the U.S.

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Parishioners minister inside prison



SAEGERTOWN—Members of St. Bernadette Mission in Saegertown are pictured with Tim Lewis, center, prison warden at the Crawford County Correctional Facility in Saegertown. They presented copies of the *New Catholic Answer Bible* for inmates. Three couples volunteer in the prison ministry, visiting both men's and women's pods at the prison on a weekly basis.

Pictured, from left, are: Cindy and John Weber; Father David Poulson, pastor of St. Bernadette Mission and St. Anthony Parish, Cambridge Springs; Warden Tim Lewis; Marlene and George Beisler, and Kay and John Weagraff.

Paddle party a big success



FRENCHVILLE—St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Frenchville hosted a paddle party auction to raise money for the church fund in November. More than 200 attended the event. Several regional vendors were present and more than 70 prizes were donated to the auction from local businesses. About \$4,700 was raised.

Sealed with a kiss



ROUSEVILLE—Toby and Sam Sunseri celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a kiss at the 10 a.m. Mass Nov. 15 at St. Venantius Church in Rouseville. The congregation joined in the celebration.

Knights install painted Nativity set



Photo by Dan Mitchell

EDINBORO—Members of the Knights of Columbus at Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, set up two Nativity displays every year on the day after Thanksgiving. Parishioners George and Wendy Humes donated and painted the display, shown here with several of the Knights. Kneeling, from left,

are: Harry Glunt, Bill Benedict, George Lander and Mark Baker. Standing at right are: Ken Quinn and Tim Gwinin. In the back row are: Bob Gwinn, Paul Groszkiewicz, Jonathan Schweichter, Mike Schweichter and Ralph Nathal. Not pictured are Jim Schmidt and Neil Burkell.

Eucharist exhibit presented at parish



PUNXSUTAWNEY—Many people, including religious education students, attended a Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney Nov. 24-25. The exhibit was presented by Dominic and Lauren Caggese and their children, who researched 100 Vatican-approved Eucharistic miracles from around the world. Any schools or parishes interested in showing the exhibit may contact the Caggeses at dcaggese@yahoo.com or call 814-756-4102.

Parish honors patron saint



SMETHPORT—Every year, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Smethport holds a community dinner to honor its patron saint. The dinner is free, but donations are accepted. This year's event raised \$2,540, which will benefit both the Christian Community Services Food Bank and Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry. Marking the occasion, in the front row from left, are: John Adamoski; Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB; Cordell Tanner; Sabrina Tanner; and Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB. In the back row are Father Vince Cieslewicz, pastor; Justin Tanner; and Paul Raymond.

Santa helps with youth project



CURWENSVILLE—St. Timothy Parish in Curwensville recently held a breakfast with Santa as a youth event, with proceeds benefiting the Rev. Fr. James McKee Scholarship Fund. There were more than 100 children in attendance to meet Santa Claus.

Seton gets new roof from trust award



MEADVILLE—In 2014, the A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust awarded Seton Catholic School in Meadville \$25,000 to be used to repair its roof. The funding was matched and the roof was repaired in recent months. Pictured are John and Mary Rae Kowach from the Palumbo Foundation; Julia Strzalka, principal; and Father Matthew Kujawinski, pastor of St. Agatha and St. Mary of Grace parishes, Meadville.

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