

TURNPIKE SNOWSTORM  
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# FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

January 31, 2016

## Lenten practices and regulations

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, and concludes when the Paschal Triduum of the Passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord begins at the start of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, March 24.

Traditional Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING and other forms of self-denial are recommended by the church. Daily Mass is particularly encouraged.

### Lenten observances:

- **ASH WEDNESDAY, ALL FRIDAYS IN LENT and GOOD FRIDAY** are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years of age and older.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY** are also days of fasting for those ages 18 to 58, inclusive. On these days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength according to one's needs, are also permitted. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

## Special Collections



## Catholic Services Appeal Commitment Sunday—Feb. 7

The annual Catholic Services Appeal is a unified appeal conducted each year in parishes and missions throughout the Diocese of Erie. The money that individuals give provides aid to programs, ministries and services of the church.

Commitment Sunday for the CSA is Feb. 7. Pledge envelopes will be distributed during each of the Masses in every diocesan church and mission. Pledges can be fulfilled until the campaign ends on Dec. 31.

The appeal goal for 2016 is \$4.1 million. This goal covers 46.5 percent of the 2016 income for the Diocese of Erie. One hundred percent of the money a parish raises over its CSA goal remains in the parish to fund capital improvements and important parish projects, as well as supplement the parish operational budget.

## Lenten Rice Bowl Collection

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) offers Operation Rice Bowl as a resource to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities. This program provides families around the world with the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves.

In the Diocese of Erie, 60 percent of all Rice Bowl donations collected support CRS programs around the world. The other 40 percent remains in northwestern Pennsylvania to fight hunger and poverty through local food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens.

Use Rice Bowls at home or in classrooms. More resources are available at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).

## Clergy Appointments

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

**Rev. Matthew J. Kujawinski**, pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 1, 2016, for a term of six years.

**Msgr. Edward M. Lohse, JCL**, episcopal vicar for Canonical Services for the Diocese of Erie, with residence at St. George Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified.

**Rev. Johnathan P. Schmitt**, pastor of St. Mary of Grace and St. Agatha parishes, Meadville, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified, while continuing as pastor of St. Brigid Parish, Meadville.

**Rev. Marc A. Stockton, JCL**, Office of Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Erie, effective Jan. 18, 2016, for a term of six years; and pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Erie, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified.

**Rev. Thomas N. Trocchio**, parochial vicar of St. Agatha, St. Brigid and St. Mary of Grace parishes, Meadville, effective Feb. 1, 2016, term unspecified.

**Deacon Patrick Comfort**, deacon assistant, St. Michael and St. Joseph parishes, DuBois, effective Nov. 12, 2015, term unspecified.

## FIRST SPLASH



Photo courtesy of Prep-Villa Advancement Office

## Schools celebrate new Aquatics Center

On the count of 1-2-3—or, in this case, V-M-A—members of the Villa Maria Academy swim team made history Jan. 17 by being the first to jump into the eight-lane pool at the new David M. Hallinan III Aquatics Center in Erie.

Complete with an underwater sound system, the 25-yard pool is classified as all-deep, with depths from 6 feet, 6 inches to 12 feet, 6 inches, perfect for competition. Another three-lane, 3½-foot deep pool is designed for training and swim lessons.

"It was exciting jumping in. Everyone was yelling and screaming and splashing around," says Sara Prischak, a sophomore member of

the Villa swim team.

Prischak's parents, Dennis and Tara, won the bid for the first swim at last year's Prep-Villa Legacy Gala. Sara wanted to share the honor with her teammates.

"We turned it into the whole Villa swim team for the first splash. We were all really excited because we've been waiting so long and watching the building go up," Sara says.

The opening of the pool for the first swim meet Jan. 21 signified the completion of the estimated \$12.5 million Prep and Villa Events Center on W 12th Street. It features the Aquatics Center, the Joann Mullen Gymnasium and Dollinger Field.

The Aquatics Center is the last of the major additions, having been completed in only two years and one month, according to Chris Hagerty, the school's director of strategic initiatives.

"That's lightning speed in Erie, and all paid for with private funding and not one single cent of taxpayer dollars," Hagerty says.

The Aquatics Center, considered the most advanced natatorium facility within 60 miles, will be available to elementary schools and community swim clubs, and will be used for swimming lessons.

—FaithLife

## CSA means mercy

FAITHLIFE staff report

For those struggling with a physical disability, Pope Francis' message of mercy offers hope.

"We're supposed to not judge people. We are supposed to be kind to people. And we're supposed to live according to the Scriptures. Mercy is all of that," says Pat Fronzaglia, president of Victorious Missionaries, an outreach group of Disabilities Ministries of the Diocese of Erie.

When people give to Victorious Missionaries—whether by volunteering or donating to the annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA)—it infuses the world with a little more love and understanding, she says.

Fronzaglia is confined to a wheelchair due to injuries sustained in a car accident several years ago. She empathizes with those who endure discrimination because of their disabilities.

"We all go through challenges in life. We always think we have it bad until we see that others are going through something worse," she says. "The Catholic Services Appeal helps the poor, the homeless and people who are struggling, even emotionally."

On Feb. 7, parishioners in the Diocese of Erie will be asked to pledge a gift to the Catholic Ser-

See CSA, page 2

## St. Peter Cathedral Parish pledges ongoing support of Catholic education

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Father Michael Ferrick, pastor of St. Peter Cathedral Parish, Erie, takes questions from a news reporter regarding the closure of St. Peter Cathedral School.

the parish plans to provide scholarships for the children of parishioners so that their children can attend Catholic schools.

"If we look at Catholic education in our diocese over the years, there has always been change," Father Ferrick says. "We have to

“ I don't want to be doing this [closing a school] every year. I want strong schools; parents want strong schools. — Bishop Persico ”

“

follow the people. Our objective is educating the children and passing on the faith. How can we do that best?”

The Diocese of Erie publicly announced the closure Jan. 15. Bishop Lawrence Persico pointed to declining enrollment and financial concerns as factors that prompted the action a month before his announcement on the final reconfiguration of diocesan schools.

"For me," the bishop said, "this brings sadness, as I'm sure it does for the parents and students. But this was the reasonable way to go. We need to have a system that makes our schools stronger. I don't want to be doing this [closing a school] every year. I want strong schools; parents want strong schools."

Currently, 148 children are enrolled at St. Peter's, in grades kindergarten through eight. The school anticipated that it would have only 88 students next year. A decade ago, enrollment stood at 310.

## Bentornato a casa, Msgr. Lohse

FAITHLIFE staff report

It's been a busy month for Father Edward Lohse, who returned to the Diocese of Erie from Rome as a freshly minted monsignor fluent in Italian.

The changes don't stop there for the McKean native. On Feb. 1, he begins his official assignment as Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services, assisting Bishop Lawrence Persico in administrative matters. And this spring, he hopes to add the title "doctor," when he defends his doctoral dissertation in canon law at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.

five years with the Congregation for the Clergy. When I went, I had the idea that I would do my work, draw no attention to myself and then come back home," Msgr. Lohse says.

Everything but drawing attention happened. In his 26th year as an ordained priest, Msgr. Lohse stands out as an accomplished academic, having



Msgr. Edward Lohse

served as an adjunct faculty member at the Pontifical North American College, Rome, and having completed an in-depth examination of the right of the faithful to physically enter churches for the offering of worship. His doctoral research is expected to inform legal cases before the Vatican.

"I enjoyed my time in Rome, but I am happy to be home," Msgr. Lohse says. "I learned an enormous amount about canon law, about the church, and about life."

Msgr. Lohse will work in the Chancery at St. Mark Catholic Center, with residence at St. George Parish, Erie.

## FINDINGS FROM THE 2015 AMERICAN FAMILY SURVEY

New survey asked Americans about their attitudes and practices regarding marriage and the family.

The study was sponsored by the *Deer* News in Salt Lake City and Brigham Young University's Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy in Provo, Utah.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES (PERCENTAGES)	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
EAT DINNER TOGETHER	8	1	10	8	11	16	17
ATTENDS ACTIVITIES OF FAMILY MEMBER	16	3	23	19	19	16	16
DO HOUSEHOLD CHORES TOGETHER	17	10	9	12	17	17	17
GO TO MOVIES, MUSEUMS, SPORTS EVENTS, PARKS TOGETHER	14	14	26	27	17	4	7
HAVE AN ARGUMENT	19	13	22	18	9	6	5
WORSHIP TOGETHER	11	7	13	9	22	9	7

Source: PRRI 2015 American Values Survey / CNS graphic

## Newsmakers



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

### Books for Apple?



ROME—Pope Francis gives his bound encyclicals to Apple CEO Tim Cook during a private audience in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Jan. 22.

### Pope car to be auctioned

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is auctioning off one low-mileage car, in mint condition, used slightly by one owner. Two of the dark gray, four-door Fiat 500 L sedans used to shuttle Pope Francis around the Philadelphia area during his visit to the city last

September will be available for public viewing and at least one of them will be auctioned off during the Philadelphia Auto Show, running through Feb. 7 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit ministries of the archdiocese, with 50 percent directed toward the annual Catholic Charities Appeal, and one-third each to Casa del Carmen social service agency in North Philadelphia, Mercy Hospice for homeless women and children in the city, and the archdiocese's schools of special education.

### Pope talks to sister about death row inmate

VATICAN—Sister of St. Joseph Helen Prejean, the author of *Dead Man Walking* and a campaigner against the death penalty, had a special experience Jan. 21 during the Vatican's Year of Mercy "Jubilee for Those Engaged in Pilgrimage Work." She was invited to Pope Francis' early morning Mass and had a chance to speak to him briefly afterward.



Sister Helen Prejean, SSJ

She told him that Texas had just carried out the execution of Richard Masterson, convicted of murder. "I pray, I pray," the pope responded.

## Catholic Services Appeal means mercy

Continued from page 1

ices Appeal, an annual collection that benefits the programs, ministries and services of the Catholic Church in the diocese.

Donors have a year to fulfill the pledge, or make a one-time contribution.

Victorious Missionaries is among the many outreach services that benefit from the CSA. The organization supports people who have physical disabilities and provides monthly meetings for prayer



Contributed photo

Pat Fronzaglia, at far right in pink, enjoys activities with members of the Victorious Missionaries, supported by the Catholic Services Appeal.

and companionship, along with an annual retreat. Other CSA beneficiaries are the thousands of people served by Catholic Charities agencies that provide emergency food, shelter and clothing assistance.

Bill Grant, director of Stewardship and Annual Giving for the diocese, has been visiting pastors throughout the 13-county diocese, encouraging them to promote the CSA in their parishes. It remains one of the most successful annual collections, representing nearly half (48.4 percent) of the 2016 diocesan income. Last year's CSA collected more than \$6.2 million, a record total for the diocese. Parishes in the diocese were able to keep more than \$2.1 million, Grant explains.

"Pastors, parish lay leaders and parish staff deserve credit for coordinating this effort," Grant says.

One hundred percent of the money that a parish raises over its CSA goal remains in the parish to fund capital improvements and to supplement the parish operational budget and other parish projects.

"The whole theme of the CSA this year is inspired by Pope Francis, who asks us to 'be lights of hope,'" Grant says. "I think that's kind of the whole invitation we offer to donors to the CSA: to be an imitation of Christ for other people. It's an uplifting message."

The goal of the CSA for 2016 is \$4.1 million. Go to [www.EneRCD.org/csa](http://www.EneRCD.org/csa) for more information or to watch a video about the appeal.

# Discovering God in a snowstorm

Guest Commentary  
Marielle Lafaro



St. George teacher Marielle Lafaro shovels a path around a March for Life bus stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Jan. 22-23.

Contributed photo

**Editor's Note:** Busloads of pro-life activists were stranded for about 24 hours on the Pennsylvania Turnpike during the mammoth snowstorm that paralyzed the East Coast Jan. 22-23. Many people from Catholic parishes, schools and universities in the region were heading home from the 43rd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., when the storm hit.

In lieu of this week's regular Editor's Notes, Marielle Lafaro, a teacher from St. George School, Erie, shares her thoughts on the experience in this edited version of her Facebook post.

As we approach home on bare, smooth roads, it's difficult and even emotional to process the entire experience of the past 53 hours. The most surreal moment was driving (for the first time in almost an entire day) through our fast-emptying trailer-park community on the PA Turnpike.

There were gaping empty spaces where semi-trucks had been stranded, and tunnels and slides that children had made in the surrounding sea of snow. There was the perfectly formed snow altar that Catholics had so eagerly created and gathered around for a Mass. There was the myriad of footprints in the snow where we all had walked along curiously greeting each other and living in solidarity with people who had their lives come to a halt in the crippling storm.

For all of the turmoil and uncertainty that the past two days had brought, I would never consider it a mistake to have gone. On the contrary, it was an immensely (albeit, strangely) blessed experience that only those who lived through it will ever be able to understand. There were so many moments of joy and laughter in embracing our own vulnerability and solidarity with one another, both inside and outside our own temporary bus-house.

As we met people from other cities and states, we asked one another about our stranded locations, using the mile-markers on the side of the road like house addresses. We invited families to come on

the bus to get warm and share company. How truly blessed we are to have the confidence that we are always going to be taken care of. As Christians, we know that the Creator of all things lovingly has our back. Blessed with the priceless gift of social support, we knew that we were being lifted up in fervent prayer by so many loved ones. As Americans, how extremely fortunate we are to have the confidence that someone, in some way, will come to our aid.

As we finally pulled away in the dark—passing six miles of trapped trucks soon-to-be-freed—some of us joked about the nostalgia of our "neighborhood." In the midst of our jesting, there was truth. We were expressing something we all were sharing deep down: that despite the inconvenient, unexpected, unplanned, and, at times, uncomfortable



Contributed photo

Catholic students from around the country, including the Diocese of Erie, attended this impromptu Mass Jan. 23 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

dilemma we found ourselves in, it was an experience we will always remember and even cherish.

I pray that the ordeal has and will continue to challenge my students in how they view our pampered lives, our constant comfort, and our sense of total control over our own destiny. I pray that tomorrow and for years to come they might see the world, other people, and their own existences even just a little bit differently—with a bit more wisdom. I know I sure do.

### Mass for the stranded

PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE—Father Dan Hoffman, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro, is pictured in the aisle of a stranded bus during an impromptu Mass with members of his parish and students of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

The bus was among hundreds trapped Jan. 22-23 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike en route home from the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

"The Lord comes to us everywhere—even in the midst of a snowstorm; even on a bus," Father Hoffman says.



Photo by Laura Gifford

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# Interfaith service offers healing

The refrains of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" opened an interfaith prayer service Jan. 17 at the H. David Bowes Auditorium at Cathedral Preparatory School.

Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie joined several other religious leaders from the Erie area in calling for peace, healing and civility in a community besieged by increasing gun violence and drug addiction. Titled "Unity in Faith—A Time for Hope, A Demonstration of Love," the event drew a couple hundred people on a snowy afternoon.

Only together, Bishop Persico told those in attendance, "can we realize the fullness of God's imagination."



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Speakers at the interfaith prayer service Jan. 17 included, from left: Bishop Dwane Brock of Victory Christian Center, Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani of Almakarim Islamic Foundation, Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov of Temple Anshe Hessed, and Cathedral Prep student Michael Bishop.

Bishop Persico asked that the event be held because he was weary of reading daily newspaper accounts of shootings and other violence in the city. He told *FaithLife*: "I thought we should come together in prayer and then start the conversation about what can be done."

Among others who participated were: Bishop Dwane

Brock of Victory Christian Center; Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov of Temple Anshe Hessed; Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani of Almakarim Islamic Foundation; Bishop Sean Rowe of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania; Sister Marilyn Schauble, OSB; Sister Charlotte Zalot, OSB; Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM; and Sister Nancy Fisher, SSI.

# Students work on winter break

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Winter break always means work—good work—for members of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry at Allegheny College in Meadville.

For five days this month, nine Newman students and their chaperones visited the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Des Plaines, Ill., outside of Chicago. Besides sharing prayer and reflection, the group tended to elderly sisters, packed food on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, and attended court hearings of detained immigrants.

"I think we were all meant to go on this trip together for some reason. It could put us on a path that we don't even know about yet," says Tessie Bracken, an Allegheny sophomore and president of the Newman group.

According to Sister Theresia Donach, CSFN, vocation director for the Illinois order, the January trip was the fifth consecutive year that an Allegheny Newman contingent has done mission



Photo by Sister Angela Szawinski, CSFN

Pictured after packing food for Uganda, in the front row, from left, are: Allegheny College students Tessie Bracken and Allie Cabo. Holding the sign, from left, are: students Lauren Winterberg and Anna Rosswog. In the back row, from left, are: students Rayna Pelisari and Brian Rollick; Deacon Ed Horneman; students Zach Shomo, Clara Moller and Troy Dinga; Sister Theresia Donach, CSFN; and chaperone Phil Scrimanti.

work with the sisters. Previous mission trips over winter break were to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

"These students were deeply spiritual," Sister Theresia says. "I think they took a piece of my heart back with them."

## EVENTS

### Pro-Life of Mercer County to host breakfast

WEST MIDDLESEX—Pro-Life of Mercer County is hosting its 14th annual prayer breakfast Feb. 13 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Park Inn by Radisson, 3377 New Castle Road, West Middlesex. The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 8. Tickets are \$15 per adult, and \$5 per child and teenager.

The keynote speaker is Wesley J. Smith, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism. He was named a "Great Defender of Life" by Human Life International for his work against assisted suicide and euthanasia.

For information on the prayer breakfast, contact Brian O'Malley at [prolifemercer@gmail.com](mailto:prolifemercer@gmail.com) or 724-854-5433, or Bob Lackey at [rlackey@eglolaw.com](mailto:rlackey@eglolaw.com) or 724-342-6835.



Wesley J. Smith

### Learn about Mercurhurst's Oasis Program

NORTH EAST—Learn more about the Oasis Program at Mercurhurst University's North East campus on Feb. 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Ridge Library, Great Room.

Adults ages 18 and up, their parents, professionals and the community are invited to learn more about this one-year certificate program that offers individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn academic, vocational, social and other skills important for employment. Residential options are available. Choose from culinary or early childhood education concentrations.

For more information, contact Jim Conroy at 814-725-6299.

### 10-day pilgrimage planned to Marian shrines

ERIE—Father David Renne, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, will be the spiritual director of a May 8-17 pilgrimage to Marian shrines in Portugal, Spain and France. The cost of the 10-day pilgrimage is \$2,995 per person. A \$300 deposit is due at registration. To register, call Father Renne at 814-833-7701, ext. 205, or Cynthia Berarducci at 814-833-7701, ext. 201.

For information, go to [www.tektonministries.org](http://www.tektonministries.org).

### Scouting information shared with parishes

ERIE—Knights of Columbus throughout the U.S. will be ending their charters with scouting groups no later than 2016. The orga-

nization is encouraging councils to transfer scouting charters to the local parish where the mission and activity of scouting may be integrated into a comprehensive strategy of parish youth ministry.

For more complete details of the change, see a letter from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting at [www.nccs-bsa.org/national/KnightsSupportingScouting.php](http://www.nccs-bsa.org/national/KnightsSupportingScouting.php). Pastors and administrators in the Diocese of Erie are asked to contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 814-824-1218 if they have any scouting groups chartered by the Knights of Columbus in their parishes.

### Mount Saint Benedict hosts Islam presentation

HARBORCREEK—The Enrichment Series at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek continues Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. with a presentation titled, "Islam in the U.S.—Challenges and Opportunities."

Two Muslim women living in Erie will be the featured speakers at the event, which is an attempt to correct misconceptions of the Muslim culture that may exist due to lack of information and understanding. The presenters are Fadha Ibrahim and Niken Astari.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sister Stephanie Schmidt, OSB, at [formation@mtsbenedict.org](mailto:formation@mtsbenedict.org) or 814-899-0614, ext. 2511.

### Contemplative Prayer series offered

CLARION—An Introduction to Contemplative Prayer is a series that will be offered Saturdays, (Feb. 6, March 5, April 2, and May 7) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Clarion Conference Center at Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion. Bring a bag lunch; a free-will offering will be taken.

Sister Tina Geiger, RSM, will use the program series by Father Thomas Keating, OSB. All are welcome. For more information, call 814-677-2032.

### Super Bowl 50 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

ERIE—Super Bowl 50 will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1533 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Feb. 7 from 4 p.m. until the end of the game. The cost is \$10 per person and includes entrance, food, beverage, and a chance for money prizes. Activities will include a wine and craft beer booth. Call Matt Smith at 814-825-7612 to reserve a ticket. Volunteer workers also are needed.

## FOR LENT

### Need pierogis or potato pancake batter?

ERIE—Holy Trinity Church in Erie is accepting pre-orders through Feb. 5 for homemade Lenten foods. Payments are due with orders for pierogis and potato pancake batter.

Orders can be placed by fax at 814-461-1150, by calling 814-456-0671, or by mailing requests to: Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

Order pick-up dates are Feb. 7 after Mass, and Feb. 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Social Center, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie.



### Lenten vigils scheduled at monastery

HARBORCREEK—Lenten vigils will be held at 7 p.m. every Saturday during Lent at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Harborcreek. The public is invited.

Reflections will be offered each of these evenings:

- Feb. 13—Oblate Marlene Trambley
- Feb. 20—Sister Pat Lupo, OSB
- Feb. 27—Sister Dorothy Stoner, OSB
- March 5—Sister Jean Wolbert, OSB
- March 12—Sister Judith Trambley, OSB
- March 19—Sister Katherine Horan, OSB

### Lenten reflection on the Year of Mercy

KANE—Men, women and young adults are welcome to attend an afternoon of Lenten reflection at the parish hall of St. Callistus Parish in Kane Feb. 27 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Benedictine Sister Anne McCarthy will speak on "Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy." The Benedictine Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry are sponsoring the event.

Reservations are due Feb. 25 by contacting Margaret French at 814-945-6245, or Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, at 814-544-8017 or [sisterphy@gmail.com](mailto:sisterphy@gmail.com).

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# PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: [FaithLife@ErieRCD.org](mailto:FaithLife@ErieRCD.org)

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



## St. Luke School boasts three winners



ERIE—Three students from St. Luke School in Erie won in the art and writing categories of a competition sponsored by the Erie Playhouse and Newspapers In Education. Teacher Jackie Shaffer entered all six of her English classes in the competition. Shaffer, at left, stands with winners Lexi Hulick, a seventh-grader, who won in the artwork category; Alex Vahey, a sixth-grader, who also won in the artwork category; and Linda Buto, an eighth-grader who won in the writing category.

## CDA donates to Seton students



MEADVILLE—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Columbia 2 donated \$1,000 to the students of Seton Catholic School to help with the children's educational needs in the year ahead. Pictured, from left, are: George Cole, Adam Andrzejczak, Arabella Knott, Grace Barrett, and Catholic Daughter members Phyllis Vrobel, Sue Kelly and Maxine Holzer.

## Religious educators meet in Erie



ERIE—Religious education leaders from the Northern Deanery gathered recently for their monthly meeting with Joe Streett, director of the Office of Religious Education. Pictured, in front, are: Sue Berdis, Arlen Twerdok and Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF. In the back are: Sister Severiana Morales, OLC; and Mary Lou Pacoe, Cindy Zemcik, Mary Hickin, Joe Streett, Diana Lillard, Jennifer Wortman and Lorie Watts.

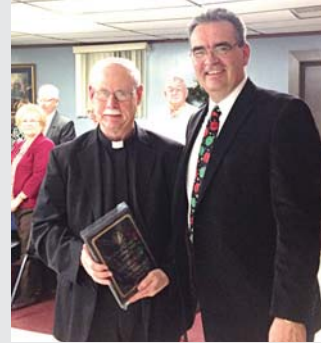


## Knights honored in North East



NORTH EAST—Two Knights of Columbus members were honored recently for their long service to Knights of Columbus Council #4262 of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Church, North East.

Grand Knight Mark Blackburn, at right in both photos, honored Deacon Rick Winschel, at left in left photo, as the



Knight of the Year.

Winschel is a Eucharistic minister and has been an active member of the council since 1998.

In right photo at left, Father Tom Brooks, pastor of St. Gregory Parish, is presented the Family of the Year award for uniting his parish family "for the common good."

## Garden completed at Good Shepherd



WEST MIDDLESEX—Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesex are enjoying their new Altar Rosary Mary Garden on the church grounds. The Good Shepherd Altar Rosary Society completed the two-year project in December. Msgr. Robert Malene, pastor, is shown blessing the garden, which has been paid for through fundraisers and the sale of memorial pavers.

## OLC helps Caring Place



ERIE—Our Lady's Christian School students raised \$150 for the Highmark Caring Place on Children's Grief Awareness Day. Students made blue butterflies to show their support and gave them as a gift to the Caring Place. Pictured are sixth-grader Nicholas Fornelli, Principal Stephen Nemenz, Highmark Caring Place representative Kristie Nosich, eighth-grader Abigail Stubenbort, and sixth-grader Charlie Rutkowski.

## Eighth-graders help victims

ST. MARYS—Eighth-graders at St. Marys Catholic Middle School teamed up with CAPSEA (Citizens Against Physical, Sexual and Emotional Abuse) to help those in need during the past Christmas season. CAPSEA relies on donations from the community to help those seeking refuge from abuse. Students collected a variety of items and cash donations.

Pictured presenting the items and money to CAPSEA representative Tracy Ross are students Emily Wolfe, Bailey Bauer, Gabe Kear, Lauryn Dippold and Grace Keyes.



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