

What Would Jesus Waste?

A food recycling program at St. George School rescues fruits, veggies. PAGE 2



FaithLife



POPE TWEET
Pope Francis @Pontifex
"Jesus is not a figure from the past; he continues now and always to light the way for us."

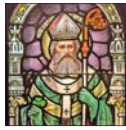
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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

March 15, 2015

Feast of St. Patrick March 17

How many parishes in the Diocese of Erie are named after St. Patrick?



The Diocese of Erie's patron saint is St. Patrick, but—*sure and beyond*—there are only two parishes that take the saint's name:

- St. Patrick, Erie**
Established in 1837
Households: 708
Pastor: Msgr. Henry Kriegel
- St. Patrick, Franklin**
Established in 1857
Households: 900
Pastor: Msgr. John Herbein

Win a statue!

Answer the following question correctly and your name will be entered into a drawing to win this beautiful 8-inch figurine of St. Patrick:

Q: Which color was first associated with St. Patrick?

Email your answer (with your phone number) to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org no later than March 22, 2015.



Only one entry per person. If there are multiple winners, the names will be put in a random drawing. The winner will be contacted directly and his or her name will be announced in the April 5, 2015 edition of *FaithLife*. Employees of St. Mark Catholic Center are not eligible to participate.

High alert

Pope maintains open style despite ISIS threat



Domenico Giani, commander of the Vatican police force, keeps watch as Pope Francis arrives to celebrate a Mass in Manila, Philippines.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The head of Vatican security said Islamic State militants have threatened the Vatican, but there are no indications of any planned attack.

The Vatican gendarmes, Swiss Guards and the Italian state police that patrol the perimeter of Vatican City State are always on high alert, said Domenico Giani, the commander of the gendarme and the pope's chief bodyguard.

"There are not only the threats of the Islamic State, but also the risk of action by individuals, which is more dangerous because it is unpredictable," he said in an interview for the March edition of *Polizia Moderna*, the monthly magazine of the Italian state police.

For months, there have been rumors of threats against the Vatican or Pope Francis by the Islamic State militants who are attacking Christians, other religious minorities and Muslims they do not agree with in Syria and Iraq. Concern heightened in February when militants claiming to be allied with the Islamic State group murdered 21 Christians in

Libya, which is less than 300 miles from the Italian mainland.

"The threat exists," Giani said. "That is what has emerged in meetings with my Italian and foreign colleagues. But the existence of a threat is one thing and planning an attack is another. At this time, we have not been informed of any plans to attack the Vatican or the Holy Father."

Giani, who worked in the Italian secret service before moving to the Vatican, said he is in frequent contact with Italian and other government intelligence services, including some from predominantly Muslim countries.

"I can say that today the pontiff is seen and respected by Muslims as the most influential moral authority in the world—and that is on the part of both religious and civil leaders," he said.

Asked how Pope Francis is living with the threat, Giani responded: "The Holy Father does not intend to abandon the style of his pontificate, which is based on proximity, that is, on a direct encounter with the great-

est number of people possible. Even as pontiff, he has remained a priest who does not want to lose contact with his flock."

Giani explained that the pope's security forces must adapt to Francis' "style," adding that the pontiff "is well aware of the threats" against him.

"But his only concern is for the faithful," Giani added.

The Apostolic Palace, where Pope Francis chose not to live, is considered "more difficult to access" than the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where the pope has taken up residence, Giani said. "But as I said, the Holy Father has chosen a way of living and does not intend to change it because of a potential risk," he explained.

In addition to his constant collaboration with the Swiss Guard and Italian police forces and his contact with a variety of security services, Giani said the Vatican is aided by a high-tech operations center and thousands of security cameras in Vatican City and in Vatican buildings around Rome.

Aid group pledges millions to help Christians

NEW YORK (CNS)—Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity under the guidance of the Holy Father, has pledged \$2.8 million in emergency aid to help persecuted Christians in Syria.

Christians there have "benefited only to a limited extent" from relief provided by the United Nations and secular nongovernmental organizations, the charity said.

"In many cases, Christians are reluctant to register themselves with aid agencies [and] formally identify themselves as Christians for fear of extremist Muslim reprisals that persecute Christians for their faith and their perceived support of the Syrian regime," it said in announcing the aid.

"Relief efforts have been hampered across the board," the charity added, "due to continued fighting and the dramatic rise" of the Islamic State, known as ISIS.

Aid to the Church in Need will fund a number of projects to help sizable Christian communities in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and other Syrian cities and villages hard hit by the war, said Father Andrzej Halemba, the head of the charity's Middle East section.

Since the outbreak of Syria's civil war in spring 2011, the death toll has exceeded 200,000, according to sev-

How can you help?

www.churchinneed.org



eral monitoring groups.

Hundreds of Christians have died and tens of thousands have been driven from their homes, the charity said. Official estimates put the number of people affected by the war in Syria at 12.2 million people.

175 people on journey to the Catholic faith

FAITHLIFE staff

Hundreds gathered for Rite of Election ceremonies in Erie and Kane Feb. 22 to witness 175 people take the next step toward being fully welcomed into the Catholic Church.

Most of those making the journey to the Catholic faith this Easter are young people, anywhere from children to those in their 20s and 30s, says Sister Nancy Fischer, SSI, coordinator of the Office of Christian Initiation for the Diocese of Erie.

"It's very exciting to see all of these young people greeting the bishop. It's a very hopeful service," Sister Nancy adds.

Nathanael and Lindsey Cooke of the Church of the Beloved Disciple in Grove City, along with their young son, Peter, participated in the Rite of Election ceremony at St. Peter Cathedral.

According to Nathanael, "You reach these milestones along the way where they have something official, these rites that commemorate moments."

The Cooke family will be among the 175 people welcomed officially into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in April. At February's Rite of Election ceremony, they and others expressed their desire to become Catholic before Bishop Lawrence Persico.

The Rite of Election is part of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), an initiation process that was restored to the

Catholic Church after Vatican II.

Of the 175 elect in the Diocese of Erie, there are:

- 66 who are catechumens (people who were never baptized in any faith)
- 68 who are candidates (people who were previously baptized in a faith outside the Catholic Church)
- 41 who were baptized Catholic but who are completing their rites of initiation, including first Communion and confirmation.

Mason Griffith, a student at St. George School, and his mother, Shannon O'Sullivan, were among the elect at St. Peter Cathedral. He had never been baptized and she was raised Catholic but had never been confirmed.

"It just all sort of came together," O'Sullivan said. "We're doing this as a family."

The total number of people in the diocese being accepted fully into the church this Easter is down slightly from last year, but it is in the same ballpark as previous years. Three years ago, 176 people were welcomed into the church, but four years ago, there was a high of 221 people who became Catholic in the diocese.

Bishop Persico led the Rite of Election ceremony at St. Peter Cathedral; Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general, accepted the elect in Kane.



Photo by Anne-Marie Welch



Photo by Anne-Marie Welch



Photo by Ray Bencel

Signing the Book of the Elect at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, is Mason Griffith, pictured at top. Mason is a student at Erie's St. George School. At bottom, left, Nathanael and Lindsey Cooke and their son greet Bishop Lawrence Persico. At bottom, right, sponsors and the elect stand during the Rite of Election ceremony at St. Callistus Parish, Kane.

■ **Former Notre Dame president laid to rest with grand memorial**



CNS photo

Students wait in line to pay their respects to the late Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh at the University of Notre Dame.

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS)—Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh frequently told friends and colleagues that his greatest ambition was to be a humble servant to God. When he died Feb. 26 at the age of 97, Father Hesburgh left a lasting legacy as the longest-serving president of the University of Notre Dame.

During two days of funeral and memorial services ending March 4, thousands of mourners from across the country recalled a man whose impact on the world was as great as that of a world leader.

A former U.S. president, a former U.S. secretary of state, politicians, cardinals, bishops and clergy joined Notre Dame officials, students and faculty in campus-wide tributes, processions and liturgical services as the world-renowned priest was laid to rest.

Father Ted, as he was affectionately called, had requested a simple funeral that would be characteristic for priests in his religious community.

The Congregation of Holy Cross kept the services in line with what is customary for other priests, but Father Hesburgh's world stature was much larger than most clergy and interest in paying last respects had been enormous, Notre Dame spokesman Dennis K. Brown said.

■ **Four Catholic publications call for end to death penalty**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Four nationally circulated Catholic publications called for abolishing the death penalty in the United States in a jointly published editorial. *America*, *National Catholic Register*, *National Catholic Reporter* and *Our Sunday Visitor* urged their readers, the U.S. Catholic community and people of faith "to stand with us and say, 'Capital punishment must end,'" the editorial stated. The editorial was published online March 5 by each publication and was to appear in the printed versions of each journal in the coming weeks.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide the constitutionality of lethal-injection executions in Oklahoma by the end of its term in June.

■ **'Selma' prompts painful memories for sister**

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—Sister Barbara Moore, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, sat alone in a St. Louis theater in January and watched "Selma," a movie about voting rights marches and protests led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago this month.



CNS photo

Sister Barbara experienced the events in Selma firsthand. A native of St. Louis and a sister for nine years, she had traveled with a delegation of women religious, priests and ministers from Kansas City and spent three days in Selma, March 12-14, 1965.

They were answering Rev. King's call for support from clergy and other religious leaders throughout the country. Men in collars and women in habits were depicted in the film.

"It was a very powerful opening," Sister Barbara said, adding that the movie "was very painful in many ways to watch...but I'm glad that I did see it. I found it very much, in many ways, inspirational."

Free us from winter's icy grip



Editor's Notes
Mary SOLBERG

According to the website Knowing Jesus, there are 27 Bible verses about cold weather. Here are a few selections:

Out of the south comes the storm, and out of the north the cold. From the breath of God ice is made, and the expanse of the waters is frozen.—Job 37:9-10.

Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters.—Proverbs 25:13

He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes.—Psalms 147:16

In the Diocese of Erie, there has been a lot of praying going on to loosen the grip this frigid winter has on northwestern Pennsylvania. Enough of blaming poor Punxsutawney Phil (our parishioners in Punx may be getting weary of that!) It's time to go to the Big Guy!

Consider the real emergency that arose recently in Bradford, where students at St. Bernard Elementary/Middle School missed classes for nearly a week due to a 24-inch water main break on the University of Pittsburgh's Bradford campus.

Classes were cancelled March 3-6, and even when school resumed on March 9, it was only for about a half-day due to an ice storm. With the city under a declared state of emergency, the entire town practically shut down until the main was repaired.

As a precaution, everyone was asked to obey a boil advisory, which was expected to continue through March 13. No one was permitted to use tap water without boiling it.

According to **Kim Mooney**, principal at St. Bernard, water pressure was practically nil at the beginning of the crisis on March 2. Maintenance worker **Bob South** worked continuously to keep water in the boiler system. Mooney even saw him filling up a garbage can to retrieve water from a nearby creek.

"Now that's devotion!" she says. In her nine years as principal, Mooney says she rarely has seen the extent of snow and sub-zero temperatures as this winter. The school has used up all of its snow days, and she is waiting to hear from the Department of Education whether or not students will have to make up the time.

"We've had a rough winter. It hurts in our consistency of teaching. We're praying," Mooney says.

But there have been a few bright spots. Several parents and the Bradford Township Fire Department donated 22 cases of bottled water to the school during the boil advisory. And, fortunately, the school cafeteria didn't have to worry about food preparation since all food is prepared off-site.

"That's been a blessing," she says. About four miles away, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish likewise experienced the effects of the water main break. According to **Wendy Thomson**, office manager, they've had to drink bottled water and limit their use of facilities.

The "frozen tundra" that surrounds the church, she says, has kept the staff busy keeping the grounds free of ice during funerals and other events. Even walking safely to Mass has been a challenge.

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

Recycling effort asks: 'What Would Jesus Waste (WWJW)?'

These kids answer, 'Nothing!'

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Jesus didn't waste a morsel of the loaves and fishes that he fed to the 5,000. Neither would students at St. George School in Erie, now that their "What Would Jesus Waste" food recycling program is fully underway.

Since the beginning of the school year, students have prevented more than 1,300 fruits and vegetables from being dumped in cafeteria garbage bins.

"We're trying to change the mentality of the students to better appreciate the gift of nourishment from food," says Marielle Lafaro, a teacher who inspired members of student council to organize the recycling project.

Eighth-grader Gabe Gallagher, student council president, was happy to be at the center of the hands-on effort. Students created a video about making "every bite a blessing," and children in all grades made posters about not wasting food.

"The fact that we have all the food that we do is a privilege," Gallagher says. "Wasting is a bad thing to do and we need to be more aware of that."

During lunch hours, children who choose not to eat their raisins, carrots, bananas, oranges and apples place the items in



Eighth-grader Sean Johnson drew this creative poster for the food recycling effort.

designated boxes in the cafeteria. Lafaro then redistributes the food to students who may want to eat later in the day, or she gives it to those who have pets, including a rabbit rescue center in Erie.

"We aren't permitted to redistribute food for human consumption outside the building," Lafaro explains.

Kathy Bartley, the school's cafeteria manager, is excited about the food recycling program, even though she still sees a lot of waste of meats and grains.

"It all starts at home," Bartley says. "It's a fast-food world. I

serve an egg-and-cheese bagel and kids don't know what it is unless you call it an Egg McMuffin."



Photo by Mary Solberg

Gabe Gallagher, student council president at St. George School in Erie, proudly displays boxes for recycling food.

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News Briefs

Evening of prayer, music, healing scheduled at St. Michael the Archangel in DuBois

DuBois—An evening of prayer, music and healing will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church in DuBois March 15 beginning at 7 p.m.

The event also will include a homily, Scripture reading, Benediction, and prayers for healing with Father Mark Mastrian, pastor of St. Timothy, Curwensville, and St. Bonaventure, Grampian. For more information, contact Judy Smart at 814-637-5930 or Rich Kenwell at 814-373-0328.

Deacon to lead mini Lenten retreat

ERIE—Deacon Tony Alleruzzo of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie will lead a mini Lenten retreat at Our Lady of Peace March 15 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The title of the 75-minute retreat is "Cruising the Caribbean Calvary." The evening will include music, passages from Scripture, and a talk by Deacon Alleruzzo.

Learn all about American Sign Language

ERIE—Gannon University's Office of Service-Learning and School of Education is offering an American Sign Language night March 19 at Waldron Campus Center in downtown Erie. The session will be held in the Yeh! Ballroom from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants will learn the alphabet in sign and learn basic everyday sign. Light refreshments and give-aways will be included.

Mothers, daughters invited to teas

BRADFORD, ERIE, LUCINDA—Moms and their young daughters (ages 10 and older) are encouraged to attend diocesan-sponsored Mother-Daughter Tea events this spring.

The teas provide an atmosphere to discuss physical changes, new responsibilities, the sacredness of human life, and more. Here is the schedule:

- March 22 at St. Joseph Church, 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda
- April 19 at St. Bernard Church, 95 East Corydon St., Bradford
- April 26 at Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Promotional materials for the teas have been sent to schools and parishes across the diocese. If parishes, religious education programs or schools do not have this information, send an email to: aczewski@ErieRCD.org or visit the diocesan website at www.ErieRCD.org to download the flier/registration/invitation.

Totus Tuus—Youth Discipleship Movement

Below are upcoming dates for Totus Tuus Programs held throughout the Diocese, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
TTA: Totus Tuus Academy, CTT: Camp Totus Tuus
Visit www.onthevine.us for details.

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 13 | TTA Shenango Valley | Good Shepherd West Middlesex |
| April 20 | TTA Erie | St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie |
| April 19 | TTA Warren | St. Joseph Warren |
| April 22 | TTA St. Marys | ECCHS Chapel St. Marys |
| June 21-26 | CTT-High School Grades 9-12 | St. Philip Linesville |
| July 19-24 | CTT-Middle School Grades 7-8 | St. Philip Linesville |



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Two retire from Diocese of Erie

FAITHLIFE staff

The leaders of two high-profile ministries of the Diocese of Erie have retired recently, leaving a legacy of good works during a combined 43 years of service.

Mary Maxwell retired Feb. 28 after devoting the last 36 years to families and the needs of 42,000 people served annually by Catholic Charities agencies in the diocese. At 77, she decided it was time to hand over the reins to a younger generation.

"We need younger blood. We need new ideas," said Maxwell on the day of her retirement as executive director of Catholic Charities.

Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation, retired in March after seven years of overseeing key initiatives in development and stewardship. Since being named president of The Catholic Foundation in 2008, she was instrumental in growing the number of endowments from four—valued at \$6 million—to 40 endowments worth nearly \$10 million.

In a letter to members of the Catholic Foundation board, McCloskey stated, "It is now time for someone else to carry through



Mary Maxwell



Emma Lee McCloskey

the next phase of growth for The Catholic Foundation and for me to care more for my health and my family."

Both women have left an indelible mark on the diocese and its people, according to diocesan administrators, including Bishop Lawrence Persico, who publicly thanked both women for their service.

In announcing McCloskey's retirement, Bishop Persico said: "Emma Lee's heart has embraced every corner of the diocese, always focusing on the goal of helping people in need. I am grateful for all of her good work and for

her success with the foundation. Our prayers go with her in this next phase of her life."

Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese, worked alongside Mary Maxwell for many years, under the episcopacy of four bishops. She was always present to the numerous agencies and organizations under the umbrella of Catholic Charities.

"Board members said she always came as a supportive presence," Msgr. Smith said. "She wasn't there to direct; she was there to say, 'Hey, you're doing a good job.'"

Maxwell was hired by Bishop

Alfred Watson in January 1979 to direct the new Family Life Office, a post she held until being named executive director of Catholic Charities by Bishop Donald Trautman in June 2004. She enjoyed the collaborative spirit among all of the agencies, from nursing homes and emergency relief centers to counseling and adoption services to a residential center for boys.

"I have seen instances of kindness and generosity and compassion and real concrete help for people. Who wouldn't be fulfilled and gratified by that, where your faith and your own spirituality is enhanced by your everyday work?" Maxwell said.

McCloskey has been the point-person for major financial initiatives. In addition to her role as president of The Catholic Foundation, she served as executive director of development, overseeing the Office of Stewardship and Annual Giving, as well as development and marketing for Catholic Charities.

She created new ways to recognize major donors to the diocese and boosted the renown of the annual Catholic Charities Ball.

OBITUARY

Mercy Sister Mary Dolores ministered to elderly

Mercy Sister Mary Dolores Jablonski, who devoted many years to the care of older adults, died Feb. 21 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie following a brief illness.

She first entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 3, 1960, at St. Joseph Convent, Titusville. Eight years later, she left the community, only to return on Aug. 27, 1978, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie. She professed her final vows on Aug. 30, 1980.

In 1999, she celebrated her silver jubilee. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Mercyhurst University in 1962, and a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in religious education, both from Gannon University.

She spent a summer of theological study at the University of Notre Dame, and then turned her studies to gerontology at Michigan State, North Texas State, and Penn State universities. Following her return to the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Mary Dolores taught religious education at Mercyhurst Preparatory School.

She began doing ministry with seniors/older adults. She was the program director of the Mercy Center on Aging, now the Mercy Hilltop Center, and later became its executive director for about 20 years. She served in a transitional position as house administrator of the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse and then retired.

As an educator and presenter, Sister Mary Dolores was a national leader in the care of older adults. She served on numerous coalitions, accreditation boards and training groups.

She was either a chair or member on the National Mercy Network on Aging Board, Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers Advisory Board, National Association of Senior Center Advisory Boards, the National Council on Aging, and the National Accreditation Board.

She was proud to have helped gain recognition for Mercy Center on Aging as the first fully accredited senior center in Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Dolores was honored with two leadership awards from the Mercy Network on Aging, and was recognized as Amazing People for Amazing Greys and the 12 Dynamic Women Making History in Erie. She also received the Charles B. Killinger Award from the Greater Erie Community Action Committee.

Besides her religious community, survivors include several cousins. Memorials may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy Fund, 444 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504.



Sister Mary Dolores Jablonski, RSM

Baking for the needy

HARBORCREEK—Abigail Nguyen and Baileigh Bleil are the newest versions of Julia Child.

The fourth-grade religious education students at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek baked dozens of cookies and muffins for a bake sale they organized at the parish Feb. 15.

Despite the frigid temperatures—which plummeted to minus 22 degrees that morning—the girls and some helpers managed to sell enough baked goods to collect \$210, all of which went to the Ella Cochran

Food Pantry in Harborcreek.

Abigail, who is the daughter of Alison and Tri Nguyen of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, got the idea for a bake sale after reading about girls who hosted bake sales to benefit charities.

Alison Nguyen oversaw the ovens while the two girls mixed and scraped bowls and created the delicious treats.

"Abigail loves to bake. She has a very kind heart," her mom says.

Baileigh Bleil is the daughter of Brian and Brie Bleil, who also are members of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.



Contributed photo

Abigail Nguyen, left, and Baileigh Bleil collected \$210 in their bake sale at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek.

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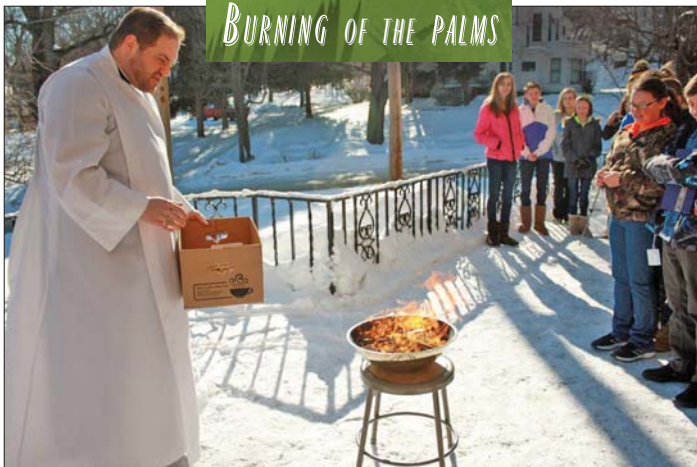
Collection April 25-26

We say thank you to our retired diocesan priests for their faithful service. Provide them with the same love and generosity they gave us for generations.

They are the 'Light of Christ'



NEW BETHLEHEM—Brothers Jesse and Jayden Siwiecki of St. Charles Parish, New Bethlehem, recently were honored with the Cub Scout Light of Christ Award. Pictured, left to right, are: their dad, Matthew Siwiecki; Jesse Siwiecki; Father Sam Bungo, pastor; Jayden Siwiecki; and their mom, Dyan Siwiecki.



OIL CITY—Father Justin Pino, pastor of St. Joseph and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishes in Oil City, burned palms for Ash Wednesday during a ceremony with middle school children at St. Stephen School in Oil City.

Mardi Gras event involves students, families



FRENCHTOWN—Brayden Gordon enjoys a piñata activity as part of an annual Mardi Gras event for religious education students at St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown, and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Guys Mills. The event, which has

been held the Saturday before Ash Wednesday, has grown in popularity. During the evening, religious education students and their families attend a Mass and then have a pizza party with dancing and other activities.

Just cruisin' along in Oil City



OIL CITY—Father Matt Ruyechan, pastor of St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, gathered with fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders from the religious education program of the Catholic Faith Community of Oil City (St. Stephen, St. Joseph, Our Lady Help of Christians, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Venantius) on a retreat called "Sacramental Cruise." Students visited "Initiation Island" (baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist), "Commit-

ment Island" (holy orders and matrimony), and "Healing Island" (reconciliation and anointing of the sick). Decorated like a tropical island, St. Stephen's social hall was a welcome respite from the cold winter days. Volunteers collaborated on the retreat, including religious education coordinator Dianne Phillips; fifth-grade teacher Martina Love; and Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, and Sister Tina Geiger, RSM, both of Catholic Rural Ministry.

Ancient Order of Hibernians makes donation to food pantry



ERIE—The Ancient Order of Hibernians Erie Division 3 presented a \$500 donation to the Sister Mary Pascal Gray Food Pantry at St. Patrick Church, Erie. The organization raised the funds in a reverse raffle in conjunction with the parish's Erie Irish Festival. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Tim Donlin; Bill Riordan; Msgr. Henry Krieger, pastor of St. Patrick Church; Tom Welch and Dave Spacht. In the back row, left to right, are: Bill Power, Drew Ulrich, Steve O'Neill, Jeff O'Hara and Bill Welsh. Founded in 1896, the Ancient Order of Hibernians makes such donations in keeping with their long tradition of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

Gannon president visits Warren school



WARREN—Gannon University President Keith Taylor, Ph.D., visited St. Joseph School in Warren in February to talk with faculty, students and staff. He recognized the school's DeFrees Family Memorial Fund for meeting an endowment goal of \$100,000. The endowment provides scholarships to students attending Gannon, with preference to Warren County students, and is administered through the DeFrees Family Memorial Fund, part of the Community Foundation of Warren County. The fund also provides some support to St. Joseph School students in need of tuition assistance. Pictured in the front, left to right, are: St. Joseph School second-graders Noel Alexander, Phoebe Boger, Lexi Paris and Adam Strandburg. Second row, left to right, are: Elsa Redding, Dr. Howard Ferguson, Dr. Taylor, Bob Crowley, Stephanie Freitag, Bernard J. Hessler, Carol Perry of Gannon, Susan Merritt and Denny Hedges.

Brothers, sister enjoy serving



FAIRVIEW—The Klien children from Holy Cross Parish, Fairview, enjoy serving at the altar with pastor, Father Thomas Tyler. Seventh-grader Alec has been an altar server for three years, fifth-grader Mattie has been serving for two years, and their brother Aidan served for the first time this past January. He is in fourth grade. They are the children of David and Connie Klien.

Cursillo dance raises funds for charity



ERIE—The past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently hosted their annual charity dance at Holy Rosary Parish, Erie, raising about \$885 for the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network East. The SSJNN (www.ssjnn.org) provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization. Pictured, left to right, are: Gretchen Gallagher Durney, marketing and contract director for SSJNN; Tim Nowakowski, lead coordinator of the dance; Msgr. Dan Arnold, spiritual director for Cursillo; and Bob Dayton, Cursillo president.

Erie Bank gives through EITC

Our Lady's Christian School benefits from these funds



ERIE—Committed to Catholic education, Erie Bank recently gave \$1,000 to help students in need of financial assistance at Our Lady's Christian School.

Pictured at the presentation, left to right, are: William DeLuca, vice president of Erie Bank; Father John Detisch, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish; Stephen Nemenz, principal of Our Lady's Christian; and Allison Hodas, Erie Bank manager/representative.

Erie Bank gives the funds through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.