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THIS WEEK PAGE 3

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 10, 2016

Supreme Court seeks possible compromise in religious liberty case

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The historic religious liberty case involving the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh—argued before the U.S. Supreme Court March 23—could be bound for an unexpected compromise.

Jones Day attorneys representing the dioceses in the consolidated case of *Zubik v. Burwell* have until this week to respond to a rare request by justices seeking a possible compromise over the government's contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act.

On March 29—less than a week after the eight justices heard oral arguments—the Supreme Court ordered lawyers on both sides to file additional briefs showing if and how contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees without directly involving their religious employers that object to the coverage.

"The order is quite unusual but the 'court watchers' see it as a positive sign for us," said Paul M. "Mickey" Pohl, a Jones Day partner from the firm's Pittsburgh office. "The Court seems to be trying to find a way to resolve the matter in a way that is acceptable to religious objectors while allowing the government to pursue its goals."

Pohl, a native of Erie, agrees with most observers that the Court seems to be trying to avoid a 4-4 tie or having to leave the matter unresolved until a new justice is seated. Justice Antonin Scalia, considered the tipping point in favor of the plaintiffs, died in February. Since his death, justices have split 4-4 in two cases.

Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, upon hearing the latest twist in the nearly four-year legal battle, said, "The attorneys are looking into this and we're looking for some direction from them."

The order from the Supreme Court directs the seven petitioners (including the Erie and Pittsburgh dioceses, the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., the Little Sisters of the Poor, Priests for Life, Southern Nazarene University and Texas Baptist University) to file one brief, not to exceed 25 pages. The government has been directed to file its own brief at the same time.

According to Pohl, the various counsel, including Jones Day, have been conferring and jointly working on the contents of that brief, which is due April 12.

"Then, both sides get to file a brief in reply to what has been filed," Pohl explained. "Nothing has been said by the Court about further argument, which would be, in my view, extremely unlikely."

It remains possible, however, that the justices could decide to hear the case again when they are back to full strength. But that could take another year if Senate Republicans and the Obama administration continue to battle over the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland.

The Supreme Court's new order specifically outlined possible compromise procedures that objecting religious employers must follow if they do not want to provide insurance coverage of contraceptives.

It suggested that the groups could contract with a third party

AWAITING the DECISION



Photos by Mary Solberg

Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico, far left, is pictured walking from the U.S. Supreme Court with Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik, center, and Archbishop Donald Wuerst of Washington, D.C., following oral arguments March 23 regarding religious liberty and the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act.



Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik, far left, and Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico celebrate Mass March 23 with attorneys from the Jones Day law firm representing the dioceses in their federal lawsuit.



Dominican Sister Angela Marie Russell and her students from Mount de Sales Academy of Maryland stand outside the Supreme Court March 23, rallying in behalf of religious liberty.

"The order is quite unusual but the 'court watchers' see it as a positive sign for us.

— Paul M. "Mickey" Pohl
Jones Day law firm

to provide health insurance for their employees, but they would need to inform the insurance company that they did not want the plan to include contraceptive coverage that they find objectionable.

The insurance companies, the order said, could "separately notify petitioners' employees that the insurance company will provide cost-free contraceptive coverage, and that such coverage is not paid for by petitioners and is not pro-

vided through petitioners' health plan."

Under the order, the objecting religious employees would not have to submit a form to the government or their insurance companies about the coverage.

Calling Jones Day's representation of the Erie Diocese "a labor of love," Pohl said the case before the Supreme Court "is a defining moment in American history for the protection of the freedom of religion."



Jones Day attorney Noel Francisco argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

- Zack Bartosh — Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- Helaina Bradac — Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- Isaiah Brooks — St. Philip Parish, Linesville
- Emily Cooney — Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie
- Luis Cruz — St. Stephen Parish, Erie
- Hannah Dickson — Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro
- Gonzalo Fandino — St. Stephen Parish, Erie
- Maggie Hronch — Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City
- Margaret Kolesar — St. Michael Parish, Emlenton
- Abigail Mosbacher — St. Agatha Parish, Meadville
- Hanna Mosbacher — St. Agatha Parish, Meadville
- Hallie Niemi — Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage
- Kayla Oakes — St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown
- Joel Ploski — St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown
- John Wheeler — St. Stephen Parish, Oil City
- Nathaniel Whittaker — Beloved Disciple Parish, Grove City



Students named to Diocesan Youth Board

FAITHLIFE staff report

Sixteen middle and high school students have been selected to serve on the newly created Diocesan Youth Board (DYB), a group designed to bolster the leadership role of young people in the Diocese of Erie.

Bishop Lawrence Persico called the formation of the DYB "essential." He blessed members of the board at a ceremony Feb. 21 in the chapel at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage.

The role of young people, he said, has emerged as a top priority in the pastoral planning process over the past year.

"There are many amazing, faith-filled young people in our diocese who can help us understand what young people want from their church, what they need and how we can reach them," the bishop said in urging the creation of the DYB.



Contributed photo

Evelyn Wheeler, assistant director and team mentor of the Diocesan Youth Board, leads a discussion with members of the new DYB.

The DYB members include students from grades 8 through 11. Two-thirds are girls; one-third are boys. They represent public and Catholic school students, home-schooled, and the Hispanic apostolate.

"We are so grateful that the diocese trusts these young people with

such important work," said Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Each DYB member has selected an adult mentor who will work with him or her at four formation weekends, one of which already has been held.

They will develop skills in communication with pastors, parish leaders and their peers.

The formation weekends will include both spiritual and professional components, including prayer, discernment and vocations, ecclesiology, communications and marketing, and project management. This year's DYB program will culminate with the students applying what they've learned in planning a diocese-wide youth event on Nov. 13.

"I feel that I can be beneficial in having a voice for the youth living in rural areas and learn from the youth living in the more populated areas," says new DYB member Kayla Oakes, a parishioner of St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown. "I am looking forward to deepening my own spirituality and working with young people to make a difference in youth involvement in the Catholic faith."



Mother Angelica dies at 92



HANCEVILLE, Ala.—Mother Angelica, founder of the Eternal Word Television Network, is pictured in this 1992 photo. She died March 27 at the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration monastery in Hanceville. She was 92.

Pope discusses forgiveness



VATICAN CITY—Pope Francis reaches for a balloon released by someone in the crowd during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 30. The power of God's forgiveness "is greater than our sins," the pope said in his audience talk.

Adoption emergency saves triplets from being aborted



Sebastien, Sophie-Elizabeth and Sidney, the adopted triplets of Kevin and Cari Campbell, are pictured in the neonatal intensive care at a hospital in Oregon.

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS)—The Facebook post of a friend led Cari Campbell and her husband, Kevin, of Iowa, to adopt triplets who otherwise would have been aborted.

The infants—Sebastien, Sidney and Sophie-Elizabeth—were baptized at Easter morning Mass March 27 at Resurrection Church in Dubuque.

A 35-year-old attorney from Dubuque, Campbell contacted her friend after reading the post about an emergency adoption situation. Her friend's mother was the pastor in a prayer group at a Christian clinic in Oregon.

A woman there was pregnant with triplets, but was planning to have an abortion if she couldn't find someone

to adopt all three of the children together. The pregnant woman had contacted an agency and had found several people who wanted to adopt one of the babies but not anyone who would adopt all three.

"So my husband and I put our names in as people who would be willing to adopt them," Campbell said of her and her husband, a 42-year-old engineer at John Deere. "We just wanted to put the process on hold. We thought someone else would step forward to take the children. But then the birth mom called us the night before she was scheduled to terminate the pregnancy and said to us, 'If you'll take them, I won't do it.'"

The Campbells now have full legal guardianship of the triplets; the final adoption decree should be issued in a few weeks. They say things haven't been as overwhelming as they thought they might be.

Archbishop grief stricken by attacks in Pakistan

MANCHESTER, England (CNS)—Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore, Pakistan, said he was grief stricken while visiting hospitalized child victims of an Easter bomb attack in a Pakistani park.

Speaking with the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need March 29, the archbishop said that seeing severely injured children, some as young as 4, was "truly difficult."

The children were among 340 people injured by a suicide bomber. At least 72 people died, including 29 children, in the March 27 attack in which a splinter group of the Taliban specifically targeted Christian families.



Archbishop Sebastian Shaw

The scourge of child abuse

A special message

from Bishop Lawrence Persico



Like everyone, I was greatly saddened by the recent grand jury report detailing the sexual abuse of children many years ago in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. The news brings back disquieting feelings for so many within our own diocese, which has not been immune to the scourge of child abuse.

The Diocese of Erie is doing all it can to support and help heal survivors and their families within our diocese, no matter who committed the crime against them or when the crime occurred. Every year, our Office for the Protection of Children and Youth offers compassionate and supportive assistance to individuals and families. During the 2014-15 fiscal year alone, our diocese dedicated nearly \$11,000 to make counseling and other forms of support available to victims.

In April 2002, my predecessor, Bishop Donald W. Trautman, met with Brad Foulk, who was then serving as Erie County's district attorney. They reviewed allegations of child sexual abuse made against priests in the diocese going back 40 years.

"We are satisfied that the diocese, through the bishop, has produced all of the files, all of the allegations reported to them, as far back as you can count," Foulk told the *Erie Times-News* at the time. "Some of these allegations are 20, 30, 40 years old."

The Diocese of Erie has continued to report all credible allegations to the district attorney's office. We work every day to create church and school environments that protect our young people and keep them from harm. We've made progress.

Today, the diocese has a well-established zero-tolerance policy for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who engage in misconduct with children, and we take immediate action when an accusation is made. Any allegation of abuse is reported immediately to law enforcement and any credible or substantiated allegation against a member of the clergy results in immediate removal from ministry. We are committed to educating everyone who works with our children, and

helping the children in our schools and religious education programs know how to recognize improper conduct. They must report any and all improper conduct immediately.

Consider what we do in the Diocese of Erie:

- Designated personnel work to ensure compliance with laws and policies at the diocesan level and in each of our parishes, schools and ministries serving youth.
- Since 2003, more than 42,000 adults (including clergy) have received training to recognize, respond to and report child abuse.
- Nearly 1,200 adults have received mandated reporter training.
- More than 175,000 children have received age-appropriate abuse prevention education.
- The diocese has invested \$409,083 in education and training since 2004.

I encourage anyone who has been abused or who has witnessed abuse to seek help immediately by calling the toll-free Pennsylvania ChildLine number at 800-932-0313, or contacting local law enforcement.

On behalf of the church in the Diocese of Erie, I extend my deepest apologies for this horrible plague in our midst. We live in a world where the evil of child sexual abuse infiltrates every aspect of our society. Our work to help survivors heal, to protect our people and to rebuild trust in the church will go on—permanently.

To learn more about what the church is doing regarding child abuse, go to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference website at: www.pacatholic.org/a-commitment-to-healing-promise-to-protect/

ACTION ALERT

'Dismemberment abortion' requires immediate response

BY PENNSYLVANIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE staff

A legal late-term procedure known as "dismemberment abortion" carries significant risk to the health of the mother and requires the baby's limbs to be torn from his or her body. This results in an increased risk of infection and laceration for the mother. But it's still legal in Pennsylvania.

Medical research shows that babies feel pain and can live outside the womb at 20 weeks, yet dismemberment abortion is allowed in Pennsylvania until 24 weeks, or about six months gestation.

Seven countries, including North Korea, China and the U.S., allow elective late-term abortions.

Yet surveys show that Americans want to limit them.

It's time to update Pennsylvania's laws to be in line with the will of most Americans as well as medical advancements that reveal the mother's ability to feel pain and live outside the womb. Society must continue to work to support women and men who are faced with unplanned pregnancies, so that they don't think abortion is their only option.

Send a message to elected officials today asking them to support House Bill 1948, banning all dismemberment abortions in Pennsylvania as well as all abortions after 20 weeks, when the baby can feel pain and risks to the health of the mother increase significantly.

Voice your opinion at: www.votervoice.net/PACC/Campaigns/45647/Respond

Give to the Good Shepherd Collection

World Day of Prayer for Vocations—April 16-17

Parishioners throughout the Diocese of Erie will be asked April 16-17 to contribute to the Good Shepherd Collection to benefit retired priests.

The annual collection has been a consistently successful campaign, according to Bishop Lawrence Persico. In a letter to the people of the diocese, the bishop

stated, "In our parishes, countless lives have changed because of these good and holy priests. They were with you every step of the way, celebrating births and burying your deceased loved ones."

Donations to the Good Shepherd Collection can be made at parishes or online at <http://eriedc.org/goodshepherd.htm>.



PRIEST SNAPSHOT

113 diocesan priests have assignments in the Diocese of Erie

50 priests are retired

About 25 retired priests continue to help with parish ministries on weekends

7 retired priests continue to serve as pastors, administrators, chaplains

30 priests will reach the retirement age of 75 in the next five years.

Source: Clergy Personnel Office, Diocese of Erie.

Graphic by Rich Papalia

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Columbia native named director

Indira Suarez, a native of Columbia, South America, has been named the new director of the Office of Diocesan and International Missions for the Diocese of Erie.

Suarez has lived in the United States the past five years. Previously, she had been a case manager and interpreter at the Multicultural Resource Center in Erie.

A member of St. Stephen Parish, Erie, she also is a member of the Cursillo movement in the diocese.



Indira Suarez
Photo by Anne-Marie Webb

EVENTS

DCC's spring musical: 'The Little Mermaid'

DuBOIS—The DCC Players at DuBois Central Catholic High School in DuBois are presenting Disney's "The Little Mermaid" on stage at the school through April 16.

Performances will continue April 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. each night, and April 10 and 16 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are available from the secondary main office or at the door. Call 814-371-3060, ext. 601, to reserve tickets. All seats are reserved. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, \$5 for children 11 and under.

Knights sponsor spaghetti dinner in Erie

ERIE—Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Erie is holding its 21st annual spaghetti dinner sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #4071 at Scheffler Hall, 1553 E. Grandview Blvd., on April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult tickets at the door are \$8 per person; adult advance tickets are \$7.50. The cost for senior citizens, ages 60 and over, is \$6.50. Call 814-825-6706 for tickets or information.

Pregnancy Forum scheduled at Clarion

CLARION—Feminists for Life President Serrin Foster, a regular speaker at diocesan pro-life events throughout the country, will moderate a Clarion University of Pennsylvania's Pregnancy Resource Forum in level A of the school's library April 20 at 1 p.m. The forum, like others of its kind, is intended to help universities serve the needs of pregnant and parenting students.

Erie physician to speak at People for Life event

ERIE—Dr. Frank Pregler, an Erie physician and deacon, will speak about the dangers of doctor-prescribed suicide and other forms of euthanasia on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St., Erie. The talk, hosted by People for Life, is free and open to the public.

'ReVisioning' Catholic youth ministry

ERIE—Youth ministers, religious education leaders, Catholic school teachers, catechists, campus ministry directors, clergy and religious, coaches, scout leaders and interested parents are invited to attend this month's ReVision: Diocesan Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry.

The event will be held April 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie. The day includes fellowship, networking and prayer, break-out sessions, continental breakfast, lunch, and a Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating. Frank Mercadante, executive director of Cultivation Ministries, will be the featured speaker, addressing the theme, "Discipleship as Youth Ministry."

For more information, contact Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at 814-824-1218 or at kpeterson@ErieRC.org.

Prayer group invites public to healing Mass

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group, affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes in Erie, invites the public to attend a healing Mass celebrated by Father David Poulson, with Father David Renne, at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th and East Avenue, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to provide participants time to write petitions on a simulated brick wall. Petitions will be presented at the offertory procession. Music will be provided by St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community.

Parish plan announced this week

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Bishop Lawrence Persico this week will announce details of the much-anticipated preliminary plan for parish restructuring in the Diocese of Erie.

Three meetings will be held in different locations to hear the bishop's initial decisions on new models and criteria for parish reconfiguration. The bishop's announcement comes after nearly two years of an intense assessment of the vitality and future of the diocese's 116 parishes.

About 10 people per parish—including pastors, parish leaders and principals—have been invited to attend the meetings at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Erie, on April 12; at Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys, on April 13; and at Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage, on April 14.

"I look forward to meeting

with parish leadership and discussing the future of our parishes," Bishop Persico said. "This is a process that has required and will continue to require careful consideration, thought and prayer."

The preliminary parish plan follows February's announcement on Catholic schools in the diocese. Like the preliminary plan for schools, the parish announcements this week will be followed by a one-month feedback period.

The bishop will reflect on thoughts and suggestions from individuals and parishes. He is expected to announce his final decision on parish restructuring in September.

Last fall the diocese held meetings in each of its vicariates to discuss the findings of individual parish assessments compiled by a broad coalition of task force members, consultants and parish



Photo by Anne-Marie Webb

Consultant Mark Kemmerer, left, attended this 2015 parish listening meeting with Msgr. Richard Siefert and Rosemary Carnovale, co-chairs of the Parish Listening Task Force.

leaders. According to planning data shared publicly at that time, more than half of the diocese's 116 parishes reported that they are "strong and vibrant," but one-

third to one-half said they struggle with long-range planning, technology, and faith formation and training of staff.

OBITUARIES

Deacon Harvey R. McQueen

Served Meadville parish, Cambridge Springs prison

MEADVILLE—Deacon Harvey R. McQueen, 69, of Meadville, died March 26 at Meadville Medical Center.

Born in Worcester, Mass., Nov. 15, 1946, he was an active member of St. Agatha Parish, Meadville, having entered into the Catholic faith in 1992.

In 2000, his strong beliefs led him to study for the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Erie.

He was ordained a permanent deacon in 2004, when he began serving as deacon at St. Agatha Parish. In 2005, Deacon Harvey was named chaplain at the State Correctional Institution at Cambridge Springs.

He retired from Starn Tool of Meadville, and was previously employed as quality assurance

manager of Reitz Tool, Cochranton.

In his younger years, he was employed by Laser Tool in Saegertown; the Erie Lackawanna Railroad, later known as Conrail; the former C&B Tool of Meadville; and by Den-

nison's in Framingham, Mass.

He graduated in 1968 from Allegheny College, Meadville, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English.

He was a third degree member

of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Universal Rosary Association, and an associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph. He and his wife, Linda, were coordinators at St. James Haven, Meadville, when it first opened. He was a former member of the Meadville Elks Club.

Deacon Harvey had many interests and hobbies. He collected fountain pens, neck ties, bow ties and cookbooks.

He listened to all types of music, was an avid reader, admired flower gardens and enjoyed cooking new recipes. He loved art and enjoyed working on crossword puzzles and Sudokus.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Linda; a son, Christopher McQueen, and his wife, Dana, of Mount Pleasant; a

daughter, Jennifer Wanner, and her husband, Brad, of Mechanicsburg; three grandchildren, Johnathan O'Brien, Conor McQueen, and Sarah McQueen; and a sister, Dorothea McQueen of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Visiting hours and a Scripture service were held at Stephen P. Mizner Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc., Meadville.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 30 at St. Agatha Church, Meadville, with Bishop Lawrence Persico officiating.

Burial was at St. Agatha Cemetery, West Mead Township.

Memorials may be made to St. James Haven, P.O. Box 15, Meadville, PA 16335; or to Hospice of Crawford County, 464 Pine St., Meadville, PA 16335.

Sister Kathleen Warner

Devoted life to teaching and her religious community

Benedictine Sister Kathleen Warner, 88, died March 24 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie. She was in her 70th year of religious life.

She was born in Buffalo, and was baptized Mary Lucille. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys, on Sept. 5, 1944. On Aug. 20, 1946, she pronounced her first vows; on Oct. 22, 1949, she made her perpetual profession.

When it became clear that St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys would close, Sister Kathleen moved to Erie on April 14, 2014. After prayer and discernment, she asked to transfer her vows to the Benedictines Sisters of Erie. On Aug. 11, 2015, she was fully incorporated into the Erie Benedict-

ine community.

Sister Kathleen held a bachelor's degree in education from Villanova University, and a master's in religious studies from St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia. From 1946-95, Sister Kathleen was engaged in the ministry of education,

both elementary and secondary teaching, and in administration as a school principal.

Over the years, she taught at Sa-

cred Heart and St. Marys schools in St. Marys; St. Callistus, Kane; St. Joseph, Lucinda; St. Joseph, Warren; St. Boniface, Kersey; and St. Adalbert, Pittsburgh. She was a part-time teacher at Elk County Catholic High School, while serving her community at St. Joseph Monastery as vocational, affiliate and postulant directress. She then became a full-time English and theology teacher at Elk County for another 15 years. After serving as the community's sub-prioress from 1995-96, Sister Kathleen retired from teaching.

From 1996-99, she served in pastoral ministry at St. Anthony Parish, Sheffield, as an RCIA instructor and religious education coordinator. In 1999, she returned to the monastery in St. Marys,

where she served in the ministry of hospitality, spirituality and formation. At the time of her death, Sister Kathleen was engaged in the ministry of prayer and presence at Mount St. Benedict.

Survivors include her Erie Benedictine community; the sisters from her community of origin, St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys; good friends Sabra and Joe Paske, and Father Michael Ferrick; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services and visitation were held at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, along with a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was at Trinity Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511.

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Good Shepherd Sunday

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Collection April 16-17

POSITION OPENING **DIocese of Erie**

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie is in search of a Superintendent of Catholic Schools. This position is the chief administrator of Catholic schools and is responsible for promotion of Catholic identity and mission; policy formation and enforcement; leadership, support, and oversight of all Catholic schools in the Diocese including academic, operational, and spiritual matters; budgeting, hiring, and strategic planning; communication and annual reporting; chief advisor to the Bishop and Vicar for Education on Catholic schools matters. For a complete position profile and application instructions, visit www.ErieRC.org/employment.asp. For best consideration, please apply by April 22, 2016.

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PHOTOS from AROUND the DIOCESE

Email news items to: FaithLife@ErieRCD.org



Knights participate in national effort

YOUNGSVILLE—The Knights of Columbus Youngsville Council #13006 recently participated in the nationwide Forty Cans for Lent. More than 1,200 pounds of food were collected that will benefit those in need who are served by the Youngsville Ministerium Food Pantry.

Pictured are: acting Grand Knight Darrell Harlan, Barry Baker, Vince Pillar and Father John Neff, pastor of St. Luke Church and chaplain of Council #13006.



Students learn robotics at DuBois Central Catholic



DuBOIS—Middle school students at DuBois Central Catholic work in teams to program robots using "Lego Mindstorm Robotics." Students are challenged to have their robots travel through traffic lights. Instructor Angela Edwards says the robotics

course is not just about programming, but problem-solving, trouble-shooting and strengthening analytical skills. Pictured, left to right, are: Sydney Spencer, Shayleigh Gulvas, Zachary George and Parker Meholick.

St. Michael School participates in History Day



GREENVILLE—These sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from St. Michael School in Greenville recently participated in National History Day at Westminster College, New Wilmington. Sixth-through 12th-graders from Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango counties

competed in various categories displaying their historical knowledge. This year's theme, "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History," featured categories including historical papers, documentaries, exhibits, performances and websites.

'Souper' kids from Warren collect for local charity



WARREN—The seventh-grade religious education class at Holy Redeemer Parish, Warren, collected \$998 on Super Bowl weekend on behalf of the St. Joseph Soup Kitchen. Since 2001, the parish has participated in "Souper Bowl of Caring," a program designed to mobilize young people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

Over the years, Holy Redeemer youth have collected \$12,200 in donations for the St. Joseph Soup

Kitchen. Pictured are class members presenting this year's donation to representatives of St. Joseph and Holy Redeemer churches who serve as team captains for the soup kitchen. In the front row are: Teagan Paris, Dylan Maeder, Olivia English, James Swanson and Alex Pascuzzi. In the back row are: Anne Wolf, Mary Creek, Pat Bailey, Katie Moore, Amanda Gray, Laura Chew and Shirley Giffin. Missing from the photo is Connor Swab.

Religious education students show mercy to local shelters

PUNXSUTAWNEY—Fourth-through sixth-graders in the religious education program at Sts. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney participated in a winter retreat that focused on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Under the direction of Sue Dahrouge, classes were encouraged to perform a work of mercy after the retreat concluded. Fifth-graders in January collected donations for local men's and women's shelters.

Pictured, from left, are: Carter Savage, Jacob Henretta, Jake Sikora, Kaylee Guidice and Morgan Riggie. Missing from the picture are TJ Elliot, Kaitlin Puhala and Chloe Presloid.



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