

Listen up

Hundreds of people in the Diocese of Erie have attended parish listening sessions. **PAGES 2-3**



FaithLife

POPE QUOTE

INSPIRING WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS:

"Only one who has been caressed by the tenderness of mercy truly knows the Lord."

www.ErieRCD.org

BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

April 5, 2015

Bishop's Easter message

Share the light of Christ resurrected

A blessed and holy Easter to everyone! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

After a particularly cold winter, we are finally beginning to see nature come alive... a reminder of our celebration in Jesus' own triumphant resurrection.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read of the journey of the women to the tomb. Imagine walking like them in the early morning light, heading toward the burial site of Christ. They are astonished to find it open and empty. An angel tells them, "Do not be afraid," and directs the women to go and tell the disciples. The words of the angel, "Do not be afraid, do not fear," encourage us to open our hearts to receive the Easter message.

There are many things we are concerned about: the well-being of our families, our jobs, or our health. Maybe some of us are even fearful of pastoral planning, which is fully underway in our diocese.

Anything that is new or uncharted can give us pause and prevent us from acting. But the message to go forth without fear is central to our faith as Christians.

Today's celebration is about hope, joy, new life and a new beginning. We are not abandoned, like the first disciples thought after Jesus died on the cross. No! In fact, Jesus continues to be in our midst as he was with the disciples in the Gospel accounts.

Let us allow Jesus to walk with us. May his presence be imprinted in our hearts and may it shine forth in our lives. We must allow the joyous wonder of Easter Sunday to shine forth in our lives, in our thoughts, behavior and words.

Let me share with you the story of a young girl who enjoyed going to Mass with her family. She loved looking at the sun coming through the stained-glass windows, illuminating the pictures of the Apostles and all the saints who have come before us. One day, the pastor happened to visit the girl's religious education class. He asked the children, "Who are the saints?"

Much to his surprise, the little girl raised her hand and answered, "Saints are the people who the light shines through."

When we show this light, we become a witness of the resurrection. We bring joy and hope to those who live in fear. Today, we share his love and joy with each other. Happy Easter!

Lawrence T. Pica

Bishop of Erie

No blarney!

We've got a winner

Karen Yonker

St. Leo Parish, Ridgway

Which color was first associated with St. Patrick? Most of the 146 people who responded to *FaithLife's* recent trivia contest came up with the correct answer: blue.

St. Patrick's blue is a name applied to several shades of blue associated with St. Patrick and Ireland. The Order of St. Patrick—an Anglo-Irish chivalric order—was founded in 1783 and adopted blue as its color. In British usage, it refers to a sky blue used by the Order of St. Patrick, but in Irish usage it is often a dark, rich blue.

Green, of course, is now the usual national color of Ireland, but St. Patrick's blue is still found in symbols of both the state and the island.

Congratulations to Karen Yonker of St. Leo Parish, Ridgway, whose name was pulled from all of the correct answers sent to *FaithLife*.

Karen admits that she doesn't have a drop of Irish blood, but her 84-year-old mother-in-law, Lois Yonker, is nearly 100 percent Irish.

"But green is my favorite color and I've always celebrated St. Patrick's Day," Karen says.

Congratulations to Karen! She wins an 8-inch figurine of St. Patrick.

And many thanks to the 146 parishioners and friends from throughout the Diocese of Erie who participated in the contest.

Let your voice be heard

Remember to fill out your pastoral planning survey by going to

www.ErieRCD.org/survey.htm

Submission deadline: April 30



LAMB OF GOD

Animals give youth hope and joy

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

The baa baa of sheep is a kind of therapy for the boys at Harborcreek Youth Services (HYS), a residential treatment center under the auspices of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie.

A herd of five adult sheep and five lambs being raised at HYS lifts the mood of all of the teenagers, many of whom are counseled for mental health issues, as well as family displacement.

"When I feel homesick, I go down to see them," says 16-year-old John (not his real name).

He and two other boys, whose real names cannot be used in order to protect their privacy, have been appointed the main caretakers of the sheep.

Just about a month ago, the lambs were born in a garage pen adjacent to the main building located along Iroquois Avenue in Harborcreek Township.

Despite sometimes frigid temperatures, John, Mark and Luke have fed and watered the animals. The boys, all of whom were raised on farms, are accustomed to the dirty job of cleaning pens.

The maintenance director, Brad Bebee, who was responsible for introducing the animals to the center, has taught the boys how to shear the sheep, check whether they're pregnant, and treat them for worms and hoof rot.

Bishop Lawrence Persico toured HYS for the first time recently. He got a chance to meet several residents...

along with the newborn lambs.

"The boys watched over those sheep. They showed a genuine love for the animals," Bishop Persico says.

Gary Mack, the manager of the Columbus Unit, where the three boys are assigned, believes caring for the sheep has provided an opportunity for growth.

Harborcreek Youth Services participated in last year's 4-H program and plans to show the sheep again this year. The boys are hoping to someday sell wool.

"What's great is to see how much these boys learn from the animals," Mack says. "We teach coping skills here, so it gets them refocused on their goals."

The program has taught young boys from difficult family situations how to care for something, how to be responsible and, most importantly, how to love.

Right now, they're planning to build a larger barn to offer more space and comfort for the creatures. As the boys' attachment grows, some of them talk about taking a sheep home when they are discharged from HYS.

"Taking care of them reminds me of what my parents did for me when I was growing up," says 16-year-old Mark.

Adds 16-year-old Luke, "I just love animals. I used to want to be an animal rescuer."

While the boys have grown dependent on the sheep, the sheep have grown



Photo by Mary Solberg

A 16-year-old boy at Harborcreek Youth Services finds comfort in holding a lamb born recently at the residential treatment center. A total of five lambs were born there last month.

attached to them. According to Mack, the animals follow the teenagers, taking their lead on brief walks around the grounds.

As Mack watches the boys jump in and out of the pens to care for the lambs, he says, "This symbolizes new life for the boys, a rebirth, new hope."

Rosary Expressions

Businesswoman makes rosaries personal

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

For Kathy Jury of Erie, making rosaries is a joyful mystery.

Since 2006, she has worked with area parishes and individuals to make personalized rosaries celebrating the sacraments of Holy Communion and baptism, as well as other events, like graduations. The owner/operator of the former Bead Shoppe in Erie, Jury has taken her assortment of colorful beads and silver parts and pieces on the road to help create rosaries for special occasions.

"Yes, it's a business, but it's actually a very meaningful project for me," says Jury, who now owns Rosary Expressions, an online business she operates from her home. Raised Catholic and having attended Catholic schools, Jury stopped practicing her faith for about 20 years. But then, slowly, she started getting requests to make handmade rosaries. She started creating rosaries that included a child's name, a parish and the date of their first Communion.

"It's almost like God was playing peek-a-boo with me on this rosary project," Jury says. "It's definitely something God put in my place to lead me back to the church."

She has worked with a number of parishes over the years, but today still schedules group rosary-making projects at St. Jude the Apostle Parish and its school, Our Lady's Christian, in Erie. She takes individual orders for rosaries that celebrate anything from baptisms to graduations, Confirmations to Mother's Day.

When the economy crashed in 2008, Jury was forced to close her Bead Shoppe business. Despite the setback, she moved on. She enrolled her son, Alex, at Cathedral Preparatory School and found herself more fully devoted to rosary-making. After a period of discernment, Alex told his mom that he wanted to become Catholic.



Photos by Mary Solberg

Kathy Jury, the owner of Rosary Expressions in Erie, helps Bree Daubenspeck make a personalized rosary to commemorate Bree's first Communion later this month.

He entered the RCIA program and was welcomed into the Catholic Church last November. At the same time, Jury talked to priests to come to terms with her own faith.

Once her son became Catholic, she committed herself to become active in the church again. They joined St. Jude Parish and Jury tries to attend Mass as often as she can at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie.

"It's been an interesting, full-circle experience for me," Jury explains. On a recent afternoon, Jury met with Shelly Daubenspeck and her third-grade daughter, Bree, to make a rosary commemorating Bree's first Communion at St. Jude on April 26.

Jury's natural teaching instincts surface when she works with children. She helps them choose colors and letters for their rosaries.

Bree selected beads that were

aqua green, her favorite color. "I think it's very creative and it's something I was excited to do for my first Communion," Bree says.

To see examples of Jury's personalized rosaries and to get more information, visit her website at www.rosaryexpressions.com.



Kathy Jury handcrafted this selection of rosaries and single-decade rosaries.



Catholic Athletes for Christ reach out at spring training



CNS photo

Ray McKenna of Catholic Athletes for Christ talks with Kansas City Royals special assistant Mike Sweetney, right, and relief pitcher Ryan Madison before a spring training game in Arizona. Madison is in the Rite of Christian Initiation program and joins the Catholic Church this Easter.

GLENDALE, Ariz. (CNS)—The crack of the bat is a sure sign of spring, one that calls Ray McKenna to the field. The Washington-based attorney has been busy checking in with baseball players, coaches, trainers and fans at spring training camps in Arizona and Florida.

McKenna is not dispensing batting tips or offering legal advice. He is there to make sure Catholic players have access to the sacraments and to share the good news.

McKenna is the founder and president of Catholic Athletes for Christ. He said the 10-year-old sports ministry has a two-fold mission of service and evangelization.

"The service is to provide the sacraments to the players so the players are able to practice their faith," he said. Evangelization, he continued, "is simply a fancy word for going out and sharing the good news and telling people that God is good."

Pope joins homeless for private tour of Sistine Chapel

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A group of homeless people who live around the Vatican were invited to the Sistine Chapel March 26 and were surprised by a visit from Pope Francis. The 150 visitors had just reached the Sistine Chapel when Pope Francis walked through the door.

"Welcome," the pope said. "This is everyone's house, this is your home. The doors are always open for all."

The Vatican Museums had closed 90 minutes early to allow the special guests of Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, to have the Sistine Chapel to themselves. Accompanied by professional guides, the visitors began their tour in the Vatican Gardens and the Vatican Museums. Pope Francis thanked the archbishop for arranging the "little caress" for those who live on the streets of Rome.

"Pray for me. I'm in need of prayers by people like you," the pope told them. He blessed them saying, "May the Lord protect and help you on the path of life and let you feel his tender, fatherly love."

Pope Francis then greeted each of the guests individually, spending more than 20 minutes with them before they were served dinner in the museums' cafeteria.

Missionary priests to be beatified

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—Two Polish Conventual Franciscan missionaries killed by insurgents in Peru in 1991 will be beatified later this year.

The priests, Father Zbigniew Strzalkowski and Father Michal Tomaszek, offer the faithful "exemplary lives and vivid testimonies," Franciscan Father Jan-Marie Szewek told Catholic News Service from the order's Krakow offices.

Their beatification later this year "will also mobilize and challenge us, since these were young priests who, despite the dangers facing them, refused to escape and remained faithful to the end," Father Szewek said.

A third priest, Father Alessandro Dordi, a diocesan priest from Bergamo, Italy, also killed by the Peruvian insurgents, will be beatified with the Franciscans Dec. 5.



CNS photo

Father Zbigniew Strzalkowski and Father Michal Tomaszek, Polish Conventual Franciscan missionary priests, are pictured in an undated photo. They will be beatified in December.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

It's been quite a successful run for diocesan athletes this spring.

Cathedral Prep's hockey team captured the PIAA Class AA hockey championship on March 21, and other Catholic schools competed in state basketball championship games.

The girls' basketball team at Our Lady of Peace in Erie lost to St. Andrew of Philadelphia in the championship game of the Catholic Youth Organization State Tournament at Berks Catholic High School. The St. Luke varsity boys' basketball team also made it to the CYO state tournament, but lost to Sister Thea Bowman of the Pittsburgh Diocese in a semifinal game.

All was not rosy, though, for a couple of the athletes. Cathedral Prep junior Joe Kelly hyperextended his left knee during the championship hockey game at the Pega Ice Arena at Penn State University. It took him several minutes to get up off the ice and then he was assisted by his teammates to the bench.

But Joe rallied, returning to the game to score the winning goal and assist on two others.

Illness seized members of the St. Luke boys' basketball team during their state run. Three boys got sick with the stomach flu. One athlete had bronchitis and another broke his foot during the second game. The stomach malady didn't stop their, though. It spread to the coach's wife and two kids, and upon their return, two more boys and a few fans, including one teacher, became ill. "Yuck!" said JoAnn Scheppner, the director of advancement at St. Luke.

Six hotel rooms remain available for anyone who wishes to join the diocesan pilgrimage next September to the World Meeting of Families and papal visit in Philadelphia. So far, more than 55 people have decided to join the pilgrimage including Father Rich Tooney and Msgr. Richard Sullivan, both of whom have agreed to lead the group as spiritual directors.

Act fast, though, since reservations will be closed on April 20. The price of tickets to the World Meeting of Family events will increase at the end of April. Details of the pilgrimage and a registration form can be found at www.ErieRCD.org/wmf.htm.

Since our last edition of *FaithLife*, a great supporter of our Catholic publications in the Diocese of Erie passed away. Ed Mead, the former publisher of the Times Publishing Company, was a newspaperman at heart.

I worked for Ed when I was just a young journalist. He was a seasoned news reporter for more than six decades, writing his "Odds & Ends" column up until 2013. When I took over as editor of *FaithLife* that year, Ed, who was in his late 80s, gave me a nod in his column by sending congratulations.

Classic Ed. He never forgot anyone.

Bishop Lawrence Persico enjoyed his first visit to Harborcreek Youth Services last month. Mostly, he was impressed with the rapport between the residents and the staff.

I spoke to six students who made presentations and I was very impressed with their poise and how they handled themselves. There was genuine feeling that they were happy and are being cared for," the bishop said.

About 65 boys live at the residential treatment facility in Harborcreek. Many were delighted to be on-hand when the bishop conducted a blessing service of the center's newly renovated chapel on March 18.

The chapel was reduced in size from its original space and provides a much more intimate environment for prayer and meditation.

Now here's something for all summer brides and grooms to consider. A Vatican-sponsored program, called *Sposi Novelli*, is an opportunity for newlyweds to meet personally with Pope Francis.

To qualify as *sposi novelli* (newlywed couples), brides and grooms must be married within two months of the audience they wish to attend with the pope. They must carry with them a copy of the sacramental marriage certificate signed by their priest, and wear their wedding attire.

During the papal audience, the Holy Father blesses these couples, wishing them a happy wedded life. Pope Francis has made marriage and family life an important focus of his papacy.

If interested in the *Sposi Novelli*, email visitorsoffice@pnc.org to request more information, or go to the following website for the Pontifical North American College: www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/audiences.

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Parish listening sessions attract hundreds for discussion, input

FAITHLIFE staff

More than 450 people have turned out so far this spring to share their thoughts, concerns and hopes for the future of parishes in the Diocese of Erie.

The listening sessions—held in five deaneries to date—are the vital second phase of a two-year planning process underway to strengthen parishes, schools and overall ministries of the diocese.

In his introduction to the listening sessions, Msgr. Richard Siefer, chairperson of the Parish Listening Task Force, tries to allay fears about possible parish and/or school closures.

"This session is not about closing parishes. It is not an exercise to justify a decision already made," Msgr. Siefer tells participants at each gathering. "Tonight is about listening for ideas and inspiration regarding how we can make our parishes and the diocese stronger."

Up to 110 people representing several parishes gathered at each of the sessions in Meadville, Hermitage, Ridgway, Warren and Bradford. After Easter, more listening sessions will be held in Erie, DuBois, Houtzdale and Oil City, ending April 13.

An additional session is also being designed for youth and young adults.

During the sessions, participants have the opportunity

to discuss with their pastor and each other the strengths of their parishes and any observations about the diocese as a whole. They review important information about trends in Mass attendance, vocations, and use of the sacraments—to name a few.

"Overall, this has been a positive experience," Msgr. Siefer told *FaithLife*. "People have appreciated the opportunity to

Continued on next page



Msgr. Richard Siefer

Clergy Appointments

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

Father Stanley Swacha, pastor, Holy Trinity and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception parishes, Erie, effective March 27, 2015.

Bishop Persico makes the following pastor reappointments for terms of six years, ending Jan. 30, 2021:

Father Zab Amar, St. Basil the Great Parish, Colport, and Holy Trinity Mission Church, Ramey

Father Henry Andrae, Sacred Heart Parish, Sharon

Father Raymond Hahn, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Erie

Msgr. John Herbein, St. Patrick Parish, Franklin

Father Robert Horgas, St. Agnes Parish, Morrisdale, St. Peter and Paul Mission, Hawk Run, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Osceola Mills

Msgr. Mark Nowak, St. Francis Xavier Parish, McKean

Msgr. Robert Malene, Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex

Father Lawrence Richards, St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, Erie.

PNC Bank makes contribution



PNC Bank recently presented a \$97,000 check to the Diocese of Erie to provide scholarships to financially needy students attending Catholic schools in the 13 counties of the diocese. The donation is the latest contribution to the diocese's STAR Foundation with funds from Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Pictured accepting the check from Marlene Mosco, regional president of PNC Bank, are: Bishop Lawrence Persico, left, and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for Education.

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News Briefs

Seminary Auxiliary Card Party in April

ERIE—The annual St. Mark Seminary Auxiliary Card Party will be held April 16 at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium of St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Doors will open at 5 p.m. A light meal will be served. The evening includes grand prizes, a gift auction, money and lottery tree, plant and shrub raffle and more. Admission is \$7. For reservations, call Mary Ann Toohey at 814-864-2145. Reservations will be accepted through Wednesday, April 8. Tickets will not be available at the door.



Mom of 10 offers evening of reflection

CRANBERRY, Pa.—An evening of reflection titled, "In His Image," will be presented April 18 by Stephanie Caulfield, a mother of 10 and a lecturer on the teachings of Pope St. John Paul II.

Caulfield will give two talks at St. Thomas More House of Prayer, 365 Hill City Road, Cranberry, from 4:15 to 9 p.m. Besides the lectures, there will be discussion, prayer, dinner, night prayer and a social period. The cost is \$6 per person (includes dinner and social following night prayer). The event is sponsored by the Natural Family Planning/Chastity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie and St. Thomas More House of Prayer. To register, call the NFP/CE office 814-824-1259 or send a check, name(s) and telephone number to: NFP/CE Office, P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514-0397.

Prayer group plans a healing Mass

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group, affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary parishes in Erie, invites everyone to attend a healing Mass celebrated by Father David Poulson at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th and East Avenue, Erie, on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to provide time for participants to write their petitions on a simulated brick wall. Petitions will be offered with the presentation of the gifts. Music will be provided by St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie.

Spring tea benefits House of Mercy

ERIE—The Sisters of Mercy's House of Mercy neighborhood outreach will hold its annual spring tea on April 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Scheffner Hall, 1553 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. Tickets are \$20 each and include traditional tea sandwiches and cookies, a gift auction and entertainment. For tickets, contact Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM, at 814-898-0167.

Afternoon of Reflection offered to women

SMETHPORT—The sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry are sponsoring an Afternoon of Reflection for Women May 3 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Smethport. Are you willing to expand your faith? Can you imagine an opportunity that may deepen your faith? Then attend this important event. There will be time for learning, sharing and discerning. Reap the benefits of renewed faith and personal commitment.

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Sacred Heart CASINO NIGHT

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 Sacred Heart Auditorium, W. 25th and Liberty streets
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 Tickets available at the door or in advance at the rectory.

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Listening sessions spark interest

Continued from previous page

come together and discuss many topics. People have appreciated the fact that the diocese has reached out like this."

Members of the Parish Listening Task Force will compile all of the information gathered at the listening sessions and submit it to the Wisconsin-based consulting firm of Meitler, which is working with the diocese to formulate a comprehensive pastoral plan.

According to Msgr. Siefer, listening to the concerns of everyone in the diocese is an essential part of the overall pastoral planning process. Five task forces have been created to study various aspects of the diocese:

- Faith formation
- Ministries
- Vocations
- Catholic schools
- Parishes.

"The whole process of planning has been long overdue," Msgr. Siefer said. "We need to hear what the folks are thinking and saying, what they're enthused about, and what they're afraid of."



Photos by Anne-Marie Webb

Robenetta (Roben) Dagher, center, enjoys a listening session discussion at St. Leo Parish, Ridgway, along with her husband, Joe Dagher, and Kim Kerchinski, all of St. Mary Parish, St. Marys.



Parish Listening Task Force members Tom Rookey, David Thiemann, David Heinzer and Rosemary Carnevale tally the results of a standing survey during a session in Meadville.



People from the Bradford Deanery parishes participate in a session at St. Bernard Parish in Bradford.

OBITUARY

Philanthropist leaves legacy in diocese

FAITHLIFE staff

DuBOIS—Five seniors at DuBois Central Catholic High School paid their respects last month to the late D. Edward "Ed" Chaplin Jr., a man they didn't know but who was instrumental in the construction and financing of their school.

Although the students had always heard Chaplin's name, none of them ever saw first-hand how Ed Chaplin rallied the entire community to raise funds for the construction of the combined elementary, middle and high school facilities in 2002.

"I didn't know him personally, but he did so much for our school and our community," said Phil Meyers, vice president of student council.

Bishop Emeritus Donald W. Trautman visited the Goble-Baronick Funeral Home in DuBois and noticed the outpouring of respect from the school's administration and faculty. But he was most impressed by the young people who were present, those future students for whom Chaplin had worked so diligently more

than a decade ago.

"I met two of the seniors who paid their respects. I was very touched by that," Bishop Trautman said.

For the seniors, attending the funeral service was a way to support DuBois teacher Andy Chaplin, brother of Ed Chaplin.

"Mr. [Andy] Chaplin always has been one of my favorite teachers, so it was really a way to show support to him," added Danny Sayers, president of student council.

During his episcopacy, Bishop Trautman worked closely with Ed Chaplin on construction of DuBois Central Catholic.

"I singled him out as a leader in the community," Bishop Trautman said. "He was a faith-filled man, but he was also a leader who knew the value of Catholic education."

The legacy that Chaplin left will be felt for generations to come, say those who worked with him on church and school matters. Active in numerous professional and philanthropic activities, Chaplin, who died March 6 at the age of 76, served as presi-

dent of the advisory board of Catholic Social Services and was a member of the Investment and Endowment committees of DuBois Central Catholic.

A member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois, he was awarded papal honors in 2006 by Pope John Paul II for his outstanding service to the church and to the Diocese of Erie. Bishop Trautman presented the award, the Knights of Pope St. Sylvester Medal, in recognition of a lay person in business, the professions and society who has lived an exemplary life.

Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general of the diocese, called Chaplin "a very good man."

"You didn't have to be in his presence long to see his kindness, his generosity, his sense of faithfulness," Msgr. Smith said.



D. Edward "Ed" Chaplin Jr.

In 2004, the DuBois Area Jaycees presented Chaplin with the Distinguished Service Award, an honor recognizing his "key role" in the allocation of substantial grants for the welfare of the community. A Clearfield native, he retired as senior vice president and trust officer of First Commonwealth Bank, formerly Deposit Bank.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline; two brothers, Andy Chaplin of Clearfield, and Father John Chaplin of Rockton; a sister Mary Chaplin of Clearfield; and two stepchildren.

Memorials may be made to the following:

DuBois Central Catholic P.O. Box 567, DuBois, PA 15801

Christ the King Manor 1100 West Long Ave., DuBois, PA 15801

Hahn Cancer Center 100 Hospital Ave., DuBois, PA 15801

St. Francis Catholic School Education Fund 230 South Second St., Clearfield, PA 16830.

Good Shepherd Sunday

Collection April 25-26

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Students donate money to Bishop's Breakfast Program

ERIE—Students at Our Lady's Christian School in Erie dressed down for a day, paying at least \$1 each, and then ended up helping the hungry. The school presented Bishop Lawrence Persico with a \$300 check to go toward the Bishop's Breakfast Program, an outreach of the diocese that provides more than 150 homeless men and women in need with a safe environment, a hot breakfast and an opportunity to receive case-work services. "I am grateful that you were able to do this so people can have food and warmth, at least for a little while," the bishop told the students, who presented the check at St. Mark Catholic



Center. Pictured with these sixth-through eighth-graders are Father John Detisch, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Principal Stephen Nemenz and Bishop Lawrence Persico.

Secretaries put faces to voices



SHARON—Several parish secretaries in the Shenango Valley of Mercer County had a chance to meet each other this winter, some for the first time, during a luncheon at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon. "I've never really met any of the secretaries. A lot haven't met me either, and after almost seven years, I thought it was time to put a face to a voice. We all had a fabulous time getting to know one another," said Lori Vasconi of St. Joseph. Seated, left to right, are: Mikey Bancroft of Beloved Disciple, Grove City, and Carol Warner of Notre Dame, Hermitage. In the back row, left to right, are: Sandy Miller of St. Bartholomew, Sharpville; Debbie Sokolak of Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex; Lori Vasconi of St. Joseph, Sharon; Carol Koch of St. Joseph, Sharon; and Nancy Radauch of St. Stanislaus/Holy Trinity, Sharon. Not pictured: Marge McGinnis and Lou Ann Zitko of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer; Ann Miller of Notre Dame, Hermitage; Elizabeth Cione of Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell; Christina Bell and Elizabeth McGoff of Sacred Heart, Sharon; and Rosann McConnell and Susan Swartzbeck of St. Michael, Greenville.

Churches at work



CLARENDON—More than 60 people from Youngsville area churches gathered at the old Allegheny Valley School in Clarendon to pack bags of food for needy students. Food was provided from Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Confirmation candidates host event



DuBOIS—Confirmation candidates from several parishes in the diocese hosted an intergenerational event, "Getting to the Heart of Lent," on Feb. 22 at St. Joseph Church in DuBois. Olivia Marchioni and Jacob Mikins are pictured preparing to lead the presentation.

St. Gregory students have a 'heart'



NORTH EAST—Students at St. Gregory School in North East focused on strengthening the heart through service and exercise during the month of February. Students collected \$1,263.50 for the American Heart Association and participated in a "Hoop and Jump-A-Thon," an hour-long exercise session with six jump rope and basketball activity stations.

Warren Knights donate to March for Life trip



WARREN—The Warren Knights of Columbus donated \$1,000 to the Cool Catholic Youth, sponsoring the group's January bus trip to the March for Life Rally in Washington, D.C. Shown accepting the check from Warren Council #964 Grand Knight Steve Warner is Caitlin Ryan, youth ministry leader at Holy Redeemer and St. Joseph parishes in Warren. Also pictured are: Father James Gutting, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish; Father Richard Toohey, pastor of St. Joseph Parish; and Carl Wolf, Faithful Navigator for the Warren Council Knights of Columbus.

Erie Bank and Hite Company support Gannon

ERIE—Erie Bank and the Hite Company recently donated funds to Gannon University during basketball games at the downtown Erie campus.

Erie Bank gave \$25,000 to support the modernization of Gannon's Hammermill Center, as well as academic needs at the school. Besides improving the Hammermill Center, the gift also will go toward the Annual Fund for Academic Excellence.

Pictured at right, above, are: David Zimmer, president of Erie Bank; and Gannon President Keith Taylor, Ph.D.

In the bottom photo, Dr. Taylor accepts a gift of \$30,000 from Hite Company chairman, R. Lee Hite, to benefit students from Crawford and Erie counties.

The Robert L. Hite Memorial Endowed "Power" Scholarship was established in honor of the company's founder and will be matched under the provisions of the "Power" Scholarship Challenge.



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WHY? To honor the memory of Msgr. John Lucas
 On what would have been the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, you are invited to join us in a sport he loved.

WHEN? Saturday, May 30, 2015
 Shotgun start @ 1:30 pm

WHERE? Cable Hollow Golf Club in Russell, PA

WHAT? 4-person Scramble includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, lunch and BBQ chicken dinner. Skins, Chinese Auction and 50/50

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