

CONGRATULATIONS!

Diocese of Erie welcomes new permanent deacons.

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FaithLife



Cathedral celebrates 125 years. PAGE 2

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

June 11, 2017

DIOCESAN NEWS

Priest ordinations

Read the June 25 issue of *FaithLife* for full coverage of the June 9 ordinations of Sean Kerins, Kyle Seyler and David Whiteford at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

This weekend, each is celebrating his first Mass at his home parish. Their vocation stories also will be featured in the annual *Faithful Servants* publication in August.



From left, Sean Kerins, David Whiteford and Kyle Seyler, ordained priests June 9.

Teachers hired for new school system

The newly formed Erie Catholic School System—which includes six elementary school campuses—recently offered positions to 153 teachers for next school year.

About 90 percent of those who applied for positions received job offers. Those hired all currently work in a pre-kindergarten to eighth-grade Catholic school in Erie.

"We made a concerted effort to strike a balance between honoring experience and commitment while increasing expectations and certification requirements," said Damon Finazzo, president of ECSS. The result, Finazzo said, will be an exceptional academic setting for students.

In collaboration with Superintendent Jim Gallagher and the Catholic Schools Office, ECSS is planning to offer teachers new opportunities for leadership roles within their buildings, new tools and continuing education for curriculum and instructional development.

Set to launch with the 2017-18 academic year, ECSS comprises the following schools: Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, St. George, St. James, St. Jude and St. Luke. The total number of teaching positions increased across the six campuses, which up until now were parish-based schools.

More than 90 percent of the current kindergarten through eighth-grade students in the six schools re-enrolled at one of the six ECSS schools for next year.

Each school will have full- or part-time teachers dedicated to music, art, technology, library, physical education and guidance, as well as full-time teachers for the core subjects of religion, math, science, language arts and social studies. All prospective teachers in core subjects are certified.

The Diocese of Erie proposed the formation of ECSS as part of its *Building in Truth and Love* comprehensive plan for Catholic schools in the 13-county diocese.

Created in 2016, ECSS is led by a president who is advised by a board of directors and governed by a set of by-laws.



Diocese opens new mission school

Mother Teresa Academy reaches out to inner-city students in Erie

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

Abby Williams cried tears of joy—tinged with sadness—when she learned last week that the Diocese of Erie was opening a new inner-city elementary school in Erie.

She was happy to learn that the new Mother Teresa Academy would provide a practically free Catholic education to her children, along with before- and after-school care. But she felt sad knowing that opening Mother Teresa meant closing another school, her alma mater Holy Family, located only four blocks from her home on Erie's east side.

"I grew up at Holy Family and all my kids were baptized there," Williams said, "but honestly, it made me cry that the diocese is being so generous offering to continue the education of my children and other city children."

On June 1, Bishop Lawrence Persico announced that Mother Teresa Academy—a mission school for grades K-8—would open in January 2018 at the former St. Peter Cathedral School, W. 11th and Sassafras streets. It will replace Holy Family, located fewer than two miles away at 1153 E. 9th St.

For 33-year-old Williams and her husband, Gary, 41, sending most of their six children to Catholic schools has been a priority, despite the day-to-day struggle to make ends meet. They both work, but



Photo by Mary Solberg

Holy Family School graduates Johnny Drain, Dan Brigham and Courtney Kindle stand with the new logo of Mother Teresa Academy, which will replace Holy Family as an inner-city school in the Diocese of Erie. Drain and Brigham both are freshman at Cathedral Prep; Kindle is a freshman at Villa Maria Academy.

have depended on scholarships.

Mother Teresa Academy, modeled after Jubilee Catholic Schools in Memphis, Tenn., and other cities, offers an innovative tuition structure.

Although annual tuition will be set at \$5,000, those who qualify for free lunch under the Federal Poverty Guidelines for Free and Reduced Lunch will only have to pay \$250 per year, beginning in September 2017. Families who qualify for reduced lunches will pay \$500 per year.

Another bonus for needy families is that Mother Teresa will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each school day. Before- and after-

school care will be included in tuition costs. "I love the name, Mother Teresa Academy," Williams added. "Growing up at Holy Family, Mother Teresa was a big name and we learned a lot about her. I'm hoping the name will give out a good, positive vibe."

Mother Teresa, who was canonized a saint last year, founded the Missionaries of Charity in the slums of India. According to Bishop Persico and others involved in the creation of Mother Teresa Academy, her mission spirit will pervade everything the school does.

>> See MOTHER TERESA ACADEMY, page 3

'WE ALL HAVE SELF-WORTH'

L'Arche member honored for service to diocese

BY MARY SOLBERG | FAITHLIFE

For the past 18 years, Matt Johnson has stuffed folders and affixed labels on envelopes for the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie.

Mostly, his favorite job is stuffing the folders for Pre-Cana classes. "I like it," says Matt, who at 44 is a member of Erie's L'Arche, a faith-based community in which people with and without intellectual disabilities share their lives together.

Christine Hess, the Family Life director, calls Matt "a beautiful volunteer," one who completes every job with a smile. At a May 25 luncheon in his honor, Hess presented Matt with a framed certificate, saying, "You are a joy to all of us and a blessing from God."

Matt, along with his mother, Jackie

Johnson, attended the event with members of Erie's L'Arche community and both past and present staff of Catholic Charities at St. Mark Catholic Center. Matt's weekly volunteer visits have made quite an impression.

Michele Inter, the new director of the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries, recognized Matt's impact and suggested that Catholic Charities honor him as an outstanding volunteer. He will continue to work for Charities on a weekly basis.

"We all have self-worth and we need some reinforcement once in a while that we're doing a good job and that we're loved and appreciated for what we do and who we are," Inter says.

Matt hugged Inter as she presented him with his own personalized Catholic Charities jacket and hat.

Jackie Johnson, who previously headed

up the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries, was surprised when she got the phone call saying Catholic Charities wanted to honor her son for his volunteer work.

"He likes the work and he loves the people. You can see," she says, looking proudly at Matt.

Kevin Forte, director of development for L'Arche Erie, also attended the luncheon. He accepted a donation to the organization from Ann Badach, executive director of Catholic Charities.

"The gift is fantastic," Forte says. "We'll forward it to our core members so they can go on retreats, go out to dinner or go to games."

A member of L'Arche's Rose House in Erie, Matt is a member of St. Andrew Parish in Erie and is the son of Jackie and Wayne Johnson.



Christine Hess, director of the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie, reads the certificate of recognition to Matt Johnson.



Matt Johnson enjoys a special bond with his mother, Jackie Johnson, of Erie.



Matt Johnson is delighted to see a present given to him by Michele Inter, director of the Office of Disability and Deaf Ministries.

Historic chapel damaged in fire

TUCSON, Ariz.—The vestibule and chapel of the historic Mission in the Sun in Tucson is pictured in this photo taken Feb. 17. A fire May 29 severely damaged the adobe structure and frescoes by renowned artist Ted DeGrazia. The chapel was built by DeGrazia in 1952 in honor of Jesuit missionary Father Eusebio Kino and dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



CNS photo

Newsmakers



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

■ Vietnam chaplain considered for possible sainthood



CNS photo

Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capodanno, a Navy chaplain killed while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, is pictured ministering in the field in an undated photo.

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A tribunal of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services has finished its nearly four-year inquiry into whether the life of Father Vincent R. Capodanno, a Vietnam War hero and U.S. Navy chaplain, merits consideration for sainthood.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the Washington-based military archdiocese, announced May 21 that the archdiocesan phase in the Maryknoll priest's cause has concluded. His announcement came at the end of the 23rd annual memorial Mass honoring U.S. military members at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The decision clears the way for the tribunal's findings to go to the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes for its review and a possible decision on whether to advance the priest's cause to the next stage in the sainthood process.

Father Capodanno, a Navy chaplain who served with the Marines, died in Operation Swift in the Thanh Binh district of the Que Son Valley. He went among the wounded and dying, giving last rites. Wounded in the face and hand, he went to help an injured corpsman only yards from an enemy machine gun and was killed.

■ Catholic father of four killed trying to protect Muslim women

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS)—On a crowded Portland commuter train May 26, a Catholic father of four stepped forward to calm a tense situation.

Rick Best defended two women being accosted by a passenger yelling hate speech about Muslims and other groups. Best, a 53-year-old member of Christ the King Parish in Milwaukie, Ore., would die for his noble deed.

In less than a minute, he and another defender were slain, slashed in the neck in front of horrified onlookers. A third man survived the knife attack. Best's funeral Mass was held June 5 at Christ the King Church.

The accused killer, 35-year-old Jeremy Christian, had been on a racially charged rampage.

Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample sought to comfort a city shocked by the brutal slayings. "Pray for those who may now feel unsafe in moving freely about a city that truly welcomes people of all cultures, faith traditions and walks of life," Archbishop Sample said.



CNS photo

Rick Best

■ Pope urges people to get 'spiritual electrocardiogram'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Never speak, act or make a decision without first listening to the Holy Spirit, who moves, troubles and inspires the heart, Pope Francis advised.

A cold and calculating heart that is closed to the Holy Spirit results in a faith that is "ideological," he said May 29 during a morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

If people were to get a "spiritual electrocardiogram," the pope asked, would it be flat-lined because the heart is hardened, unmoved and emotionless or would it be pulsating with the prompting and prods of the Spirit?

Care for the earth is central to our faith



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

Tina Geiger, RSM, were among the many who promoted discussions with children at St. Stephen School in Oil City, and St. Patrick School in Franklin. They talked about ways to not waste food, to save water and electricity, and to recycle.

The Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville and Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie also have offered retreat programs on *Laudato Si'*.

The pope's challenge has meant a great deal to people who live in our diocese and elsewhere. Short-sightedness won't keep sea levels from rising or glaciers from melting. And it definitely won't protect the most marginalized populations of our world who will be the first to suffer the ill effects of climate change, i.e., lack of food, forced evacuations from homelands, poor health, to name a few.

Call it what you want—"deeply troubling" or "terrible"—President Donald Trump's recent decision to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Paris climate accord is disappointing to many of us.

Catholic leaders throughout the world decried the decision—using all of these adjectives and more.

Endorsed by Pope Francis, and signed by 195 nations, the Paris pact aims to cut global greenhouse



In this contributed file photo, students at Immaculate Conception School in Clarion put into action Pope Francis' message to care for the earth and all of its creatures.

gas emissions and protect our world for future generations.

Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, said Trump's decision "will harm the people of the United States and the world, especially the poorest, most vulnerable communities."

This echoes the viewpoint of Pope Francis, who last June released *Laudato Si'*, his environment encyclical that challenges all of God's people to protect "our common home" and stop the global warming crisis. What I like about *Laudato Si'* is that everyone—even our smallest children—are asked to be a part of the effort.

Over the past year, *FaithLife* has shared many photos and stories of children in diocesan schools and adults in parishes discussing ways to protect the environment. Sister Marian Wehler, OSB, and Sister

In 1970, when the first Earth Day was established, I was a student at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie. We made green and white ecology flags out of tissue paper and cardboard.

Our teachers challenged us to be mindful of the world around us. They asked us to notice the birds singing or to look at the color variations of the evergreens that lined our morning commute.

The sanctity of life in all of its forms is at the core of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

As Bishop Cantu said, "I can only hope that the president will propose concrete ways to address global climate change and promote environmental stewardship."

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

Cathedral begins 125th anniversary



Guest Commentary
Sheila Grove

1893. For almost 125 years, St. Peter Cathedral has stood out from the landscape of Erie as a symbol of our Catholic faith witnessed by all.

The cathedral is so familiar to us; we overlook the privilege we have of visiting it frequently. It has withstood a fire, vandalism and the strife of more than a century. Over a period of time, dirt and grime obliterated the stunning pink sandstone that we now see.

We are enthralled by the stained glass windows that were reset in the 1990s. They allow more light to shine through and inspire our prayer. The windows, in fact, tell a story of the life of Jesus and pay tribute to many of the most inspiring figures in our church's history. The 12 columns in the nave of the church are just one example of the historical symbolism of the building and honor

PICNIC CELEBRATION

A free parish family picnic will be held on the north lawn of the cathedral following the 11 a.m. Mass June 25. Rain or shine. Alternate site is the Cathedral Prep cafeteria.

Food served from noon to 2 p.m. Games and entertainment for all ages.

Parish family members are invited, along with others who have shared the parish's life or celebrated the sacraments.

Make an advance reservation by emailing smdgrove@gmail.com or calling the rectory at 814-453-6677, ext. 0. Reservation forms are at the church and can be signed in the vestibule after all Masses. Please indicate number of adults and children, with ages.



Photo by Josh Levisque

the 12 tribes of Israel as well as the 12 Apostles and their witness to God's covenant.

As we enter the 125th anniversary of the Mother Church of the Diocese of Erie, I encourage everyone to walk through the doors of the cathedral, look around and look up. You may notice something you have never seen before. Give thanks for the thousands of Catholics inspired by the Holy Spirit who have

worked to maintain all that you see. Give thanks that you can consider this your home and that you are an integral part of its next hundred years.

In the coming year, it would be good to recall Revelations 21:11,23, which reads: "It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone...the glory of God gave it light and its lamp was the Lamb."

Sheila Grove is a parishioner and member of the St. Peter Cathedral pastoral council. She is a licensed psychologist in private practice.

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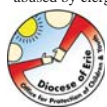
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Doctor Robert Nelsen
Victim Assistance Coordinator
for the Diocese of Erie
814.451.1521 (This is a dedicated number for victim assistance.)

For more information, visit www.EriERCDO.org click on For the Protection of Children

Mother Teresa Academy

Continued from page 1

"It was my sincere hope in restructuring our Catholic schools in the Erie area that we would be able to maintain our commitment to students in the inner-city," Bishop Persico said. "Everyone recognizes this need in our community."

He lauded the efforts of an exploratory committee under the leadership of Tina Donikowski, a retired senior executive and corporate officer at GE Transportation. The committee began work on the mission school concept in May 2016.

Last February, the Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy board of directors approved a resolution to own and operate the new school.

There was an initial round of philanthropic community support and one "substantial" gift from an anonymous donor that provided the final green light to proceed, according to Chris Hagerty, director of strategic initiatives for Prep-Villa.

"We're not done fundraising yet. The goal has always been to find funding now that will fund the next five years," Hagerty said. "We're not there yet, but we're very close."

Donikowski championed the effort with Sister Rosemary O'Brien, SSI, who has worked for many years in inner-city parishes and with the migrant community; David Slomski, senior vice president of business banking at Marquette Savings Bank; and Attorney Jim Wal-

zak, partner with MacDonald Illig Jones & Britton.

"I grew up on the lower east side; so did my husband. We're beneficiaries of Catholic education. We think that it should be available to anyone, no matter what their economic situation is," Donikowski said.

THINGS TO KNOW

- All new applicants to Mother Teresa Academy must be residents of the City of Erie.

- Priority will be given to new students who meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines and who are not currently enrolled at other Catholic schools in the area.

- Families at Mother Teresa Academy will sign a contract in which they agree to be involved in their child's education through volunteer work and by participation in parent-teacher conferences.

- Renovations at the future school will be done between July and November.

For questions, contact Chris Hagerty at chris.hagerty@prep-villa.com.

Deacons begin 'ministry of service'

FAITHLIFE staff report

Quoting Pope Francis, Bishop Lawrence Persico on May 26 told the four men ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Erie, "Whoever serves, saves."

Kevin Harmon, Gerald Peterson, Daniel Satterlee and Joseph Yochim Jr. each embraced their new ministerial role in the Catholic Church during an evening ordination Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie. They bring the number of permanent deacons ordained in the diocese to 80.

"By your faithful service to the Gospel in its integrity—without compromise, without accommodation, hesitation or fear—you must help the world to discern the truth that

has a human face, the truth that is the person of Jesus Christ," Bishop Persico said.

For Deacon Peterson, the most inspiring moment of the ritual came when he and his classmates were lying prostrate before the altar, giving their entire selves to God's service.

"It was like the Holy Spirit just descending saying, 'Be at peace and enjoy where you are,'" Peterson said.

The diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons. Those not planning to be ordained priests are called permanent deacons. Married men may be ordained permanent deacons, and single men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate with a commitment to celibacy.



Photo by Anne-Marie Welsh

Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, left center, and Bishop Lawrence Persico, center right, pose with the new permanent deacons and their wives. They are, from left, Jeanne and Deacon Kevin Harmon, Carlee and Deacon Joseph Yochim Jr., Deacon Daniel and Janet Satterlee, and Deacon Gerald and Kathleen Peterson.

EVENTS

Gannon to host free dental care clinic

ERIE—Volunteers with MOM-n-PA Dental Missions, a clinic that provides free dental care to the underprivileged, will offer services June 16-17 at Gannon University's Recreation and Wellness Center, 130 W. 4th St., Erie.

Doors open each day at 6 a.m. Treatment will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. No need to show

medical/insurance cards or identification. To volunteer for this event in any capacity, go to www.mom-n-pa.com or call Gannon's Recreation and Wellness Center at 814-871-7770.

Summer camps offered at Gannon University

ERIE—Gannon University in Erie offers summer camps for youth ages 7 to 18 on topics ranging from baseball to theater, criminal investigation to environmental health. For more information, including fees and registration details, go to <http://camps.gannon.edu>.

Pray in color at the Bethany Retreat Center

FRENCHVILLE—The Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville is hosting an art and prayer retreat June 23-25, with presenter Sister Leandra Kosmoski, SSI, of Buffalo. Participants will listen to God through art, using Scripture, guided meditation and watercolors. No prior art experience is necessary. All are welcome. The \$185 cost per person includes overnights, meals, retreat and supplies.

Sister Leandra holds a certificate in spiritual direction and a master's in Christian spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University, Chicago, and a master's in education from Buffalo State College. To register, call 814-263-4855 or go to www.bethanyretreatcenter.org.

Four-day contemplative prayer retreat offered

FRENCHVILLE—Sister Ruth Ann Madera, O.A., and Father Phillip Billotte will lead a four-day, advanced intensive contemplative prayer retreat July 20-23 at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville.

This retreat gives Centering Prayer practitioners an opportunity to deepen their practice and relationship with God. It will include several periods of prayer and daily Mass.

One video conference will be offered, while the rest of the retreat will be in deep silence and solitude.

The cost is \$200 per person. A \$75 deposit is required. For more information or to register, call 814-263-4855 or go to www.bethanyretreatcenter.org.

Annual Father Cooper Charitable Golf Classic scheduled this summer in Corry

CORRY—The annual Father Cyril Cooper Charitable Golf Classic will be held July 29 at North Hills Golf Course in Corry.

A shotgun start is at 8 a.m. The cost is \$75 per person or \$300 for a foursome. The fee includes greens fees, cart, steak lunch and prizes.

Register online at www.stthomasheapostle.church, or through the office at secretary@stthomasheapostle.church or at 814-663-3041.

2017 Parish events

JUNE 24 Our Lady of Lourdes Old-Fashioned Strawberry Social
251 S. Franklin St., Cochran; 4-7 p.m. Ice cream, cake and strawberries \$3.50. Also chicken sandwiches, sloppy joes, hot dogs and homemade macaroni salad; 814-789-2022.

JUNE 25 St. Boniface Old-Fashioned Country Festival
Air-conditioned Coleman Center, 9363 Wattsburg Road, Erie (Route 8, 3 miles south of I-90); 11:30 am-4 pm. Homestyle chicken dinner and homemade pies. Cost: adults \$9, children \$5, families \$25 (2 adults, 2 children, dine-in only). Outdoor games, hay rides, live music, basket auction, bake sale and country cupboard. Chances to win cash awards up to \$1,000, gift cards, handcrafted items and tickets to the Alan Jackson concert at Erie Insurance Arena on Sept. 23, 2017. Proceeds benefit St. Boniface Catholic School and Music for Veterans. 814-825-4439.

JULY 1 Pre-Festival Kickoff!
St. Joseph's Liberty 5K Run/Walk
9 am; Lucinda Train Station, 1040 Lander Drive, Lucinda. www.st-joseph-lucinda.org; 814-226-7288. More info on Facebook!

JULY 4 St. Joseph 78th Annual 4th of July Celebration
St. Joseph Parish grounds, 112 Rectory Lane, Lucinda (along Route 66); 11 am-4 pm. Rain or shine. Handicap accessible and parking shuttle available. All-you-can-eat chicken and ham dinners, soup with homemade noodles and homemade pies. Dinner tickets on sale at 10 am; dinner 11 am-3 pm; takeouts 11 am-2 pm. Cost: adults \$9, children 6-12 \$4.50, under 5 free. Games of skill and chance, live entertainment, bingo and more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes, including a \$50,000 grand prize and over 15 handmade quilts. 814-226-7288, st-joseph-lucinda.org.

Squeeze in time for these great events! Look for this listing on www.ErieRCD.org and on Facebook.

JULY 8 Our Lady of Mercy 5K Chicken Run and Chicken Little Run
8:30 am; \$15 if you pre-register, \$20 on race day. Chicken Little Run is free for ages 10 and under. Begins and ends at Our Lady of Mercy, 837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek. Applications in the Gathering Space at OLM. Questions? Contact Peggy Jacquet at 814-725-9869. www.ourladyofmercychurch.org.

JULY 9 Our Lady of Mercy BBQ Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival
837 Bartlett Road, Harborcreek; noon-5 pm. BBQ chicken dinner in air-conditioned dining room in Sperry Hall; takeouts available. Bake sale, gift auction, bingo, kids area; \$1,000 grand prize raffle and more! Cost: adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, 5 and under free. 814-899-5342.

JULY 27 St. Teresa of Avila Lawn Festival
9 Third Ave., Union City; 5-9:30 pm. Rain or shine; Games, food, raffles, prizes, gift auction, pony rides, bake sale, crafts and music. \$500 grand prize drawing and other prizes awarded at 9 pm (need not be present to win). 814-438-2000.

JULY 30 121st Annual Frenchtown Ham or Chicken Dinner
St. Hippolyte, 26012 N. Frenchtown Road (Route 27), Frenchtown. Dinners served noon-6 pm (or until sold out); 1/2 chicken or ham, homemade pies, noon to 7 pm; games, bingo, gift auction, quilt/afghan raffle and kids area. Shuttle service to parking areas; takeouts available. Cost: adults \$10, senior citizens \$9, children \$7. 814-789-2022.

AUGUST 4-6 St. James Annual Summer Festival
School grounds/St. James Place 2602/2622 Buffalo Road, Erie. (Air-conditioned hall, handicap accessible and security on the grounds.) Money mania drawing; six cash drawings ranging from \$500-\$10,000. Friday, 5 pm pasta dinner (featuring Chuck and Ginny's famous sauce). Cost: adults \$8, children 12 and under \$4. Sunday: Polka Mass at 11:30 am; Full-course turkey dinner, noon-6 pm. Cost: adults \$9, children 6-12 \$6, under 6 \$3. Bean bag toss tournament, games of chance, casino tent, pony rides and bingo.

AUGUST 25-27 24th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival
Holy Trinity, E. 23rd and Reed streets, Erie. Free admission. Friday 5-10 pm. Saturday noon-10 pm, Sunday noon-6 pm. Polka Masses: Saturday 5 pm with Bishop Lawrence Persico; Sunday 11 am. Live nationally known bands: Friday: Dyna Brass (Detroit). Saturday: Lil John & the ATM Band (Latrobe), Mar-Vels (Erie), and The Boys (Baltimore). Sunday: Henny and the Versa J's (Pittsburgh) and DJ Ken Olowin as MC. Authentic Polish foods, bakery and drinks daily. Drawings, games, kids area. Handicap accessible; more parking and free shuttle service at E. 34th and Ash streets. 814-456-0671; holymtrinity.org.

SEPTEMBER 8-10 Immaculate Conception Annual Fall Festival
129 Graham Ave., Brookville; Friday and Saturday 8 am-8 pm, Sunday 10 am-3 pm. Huge flea market, crafts, theme baskets, kids games, \$2,500 cash raffle on Saturday, cornhole tournament, BBQ chicken and roast beef dinner on Sunday. 814-849-8697.

SEPTEMBER 17 Blessed Sacrament School Fall Festival 2017
Geiger Hall, 1626 W. 26th St., Erie. noon-5 pm. Cash drawings: \$500 drawing every half-hour from 12:30-3 pm; \$1,500 at 3:30 pm; \$2,500 at 4 pm; \$3,000 at 4:30 pm. \$5,000 grand prize drawing at 5 pm. Additional \$50 prize if winner is present. 814-454-0171.

OCTOBER 1 Sacred Heart Fall Festival
Sacred Heart Church Auditorium, W. 25th and Liberty streets, Erie. 11 am-6 pm. Delicious pulled pork or sausage sandwiches, games, prizes and amazing theme baskets. All day fun for the whole family! 814-456-6256.

OCTOBER 6-8 Oktoberfest St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community
W. 24th and Sassafras streets, Erie. Friday 5-11 pm; Saturday 11-11 pm; Sunday 12-6 pm. Live music daily. \$25,000 cash raffle! Smaller cash raffles, basket raffles, and vendors. Authentic German cuisine: dinners, a la carte and desserts. Takeouts available. 814-452-2982, www.stjoseph.org.

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Check out more photos at www.ErieRCD.org/atd.htm



Cursillo dance nets about \$828 for charity

ERIE—Past presidents of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement recently hosted their annual charity dance at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie. The event netted about \$828 that will be shared with St. Martin Center of Erie. The Cursillo Movement (www.ErieCursillo.org) seeks to enhance the faith of its participants through a "short course" in Christianity during a weekend experience. Pictured, from left, are: Todd Beckes, 2017 Cursillo president; David



Gonzalez, CEO of St. Martin Center; and Tim Nowakowski, lead coordinator of the dance.

Mothers and daughters enjoy Erie tea



Photo by Lyons Photography

ERIE—A mother-daughter tea, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie, was held in two locations in the diocese this spring. Here, Diane and Mary Clare Gallagher, and Kristen, Ella and Hailey Corritore—all parishioners of St. Joseph/Bread of Life in Erie—enjoy their time together at the tea held at St. Mark Catholic Center April 23.

Program inspires many families in area



ERIE—Families in the Erie area gathered at Our Lady of Peace Parish May 20 for a presentation by the St. Marys Family Honor team. The day-long program, titled "Leading and Loving," equips parents to help their young children live a chaste lifestyle. Pictured in attendance are: Donna Barretta, Stephanie Dahlkemper, Aron Dahlkemper, Carter Mook, Josie Mook, Maria Prier (standing), and David Prier.

Sharon Assembly #960 elects new officers



SHARON—Pictured are the newly elected officers of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree of Sharon Assembly #960 who will assume their posts effective July 1. In the front row, from left, are: Faithful Comptroller Anthony Palo of Sharpville, Faithful Navigator Anthony DeMartinis of Hermitage, Faithful Friar Father Richard Allen of Hermitage, and Faithful Pilot George Kaufmann of Farrell. In the middle row, from left, are: Faithful Captain Harry

Necastro of Hermitage, Faithful Scribe Michael Mondak of Hermitage, and Faithful Purser Sam Falvo of Farrell. In the back row, from left, are: Faithful Inner Sentinel John Drabick of Hermitage, Faithful Outer Sentinel Billy Thomas of Farrell, Faithful 1-year Trustee Pete Lombardi of Masury, and Faithful 3-year Trustee Richard Dudas of Hermitage. Missing from the photo are Faithful Admiral David U'Halie of Sharon, and Faithful 2-year Trustee Dr. Al Scott of Hermitage.

Students raise more than \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital



DuBOIS—Math students at DuBois Central Catholic accepted the challenge to participate in this year's math-a-thon and raised more than \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

According to teachers Lauren Rice, Jenna Nedzinski and Starleen Young, the students exercised their math skills while providing much-needed funds to help kids battle childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Pictured in the front, from left, are: Kayley Risser, Maura Horchen, Candace Andres, Emily Graeca and Melia Mitskavich. Kneeling in the second row, from left, are: Neel Gupta, Brendan Paisley, Travis White, Brady Snyder, Sara Boland,

Kourtney Zatsick, Kadie Bressler, Jessy Frank and Lydia Morgan. In row three, sitting from left, are: Cooper Hayes, Carson Spencer, Matthew Pyne, Dylan Hanna, Maria Tomasko, Emma Peck, Madison Hoyt, Megan Pittsley, Mia Edwards and Bella Blakley.

In row four, standing from left, are: teacher Starleen Young, Morgan Bojalad, Katelyn Smith, Savannah Morelli, Anna Vandervort, Rose Whipple, Alyssa Dinger-Noemi, Jacqueline Reilly, Faith Jacob, Sophia Mangiantini, Juliet Elias, Alyssa Johnson, Cooper Spencer, Benjamin Gritzer, Michelangelo Piccirillo, Cartar Kosko and Aiden Good. Missing from the photo is Sarah DeCarlo.

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