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FaithLife

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BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

September 1, 2013

MONEY that Matters

Diocesan collections, events and endowments benefit hundreds of thousands in the region

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

There's money, and then there's money that *really* matters. In the sprawling, 13-county Diocese of Erie, it's all about using money to make a difference in people's lives.

The diocesan development program oversees a dizzying number of collections, events and endowment funds that help with everything from tuition assistance for many of its 8,000 students to a spiritual conference for prison inmates to emergency aid for tornado victims.

"Jesus was pretty clear. We've got to take care of the poor and share the faith. And those do require resources," says Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar for education for the diocese.

Father Rouch and other diocesan staff—including Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, president of The Catholic Foundation, and William Grant, director of stewardship and annual giving—are accustomed to uncovering those resources in order to keep the Catholic faith and the church's concern for the poor and needy going strong into the 21st century.

They approach Catholics in the pews, as well as corporations, foundations and others to address critical needs throughout the diocese.

"As Catholics, we all have an important part to play in advancing the mission of the church," Grant says. "Gifts from donors to the various appeals throughout the diocese help to send forth ripples of hope for thousands of people in need."



Photo by Rich Papula

This year's poster children for the Sept. 14-15 Catholic Education Collection in the Diocese of Erie are Our Lady of Mount Carmel first-graders Jayleena Santiago, left, and Gianna Abata.

Here's what's happening on the stewardship front:

Catholic Charities Ball

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie distributed \$98,250 this summer to affiliate agencies, programs and community outreach efforts to help families most in need in the diocese. The funds were raised at the

18th annual Catholic Charities Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center in April. More than 57,000 individuals are helped in one way or another through Catholic Charities each year.

"It's amazing," says Joe Flecher, director of the Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, when Flecher received a Catholic Charities affiliate agency that is celebrating 30 years of reaching out to the

neediest of the Shenango Valley of Mercer County.

When Flecher received \$20,700 from Charities Executive Director Mary Maxwell, he was eager to return to his

agency and keep up the good work. Prince of Peace Center does not charge for its services, so it requires ongoing financial support from the larger community.

Prince of Peace Center provides life skills classes to clients who have requested emergency assistance. Two new eight-week sessions include: No Excuses, focusing on personal responsibility and self-discipline, and Processing Feelings Effectively, focusing on dealing with a troubled past and moving forward as a person. Other outreach includes utility assistance, a food pantry, and basic housing needs.

"I want people to know the importance of their generosity. It will get to the people who need it most," Flecher says.



Contributed photo

Brandi Kirby, left, talks with Joe Flecher at the Prince of Peace Center. She credits the agency for helping her overcome a troubled life on the streets.

Dr. Barbara Behan Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Endowment Fund

Principals from five elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie recently received a total of \$3,750 in grants from the Dr. Barbara Behan Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Endowment Fund.

The money will be used to provide tuition scholarships to families with children in preschool and kindergarten at the following schools: St. Stephen in Oil City, St. Gregory in North East, Our Lady of Mount

Carmel in Erie, Blessed John Paul II in Hermitage, and Seton Catholic in Meadville. Also this summer, the Behan Fund provided financial support for a pre-K and kindergarten teacher in-service that covered curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

More than \$20,000 has been distributed from the fund since its inception, educating children at the critical pre-K and kindergarten age.



Dr. Barbara Behan

The Catholic Education Collection Sept. 14-15

In its 23rd year, this collection replenishes the diocesan Religious Education Endowment Fund (REEF) and The Catholic Foundation's Education Endowment. It also supports the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Half of what is collected in the diocese remains in parishes to support educational programs. The diocese uses most of its half for the following:

- Tuition assistance to 8,000 Catholic school students at the elementary and secondary levels
- Curriculum support to 98 parish religious education programs
- Spiritual development opportunities, like conferences and retreats
- Scholarships/grants for religious education instructors and teachers in Catholic schools throughout the diocese.

Brita Krahe of Erie is a wife and mother of two young children. She earned her master's degree in curriculum and instruction with the help of the diocesan PACE program funded by the Religious Education Endowment Fund. She worked full-time for the past two years at Blessed Sacrament School in Erie, earning only \$10,000 a year, while attending classes every Saturday at Gannon University. She incurred only the cost of her books.

This year, she's returning to teach first grade full-time at Blessed Sacrament, with full salary and benefits, and a master's degree in hand. She's also excited about possibly attending next spring's National Cath-



Contributed photo

Brita Krahe earned a master's degree through grants from REEF.

olic Education Association Convention in Pittsburgh. The diocese is funding 90 educators in the diocese to attend the conference.

"This whole career path has changed me as a person, as a teacher and as a mother," Krahe says.

Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler of the Catholic Rural Ministry in Oil City planned a retreat for 100 inmates at the State Correctional Institution—Forest on July 27, thanks to money she received from REEF.

With a limited budget, Sister Wehler sought out funding from the diocese to help pay a modest stipend for nationally known author, Jesuit Father Greg Boyle. Sister Wehler contacted Father Boyle after hearing him speak at Chautauqua Institution about his book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. Boyle runs Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles.

"The Catholic Education Collection helps people like ourselves who are trying to reach out to people in need," Sister Wehler says. "These prisoners are really hidden from so many people, so we have hope that we can make a difference in their lives."



Contributed photo

Benedictine Sister Marian Wehler and Jesuit Father Greg Boyle held a retreat for inmates at the State Correctional Institution—Forest.

Clergy Appointments

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



Father Christopher M. Barnes, reappointed to the position of parochial vicar, St. Michael Parish, Greenville, and St. Margaret Mission Church, Jamestown, effective Aug. 13, 2013, for a term of three years.

Father James E. Piszker, reappointed to the position of chaplain, Mercyhurst University, Erie, effective Aug. 15, 2013, for a term of five years.

Father Stephen J. Schreiber, reappointed director of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, while continuing as director of vocations and as a member of the faculty of Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie, effective Sept. 2, 2013, for a term of five years.

Tornado/Flood Relief

In June, the diocese asked its 117 parishes to contribute to a national emergency collection sponsored by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops for tornado relief in Oklahoma and for other natural disasters. Parishioners gave \$115,000.

When floods devastated parts of Jefferson and Clearfield counties, and a tornado struck southern Erie County, Bishop Lawrence Persico approved using \$30,000 of that total for local relief.

\$85,000 to the USCCB, and set aside the \$30,000 for Catholic Charities to distribute to people in need who were hard hit by storms in such areas as Union City, DuBois and Sykesville.

"How appropriate that we can say that Catholic Charities was on the ground when disaster happened here," says Mary Maxwell, executive director of Catholic Charities. "It is so good to know we could respond, thanks to people in the pews."



Contributed photo

A view of some of the damage to homes in the Union City area of Erie County.



Canadian nun; Egyptian Muslims protected church buildings

CAIRO (CNS)—Churches and other Christian properties around Egypt had already been looted, so when Catholics in nearby Berba were tipped off that their southern village could be next, they acted fast.

They and other Christian leaders got on their phones and called their Muslim friends, neighbors, and colleagues who all had the same message: "They were told, 'Don't be afraid, we will guard your churches,' and that is what happened," said Sister Darlene DeMong, a Canadian member of the Congregation of Notre Dame de Sion who has worked and lived in Egypt since 1978.

About 10 to 15 percent of Egypt's 82 million people are Christian, most of them Coptic Orthodox. Egypt has 200,000 to 300,000 Catholics, most of them of the Eastern Coptic rite. The vast majority of Egyptians are Sunni Muslims.



CNS photo
Canadian Sister Darlene DeMong stands with a novice at her order's residence in Cairo Aug. 22.

U.S. bishops issue 2013 Labor Day statement

WASHINGTON—The growing disparity in the income of U.S. workers is the focus of the 2013 Labor Day statement of Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In the statement, dated Sept. 2, Bishop Blaire said that most people want to live in a more equal society that provides opportunities for everyone. "The current imbalances do not have to be inevitable," Bishop Blaire wrote.

He noted that individuals, the Catholic Church, businesses, government and community organizations all share the responsibility to create jobs that allow workers to support themselves and their families.

The 2013 Labor Day statement is available online at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-archives.cfm.

Priest finds physical health important to spirituality

WASHINGTON (CNS)—On a recent hot summer evening, a group of lacrosse players gathered around a fellow athlete on the Gonzaga College High School field before the start of their game.

The 35-year-old man with perspiration beading on his forehead was more than just another player leading them in a prayer. He was a priest. Father Mark Ivany is a member of a group of students, alumni and friends who gather throughout the summer for recreational sports.

This kind of activity is more than just recreation for the priest, who was an All-American lacrosse player at Massachusetts' Merrimack College in 2000. He is the pastor of Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Washington.

"Physical fitness and the priesthood have a lot in common," Father Ivany told Catholic News Service. "The healthier I am, the longer I can be a priest in service here on this earth."



CNS photo
Father Mark Ivany shows off his winning smile.

Pope asks pontifical academies to help fight human trafficking

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At the request of Pope Francis, scholars and researchers belonging to 20 pontifical academies and representatives of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations will begin focusing on the phenomenon of human trafficking and ways to fight it.

A working group from the pontifical academies of Sciences and Social Sciences and the federation will meet at the Vatican Nov. 2-3 for a preparatory workshop examining the size of the problem, its causes and steps that can be taken to prevent trafficking and to help victims.



Editor's Notes

Mary SOLBERG

They say a person really doesn't die until the last person who knew him is gone. In the case of **Msgr. James Peterson**, he'll likely live on forever.

Although "Father Pete" died last May, his work with Maria House Project continues to help men who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. In fact, those who knew him and his work made Maria House Project the second highest grossing nonprofit in the Erie Gives online project Aug. 13. Donors contributed more than \$43,000 to Maria House Project during the annual 12-hour event. That was \$10,000 more than what the agency received last year.

Joe Tarquinio, administrator of Maria House Project, says he was shocked to see the figures jump so high this year, especially with Father Pete's passing. "A lot of people donated because Father had touched their lives in so many ways," Tarquinio says.

With five employees and an annual budget of less than \$300,000, the one-day infusion of cash will go a long way to help the 60 to 100 people who are served each year at six different Maria houses in the Diocese of Erie.

But the good news doesn't stop there. Besides Maria House Project, 33 other Catholic nonprofits in the diocese also received donations during Erie Gives day. The next highest grossing Catholic affiliate to receive money was St. Patrick Foundation, followed by St. George Catholic Church, and Cathedral Preparatory School.

Congratulations to all the Catholic nonprofits, including The Catholic Foundation. They were among a total of 322 agencies, schools and others that received Erie Gives checks on Aug. 23.

You may not be a student returning to classes this month, but there are two books that discerning readers may want to peruse: *Immigration and the Next America* (Renewing the Soul of Our Nation by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez and *In Him Alone is Our Hope* by former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis.

For me, the pope's 135-page book is like returning to some of the Jesuit retreat houses I used to visit. It's filled with the liberating theology of St. Ignatius and gives a real insight into why Pope Francis talks and acts the way he does.

Gomez's *Immigration* talks about the Spanish missionaries who first brought Christianity to the New World, and how that very ethnicity is a source of fear for so many Americans today.

Take a look at both of these books...they're eye-opening.

◆ ◆ ◆
Congratulations to **Jeremy Hewitt**, the full-time director of advancement and marketing at St. Luke School in Erie, for being named the "fan favorite" at the Chalk Walk during Celebrate Erie in August.

St. Luke sponsored Jeremy's chalk art, titled "Calling all Minions," a take-off of the minions from the Despicable Me movies. He was one of 30 participating chalk artists.

Erie Mayor Joe Sinnot presented Jeremy with his award on the main stage, just before the Lonestar performance at the end of the weekend.

Watch for more creativity from Jeremy, who runs his own business, Hewitt Graphic Design.

◆ ◆ ◆
Correction: Faith Cafe, a non-denominational venue for Christian music bands, is held at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church at 3520 Perry St., Erie, not on Perry Highway as stated in the Aug. 18 edition of *FaithLife*.

Mary Solberg is the editor of *FaithLife*.

Email: msolberg@ErieRCDO.org

Call 814-824-1171

Twitter: twitter.com/ERIERCDsolberg

Marriage Tribunal announces fall sessions

Anyone who is divorced and would like to remarry in the Catholic Church is encouraged to attend information sessions offered by the Office of the Tribunal this fall.

Marriage Tribunal staff members will offer information sessions to those who are interested in petitioning for an annulment (declaration of nullity).

At each session, staff representatives will present the church's teaching on the sacrament of marriage and will explain what is required to declare a marriage invalid.

Tribunal staff will be available to

Here is the fall 2013 schedule:

- Thursday, Sept. 19—St. Jude Parish, Erie, at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 22—St. Leo Parish, Ridgway, at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 24—St. Patrick Parish, Franklin, at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 2—Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage, at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 6—St. Catherine of Siena Parish, DuBois, at 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 10—Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro, at 7 p.m.

meet with individuals. The forms necessary to begin the annulment process also will be available. No registration is required. For more information, call the Erie Tribunal Office at 814-824-1140.

Married for 70 years... and counting

CROWN—Irvan and Helen Brown of St. Eulalia Parish, Coudersport, have been married 70 years and took the occasion to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration in Crown on Aug. 18.

They are pictured at right with Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman, who presented scrolls to 36 couples commemorating milestone wedding anniversaries.

Earlier this summer, another 108 couples were honored by Bishop Lawrence Persico at Sacred Heart Parish, Erie.



Photo by Ann Radach

Benedictine Sisters accept new novice

ERIE—Patricia Witulski, an elementary school teacher from Depew, N.Y., was accepted as a novice in the Benedictine monastic community of Erie on Aug. 7.

Sister Witulski first became familiar with the Benedictine Sisters through the community's website. After a discernment process with Sister Marilyn Schauble, vocation director, Sister Witulski began her postulancy in August 2012 and spent the past year becoming immersed in community life at the monastery and in ministry with the refugee population at St. Benedict Education Center, Erie.

During the Rite of Entrance into the Novitiate, Benedictine Sister Anne Wambach, prioress, accepted Sister Pat's request to enter the community, saying, "Since the monastic journey is not a solitary one, this rite is also a sacred moment for each of us in this community."

During Sister Pat's novitiate year, she will spend time in prayer and in study of the Rule of Benedict, federation documents, Benedictine life, and Benedictine history. Time will be set apart for reflection, regular meetings with her director, ministry experiences, and work in the monastery.

To learn more about the Erie Benedictines, visit www.ErieBenedictine.org or contact Sister Marilyn Schauble at 814-899-0614.



Contributed photo

Sister Patricia Witulski, center, was recently accepted as a novice in the Erie Benedictine community. She is shown here with Sister Stephanie Schmidt, novice director, left, and Sister Anne Wambach, prioress of the Erie Benedictines.

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Italy/Lourdes/Fatima: Oct. 19-31, Oct. 26-Nov. 7 ...
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Briefly

Mission of Friendship doctor dies in Mexico

MÉRIDA, Yucatán—Dr. Roger Solis, a physician with the Erie diocesan Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, died Aug. 6 after enduring a cancer diagnosis and treatment this past year. He was 53.

The Mission of Friendship is the result of the sister diocese relationship between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatán. Dr. Roger, as he was known to the people he served, worked at the Mission of Friendship for 29 years, traveling to six different villages in a mobile dispensary vehicle.

The Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie is accepting donations in memory of Dr. Roger to help offset family medical expenses. Checks may be made to the Mission of Friendship, with Dr. Roger's name in the memo. Send to: Mission Office, Director Pat Marshall, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514.



Dr. Roger Solis

Benedictine Sisters sponsor program for 40- to 90-year-olds

ERIE—Men and women ages 40 to 90-plus are invited to attend a Mid-life/Long-life Directions Program for personal and spiritual growth Sept. 6-8.

The weekend will be held at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie. For more information and/or to register, contact Benedictine Sister Rosanne Loneck at 814-899-0614, or email her at rsrosanne@msbenedict.org.

Erie Men's Conference has new website

ERIE—The first annual Erie Men's Conference, a Catholic outreach to Christian men, now has a website where interested individuals can get information and register for the 2013 conference. The web address is www.2232men.com, which refers to Luke 22:32, a New Testament passage that reads: "But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

The conference will be held Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. Nationally known speakers who will address the conference include: Dr. Ray Guarendi, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and nationally syndicated radio host; Danny Abramowicz, former NFL player and coach, author and board member of EWTN and Crossing the Goal ministries; and Erie's own Father Larry Richards, a national speaker, preacher, retreat master, and author and founder of The Reason For Our Hope Foundation. Bishop Lawrence T. Persico of the Diocese of Erie will be in attendance and will preside over the opening and closing ceremonies.

Cost for the one-day conference is \$40, which includes lunch.

Gannon University joins United Way in updating social service directory

ERIE—Gannon University and the United Way of Erie County announced Aug. 9 that they will collaborate in creating an online resource that will serve low-income and poor families in the region.

Gannon's Human Service Directory will be updated for a 2013-15 edition and will be placed on www.gannon.edu to allow easy access to the public.

"The information will be efficiently and effectively kept current online," said Keith Taylor, Gannon's president.

There are hundreds of Erie County social service agencies and support groups listed in the directory. Research for the online directory will be completed through an independent research class in Gannon's College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences. The directory has been in print form since 1987.

Son of God Prayer Group sponsors healing Mass and seminar

ERIE—The Son of God Prayer Group affiliated with St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary churches in Erie is sponsoring two upcoming events.

A healing Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Church, E. 28th Street and East Avenue, Erie, on Tuesday, Oct. 1, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Father David Poulson will officiate, and music will be offered by the St. Joseph Band of Life Group.

Also, a Life in the Spirit Seminar, "Awaken the Holy Spirit," will be held at Holy Rosary Church, on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and continue for another five consecutive Tuesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. The seminar is open to all faith denominations. For information or to register, call Gerry at 814-452-2499 or Patty at 814-823-3968, or visit the website at www.sonofgodprayergroup.webs.com.

Cursillo celebrates 50th anniversary in Diocese of Erie

ERIE—The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Erie will mark its last official celebration of "50 Years of 4th Days" this October.

Bishop Lawrence Persico will celebrate a Mass Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. A dinner and program for adults will follow (at no cost). Reservations are required for dinner.

Email reservations by Sept. 15 to Arco and Janet Wasserman at mes@windstream.net and put "50th Anniversary Dinner" in the subject line. Be sure your name and the number attending is in the body of the email. Check www.ericursillo.org for more information.

Make a virtual pilgrimage

Eighty-five people from the Diocese of Erie are headed to Italy Sept. 12-21 for a Year of Faith pilgrimage to Florence, Assisi, Siena and Rome. The trip was planned to coordinate with Bishop Lawrence Persico's visit to Rome for the annual gathering of new bishops sponsored by the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops.

NBC affiliate WICU-TV in Erie will cover the pilgrimage, filing reports each evening the week of Sept. 16. Faith magazine editor Anne-Marie Welsh also will contribute to a daily blog, posting highlights, videos and photographs from the experience.

The trip includes visits to the

to ITALY

four papal basilicas in Rome, Mass at the catacombs, and attendance at the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Also planned are a Mass in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica and a lecture followed by a tour of the Sistine Chapel. Bishop Persico is expected to join other bishops at a private audience with the Holy Father.

The pilgrims plan to pray for the intentions of the people of the Diocese of Erie at Mass each day.



If you'd like to make a virtual pilgrimage, sharing in some of the prayers, reflections and experiences of the journey, visit the daily blog:

<http://faithmagblog.wordpress.com>

Colorado native replaces longtime mission coordinators

By Mary Solberg
FaithLife

MÉRIDA, Yucatán—The simplicity, generosity and spirituality of the Yucatecan people has drawn Tricia Pipkin again and again to the Erie diocesan Mission of Friendship in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico.

A volunteer and a regular visitor to the mission the past 18 years, she now has assumed the reins of the 42-year-old mission, an outreach of the Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatán.

She replaces longtime mission coordinators Carl Serafin and Marilyn Randolph, who retired in March.

"Tricia really is an answer to a prayer. She's two people melded into one," says Pat Marshall, director of the Catholic Charities Office of Diocesan and International Missions for the Diocese of Erie.

A native of Colorado, Pipkin graduated with a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. She was an exchange student in Guadalajara, Mexico, the fall semester of her senior year, and then became familiar with the work of the Mission of Friend-



Photo by Mary Solberg

Tricia Pipkin is the new coordinator at Mission of Friendship.

ship once she returned home.

In January 1995, she began an 18-month volunteer commitment to the Mission of Friendship. Having fallen in love with the Mexican people and their culture, she maintained ties since then, returning in the spring and summer of 2009 and visiting about 12 other times.

Pipkin, who is 42, earned her certification to teach in dual language schools in Colorado. In 2007-08, she did mission work with the Canossian Sisters in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. Finally, she returned to the

Her inspiration

"Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom God promised those who love him?"
—James 2:5 (NIV)

Mission of Friendship in August 2012 to begin the transition to coordinator.

"I'm really grateful that I'm following Cari and Marilyn. They did so much wonderful work."

French roots run deep in 175-year-old parish

FRENCHTOWN—St. Hippolyte Parish in Crawford County is one of those birth-to-death communities. Many parishioners are born and raised here, even spending their last days in this rural area just east of Meadville.

It's the kind of place that serves annual chicken dinners to 1,500 people, even though parish membership stands at only 150 families.

"We all work together here. If there's a need, we pull together," says Joyce Tarr, 73, the director of joyce education the past 32 years.

Tarr, who has been a parishioner of St. Hippolyte all her life, oversees 140 students in the pre-school to 12th grade religious education program, which combines St. Hippolyte and its mission church, Our Lady of Lourdes in Cochranton.

A retired hospice nurse, she loves everything about her par-

ish, particularly the friendliness of the people. They trace their roots to immigrant families from eastern France and Switzerland who founded the church in 1838.

Fire destroyed the first two churches of St. Hippolyte in its early days, but parishioners rebuilt in 1888. The current church retains an original crucifix.

"These events did not destroy the faith, spirit, or trust of the parishioners," Bishop Lawrence Persico said at the 175th anniversary Mass at St. Hippolyte on Aug. 15. "They rose up in each difficult moment to remain faithful to God. This anniversary is not about buildings, but about the faithfulness of the people."

That spirit of determination and joy kept longtime parishioner Desi Wagner staying at the Frenchtown parish. Wagner, 51, has been the parish bookkeeper and secretary since she graduated from high school 33 years



Contributed photo

Joyce Tarr, left, and Desi Wagner each has worked for at least 30 years at St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown.

ago. Tracing her roots to a French great-grandfather, she grew up in a house that had once been used as the parish rectory.

"We're a rural community. A lot of people are related to each other. People are very welcom-

ing," Wagner says.

In its 175 years, Wagner has been the parish's one and only secretary. Previously, pastors did all the office work.

Today, Father Daniel Prez is the parochial administrator.

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September 14-15, 2013

Please use offertory envelope supplied by your parish.

HALF OF EVERY DOLLAR donated to the collection stays in your local parish to support its educational programs.

THE OTHER HALF is used to provide:

- tuition assistance for Catholic school students
- curriculum support for religious education programs
- spiritual development opportunities, like conferences and retreats
- scholarships/grants for religious education instructors and teachers in Catholic schools

23 Years of Helping to Support Catholic Education!

High school girls hike in New York



ALLEGHENY STATE PARK, N.Y.—Ten parochial and public high school girls from the Diocese of Erie attended the first diocesan girls' hike at Allegheny State Park in New York July 18.

"It was wonderful to get together with young girls who love Jesus," said Kathleen Peterson, coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in

the Diocese of Erie. A boys' hike was held July 16 at Cook Forest State Park.

Pictured, left to right, are: Sage Beardsley, Bernadette Prichard, Mackenzie Smith, Alison Carson, Elizabeth Federici, Leah Applebee, Sierra First, Amy Adams, Rachel Maly, and Lily Peterson.

Mall Chapel volunteers honored

ERIE—Kathy Wayman, one of 47 volunteers at the Roman Catholic Chapel at the Millcreek Mall, took home the grand prize basket at the annual Mall Chapel volunteer gathering at St. Mark Catholic Center on July 22. Kathy and her husband Dave won a basket full of coffee and other specialties from Spilling the Beans Gourmet Coffee House in Oil City. "I can't get up in the morning without coffee," beamed Kathy. "Next stop, Oil City." The Mall Chapel opened in 2008 and offers time alone with the Blessed Sacrament, reconciliation, and a spiritual getaway for busy mall shoppers and workers. Last Ash Wednesday, volunteers distributed ashes to 470 people.



Meteorologist visits Our Lady of Mount Carmel

ERIE—Meteorologist Tom Atkins of WJET-TV in Erie reported "Weather in your Neighborhood" live from the Our Lady Mount Carmel summer camp program in Erie on July 24.

Summer camp activities include field trips to baseball games, Waldameer, and Chautauqua Lake.

Pictured with Atkins, from left to right, are: Sydney Zaksheske, Amara Papalia, and Brenna Kitchen.



Grant money split among five elementary schools



ERIE—Five elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie recently received a total of \$3,750 in grants from the Dr. Barbara Behan Immaculate Heart of Mary Education Endowment Fund at The Catholic Foundation. The grant money will allow the schools to assist families with scholarships for children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Pictured left to right are: Julia Strzalka of

Seton Catholic, Meadville; Bill Lyon of Blessed John Paul II, Hermitage; Veronica Antoske of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie; Nancy Pierce of St. Gregory, North East; Marge Hajduk of St. Stephen, Oil City; and Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, CFRE, president of The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie.

Pennsylvania Knights present two checks to bishop

ERIE—The Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus presented two checks in August to Bishop Lawrence Persico to support vocations and religious retirement needs in the Diocese of Erie.

"Whenever we can help, we do," said Knights State Program Chairman Jeff Blaze. Blaze, left, is shown with Bishop Persico, center, and Knights State Warden George Beckes.

One check, in the amount of \$1,273, was raised in the Knights Name Label Program. The second check, in the amount of \$4,671.09, was raised from the Knights Christopher Fund.



Sisters from Catholic Rural Ministry host luncheon



POTTER COUNTY—Sisters who minister in the rural areas of the Diocese of Erie gathered recently for a luncheon and a visit with Bishop Lawrence Persico. These sisters minister in eight counties within the diocese and two within the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese. The Anawim Sisters in Frenchville were established in 1976, while the first

diocesan-sponsored Catholic Rural Ministry Team began in 1999 in Potter and McKean counties. A second Catholic Rural Ministry Team followed in 2007 in the Oil City Deanery. The Sisters of Mercy sponsor the Rural House of Mercy, formed in 2010.

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Sister Ruth Ann Madera, CA; Sister Phyllis

Schleicher, OSB; Sister Trish Tyler, RSM; Sister Therese Dush, CA; and Sister Suzanne Thibault, CA. In the back row, left to right, are: Sister Marian Wehler, OSB; Sister Margaret Park, RSM; Bishop Lawrence Persico; Sister Mary Hoffman, OSB; Sister Karen Willenbring, CA; and Sister Tina Geiger, RSM.

Money raised for filtration units in Haiti

ERIE—Chuck Arnold, advocate for the Holy Spirit Haiti Mission, received a check for \$275 from the Boy Talk group of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN). The money will be used to help purchase water filtration units in Haiti.

Pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Marvin Ridgeway, leader of Boy Talk; Larell Bruce, Bryan Roberts and Frankel Bruce.

In the back row, left to right, are: Rodney Pogue; Fred Rush, coordinator of Community Initiatives at the City of Erie mayor's office; Rose Graham, director of SSJNN; and Chuck Arnold.



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St. John's Festival
Saturday, September 21, Noon-10 p.m.
Parish Center - 1001 Main Street, Girard
Continuous Live Music...and much more!
12-2 pm Paul & Joan Eisert
3-4 pm Gem City Quartet
5-6 pm Erie's own Elvis Appreciator, Jim Moore
7-10 pm Music and Dancing with Timeless
HUGE Chinese Auction
Kids Games and Activities
Erie Clowns • Raffle
Casino Games • BINGO
Pot Roast Dinners
Bake Sale

An Evening with Immaculée
Tuesday, October 22, 2013
St. Jude the Apostle
2801 West 6th Street in Erie
7:30 pm in the Church
Tickets \$15.00 now available at the Parish office
Call (814) 833-0927
To learn more about Immaculée Ilibagiza, visit her website at www.immaculee.com

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