


Special Edition | *FaithLife* newspaper
7 August 2016



FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Vocation highlights in review
Honoring clergy and religious anniversaries
in the Diocese of Erie



**Congratulations to all women
religious, clergy and deacons
celebrating jubilee years in 2016!**

Special thanks to the following jubilarians for their
dedication and contributions to the Mercyhurst community:

70 years

Sister Rita Brocke, RSM

65 years

Rev. Eldon K. Somers

60 years

Sister Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB

Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB

Sister Elisabeth Lintsen, MSOLA

Sister Janet Staab, OSB

Sister Dorothy Szczypinski, OSB

50 years

Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM

25 years

Rev. James E. Piszker

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heritage, at Mercyhurst University we champion diverse and
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questions and exercise leadership in service toward a just world.



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5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210

Our Nation's First Roman Catholic Seminary founded in 1791

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Province of the United States

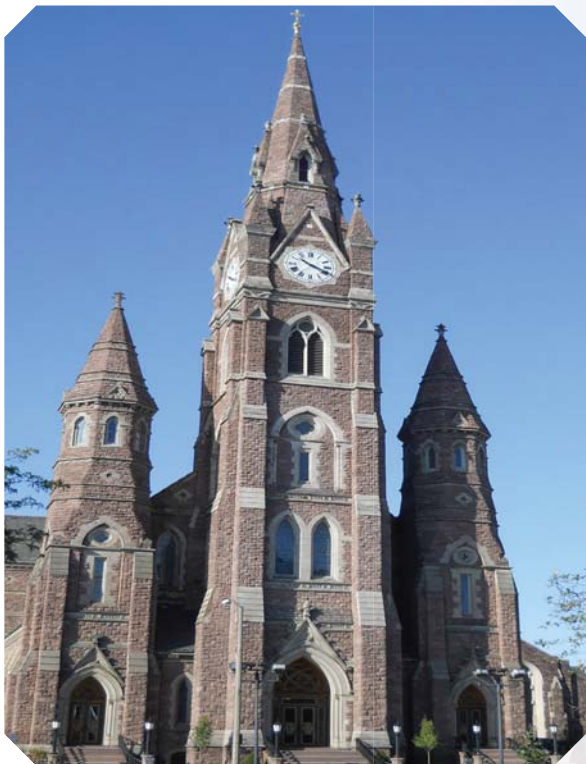
Celebrating 225 years of providing seminary formation in the United States

Congratulate

Rev. James Power

on his Priestly Ordination

*We are most grateful for having a part in
James' priestly formation.*



ST. PETER CATHEDRAL PARISH SENDS

Heartfelt congratulations

AND

Prayerful best wishes

TO...

Reverend Eldon Somers

Reverend Michael Allison

Reverend David Carter

Reverend James Power

Deacon Jeffrey Swanson, native son

Sister Joachim Frey, OSB

Sister Catherine Manning, SSJ

Sister Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ, native daughter

WE GIVE THANKS

The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the clergy and religious featured in this publication. Their dedication and ongoing service have been an inspiration to us all. May God continue to bless them.

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ON THE COVER

Msgr. Richard Stack and Sister Catherine Manning, SSJ, graciously agreed to compare their before-and-after photographs for the cover of this year's *Faithful Servants*, the annual jubilee edition of *FaithLife* newspaper.

Msgr. Stack was ordained to the priesthood on May 10, 1956, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Sister Catherine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Aug. 29, 1956.

Both are celebrating their 60th anniversaries this year. Their personal stories can be found inside.

FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Faithful Servants is an annual edition of *FaithLife* newspaper that recognizes jubilee celebrations of clergy and religious in the Diocese of Erie.

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE

'RICH FRUIT' FOR THE CHURCH'

Jubilarians make daily sacrifices for the people of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that we honor the men and women religious celebrating anniversaries this year in the Diocese of Erie. These sisters, priests and deacons have given the gift of consecrated life to us. They deserve our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for their response to God's call and for their years of faithful service to the Catholic Church.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus teaches that the way to eternal life is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. He tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in order to illustrate that we are called to perform concrete acts of service for every person we encounter who is in need. This year's jubilarians embody the fulfillment of this call.

These men and women have devoted their lives to the indiscriminate service of all God's children. Read the personal stories that follow in this volume and see how these priests, sisters and deacons have never wavered in their care of refugees, inmates, school children, hospital patients and all the parishioners of our 13-county diocese.

Most remarkable is the 80-year ministry of Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ, who continues to provide her prayerful presence at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center in Erie. Sister Bernardine "retired" just last year at age 98.

When Pope Francis visited the United States last September, he commended clergy and religious for their devotion to the church. He said: "I thank you for your prayers and work, and the daily sacrifices you make in the various areas of your apostolate. Many of these are known only to God, but they have been rich fruit for the life of the church."

Through their many years of faithful service, this year's jubilarians have been "rich fruit" for the life of our diocese.

In 2016, we celebrate the anniversaries of 20 sisters, 14 priests and three deacons. We also are blessed to welcome two newly ordained priests: Father David Carter and Father James Power.

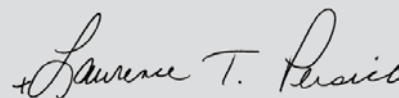
The men and women we celebrate in this issue of *Faithful Servants* have challenged us to embrace the posture of openness to the mercy, love and forgiveness of God. They have served as a constant reminder to all of us that God continues to work in our midst. Their willingness to engage the people of God in the many different works of the church, especially their commit-

ment to work for justice for the marginalized and oppressed, is rooted in the teaching of Jesus to love God and neighbor.

The decision to answer God's call to religious life requires great faith and courage. Many of our jubilarians have had their faith nurtured from a young age by family and members of religious orders. Since first deciding to enter formation, these men and women have continued to say "yes" to God every day of their lives. In the following pages, readers will discover what has inspired them to carry on with this noble work.

I join the people of God in the Diocese of Erie in honoring all of this year's jubilarians for continuing to inspire us by their examples of faith.

Sincerely in Christ,



The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie



**The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL**

SEND BEST WISHES

Send congratulatory messages and cards to the clergy and sisters in care of:

Office of Communications, St. Mark Catholic Center
429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504



Faithful Servants is an award-winning publication recognized by the Catholic Press Association in the category of Best Regular Supplement.

Sisters celebrate jubilees



Photo by Schuyler Stupica

Pictured with Bishop Lawrence Persico in the chapel of St. Mark Catholic Center, from left, are: Sister Claire Marie Surmik, OSB; Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB; Sister Kathleen Lehner, MSHS; Sister Susan Herzing, SSJ; Sister Rita Brocke, RSM; Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM; Sister Joachim Frey, OSB; Sister Mary Daniel Mehl, OSB; Sister Janet Staab, OSB; Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb, RSM; and Sister Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB.

It was a grand celebration June 1 as several sisters of the Diocese of Erie gathered to mark 50, 60 and 70 years of religious life.

One of this year's jubilarians, Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ, is celebrating her 80th anniversary. She was not present at the celebration.

Bishop Lawrence Persico offered Mass with the sisters in the chapel of St. Mark Catholic Center. A dinner, highlighted with conversation and reflection, followed in the library.

On the diocesan Facebook page, nearly 4,000 people viewed the photograph of the sisters, at left. Many commented on the impact the sisters had on their lives.

Anna Lise Deb said, "So wonderful! God bless all of you! Thank you for all that you do!"

Deborah Jaquith added, "God bless all of you for your service and love to others!"



80 years SISTER BERNARDINE PAIS, SSJ

Bernardine Pais entered the Sisters of St. Joseph when she was only 18 years old—in 1936.

Generations have come and gone, but Sister Bernardine remains active in spreading her love of Jesus. In November, she will be 99. Up until last year, she had been working full-time as a housemother and chief Christmas decorator at Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

Cataract surgery prompted her to reluctantly leave that regular-paying job in the spring of 2015. Today, she resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie, where she offers her services wherever possible. She shares her gift for decorating by creating centerpieces for the community dining room.

Today, as she celebrates her 80th year of religious life, Sister Bernardine spends many hours in prayer. But true to her unwavering spirit, she also can be found in front of a television cheering on the Pittsburgh Pirates, Duke University or the University of Notre Dame.

Born Nov. 16, 1917, in Nanty-Glo, Pa., she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Lewis Run. She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1942.

Soon after entering, she was assigned to St. John the Baptist School, Erie, where she remained an eighth-grade teacher for 20 years. Overall, she spent more than 30 years ministering in education, having also taught at Sacred Heart School, Erie, and Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg. She served as principal at Sacred Heart for about eight years.

To this day, former students still visit or send her greeting cards.

Sister Bernardine earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie, in 1945, and studied at Dayton University, Dayton, Ohio, and Gannon University, Erie.

After her teaching career, Sister Bernardine ministered for more than 40



Her inspiration:

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek, to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." | PSALM 27

years at Saint Mary's Home as resident floor supervisor. She cared for residents' personal, social and religious needs.

She says that her grade-school teacher, Ann Carlin, was one of the biggest influences in her life. But it was at St. Bernard High School where Sister Bernardine first met the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"They were all very good to me and I began to feel the nudge to be one of them. God's nudge, I believe," she says.

Vocation highlights

MINISTRY OF PRAYER/VOLUNTEER

- Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie (Current)

TEACHER

- St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart, both in Erie;
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg

PRINCIPAL

- Sacred Heart School, Erie

RESIDENT FLOOR SUPERVISOR

- Saint Mary's Home, Erie

HOUSEMOTHER/DECORATOR

- Saint Mary's Home, Erie

70 years SISTER RITA BROCKE, RSM

Seventy years ago, the young Sister Rita Brocke was asked by two Sisters of Mercy mistresses of novices to consider nursing as a ministry.

"My response was, 'I had never thought about it,'" she says.

But she did recall seeing her mother display skill and compassion in caring for family members.

So, she accepted the challenge. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing education from Carlow University, Pittsburgh, and a master's degree in community health nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. Then, while teaching community health nursing at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, she received a scholarship to pursue nurse-practitioner studies at State University of New York (SUNY), Fredonia, N.Y.

"My last 25 years in nursing as a family nurse practitioner were spent in low-income neighborhoods: 13 years in Erie and 12 in Detroit," she says.

Sister Rita retired from nursing and volunteered for 12 years at the newly formed House of Mercy in Erie, an outreach founded by the Mercy Sisters to welcome, support and provide activities for low-income youths in east Erie neighborhoods.

"I missed nursing so much; I dreamed about it," she says.

A Pittsburgh native, she graduated from Avalon High School in 1944, enrolled at Mercyhurst University, and entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1946.

She taught at the following Catholic elementary schools: Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney; St. Titus, Titusville; and St. Justin, Pittsburgh.

After completing her nursing studies, she became night super-



Her inspiration:

"When we do not pray as we ought, the Spirit himself intercedes for us."

| ROMANS 8:26

visor at DuBois Regional Medical Center. In Erie, she taught biology and home economics and was a college health nurse at Mercyhurst University. Later, as a nurse practitioner at Martin Luther King Center, she earned an American Nurses Association family nurse-practitioner certificate.

From 1989 to 2001, Sister Rita was family nurse practitioner at Mercy Hospital and then Mercy Nurse Managed Center, both in Detroit, and at Thea Bowman Wellness Institute in Highland Park, Mich., before returning to Erie.

She has been honored for developing primary care health services for people in poverty, having received the "Keep the Dream Alive Award," in 1996, from the Martin Luther King Center, and the Outstanding Alumnae for Health Service, Carlow University.

Vocation highlights

PRAYER MINISTRY

- Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Erie (Current)

NURSING SUPERVISOR

- DuBois Regional Medical Center, DuBois

INSTRUCTOR/HEALTH NURSE

- Mercyhurst University, Erie

INSTRUCTOR

- Nursing program, Edinboro State Teachers College

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

- Martin Luther King Center, Erie

- Mercy Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

- Mercy Nurse Managed Center, Detroit

- Thea Bowman Wellness Institute, Highland Park, Mich.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney

- St. Titus, Titusville

- St. Justin, Pittsburgh

VOLUNTEER

- House of Mercy, Erie

70 years SISTER BERNADETTE LOREI, OSB

Sister Bernadette Lorei, OSB, is a native of St. Boniface Parish, Erie, and grew up in a close-knit family.

She learned at an early age to be dependable, diligent and careful, and to respect both work and worker.

It was a fitting decision when she entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1944, having graduated from St. Benedict Academy, Erie. On Aug. 21, 1946, she professed her first vows, and three years later her perpetual monastic vows.

After earning her bachelor's degree in education from Villa Maria College, Erie, she went on to become an elementary school teacher in the Diocese of Erie for 48 years. Most of those years were spent at St. Mary School, Erie, where she also served as principal for a time.

She also taught at the following schools: Sacred Heart and St. Joseph,



Her inspiration:

"Every time you begin a good work, you must pray to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection."

| RULE OF BENEDICT, PROLOGUE 4

both in Sharon; St. Stephen, Oil City; St. Michael, Fryburg; and Mount Calvary, Erie.

She ended her career in education at St. Mary School, where she continued to attend to the needs of students. When St. Mary's closed in 1994, she assisted in the infirmary at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie. She cooked and served breakfast to infirmary residents. Now in the infirmary herself, she spends her days centered in prayer and presence.

Vocation highlights

MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE (Current)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- St. Mary and Mount Calvary, both in Erie; Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, both in Sharon; St. Stephen, Oil City; and St. Michael, Fryburg

PRINCIPAL/SECRETARY/SUPPORT SERVICES

- St. Mary School, Erie

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie

70 years *SISTER MARY DANIEL MEAHL, OSB*

Teaching and sharing music—with young and old alike—has been the mainstay of Sister Mary Daniel Meahl's 70 years as a Benedictine Sister of Erie.

Her lifetime ministry of music was enhanced by her skills at the piano, organ and harp. She used her talents in several schools throughout the Diocese of Erie, and also served as church organist in a number of parishes.

Her inspiration:

"If you desire true and eternal life, 'keep your tongue free from vicious talk, and your lips from all deceit; turn away from evil and do good; let peace be your quest and aim.'" | RULE OF BENEDICT, PROLOGUE 17

As a certified Kindermusik instructor, she introduced dozens of toddlers to music. Sister Mary Daniel served her religious community as a liturgical musician and was a private instructor of piano and organ, retiring only recently due to health issues.

Now in her ministry of prayer, she finds community prayers and mutual love and support to be her greatest strength.

"Being a Benedictine Sister has always been my primary vocation," she says. "I was happy to be able to bring the gift of music to



the lives of others in my various ministries through the years. I continue to enjoy music and am grateful that I can still join my voice with my sisters in praise of God."

A native of Erie and a graduate of St. Benedict Academy, Sister Mary Daniel entered the Benedictine Sisters in 1945, celebrating her first profession in 1946 and her final vows in 1949. She was awarded a bachelor's degree in music and a master's in music at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.

Upon her 70th anniversary, Sister Mary Daniel reflects on the importance of a healthy relationship with God, especially for children. Even as a young child, she felt close to God by attending Mass at St. Joseph Church in Erie, and by "playing Mass" at home with her siblings.

"In that relationship," she says, "they will find strength and hope and peace no matter what."

Vocation highlights

MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE (Current) TEACHER

- St. Michael, Fryburg; St. Joseph, Oil City; St. Joseph, Sharon; Immaculate Conception (secondary level), Clarion; St. Stephen, Oil City

CHORAL DIRECTOR

- Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage

PARISH MUSIC MINISTER/CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANO AND ORGAN INSTRUCTOR

- St. Joseph, Sharon

PRIVATE PIANO TEACHER/KINDERMUSIK DIRECTOR AND TEACHER/LITURGICAL MUSICIAN

- Benedictine Sisters of Erie

SUNDAY ORGANIST

- St. Paul Center, Farrell

PARISH MUSIC MINISTER

- Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek

ACCOMPANIST

- Shenango Valley Chorale

St. Joseph Parish in Sharon
congratulates these jubilarians
in gratitude for their service to
St. Joseph School & Church:

Sr. Bernadette Lorei, OSB
Sr. Mary Daniel Meahl, OSB
Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB
Sr. Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB
Sr. Janet Staab, OSB

*Congratulations,
Sr. Mary Daniel Meahl, OSB,
on your 70th anniversary!*

With gratitude
for your dedicated service
to the people of God
and for your years of ministry
to our community.

**Our Lady of Mercy
Church**



**Congratulations
and many
blessings to our
jubilarians!**



**MERCYHURST
Preparatory School**

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

thank you...

Rev. Robert Horgas • Rev. Brian Vossler • Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ



Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ • Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB

*...for building up God's Church with your
spiritual strength and dedicated service!*

ST. LEO MAGNUS • RIDGWAY

Sister Mary Daniel Meahl

*Thank you for the times
you worshipped with us
and led us with your music.*

God bless you.



*—The parishioners of
St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie*



*congratulations
and blessings*
to Sister Bernadette
Lorei, OSB, from
St. Boniface Parish in Erie!
May God bless you for your
70 years of faithful witness
in consecrated life.

Congratulations and Thank You!



Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley,
OSB, for 60 years of
consecrated religious life

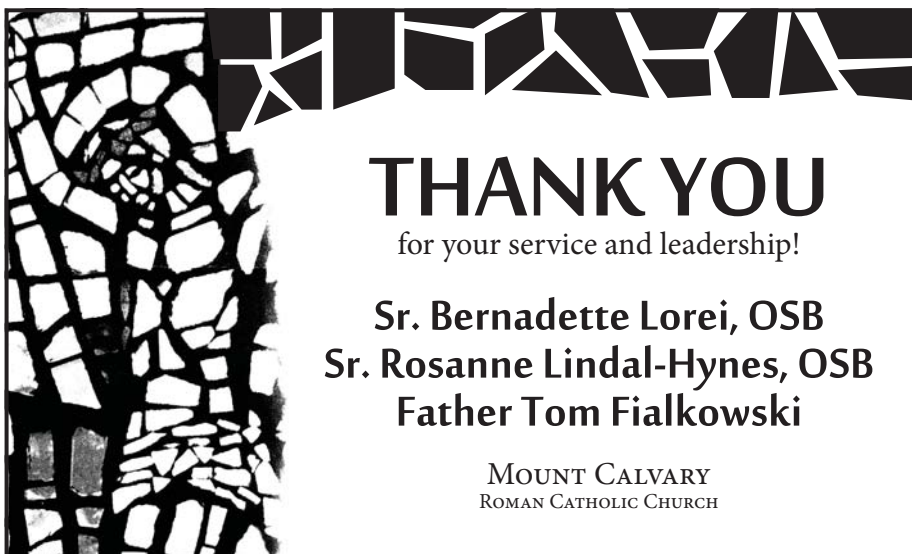
BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR *lifelong achievement*

THANK YOU

for your service and leadership!

**Sr. Bernadette Lorei, OSB
Sr. Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB
Father Tom Fialkowski**

MOUNT CALVARY
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



65 years MONSIGNOR HENRY J. SCHAUERMAN

Although he's 90 years old and living at Saint Mary's Home in Erie, Msgr. Henry Schauerman still administers the sacrament of anointing of the sick and continues to say Mass every day.

"I can't imagine a priest not wanting to say the Mass every day," he says. "It never gets old."

He spends the majority of his days in prayer, mostly saying the rosary two to three times per day.

"My mother and father were very faithful about going to Mass and saying the rosary," he says.

From his early childhood, Msgr. Schauerman knew he was being called to the priesthood. He was inspired by the men and women religious he encountered at his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Erie.

Msgr. Schauerman was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1951, by Archbishop John Mark Gannon. He first served as a parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie, and then at St. Joseph Parish in Oil City. His first pastorate was at St. Philip in Crossingville, where he remained from 1963-73.

His inspiration:

"You have not chosen me; I have chosen you."

| JOHN 15:16

For the next 28 years, he served as pastor at St. Agatha Parish in Meadville. Although retired since 2001, Msgr. Schauerman continues to receive more than 100 Christmas cards every year from parishioners at St. Agatha.

While at St. Agatha, he was appointed administrator at St. Bernadette in Saegertown (1978 to 2001), and at St. Philip in Crossingville in 1983.

Active in the diocese, he served as dean of the Meadville Deanery, and as a member of the Presbyteral Council and the Clergy Personnel Board. He was a judge in the Marriage Tribunal, from 1980-85, and from 1967-95, he served as diocesan director of Rural Life Ministry.

Pope John Paul II named him a "Chaplain of His Holiness" with the title of monsignor in 1984, and 10 years later a "Prelate of Honor." He also received the St. George Medal for service to Catholic scouting.

According to Msgr. Schauerman, the most crucial issue facing Catholics today is the decrease in vocations and church attendance.

"My years in the priesthood were the 'golden years,' when there were many priests and everyone went to church," he says. "My churches were always full."

Msgr. Schauerman believes that the decline in vocations and church attendance is a result of people being overtaken by worldliness and material things. He constantly prays for more vocations to the religious life.

For those not called to religious life, Msgr. Schauerman suggests faithfully attending Mass, not only on Sundays but throughout the week.



Vocation highlights

RETIRED

- Saint Mary's Home, Erie (Current)

PASTOR

- St. Agatha, Meadville
- St. Philip, Crossingville

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Joseph, Oil City
- Blessed Sacrament, Erie

DIOCESAN POSTS

- Dean, Meadville Deanery
- Presbyteral Council
- Clergy Personnel Board
- Judge, Marriage Tribunal
- Director, Rural Life Ministry
- Consultor

ADMINISTRATOR

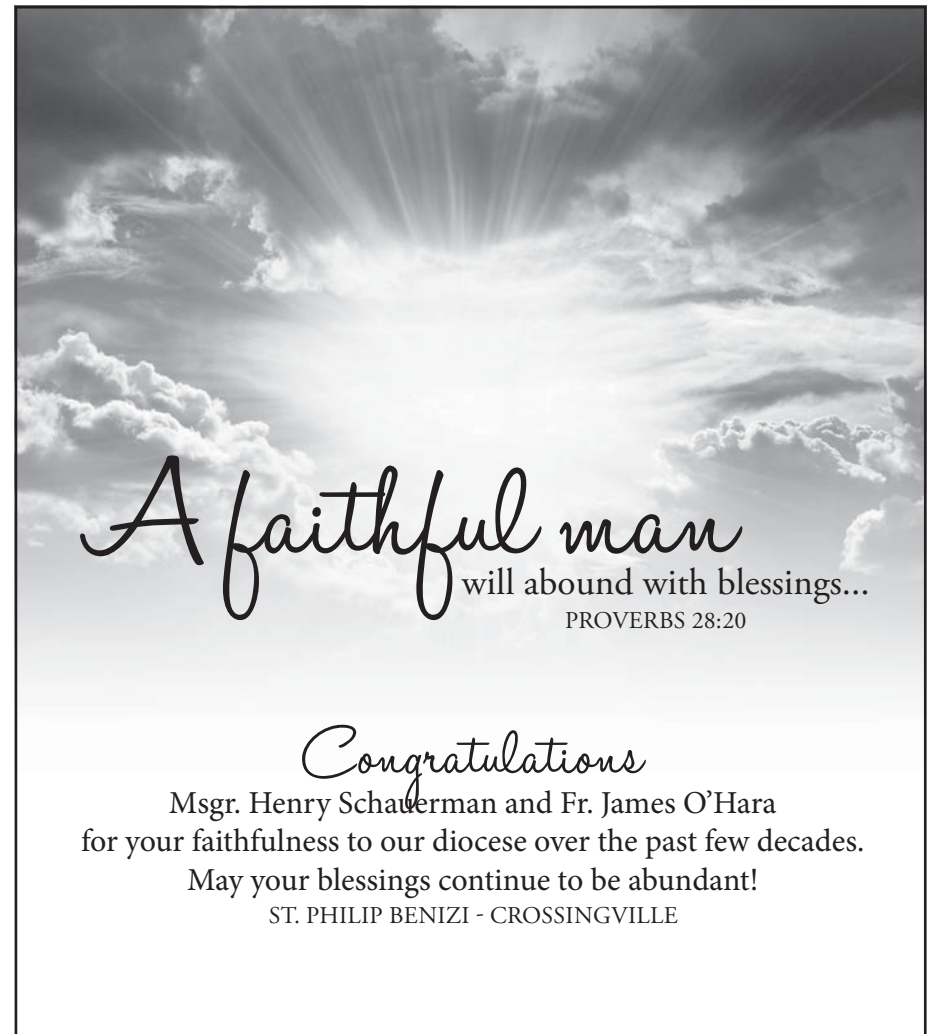
- St. Philip, Crossingville
- St. Bernadette, Saegertown

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

- Erie District Sodality Union

NURSING HOMES

- Member, board of directors, San Rosario Nursing Home, Cambridge Springs
- Member, ethics committee, Wesbury United Methodist Retirement Community, Meadville



65 years REVEREND ELDON K. SOMERS

Father Eldon Somers, 97, sees an irony to his life as a priest the past six and a half decades.

He spent most of his priesthood surrounded by young people on three different college campuses in the Diocese of Erie. Today, as a resident of Springhill Senior Living Community in Erie, he lives a solitary life.

"It's not solitude; it's solitary," Father Somers explains. "I've been with people all my life. This is the first time I've lived with old people. I don't know what it's like being 97."

Although he is retired and has not been in active ministry since 1992, Father Somers' mind is as sharp as a young man's. He rises daily at 8 a.m., exercises and reads a variety of material ranging from spiritual magazines to fiction.

"I get the *New York Times* every day by mail and I pass it on to a neighbor whose daughter teaches at the University of Pittsburgh," Father Somers says.

On Tuesdays, he takes a bus to do grocery shopping. He still makes his own meals and cleans up every day.

This independent spirit was instilled into Father Somers at a young age. Born in Kenmore, N.Y., his mother was a deaconess and his father an elder of the Presbyterian faith. He once considered becoming an Evangelical Lutheran minister, but instead converted to Catholicism to



His inspiration:

"Trappist Monk Thomas Merton. There's a levity in his writing, and a seriousness."

pursue his calling to the priesthood.

He visited a Trappist monastery, the same one where noted Trappist Monk Thomas Merton was ordained as a sub-deacon.

"I was impressed," he says of Merton. "It rekindled the enthusiasm to become a priest."

While earning his bachelor's degree in social studies at Canisius College, Buffalo, he became a Catholic. He later earned a master's in educational administration at the University at Buffalo. Before entering Christ the King Seminary, he taught and served as a curriculum consultant in public schools in the Kenmore area.

Ordained May 3, 1951, at Erie's St. Peter Cathedral, he immediately began teaching at Cathedral Preparatory School. He remained there for six years and then pursued doctoral studies at the University at Buffalo. He earned a doctorate in education in 1962, becoming the first priest to receive a degree there after its affiliation with the State University of New York.

A longtime educator, Father Somers spent 24 years, beginning in 1967, at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He left Clarion in 1991 as an associate professor of sociology. He served as a chaplain at Clarion's Newman Apostolate, having attended Newman Chaplains' Training School at Stanford University in California.

Before his time at Clarion, he taught at Mercyhurst University, Erie, and at Gannon University. In 1991, after leaving Clarion, he returned to Erie to teach again at Mercyhurst, retiring a year later.

For periods of time in the 1950s and '60s, Father Somers served as a professor of social sciences and as an educational counselor in the department of guidance and placement at Gannon University. He also was its dean of students and director of personnel services.

As a diocesan priest, Father Somers was named chaplain at the Erie County Tuberculosis Hospital in 1952, and chaplain for the Sisters of the Divine Spirit, in 1957.

Although Father Somers spent his life in education, he says that there are some things that books and science can never explain...like God. He says three things are needed: faith, hope and charity.

"Faith is going to have to play a greater part to be happy," he says. "Skepticism itself is not going to produce happiness. Science is not going to produce happiness by itself. Science will prove fact."

Vocation highlights

RETIRED

- Springhill Senior Living Community, Erie (Current)

FACULTY

- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie
- Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Clarion
- Gannon University, Erie
- Mercyhurst University, Erie

RESIDENT PRIEST

- Immaculate Conception, Clarion

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Bernard, Bradford

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

CHAPLAIN

- Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Newman Apostolate
- Erie County Tuberculosis Hospital
- Sisters of the Divine Spirit

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELOR/DEAN OF STUDENTS/ DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL SERVICES

- Gannon University, Erie

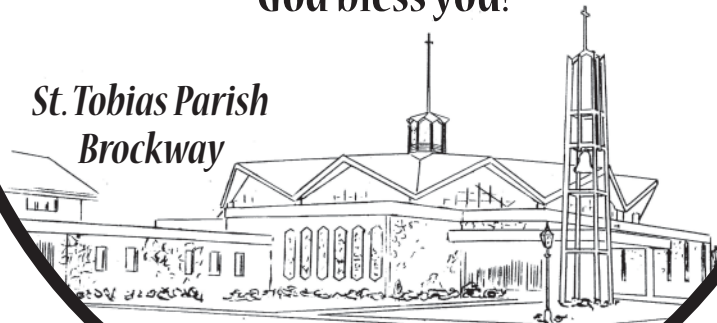


CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the jubilarians celebrating this year
and to our two newly ordained priests.

God bless you!

*St. Tobias Parish
Brockway*



60 years SISTER JOACHIM FREY, OSB

The quiet, strong faith of her parents inspired Sister Joachim Frey, OSB, to live out her call to religious life the past 60 years.

A native of St. Mary's Parish in St. Marys, she is one of many vocations born from this small Elk County community. Soft-spoken, Sister Joachim does many things quietly, with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face.

"That's the way I learned from teachers through the years, starting with my parents," she says. "When you see something that needs to be done, you do it and it doesn't matter who sees it. Many good things are accomplished quietly and calmly."

Her inspiration:

"Ausculta praecepta magistri! Listen to the teachers!" | ST. TERESA OF AVILA QUOTE WRITTEN IN STONE OVER THE ENTRANCE TO ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL, ST. MARYS

Sister Joachim professed her first vows as a Benedictine Sister of Elk County in 1956. Three years later, she professed her final vows. When St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys closed, Sister Joachim transferred her vows to the Erie Benedictines; she was fully incorporated into the Erie community on Aug. 8, 2015.

Sister Joachim was both an elementary and high school teacher for nearly 30 years before moving into a variety of ministries, including administrative assistant work, pastoral care coordination, and internal ministry in the monastery.

She taught at Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and Queen of the World elementary schools, all in St. Marys, and at St. Joseph, Lucinda.



In addition, she taught at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, where she also served as a bookkeeper and a director of finance. For a time, she taught at St. Joseph in nearby Mayfield, N.Y., where she also served as principal.

Sister Joachim spent a number of years as the St. Marys Benedictines' treasurer. She also worked in the community's insurance office. As an Erie Benedictine, she has taken on a number of responsibilities around the monastery in the ministry of contributed services.

Vocation highlights

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

- Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie (Current)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- Sacred Heart, St. Mary's and Queen of the World, all in St. Marys; St. Joseph, Lucinda; and St. Joseph, Mayfield, N.Y.

SECONDARY TEACHER

- St. Joseph, Lucinda; Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys

BOOKKEEPER/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys

PRINCIPAL

- St. Joseph, Mayfield, N.Y.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE/SPIRITUAL OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH AND RENEWAL

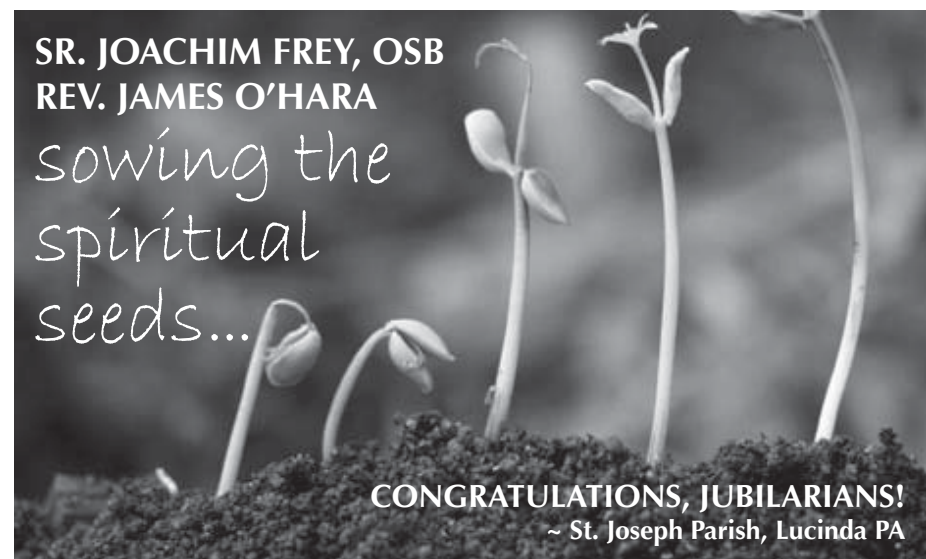
- Congregation of the Holy Ghost, Bethel Park, Pa.

COORDINATOR OF PASTORAL CARE

- Andrew Kaul Memorial Hospital, St. Marys

TREASURER/INSURANCE OFFICE/CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

- St. Joseph Monastery, St. Marys



SR. JOACHIM FREY, OSB
REV. JAMES O'HARA
sowing the
spiritual
seeds...

CONGRATULATIONS, JUBILARIANS!
~ St. Joseph Parish, Lucinda PA



a joyful celebration

Sister Rita Brocke, RSM, we congratulate you on your 70th anniversary in our diocese. Enjoy your jubilee year and may God continue to bless you!

with many thanks
St. Titus | Titusville

60 years SISTER MARIE STEPHEN KEBORT, SSJ

Sister Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ, prays “The Daily Examen of St. Ignatius” every day. It helps her focus on the joys and challenges of her life.

“You cannot give to others and neglect your own spiritual life,” she says. “You need to be a reservoir—not a channel—or you will have nothing to share with others.”

Born in Meadville, Sister Marie Stephen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Brigid Parish, Meadville, on Aug. 29, 1956.

She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1964.

Celebrating her 60-year jubilee, she reflects on the role that God’s grace has played in her religious life.

She credits her parents and the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Brigid School and at Spencer Hospital, both in Meadville, for inspiring her call to religious life. She especially remembers the impact of Sister Dominica, whom she says exemplified the spirituality of a Sister of St. Joseph, “always seeking the more, with a smile on her face.”

For nearly 40 years, she taught in several diocesan elementary schools: St. Andrew, Villa Maria Elementary, St. John the Baptist, Blessed Sacrament, and St. Paul, all in Erie; Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg; St. Leo in Ridgway; and St. Francis in Clearfield.



From 1977-84, she served as principal at St. Andrew School, Erie. For 10 years, she taught at Holy Trinity School in Byesville, Ohio, and then worked in high school religious education at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Lore City, Ohio.

Since 1994, she has been the director of religious education at St. Patrick Parish, Erie. She also provided sacramental sessions for the Eastside Catholic Faith Formation, and RCIA and sacramental sessions for St. Patrick Parish.

For Sister Marie Stephen, it’s important for people to be open to wherever the Holy Spirit leads them.

Vocation highlights

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- St. Patrick Parish, Erie (Current)

TEACHER

- St. Andrew, Villa Maria Elementary, St. John the Baptist, Blessed Sacrament and St. Paul, all in Erie; Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg; St. Leo, Ridgway; St. Francis, Clearfield; and Holy Trinity, Byesville, Ohio

PRINCIPAL

- St. Andrew, Erie

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Lore City, Ohio

SACRAMENTAL SESSIONS

- Eastside Catholic Faith Formation, Erie

- St. Patrick Parish, Erie

RCIA

- St. Patrick Parish, Erie

Her inspiration:

“May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you use those gifts you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.” | ST. TERESA OF AVILA



60 years SISTER NORMA JEAN KINGSLEY, OSB

Trained in spiritual direction, Benedictine Sister Norma Jean Kingsley takes joy in accompanying others on their faith journeys.

In her 60th year of religious life, she knows the value of maintaining a deep communion with God.

“My years of companionship people on their spiritual journeys have been a great blessing,” she says. “It has given new meaning to life and my ability to strive for ‘the heights of perfection.’”

A native of Erie, Sister Norma Jean graduated from St. Benedict Academy. She entered the Benedictine Sisters in 1954, professed first vows in 1956, and perpetual vows in 1959.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Mercyhurst University and went on to teach for nearly 25 years in the Diocese of Erie. She also was a religious education teacher at St. Matthew in the Woods Parish, Erie.

She earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from St. Francis College, Loretto, Pa. Later, she studied spiritual direction at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minn., which opened up other ministry opportunities.

Through the years, Sister Norma Jean took on administrative responsibilities at the community’s Camp Glinodo and also served as community secretary and scholastic director. For a number of years, she worked at Ecclesia Center, an outreach of the Diocese of Erie to serve religious and priests in their desire for spiritual renewal. She then extended her pastoral

Her inspiration:

“If one desires to hasten on to the perfection of religious life, one must attend to the teaching of the holy ancestors... which leads one to the heights of perfection.”

| RULE OF BENEDICT 73:8



ministry by serving at Erie’s Heartland Hospice and Lakeland Area Hospice until she retired from that ministry in 2015.

Currently, Sister Norma Jean offers spiritual direction and provides pastoral care in the monastery infirmary. She also offers chair massage for the elderly and is engaged in the ministry of hospitality as a part-time monastery receptionist.

Vocation highlights

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION/RECEPTIONIST/HOSPITALITY

- Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie (Current)

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR PRIESTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS

- Ecclesia Center, Erie

PASTORAL CARE

- Lakeland Area Hospice, Erie

- Heartland Hospice, Erie

TEACHER

- St. Joseph, Sharon; St. Joseph, Oil City; St. Michael, Fryburg;

St. Leo, Ridgway; Venango Catholic High School, Oil City

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER

- St. Matthew in the Woods, Erie

PASTORAL MINISTER

- St. Patrick, Erie

BOOKKEEPER

- St. Benedict Academy, Erie

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR/CAMP ADMINISTRATOR

- Glinodo Conference Center, Erie

INSTRUCTOR

- St. Benedict Education Center, Erie

60 years SISTER KATHLEEN LEHNER, MHSH

Wherever there’s been a need, Sister Kathleen Lehner, MHSH, has been there to address it for the past 60 years of vowed religious life.

As a member of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, she has traveled the country on assignments. Her main areas of outreach have been religious education, liturgy and families.

“I plan to continue my volunteer works and to use every new opportunity to do good in our world and allow God to be revealed through my life,” she says.

Currently, she teaches English at St. Benedict Education Center, Erie, to refugees from conflict-ridden countries.

Sister Kathleen was first attracted to religious life in her childhood years at her home parish of Blessed Sacrament in Erie.

When the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart came to Erie in the 1950s, she took their course, “The Adaptive Way of Teaching Religion.”

“As the year progressed, I felt more deeply the call to dedicate my life to sharing with others my deepening love for our faith, and Mission Helpers became my choice,” she says.

After entering the community on Oct. 28, 1956, she started teaching in the School of Religion at St. Tobias Parish, Brockway.

Sister Kathleen’s later assignments took her to parishes in Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Arizona.

She provided music ministry, administered Communion to the homebound, and trained adults to be teachers and helpers in religion classes.



“Prayer, Mass, sacraments, spiritual reading, meditation, and sharing with my sisters all grounded me in our common religious lifestyle and have provided the strength I need to hold firm in my vocation,” she says.

Although she is officially retired, Sister Kathleen volunteers at the Orphan Angels Cat Shelter in Erie and devotes herself to serving the elderly and refugee populations. She provides companionship to the elderly and assists with grocery shopping and other tasks.

At St. Benedict Education Center, she continues to teach English to the burgeoning number of new refugee families.

Her inspiration:

“Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world.” | MATTHEW 28:20

Vocation highlights

VOLUNTEER

- St. Benedict Education Center, Erie (Current)

- Orphan Angels Cat Shelter, Erie (Current)

TEACHER

- School of Religion, St. Tobias, Brockway

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAMILY MINISTRY/

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

- Parishes throughout the United States

SPEAKER, RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

60 years SISTER ROSANNE LINDAL-HYNES, OSB

Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes began her current ministry as the advocate for women at Emmaus Ministries in Erie in 1991.

She tries to imitate her Great Aunt Kate, from Oil City, who fed nearly every homeless person who came through town.

“When her husband, my Uncle Will, died, her friends asked her, ‘Kate, aren’t you afraid to continue to feed strangers now?’ Her response was, ‘No, I am only afraid I might miss the Lord.’ What a model!”

A native of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, Sister Rosanne entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie after high school graduation. She made her first profession on July 9, 1956, and her final profession on July 16, 1959.

Five other family members had preceded her into the Benedictine communities in Erie and St. Marys. They were: Sisters Pierre Hynes, Mary Ellen Hynes, Mary Regina Flanagan, Evelyn Hynes and Bertille Connor.

Sister Rosanne was an elementary teacher in parish schools throughout the Diocese of Erie before moving into more direct service to the poor. Since 1976, she served in many capacities: director of social services at St. Martin Center, counselor at Community House for Women, teacher at the East Coast Migrant Head Start program, and a member of the Pax Christi staff, all in Erie.

She has been women’s advocate at Emmaus Ministries for the past 25 years.



Her inspiration:

“You must relieve the lot of the poor.” | RULE OF BENEDICT 8:4

“My work in this ministry ranges from the most urgent situations to the joy—and long hours—of collecting, wrapping and distributing gifts for the families of Emmaus at Christmas,” she says. “I try always to be a presence of peace and compassion in lives that know too much trouble. It is a ministry that tugs at my heart strings, but one that is Benedictine in the deepest of ways. I take seriously Benedict’s call to relieve the lot of the poor.”

Everyone ought to devote time and energy to prayer, she says.

“Our spiritual life—prayer, *lectio divina*, liturgy—is what enables us to live community and empowers our *labora*, our ministry, our good work,” she says.

Vocation highlights

ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN

- Emmaus Ministries, Erie (Current)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- St. Mary and Mount Calvary, both in Erie; St. Joseph and Sacred Heart, both in Sharon; St. Gregory, North East; Immaculate Conception, Clarion; and St. Michael, Fryburg

DAY CARE TEACHER

- St. Benedict Child Development Center, Erie

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- St. Martin Center, Erie

EAST COAST MIGRANT HEAD START TEACHER

- Benedictine Sisters of Erie

RESIDENT COUNSELOR

- Community House for Women, Erie

RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Pax Christi USA

60 years SISTER ELISABETH LINTSEN, MSOLA

Growing up in Holland during World War II, Sister Elisabeth Lintsen, MSOLA, was horrified by the cruelty and violence she observed.

Upon visiting an exhibition of the work of an international missionary society a few years after the war, she began to develop a desire to become a missionary sister.

Sister Elisabeth entered the International Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa in 1956. After taking her vows, she taught catechism and worked in a hospital in Algeria for two years.

For another seven years, she lived in Tanzania, where she was a teacher and counselor at a teacher training college. She also taught at a Tanzanian seminary.

Sister Elisabeth left Africa in 1974 and moved to Erie, where she worked at Mercyhurst University for more than 20 years. During her time at Mercyhurst, she served as a dorm director, teacher, counselor, and director of campus ministry.

Sister Elisabeth often comments that the strongest examples of faith in her life were her parents.

“My parents really lived their faith and showed their children how to do so as well,” she says.

Sister Elisabeth is currently retired and is no longer in active ministry. She lives in Erie.



Her inspiration:

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ ... Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

Vocation highlights

RETIRED (Current)

MINISTRIES AT MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

- Dorm director

- Teacher

- Counselor

- Director of campus ministry

MISSIONARY IN ALGERIA, TANZANIA

- Teacher

- Counselor



Sister Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ —

Our spiritual hearts are full
as we celebrate your
60th anniversary in our diocese
and in the Sisters of St. Joseph Community.
Congratulations!

—With gratitude, St. Brigid Church,
St. Agatha and St. Mary of Grace
Meadville



Congratulations, Jubilarians!

**Thank you for your dedication
to our Mission of “Loving to Care.”**

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ (80 YEARS)

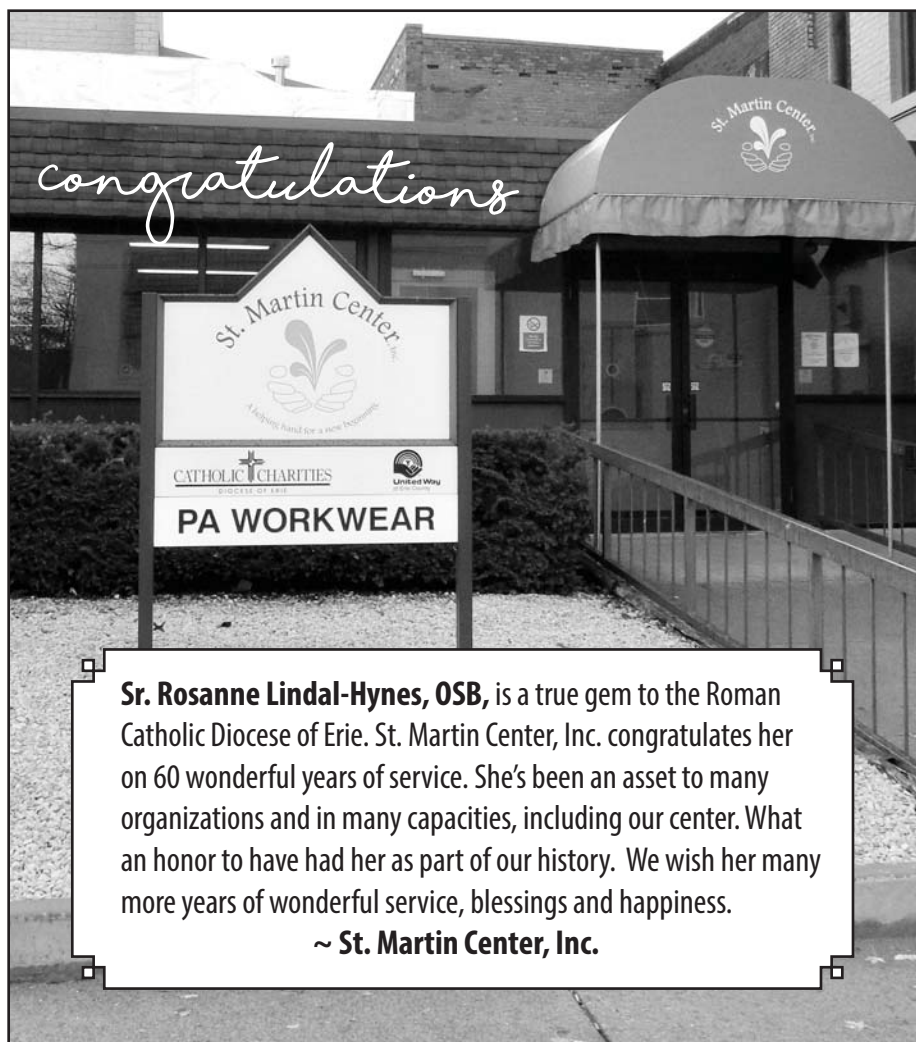
Rev. Msgr. Henry Schauerman (65 YEARS)

Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ (60 YEARS)

Sr. Margaret O’Brien, SSJ (60 YEARS)

Rev. Msgr. Richard Stack (60 YEARS)

Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ (50 YEARS)



Sr. Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB, is a true gem to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie. St. Martin Center, Inc. congratulates her on 60 wonderful years of service. She’s been an asset to many organizations and in many capacities, including our center. What an honor to have had her as part of our history. We wish her many more years of wonderful service, blessings and happiness.

~ St. Martin Center, Inc.



A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



NON-DISCRIMINATORY IN ADMISSIONS SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT

60 years SISTER CATHERINE MANNING, SSJ

Every day is a new beginning—even in retirement—for Sister Catherine Manning, SSJ.

Arguably one of the most notable women religious leaders in Erie during the 1980s and '90s, she was synonymous with Saint Vincent Health System, having served as its vice president of patient affairs, senior vice president, president, COO, CEO and trustee.

Upon her 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph, she counts her years at Saint Vincent among the top three highlights of her life in ministry. Others include being principal at St. Peter Cathedral School, Erie, and academic dean of Marymount International School in Rome, along with time spent in Europe and Africa.

"I am humbled when I think of the many wonderful people who have inspired and influenced me through these 60 years," she says.

Now retired and residing at the Sisters of St. Joseph Commu-



Her inspiration:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." | THE MAGNIFICAT, GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE

nity Living Center, Erie, Sister Catherine currently serves on the boards of directors of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, the Erie Catholic Preparatory School (Prep/Villa), and the SSJ Mission and Ministry Foundation.

She lives what she preaches: "Embrace each day as a new beginning...another day to become more and more in awe of God's presence in everyone and everywhere."

A native of Lewis Run, Sister Catherine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Bernard Parish in Bradford, on Aug. 29, 1956. She professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1964.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie; a master's in education guidance counseling from Gannon University, Erie; and a master's in theology from Boston College.

Sister Catherine spent 20 years in the health care field, nearly 30 in education, and 10 at the Diocese of Erie. In the diocese, she ministered as education and grants coordinator and as the founding executive director of The Catholic Foundation. In 2008, she became the highest-ranking woman in the diocese when she was named vice chancellor, the first non-clergy to hold that position.

She taught at the following diocesan schools: St. John the Baptist, Villa Maria Conservatory (piano), and St. Andrew School, all in Erie; and Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg.

After serving as principal at St. Peter Cathedral School, she became director of admissions and women's education adviser for the Career Counseling Center at Villa Maria College. In 1976, she served as a medical social service caseworker at Saint Vincent Hospital.

After a few years in Massachusetts, she went on to become academic dean, in 1982, at the Marymount International School in Rome. In 1985, she returned to Erie to take over as vice president of patient affairs at Saint Vincent.

She worked diligently for Saint Vincent Health System, eventually assuming roles as senior vice president, president, COO, CEO and trustee, leaving in 2002.

Sister Catherine credits "the grace of God" for sustaining her throughout her years of vowed religious life. She continues, however, to be inspired by the example of her parents, both of whom taught her profound life lessons. Her father died at age 38, but he displayed strength, gentleness, prayerfulness and enthusiasm for living.

"My mother's resilience and faith, love and determination guided me and my three sisters through enjoyable and difficult times without ever complaining," she says. "She taught me the true meaning of 'a valiant woman.'"

Vocation highlights

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

- Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (Current)
- Erie Catholic Preparatory School (Prep/Villa) (Current)
- SSJ Mission and Ministry Foundation (Current)
- Sisters of St. Joseph
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie
- Pennsylvania Catholic Healthcare Association
- United Way of Erie County
- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

VICE PRESIDENT OF PATIENT AFFAIRS/SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT/COO/CEO/TRUSTEE

- Saint Vincent Health System

EDUCATION AND GRANTS COORDINATOR

- Diocese of Erie

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- The Catholic Foundation, Diocese of Erie

VICE CHANCELLOR

- Diocese of Erie

TEACHER/INSTRUCTOR

- St. John the Baptist School, St. Andrew School, Villa Maria Conservatory, all in Erie; Holy Rosary School, Johnsonburg; N. Cambridge High School, Cambridge, Mass.; Marian Court Business College, Swampscott, Mass.

PRINCIPAL

- St. Peter Cathedral School, Erie

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS/WOMEN'S EDUCATION

ADVISER FOR CAREER COUNSELING CENTER

- Villa Maria College, Erie

MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE CASEWORKER

- Saint Vincent Hospital

ACADEMIC DEAN

- Marymount International School, Rome

Villa Maria Elementary School would like to congratulate the following sisters who are celebrating their jubilees:

80 years

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ

60 years

Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ

Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ

Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ

50 years

Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ

Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ

And a special congratulations to all of our diocesan sisters, priests and deacons celebrating jubilees this year.

*In memory of
Sr. Mary Irene
Lunger, SSJ*



60 years SISTER MARGARET O'BRIEN, SSJ

For the past 30 years, Sister Margaret O'Brien, SSJ, has offered her love of Christ to the people at Saint Mary's Home in Erie.

For 23 years before that, she taught the children of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie.

Now celebrating 60 years of vowed religious life, Sister Margaret believes that serving children and the elderly kept her on the singular path to serving Christ.

"In the older days, it was the children that kept me answering the call, making sure I prepared them to meet the challenges of the world, to lead responsibly and to help those they are called to serve," she says. "When I entered the health care sector, the elderly kept me answering the call, listening to their stories and thinking about all the things they should be proud of and their past accomplishments."

Formerly known as Sister Mary Matthew, Sister Margaret is a native of Oil City. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, on Aug. 29, 1956, and professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1964.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie; a gerontology certificate from Gannon University, Erie; and a reading specialist certificate from Edinboro University. She received nurse aide certification from the American Red Cross in 1986, at



which time she began her ministry at Saint Mary's Home as a nurse aide.

Over the years, Sister Margaret worked at Saint Mary's in various positions. In 2014, the Saint Mary's board and administration recognized her years of dedication and service by presenting her with its prestigious Médaille D'or Medal. Today, she works part-time at Saint Mary's East.

Sister Margaret taught at several diocesan schools. From 1974-80, she was the convent superior in Bradford.

To remain spiritually healthy, Sister Margaret recommends that people begin their days with prayer and, if possible, Mass.

"If you begin your day with these, it's easier to get through," she says.

Vocation highlights

PART-TIME HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

- Saint Mary's Home, Erie (Current)

NURSE AIDE/SISTER SUPERVISOR

- Saint Mary's Home, Erie

TEACHER

- Blessed Sacrament, Villa Maria Elementary, Holy Rosary and Our Lady of Peace, all in Erie; St. Francis, Clearfield; St. Bernard, Bradford; St. Leo, Ridgway

CONVENT SUPERIOR

- Bradford

Her inspiration:

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

60 years SISTER MARTHA ANN RINDERLE, SSJ

Religious life is in the genetic code of Sister Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ. Two cousins were Sisters of St. Joseph: Sister Celine Rinderle and Sister Martha Kuntz.

"Sister Celine supervised the oldest boys at St. Joseph Home and I sensed that as I grew older, I could converse with her about my 'thinkings' [about becoming a sister]," Sister Martha Ann remembers.



pal at two schools: St. Joseph, Erie, from 1968-71, and St. Bernard Grade School, Bradford, from 1972-81.

From 1982-88, she ministered as the diocesan chaplain for divorced and separated in the Diocese of Erie.

Sister Martha Ann currently helps in the sisters' Community Living Center library, and in the human resources department, as needed. She does sewing for many sisters.

For this 60-year jubilarian, life is about focusing on the spiritual journey.

"I kept my eyes, heart and ears open to saying 'yes' to whatever assignment I had had, and also finding sidelines that benefit those seeking help in any situation," she says. "Prayer is constant and it does work!"

Her inspiration:

"Jesus said to them, 'My time is not here yet, but the time is always right for you.'" | JOHN 7:6

Today, Sister Martha Ann celebrates her 60th anniversary.

A native of Erie, she first accepted her call to become a nun during a junior year retreat at Villa Maria Academy. At a senior year retreat, she finalized her plans. Every sister she met had what she calls a "certain aura" that attracted her.

"I continue to answer that call because I always think back to those sisters who interacted with me in my growing-up years and formed me into the person I am today," she says.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Joseph Home in Erie, on Aug. 29, 1956, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1964. In 1956, she graduated from Villa Maria Academy, and then earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, and a master's in earth sciences from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Sister Martha Ann spent most of her religious life as a teacher and principal at several schools in the Diocese of Erie. She served as princi-

Vocation highlights

HUMAN RESOURCES AND LIBRARY ASSISTANT

- SSJ Community Living Center, Erie (Current)

TEACHER

- Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, Villa Maria Elementary, St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Peace, St. Joseph, Villa Maria Academy, all in Erie; St. Mary's, Reynoldsville; and St. Bernard, Bradford

PRINCIPAL

- St. Joseph, Erie; and St. Bernard Grade School, Bradford

CHAPLAIN FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

- Diocese of Erie

60 years SISTER JANET STAAB, OSB

For 60 years as a Benedictine Sister of Erie, Sister Janet Staab has strived to live as St. Francis. For her, the saint's prayer doesn't stop at "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

She says that we also must sow love in the face of hatred, injury, pardon, discord, unity, doubt, faith, error, truth, despair, hope, sadness, joy, darkness and light.

"I am committed to listening with the ear of my heart and bringing about positive change in my life," she says. "Therefore, striving to live as St. Francis advocated has given me motive to live a more fully Christian life."



Her inspiration:

"Listen with the ear of your heart."

| RULE OF BENEDICT, PROLOGUE 1

A native of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City, she made her first profession of vows on Dec. 31, 1956; she made her final profession on Aug. 13, 1960.

As a student of St. Joseph High School, she first met the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and felt her call to religious life. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Mercyhurst University, Erie, and a master's in mathematics at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Her first ministry was teaching in elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie: Sacred Heart and St. Joseph, both in Sharon.

She then taught at the junior-high level at Immaculate Conception, Clarion; St. Joseph, Sharon; and St. Mary, Erie. Later, she was engaged in religious education through parish catechism programs at St. Venantius in Rouseville, and at St.

Bartholomew in Sharpsville.

When a L'Arche house was established in Erie, Sister Janet ministered there for several years. She also cared for children in the East Coast Migrant Head Start program that was established at Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

She served as the community archivist for nearly 35 years, a position she held until officially retiring in 2014.

"Responding to the needs of others has always been important to me in every ministry in which I was engaged," Sister Janet says.

Today, she continues to "listen with her heart" through prayer while living at Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

Vocation highlights

MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE (Current) **TEACHER/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER**

- Sacred Heart, Sharon
- St. Joseph, Sharon
- Immaculate Conception, Clarion
- St. Stephen, Oil City
- St. Mary, Erie

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER

- St. Venantius, Rouseville
- St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville

COMMUNITY CHRONICLER/COMMUNITY ARCHIVIST/ BENET PRESS

- Benedictine Sisters of Erie

BOOKKEEPER AND SECRETARY

- East Coast Migrant Head Start, Benedictine Sisters of Erie

HOUSE MANAGER

- Friends of L'Arche, Erie

RECEPTIONIST

- Dr. William Trice, DMD

Thank you for your service!
You've changed the lives of so many.

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Stack, 60 Years
Rev. Thomas M. Fialkowski, 50 Years
Sr. Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM, 50 Years



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425 East 38th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16504

web: slserie.org
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Sr. Janet Staab, OSB

Congratulations
and blessings
to you as you celebrate
your 60th jubilee.

60 years MONSIGNOR RICHARD J. STACK

When he was in grade school, Richard Stack thought he'd like to become a missionary. The deal breaker? Learning that his diet would consist only of fish and rice.

The Diocese of Erie is grateful that the young man's taste buds directed him, instead, to a life of faithful service to the Diocese of Erie. This year, Msgr. Richard Stack, at age 86, celebrates his 60th anniversary as a priest.

Msgr. Stack was initially attracted to the diocesan priesthood when he became an altar server, beginning as a young boy in fourth grade and continuing throughout high school. His vocation was inspired, in part, by the example of Sister Virginia Ann Gardner, SSJ, who was a faculty member while Msgr. Stack was a high school student at his home parish of St. Bernard in Bradford.

"She had a great influence on the students," he says. "She inspired many vocations."

Sister Virginia Ann and Msgr. Stack remained close friends until her death in 2008. To this day, he remembers her in each Mass he offers.

Another source of inspiration for Msgr. Stack is the book *Story of a Soul*, the autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux. He often refers to her quote, "Love is the little way to perfection."

Msgr. Stack was ordained to the priesthood May 10, 1956, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. After a year of teaching at Cathedral Preparatory School, and another year serving as parochial vicar at St. Bernard Parish, Bradford, Msgr. Stack went on to study at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

When he returned, he served as vice chancellor of the diocese from 1959-71, and as chancellor from 1971-84. His first pastorate was at St. Mark the Evangelist in Lawrence Park, where he served from 1976-84.

Msgr. Stack then received an unexpected call from Bishop Michael Murphy, who asked him to transfer to St. Luke Parish in Erie. Although he was content at St. Mark, he soon adapted to the much larger parish of St. Luke, where he taught eighth-grade theology and served as its beloved pastor for the next 12 years, from 1985-97.

In 1997, he was named pastor at St. Paul Parish in Erie, where he remained until 2006.

Msgr. Stack believes the most crucial issues facing Catholics today are family life and evangelization of young people. He is concerned by the secularization of modern society.

"We need to make the Gospel message real," he says. "The Catholic Church will survive because the Holy Spirit guides it."

In his free time, Msgr. Stack is a man of sports. He used to play golf multiple times a week with the late Msgr. John Hagerty. Currently, he's a fan of University of Notre Dame football and St. Bonaventure University basketball. He has traveled to Notre Dame to cheer on the Irish, and has been a loyal supporter of St. Bonaventure basketball since he was a student.

Msgr. Stack is retired, but remains active in ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish, where he now resides. He hears confessions and continues to preside over daily and Sunday Masses. He also continues to visit nursing homes and hospitals.



Vocation highlights

ASSISTING WITH LITURGIES/MINISTRIES

- Blessed Sacrament, Erie (Current)

ADMINISTRATOR

- St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie

PASTOR

- St. Paul, Erie

- St. Luke, Erie

- St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie

DIOCESAN POSTS

- Pastors Review Board

- Presbyteral Council

- Chancellor, vice chancellor

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Bernard, Bradford

FACULTY/RESIDENT

- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- St. Luke, Erie

His inspiration:

"The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace." | BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Congratulations



Msgr. Henry Schauerman

Msgr. Richard Stack

Msgr. Gerald Koos

Rev. Tom Fialkowski

Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ

Sr. Kathleen Lehner, MSHS

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ

Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ

Blessed Sacrament, Erie

60 years **SISTER CLAIRE MARIE SURMIK, OSB**

Claire Marie Surmik enjoyed everything about being a teenager: the friendships, movies, parties, picnics, dancing. But one day, she caught herself thinking, "There is more to life than this."

"I do believe that is what led me to consider a religious vocation," she says. "When I told my mother, she said, 'You'll be home in a week.' Sixty years later, here I am!"

A native of St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City, she entered the Sisters of St. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa., on Oct. 3, 1953. Her first profession was Aug. 1, 1956, and her final profession was five years later, in 1961.

Sister Claire Marie earned a bachelor's degree in English at Scranton's Marywood College, a master's in education at Fairfield University in Connecticut, and a master's in educational administration at Scranton University, Scranton, Pa.

Her inspiration:

"Let me walk with you even if I must walk alone, and in the dark." | Excerpt from "LET ME" BY EDWINA GATELY

She served as an elementary school teacher and a principal in a number of dioceses throughout the Northeast, as well as an assistant superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa. Through it all, though, she had a lingering, interior desire to work for the



poor and for peace and justice. As she discerned these longings, she experienced the call to monastic life.

In 1988, she began the transfer to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. The process was completed with her final incorporation in 1991. Since moving to Erie, she has been a staff member of Emmaus Ministries, where she still ministers today as a part-time food pantry coordinator.

From 1987 to 2012, she served as the full-time food pantry coordinator at Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

Her direct contact with the poor has made her a staunch advocate for systemic changes in our culture. Community life and her own work enliven a hope that we will all live, as she says, "in openness to the call of the Spirit by facing our future with hope and joy as we struggle to reshape our lives to meet the needs of these times."

Vocation highlights

PART-TIME FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

- Emmaus Ministries, Erie (Current)

FULL-TIME FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

- Emmaus Soup Kitchen, Erie

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- Diocesan schools in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

- Diocesan schools in Charleston, S.C., and Harrisburg, Pa.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

- Diocese of Scranton, Pa.

60 years **SISTER DOROTHY SZCZYPINSKI, OSB**

Sister Dorothy Szczypinski, OSB, taught elementary and high school students in the Diocese of Erie, but her most notable outreach efforts included assistance to the Vietnamese Sisters, Lovers of the Holy Cross and "The Lost Boys of Sudan."

In the 1970s, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie welcomed Vietnamese families and the Vietnamese Sisters, Lovers of the Holy Cross as they settled in the United States. Sister Dorothy was actively involved in assisting the families and helping the members of the religious congregation.

When the "Lost Boys of Sudan" arrived in Erie in the 1990s, she took an active role in helping them adjust to life in America.

The "Lost Boys of Sudan" is the name given to the group of more than 20,000 boys of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups who were displaced and/or orphaned during the second Sudanese civil war.

"This ministry of outreach was very special," Sister Dorothy says. "I learned so much from both the Vietnamese refugees and the 'Lost Boys of Sudan.' I took very seriously the call to be a beacon of hope. I think that is why the Benedictine *Suscipe* means so much to me: 'Uphold me, O God, and I shall live and do not fail me in my hope.' I felt humbled to be able to share that message with people in need."

Celebrating her 60th anniversary as a Benedictine Sister, Sister Dorothy today is a part-time receptionist at Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, and is currently active in the ministry of prayer and presence.

Sister Dorothy grew up in Erie as a member of St. Stanislaus Parish. She came to know the Benedictine Sisters as a student at St. Benedict Academy. She took her first profession on July 9, 1956, and her final profession



on July 16, 1959.

She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Mercyhurst University, Erie, and a master's in education with a concentration in mathematics at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She taught at several schools in the Diocese of Erie. She served as assistant administrator at St. Benedict, and also was a tenured assistant professor of math at Gannon University, Erie.

For a time, she was a math instructor at St. Benedict Education Center, Erie.

Vocation highlights

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND PRESENCE

- Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie (Current)

TEACHER

- Sacred Heart, Sharon; St. Michael, Fryburg; St. Stephen, Oil City; St. Benedict Academy, Erie; Cathedral Prep, Erie

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

- St. Benedict Academy, Erie

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Gannon University, Erie

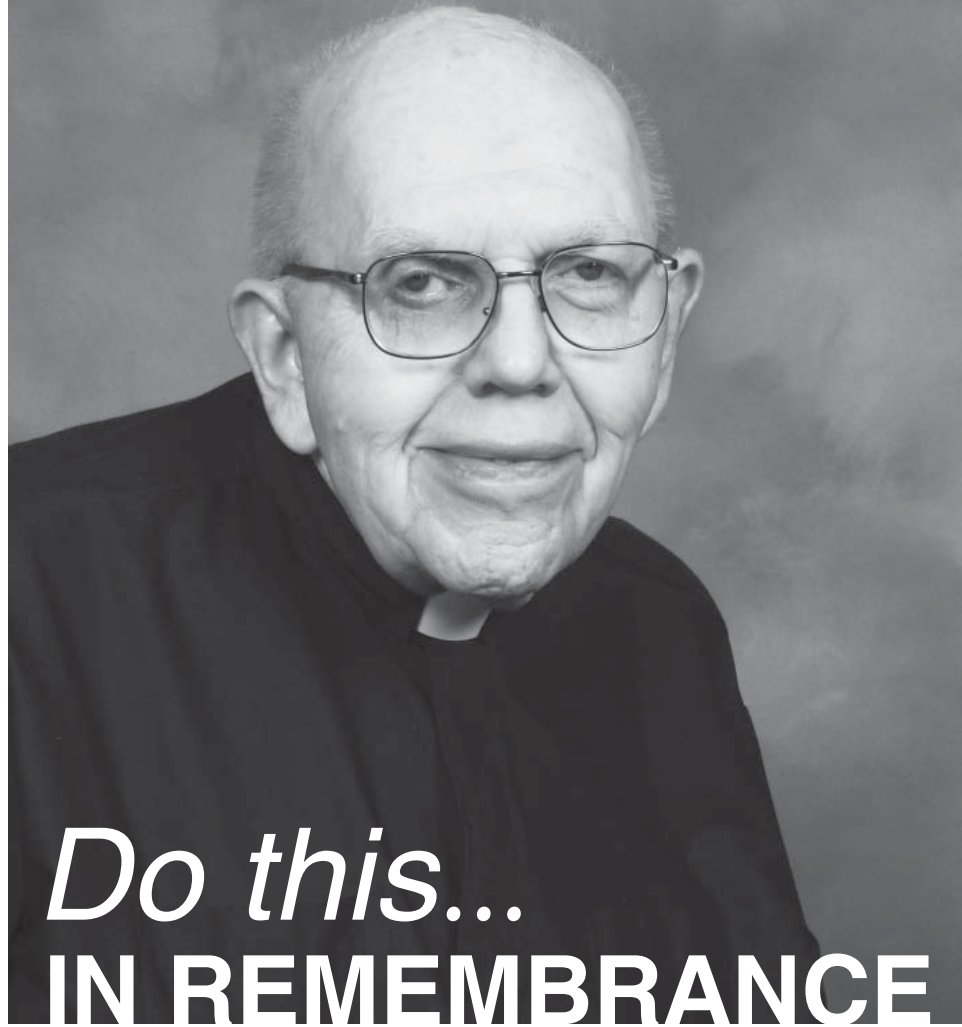
INSTRUCTOR

- St. Benedict Education Center, Erie

ASSISTED RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE SISTERS, LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

And **he** took bread

and gave **THANKS**



Do this...

IN REMEMBRANCE

of me. *LUKE 22:19-20*

Congratulations to you, Msgr. Henry Schauerman, on your 65th year in the priesthood. We are proud of your good work and most grateful for your service in Meadville. God bless you as you continue your journey.

St. Agatha
St. Mary of Grace
St. Brigid

Meadville Catholic Community

50 years REVEREND PHILIP J. BILLOTTE

Father Philip Billotte, a retired priest from the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., lives in the house in which he spent the first part of his childhood.

The Billotte home, located in Frenchville, is more than 100 years old, but provides Father Billotte with a hub from which he can continue his ministries within the Diocese of Erie.

"My five sisters and two brothers still visit me. There are a lot of memories here. No ghosts yet," he jokes.

Father Billotte currently helps with penance services and liturgies at local

churches, when needed. Also, he volunteers at the Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville, assisting with adult and youth retreats, and at the nearby federal prison, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center. At the prison, he celebrates Mass every Sunday and leads the rosary and conducts Scripture study every Wednesday.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to help retreatants and inmates to find their way to a deeper relationship with the Lord," he says.

Father Billotte moved from Frenchville as a young child to Corning, N.Y. He graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, and was ordained June 4, 1966, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.

As a youngster growing up in Clearfield County, he recognized



His inspiration:

"He who sees you, sees me."

| FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

his call to be of service to God.

"My family was always there to help others," he says. "This opened the door for me to look deeper into a way to be of service to others."

Over the years, he was particularly impressed with the faith of the late Sister Therese Dush, CA, founder of the Anawim Community and its Bethany Retreat Center.

"She gave her all to the service of the Lord and his people," he says. "No matter what the task, she gave her all."

An avid trout fisherman, Father Billotte finds that being out in nature "opens me up to the Word of the Lord."

Everyone needs to make time for prayer, he says, adding: "Set down special times of prayer so you will be able to remain faithful to all prayers. Have a spiritual director who will be there for you whenever you need to share the goodness of God with another."

The Catholic Church needs to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, Father Billotte says.

"My hope for the future of the Catholic Church," he says, "is that the church would challenge our country to become more dedicated to our Christian principles and to share the life of the Lord God with all people."

Vocation highlights

VOLUNTEER (Current)

- Bethany Retreat Center, Frenchville
- Moshannon Valley Correctional Center, Philipsburg, Pa.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sacred Heart Parish, Holy Family Parish, St. Patrick Parish, Holy Trinity Parish, and the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, all in the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y.

PASTOR

- Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Community in the Finger Lakes Region

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- All Saints, Corning/Painted Post, N.Y.

ADMINISTRATOR

- St. Patrick Parish, Owego, N.Y.

Our heartfelt appreciation and congratulations go out to the following jubilarians for their accomplishments and support

60 years

Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ

Home Parish - St. Bernard Church

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ

Teacher - St. Bernard School

Convent Superior - St. Bernard Convent

Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ

Teacher/Principal - St. Bernard School

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Stack

Home Parish - St. Bernard Church

Parochial Vicar - St. Bernard

80 years

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ

Home Parish - Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Education - St. Bernard High School

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church &
St. Bernard Elementary/Middle School
Bradford, PA**



Congratulations, Fr. Phil Billotte on

50 years of priestly service!

We so appreciate your faithfulness to God and your commitment to the people at Bethany Retreat Center and the Sisters of the Anawim Community in Frenchville, PA!

With thanks for your dedicated service,

**Sr. Karen Willenbring, Sr. Ruth Ann Madera,
Sr. Suzanne Thibault, and the
Bethany Retreat Center Staff**

50 years SISTER PHYLLIS DIFUCCIA, SSJ

Sister Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ, first confirmed her decision to enter religious life after being at an all-night New Year's Eve party in the mid-1960s. At Mass on that New Year's Day, she asked herself, "Is this all there is?"

She felt called to do more, so on Sept. 8, 1966, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. She professed her final vows eight years later, on Sept. 8, 1974.

In her 50 years of religious life, Sister Phyllis has had three main ministries: secondary education, mission effectiveness and organization development.

A 1965 graduate of Villa Maria Academy, Erie, she earned a bachelor's degree in French from Villa Maria College, Erie. She then earned a master's degree in French from Middlebury College in Vermont, and a master's in organization development from Loyola University Chicago.

Her inspiration:

"A heart empty of all is, at the same time, full of God."

| MAXIMS OF PERFECTION, 11:2

Sister Phyllis taught French at Villa Maria Academy and served as its principal and later administrator. She describes her work there as "one of my best experiences of community."

She taught French at Villa Maria College, Erie, and served as dean for adult learning at Gannon University/Villa, from 1979-83. From 1983-85, Sister Phyllis served as director of religious education at St. Teresa Parish, Union City, and from 1985-86 was acting administrator of Maria House Project.

After leaving Villa Maria Academy in 1990, she went on to become director of mission effectiveness and continuous improvement at Saint Vincent Health System in Erie, from 1991-94. For four years, she was a member of the leadership team of her congregation and was a member of the first and second research teams of the U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph responsible for translating the primitive documents of the Sisters of St. Joseph from French to English.

From 1996 to 2012, she lived in Chicago as an independent consultant specializing in participative processes and systems for various organizations. Some of her clients included: Loyola University Chicago, Anderson Consulting, and several religious congregations and parishes in the Chicago area.

Ironically, it was in the busy city of Chicago where she came to understand the need for contemplation.

"I was supported, challenged, and grew into the freedom of being myself," she says.

Since 2012, she has been vice president of mission for St. Joseph Academy, Cleveland.

Sister Phyllis plans to move "wherever God leads," saying, "It is God's fidelity to me and my relationship with God that keeps me open and leads me on a path of transforming love."



Vocation highlights

VICE PRESIDENT OF MISSION

- St. Joseph Academy, Cleveland, Ohio (Current)

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT FOR ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT (CHICAGO)

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER

- Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

DIRECTOR OF MISSION EFFECTIVENESS AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Saint Vincent Health System

TEACHER/PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATOR

- Villa Maria Academy, Erie

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

- Maria House Project, Erie

TEACHER, DEAN FOR ADULT LEARNING

- Villa Maria College/Gannon University, Erie

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

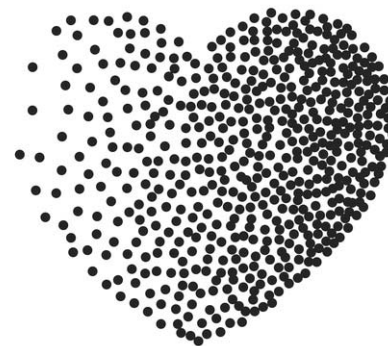
- St. Teresa Parish, Union City

RESEARCH TEAM MEMBER

- U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph

My vocation,
at last I have found it;
my vocation is love.

Therese of Lisieux



Congratulations Jubilarians!

Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community

50 years REVEREND THOMAS M. FIALKOWSKI

Father Thomas Fialkowski has a green thumb, even for growing the faith.

Not only does he love gardening, but he has nurtured the faith of the larger community for the 50 years of his priesthood.

“It always amazes me to watch things grow,” he says.

Father Fialkowski was first drawn to the priesthood when he was a young student at his home parish of St. Stanislaus in Erie.

He was influenced primarily by the faith of his family and the example of the priests he encountered during his seven years as an altar server. The person most responsible for his vocation was Msgr. Joseph Reszkowski, who served as a mentor, spiritual guide and friend throughout the majority of Father Fialkowski’s life.

After completing his freshman year of high school at Tech Memorial in Erie, Father Fialkowski transferred to Cathedral Prep and then to St. Mark Seminary. He went on to pursue higher education at Gannon University, St. Bonaventure, and then Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

On May 19, 1966, he was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter Cathedral. Father Fialkowski taught at his alma mater, Cathedral Prep, from 1966-73, while also serving as a weekend assistant at Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart parishes. He served as parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish from 1973-82, and was a pastor in team ministry there from 1982-87. From 1987-88, he was parochial vicar at St. Thomas Parish in Corry, but then was named pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in 1989, a position he held until 2000.

He served as chaplain at the Erie Veterans Affairs



His inspiration:

“The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking his forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving. Let us ask for this grace.” | POPE FRANCIS

Medical Center from 1993 to 2005, and also was a weekend assistant at Mount Calvary Parish in Erie, from 2000-05.

Since 2002, he has served as the bishop’s liaison to the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries. From 2005-10, he was senior associate in the Northern Vicariate of the diocese.

Fifty years after his ordination, Father Fialkowski says he is continually inspired by the celebration of the Eucharist and by the “tremendous example and display

of faith by the lay people of our parishes and our diocese.” He also finds a great source of hope in the papacy of Pope Francis, saying the future of the Catholic Church “has never looked brighter.”

Father Fialkowski appreciates how the pope accepts people of all races, backgrounds and beliefs.

“In my mind, one of the most crucial issues we face in the church today is the tremendous number of people who are leaving the church,” he says. “I feel strongly that we must make a better and more sufficient effort to reach out and help these people deal with some of their problems and concerns about the church.”

Such efforts are important to Father Fialkowski because he believes that a healthy spirituality is essential in navigating life’s challenges.

“I feel that unless people develop a strong faith and have some sort of spiritual guidelines, it becomes much more difficult to deal adequately and confidently with the many situations and problems we all face throughout life,” he says.

Vocation highlights

BISHOP’S LIAISON

- Erie Diocesan Cemeteries (Current)

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

- Northern Vicariate, Erie

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- Mount Calvary, Erie

- Sacred Heart, Erie

- Holy Trinity, Erie

CHAPLAIN

- Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center

PASTOR

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie

- Blessed Sacrament, Erie (team ministry)

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Thomas, Corry

- Blessed Sacrament, Erie

RESIDENT

- Sacred Heart, Erie (team ministry)

FACULTY

- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie

St. Thomas in Corry congratulates

Fr. Tom Fialkowski

on his

**50⁺th jubilee
anniversary**



Thank you for your service
to our parish and to our diocese.

50 years SISTER SUSAN HERZING, SSJ

Sister Susan Herzing, SSJ, is renowned for her healing hands...and heart. Previously a self-employed massage therapist, she spent the past 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph instilling her love of Jesus in others.

"I continue to pray for openness to whatever I am called, and to trust that God will always be faithful to his promise of presence, strength and support," she says.

Currently, she serves as Agrégée director for the Sisters of St. Joseph. She assists women and men entering into an intentional commitment to live a simple lifestyle, to choose ministry in light of the mission of the religious community, and to support one another in their membership.

Sister Susan credits prayer for her ability to continually answer God's call to religious life.

"As in any relationship, communication is key, and that is what prayer is for me," she says. "In my times of meditation, reflection and prayer, God's presence in my life is absolutely concrete."

She also has served as an associate board member, associate mentor and vocation director for her community.

A native of St. Marys, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Mary's, on Sept. 8, 1966. She professed her first vows



on Aug. 15, 1969, and her final vows on Sept. 15, 1974.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie, and a master's in pastoral studies from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn.

Sister Susan taught at schools in the Diocese of Erie, and for 20 years worked in several capacities with separated and divorced Catholics, a program of the Diocese of Erie. From 1982-95, she was the pastoral minister at St. Joseph Parish, Erie.

For 15 years, Sister Susan was a self-employed massage therapist, having graduated from the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy.

Vocation highlights

AGRÉGÉE DIRECTOR

- Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania (Current)

TEACHER

- St. Patrick School, Erie

- Villa Maria Academy, Erie

VOCATION DIRECTOR/ASSOCIATE MENTOR/ ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBER

- Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

MINISTRY TO SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS

- Diocese of Erie

PASTORAL MINISTER

- St. Joseph Parish, Erie

MESSAGE THERAPIST

- Self-employed

Her inspiration:

"Nothing is impossible with God. Mary said, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.'" | LUKE 1:37-38

50 years SISTER KATHLEEN ANN KOLB, RSM

While growing up in Rochester, N.Y., and over the 50 years she has been a Sister of Mercy, Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb, RSM, has lived by the Gospel passage of St. Luke that reads, in part: "To whom much is given, much is expected."

She credits her parents and siblings for creating a positive influence in her life. Following in her mother's footsteps, Sister Kathleen Ann enrolled at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

"From the day I walked into Mercy High, I fell in love with the 'Spirit,'" she says. "I saw in the Sisters of Mercy their dedication to God and their love for the poor."

By her senior year, she knew her relationship with God and the Sisters of Mercy was forged.

A native of the former St. Ambrose Parish, Rochester, Sister Kathleen Ann entered the Rochester Regional Community on Sept. 9, 1966.

"When I walked through the Mercy doors 50 years ago, I was welcomed into a group of holy women following the best each could be: Jesus and Catherine McAuley [founder of the Sisters of Mercy]," she says.

She spent three years in formation and study and became a student nurse at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, N.Y. Then, she did a practical experience at the Convent of Mercy Health Care Center, where she was named nursing director.

Sister Kathleen Ann worked as a nurse at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell Nursing and Health Related Facility in Hornell, and the Ira Davenport Hospital in Bath, N.Y. She served as program assistant and day center supervisor at Independent Living for Seniors in Rochester.



Her inspiration:

"In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love." | 1 JOHN 4:18

From 1999 to 2004, she served as director of Mercy Outreach Center, Rochester. In 2001, she earned a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester. In 2004, she was elected a councilor on the leadership team of the former Sisters of Mercy Rochester Regional Community.

When Rochester became part of the Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community in 2008, she became coordinator of health and wellness for the community. Based in Erie, she continues in that post today.

Vocation highlights

COORDINATOR OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo, Erie, Pittsburgh, Rochester and the Philippines (Current)

DIRECTOR

- Mercy Outreach Center, Rochester, N.Y.

COUNCILOR

- Leadership team of the former Sisters of Mercy Rochester Regional Community

STUDENT NURSE

- St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, N.Y.

NURSING DIRECTOR

- Convent of Mercy Health Care Center, Rochester, N.Y.

NURSE

- St. James Mercy Hospital

- Hornell Nursing and Health Related Facility, Hornell, N.Y.

- Ira Davenport Hospital, Bath, N.Y.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT/DAY CARE SUPERVISOR

- Independent Living for Seniors, Rochester

50 years REVEREND MSGR. GERALD J. KOOS

For Msgr. Gerald Koos, formal education is a lifelong process. The list of his academic credentials, earned over the span of more than 50 years, is matched only by his unwavering dedication to the Catholic Church.

After graduating from St. Andrew Grade School and Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie, Msgr. Koos went on to receive bachelor's degrees in philosophy and education from St. Mary's University, Baltimore, and a bachelor's degree in theology from St. Mary's Seminary and University. His academic pursuits eventually brought him back to Erie, where he earned a master's in counseling from Gannon University.

Msgr. Koos then decided to pursue the most advanced degree in his field, earning a doctorate in clinical psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, Calif.

Msgr. Koos also participated in numerous training and certification programs. He was awarded a *Wall Street Journal* scholarship that allowed him to participate in a summer program at Temple University. He also completed the Chaplain Training Program at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, and received Chaplain Advanced certification from the



His inspiration:
"Glory be to God!"

National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

He is a graduate of the Advanced Studies Program with Dialogue House in New York City, making him qualified to present journal workshops as a journal consultant. In 2011, he completed the three-year training program for spiritual directors in the Ignatian tradition, at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pa.

Msgr. Koos first began to recognize his calling to the priesthood as a student at St. Andrew School in Erie.

"From the beginning, I've always been willing to follow that call," he says. "The words of the Scriptures and liturgy sound in my heart and touch me deeply and I am happy to share the good news of the Gospel."

Msgr. Koos was ordained on May 19, 1966, at St. Peter Cathedral. He taught at Cathedral Prep from 1966-78, while simultaneously serving as a weekend assistant at Sacred Heart, St. Julia, and Blessed Sacrament parishes. He proceeded to serve as a chaplain at UPMC Hamot from 1978-81, and again from 1985 to 2010. From 1982-85, he served as a pastor in team ministry at Blessed Sacrament.

He continues to find guidance in his Jesus Caritas group that has been meeting monthly since 1983. He feels blessed to offer spiritual direction to those seeking God.

Msgr. Koos advocates for the practice of daily prayer and says that religious leaders themselves need spiritual direction and retreats.

Fifty years after his ordination, Msgr. Koos is grateful for the opportunities he has received as a priest. Although officially retired, he remains active by assisting with liturgies in the Erie area, and serving as a back-up chaplain at the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"God is so kind to me that I am glad that I can celebrate God's goodness by living my ministry," he says.

Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ
Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Koos
Sr. Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM



**Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee
from the community of Maria House**

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

Vocation highlights

ASSISTING WITH LITURGIES (Current)

- Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie
- House of Prayer, Erie
- Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center (back-up chaplain)
- UPMC Hamot, Erie
- St. Stanislaus, Erie

CHAIRPERSON

- Diocesan Medical-Moral Advisory Committee

RESIDENT PRIEST

- Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie
- St. Ann, Erie
- St. Patrick, Erie
- Sacred Heart, Erie
- St. Julia, Erie
- Blessed Sacrament, Erie

ADJUNCT FACULTY/SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

- St. Mark Seminary, Erie

CHAPLAIN

- UPMC Hamot, Erie
- Erie County Prison

PASTOR (TEAM MINISTRY)

- Blessed Sacrament, Erie

FACULTY/DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE

- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie

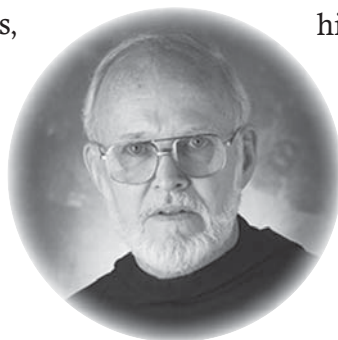
50 years REVEREND JOSEPH MARKALONIS

A native son of St. Joseph Parish in DuBois, Father Joseph Markalonis, TOR, has been a member of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance since 1966.

Although he has not served in the Diocese of Erie, he has returned occasionally to visit and celebrate liturgies at his home parish. He celebrates his 50th jubilee this year, having been ordained on May 19, 1966, by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

After teaching religious education for two years at Bishop Conwell High School, Philadelphia, and at St. Francis Prep School in Spring Grove, Pa., he became a missionary in the Amazon of Brazil.

He served at his order's mission from 1969 to 2005. During his time in Brazil, he served as pastor of Our Lady of Nazareth and St. Joseph parishes, and was postulant director, novice director and the representative of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis on the Secular Franciscan Order National Council.



his family when he was 12. His parents had purchased a small farm between DuBois and Punxsutawney.

He earned a bachelor's degree in animal sciences at Penn State University and worked for a time with the agricultural extension office in Ebensburg, Pa. He attended a retreat at St. Francis University, Loretto, and then decided to enter the seminary there.

"I like to pray the liturgy without rushing it and with good table manners," Father Markalonis says. "I try to make it as meaningful as possible. But of all the sacraments, the one in which I feel God's presence very strongly is the sacrament of reconciliation or penance. Boy, how he can use us priests if we only let him."

Today, he is retired and is a friar in residence at the St. Francis Friary in Loretto. He continues to say Mass at parishes and convents in the area.

Vocation highlights

FRIAR IN RESIDENCE

- St. Francis Friary, Loretto, Pa. (Current)

MISSIONARY, THIRD ORDER REGULAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF PENANCE (FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR)

- Brazil

REPRESENTATIVE

- Secular Franciscan Order National Council, Brazil

CHAPLAIN

- UPMC Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh

TEACHER

- Bishop Conwell High School, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- St. Francis Prep School, Spring Grove, Pa.

- Nova Olinda do Norte, Brazil

PASTOR

- Our Lady of Nazareth and St. Joseph parishes, Nova Olinda do Norte, Brazil

His inspiration:

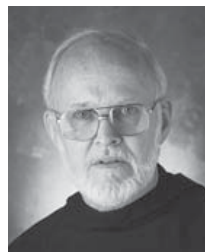
"Joy is the echo of God's life in us."

| 1 JOHN 4:18

"When I reflect upon all these years, I feel that I have been so blessed to have received this opportunity to minister in Brazil," Father Markalonis says. "I often think that I have received so much more than I had been able to give. The people in the interior (bush/rural area) of the Amazon really captivated me. They have so little, but yet they have so much."

Father Markalonis was particularly touched by the joy and mutual assistance of those he served.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of the late William and Stella Markalonis, he moved to the DuBois area with



With joy and gratitude

we extend our congratulations to native son, Father Joseph Markalonis, TOR, for 50 years of faithful witness as a priest.



ST. JOSEPH, DUBOIS

Congratulations, jubilarians!



ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH - ERIE

We especially congratulate Sr. Dorothy Szczypinski, OSB, Fr. Tom Fialkowski and Msgr. Gerald Koos!

50 years **SISTER LISA MARY MCCARTNEY, RSM**

The thought of entering religious life was initially planted in 14-year-old Bonita Jane McCartney when she was admitted for a tonsillectomy at DuBois Regional Medical Center, staffed by the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Denise Carroll, RSM, in her heavy Irish brogue, told the young patient a miracle story of a St. Benedict medal. She then pinned one on the teenager's gown the night before surgery.

Today, that teenager is Erie Mercy Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, who celebrates her 50th anniversary of vowed religious life.

Since 2008, Sister Lisa Mary has served as vice president for mission integration at Mercyhurst University, Erie. Occasionally, she still teaches in the classroom.

"Early on, the Sisters of Mercy rooted their mission in teaching and nursing. I have discovered my roots there, too," Sister Lisa Mary says. "My love of the faith and literature have made for mutual nourishment in my life, wedding my religious vocation and teaching ministry. I have loved learning from students, whether fourth-graders or college seniors, for some 40 years."

As a teenager growing up in the DuBois area, Sister Lisa Mary attended St. Bonaventure Parish in Grampian, along with her parents and twin sister. They enjoyed an "idyllic" life surrounded



Her inspiration:

"You are my friends if you do what I command you. ... I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from my Father." | JOHN 15:15

by hills and river valleys in the region.

After graduating from Curwensville Joint High School in Curwensville, Sister Lisa Mary was able to enroll at what was then Mercyhurst College through its cadet teaching program. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in English.

Four years later, she received a full teaching fellowship to graduate school at the University of Notre Dame, where she earned her master's and doctorate degrees in English. The experience there, she says, "unmistakably formed the course of my life."

During her undergraduate studies at Mercyhurst University, Sister Lisa Mary encountered the Sisters of Mercy on a regular basis. She entered the community on Feb. 2, 1966. Her early teaching assignments were at St. Luke and St. George grade schools, both in Erie, and Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie.

She returned to Mercyhurst University as a professor of English, directed the Department of English and chaired the Division of Humanities. She was councilor and later vice president in leadership for the former Sisters of Mercy Erie Regional Community.

Sister Lisa Mary has been active over the years in all aspects of education, including membership on several committees and as a trustee. She serves as a trustee at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, Pa., and from 2004-07 was a trustee and assistant secretary of the board of Mercyhurst University.

From 1997 to 2014, she was a trustee at Mercyhurst Preparatory School, secretary of the board, and chair of the nominating and by-law committee. She began serving as a trustee at Penn Highlands-DuBois, formerly the DuBois Regional Medical Center, in 2014.

In 2008, she returned to Mercyhurst University as vice president for mission integration. She also currently serves as liaison for the Sisters of Mercy at the House of Mercy in Erie.

"I find the sweetest moments to be those opportunities I receive to teach what it means to carry on the educational mission of the Sisters of Mercy, rooted in a long history of faith and reason in the Catholic university," she says.

Vocation highlights

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION INTEGRATION/ PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

- Mercyhurst University, Erie (Current)

LIAISON FOR SISTERS OF MERCY

- House of Mercy, Erie (Current)

TRUSTEE

- Mount Aloysius College, Cresson, Pa. (Current)

- Penn Highlands Healthcare-DuBois (Current)

- Mercyhurst University, Erie

- Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie

DIRECTOR OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT/CHAIR OF HUMANITIES DIVISION

- Mercyhurst University

COUNCILOR/VICE PRESIDENT

- Leadership, Erie Regional Community, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy

TEACHER

- Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie

- St. Luke and St. George schools, both in Erie

FORMATION/NOVICE DIRECTOR

- Sisters of Mercy, Erie Regional Community

Congratulations to all of the 2016 Jubilarians

on their vocational milestones and especially those who have helped care for and serve the members of our Penn Highlands Healthcare communities in Cameron, Clearfield, Elk and Jefferson counties.

Sr. Rita Brocke, RSM – 70 Years

Sr. Joachim Frey, OSB – 60 Years

Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ – 60 Years

Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB – 60 Years

Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ – 60 Years

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ – 60 Years

Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ – 60 Years

Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ – 50 Years

Sr. Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM – 50 Years

Rev. Robert Horgas – 25 Years

Rev. James E. Piszker – 25 Years

Rev. Brian E. Vossler – 25 Years



204 Hospital Avenue | DuBois, PA 15801 | www.phhealthcare.org

50 years REVEREND JAMES T. O'HARA

Father James T. O'Hara may have been ordained 50 years ago, but his inspiration comes from the newest leader of the Catholic Church: Pope Francis.

One of Father O'Hara's treasured sources of spiritual wisdom is Pope Francis' encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel." His favorite quote: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

Father O'Hara certainly knows about the joy that comes from living a life of faith. As a young child at his home parish of St. Mark the Evangelist in Erie, he felt a call to the priesthood.

"I cannot remember a time when I did not want to become a priest," he says.

Decades before Pope Francis emerged as the leader of the Catholic Church, Father O'Hara drew inspiration from religious mentors. As a youngster, he was inspired by Msgr. Lawrence McBride and Msgr. J. Edward Feeney of St. Ann Parish in Erie, and was later encouraged to pray for a vocation to the priesthood by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Ann School and by the priests and sisters teaching at Cathedral Prep.

He eventually decided to enter St. Mark Seminary, where he says he was further encouraged by the priests serving as faculty at Gannon University. He was ordained on May 19, 1966, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

After his ordination, Father O'Hara served as a weekend assistant at St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Holy Rosary and St. Ann parishes, all in Erie. During that time, he also taught at Cathedral Prep, from 1966-75. He then went on to become a parochial vicar at St. Ann, Erie; Sacred Heart, Erie; and St. Joseph, Lucinda.

He was named pastor at St. Joseph, Lucinda, in 1982, but less than a year later became pastor at St. Philip in Crossingville, where he remained for five years. In 1985, he was appointed pastor of St. Peter, Conneautville.

Six years later, he was named pastor of Holy Family Parish, Erie, which in 2009 was merged with two other parishes to become Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. He has been pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows since that time. He also remains active as the spiritual director of the Erie Curia of the Legion of Mary.

Fifty years into his ministry as an ordained priest, Father O'Hara says



he is deeply inspired by "sacred Scripture, the lives of the saints, and the entire liturgy of the church." The teachings and preaching of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI also have provided wisdom and guidance.

Nurturing his spiritual life through prayer and meditation has become a top priority for Father O'Hara.

"One cannot give what one does not have. If we are to give Christ to those whom we teach and preach to, we must have a real relationship with him," he says.

Chief among Father O'Hara's prayer intentions are world peace, the poor, the family, evangelization, persecuted Christians worldwide, and vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. He envisions the Catholic Church in America and throughout the world as "a place of mercy where everyone can feel welcome, loved and forgiven."

His inspiration:

"With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

| POPE FRANCIS

Vocation highlights

PASTOR

- Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie (Current)
- Holy Family, Erie
- St. Peter, Conneautville
- St. Philip, Crossingville
- St. Joseph, Lucinda

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

- Erie Curia of the Legion of Mary (Current)

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Joseph, Lucinda
- Sacred Heart, Erie
- St. Ann, Erie

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- St. Ann, Erie
- Holy Rosary, Erie
- St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie

FACULTY

- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR JUBILEES!
 SR. MARY DANIEL MEAHL, OSB
 SR. SUSAN HERZING, SSJ
 FR. JAMES O'HARA
 MSGR. GERALD ORBANEK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH AND SCHOOL.
 - ST. JOSEPH CHURCH/BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY, ERIE -

ST. JULIA PARISH IN ERIE WISHES
 TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE

**REV. MSGR. GERALD KOOS
 AND
 REV. MSGR. GERALD ORBANEK**

THANK YOU FOR
 YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE!

50 years MONSIGNOR GERALD L. ORBANEK

Msgr. Gerald Orbanek is considered by some to be "twice noble."

As a monsignor, he is a chaplain to His Holiness the Pope. As a loyal servant to the small town of Ergenzingen in the region of Württemberg in Germany, he is a knight.

In 2009, the duke and duchess of Württemberg made Msgr. Orbanek a knight of the Order of Bok.

Such recognition is a little-known fact about Msgr. Orbanek, who developed an intimate connection to the town while studying at the University of Tübingen in 1965. At that time, he took a course taught by Father Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI.

Erika and Meinrad Grammer of Ergenzingen had asked the young Deacon Orbanek to baptize their baby, Frank Lorenz. It was Deacon Orbanek's first baptism, one that glued the two together for a lifetime.

Over the past 50 years, Msgr. Orbanek and the Grammer family have visited each other many times. Last year, Msgr. Orbanek traveled to Germany for Frank Grammer's 50th birthday.

"Distance and time make a friendship almost impossible, but that was not the case for us," Msgr. Orbanek says.

Frank Grammer appreciates this lifelong friendship, too, saying: "I think he as a priest is very soulful. As a person, humanistic and true. And as a bro, understanding and a very good friend."

For Msgr. Orbanek, deep connections are common.

For 43 years, he taught theology at Gannon University. He spent 30 of those years as chairman of Gannon's theology department. He was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award and the Archbishop Gannon Award for Excellence.

Msgr. Orbanek served for another 35 years as resident chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie. He was the last of the chaplains in the diocese who actually lived in community with the sisters.

"I had the best of two worlds," he says. "I loved living with the Sisters of St. Joseph at West 8th and Liberty and when they moved to



His inspiration:

"What can I offer the Lord for all his goodness to me?" | PSALM 116;12

their new motherhouse. When things would trouble me, I could always escape into the sisters' lives. I loved them and they loved me."

Although he was baptized at St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie, Msgr. Orbanek and his family moved to nearby St. Ann, and then to St. Julia Parish, also in Erie. In his late teens, his family moved to St. Francis Xavier in McKean. He graduated from Cathedral Prep and entered St. Mark Seminary.

After earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy at Gannon, he did graduate studies in Germany and Canada. He earned a master's in theology at the University of Toronto.

After his ordination to the priesthood on May 19, 1966, he was immediately named to Gannon's faculty. He became well known for a long-running question-and-answer column in the diocesan newspaper, the *Lake Shore Visitor*.

An avid reader, Msgr. Orbanek lives at the Priest Retirement Residence in Erie. In his retirement, he taught Latin for one year at Cathedral Prep, and currently is the sacramental assistant at St. George Parish in Erie.

He believes that the key to a healthy life is staying close to God. "People who don't devote time and energy to their spiritual lives don't know what they're missing," he says. "Colors are brighter. Laughter is gayer. Love is sweeter and God is more real."

Vocation highlights

SACRAMENTAL ASSISTANT

- St. George, Erie (Current)
- St. Paul, Erie
- St. Hedwig, Erie
- Brevillier Village, Erie

FACULTY

- Gannon University, Erie
- Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- St. Julia, Erie
- St. Andrew, Erie
- St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie

RESIDENT PRIEST

- St. Andrew, Erie

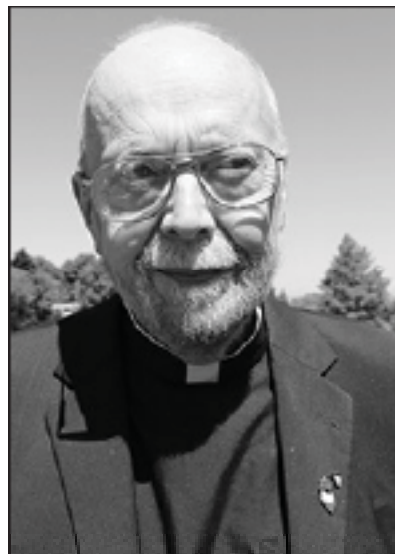
RESIDENT CHAPLAIN

- Sisters of St. Joseph



Contributed photo

Msgr. Gerald Orbanek stands with Frank Grammer of Ergenzingen, Germany, in the chapel where Msgr. Orbanek baptized him 50 years ago. The two have remained close.



*St. Francis Xavier Parish
congratulates
Monsignor Gerald L. Orbanek
on 50 years
of faithful service
to God's people.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL JUBILARIANS

We are grateful you have served our parishes and our schools!

SR. BERNARDINE PAIS, SSJ
SR. MARIE KEBORT, SSJ
SR. CATHERINE MANNING, SSJ
SR. MARTHA ANN RINDERLE, SSJ
SR. NORMA JEAN KINGSLEY, OSB
(native daughter)
MSGR. HENRY SCHAUERMAN
(native son)



St. John the Baptist, Erie

SR. MARGARET O'BRIEN, SSJ
FR. JAMES O'HARA
FR. MICHAEL ALLISON
FR. JAMES PISZKER



Holy Rosary, Erie

50 years REVEREND JORGE C. VILLEGAS

Half of Father Jorge Villegas' life as a priest has been spent going between his home in the Archdiocese of Yucatán, Mexico, and the Diocese of Erie.

As a servant of God to these sister dioceses, the 50-year jubilarian has made it his mission to evangelize on both sides of the border.

"I have some mixed feelings going back and forth," Father Villegas says. "I'm there for three years and back here for three years. Sometimes I feel like a stranger in my own land, not having met some of the priests that are being ordained there."

But it's Father Villegas' humility that anchors him to both dioceses, especially as director of the Hispanic Apostolate in the Diocese of Erie.

"I believe that there is a consolidated Hispanic Catholic community in Erie now," Father Villegas says. "The mission is not for the priest, but for the community."

In 2017, Father Villegas is expected to complete his final three-year assignment as the director of the apostolate and as pastor of Erie's St. Stephen of Hungary Parish.

He was ordained July 30, 1966, at the Catedral de San Ildefonso in Mérida, Yucatán. Father Villegas served from 1972-78 as diocesan vocations director and as rector of the archdiocese's minor seminary. From



His inspiration:

"The ways are so many.
Yours is only one."

| A VOCATIONS MOTTO
FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF YUCATÁN

1978-84, he was executive secretary of seminaries and vocations with the Mexico Bishops Conference, attending meetings throughout Latin and Central America during the height of civil war.

From 1978-91, he served as rector of the Yucatán's major seminary. He first came to Erie in 1991 as an assistant to the Hispanic community at St. Stephen Parish. He returned to the Yucatán in 1992 to serve as pastor of St. Isidore Parish until 1995.

Erie Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman named Father Villegas pastor of St. Stephen Parish in 1995. He remained in that position for 16 years, returning home to Mexico again to serve as a pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Yucatán.

In 2014, he returned to Erie again as pastor of St. Stephen, where he expects to stay until next year.

"I believe that Hispanic ministry is becoming more and more important in the Catholic Church in the United States," he says. "I say this not because of the growing number of Catholic Hispanics, which is one important reason, but also because of the meaning of this new happening in the church."

"If we believe that the 'signs of the times' are a real and present voice of God, we all should be asking ourselves what God is trying to tell us through this reality."

Vocation highlights

PASTOR

- St. Stephen of Hungary, Erie (Current)

DIRECTOR

- Hispanic Apostolate, Diocese of Erie (Current)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY—SEMINARIES AND VOCATIONS

- Mexico Bishops Conference

RECTOR/DIOCESAN VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

- Minor seminary, Archdiocese of Yucatán, Mexico

RECTOR

- Major seminary, Archdiocese of Yucatán, Mexico

PASTOR, ARCHDIOCESE OF YUCATÁN

- St. Isidore

- Our Lady of Guadalupe

PAROCHIAL VICAR, ARCHDIOCESE OF YUCATÁN

- St. John the Baptist

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Congratulations, Fr. Tom Fialkowski

on your 50th anniversary of priestly ordination.
Thank you for your service to our parish.

YOUR FRIENDS AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL IN ERIE



Ad Multos Annos! Sto lat!

Felicito al Padre Jorge Villegas, mi ex-colaborador en la Parroquia de San Esteban de Hungría, por su medio siglo de servicio pastoral con greyes de habla castellana, inglesa y maya. Como decimos los polacos, "STO LAT" — cien años — de bendiciones, alegría y salud.

- Padre Daniel Kresinski

I congratulate Fr. Jorge Villegas, my former co-worker at St. Stephen of Hungary Parish, for his half-century of pastoral service with flocks speaking Spanish, English and Mayan. As we Poles say, "STO LAT" — 100 years — of blessings, happiness and health.

- Fr. Dan Kresinski

With gratitude to Almighty God,
 we honor **Reverend Michael P. Allison**
 on his **25th Anniversary**
 of Ordination to the Priesthood,
 May 10, 1991.



The parishioners of
 Church of the Beloved Disciple

*“For the vision is a witness for the appointed time,
 a testimony to the end; it will not disappoint.
 If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.”*
 Habakkuk 2:3



Benedictine
 Sisters of Erie

The **BENEDICTINE WAY**
 is to seek God
 in the **COMMUNAL LIFE**
 and to respond
 in **PRAYER and MINISTRY.**

Mount Saint Benedict Monastery
 6101 East Lake Road
 Erie, PA 16511
www.ErieBenedictines.org



*Elke County Catholic School System and St. Leo School
 wish congratulations and best wishes to all Jubilarians!*

We especially pay tribute to the following:

60 Years

Sr. Joachim Frey, O.S.B.

Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, S.S.J.

Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley, O.S.B.

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, S.S.J.

50 Years

Sr. Susan Herzing, S.S.J.

25 Years

Rev. Robert Horgas

Rev. Brian E. Vossler

*Thank you for your dedication to our schools and community!
 May God bless you for your service!*

Congratulations



Sr. Geraldine Kasper, OSF,
 Fr. James O'Hara,
 Msgr. Gerald Koos,
 all jubilarians
 and the newly ordained priests!

Our Mother of Sorrows - Erie
 (Holy Family, St. Ann and St. Casimir)

25 years REVEREND MICHAEL P. ALLISON

It was a leap of faith for Father Michael Allison when he left the Sunshine State 19 years ago to serve the snow-covered Diocese of Erie.

Six years after his ordination on May 10, 1991, at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., he returned to his hometown of Erie. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Erie in March 2000.

Most of his 25 years as a priest have been spent in education and campus ministry. In June, he stepped down from his position as president of the Shenango Valley Catholic School System to devote his full energies to Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City, where he has served as pastor since 2011.

Previously, from 2007-11, he was pastor at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Erie. Leading a parish community, he says, is an enriching experience.

“The parish is the center of church life, and I have been blessed to serve as pastor in two wonderful parishes,” he says.

Discerning his call to the priesthood was not easy for Father Allison. In his own words, the process had its “fits and starts.” His parents and grandparents served as great examples of faith, and he is grateful they did not push him one way or another.

As a kid in Erie, he was surrounded by priests, especially his uncle, Msgr. Bruce Allison, as well as Msgr. John Hagerty, Father Tom Kelley, Father Sal Luzzi, and Father Samuel Houpt. Upon his matriculation at Gannon University, Father Allison was introduced to a new community of priests who continued to inspire him.

Throughout his priesthood, he has been invigorated by the faith of his parish communities.

“I am continually inspired by God’s holy people as they manage daily the business of living,” he says. “They have far more challenges presented to them than I, and witnessing their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties is a constant sign to me of the presence of God.”

According to Father Allison, one of the most important issues fac-



His inspiration:

“For still the vision awaits its appointed time, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it. It will surely come; it will not be late.” | HABAKKUK 2:3

ing Catholics today is a “failure of imagination.” He says there are many different ways to proclaim the Gospel; he hopes people will be open to changes in the church.

Catholics must come together, he adds, and “re-find the energy and depth of the Second Vatican Council.”

“It mystifies me that there is a generation that seems to wish to return to pre-conciliar days who never knew the church before the council,” he says.

Developing a spiritual life is essential for everyone, he says, not just priests or religious. The “slow work of God,” as Blessed Oscar Romero proclaims, requires believers to begin somewhere.

“Time and energy devoted to the spiritual life keeps one grounded and gives one a proper horizon,” Father Allison says.

Vocation highlights

PASTOR

- Beloved Disciple, Grove City (Current)
- St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie

PRESIDENT

- Shenango Valley Catholic School System

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage (instructor)
- Mercyhurst Preparatory School, Erie (faculty, chaplain)

DIOCESAN POSTS

- Presbyteral Council
- Emmaus Committee, chairman

RESIDENT

- St. Hedwig, Erie
- St. Paul, Erie

HIGHER EDUCATION—CAMPUS MINISTRY/CHAPLAIN

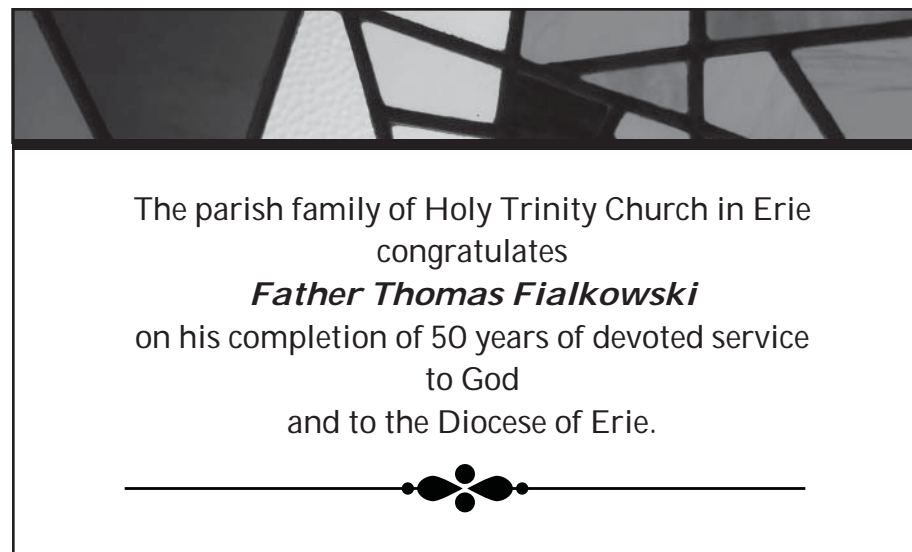
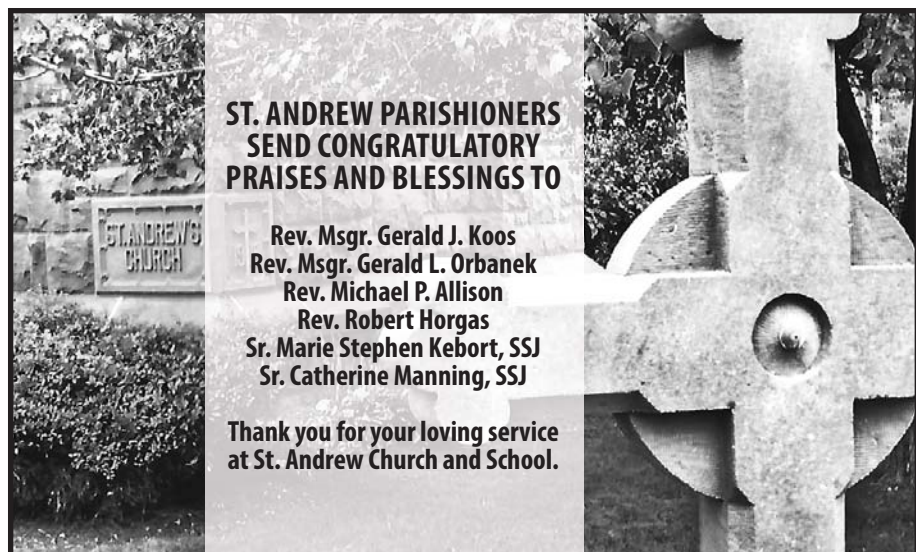
- Penn State/Behrend College, Erie

WEEKDAY MASS PRIEST

- Gannondale, Erie

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- Holy Rosary, Erie



25 years REVEREND ROBERT HORGAS

It can take a village to nurture a vocation to the priesthood.

In the case of Father Robert Horgas, he was guided and inspired by so many faith-filled people that he cannot possibly name them all. But he credits each person for inspiring him to the priesthood 25 years ago.



His inspiration:

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." | JOHN 15:11

For Father Horgas, being a priest "just seemed natural."

Originally from Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale, he was ordained to the priesthood on April 26, 1991, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. After his ordination, he served as a parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Parish in Johnsonburg, St. Francis of Assisi in Clearfield, St. Agatha in Meadville, and St. Leo Magnus in Ridgway.

For five years, from 2001-06, he was an administrator of Holy Cross in Brandy Camp, and of St. Bernard in Falls

Creek. In 2006, he was named pastor of both parishes.

In 2008, he was assigned to serve as pastor of Immaculate Conception in Osceola Mills, and St. Agnes in Morrisdale, as well as its mission, Ss. Peter & Paul in Hawk Run. He continues to serve in that capacity today.

"It's exciting to see people alive in their faith," he says about his current ministry.

Father Horgas recognizes the importance of a healthy spiritual life. He believes the most critical issue facing Catholics today is the challenge of living the Christian faith in a secular world. His hope for the future of the Catholic Church is that the vision of Pope Francis becomes a reality.

The Holy Father's training as a Jesuit should inspire others to bolster their spiritual lives by experiencing an Ignatian retreat, he says. When he offers Mass, Father Horgas is inspired by a simple phrase: "Lord, I am not worthy." This portion of the liturgy reminds him that God's Word can heal all things.

"The spiritual life," he says, "needs to be nurtured and fostered in each of us, no matter how old we grow."

Vocation highlights

PASTOR

- St. Agnes, Morrisdale, and its mission, Ss. Peter & Paul, Hawk Run (Current)
- Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills (Current)
- Holy Cross, Brandy Camp
- St. Bernard, Falls Creek

ADMINISTRATOR

- St. Bernard, Falls Creek
- Holy Cross, Brandy Camp

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
- St. Agatha, Meadville
- St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
- Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg

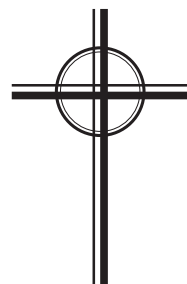
Congratulations
to Father Rob Horgas
on 25 years in the priesthood.
May the Lord bless you with 25 more!

THE PARISHIONERS AND STAFF OF CHRIST THE KING, HOUTZDALE



congratulations

We applaud you for 25 years of service to the priesthood, Father Robert Horgas!



With gratitude,
 Your Holy Cross Family (Brandy Camp)

thank you

25 years REVEREND JAMES E. PISZKER

Father James E. Piszker was ordained to the priesthood on April 26, 1991, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

A native of Punxsutawney, Father Piszker's home parish is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Sykesville. Upon his ordination, he spent a year at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie as a parochial vicar, followed by another six years, from 1992-98, as a parochial vicar at St. Brigid in Meadville.



Vocation highlights

ADJUNCT FACULTY/CHAPLAIN

- Mercyhurst University, Erie (Current)

CONFESSOR

- Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Erie Regional Community (Current)

WEEKEND CELEBRANT

- Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie (Current)

CHAPLAIN

- Erie Retrouvaille Program
- Erie Catholic Daughters of America
- Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Erie

INSTRUCTOR

- Diocesan CORE Enrichment Series

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- St. Brigid, Meadville
- Holy Rosary, Erie

His inspiration:

"The Christians of the future will be mystics, or they will not exist at all." | KARL RAHNER

Since August 1998, he has worked as an adjunct faculty member and chaplain at Mercyhurst University in Erie. While at Mercyhurst, Father Piszker served for 10 years as chaplain at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Erie. He continues to serve as a confessor to the Mercy Sisters.

Father Piszker also was an instructor for the Diocesan CORE

Enrichment Series, and was a chaplain for Erie Catholic Daughters of America and the Erie Retrouvaille Program.

In addition to his current position at Mercyhurst University, Father Piszker enjoys serving as a weekend celebrant at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie.

Congratulations

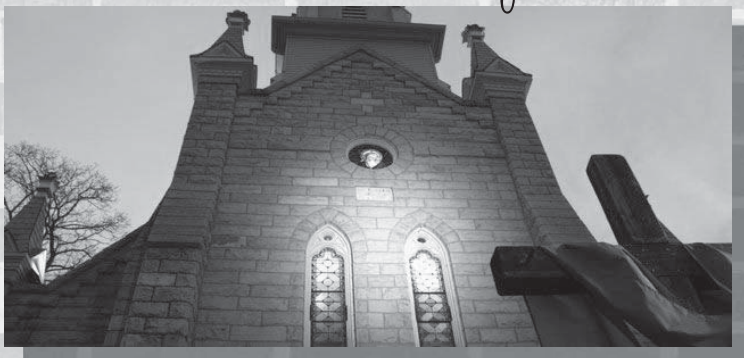
Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ (60 years)

Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ (60 years)

and Rev. Robert Horgas (25 years)

on your anniversaries in religious life and in appreciation for your years of service to St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

St. Francis, Clearfield



St. Michael in Fryburg congratulates the following jubilarians for their good and faithful work in our diocese:

Sr. Mary Daniel Meahl, OSB

Sr. Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB

Sr. Norma Jean Kingsley, OSB

Sr. Dorothy Szczypinski, OSB

Wow, six decades of service!

SR. JANET STAAB, OSB, we commend you for your commitment to the Diocese of Erie.

God bless you as you continue on your spiritual journey.
- St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville -

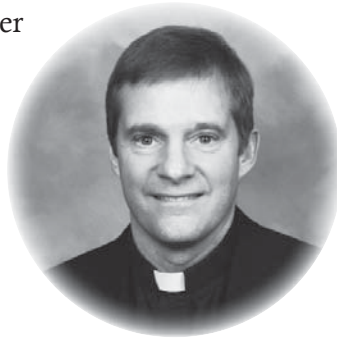
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Immaculate Conception in Clarion is most grateful to Rev. Eldon Somers and the women and men celebrating this year who have devoted their lives to the church for so many years!

25 years REVEREND BRIAN E. VOSSLER

An avid athlete, Father Brian Vossler has tried everything from hang gliding to scuba diving to boxing. Perhaps it's that athletic stamina—combined with a deep spiritual life—that has sustained him for 25 years of priesthood.

One of eight children, he was raised in a family accustomed to high energy. His parents were heavily involved in their home parish, St. Elizabeth in Smethport, and served as positive role models in the Catholic faith.



His inspiration:

"Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one." | 1 CORINTHIANS 9:25

"In Latin, the root word for 'holiness' is the same for the word 'wholeness,'" Father Vossler says. "I have always taken a holistic approach in developing my body, mind and spirit. Exercising has been one of my life's ambitions."

A lifelong acquaintance with his pastor, the late Father Thomas Geddes, and also Father John Fischer—both outdoorsmen—also inspired him to commit to a life in ministry.

Father Vossler was ordained April 26, 1991, at St. Peter Cathedral. He served as parochial vicar at the former St. Matthew in the Woods Parish, Erie, and at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish, Punxsutawney. He spent five years on the diocesan Presbyteral Council, from 1994-99, while serving as a weekend assistant at Immaculate Conception in Clarion and as a campus minister at Clarion University. From 2000-06, he was pastor at St. Bibiana Parish, Galeton, and Sacred Heart Mission, Genesee. He served another five-year term on the Presbyteral Council, from 2004-09, and then became pastor at St. Mary Mission in Sartwell, St. Theresa Parish in Shinglehouse, and St. Raphael Parish in Eldred.

Since 2009, Father Vossler has served as pastor of St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway. Those seven years have been marked by significant renovations to the parish, as well as by the development of new ministries, particularly adult education programs and prison ministry. A men's faith-sharing group called "That Man is You" aims to revitalize the spirituality of male parishioners.



*Parishioners and staff of
St. Theresa in Shinglehouse,
St. Raphael in Eldred, and
St. Mary in Sartwell
warmly congratulate
Fr. Brian Vossler
for his dedicated
25 years of service.*

Thank you and God bless!

Nurturing his own prayer life—mixed with his high level of energy—helps Father Vossler care for the people he serves. He strives to be the best athlete, scholar and saint that he can be.

"As St. Paul reminds us," Father Vossler says, "we strive to give glory to God by using our God-given gifts for service of others so that one day—given God's mercy and love—we may experience his everlasting glory."

Vocation highlights

PASTOR

- St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway (Current)
- St. Theresa, Shinglehouse
- Sacred Heart, Genesee
- St. Raphael, Eldred
- St. Mary, Sartwell
- St. Bibiana, Galeton

DIOCESAN POSTS

- Clergy Continuing Education, Erie (Current)
- Presbyteral Council

PAROCHIAL VICAR

- Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
- St. Matthew in the Woods, Erie

CAMPUS MINISTRY

- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
- Clarion University of Pennsylvania
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney

RESIDENT PRIEST

- Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

SACRAMENTAL ASSISTANT

- Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

- Immaculate Conception, Clarion



A shared love

Jeanne Vossler, mother of Father Brian Vossler, played an instrumental role in her son's vocation. After converting to Catholicism when she married F. Bernard Vossler, Jeanne served as the choir director of St. Elizabeth Parish, Smethport, spent time with religious sisters and participated in many spiritual retreats.

Twenty-five years after his ordination, Father Vossler is now the primary care provider for his 92-year-old mother, who is in the advanced stage of dementia. She lives with her son at St. Leo Magnus Parish, where he is pastor.

He converted his living room into a bedroom with two twin beds so that he can easily wake up and tend to his mother throughout the night. He has adjusted his schedule to hers—even if it means eating breakfast at 3 a.m.—and believes that being in a home environment at the rectory has been important to his mother's happiness.

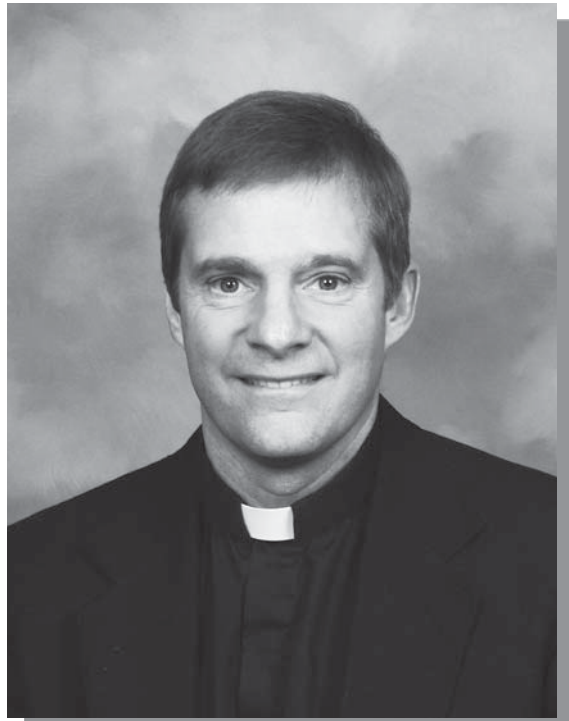
More than 50 parishioners have volunteered to sit with Jeanne when Father Vossler has been busy with other parish duties.

"I thank God for this unique opportunity to be there for my mother and for her to be there for me," he says.

Congrats



ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, SMETHPORT



FR. BRIAN VOSSLER

and thanks!



ST. JOSEPH, MOUNT JEWETT

We are most grateful for many years of service from these dedicated men!



Fr. Jorge Villegas
50 Years



Fr. Brian Vossler
25 Years



Deacon Bob Ball
10 Years



They have always gone above and beyond in all of their ministries. May God make fruitful all their future endeavors and may they continue to be a blessing to all!

With Love,
from Cursillistas in the Diocese of Erie

The Permanent Diaconate



Vocation highlights in review

Deacons Charles Adamczyk, Robert Ball and Jeffrey Swanson — pictured above 10 years ago — are celebrating a decade in the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Erie.

Sadly, two of their classmates—Deacon Gerald Beeman and Deacon Robert Boal Jr.—have passed away.

Deacons Adamczyk, Ball and Swanson are among 75 deacons in the Diocese of Erie, both active and retired.

According to Deacon Richard Shewman, associate director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, the first class to be ordained to the permanent diaconate in the diocese was 1998.

For information about the permanent diaconate, go to www.ErieRCD.org/diaconate.asp, or contact Deacon Richard Shewman, associate director, or Father Mark Nowak, director, at 814-824-1140.



www.ErieRCD.org/diaconate.asp

10 years DEACON CHARLES E. ADAMCZYK

Some might say that Deacon Charles Adamczyk takes his faith to the streets. Although he loves his public role—serving at Mass, preaching the Gospel—he most enjoys helping others directly.

“I prefer to be ministering out and with God’s people,” he says.

Two recent events have challenged this 10-year jubilarian: the death of his father and assisting a family whose daughter was born with Darby-Walker Syndrome. He appreciates his ability to support others in a time of great need.

“In both cases,” Deacon Adamczyk says, “I used what was taught to me during formation, to offer the same attributes taught to us by Christ himself: love, friendship and compassion.

Without the formation program, I believe my approach to both challenges would have been much different.”

Ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Erie on June 9, 2006, Deacon Adamczyk maintains his secular job as a buyer for Better Baked Foods, Erie. As a deacon assistant at St. James Parish, Erie, he serves at Mass, helps with the RCIA program, conducts Bible studies, and trains altar servers and Eucharistic ministers.

In addition, he offers Communion to patients at Health South, Erie, and he visits shut-ins.



His inspiration:

“Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another. Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.” | ROMANS 12

On the diocesan level, Deacon Adamczyk is the coordinator of pastoral formation for the Permanent Diaconate Program in the Diocese of Erie, and is chaplain assistant at Brevillier Village.

He and his wife, Kathy, have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Deacon Adamczyk counts Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman and the late Msgr. James Sperry as his spiritual guides.

“Collectively, these two have charted my journey and my future with the Lord since ordination,” he says.

Deacon Adamczyk hopes to see the Catholic Church in America increase its spirituality and its membership. His own spirituality can be found in his favorite Gospel: John.

“I just always enjoyed how John ‘portrayed’ our Lord and Savior,” he says. “If I was told I could only keep one book of the Bible, it would be the Gospel of John, in particular chapter 17. This, for me, sums up everything taught to us by Christ.”

Vocation highlights

CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Deacon assistant, St. James Church, Erie
- Coordinator of pastoral formation, Permanent Diaconate Program, Diocese of Erie
- Visiting deacon, Brevillier Village, Erie
- PAST VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
- Millcreek Mall Chapel

10 years DEACON ROBERT L. BALL

Deacon Robert Ball worked for 36 years at Sandberg Fire Protection in Erie before retiring in 2004. Two years later, he was ordained a deacon for the Catholic Church.

This year, as he celebrates his 10th anniversary in the Diocese of Erie, he reflects on the importance of a prayerful life.

"I take at least 10 minutes in silent meditation each day before Mass so I can focus my life in Christ," Deacon Ball says.

He takes the Scripture message to heart as he devotes his full energies to Erie's St. George Parish, where he serves as a deacon assistant. He co-directs the RCIA program there, and serves as chaplain of the Legion of Mary group. He also oversees all liturgical ministries, and coordinates small faith groups and large group experiences and retreats.

As the parish deacon, he coordinates Communion services to five senior living facilities, visits shut-ins at private homes, and visits parishioners at area hospitals.

In addition, Deacon Ball is a member of the Deacon Council, for which he serves as chairperson of social concerns.

Through his experience at Cursillo, he became involved in prison ministry with Msgr. James Peterson. He currently is spiritual adviser to the



His inspiration:

"Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service."

| BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Erie Cursillo Movement. His wife, Patricia, plans the annual deacon/spouse retreat.

"First and foremost, I have to say my wife has been my foundation," he says. "She is the one who keeps my head on straight when times are unsettled in my life."

He also credits Father John Fischer, his spiritual adviser and friend, for helping him "to see with the eyes of faith God's infinite majesty."

An engineering graduate of Penn State University, Deacon Ball worked his whole life at Sandberg Fire Protection, having retired as general foreman. But it was his outreach in prisons that changed his perspective.

"That's when I realized that I was being called to ministry," he says.

His message to others is to trust in God's love.

"We need to be like Jesus when he met the Samaritan woman at the well," he says. "We need to extend our hand of love, compassion and understanding to those in search of 'living water.'"

Vocation highlights

CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Deacon assistant, St. George Church, Erie
- Member, Deacon Council
- Spiritual adviser, Erie Cursillo Movement
- Chairperson of social concerns, Deacon Council

10 years DEACON JEFFREY D. SWANSON

In 2006, at age 37, Jeffrey Swanson became one of the youngest permanent deacons to be ordained in the Diocese of Erie.

Now, 10 years later, he sees how much the diaconate has helped him become a better person, especially during a crucial time of his life as a young husband and father.

"At 47, I don't know if I feel young, but my wife and I talk about how I've become different in the past 10 years," he says. "I'm a better husband, a better father, a better boss. There's a grace that comes with the sacrament of holy orders. I'm better for it. I'm more tolerant. I'm slower to anger. I point to the Holy Spirit as giving me a lot of that grace."

Deacon Swanson and his wife, Nicole, have two children: Carine, age 19, and Kaden, 15.

His inspiration:

"Let not one who puts on armor boast like one who takes it off." | 1 KINGS 20:11

A mechanical engineering graduate of Penn State, he is the part-owner of Advanced Finishing, Fairview. His company provides industrial painting and powder coating services.

While in college, he first felt a call to religious life, perhaps to the priesthood. He met with priests at St. Mark Seminary, Erie, to discern his path, but determined that it was not for him.

"At that time, there was no permanent diaconate, so I had no idea what



God was calling me for," he explains. "In time, it became clear that the permanent diaconate was where God was calling me."

In addition to being the deacon assistant at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, he encounters people on a daily basis who are seeking answers to faith questions or who need advice or spiritual counseling.

Deacon Swanson likens the Holy Spirit to a river.

"The Holy Spirit wants to move us in a direction," he says.

"We can choose to paddle against the current. We can flow with it for a while, and pull ourselves out of the river after it carries us too far from our comfort zone. We can anchor ourselves, so it looks like we are part of the flow, but we're really resisting all the way.

"We can also choose to never enter the water at all. When ministry is the most powerful, though, is when we relinquish control and let the Spirit move us."

Most people, he says, would do well to pray and read the Bible to keep their spiritual lives vibrant. One of the most inspiring aspects of the liturgy for Deacon Swanson is consecration of the Eucharist.

"I save my most important and heartfelt prayers for this part of Mass," he says. "In my mind's eye, I imagine a window of heaven is opening, as Jesus becomes present."

Vocation highlights

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT

- Deacon assistant, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie



**Brevillier
Village**

Celebrates

**Deacon Charles
E. Adamczyk's**

10 years of faithful
service to our residents
and staff.



CONGRATULATIONS

JUBILARIANS of 2016!

*Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie
congratulates all of the jubilarians celebrating
this year. Thank you for bringing faith, hope and
charity to life through your vocations.*

Your family in Christ,
Catholic Charities

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF ERIE

Bringing **Faith, Hope and Charity** to Life

Allegheny Health Network



**Saint Vincent
Hospital**

*For every baby born,
every heart healed, every capability restored,
every ailment cured, every passing made less painful,
every spirit uplifted, every life saved,
we recognize, with respect and reverence,
those who made it all possible...
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania*

**Congratulations
Sister Catherine Manning, SSJ
on your 60-year jubilee
and
Sister Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ
on your 50-year jubilee.**



Welcome, Fr. David!



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL - ERIE

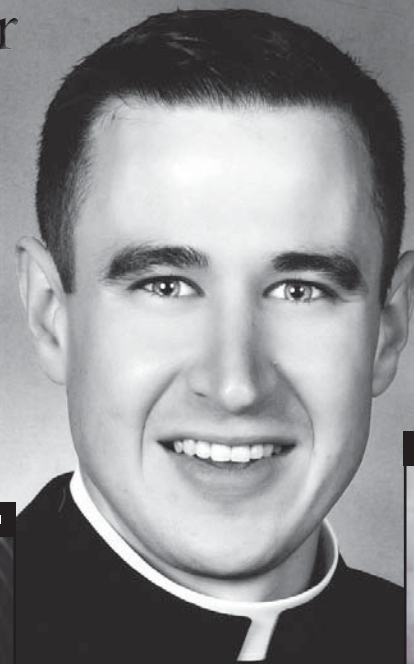
Congratulations

on your ordination and welcome
to the presbyterate of the Diocese of Erie.
You will always have a home at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Your fellow parishioners and parish staff.

Whoever
serves
me
must
follow
me.

JOHN 12:26



*Congratulations,
Reverend James
Patrick Power.*

We are all so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Rick and Caroline

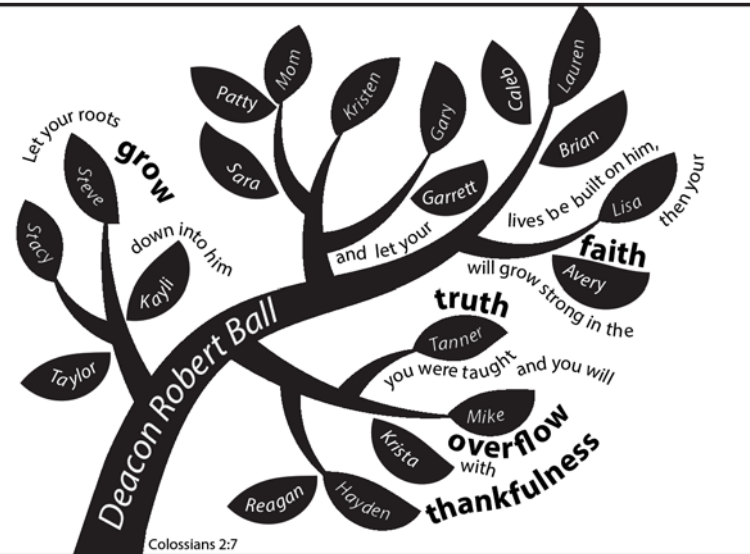
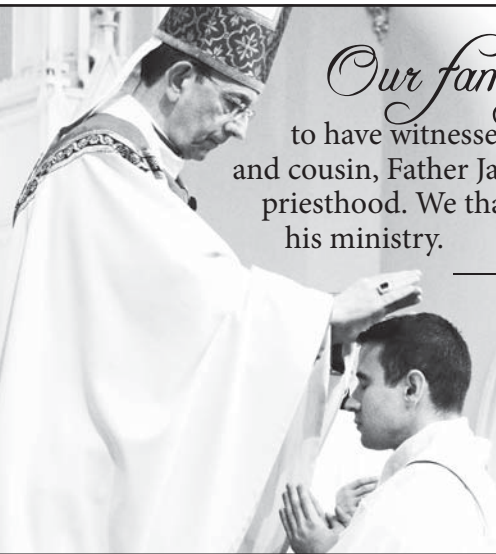
Our family is so blessed

to have witnessed our grandson, nephew
and cousin, Father James Power, ordained to the
priesthood. We thank the good Lord for
his ministry.



With love from your family,

The Anger, Barber, Fox,
Foxe, Musatto, Natale,
Oehling, Pace and
Sweny families



*Your family is thankful for God's gift of you.
Congratulations and we love you!*

Msgr. Richard Stack

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ

Thanking God for these *instruments of mercy*,
we offer our prayerful congratulations.

Your grateful Carmelite nuns



Congratulations!

Sister Margaret O'Brien, SSJ
Sister Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ
and Reverend James Power



Our Lady of Peace
CHURCH

Newly ordained REVEREND DAVID E. CARTER

Newly ordained Father David Carter hasn't fed 5,000 people yet. But, as he perfects his culinary skills — à la Julia Child — he knows he is capable of cooking for at least 50.

An amateur chef, Father Carter hopes to put his cooking ability to good use as a new priest of the Diocese of Erie. One of his goals is to enhance priest fraternity and vocation outreach by offering ways to come together around specially prepared meals.

"I learned years ago that I couldn't offer to take everyone to dinner, so I learned to cook instead," Father Carter said.

Already a respected chef among fellow seminarians, Father Carter has studied, page by page, Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Gathering around a meal, he says, is essential to Christian spirituality.

"To me, when I cook a meal for people, it's a way to show Christian hospitality—just being able to sit down and be 'companions,' people who are walking along the way who are sitting down to a meal in fellowship," he explained. "Typically, when I'm around priests and seminarians, we have vespers and then we have dinner. It's just a really nice, fraternal thing to do."

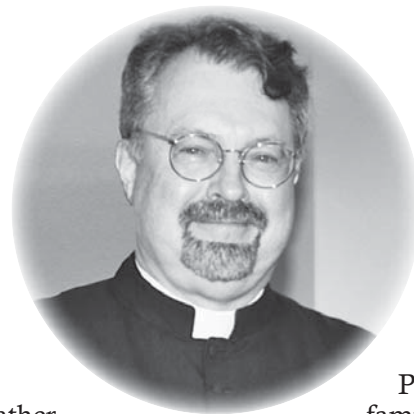
Father Carter enjoyed the ultimate sharing of a meal on June 10 at his ordination Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Erie. He was surrounded by 75 priests and deacons and hundreds of friends and supporters as he and Father Jamie Power received the sacrament of holy orders from Bishop Lawrence Persico.

As Father Carter said a week before his ordination: "I am becoming who I am."

His journey to the priesthood was a bit longer and circuitous than most. Baptized in the Lutheran faith, it was not until his adult years that he became a Catholic. A native of Baltimore, he entered major seminary—at age 57—at St. Vincent in Latrobe. He is now 62.

His age hasn't mattered much, but he does recognize that many seminarians are ordained at 26.

"I don't have quite the level of energy that 26-year-olds do, but on the other hand, I'm a little bit more calm than some of them," he said.



Previously, he worked for 21 years in the retail division of Paulist Press, and another 11 years in the bookstore and library at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. At St. Mary's, he came to know several seminarians from the Diocese of Erie, including Father Daniel Hoffman, now pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edinboro.

Father Carter developed a strong friendship with Father Hoffman and his parents, Tim and Patricia Hoffman, whom he calls "his honorary family." Father Carter's parents are both deceased.

The Hoffmans attended the ordination Mass, and Father Hoffman vested Father Carter in front of the altar.

"Since I've known David, he has always been so kind and knowledgeable about his faith. This is a good fit for him," Tim Hoffman said.

During Father Carter's priestly formation, he served a summer assignment at St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, and a parish assignment at Ss. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Punxsutawney. He has loved his new role as a preacher, he said, because it helps people "progress in their spiritual life in union with God."



"I'm longing to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass, to pray with people, to be their priest, to help them, to go out and anoint the sick, and to take care of people," he said.

At the end of June, Bishop Persico appointed Father Carter as parochial vicar, *pro tem*, at St. Joseph Parish, Sharon, and as sacramental assistant to area parishes, effective July 1 through Feb. 1, 2017.

Above, right: Bishop Lawrence Persico ordains Father David Carter at St. Peter Cathedral.

Bottom, near left: Father Daniel Hoffman, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro, embraces Father David Carter after vesting him in front of the altar. The two priests have been friends since working together in the bookstore at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Bottom, far right: Father David Carter poses at his ordination reception with his "honorary family," Patricia and Tim Hoffman of Erie.



Newly ordained REVEREND JAMES P. POWER

You really don't know Father Jamie Power until you meet his family.

Many of his aunts, uncles and cousins—some with a heavy Irish brogue—came from as far away as Ireland to witness Father Power's ordination to the priesthood June 10 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

"We're absolutely thrilled and honored to be here," said Patricia Walsh, a distant cousin from County Limerick, Ireland.

As Walsh waited for the ordination Mass to begin, she added, "Jamie came to Ireland a few years ago and he was on his way to Rome, so we weren't surprised he was going to be a priest."

Before the ceremony, dozens of family members happily greeted Father Power's parents, Bill and Carolyn Power, and his brother and sister, Rick and Caroline Power. They all joined in the thunderous applause and cheers as Father Power and Father David Carter left the altar after being ordained that night by Bishop Lawrence Persico.

"I am just so thrilled; I'm just so happy," Carolyn Power said at the post-ordination reception at the nearby Morosky Center. "After the ceremony, I loved saying, 'Hi, I'm Father Jamie's mom.' It was amazing."

Also in attendance were Italian-German relatives on Father Power's



His inspiration:

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus."

| 1 KINGS 20:11

mother's side of the family. He's already thinking of returning to Ireland and possibly Germany next year to say Mass at some of his ancestral parishes.

For Father Power, family heritage strengthens him and bolsters his faith. He still loves to hear stories about his grandparents who emigrated to Erie from Ireland. They were longtime owners of the popular Sullivan's Pub.

"In terms of my Irish upbringing," he said, "St. Patrick's Day was always a big deal. Irish music was always a big deal. St. Patrick's [his home parish] runs the Irish festival and we were always volunteering for that."



Father Power graduated from Our Lady of Peace School and Cathedral Preparatory School, both in Erie. He attended Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, for one year, but then decided to explore the priesthood. He enrolled at Gannon University and entered St. Mark Seminary.

"Msgr. [Edward] Lohse was the vocations director at the time and one of his phrases was, 'You don't enter the seminary to become a priest. You enter to discern the priesthood,'" Father Power said. "If you want to take serious that call, you have to enter the seminary and figure it out there. It really is a life of prayer, a life of introspection, and nobody leaves worse off."

During his formation, Father Power served his summer and holiday assignments at St. Joseph Parish, Warren. In June, he was named parochial vicar, *pro tem*, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield, with assistance to DuBois Central Catholic High School, effective July 1 through Feb. 1, 2017.

Upon his ordination, Father Power said his only goal is to "give myself fully to wherever I am." He's especially grateful to have become a priest in the Year of Mercy.

"Obviously, the place where mercy fits is in the sacrament of confession," he said. "It's another instrument of grace that we as Catholics have and that we need in order to grow in the spiritual life. What a blessing it is that I will be starting to hear confessions, dispensing mercy, during the Year of Mercy."

At top: Jamie Power receives the sacrament of holy orders from Bishop Lawrence Persico at St. Peter Cathedral June 10.

Left, top: Jamie Power is pictured before his ordination ceremony with his parents, Carolyn and Bill Power of Erie, and his grandmother, Nancy Pace.

Left, bottom: Many members of the Power family gather around the newly ordained Father Jamie Power at the altar of St. Peter Cathedral. Some came from as far away as Ireland.



Three bishops celebrate ordination of new priests



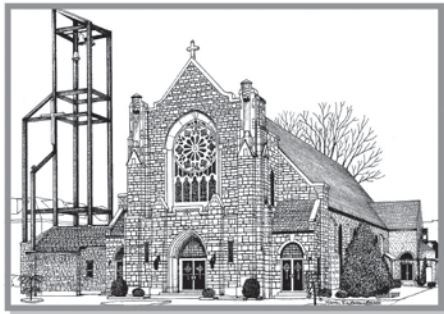
Photo by Mary Solberg

Three bishops and 75 priests and deacons from the Diocese of Erie helped to celebrate Mass at the June 10 ordinations of Father David Carter and Father James Power at St. Peter Cathedral.

In the photo, Bishop Denis Madden, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, is pictured at far left with the newly ordained priests and Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman.

Bishop Madden was in Erie to celebrate the special occasion with Father Power, who was a seminarian and deacon at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore. While in Baltimore, Father Power had assisted Bishop Madden at ceremonies, especially confirmations.

Bishop Persico conferred holy orders on Father Carter and Father Power, and Bishop Emeritus Donald Trautman also was on-hand to celebrate at the ordination Mass.



Ss. Cosmas & Damian Roman Catholic Parish wishes to congratulate the clergy and religious of the Diocese of Erie on their anniversaries to their commitment to Christ.

In this year of their anniversary, we especially wish to congratulate those with whom the Lord has blessed our parish

REVEREND BRIAN VOSSLER

Twenty-fourth Assistant at Ss. Cosmas & Damian: 1992-1995

SISTER RITA BROCKE, RSM

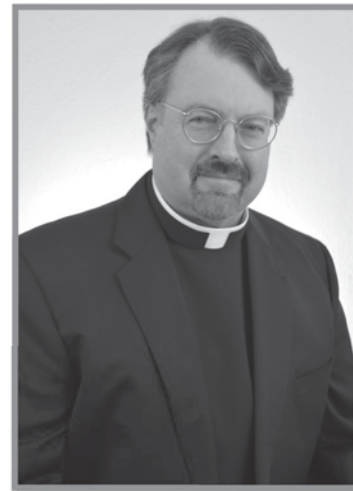
Teacher at Ss. Cosmas & Damian School

May God continue to bless you and your ministries.



Congratulations from your parish family in Punxsutawney on your ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Ad Multos Annos!



REVEREND DAVID CARTER

Ordained Friday, June 10, 2016



Congratulations to all jubilarians!

From the Staff of Saint Mark Catholic Center



To Father Tom Fialkowski:

2016 Memorial Day Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Erie.

50 years a priest and still going strong;
as our cemetery liaison, we can't go wrong.

Little things you do —
blessing a statue;
saying, "Peace be with you."

When tears come to our eyes
during our monthly Mass;
instead you find a way
to make us laugh.

Sincerely, your friends at the Erie Diocesan Cemeteries



Fellowship following monthly Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in May, 2016.

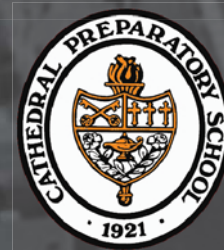


Dedication of St. Francis statue at Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery, Erie.

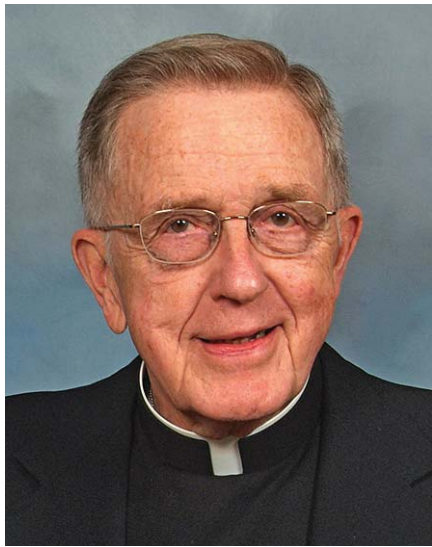


Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Academy: Together Building the City of God Congratulations, jubilarians!

- Rev. Thomas M. Fialkowski '58
- Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Koos '58
- Rev. James T. O'Hara '58
- Rev. Msgr. Gerald L. Orbanek '58
- Deacon Jeffrey D. Swanson '87
- Rev. James P. Power '08 (Newly ordained)
- Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ '65
- Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ (Faculty)



Rev. Msgr. Richard Stack and Rev. Michael Allison



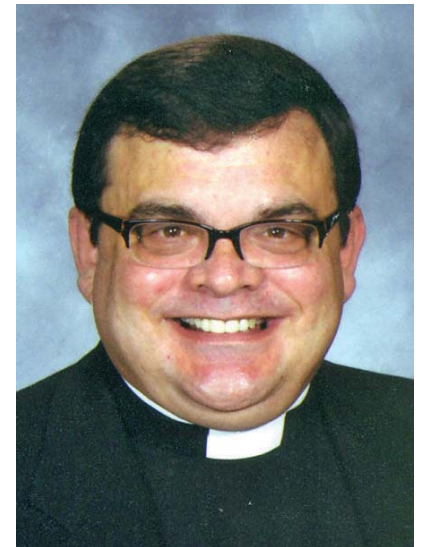
— Rev. Msgr. Richard Stack —

The parishioners of
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Erie,
congratulate you for your service
to us as pastor of our parish.

We are grateful!



St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Erie



— Rev. Michael Allison —

Congratulations, jubilarians

For your dedication and vision for the future

Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ
*Founding Executive Director
of The Catholic Foundation*

Rev. Michael Allison
Member of the Board of Directors



THE
**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**

**Enriching lives through investments in parishes,
schools and ministries in Northwestern PA.**

Contact Lisa Louis - 814.824.1237 / Mycatholicfoundation.org



Congratulations

From The Board of Trustees, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students of Gannon University: Our Sincere Congratulations to the Alumni and Faculty of Gannon University and Villa Maria College for Your Faithful Commitment to the Gospel.

80 Years

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ '45VMC

70 Years

Sr. Bernadette Lorei, OSB '59VMC

65 Years

Rev. Eldon K. Somers

60 Years

Sr. Joachim Frey, OSB

Sr. Marie Stephen Kebort, SSJ '67VMC
Sr. Catherine Manning, SSJ '66VMC, '71M
Sr. Margaret O'Brien, SSJ '68VMC
Sr. Martha Ann Rinderle, SSJ
Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Stack

50 Years

Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ '69VMC
Rev. Thomas M. Fialkowski '60
Sr. Susan Herzing, SSJ '72VMC
Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Koos '71
Rev. Msgr. Gerald L. Orbanek '60

25 Years

Rev. Michael P. Allison '81, '04M
Rev. Robert Horgas '86

Deacon Celebrating 10 Years

Deacon Charles E. Adamczyk '89, '91

Newly Ordained Priest

Rev. James Power '12



Believe in the possibilities.