



Re-membering Our Sunday Story
An initiative as we emerge from the pandemic
August 9, 2021

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Erie,

On the day I was introduced to the Diocese of Erie as bishop-elect, I said I came with only one agenda: to share with you the love of Jesus Christ. I promised I would encourage you to embrace Jesus, and to open your hearts to the God who loves us so much that he sent his only son to die for us so that we might have life and have it to the fullest.

It may seem there have been distractions along the way. In the last nine years, we have implemented a pastoral plan that meant restructuring our schools and parishes as well as reimagining our approach to faith formation. We have been humbled by a grand jury report and worked hard to provide justice for survivor/victims. And most recently, we have needed to navigate a worldwide pandemic. Each of these requires ongoing attention.

Yet our loving God is at work among us.

The sacrifices and deprivations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic are causing us to rethink priorities. As protocols are eased, parishioners are discovering a deeper appreciation for what it means to gather for Mass, to receive the Eucharist and to be part of a community.

I asked our faith formation team to design the *Re-membering Our Sunday Story* initiative to help each of us fully embrace this unexpected period of renewal. I believe it will lay the groundwork for next year, when the American bishops launch a three-year effort to help us grow in our understanding of the Eucharist.

Over the coming months, you will come across a variety of resources including a pastoral letter from me, bulletin announcements, video testimonials, social media posts and more. I hope and pray each will help us “open our hearts to God” as we *Re-member Our Sunday Story*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

