

A Special Edition of FaithLife News Bulletin • August 10, 2008

Cover Design: Elizabeth Polakowski

A Celebration of the Jubilee Anniversaries of our
Brothers, Sisters and Deacons serving in the Diocese of Erie

Faithful Servants • 2008

Journey of Faith

"I give thanks to my God through
Jesus Christ for all of YOU,
because YOUR faith is heralded
throughout the world."

• Romans 1:8



CALVARY
CEMETERY



TRINITY CEMETERY



MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE



GATE OF HEAVEN



ST FRANCIS
AT CALVARY

Congratulations And God's Blessings to:

Monsignor Robert L. Brugger
Monsignor John D. Daniszewski
Monsignor Gerald T. Ritchie
Monsignor L. Thomas Snyderwine
Monsignor Richard J. Sullivan
Reverend William E. Sutherland
Monsignor Bernard J. Urbaniak

Newly-ordained priests

Reverend Timothy Balliett
and

Reverend Johnathan Schmolt

And all celebrating clergy, religious and deacons

Sincerely,

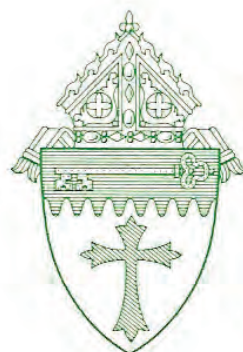
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HELPING FAMILIES CONTINUE THEIR
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS SINCE 1869

“Father, they are your gift to me.”

• John 17:24

Dear Esteemed Jubilarians,

Congratulations on your jubilee anniversaries!

When St. John lets us listen in on Jesus’ prayer for his apostles (John 17:20-26), he is actually letting us hear our Lord’s prayer for all of his disciples—for you and for me.

Jesus prays that they will continue his mission. In this prayer, Jesus foresees a community on earth witnessing and working for the kingdom. Jesus prays intensely for the protection of that community and for its unity.

“Holy Father,” he says, “I pray, not only for them but also for those who will believe in me through their word so that they may all be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you.” Jesus is praying for all of us: his disciples, his co-workers, that we will be with him, united in heaven.

There is a particular line in this reading that I would like to invite you, our jubilarians, to consider. In this prayer, Jesus foresees his future disciples, he foresees their commitment to him, he foresees their faith and good deeds. And he says, “Father, they are your gift to me.”

You who have served the Lord and his people, are the gift of God the Father to Jesus and his mission. You are God’s gift to the church. You are God’s gift to this diocese. You are God’s gift to your parishes and communities.

We recognize and thank you for your various ministries and all you have done for God’s people.

But more importantly, we recognize and thank you for who you are, men and women consecrated to the Lord. You are people of prayer who have given your hearts in love to the Lord Jesus. We value you and commend you for who you are, even more than what you have done. The church is proud of you and this diocese is proud of you. Your parishes and communities are proud of you, too.

When St. Paul spoke of his voca-

tion, he would say, “through no merit of mine, God has lavished his grace upon me.” I love that quotation. I love that word *lavish*. It expresses the extravagant love of Jesus in calling us to his side. We are privileged to be called by Christ to serve in his name and represent him.

For 25, 40, 50, 60 and 65 years, you have been intimately connected with Christ in fulfilling his mission. As Christ’s co-workers, you have brought the Good News of salvation to God’s people. Through various ministries, you have been Christ’s voice, teaching Gospel truth. You have been Christ’s hands, feeding the poor and caring for the sick. You have been Christ’s feet, carrying the new life of Christ to young and old, to poor and wealthy; to those in rural areas, small towns and in the cities of our diocese. You have been partners in the mission of Christ, co-workers of the Lord.

Have you ever heard someone called a pillar of the church? St. Paul refers to Peter, James and John as pillars of the church. I think this is a beautiful expression that denotes strength and stability and solidarity with Christ. A pillar signifies firmness and support. A pillar holds up the building and is essential in the design of any construction.

You are pillars of the Lord’s church. It’s a title of honor and respect. It’s a title that recognizes all the hard work put into building up the Lord’s church as you strengthen and reinforce it.

In the Lord’s name, I congratulate you and thank you for your witness and work. In the name of God’s people and all those touched by your ministry, I thank you for being pillars of the church.

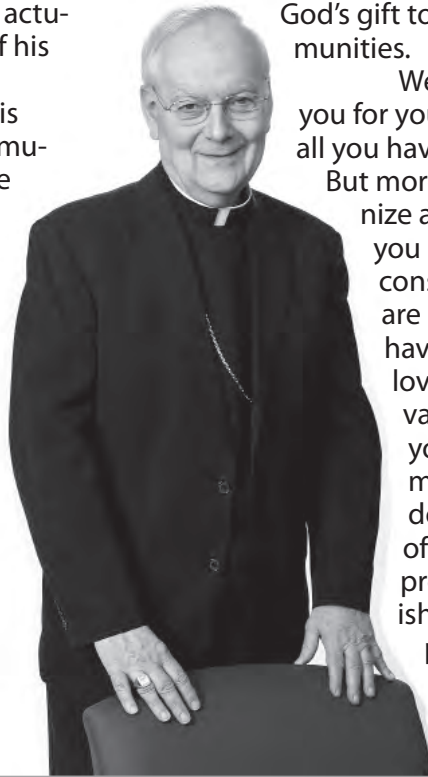
We need your example, your wisdom and your prayers. When Jesus thanked the Father for the gift of disciples and for the people who would continue his work on earth, he was talking about you, our jubilarians, pillars of the church.

Jesus is your gift from the Father. You belong to Jesus and Jesus belongs to you. We rejoice and give thanks to God for your vocation!

Sincerely in Christ,

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman,
Bishop of Erie



Faithful Servants: The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the men and women featured in this publication for their inspiration, dedication and ongoing service. May God continue to bless you.

Editor:
JASON KOSHINSKIE
faithlife@eriercd.org

Writers:
JASON KOSHINSKIE
GARY LONCKI
SISTER MARY ANN LUKE, OSB
MARY CATHERINE SIRIANNI
ANNE-MARIE WELSH

Proof Reading:
CINDY DECOURSEY
JASON KOSHINSKIE
RICH PAPALIA
ANNE-MARIE WELSH
BRENDA WILLIAMS



Designer & Advertising Sales Design:
ELIZABETH POLAKOWSKI

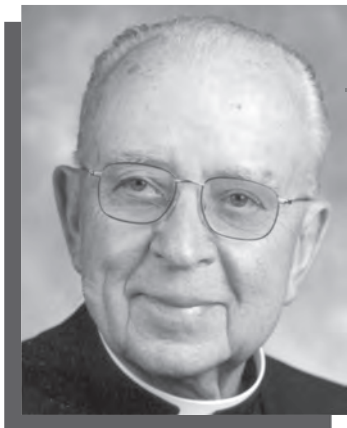
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Advertising Manager:
BRENDA WILLIAMS
bwilliams@eriercd.org

Special thanks to the staff of the *Lake Shore Visitor* on whose hard work we relied to report on some of our jubilarians.

Special thanks to Stephanie Hall, Kathy Linse and Gary Loncki.

Monsignor John D. Daniszewski



65 years

Pastor: Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro Holy Trinity, Erie
 Weekend Assistant: St. Stanislaus, Erie
 Parochial Vicar: St. Patrick, Erie
 Chaplain: St. Vincent Health Center, Erie
 Faculty: Bradford Central Catholic High School, Bradford (Headmaster); Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie (Secondary Education, Assistant Headmaster); Gannon University, Erie (also Library Director)
 Resident: St. Bernard, Bradford
 Additional Duties:
 Volunteer: Harborcreek Youth Services
 Assistant Secretary: Diocesan Office of Education
 Confessor: Sisters of the Divine Spirit
 Dean: East Erie Deanery
 Moderator: National Catholic Forensic League
 President: Cathedral Prep Foundation
 Retired: Saint Mary's Home, Erie

"All my life!"
 That's how Msgr. John Daniszewski responds when the former Cathedral Prep headmaster is asked when he first considered the priesthood.

He says he fell in love with the priesthood at a young age and never wavered in his devotion to the call. He celebrates his 65th anniversary this year.

A hymn based on Romans 8 reminds him of the constancy of God's provision: "What can separate us from the love of Christ? Not the past, the present nor the future."

Msgr. Daniszewski attended St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md., for what he calls six happy and holy years. He completed graduate work at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and received a master's degree in education from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

He feels that there are many issues Catholics face today, including addictions and materialism which compromise Jesus' way, truth and life. He is also concerned about the self-centered "I-me" way of living and the culture of life versus the culture of death. Because of these challenges, he

My Inspiration:



"I believe in Jesus' words, 'I am with you always, until the end of the world.'"

takes seriously his priestly role of providing a constant and unfailing good example.

Additionally, Msgr. Daniszewski says the church must strengthen the personal holiness of all its members, especially its bishops, priests, deacons and religious. To do this, he suggests Catholics partake in a daily Eucharistic holy hour, which he calls a source of incredible spiritual power.

"A day without prayer is a wasted day!" he says.

Congratulations Jubilarians and thank you for your dedication of "Loving to Care."

- Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ**
- Sr. Christine Quirk, SSJ**
- Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ**
- Sr. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ**
- Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ**
- Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ**
- Sr. Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ**
- Sr. Naomi Wood, SSJ**
- Msgr. John D. Daniszewski**


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St. Bernard Church and Middle School (Bradford), St. Francis Church (Bradford) and Our Mother of Perpetual Help (Lewis Run)

would like to congratulate:

Msgr. Jan Olowin

Rev. Robert A. Manning

Msgr. John Daniszewski

Msgr. Edward Zeitler

Sr. Phyllis Schleicher, OSB

Sr. Francis Matia, SSJ

Rev. John Murphy

Sister M. Stephen Calvin, RSM



60 years

As a Catholic convert at age 18, Sister Mary Stephen Calvin, RSM, says she came to the faith through an open door.

As an orphaned teen-ager, Sister Mary Stephen says she began a prayerful search to fill the empty span in her life. Her open door turned out to be the front door of the church at St. Michael

Parish in Greenville. She found it in her search for a place to pray.

A native of Sharon, Sister Mary Stephen entered the Sisters of Mercy in Titusville on Aug. 14, 1948 and professed her final vows on June 23, 1954.

Sister Mary Stephen graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Titusville. She studied with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains

Teacher: St. Walburga, Titusville
 St. Patrick, Franklin
 St. Catherine, DuBois
 St. Edward, Corry
 Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
 St. Luke, Erie
 Immaculate Conception, Brookville
 Principal: Immaculate Conception, Brookville
 Pastoral Assistant: St. Eusebius, East Brady
 St. Charles, New Bethlehem
 St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois
 Chaplain:
 Visiting Nurses' Association, Butler,
 Hospice Program
 St. Joseph Regional Health Center, Hot Springs,
 Ark., Home Health
 St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Fort Smith,
 Ark., Hospice
 Pastoral Ministry Director:
 DuBois Regional Medical Center
 Recreation Director:
 Christ the King Manor, DuBois
 Director: Wellsprings, Erie

and is certified in Pennsylvania as a therapeutic recreation director after studying gerontology at Pennsylvania State University. She holds a master's degree in pastoral ministry from St. Joseph College, West Hartford, Conn., and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst College, Erie.

After spending many years as an educator in the Erie Diocese, Sister Mary Stephen served as a pastoral associate and chaplain. In her ministry, she also spent time in Arkansas assisting as a hospice and home health chaplain.

Since 2002, she has been director of Wellsprings, a program that provides activities for retired sisters of the Mercy infirmary in Erie.

My Inspiration:



"My God, I am yours for time and eternity. Grant me, O most merciful Redeemer, that whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me ..." — from *Suscipe* by Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy

Sister Mary Therese Eichenlaub, OSB

Sister Mary Therese Eichenlaub, OSB, a native of St. Mary Parish in Erie, grew up within earshot of the convent bell.

She is a daughter of the late Louis F. and Gertrude Rastatter Eichenlaub and was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary. After graduating from St. Benedict Academy, Sister Mary Therese remained in the neighborhood, entering the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

She entered the novitiate on August 18, 1947 and made her first profession of vows on August 20, 1948. She made her final profession

on August 20, 1951 at St. Mary.

Sister Mary Therese earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at the former Villa Maria College, Erie, and studied specific areas of teaching, such as reading, at Penn State Shenango (Sharon) and at Clarion State Teachers' College (now Clarion University) of Pennsylvania.

In the early 1970s, Sister Mary Therese made an unusual change: she became a cosmetologist. For several years after she was licensed, she worked in beauty shops where, in addition to helping her clients look and therefore feel better, she was able to explain Benedictine monastic life to them and to tell them why trans-



60 years

Teacher:
 St. Gregory, North East
 St. Stephen, Oil City
 Immaculate Conception, Clarion
 Sacred Heart, Sharon
 St. Joseph, Sharon
 Additional Duties:
 Mount St. Benedict Business Office

formation was taking place in the centuries-old customs of the community.

As the community changed from wearing the traditional habit to commonplace clothes, she was able to help the sisters with simple and becoming hair styles. In recent years, she has worked in her own "salon" at the monastery with the sisters as her clients.

Sister Mary Therese is also a jack-of-all-trades assistant in the community business office and often fills in as the community receptionist.

She enjoys her family — her siblings, her nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews to whom she is Aunt Mamie. Their gatherings and trips are her great joy.

My Inspiration:



"The greatest gift I receive in community is our acceptance of one another and the knowledge that each of us gives her talents for the common good, as Benedict exhorts us in his rule to do."

Sister Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ



60 years

Sister Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ, says she was attracted to religious life by the example of the sisters who taught her at Holy Rosary School and Villa Maria Academy in Erie.

"In fourth grade, I thought it would be fun

to be a nun!" Sister Kathleen exclaims. "In seventh grade, I began to glimpse a religious meaning of vocation and attended daily Mass. Five of my classmates

and friends from Villa Maria Academy entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph before I did, and another entered after. Perhaps that helped to validate my choice," she says.

She has been moved and guided over the years by the faith and example of her family, immediate and extended, by neighbors and friends, parish and school and by priests and sisters who have been her teachers and friends throughout her life.

"I have been blessed to be surrounded by those who have guided and supported me," she says.

An Erie native, Sister Kathleen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Rosary Parish in 1949 and made her final profession in 1954.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Latin from Villa Maria College and a master's degree in social work from Catholic University.

Throughout her years of ministry, Sister Kathleen has served as a

teacher, counselor and Catholic Charities caseworker. She is currently a volunteer at St. Vincent Health Center.

My Inspiration:



"I find comfort and hope in Psalm 23—the Lord is my shepherd. I am amazed and awed to think of the Mass being celebrated all day all around the world as day reaches the different time zones. I like all the prayers of the Mass, but I especially like to say the prayer before Communion: 'Keep me always faithful to your teaching and never let me be parted from you.'"

Teacher:

Villa Maria Academy, Erie
St. Agatha High School, Meadville
St. Francis High School, Clearfield

Catholic Charities:

Caseworker, Erie

Area Supervisor, DuBois

St. Vincent Health Center:

Community Mental Health Counselor

Team Leader, Home Care

Volunteer, Colonoscopy/Endoscopy

International Institute, Erie:

Immigration Counselor



Congratulations

Sr. Stephen

Calvin, R.S.M.

St. Michael Parish/
St. Margaret Mission

Greenville

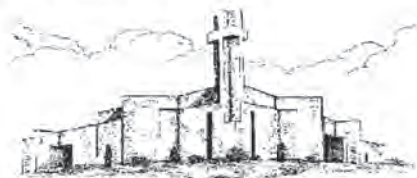
ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE

FR. ROBERT LEVIS

FOR THE 18 YEARS YOU GAVE TO US
AS A WEEKEND ASSISTANT.

MAY GOD
BLESS YOU!



OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH FAMILY

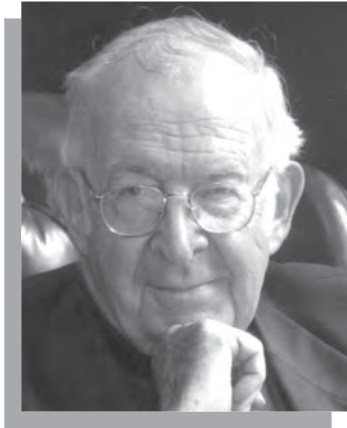
A warm congratulations to
all of the jubilarians celebrating
anniversaries this year.



Our gratitude, love, and support
Serra Club of Erie



Father Robert J. Levis



60 years

Parochial Assistant: Mount Calvary, Erie; St. Mark, Lawrence Park; Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek; Coalition of St. Ann, St. Casimir; Holy Family, Erie
 Cannon University, Erie:
 Registrar and Director of Admissions
 Director of Student Personnel
 Chair of Theology Department
 Director of Liberal Studies
 Director of Graduate Department of Religious Education
 Co-Founder of Confraternity of Catholic Clergy
 Additional Duties:
 Co-Host: "Web of Faith" on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN);
 Professor of Catechetics, Franciscan University of Steubenville

My Inspiration:

"The church is in deep crisis today because many people no longer believe its orthodox teachings and feel they do not need Christianity. If God is dead (Nietzsche), then everything is permitted. Modern man wants personal freedom, not God. In spite of all this, with bold confidence, Pope Benedict XVI attacks this paganism with infallible truth and hope in his encyclical, 'Spe Salvi.'"



A long-time teacher and writer, Father Robert Levis celebrates his 60th anniversary of the priesthood this year. But his association with Gannon University dates back even further—nearly 70 years.

He graduated in 1944 and later served as teacher, department chair and administrator.

He was a member of St. Patrick Parish in Erie and graduated from the parish school, as well as Cathedral Prep High School. He earned a master's of philosophy and doctorate in religious education (emphasis in sacred Scripture) from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

An accomplished writer, Father Levis published a series of articles for the "Lake Shore Visitor" and "The Catholic Encyclopedia." He co-edited "John Paul II, Catechist" and co-wrote "The Story of Gannon University." He is also the author of "Jesus, the Catechism and Me," as well as two computer programs, "Catalog of Faith for Middle Schoolers" and "Restless Teens and Faith," designed to instruct children about Catholicism.

Additionally, he co-hosts "Web of Faith," a question-and-answer show on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Father Levis says his Irish immigrant parents provided a solid foundation for him to grow, encouraging devotion to the rosary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and prayer for the poor souls in purgatory.

He credits the eight sisters of St. Joseph at St. Patrick School, who always discussed the "glories of the priesthood; Msgr. Stephen Cauley, who "insisted" he attend Cathedral Prep and the inspiration of Archbishop

John Mark Gannon with helping him discern his vocation.

"There was no doubt that I was to become a priest," he says. "It has been my privilege to celebrate 25,000 Masses, to teach, to preach, to console the sick and the poor, to share with Christ the lifelong joys of his priesthood."

Father Levis says he always wanted to be a priest but was hesitant because he knew "No man takes the honor unto himself but only he whom God calls." He is grateful for the seminary experience through which young men "may discover the will of God, to test and to challenge each one, by study of the early fathers and the popes."

"Of all positions in life, no man is more prepared than the priest for his work, the salvation of mankind," he says.

"No less than Christ, the eternal priest, accepts him personally and shares his role with him."

Rev. Robert Levis

*Congratulations Father,
and thank you for your
faithful service.*

The Gromacki Family

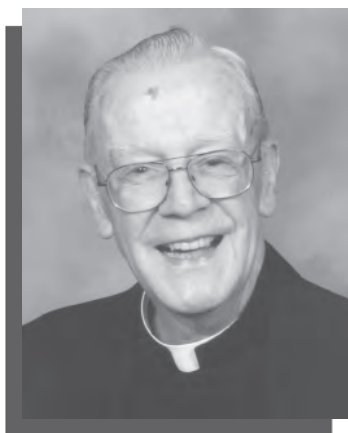


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3807 PEACH ST., ERIE, PA
 210 FAIRMOUNT AVE., JAMESTOWN, NY
 880 PARK AVE., MEADVILLE, PA

Father William J. Maloney



60 years

Pastor:

St. Peter, Conneautville
St. Eusebius, East Brady
St. Adalbert, Farrell
St. Michael, Emlenton

Parochial Vicar:

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
Holy Redeemer, Warren
St. Joseph, Oil City

Chaplain:

St. Vincent Health Center, Erie

“When I started serving Mass as an altar boy, I just always knew I wanted to be a priest,” says Father William Maloney, longtime pastor in the Erie Diocese’s Western Vicariate.

A native of Pittsburgh, Father Maloney and his family were members of Holy Rosary Parish in Pittsburgh where he attended the parish school.

“The parish priests from my childhood parish were very kind and helpful to our family,” he says. “Attending a Catholic grade school and high school was supportive. The nuns were inspiring.”

He later graduated from Central Catholic High School and studied at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md. He studied for the priesthood at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, where he earned a bachelor’s degree. He was ordained a priest May 6, 1948, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The call to the religious life also runs in the Maloney family. Father Maloney had an uncle and cousin who were priests. His nephew, Benedictine Brother Elliott Maloney, OSB, is a faculty member at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe.

Currently retired and living outside the diocese, Father Maloney last

served as a pastor at St. Michael Parish in Emlenton, where he was also involved with the Emlenton Area Fish/Food Cupboard and Emlenton Ministerial Association.

He considers the lack of Catholics going to confession as one of the most vital issues facing the church today.

“There needs to be more frequent confession,” Father Maloney says. “Catholics today are receiving Communion without going to confession.”

He says prayer is essential to nurturing our spiritual lives and relationships, and that friendship can be lost through lack of contact, particularly with God.

“You cannot be happy and holy if you do not pray, especially priests,” he says.

My Inspiration:



“The prayer of consecration at Mass, of course, and the prayer said before receiving holy Communion. It seems like I am really talking to Jesus present before me.”

Jubilarians

Congratulations • Congratulations • Congratulations

- Rev. William J. Maloney • Msgr. Jan C. Olowin • Rev. John B. Jacquel • Rev. William C. Miller • Sr. Rosemary O’Brien, SSJ •

† St. Joseph, Oil City

Rev. William J. Maloney
~60 years~



All past and present parishioners of St. Michael Parish (Emlenton) wish to thank and bless you for your years of devoted service.

Sister Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ



60 years

“Being reared in an environment of love, kindness and generosity by my parents, sisters and brother, I developed a great faith and love of God,” says Sister Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ. “I was fortunate to have this love and guidance throughout my

formative years in grade school, high school and college fostered by the teachings and example of the Sisters of St. Joseph.”

Sister Margaret Joseph first thought about entering the convent when she was in high school but put the thought aside. It was while attending Villa Maria College that she was attracted to the sisters and their life.

“I would see them at prayer in chapel, and they always seemed to have an air of serenity joined with a joyful spirit,” she says. “I didn’t realize it then but I was witnessing their charism of unity, and it was then that I became serious about answering the call to religious life.”

A native of Kingston, Sister Margaret Joseph entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield in 1948 and made her final profession in 1954.

She received a nursing assistant certification from Crawford Central Vocational School, earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and library science certification from Edinboro University.

A longtime teacher throughout the Erie Diocese, Sister Margaret Joseph received the

Teacher:

Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
Sacred Heart, Erie
St. Leo, Ridgway
St. Paul, Erie
St. Ann, Erie
St. Bernard, Bradford
St. Mary, Reynoldsville
Seton Catholic, Meadville

Additional Duties:

Night and Weekend Manager:
Maryvale Apartments, Erie
Activity Aide:
Saint Mary’s Home, Erie

Papal Cross “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” conferred by Pope John Paul II in 1996 for her lifetime work in education.

She is retired and resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center.

My Inspiration:

“Psalm 23—the Lord is my shepherd. This psalm has always been comforting to me. In the midst of dangers and trials, I know that the Lord is always there to guide me and to provide comfort for me. I know that God is ‘holding my hand’ and walks with me as I travel through life.”



Sister Christine Quirk, SSJ



60 years

Sister Christine Quirk, SSJ, planned to enter the religious community after graduating from college. But she had to postpone her plans to help her family with expenses.

“When I explained my plans to Mother Aurelia, she offered me a teaching position at St. Ann School, where I taught for two years as a lay woman—

one of two lay teachers in the Catholic system at that time,” Sister Christine recalls.

A native of St. Patrick Parish in Erie, Sister Christine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1949 and made her final profession in 1954.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Villa Maria College, a master’s degree in English from Marquette University and studied

English at the University of Michigan. She attended a Japanese Cultural Exchange Program in Omiya, Japan, an American Studies Program at Eastern Baptist College and studied journalism at the University of Minnesota, on a “Wall Street Journal” Fellowship.

Sister Christine says the faith of her parents has been a deep influence on her over the years.

“They were examples for me my entire years before I entered community,” she says. “They made great sacrifices for our family of five children.”

A longtime teacher and faculty member throughout the Erie Diocese, she currently teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) to 15 students in private homes, four days per week – at no charge.

My Inspiration:

“The celebration of Holy Week liturgy is most inspiring for me because it calls to mind the reality of sacrifice that Christ underwent. His example helps me to cope with sacrifices I am asked to make daily.”



Teacher:

St. Ann, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
Villa Maria Academy, Erie
St. Francis High School, Clearfield
Villa Maria College, Erie
Bradford Central Christian High School, Bradford
ESL at Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and private lessons

Additional Duties:

Directress: Junior Sisters for the Sisters of St. Joseph
Assistant Director: Social and Religious Programs at St. Joseph Apartments, Erie
Alumnae Director: Villa Maria College
Alumni Director: Gannon University, Erie
Publication Consultant: Saint Mary’s Home, Erie
Manager: Sycamore Gallery, Erie
Auditor: Erie Diocese’s Marriage Tribunal
Director of Communications: Sisters of St. Joseph

Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ



Sister Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ, formerly Sister Fran-cetta, believes that God planted the idea of a religious vocation in her when she was in grade school at Sacred Heart in Erie.

Her family lived in the same neighborhood where Sacred Heart Convent and School were located, and

50 years

the school was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"Since we lived so close to the convent, my friends, who lived in the neighborhood, and I were

Teacher: Blessed Sacrament, Erie; Our Lady of Peace, Erie; St. John the Baptist, Erie; St. Leo, Ridgway; St. Andrew, Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford; St. Ann, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Villa Maria College, Erie; Gannon University, Erie
 Director: Sisters of St. Joseph Associate Program
 Coordinator: SSJ Mission Effectiveness

always 'on call' to help the sisters when they needed us," Sister Ann Marie says. "We worked with the sisters doing church work, sorting the weekly church envelopes, running errands and doing various chores around the school. Sometimes we accompanied the sisters to nearby parishes where they taught catechism classes. It was these experiences outside the classroom that offered me the opportunity to get to know the sisters."

At Villa Maria Academy, her association with the sisters continued and so did her desire to become one. After graduating from high school, Sister Ann Marie attended college for a year. The desire to become a religious grew stronger and she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph the summer after her freshman year in 1958. She made her final profession in 1966.

Sister Ann Marie earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and a master's in education/reading from Edinboro University and received certification as a reading specialist from Edinboro University. She also studied library science at Edinboro University, gifted education at Kent State University and attended the Leadership Erie program through Gannon University.

In addition to the faith of her parents, she says she has also been guided over the years by her

My Inspiration:

"In recent years, the Consensus Statement of the Sisters of St. Joseph has become an inspiration and source of frequent reflection for me. The Consensus Statement summarizes who a sister of St. Joseph should be. It is a constant reminder of the day to day striving for the 'more' – the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction."



grandparents, siblings, relatives, friends, co-workers and religious community.

"God put many wonderful people in my life who have all guided me through the years and have been a profound influence in my life," she says.

A longtime teacher, Sister Ann Marie has served as director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associate Program since 1996.

"For the last 12 years, I have been truly blessed to have had the opportunity to form relationships with more than 200 wonderful women and men – associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph," she says. "Their deep faith and example of how they live the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph in their daily lives has deeply touched my life and has been a blessing and a true source of inspiration for me."

Sister Mary Therese Eagan, OSB

Sister Mary Therese Eagan, daughter of the late Edward and Margaret Linehan Egan, is a native of Oil City and a graduate of the St. Joseph Parish schools where she burnished her Irish sense of humor to a glow and found her vocation to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

Sister Mary Therese entered the novitiate in 1956, made her first profession of Benedictine vows on November 2, 1958, and her final profession on August 14, 1961.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst College, Erie, and a master's degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; both are in elementary education.



50 years

Teaching was her primary ministry for several years.

Throughout her career in education, Sister Mary Therese was attentive to her professional development, frequently attending pertinent courses and workshops.

Another interest, computer science—which she studied both formally and on her own—took

Teacher: Sacred Heart, Sharon; St. Joseph, Sharon; Immaculate Conception, Clarion; St. Stephen, Oil City; Mount Calvary, Erie; All Saints, Cleveland (Diocese of Cleveland); Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna, Va. (Diocese of Richmond)

Administrator: Immaculate Conception, Clarion; Mount Calvary, Erie; All Saints, Cleveland (Diocese of Cleveland); Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna, Va. (Diocese of Richmond)

Additional Duties: Information Technology Director, Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas, and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie; Member of Prioress' Advisory Council

her to the Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas. There, she was responsible for computer systems in the diocesan offices and in all the parishes of the diocese, about 50 of them.

Sister Mary Therese is currently information technology director for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, responsible for the community's computer systems. This is an endless task, demanding her technical expertise and, more importantly, her equally endless patience and good humor.

She practices in this ministry, as in life, the goal Benedict gave his followers: "Monastics are not to pursue what they judge better for themselves, but instead what they judge better for others."

My Inspiration:

"I see fidelity to prayer, dedication to the ever-changing needs of society and commitment to global peace and justice in our community. I hope that in the future this commitment to Benedictine spirituality will enrich our gift of hospitality, offered to others."



Sister Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ

The idea of becoming a Sister of St. Joseph was on the mind of Sister Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ, during her senior year of high school at Villa Maria Academy. Through some promptings of her principal, Sister Brenda Marie Vines, she began to think more seriously about a religious vocation.

"I found the Sisters of St. Joseph were not only my teachers but role models and friends," Sister Joseph Marie says. "During those four years, I worked beside and with the sisters on many projects and activities. I saw them performing their ministry as loving and happy women dedicated to God."

However, she put plans on hold and became a trainee at Villa Maria College. During that year, the call to religious life became more apparent. With the good counsel of Sister Maria Corde and Sister Leonie Shanley, plans were made to enter the congregation.

"After working on me for awhile, God won out and I have been happy and blessed for 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph," Sister Joseph Marie says.

She says the faith and support of her parents were instrumental in guiding her over the years.

"I was fortunate to have good and loving parents who provided well for my needs; spiritual, educational, physical and cultural," she says. "My growing up years were very happy."

A native of Erie, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Peter Cathedral in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

Sister Joseph Marie earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and a master's degree in psychology and student services from Michigan State University.

A longtime teacher throughout the Erie Diocese, Sister Joseph Marie has also served as an administrator of Villa Maria College and her congregation in a number of capacities. She is currently a resident floor supervisor at Saint Mary's Home East in Erie.



50 years

Teacher: St. John, Erie; Our Lady of Peace, Erie; St. Brigid, Meadville; Holy Rosary, Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford; Villa Maria Elementary, Erie

Principal: Holy Rosary, Erie

Villa Maria College, Erie: Assistant Dean of Students; Guidance Office; Dean of Students; Convent Superior

Sisters of St. Joseph:

Formation Team Member; Formation Program Pre-novice Director; Assistant Community Superior

Metro Health Center: Pastoral Counselor; Discharge Planner; Ethics Committee Member

Saint Mary's Home East: Resident Floor Supervisor

My Inspiration:



"I often read and think about Micah 6:18—'what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.' John 15:16—'It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you to go and bear fruit that will remain.' These two Scripture quotes speak to me not only of my vocation but to manifest my vocation to all I meet ever keeping in mind 'to serve others as Joseph served Jesus and Mary.'" (from Nature of the Congregation from the Constitutions)

Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ

The verses from the Gospel of John in which Jesus calls Peter to "feed my sheep" attracted the attention of Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, at a young age.

"I remember reading the passage and being focused on both of Jesus' questions – 'Do you love me?' and his challenge – 'Feed my sheep,'" she recalls. "Eventually I realized that this was a call to live out my baptismal commitment in a life of service within the church; the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me for 12 years epitomized such service."

An Erie native, Sister Mary entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. John the Baptist Parish in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and received administration credits from St. Bonaventure University. She earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Gannon University, an MTM in Scripture and pastoral counseling from Loyola University and a nursing home administrator license from Slippery Rock University.

Throughout her years, Sister Mary has ministered as a teacher, administrator, social and pastoral

minister and counselor. She served as president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania from 1989-99. She is currently administrator at Saint Mary's Home East in Erie.

Many people have inspired Sister Mary over the years. A poster with the words, "It was the Women who Stayed" hangs in her office. It depicts not only the women at the foot of the cross but also many women who throughout the ages have remained faithful to the Gospel and to Jesus' prayer "that all may be one," she says.

"If I were to add women to my poster who have 'also stayed,' it would first be my mother who lived God's message of love in her own way and who taught me the same by her example," Sister Mary says. "After my mother I would add the many Sisters of St. Joseph whose example and love have carried me to this celebration of 50 years in religious life."

My Inspiration:



"John 21:17—This Gospel story has always been one of my favorites and the one I return to over and over in prayer. It speaks to me of Jesus' mandate of service to the 'dear neighbor.' Jesus didn't ask Peter once, but three times: 'Do you love me?' And three times Jesus responded to Peter's 'yes' with the command to feed and tend his lambs and sheep. While I know that 'three times' has special significance to Biblical scholars, I like to think that Jesus wanted to be sure that Peter got it and understood the importance of carrying on Jesus' mission to the world. God has asked me the same question – 'Do you love me?' – over and over in my lifetime. With an affirmative answer, though often feeble, I have attempted to accept God's challenge to follow by living to the best of my ability the mission of unity and reconciliation of the Sisters of St. Joseph."

Teacher: St. Peter Cathedral, Erie; St. Andrew, Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford

Administrator: St. Andrew, Erie; Sisters of St. Joseph Supervisor of Schools; St. John the Baptist, Erie

Pastoral Minister: St. John the Baptist, Erie

Counselor: Wholistic Health Center, Hindsdale, Ill.

REAP Program at Villa Maria College

Parish Social Minister: St. Patrick, Erie

President: Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Diocese of Erie: Peace & Justice/Respect Life Director

Saint Mary's East, Erie: Assistant Administrator;

Administrator



50 years

Sister Justina Gutkowski, OSB

Sister Justina Gutowski, a daughter of the late John and Antoinette Puzak Gutowski, and one of nine children in her family, came to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie community from St. Joseph Parish in Oil City.

She was baptized and confirmed there, grew up as a student of the Benedictine Sisters who taught at St. Joseph's and found her calling in observing their lives and goodness.

Sister Justina graduated from St. Benedict Academy, Erie, in 1956 and entered the novitiate on Dec. 31 of that year. She made her first profession of monastic vows on Jan. 2, 1958, and perpetual profession on August 14, 1961.

A graduate of Mercyhurst College, Erie, with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, she taught in several parish schools.

She was a remarkable primary teacher whose students learned far more than the basics. She taught them, in ways and words small children could understand and emulate, that, above all else, they were to be kind to one another. She showed them that they were all the same: easily hurt and in need of each other's gentleness.

For a time, Sister Justina was an early member of the staff of Benet Press, a new ministry for which she learned camera work and offset printing. The press printed the community's materials and later printed a variety



50 years

Teacher:

St. Michael, Fryburg
St. Joseph, Sharon
St. Gregory, North East
Mount Calvary, Erie

Additional Duties:

Benet Press Staff and Press Manager
Mount St. Benedict Food Service Director

of projects for nonprofit organizations. Sister Justina was the press manager for several years, responsible for all aspects of its operation.

Currently, she serves the community as food service director. Her primary responsibility is to provide the community and its guests with simple, appealing and nutritious meals three times a day. She designs the menus to meet that goal.

When the varying tastes of at least 80 and sometimes as many as 200 people are to be satisfied, the dimensions of the task expand significantly. She strives always to make meal-times pleasant for everyone in the dining room at every meal.

My Inspiration:

"Chapter 72 of the Rule of Benedict which says that all are to 'support with the greatest patience one another's weaknesses of body or behavior,' and to 'pursue, not what they judge better for themselves but what they judge better for others. ... Let us prefer nothing to Christ and may he lead us all together to everlasting life.'"



Sister Frances Therese Matia, SSJ



50 years

Sister Frances Therese Matia, SSJ, believes her vocation came from the example of her parents who were strong, practicing Catholics.

"We attended Mass together as a family, the sacrament of reconciliation monthly, Stations of the Cross and prayed the rosary together," Sister Frances Therese recalls. "The words

from the hymn, "What Wondrous Love," remind me of my wonderful years at home with my family that formed me in choosing my vocation."

Attending public school, she only became acquainted with a sister who came from Pittsburgh for a week each summer to teach religion to the children of her native area of Chesterfield.

Her parents, along with that one week of instruction, were the basis of being prepared to receive the sacraments, she says.

"Our guidance counselor, Miss Genevieve Brunovsky, took a group of the girls to the beach in Erie, then to visit the cathedral and the convents," Sister Frances Therese says. "That was the only encounter I had with convents before entering."

After a visit to Erie, she remembers returning home from Mass one Sunday, bringing up the subject of entering the convent. At first, not much was said. However, after some discussion, the decision was made to look into convent life more.

"And here I am 50 years later," Sister Frances Therese says.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Christ the King Parish in Houtzdale in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

Sister Frances Therese earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College.

A longtime teacher in the Erie Diocese, she has served as the director of religious education at St. Callistus Parish in Kane since 1997.

Teacher: St. Patrick, Erie
Holy Rosary, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Michael, Erie
St. Francis, Clearfield
Director of Religious Education:
St. Leo, Ridgway
St. Callistus, Kane
St. Joseph Orphanage, Erie
Erie Day Nursery

My Inspiration:

"What inspires and keeps me focused and gives me strength is the receiving of Eucharist at daily liturgy. Also, the hymn, 'What Wondrous Love' God has for me and then I am able to say with St. Therese of Lisieux, 'My God, I love you.' And 1 John 3:19 says, 'When we love others, we know that we belong to the truth, and we feel at ease in the presence of God.'"



Sister Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ

It was during high school that Sister Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ, first began to hear and listen to the call toward religious life.

"But I was fighting the call," Sister Marie Eileen recalls. "I figured if I went to college, that call would disappear and I could go on with life as normal. However, it was just the opposite. The call became real and I was more intent on listening."

A native of Schenectady, N.Y., she witnessed a deep faith from her parents in her early years and was inspired by a number of teachers in grade school and high school. Her parents had a lifelong connection with the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Francis in Clearfield. Her grade school was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Latham, N.Y. She had three years of high school with the Dominican Sisters.

"Their faith example led me to ponder about their life," Sister Marie Eileen says. "When looking into this, I realized that it was a decision that I needed to make."

Would it be the Dominicans in Newburgh, N.Y., the Sisters of St. Joseph from Latham or the Sisters of St. Joseph from Erie? She was touched in different ways by all three groups.

Her years at Villa Maria College brought the call to religious life to reality. It became evident that she could no longer ignore God's call.

"He was tapping me on the shoulder, 'come follow me,'" she says.

It was while at Villa Maria College that she saw the sisters in a new way and perceived how much they cared about others and were always there to help. The sisters supported her throughout her discerning process.

Sister Marie Eileen entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Cuba, N.Y., in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business education from Villa Maria College and an MBA in finance and accounting from St. Louis University.

Her ministry has included teaching throughout the Erie Diocese and serving in the business and finance areas of several agencies and schools. She currently does administrative and social work at Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge and has served as the administrator of St. Patrick's Haven in Erie since 1989.



50 years

Teacher: St. John, Erie; Villa Maria Elementary, Erie; Our Lady's Christian, Erie; St. Francis, Clearfield; Holy Rosary, Erie; Villa Maria Academy, Erie
Spencer Hospital Meadville: Business Office
St. Louis University, St. Louis: Registrar's Office
Villa Maria Academy: Business Manager
Villa Maria College/Gannon University: Communications Center
Villa Maria Center, Erie: Director of Finance
Saint Mary's at Asbury Ridge: Administrative Assistant/Social Work
St. Patrick's Haven: Administrator

My Inspiration:



"Isaiah 43:1-2, 4-5—'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you.' Jeremiah 18:6-7—'Can I not do to you as this potter has done?' says the Lord. 'Indeed like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.'"

Sister Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ



50 years

Sister Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ, did not seriously consider religious life until the year after high school when she was working as a legal secretary.

"I kept thinking: 'Is this all there is to life?'" Sister Elizabeth Ann recalls. "There has to be more meaning."

She is sure one of the influences is her decision were the Sisters of St. Joseph at Villa Maria Academy.

"They were so dedicated, so selfless with their time and they seemed so happy," she remembers. "Another influence was being in the sodality during high school which gave young women a chance to be connected with the parish."

An Erie native from Blessed Sacrament Parish, Sister Elizabeth Ann entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and an MBA in business administration from Xavier University. In addition, she did accounting coursework at Duquesne University and took business education courses from Marywood College. She received CPA certification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A longtime teacher throughout the Erie Diocese, her current ministry is as an accounting associate at the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center.

There are many people whose faith has helped guide Sister Elizabeth Ann over the years.

"Family, certainly, has been my greatest influence," she says. "My dad always was my hero. I was his shadow from the time I could walk. My sister, Sister Lois Marie, was my best friend as well as my sister."

Outside her family, she had a great love for the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught at Blessed Sacrament and Villa Maria Academy. In particular, Sister Christine Quirk has been a great friend, role model and guide to her over the years. Another person who has been a faithful friend for more than 50 years is Msgr. Henry Schauerman, who guided the sodality at Blessed Sacrament during Sister Elizabeth Ann's high school years.

My Inspiration:



"One New Testament story particularly attracts me: The story of the Samaritan woman at the well. It attracts me because Jesus reveals to her that he is the messiah. If I put myself in the place of the Samaritan woman, it leads to a wonderful experience with Jesus. Another one of my favorites is the Transfiguration. I like the part where the Father claims Jesus as his beloved son. There are so many directions this meditation can lead, but I like to just be still and be there."

Teacher: St. Andrew, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg; Villa Maria Elementary, Erie; St. Francis, Clearfield; St. Joseph, Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford
Principal: St. Bernard, Bradford
Assistant Professor: Villa Maria College, Erie; Mercyhurst College, Erie
Accounting: Accounts Receivable Supervisor: Spencer Hospital, Meadville; Staff Accountant: Pashke & Twargowski, CPAs, Erie; Accounts Payable and Vice President of Fiscal Services: Saint Mary's Home of Erie

Sister Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ



50 years

The call to religious life unfolded gradually for Sister Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ, with hints of a possible vocation throughout her senior year of high school.

"Through 12 years of Catholic education in parish schools, I learned about God, community and service, and had been invited to think about religious life," says Sister Rose-

mary, formerly Sister Cordelia. "I didn't give serious thought to this possibility until two years after graduation. An interruption in the status quo forced me to question the direction of my life. It was then that I decided to 'test' whether or not religious life was for me."

Fifty years later, she knows that it was the right choice.

A native of Titusville, Sister Rosemary entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1958 from St.

Joseph Parish in Oil City and made her final profession in 1964.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College and a master's degree in sacred science from St. Bonaventure University. She is currently working toward her spiritual direction certification.

Throughout her ministry, Sister Rosemary has served as a teacher and pastoral minister and in various positions for her religious community. Following her time on the SSJ Congregational Leadership Team in 2007, she took a sabbatical which included study and a mission experience among the Native Americans in the southwest. She currently ministers in adult faith formation/spiritual direction and pastoral care.

Many people have influenced, mentored and touched Sister Rosemary's life, and she is deeply grateful.

"However, my mother's faith and outlook on life have been most significant," she says. "Her uncomplicated spirituality was expressed in her honesty, resilience and ability to celebrate the ordinary.

My Inspiration:

"Although it is difficult to choose one from among many resources, including poetry and music, the following trilogy offers the most consistent inspiration: 'I am with you always,' 'Seek first God's reign over you, God's way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides' and '... the Sister of Saint Joseph moves always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction...' Why? My experience has been that when I am deeply aware of God's presence and central place in my life, I feel the unity and connectedness of life and desire to share that experience through relationships, ministry and care for others and creation."



Her faith in God and devotion to Mary sustained her through difficult and challenging times, and she faced changes in her life gracefully."

Teacher: St. Andrew, Erie; Villa Maria Elementary, Erie; St. Patrick, Erie; St. Bernard, Bradford; Bradford Central Christian, Bradford; Villa Maria Academy, Erie

Pastoral Minister: St. Patrick, Erie

Sisters of St. Joseph: Formation Team

Associate Director, SSJ Spirituality Centre, Leadership Council, Congregational Leadership Team

Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek: Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Minister

Sister Margaret Pellerite, SSJ

As a young girl, Sister Margaret Pellerite, SSJ, was attracted to the teaching profession.

"The sisters who taught me inspired me by their care and concern for their students," Sister Margaret says. "I realized their lives of prayer and good works reflected the example of my mother, and I wished to give myself entirely to

the service of God and my neighbors."

Her calling to become a Sister of St. Joseph was made clear to her when she attended the liturgy at which some of her college classmates received the habit.

A native of Clearfield, Sister Margaret entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Francis of Assisi Par-

ish in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College.

She has spent her ministry serving as a teacher in the Erie Diocese and has taught at Kennedy Catholic High School since 1967.

From a very young age, Sister Margaret lived with the words and example of a mother who truly was an example of faith lived to the fullest.

"Mom's faith showed in everything she did for her family, neighbors and for everyone who was in need," she says. "She had a strong prayer life and spent much of her time performing acts of mercy."

Another person who touched her life deeply was Sister Benita Repasky, SSJ.

"Benita's great love for prayer and for

the poor strengthened and deepened what my mother had instilled in me," Sister Margaret says. "Her work among the poor and her understanding of their needs helped me to better fulfill a desire to minister to their needs."

These women were strong, faith-filled examples of how a Christian woman can meet the needs of God's people in today's world, she says.

My Inspiration:

"In Micah 6 we read, 'This is what God requires of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.' This quote is for me a signpost of how to live my life. Not only is this for myself, but also a means to help others to live their lives in accord with God's will. Sometimes when difficulties arise, my humanness steps in and temporarily obstructs my ability to act justly or love tenderly. Then, upon reflection, I realize that God is present in my life and with him all things are possible. Then I begin again and realize that God truly 'raises me up to more than I can be.'"



Teacher: Blessed Sacrament, Erie Sacred Heart, Erie Our Lady's Christian, Erie Kennedy Catholic High School, Sharon



50 years

Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB



50 years

Teacher:
St. Joseph, Sharon
Sacred Heart, Sharon
Mount Calvary, Erie
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. Benedict Academy, Erie
Administration:
St. Benedict Academy, Erie
John XXIII Home, Hermitage
Additional Duties:
Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie,
1990-98
Member of the Prioress' Advisory Council,
1980-90

My Inspiration:



"Daily communal prayer and reflection on Scripture give me the strength, support and spiritual nourishment I need to minister with and for the people of God. St. Benedict's words, 'the love of Christ must come before all else,' are my primary guide."

The merger with the Benedictine community at Benet Lake, Wis., was also completed and celebrated.

The property at 327 E. Ninth, which had been held in trust by the monks of La-trobe since the days when ownership of property by women was restricted, was deeded formally to the community under her leadership. In addition, the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House was established on East Tenth Street.

Sister Phyllis Schleicher, OSB, served her community of Benedictine Sisters of Erie as prioress from 1990 to 1998. Currently, as one of the founders of Catholic Rural Ministry, Sister Phyllis works in the McKean and Potter County areas of northwestern Pennsylvania. This program of the Erie Diocese is meant to provide a presence, to assist residents and to strengthen the church in rural parts of the diocese.

She is a daughter of the late Leonard and Gertrude May Schleicher and a native of St. Mary Parish in Erie. She attended the parish school and is a graduate of St. Benedict Academy.

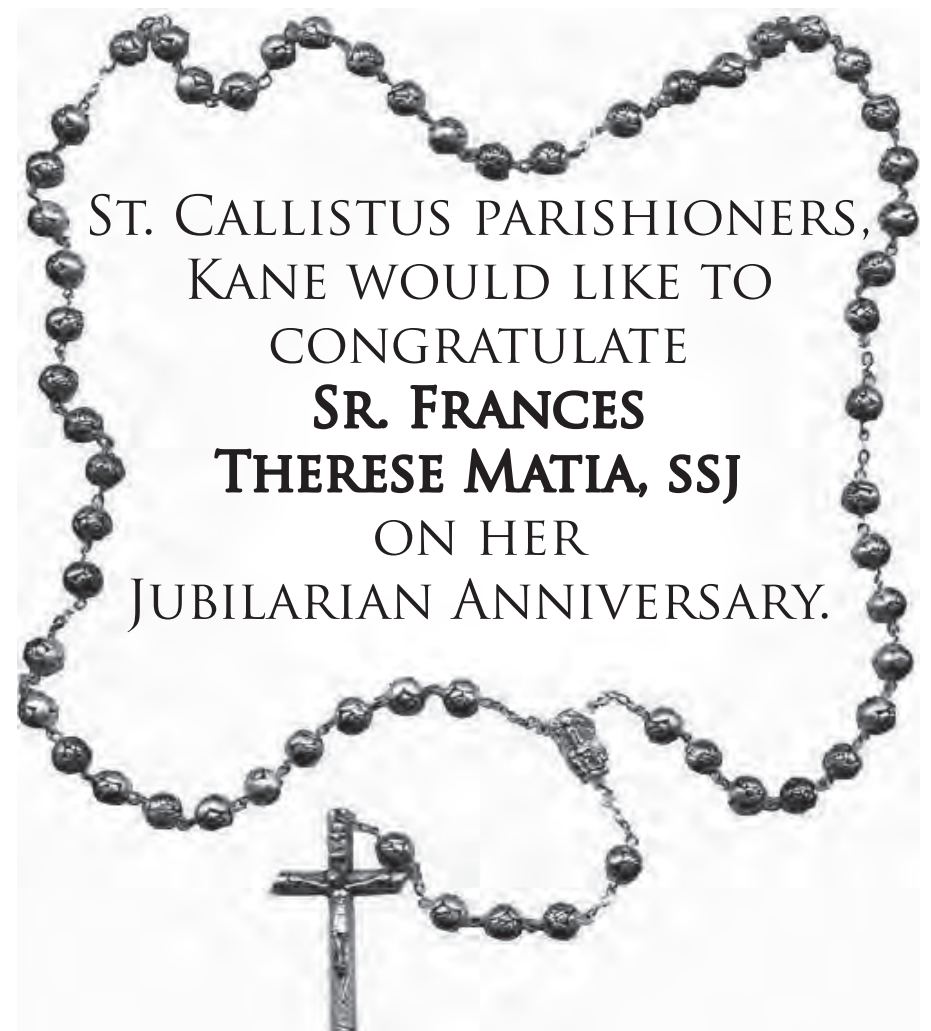
Sister Phyllis holds a bachelor's degree in French and English from Mercyhurst College, Erie, and a master's degree in French from Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

She taught French, English and theology throughout the diocese, including at her

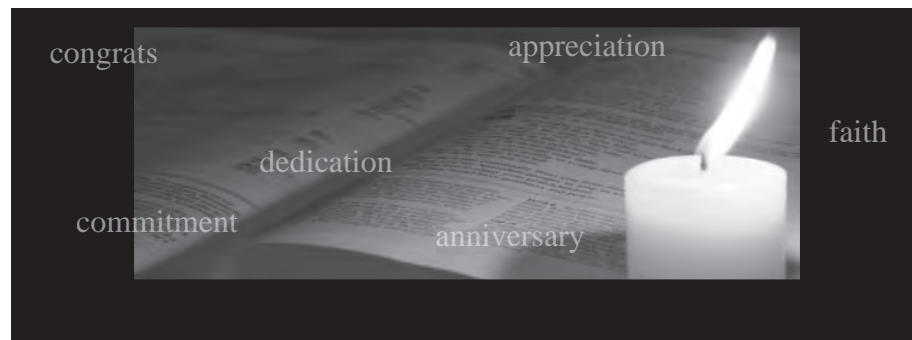
alma mater of St. Benedict.

After the academy closed, Sister Phyllis qualified for licensure as a nursing home administrator. She became the second administrator of John XXIII Home in Hermitage. In addition to her normal duties, she oversaw a much-needed expansion to the facility which had already proven to fill a serious need in the Sharon area.

During Sister Phyllis's tenure as prioress, the century-old motherhouse at 345 E. Ninth St. in Erie was renovated for use as a day care and Head-start facility for small children and, on the upper floors, as a residence for the sisters.



ST. CALLISTUS PARISHIONERS,
KANE WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE
**SR. FRANCES
THERESE MATIA, SSJ**
ON HER
JUBILARIAN ANNIVERSARY.



St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Sharon, says to **Sr. Margaret Pellerite**, "Živila" (long live; congratulations — in Croatian) on her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Monsignor Richard J. Sullivan



50 years

Pastor:
St. Andrew, Erie
Weekend Assistant:
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Faculty and Campus Minister:
Gannon University, Erie
Additional Duties:
Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry
Presbyteral Council
Bishop's College of Consultors
Gannon University Board of Trustees
Founding Group of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Erie
Center City Improvement Association Secretary
Gannon Priest Council Secretary

My Inspiration:



"The letter to the Hebrews with its words about priesthood and also psalms such as Psalm 139, 8. St. Paul's letters to the Philippians and Colossians. In the liturgy, the prayer at the presentation of the gifts."

Andrew since 1996. From 1958 until 1996, he served on the faculty of Gannon University, where he was also director of campus ministry.

"My 38 years of teaching and ministry at Gannon gave me many opportunities to reach out and learn from others," he says.

His sister is Sister Moira Sullivan, SSJ.

He considers vocations to the priesthood and reorganizing parish life to make due with fewer priests to be among the vital issues facing Catholics today.

"For Catholics, there is a need to develop prayer and a love of Scripture so that we will be more in touch with the Lord and his leadership call," Msgr. Sullivan says.

In reflecting on the importance of devoting time and energy to our spiritual lives, Msgr. Sullivan thinks people should call themselves to at least ten minutes of quiet, listening prayer each day.

"There is a thirst deep within us for this time, and doing it regularly will give us a constant awareness of how we are surrounded by God's love, presence and providence," Msgr. Sullivan says.

If he had just one more homily to give, he says it would focus on Christ as the beginning and end of our lives in faith.

"He is the rock on which our faith stands," he says. "All of the attacks on the church today begin on calling into question the divinity of Christ, and so this should be the most important part of our preaching."

Being an altar server was especially good for Msgr. Richard Sullivan in terms of thinking about the priesthood.

"I remember during Forty Hours in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

when servers took turns in adoration," recalls Msgr. Sullivan, a long-time faculty member at Gannon University and pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Erie.

He says he was blessed with a faith-filled family and grew up in a supportive parish.

A native of Holy Rosary in Johnsonburg, Msgr. Sullivan says the parish's devotion to the Blessed Mother was a support for him in prayer.

He attended Gannon University then studied for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y., and earned a master's degree. He later did post-graduate at Marquette University and the University of Notre Dame.

He was ordained a priest May 15, 1958 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Msgr. Sullivan has been the pastor at St.



Appreciation
&
Congratulations
to...

• Sister Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ (50 years)
Principal at Holy Rosary School (1979-1992)

• Rev. Robert A. Manning (25 years)
Parochial Vicar (1983-1984)

• Msgr. Robert L. Brugger (40 years)
Parochial Vicar (1981-83)

- Holy Rosary, Erie

Sister Carol Ann Voltz, RSM



50 years

Mercy Sister Carol Ann Voltz, RSM, spent 34 years teaching grade school and high school students the finer points of biology and sometimes earth science. Those years in front of inquisitive students left her with wonderful memories.

"It is the moment when a child understands what I am teaching; it was as if a light bulb went on," she says.

Sister Carol Ann celebrated the golden jubilee of entering the Sisters of Mercy Community with a Mass and dinner April 26 at the Mercy Center in Erie.

She says she looks back on her years in religious life with praise and gratitude to a loving God.

"It is most satisfying to belong to a group of religious women where reverence, hospitality and integrity are a daily goal," she says.

Sister Carol Ann entered the Mercy Community in Buffalo on Sept. 15, 1958. Eight years later she made final vows and transferred from the Buffalo to Erie community in 1972.

Currently, she is a certified nurse assistant at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie. From 1994-2000, she founded and directed the service learning program at Mercyhurst College.

From 1976-86, she taught biology and earth science at Mercyhurst Prep,

She holds a master's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a bachelor's degree in education from St. Joseph College, Buffalo.

She was recognized by the Diocese of Erie for her 20 years of teaching in Catholic schools. Others presenting her service awards have included Erie Independence House, General Electric Service Network the Pennsylvania Association of Volunteers. She is an honorary member of the Kiwanis Club of Erie.

She is an alumna of Mount Mercy Academy and St. John the Evangelist grade School, both in Buffalo.

My Inspiration:



"The words and letters of Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy foundress, are a constant source of inspiration and strength."

Teacher: Mercyhurst Prep, Erie; Holy Family, Erie; Our Lady's Christian, Erie; St. Luke, Erie; Ss. Peter and Paul, Jamestown, N.Y.; St. Martin, Buffalo; St. Michael, Fort Defiance, Ariz.
Mercyhurst College: Founded and Directed Service Learning Program; Nurse Assistant at Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center

THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY
SINCERELY THANKS YOU
SR. ROSEMARY O'BRIEN
FOR 18 YEARS OF LOVING SERVICE TO US
FOR YOUR PRESENCE
FOR YOUR INSPIRATION
FOR YOUR GENTLE CARE
HAPPY 50TH JUBILEE

Congratulations on the occasion of your Jubilee Celebration
60 years as a Sister of Mercy
Sr. M. Stephen Calvin
50 years as a Sister of Mercy
Sr. Carol Ann Voltz

"Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus."

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)
Albanian-born missionary

God Bless the Jubilarians!

Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Father James A. Wiley



50 years

Passionist Congregation:
 Assistant Master of Novices
 Vocations Director
 Vice-Rector: Holy Family Monastery
 retreat house, seminary, West Hartford, Conn.
 Pastor: St. Michael, Pittsburgh
 U.S. Army Chaplain: Stateside and Korea
 Other: Mission Band, Home Missions and Retreats
 Diocese of Erie:
 Special Ministry: St. George, Erie
 Parochial Vicar/Administrator: St. Stephen, Oil City
 Senior Associate: Beloved Disciple, Grove City
 Chaplain: Serra Club, Mercer County;
 John XXIII Home, Hermitage

Editor's Note: Faithful Servants offers this tribute to Father James Wiley posthumously. He passed away on June 29, 2008.

My Inspiration:



Father Wiley found strength in Abbot Columba Marmion's "Christ the Ideal Priest," the Psalms (especially Psalm 23) and the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Father James A. Wiley's vocation to the priesthood came as an answer to his parents' prayers.

When he was growing up, he noted that families were encouraged to ask God for a vocation to the religious life or priesthood. These prayers, as well as sisters and priests who often

talked to students considering vocations, and an uncle who was a priest no doubt influenced his vocation. As a result, he felt a call to the priesthood "as early as the first grade."

Father Wiley said many priests and religious inspired him throughout his life.

"It was not so much what they said but

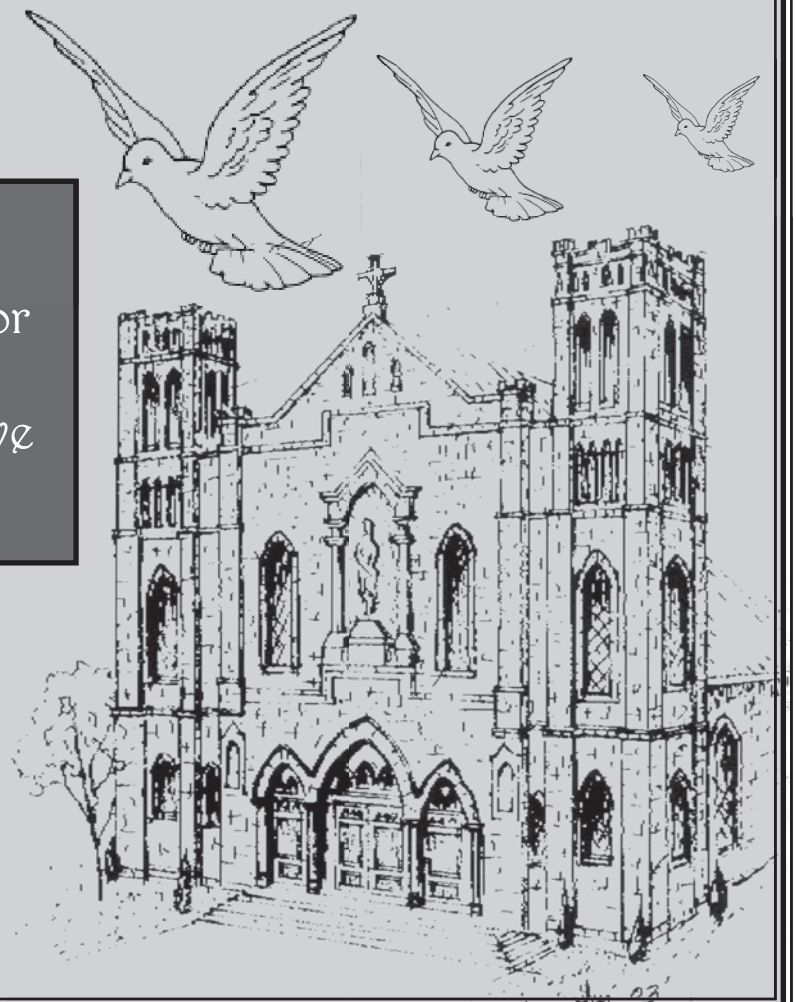
how they lived out their vocation each day," he said.

Such inspiration encouraged him to enter priestly formation until his ordination to the Passionist Congregation in April 25, 1958. After fulfilling various roles within his order, he joined the Diocese of Erie in 1990.

He credited various spiritual practices to the meaning and sustenance of his ministry, including the daily celebration of the Eucharist, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Mary and the rosary.

Msgr. Richard J. Sullivan (50 years), Pastor
 Msgr. Robert Brugger (40 years), Administrator
 Rev. William Miller (25 years), Parochial Vicar
 Sr. Dorinda Young, SSJ (50 years), Parish native
 Sr. Mary Fromknicht, SSJ (50 years), Teacher

Our thanks and prayers to all who have served us at St. Andrew Parish. May God continue to bless your lives.



Sister Naomi Wood, SSJ

Words do not come easily to explain the how, when, where and why of a vocation, says Sister Naomi Wood, SSJ.

"The call to any walk of life is a mystery to me," says Sister Naomi, formerly Sister Ann Catharine.

The deep faith and teaching of her parents, especially her mother, planted the seed to enter the religious life. After graduation, she seriously considered community life as where God wanted her to be.



50 years

A Johnsonburg native, Sister Naomi entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Rosary Parish in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College.

In addition to her ministry as a teacher, Sister Naomi has also served at Saint Vincent Health Center and Saint Mary's Home of Erie

Teacher:
St. Ann, Erie
Blessed Sacrament, Erie
St. Patrick, Erie
St. Agatha, Meadville
St. Andrew, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
Additional Duties:
Saint Vincent Health Center

where she is currently a human resources assistant.

Sister Naomi credits many people for guiding and inspiring her over the years.

"My mother was a great influence in my life," she says. "She was a woman of great faith and trust in God. She taught me to believe that nothing will happen to me today that God and I can't handle together. She had a simpleness about her that I will strive for my entire life and never capture."

My Inspiration:



"See! I will not forget you. ... I have carved you on the palm of my hand."
— Isaiah 49:15-16

Sister Dorinda Young, SSJ

When Sister Dorinda Young, SSJ, was a senior at Villa Maria Academy, her English teacher stopped her one day after school and asked her what she was going to do after graduation.

"I told her I was going on to college to study and become a teacher," Sister Dorinda recalls. "She told me that I could do that as an SSJ and asked if I had ever considered it. I told her no, but if she wanted to get the necessary info and paperwork for me, I would look it over. The rest is history."



50 years

The Erie native from St. Andrew Parish adds a chuckle of a footnote onto her vocation story.

"In high school, one of the radio stations had 'sock hops' at Rainbow Gardens in the summer," Sister

Dorinda remembers. "The last one I attended, I was dancing the last dance with my favorite partner and he said, 'Well, I'll see you next week.' I replied, 'No, I'm sorry, I'm entering the convent.' Without missing a beat, he said, 'OK, I'll see you in two weeks.' So much for his confidence in my vocation!"

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1958 and made her final profession in 1966.

Sister Dorinda earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College, Erie, and a master's degree in religious education from Fordham University, New York City.

A longtime teacher in the Erie Diocese, she presently serves in campus ministry and as chaplain at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., a position she has held since 1993.

Sister Dorinda's life has been touched by the faith of many, including the late Father Robert Drinan, SJ, for his passion and commitment to international human rights and the vision and passion of Elizabeth Johnson for her prayerful and scholarly attention to wisdom and spirit.

"I have also been formed and moved by the voice and vision of the feminist pioneers who have walked before and with me," she says.

Teacher: St. Patrick, Erie; Holy Rosary, Erie; Our Lady of Peace, Erie; St. John, Erie; St. Ann, Erie; St. Agatha, Meadville; Cathedral Prep, Erie; Kennedy Catholic High School, Sharon
Chaplain: Allegheny College, Meadville; Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Campus Ministry: Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.

My Inspiration:



"Lamentations 3:21-26 is my favorite passage to center myself; I love the Book of Wisdom and the Song of Songs. (This latter I prayed with throughout my 30-day silent retreat.) I also love a section of T.S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets,' beginning with '...I said to my soul, Be still, and let the dark come upon you which shall be the darkness of God...down thro'...So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.'"

Sister Rita Zattosky, OSB

Sister Rita Zattosky, OSB, a daughter of the late John and Florence Peters Zattosky, was born in Aliquippa, Pa., where she was baptized at St. Titus.

She soon moved with her family to Erie where she attended Mount Calvary School. She is a graduate of St. Benedict Academy.

Sister Rita entered the novitiate of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie on December 31, 1956 and made her first profession of vows on January 2, 1958. She professed her final vows on August 14, 1961.

Her ministry was, for several years, teaching in parish schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at the former Villa Maria College, Erie, and a degree also in elementary education, at Gannon College (now university), Erie.

For several years, she served her Benedictine community by providing food service and care of the house at the sisters' residences in Sharon, Oil City and Erie.

Sister Rita was an early staff member at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania where she was staff monitor and receptionist.



50 years

Her consistently pleasant demeanor welcomes everyone to the house as friends.

Sister Rita enjoys her large, close-knit family and often sees those who live near the monastery. Occasional opportunities to visit others who live elsewhere, some at great distance, such as Oregon or even Europe, are occasions of real pleasure for her.

Presently, she is receptionist at Mount St. Benedict. She is responsible for greeting all who call or come to the door as Benedict directed in his Rule: "All are to be received as Christ. ... Great care and concern are to be shown in receiving poor people and pilgrims because in them more particularly Christ is received."

Teacher:
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. Michael, Fryburg
Immaculate Conception, Clarion
Mount Calvary, Erie
Additional Duties:
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania Staff Member,
Community Food Service and House Care in Sharon, Oil City and Erie
Mount St. Benedict Receptionist

My Inspiration:



"I find the greatest gift in community to be one another and look to a future in which our community continues to grow, as one, in Benedictine monastic spirituality."

In appreciation for the many years of faithful service we celebrate our Jubilarians. Thank you!

Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ '45 - *Past VMA Library Assistant*
Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ
Sr. Christine Quirk, SSJ '43 - *Past VMA Teacher*
Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ
Sr. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ, '57
Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ '58 - *Past VMA Board Member*
Sr. Frances Therese Matia, SSJ
Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ - *Past VMA Teacher*
Sr. Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ '57
Sr. Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ - *Past VMA Teacher & Board Member*
Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ
Sr. Naomi Wood, SSJ
Sr. Dorinda Young, SSJ '58



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ACADEMY

2403 West Eighth Street Erie, PA 16505
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116 years of FAITH FAMILY EXCELLENCE & TRADITION

We warmly congratulate God's faithful servants celebrating jubilees. With special fondness we wish to honor:



**St. Peter
Cathedral**
Parish and Cathedral Center

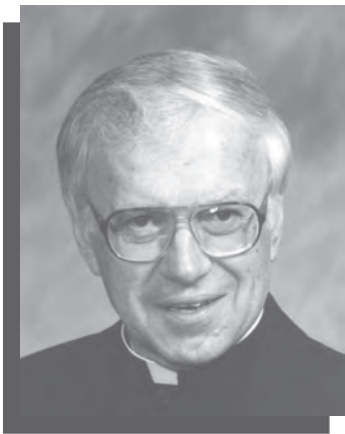
Former Parochial Vicars:

Rev. William Maloney
Msgr. Edward J. Zeitler
Msgr. Robert L. Brugger

Daughter of the Parish:

Sr. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ
St. Peter's School Faculty Member:
Sr. Naomi Wood, SSJ

Monsignor Edward J. Zeitler



50 years

Monsignor Edward Zeitler recalls feeling tugged toward the priesthood throughout his early years. But as a teenager, it was the dedicated priests and sisters at his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Erie that led him to give serious thought to the vocation.

Pastor:
 Beloved Disciple, Grove City
 Notre Dame, Hermitage
 Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
Parochial Vicar:
 St. Bernard, Bradford
 St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
 Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
 Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell
 Immaculate Conception, Clarion

Past Senior Associate:
 Notre Dame, Hermitage
Chaplain: Clarion University
 Mercer County Serra Club
Additional Duties:
 Active in Worldwide Marriage Encounter since 1970
 Dean of Erie Diocese's Sharon Deanery
 Chairman of Presbyteral Council
 Member of diocesan Priests' Personnel Board, College of Consultors and Pastoral Advisory Board

"Former teachers and priests, as well as supportive friends, continue to challenge and inspire me as a priest," says the longtime pastor.

Born June 26, 1930, in Erie to the late George and Agnes (Keller) Zeitler, he attended St. John the Baptist and graduated from the parish grade school and Cathedral Prep High School. He attended Gannon University, Erie, then Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y. He also completed post-graduate work in college campus ministry.

Msgr. Zeitler was ordained May 15, 1958 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Pope John Paul II gave him the title "Chaplain of His Holiness" and named him a monsignor in 1992.

While pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Conneaut Lake, he oversaw the development of the parish's reconciliation room, children's chapel and continuing education facility. As pastor of Beloved Disciple Parish in Grove City, he oversaw the construction of the new church, which was dedicated in 2006.

In addition, Msgr. Zeitler has served as the Crawford County coordinator for the diocesan Cursillo movement and was a member of the Crawford County Ministerial Association and Conneaut Lake Borough Ministerial Association. He was also chaplain for the Conneaut Lake Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

To our 3 faithful servants:

Sr. Phyllis Schleicher, OSB
 Sr. Frances Therese Matia, SSJ
 Fr. John Murphy

"Thank you for your years of service!"
 --- Bradford Deanery

My Inspiration:



"I am inspired daily by the breviary readings and psalms in addition to the lived faith of the people whose lives intersect with mine."

CONGRATULATIONS FR. "Z"



50 Years
 Faithfully Serving God
 30 Years
 Loving Married Couples!



Worldwide Marriage Encounter
 Catholic Charities - Erie Diocese



St. John the Baptist, Erie

Congratulations to our Jubilarians

--- Msgr. Edward Zeitler (native)
 --- Rev. William Sutherland
 --- Rev. Johnathan Schmolt
 --- Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ (native)

Monsignor Robert L. Brugger



40 years

According to Msgr. Robert Brugger, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie, the contact he had with the priests of his youth helped plant the seeds for his vocation.

His grandfather's brother, Father Linus Brugger, OSB, was a frequent visitor to the family's home

in southeast Erie. Msgr. Robert Goodill, his pastor at St. Luke Parish, was also an inspiration, as well as the priests he encountered at Cathedral Prep High School.

"I admired them, and they encouraged me," Msgr. Brugger says.

He attended Jefferson School from kindergarten through fourth grade. One day, he told his mother he'd better start going to Catholic school because he thought he'd like to be a priest. He enrolled at St. John Grade School for three years before St. Luke School opened, where he was a member of the school's first graduating class.

After graduating from Cathedral Prep, he attended St. Mark Seminary and Gannon University.

He was awarded a bachelor's degree from Christ the King Seminary of St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y., and completed studies for the priesthood at Christ the King.

He was ordained a priest on May 18, 1968 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Msgr. Brugger says his experience in parish life provides daily inspiration.

"Every day at St. Jude, I meet someone whose faith inspires and encourages me," he says. "They give me hope for the future."

He says seeing people as Jesus did, as his brothers and sisters and children of God, is still a vital challenge facing Catholics today.

"Jesus saw his work as one of reconciliation of all people," Msgr. Brugger says. "Our task is to make that vision a reality. If we are children of one God, then we must work to break down the barriers of race, gender, age, language and culture."

If he had just one more homily to give, Msgr. Brugger would not hesitate in choosing a topic.

"My big homily would be on Pentecost, where people from every part of the known world would be able to hear the same message of reconciliation and peace," he says.

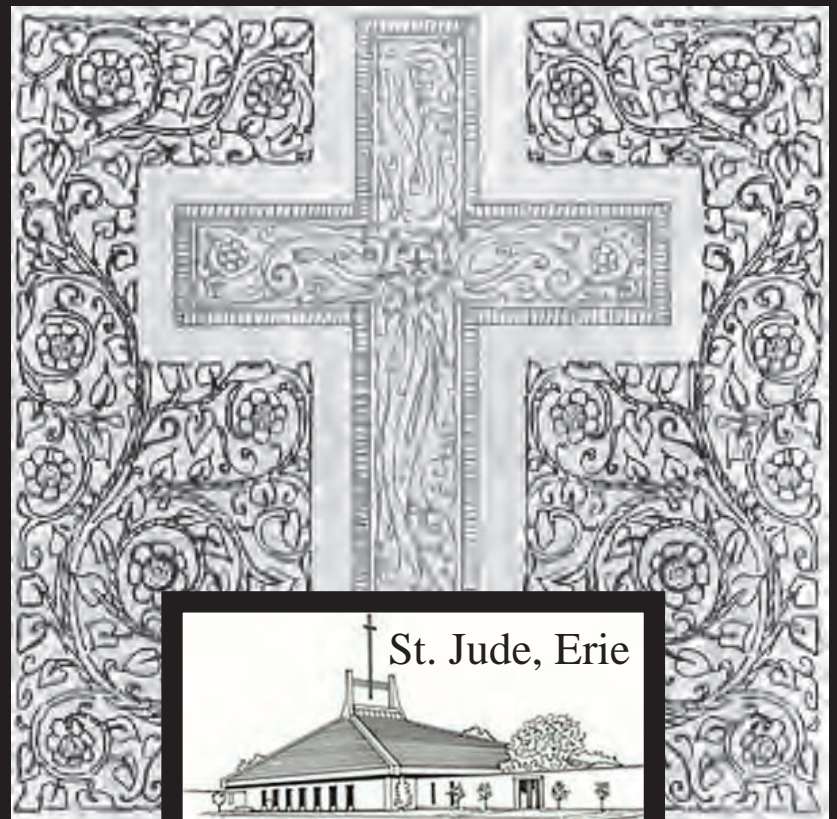
My Inspiration:



"I love the experience of Communion at Mass, when we experience and celebrate our oneness with God and each other."

Pastor: St. Jude, Erie
 St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
 Parochial Vicar:
 Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
 St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
 St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
 Holy Rosary, Erie
 Chaplain: Erie County Prison
 Faculty: St. Francis School, Clearfield
 Resident: St. Brigid, Meadville
 Administrator: St. Andrew, Erie
 Additional Duties:
 Dean of the DuBois Deanery
 Episcopal Vicar, Western Vicariate
 Director: Office of Clergy Personnel
 Member of the Presbyteral Council

Congratulations Msgr. Robert L. Brugger!



Jubilarians

Msgr. Robert Brugger
 Msgr. Gerald Ritchie
 Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak
 Deacon Robert Kuntz
 Sr. M. Stephen Calvin,
 RSM



St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois

Father John G. Chaplin



40 years

Chaplain:
SCI Houtzdale
Weekend Assistant:
St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
Administrator:
St. Basil the Great, Coalport
Sacramental Assistant:
Christ the King Manor, DuBois
DuBois Medical Center
Holy Cross, Brandy Camp
Teacher:
Escuela San Francisco, Santiago, Chile
St. Mary's Academy, Portland, Ore.
University of Portland, Ore.:
Director of Social Outreach Activities
Professor of Sociology and Theology
Resident:
Holy Trinity, Ramey

What initially drew Father John Chaplin to the priesthood was the sacrament of reconciliation.

"I liked the idea of trying to respond to people's needs for compassion and forgiveness," says Father Chaplin. "That would be the main thing."

A native of Clearfield, Father Chaplin was ordained to the priesthood on Oct. 12, 1968 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish by Bishop John Whealon.

He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in theology from the Universidad Catolica (Catholic University) of Santiago, Chile.

After his ordination, Father Chaplin studied theology in Chile and ministered in education as a teacher and counselor in Escuela San Francisco in Santiago. He assisted in parishes and schools for several years.

He says he chose to go to Chile because there was a very concrete setting of helping people's needs and dealing with the poverty of the country.

"It was the most exciting experience of church that I've ever had in my life," Father Chaplin recalls. "That was because of the way the church really took to heart the needs of the poor and the call of the Gospel to respond to the poor in its ministry, but also in its lifestyle."

His experience, he says, involved living in a way that was simple and very much in tune with the realities of poverty and the

people he was trying to serve.

During his time as a member of the congregation of Holy Cross, he also taught at the high school and college levels in Portland, Ore., for 20 years.

He returned to the Erie Diocese in 1996, where he has spent most of his time in prison ministry at SCI Houtzdale. He is currently the sacramental assistant at Christ the King Manor in DuBois, DuBois Medical Center and Holy Cross Parish in Brandy Camp.

My Inspiration:



"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin." – Hebrews 4:14-15



Congratulations to **Rev. William E. Sutherland** on your 25th Anniversary with gratitude for your services to St. Patrick's and St. Hedwig's Parishes; also, **Msgr. L. Thomas**

Snyderwine and Msgr. Jan C. Olowin on their 40th Anniversary.



Congratulations to **Sr. Christine Quirk**, native daughter of St. Patrick (60 years), **Srs. Mary Fromknecht, Frances Therese Matia, Marie Eileen Moyer, Rosemary O'Brien**

(Sr. Cordelia), Naomi Wood (Sr. Ann Catherine), Dorinda Young (50 years) on your anniversaries in religious life and in appreciation for your years of service to St. Patrick's.



Reverend
Robert A.
Manning

St. Titus Church,
Titusville

Congratulations!

Father John Murphy

Though he has spent most of his ordained life in the Archdiocese of Denver, Father John J. Murphy has strong connections to the Erie Diocese.

He was born in Erie to John and Elinor Jones Murphy and attended St. Joseph School from 1948-1950. His parents were Erie natives and alumni of Erie Catholic schools, and his father began his career in the Catholic press at the *Lake Shore Visitor*. His parents' strong family background and Catholic education, he says, gave them "a dedication to the church and the ideals of Christ" which significantly impacted their children.

Father Murphy's sister cares for homeless women as a Sister of Loretto, while his brother is married and ministers to people with substance abuse.

He returned to the Erie Diocese in 2007 to serve as pastor at St. Gabriel Parish in Port Allegany and its mission church of St. Mary in Roulette.

Father Murphy felt a call to the priesthood while serving Mass with Father Francis Heider, "in the days when the liturgy was said in Latin and the priest had his back to the people," he recalls. Father Heider was kind to his altar servers and "gently tolerated our mistakes," he says.

After graduating from Cathedral High School in Denver in 1960, Father Murphy went on to earn a bachelor's, master's and master of divinity from St. Thomas Seminary College and School of

Theology in Denver. He was ordained May 25, 1968 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.



40 years

challenging time, and the liturgy continues to be such as the Mass is a perpetual call to growth and to reach the potential God gives to each of us, inviting us to ongoing conversion."

He hopes the American Catholic Church will enter into a similar conversion to end political and moral polarization and the indictment that American Catholics "are more in touch with American

Father Murphy is also certified in health care chaplaincy and family life education.

The liturgy of the Mass encouraged him to enter the priesthood and continues to serve as an inspiration.

"I was ordained as the renewal of the liturgy was being implemented," he says, referring to the Second Vatican Council. "That was a

Archdiocese of Denver, 1968-2007:

Assistant Pastor/Parochial Vicar, Pastor:

Rural and Urban Parishes

Hospital Chaplain

Public Safety Chaplain

Faculty: St. Francis de Sales High School

Adjunct Faculty: St. Thomas Seminary

Diocese of Erie, 2007-Present:

Pastor: St. Gabriel the Archangel, Port Allegany

St. Mary (Mission), Roulette

My Inspiration:



"The Mass. The Liturgy of the Word inspires us with divine wisdom and Christ nourishes us with the Eucharist. The Mass helps us be open to the promptings of the Spirit who inspires us to live in Christ, hence to follow Christ as his disciples and to be empowered to be apostles bringing the presence of Christ into our life's activities and relationships."

culture than they are with the Christian culture."

Father Murphy hopes for the church to practice Jesus' challenge to judge by divine, not human, standards, especially in a culture that values relativism, individual rights, success, self-gratification, the financial bottom line and individualism, he says.

"The Gospels invite Christians to accountability to God

and to each other," Father Murphy says. "They call us to seek the highest of moral principles, responsibility for actions, the inherent value of every life and of all creation using our gifts and talents for the sake of others' forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus sends us to all nations and to all peoples. For Catholic Christians, the Gospel values form the basis for the rightful place we take in society."



We rejoice, affirm and congratulate
Msgr. Edward Zeitler and Father James Wiley
on their 50th Anniversary of
loving and faithful priestly service!

From your family and friends
of

The Church of the
Beloved Disciple

Grove City Pennsylvania

Ad multos annos!



Monsignor Jan C. Olowin



40 years

"Speak Lord, I love to listen to your voice."

Msgr. Jan Olowin grew up in a household where religious celebrations were meaningful and there was a strong sense of the sacred. But he points to the example of his Aunt Albinette, a Felician sister, and especially the encouragement of this grandmother, Anastasia, when thinking about his call to the priesthood.

"My grandmother was the one who challenged everyone to let me go," he says.

While he was studying for the priesthood at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, Msgr. Olowin traveled to Peru for a short-term mission experience.

"To be Catholic is to be global," he says, reflecting on this aspect of his priesthood.

After he was ordained, Msgr. Olowin says then-Bishop John Whealon of Erie was looking for someone who could help the diocese respond to Pope John XXIII's call for more collaboration between North America and Latin America.

Pastor: St. George, Erie
 St. Joseph, Oil City
 St. Adalbert, Farrell
 Weekend Assistant: St. Patrick, Erie
 Parochial Vicar: St. Patrick, Erie
 Administrator: Immaculate Conception, Erie
 Special Ministry: St. Joseph, Sharon
 St. Bernard, Bradford
 Chaplain: Soldiers & Sailors Home, Erie
 FCI McKean, Supervisory Chaplain
 Additional Duties:
 Faculty Member: Cathedral Prep
 Assistant Director: Propagation of the Faith
 Founding Director: Diocesan Mission Office
 Member: Presbyteral Council and Clergy
 Continuing Education Committee
 Secretary: Office of Worship and Outreach

"He heard I had been to Peru," he recounts, "and promptly put me in charge of our diocesan Papal Volunteers for Latin America (PAVLA) effort."

Msgr. Olowin became founding director of the Erie Diocesan Mission Office to promote a more personal involvement, especially by the laity, with the missions of the church. The most significant outreach during his tenure was the establishment of the Mission of Friendship in Merida, Mexico, made possible through the sister relationship he facilitated between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan.

"Anyone who has been there knows it is exhilarating and spiritually rewarding beyond comprehension," says Msgr. Olowin. "They are deeply moved by something that is at the core of our Catholicism and the core of the Gospel."

Msgr. Olowin says the late Sister Peter

My Inspiration:

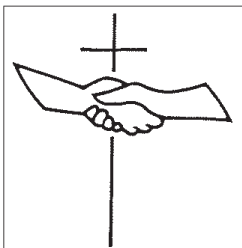
"Each conscience watches over and illuminates the work of God from a point no one can replace. Do not doubt. Maintain your conviction to serve! And remember that there is more merit in using your force for the benefit of the suffering than for your own gain."
 – From *"Quetzalcoatl,"* a novel by former Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo



Claver, MSBT also had a powerful impact on his priesthood.

"Her love of the poor and the Trinity opened a vision of mission and church for me in my early priesthood," he says, noting that the countless men and women who served in the Mission of Friendship—especially long-time volunteers Marilyn Randolph and Caritas Serafin—also inspired him. Today, he finds strength in the inmates with whom he ministers at FCI in McKean.

It's no surprise to learn Msgr. Olowin believes one of the most vital issues facing today's church is "the need to articulate our Scriptures and theology in an understandable language that is faithful to our tradition yet still on mission to the global community. In a sense," he says, "we need to rediscover our own catholicity."



Mission of Friendship would like to honor Msgr. Jan Olowin on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

¡FELICITACIONES!



St. Adalbert Church, Farrell, literally wishes "Sto Lat" (may you live 100 years; congratulations) to our former pastors on their priestly anniversaries:

Fr. William Maloney (60 years)
 Msgr. Jan Olowin (40 years)

That is some sum!

Monsignor Gerald T. Ritchie

Msgr. Gerald Ritchie, longtime pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek, grew up in Erie, spending his childhood much the same as any young boy: going to school, playing baseball, riding his bike and going to movies with his friends.

But it was after those activities when Msgr. Ritchie would invite a few select friends to his family's basement and pretend to offer his own Latin Mass before a makeshift altar.

Father Ritchie felt inspired to enter the priesthood through the examples of the priests of Blessed Sacrament Grade School, Father Ray Gergan and his uncle, Father G. Carlton Ritchie, the founding pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bradford.

He is the only son of the late Francis (Sam) and Mari E. Klick Ritchie. He attended Blessed Sacrament Grade School, Roosevelt Junior High School and graduated from Cathedral Prep High School in 1960. He earned a bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., and a master's of divinity from Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure in 1968.

Msgr. Ritchie was ordained May 18, 1968 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Throughout his 40 years in the priesthood,

he has served as a campus minister and a chaplain for the Erie Fire Department—a particularly meaningful ministry since his father was a firefighter from 1939 until his 1974 retirement as captain of Engine Company No. 13 in Erie.

In 1990 when Msgr. Ritchie was appointed pastor of his home parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Harborcreek, Bishop Michael Murphy sent him a "welcome home" greeting. He oversaw the construction of the parish's new church, which was dedicated in 2000. At Our Lady of Mercy, Msgr. Ritchie encourages small faith-sharing and community building groups.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II honored Msgr. Ritchie as a "Chaplain of His Holiness" with the title of monsignor.



40 years

Pastor:
Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
St. John, Tidioute
St. Anthony, Tionesta
Parochial Vicar:
St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
Sacred Heart, Erie
Chaplain:
Penn State-DuBois Campus Ministry
Erie Fire Department
Additional Duties: Presbyteral Council

My Inspiration:



"The Eucharistic Prayer reminds us who we are, why we are and what we are and enables us to be these."

Peaceful • Smart • Heartwarming • Humble • Thoughtful • Awesome • Caring and Loving • Nice • Gift • My Favorite Priest • Good Advice • Smart • Friend
Understanding • Full of Wit • Thought Provoking • Dedication • Special • Passion • A Great Person • True Gift • Full of Love and Glory • Handsome

"CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE COMMUNITY TO BE ONE WITH THE COMMUNITY"

THE PEOPLE OF GOD OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

OFFER PRAYERFUL PRAISE FOR

MSGR. GERALD T. RITCHIE

FOR THE GIFT OF 40 YEARS OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY,
 FOR THE GIFT OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE
 TO GOD
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE
 AND TO US

AS PASTOR, SERVANT & FRIEND!

Compassionate • Sharing • Real • Electrifying
Friendly and Loving • Forgiving • Smile-or • Fun

"Bishop of Grand Rapids" • The Greatest • Kind • Gentle
Numerous • Caring • Shepherd • Spiritual Advisor

Exemplary • Blessed • What a Guy! • On Duty • Loved • Wise • The "Zing" of Our Lives • Generous • Fuzzy • Loves Kids • Organized • Insightful
The Greatest • Helpful • Blessing for Our Parish • Outstanding • Inspirational • Fun-loving • Amazing • Inspiring • Caring • The Best • Jolly • Reverent • Welcoming



Congratulations Jubilarians

**Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, Rev. John B. Jacquel,
Msgr. Robert L. Brugger, Rev. John Chaplin
Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ; Sr. Frances
Therese Matia, SSJ; Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ**

• *St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield* •

Father Jerome S. Simmons

"Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever."



40 years

"I have always found the prayer we pray right after the Our Father to be very moving," says Father Jerry Simmons.

A student at Gannon during the early 1960s, Father Simmons became involved in the Thomas More Club, which was under the leadership of Msgr. James Peterson. "That got me interested in social justice," Father Simmons says. He found himself working with residents at St. Joseph Home for Children and volunteering as a driver for the blind.

Then, over Thanksgiving break in 1963, Father Jerry was invited to serve as a member of the team that gave the first Cursillo in the Erie Diocese. "I had been thinking about the seminary," he says, "and Cursillo set me more firmly in that direction." By January 1964, he was a seminarian.

Msgr. Peterson's approach to the priesthood always impressed Father Simmons. "He was amazing," Father Jerry says. "He taught at Gannon, but he was involved in a lot of other things. He always found room and time for everybody. And he was always praying."

Father Simmons has spent a great deal of his priesthood serving as a spiritual counselor. In 1989, he joined the staff of the Ecclesia Center, a unique residential facility designed to provide rest and renewal to church ministers. Although it began in service to clergy and women religious in the Diocese of Erie, its holistic approach to healing touched the lives of ministers the world over. Now that the residential facility has closed, he continues in his role as a spiritual counselor, with an office at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Erie.

"I have an insatiable curiosity," Father Simmons admits. "I'm always looking for the gold thread in somebody's life." He finds the work

Pastor:
St. Matthew-in-the-Woods, Erie
Weekend Assistant:
St. Jude, Erie
Sacred Heart, Erie
Parochial Vicar:
St. Jude, Erie
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
Administrator:
St. Matthew-in-the-Woods, Erie
Special Ministry: Ecclesia Center, Girard
Campus Ministry: Villa Maria College, Erie
Chaplain: Sisters of St. Joseph
of Northwest Pennsylvania

demanding, but never tiring. "God is there in each person's life, we just work together to discover that presence. It truly is a blessing in my life."

If he had just one more homily to give, Father Simmons says he would tell his listeners we're all being called to go deeper into prayer, into relationship with Jesus. "No matter what's going on around us," he says, "we need to trust in the Spirit." Included in the homily would be a reference to St. Augustine's well-known prayer, "Our hearts are restless 'til they rest in thee, O God."

Father Simmons says he would also speak to the polarization evident in both our culture and our church. "God loves people on both sides of the polarity," he points out.

In addition to his work as a counselor, Father Simmons was recently appointed chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is a homecoming, of sorts, as he spent 10 years working at Villa Maria College.

"I'm enjoying it very much," he says. "It's nice to pray with people who are committed to prayer."

My Inspiration:

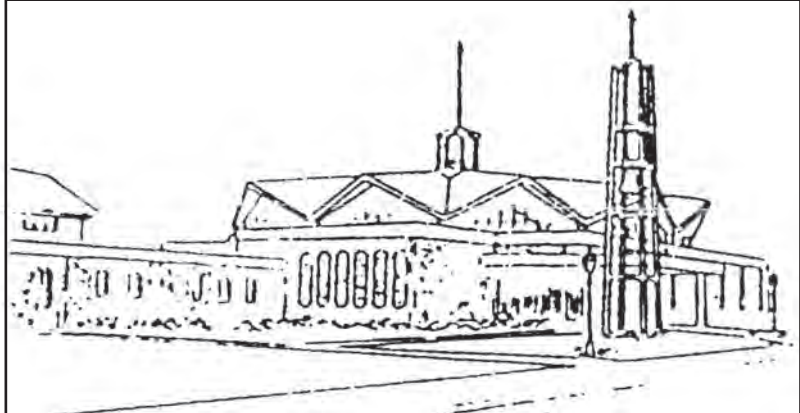


"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really understand myself. And the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact, please you. And I hope I have the desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my troubles alone."

- Thomas Merton

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO
OUR NEWLY ORDAINED
FR. TIMOTHY R. BALLIETT

AND TO ALL OUR JUBILIANS
ESPECIALLY MSGR. BERNARD J. URBANIAK
OUR FORMER RESIDENT



MSGR. CHARLES A. KAZA & PARISHIONERS
ST. TOBIAS PARISH, BROCKWAY

Monsignor L. Thomas Snyderwine



40 years

Pastor:
St. Paul, Erie
St. Luke, Erie
Weekend Assistant:
St. Michael, DuBois
St. Boniface, Erie
St. Patrick, Erie
St. George, Erie
Parochial Vicar:
St. Patrick, Erie

Faculty:
Dubois Central Catholic
High School, DuBois;
Cathedral Preparatory
School, Erie;
Gannon University, Erie
(also Library Director)
Administrator:
St. Joseph, Dubois

"Be good to each other, do what's right and get to church if you can!" With those words, Msgr. Thomas Snyderwine closes his weekly radio program, Magnify, broadcast Sundays from 7 to 8 p.m. on WJET AM 1400 and now heard around the world via podcast (visit www.magnify.libsyn.com). His signature sign-off helps sum up the positive approach Msgr. Snyderwine has to his vocation and his life.

A man of enormous energy, Msgr. Snyderwine has served as a teacher, administrator, librarian and pastor, as well as on a long list of boards and civic committees. But central to everything he does is his priesthood, a call which he says he first felt while a third-grade student at St. Joseph Grade School in Sharon.

"Year after year, until ordination, I thought I could be happy doing what I saw other priests doing," he says.

In preparation for the priesthood, Msgr. Snyderwine enrolled as a boarding student at Cathedral Prep and St. Mark Seminary High School, attended Gannon University in Erie and then earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.

Two years before his ordination, his father, Leo, died, leaving his mother, Evangeline Hoagland Snyderwine, a brother, Robert, and sister, Margaret, of Fredericksburg, Texas, to attend his 1968 ordination.

In 1964, he was assigned to Theological College at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he was awarded a master's degree in 1968. He earned a doctorate in education from Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a master's in library science from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, in 1980.

Msgr. Snyderwine says two priests from his early life and formation, Msgr. Joseph Reszkowski and Father Eugene A. Walsh, S.S., impacted his life as a priest.

"Monsignor Reszkowski preached my first Mass, was my first pastor and became my first senior associate," Msgr. Snyderwine says. Today, he recommends new priests seek out experienced priests who can mentor them in the realities of their duties. He also looks back with gratitude to Father Walsh, whom he refers to as "a seminary profes-

My Inspiration:



"Isaiah 49:15-16 reassures us of God's constant and abiding providential care. 'Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name.'"

sor with the utmost vision, vigor and good humor."

Msgr. Snyderwine has been deeply devoted to the communities in which he has resided. He became chaplain of the Port of Erie in 1978, an assignment for which he good-naturedly takes a bit of ribbing from time to time.

"I'm not sure God is going to give him much credit for that," Serra Club member Jim Speice said at the club's installment dinner in May of this year. Speice was introducing Msgr. Snyderwine as the organization's 2008 Priest of the Year, noting the priest's fondness for boating. Msgr. Snyderwine served as president of the National Catholic Conference for Seafarers from 1988-92 and is also chaplain to Erie's Fire Department, the Edmund L. Thomas Detention Center, Pleasant Ridge Manor-East, Presque Isle Yacht Club and EmeryCare. He also currently serves as president of InterChurch Ministries in the Erie area.

Besides assignments to various schools and parishes, Msgr. Snyderwine has written articles on Christian issues, education and library science, as well as overseen the publication of local history, interviews and letters of Bishops Michael J. Murphy and Donald W. Trautman. He also edited "Researching the Development of Lay Leadership in the Catholic Church since Vatican II," published by the Edwin Mellon Press.

Msgr. Snyderwine continues to draw inspiration from the consecration at Mass, noting with awe that "one human priest can call Christ down from heaven into the consecrated bread and wine."

Even though he finds comfort in the liturgy, he recognizes the challenges the church faces due to reorganization of parishes in response to clergy shortages.

"The church will have to weather the storms of closings and mergers," he says.

But he is not deterred. Msgr. Snyderwine says he hopes for a "new Pentecost of dedicated Catholics committed to their local parishes who will contribute to the church's future growth."

That optimistic hope for the future is inspired, in part, by his mother, who passed away just last year at the age of 104.

"She always said it was important to make plans," he remembers. "So I look forward to a future with many more opportunities to serve as that bridge between people and God."

CONGRATULATIONS
MONSIGNOR TOM SNYDERWINE
ON 40 YEARS OF BEING A
FAITHFUL SERVANT WHO
MAGNIFIES GOD'S GRACE!

- FROM THE CATHOLIC CARING COMMUNITY
OF SAINT LUKE PARISH AND SCHOOL

2008 SERRA CLUB
PRIEST OF THE YEAR

Monsignor Bernard J. Urbaniak



Pastor:
St. Stanislaus, Erie
Weekend Assistant:
St. George, Erie
St. Tobias, Brockway
Faculty:
Cathedral Prep, Erie
DuBois Central Catholic
High School, DuBois
(Assistant Headmaster, Temporary
Headmaster)

Resident:
St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
St. Tobias, Brockway
Administrator:
St. Bernard, Falls Creek
St. Stanislaus, Erie

My Inspiration:

"Psalm 139 has motivated and guided me since college days and I also like Ezekiel 37—the power of God's spirit to bring life to 'dry bones.'"



40 years

Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak, pastor of his native St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie, says he always felt a calling to the priesthood.

"In high school, I considered other choices," Msgr. Urbaniak says. "But I always seemed to come back to becoming a priest."

He made up his mind during his senior year at Cathedral Prep.

Msgr. Urbaniak cites the deep faith of his parents and their support in nurturing his vocation.

"They were always there for me," he says. "Their faith in God edified and encouraged me."

He attended St. Mark Seminary and Gannon University and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y. He graduated from the Theological College of Catholic University, Washington, D.C., and was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 1968 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Among his assignments, he taught religion and psychology at then-Central Christian

High School for 19 years, where he also coached drama and was the diocesan moderator for the Catholic Forensic League.

Msgr. Urbaniak also has a talent for entertaining at gatherings by playing a wide variety of piano selections.

He has served as the pastor of St. Stanislaus since 1990.

He describes the most pressing issue facing the Catholic Church today as faith.

"We live in a very material world," Msgr. Urbaniak says, "and faith in anything, anyone, any 'God' is a difficult leap for people who want proof for what they accept."

His hope for the future is that people of faith continue to be faithful, even when "evidence" is against it.

"And that by being faithful, others come to

see the truth, the life and the strength of God's revealed message through Jesus," he says.

If he had just one more homily to give, it would be on love.

"Love is the ability to see good in others," Msgr. Urbaniak says. "When we say, 'God loves us,' we mean God sees good in us and calls us to see the same good in others. If we had the courage to see good in all people, we would be closer to God and closer to one another."



St. Stanislaus Church, Erie, PA

The people of St. Stanislaus Church offer heartfelt thanks and prayerful best wishes to our Pastor, Monsignor Bernard J. Urbaniak, and to Gannon Professor, Father Casimir J. Wozniak, both native sons of the parish. Congratulations on 40 years of priestly service. Sto lat!

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
TO THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

Msgr. Bernard J. Urbaniak 1969-1983
Msgr. L. Thomas Snyderwine 1968-1971
Sr. M. Stephen Calvin, RSM 1952-1953
(St. Catherine Elementary School)



DuBois Central Catholic...Home of the Cardinals

www.duboisatholic.com DuBois Area Catholic School, Inc. (Pre-K thru 12)

Father Casimir J. Wozniak



40 years

Weekend Assistant:
St. Luke, Erie
St. Stanislaus, Erie
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,
Erie
Faculty:
Cathedral Preparatory
School, Erie

Additional Duties:
Resident: Gannon University
Chair of the Department of
Theology, Gannon University
Co-Chaplain: Sisters of the Divine
Spirit, Erie

Known around the campus of Gannon University as a “tough but good teacher,” Father Casimir J. Wozniak is a priest who has dedicated his ministry to education.

“I really love teaching,” he says, “especially the interaction with students, the look on their faces.”

After beginning college at Gannon and St. Mark’s Seminary in Erie, he completed a bachelor’s in philosophy at St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y. in 1964, where he also earned a master’s of divinity in 1968. He received a master’s in social studies from Gannon in 1975 as well as a licentiate in sacred theology in 1982 from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. In 1993, he completed a doctorate in systemic and historical theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Father Wozniak’s parents, grandparents and teachers at Cathedral Prep all set a “beautiful example of Christian living” for him as he grew up and entered the seminary. In the same way, he feels the best way to encourage voca-

tions is through a good example.

“To show yourself as a committed priest who is happy with his life and whose faith gives his life meaning does attract others to the ministry,” he says.

If he had one more homily to give, he would use his experience as an educator to invite his parishioners to present a positive Christian example by maintaining a personal relationship with Jesus through daily prayer, the sacraments and participation in the liturgy.

“Be a cheerful disciple of the Lord, and bring others to Jesus through your example,” he says.

Being a joyful model of faith, according to Father Wozniak, will encourage Catholics to “live a committed life of discipleship when people around you are not.” He believes the American culture’s self-absorption and “get-with-it” approach to life contradicts the basic message of Jesus,

who called for repentance and carrying one’s cross daily.

“We as priests must continue to bring it across to our people to be faithful disciples despite the odds,” he says.

Father Wozniak has no doubt that the Catholic Church will prosper despite the challenges it faces. Throughout its history in the United States, including strong anti-Catholicism, the church survived and thrived. He believes today’s church, despite the crises of priestly indiscretion and decreasing vocations, can do the same.

“I believe the church in the United States will, with the help of

My Inspiration:

“When I celebrate the liturgy, I sometimes get caught up with the idea that I am celebrating the Eucharist whose essential form goes back almost 2,000 years. I am awed that this same Eucharist was celebrated in practically the same way by such saints as Ignatius of Antioch, who died in 1174 A.D. The strength and deepening of faith that the Eucharist provides does indeed cross time and space.”



prayers and the hard work of all believers, grow and prosper,” he says.

Maintaining a daily prayer life, including time for quiet meditation, is “absolutely crucial” for one’s own spiritual wellness as well as the church’s,” he notes.



Father Casimir
Wozniak
(40 years)

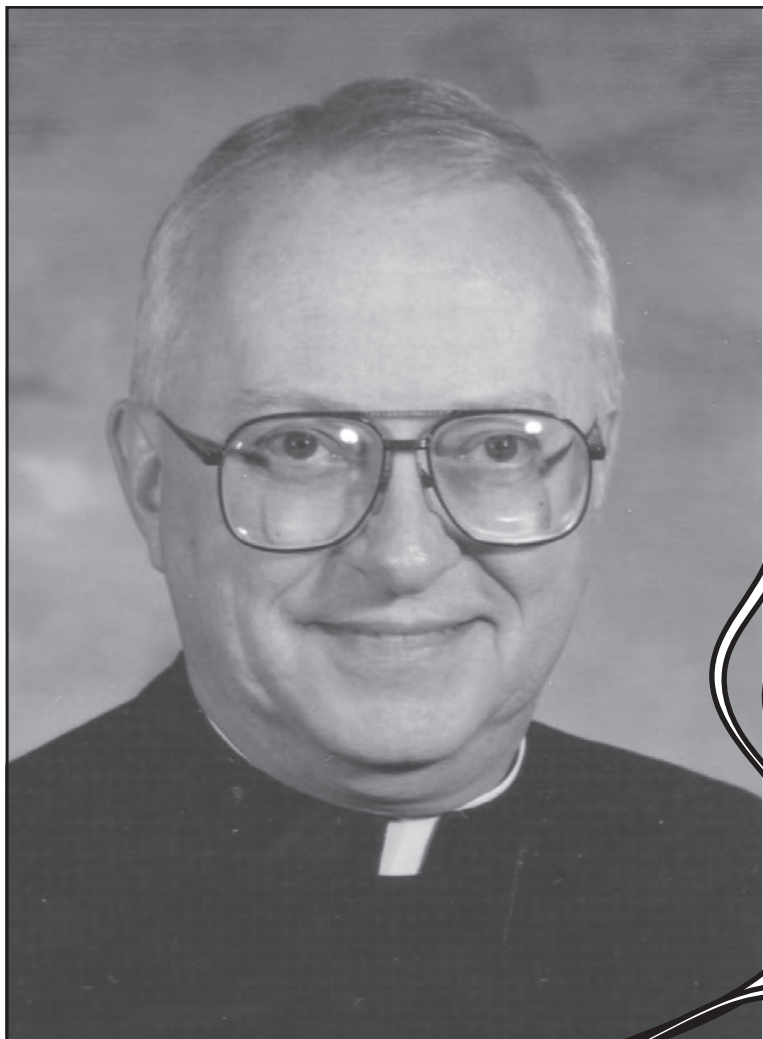


Deacon
Frank Pregler
(10 years)



*Congratulations and
thank you to our good
and faithful servants.*

-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish



Msgr. Bernard J. Urbaniak

Szczęść Boże.
My Cię Kochamy.
God Bless You.
We love you.



*From: Uncle Chet and Aunt Rita,
Uncle Ed and Aunt Florence,
Uncle Ted,
Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe,
& Aunt Joan*

Subsidiaries

Holy Redeemer Parish
Family congratulates



**Deacon Joseph A.
Lucia Jr.** on his 10th
Anniversary and
Newly Ordained.

REV. TIM BALLETT
MSGR. GERALD RITCHIE
FR. JEROME S. SIMMONS

SR. ANN HOFFMAN, OSB
SISTER MARGARET JOSEPH MOKES, SSJ
SISTER ANN MARIE CAPPELLO, SSJ
SISTER NAOMI WOOD, SSJ
SISTER MARGARET PELLERITE, SSJ

*Congratulations!
Blessed Sacrament, Erie*

Sister Ann Hoffman, OSB



25 years

Duties:
Sarah Reed Children's Center
Erie County Office for Children and Youth
Mission of Friendship, Mexico
St. Benedict Education Center
Benetwood Apartments

My Inspiration:



"Listen with the ear of your heart, from the prologue of the Rule of St. Benedict is the one instruction that rings most clearly to or in me. In life and in work, I listen to hear the voices of those who teach and of those who need."

A Christmas Eve baby, Sister Ann Hoffman, OSB, was born in Sayre, Pa. The daughter of John and Mary Halbig Hoffman, she was baptized at St. Joseph in nearby Athens.

Her father's work brought the family to Erie where she attended Blessed Sacrament School and Villa Maria Academy.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work at the former Villa Maria College, Erie, and a master's degree in counseling at Gannon University, Erie. This education only began her preparation for the ministries in which she has since been

involved — she has attended courses, conferences, seminars and workshops by the dozen to expand her understanding of her profession and ministry.

Sister Ann first worked at Sarah Reed Children's Center and later for several years at the Erie County Office for Children and Youth. She then served at the Mission of Friendship in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie to both spiritually and materially aid the deeply impoverished people of the area.

On her return to Erie, Sister Ann joined the staff of St. Benedict Education Center where she continued social work and counseling.

She is currently the assistant manager and activities director at Benetwood Apartments,

a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. She finds it a joy to be able to help residents maintain their health while taking pleasure in their surroundings, in their daily comings and goings and, especially, in their interactions with each other.

In this setting, Sister Ann is able to enjoy the natural beauty in the woods as well as at Lake Erie near the monastery and on the Presque Isle peninsula she cherishes.

She regularly makes trips to Vermont for retreat time with another Benedictine community, in a setting of mountains and forest.

Her hopes for the community's future include that all will see the face of Christ in every person they encounter in daily interactions and ministries and that all will know themselves to be truly welcome in their lives.

Sister Cindy Hoover, OSB

Sister Cindy Hoover, OSB, a daughter of Diane Turner Hoover and the late John Hoover, is a native of St. Michael Parish in Fryburg. Sister Cindy attended St. Michael School, as well as Clarion County public schools. She later became a religious education teacher and found joy in leading children to faith in a loving God.

Sister Cindy recognized her call to religious life and found in the Benedictine Sisters of Erie the way to live it. She began her novitiate on August 8, 1982, made her first profession of Benedictine vows on August



25 years

Duties:
Food Service: Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Brevillier Village and St. Benedict Child Development/East Coast Migrant Day Care Center
Planning Liturgies: Mount St. Benedict

11, 1984 and her final profession on August 15, 1987.

She has ministered in food service for most of her religious life. She earned an associate degree in hospitality management from Mercyhurst College, Erie, and continues to participate regularly in courses and workshops related to her work.

Sister Cindy worked at the monastery and at Brevillier Village, Erie, then became food service manager at the St. Benedict Child Development/East Coast Migrant Day Care Center in the former motherhouse on East Ninth Street in Erie. There, she is responsible for the nutritional needs of several dozens — the number varies seasonally — of small children.

Their ages, beginning with infants, are a consideration as are their tastes and preferences and even their ability to manage the food easily. Mealtimes, of course, are learning experiences and these include helping one another with something both basic and vital. Thus Sister Cindy has an opportunity to teach them the love of God in a way that has meaning for them.

Sister Cindy spends time, effort and attention on planning and arranging liturgies at the monastery, sometimes ordinary Sundays and sometimes major celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. She often participates in liturgies by proclaiming the Word of God to the assembly.

My Inspiration:



"I look forward to the next 25 years and hope that our community will always follow St. Benedict's admonition to 'prefer nothing to the love of Christ' and that we will live in such a way as to be proof to all we meet that peace and justice are possible in this world."

Father John B. Jacquel

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I received." - I Cor. 15:3

Father John Jacquel attended a "Live-In" weekend at St. Mark's Seminary during his junior year of college where the men passed on the benefits of the priesthood. Father Jacquel says he entered the seminary to get out of his system the nagging feeling he experienced throughout college.

"But you can see what happened," he says.

He calls it his vocation to "pass on" the Gospel of Jesus, as St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, so that others may also share in the bounty. He lists several people throughout his life who have "passed on" the faith, including his parents, Msgr. James Sperry, Terry Plumb (catechist and youth leader) and her husband, Harry, as well as other Our Lady of Mercy parishioners in Harborcreek, Sr. Therese Dush and the community of Anawim in Frenchville.

As a result of this outlook, he calls evangelization the most important issue fac-

My Inspiration:

"One of Stephen Covey's 'Seven Habits' is *first things first*. It is imperative to make spiritual priorities—and it is as hard as anything to make happen. When we do, however, all else falls in place—we get more work done, we'll neglect less



our loved ones and we'll be better connected with God, the source of life and love."

ing today's church. He says that it is important to move beyond creating programs for people to come to. Instead, he said the church must reach out to "where so many unchurched and marginalized/alienated Catholics and Christians find themselves today."

In addition to outreach, he says parishes must maintain small communities where "we nurture and strengthen the faith of each member" and construct a system of challenge and support for one another.

"Here we most obviously can meet God. Here is where life and love can be found," he says.

It is his hope that the American Catholic

Church takes this love and becomes more mission-minded, as well as welcoming lay people into the leadership positions they are better gifted to assume.



25 years

Pastor:

St. Agnes, Morrisdale
Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills
Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

Weekend Assistant:

St. Joseph, Oil City
St. John, Tidioute

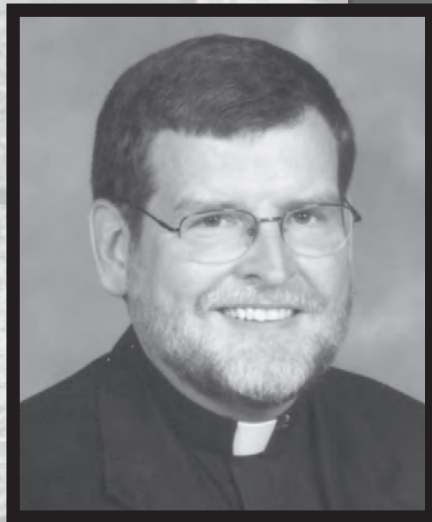
Parochial Vicar: St. Bernard, Bradford
St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield

Additional Duties:

Secondary Education: Venango Christian High School, Oil City

Presbyteral Council
Priests' Personnel Board

Co-Director: Diocesan Cursillo Movement



Our Lady of the Lake Parish
Congratulates Our Pastor,
Fr. John Jacquel
On His 25th Anniversary of Ordination

Also, our Former Pastor,
Msgr. John Daniszewski
Ad Multos Annos

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH FAMILY
CONGRATULATES

FR. JOHN JACQUEL

ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

WE ARE PROUD
TO CALL YOU
A NATIVE SON
OF THE PARISH



MAY GOD CONTINUE
THE GOOD WORK
ALREADY BEGUN IN YOU.

Father Robert A. Manning



25 years

Parochial Vicar:
 St. Patrick, Franklin
 St. Agatha, Meadville
 Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
 St. Titus, Titusville
 St. Boniface, Erie
 Holy Rosary, Erie
 Parochial Administrator:
 St. Columbkille, Stoneboro

Father Robert Manning remembers telling his first grade teacher at St. Bernard School in Bradford that he wanted to be a priest. Soon after, he began telling his family.

"I was in first grade, but I meant it," Father Manning says. "I just had that thought."

In class, when students were drawing what they wanted to be when they grew up, many of them drew police officers and firefighters; he drew a priest.

A Bradford native, his father was a custodian at his home parish of St. Bernard. Each evening he recalls walking from his family's house to the church with his father. While his dad was busy locking up the church for the night, Father Manning would look out from the pulpit or help blow out the vigil candles.

"To this day, I love the smell of burned out candles," he says. "It brings me right back to that time."

He graduated from Bradford Central Christian High School and enrolled in St. Mark's Seminary. He attended Gannon University and studied for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y.

He was ordained a priest on May 20, 1983 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Father Manning has served as a parochial vicar at parishes throughout the Erie Diocese and is currently the parochial administrator of St. Columbkille Parish in Stoneboro.

Growing up, he says his faith was deeply influenced by his parents.

"They had a deep love for God," he says. "That was always present in our household."

The priests at St. Bernard were also an inspiration, strengthening his thoughts and desire to be a priest.

"I also really admired the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught me in school," Father Manning says. "They taught me so much. I just felt that I received so many gifts from them in what they handed on to me."

As a young person, Father Manning says he loved Pope Paul VI and felt he always had a special spiritual connection with the pope.

Father Manning also has two cousins who are in religious life: Sister Catherine Manning, SSJ, and Brother James Gulnac.

One of his inspirations is "More I Could Not Ask," a book by the diocese's own Msgr. James Peterson.

"The very title of his book has grown within me spiritually and deepens with every passing day," Father Manning says.


"I encourage anyone that if the thought of becoming a priest crosses your mind, let the thought rest there. And do not try to avoid or turn from it. Simply and lovingly place it in the hands of God. It may be you that God is calling and someday may be thanking God as a priest and praying those same words, 'more I could not ask.'"

My Inspiration:

"May your kindness, Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in you." – Psalm 33:22




Congratulations Deacon Joseph A. Lucia!



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*Father William Miller
 25 years of priestly ministry*

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS!

*From Your Friends and the Parishioners
 of
 St. Luke Church, Youngsville*



Father William C. Miller



25 years

Pastor:
St. Joseph, Lucinda
St. Luke, Youngsville
St. Joseph, Oil City
St. Hippolyte, Guys Mills
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cochranon
Ss. Peter and Paul, Pettis
Parochial Vicar:
St. Andrew, Erie
St. Joseph, Oil City
St. Tobias, Brockway
Chaplain:
Serra Club, Warren area
Additional Duty:
Associate Director and Co-Director of Erie Diocese's Apostolate for the Hearing Impaired

A native of Pittsburgh, Father William Miller attended the University of Pittsburgh, Gannon University and studied for the priesthood at St. Mark's Seminary in Erie and St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He was assigned as a deacon to St. George Parish in Erie.

He was ordained a priest on May 20, 1983 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Father Miller has training in sign language and deaf ministry. He can proclaim the Word in a manner that is unconventional to most believers but that allows the Word to be seen in his signing and heard within the inner ear of faith. He served the Erie Diocese's Apostolate for the hearing impaired for several years.

Father Miller is currently the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Lucinda, where he has served since 2005.

My Inspiration:



"You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." – John 13:13-15



The people of Erie's Sacred Heart Church give praise to God for the vocation of our native son, Fr. Bill Sutherland and for the wonderful ministry of Msgr. Gerald Ritchie and Fr. Jerry Simmons.

Father William E. Sutherland



25 years

Pastor: St. Patrick, Erie
St. Hedwig, Erie
Parochial Vicar:
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Jude, Erie
St. John the Baptist, Erie
St. Leo, Ridgway

Administrator:
St. Patrick, Erie
Additional Duties:
Director of Diocesan Apostolate
for Hearing Impaired
Emmaus Convocation Committee Chairman
Co-Director of the Erie Diocesan Cursillo movement

after the consecration at Mass serve as his greatest inspiration, especially when he lifts the host and the cup in what has become a daily reminder “of Christ present in the Eucharist as well as in all of us.”

“When I look at the elevated host, I see not only the Body of Christ in the Eucharist but the faces in the congregation, and I am reminded of Christ’s presence in them,” he says. “When I look at the elevated cup of the Precious Blood, I see the cup of salvation, as well as my own reflection, which reminds me that Christ lives in me.”

Out of his love and devotion to the priesthood, Father Sutherland hopes that the Catholic Church, American and worldwide, will grow to appreciate this vocation and the good that priests can do.

“It isn’t about money or prestige; it’s about importance,” he says. “I believe that if more people see the importance of the priesthood, they will consider this vocation and encourage others to do so.”

For Father William Sutherland, his vocation to the priesthood was a family affair.

In addition to his parents who taught him to respect God and others, Father Sutherland had two priest uncles, Msgr. William J. Sutherland and Msgr. J. Edward Feeney of the Dioceses of Buffalo and Erie, respectively. These priests, for whom he is named, showed him devotion to ministry but also exhibited humility and humanity.

“I admired my uncles but never put them on a pedestal,” he says. “Their goodness and ministry was not beyond reach because I also saw their human foibles. It was because of this that I felt that I could be a priest.”

Bishop Michael J. Murphy, with whom he lived for more than 16 years, also inspired Father Sutherland. The bishop’s gentleness impacted Father Sutherland most. Out of his great love, Bishop Murphy reached out to people who were ignored or avoided, he says.

“He cried for those who suffered, he prayed for those who caused that suffering, because he loved them all,” he says of the late retired bishop.

Father Sutherland “absolutely loves” the priesthood, saying it completes him in the same way a married man or woman is completed by their spouse. The moments

My Inspiration:

“The spirituality of the Cursillo movement captures the essence for Father Sutherland. Piety, study and action are absolutely necessary to live the Christian life to its fullest. If any part is missing, our spirituality collapses. Piety is the desire to know God intimately. I believe most people want this but don’t know how to achieve it. Study (of Sacred Scriptures, spiritual books, etc.) shows us the ‘what’ and the ‘how.’ Action completes the call of Jesus to live for others and bring others to him. Many people wonder why they exist and what they are here for. Piety, study and action answer those questions and lead to a truly fulfilling life.”



Deacon Frank Pregler

Happy 10th Anniversary to our favorite Deacon!

Love,

Jane, Andy, Maria, Rosie and Michael



Deacons Celebrating 10 Years

Religious education classes would meet at the home of Deacon Dalhart Dobbs and his wife, Charlotte. The Dobbses served as a host family for the confirmation class from St. George Parish in Erie for several years, working with about a dozen kids each year.

"It was a lot of fun," says Deacon Dobbs, a retired administrator with the Erie School District.

Little did he know that it was the beginning of his vocation to the permanent diaconate.

He became a eucharistic minister and an usher at the parish then saw a notice in the bulletin about the Erie Diocese encouraging men to apply to become a deacon.

"I had just retired so I thought I'd let it sit for awhile," Deacon Dobbs says. "A couple of weeks later, there was another notice in the bulletin. My wife and daughter came to me after Mass and said, 'We have just the thing for you.' I thought, 'Oh, Holy Spirit, you're at work!'"

He was ordained a deacon on May 29, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

At St. George, he has preached, presided at funerals and is involved in the Legion of Mary. But his favorite part of ministry is baptizing children.

"I love baptism," he says. "You get to talk to

the family and you get to bring a new soul into the church and begin somebody's process into religion. It's just a wonderful feeling to know that you gave someone a part of the faith and know that they're keeping it up. I could be a baptizer like John the rest of my life."

One of the major struggles Christians face today is being bombarded with value of a secular culture, Deacon Dobbs says.

"You worry about the young people," he says. "They just have so much to do and are being hit with things at all directions. And all these things seem to lead away from the church.

"Someone needs to help them maintain keeping their feet on the ground, and the church does a good job of that. But there aren't enough of us. We need more vocations."

The Washington, Pa., native and his wife have opened their home to many over the years. The couple has seven children, six of whom are adopted. They have also fostered 18 others.

"The Lord has been good to us," Deacon Dobbs says.

He has battled lung cancer during the past few years and says he is surviving, "thanks to the Lord."

Deacon Dalhart T. Dobbs



Home Parish:
St. George,
Erie

My Inspiration:

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage." — Psalm 23

Deacon Robert G. Hoover



Home Parish:
St. Agnes,
Morrisdale

Deacon Bob Hoover first became interested in the permanent diaconate shortly after the Second Vatican Council.

He recalls the words of Msgr. Robert Smith, director of the Erie Diocese's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, at a meeting some 15 years ago at St. Leo in Ridgway outlining the program: "The church needs your expertise—the church wants you."

After much prayer and getting advice from others, Deacon Hoover applied and was accepted into the program.

He was ordained a deacon on May 29, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Given the opportunity, Deacon Hoover says a permanent deacon can use his talents and abilities to serve God and the people of God in many ways.

"A willingness to learn and apply new knowledge coupled with faith and experience can apply to any person, whether ordained or otherwise, who wishes to offer time and ability to serve God and others," he says.

He cites his wife, Dorothy, whose faith has deeply touched his life.

"She has served the youth of our parish both as a volunteer catechist and as a certified coordinator of religious education for 51 years," he says. "Her ministry and her dedication are an inspiration to serve Christ and the church par excellence!"

Making a Cursillo and helping establish the Young People Who Care (YPWC) Center in Frenchville were also important events in his faith journey.

Deacon Hoover says one of the greatest challenges the church faces today is for parents to fulfill their vocation in marriage to bring their chil-

dren to God through the church.

"I think too often parents choose the easy way of involving their children in sports and other programs and lose sight of their most important responsibility," he says. "Many children lack good Catholic faith formation and eventually fall away from their religion and God. Catholic education and practices must become a parental priority."

If he only had one more homily to give, Deacon Hoover says its message would stress our connectedness to the Lord and our need to follow his way of love in everyday living.

"A homily is about placing Christ in our daily lives—to live as he wants us to," he says. "It is not about the homilist; it's about Jesus."

My Inspiration:

"For the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and gave his life as a ransom for many." — Mark 10:45. Jesus' words center on the whole ministry of the permanent diaconate."

When the Erie Diocese first announced the beginning of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, Deacon Robert Kuntz says he thought about the vocation.

He and a friend attended a meeting about the diaconate in Ridgway, and the more he heard about it, the more interested he became.

"I felt the Holy Spirit begin to nudge me, but I still wasn't sure it was for me," Deacon Kuntz says.

After discerning what he should do, he applied to the program and was accepted into the diocese's first class of deacon candidates.

He was ordained on May 29, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

My Inspiration:

"Anything is possible if you have faith."
— Mark 9:23



A native of Troutville and a Catholic convert, Deacon Kuntz is a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois where he is assigned as a deacon assistant. He has also served his parish as a lector and eucharistic minister, making First Friday Communion calls.

As a chaplain, he visits with adults and children in the Behavioral Unit in the DuBois Area Medical Center. He says he tries to emphasize the importance of faith in our spiritual lives.

"I have the opportunity to dig deeply into the problems and stress of the very depressed," he says. "I always explain to them how important it is to rely on their faith to help them deal with whatever problem they have. To have God work in our lives we must have the faith that he will do what he said he would do, and that is to trust and have faith that our prayers will be answered, no matter how impossible they may seem to us."

Deacon Kuntz says he has found bringing Communion to people in hospitals and nursing homes a wonderful experience.

"The excitement and appreciation shown by these people when they receive the Eucharist

Deacon Robert E. Kuntz



Home Parish: St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois

has been a strong inspiration," he says. "I've always felt close to the Lord in my prayer life, and with my love for people, I enjoy sharing my faith with others."

Deacon Joseph A. Lucia Jr.



Home Parish: St. Joseph, Warren

For most of his life, Deacon Joseph Lucia Jr. thought he was called to the priesthood.

But early interest resulted in little to no follow through. After several attempts to talk to priests about a possible vocation failed, he forgot about it. That's until the Erie Diocese's permanent diaconate program came along.

"When the diaconate came along, I was encouraged by several priest friends," Deacon Lucia says. "I always knew that I wanted to serve the people of God in some special way, and the diaconate seemed to be the perfect way for me."

A native of St. Joseph Parish in Warren, Deacon Lucia has been involved in one ministry or another for 45 years. A retired math teacher,

he has served St. Joseph as a eucharistic minister, organist, choir director, lector, religious education teacher and a member of the parish council and liturgy committee.

He was ordained a permanent deacon on May 29, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Although his first ministry visits to nursing homes and hospitals were shocking and upsetting, Deacon Lucia found people to feel comforted and reassured by his presence. When minds and bodies fail, he tries to remember the vibrant person that once occupied that body and relate to the person they have become.

"Being a part of the deacon program, I feel that a huge area of ministry has opened up that is being addressed by our deacons," he says. "Nursing home residents, prisoners, refugees, the sick

and dying in hospitals—are all being ministered to regularly by deacons. Our priests and women religious have been very faithful in reaching out to these individuals, but the ministry of the deacon has allowed for many of them to be served on a regular basis."

He adds that he doesn't see deacons as replacing anyone but rather supplementing those areas where others have been overwhelmed in the past.

Deacon Lucia says the importance of recognizing the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives can't be emphasized enough.

"Having a good prayer life and calling upon the Holy Spirit are a vital part of my own life," he says. "I think if everyone would recognize what the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives can do, they would be awestruck at the way their lives can change."

CONGRATULATIONS
TO YOU ON YOUR
ANNIVERSARY
DEACON JOSEPH
LUCIA, JR.!

My Inspiration:

"My favorite Scripture is from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he says, 'eye has not seen, ear has not



heard, nor has it so much as dawned on us what God has ready for those who love him. I try to think about the best thing on earth that I could imagine and that heaven is infinitely greater than that. That's awesome."

Deacon Frank C. Pregler

Home Parish:
Our Lady of
Mount
Carmel, Erie



Deacon Frank Pregler jokes with his deacon classmates that he received his call to ordained ministry through the U.S. Post Office.

After he and his wife, Jane, bought their home, he started receiving mail addressed to "Reverend Mr." as well as "Deacon."

"I wondered what it was. This happened for a couple of years," says Deacon Pregler, who is a family physician in private practice in Erie. "This inspired me to read, reflect and to pray on my vocation to the diaconate."

When the diocese announced the permanent diaconate formation program in 1994, he applied immediately. He was ordained May 29, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

At his parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Erie, Deacon Pregler has served as a lector, usher, Eucharistic minister, altar server, religious education teacher and facilitator of a small faith sharing group. He has also been the parish's coordinator for its ministry of caring, member of the liturgy committee and parish council president. He is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

As a physician, Deacon Pregler has an interesting perspective on how our physical and spiritual lives are interrelated.

"It is important to practice our faith and remember our spiritual lives because if we do not practice our spiritual lives then our physical and mental health will suffer," he says. "Studies show that people who go to church regularly and are involved in their parish live longer, healthier lives."

He adds that practicing our faith and attending to our spiritual lives is as important as physical exercise is to our bodies.

"Faith gives us this hope that God will always be there for us, even when our physical bodies fail and we eventually die," he says. "Faith is good medicine for our souls."

When he gives anyone advice about a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, he tells them never to rule out serving God in the church.

"God has a funny way of calling people to religious vocations, and no two stories are alike," Deacon Pregler says.

He advises people to pray and to get a good spiritual director.

"And above all, don't feel that you are unworthy to serve," he says. "None of us is worthy. It is by the grace of Jesus Christ that we are called to a vocation in the church."

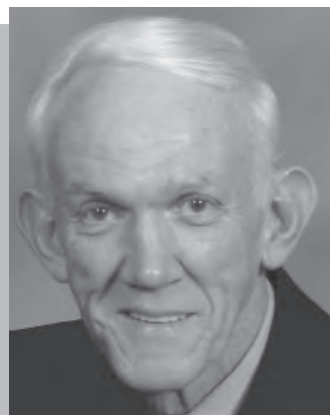
My Inspiration:

"To listen to all of the parts of the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass inspires me because each prayer is so meaningful and profound. To think that God comes to us in the form of bread and wine as the priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer is awe-inspiring."



Deacon W. Jack Tupper Sr.

Home Parish:
Notre Dame,
Hermitage



After discerning God's voice in his life, Deacon Jack Tupper says he knew the Lord was calling him to something. He just didn't know what it was.

Then it came to him in the headlines of the *Lake Shore Visitor*.

"As soon as I saw the first article about the diocese starting the diaconate program, I knew that this was what God was calling me to do," Deacon Tupper says.

Prior to becoming a deacon, he served his home parish of Notre Dame in Hermitage as a Eucharistic minister, lector and member of the parish liturgy committee. He has also been a part of small faith sharing groups, working with the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, religious education and the pastoral council.

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate on May 28, 1998 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

A convert to the

Catholic faith, Deacon Tupper says that the faith journey he and his wife, Elaine, have been on is a journey that only God could have planned.

He cites the faith of Sister Margaret Pellerite, SSJ, as an inspiration.

"It was her faith in God and her faith in me that has led me in this journey since 1975," he says.

While he suffers from multiple sclerosis and most of the complications that go along with the disease, Deacon Tupper says the support of family, friends and the parish helps him get through it.

If he had just one more homily to give, Deacon Tupper says it would be on being pro-life.

"My heart cries out for all those babies who were never given a chance to live," he says.

My Inspiration:

"Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. May he carry out in you what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever (and ever). Amen."



— Hebrews 13:7-8, 20-21

We would like to honor
Msgr. Edward J. Zeitler
& Fr. Robert A. Manning
for all your years of devoted
service to the Catholic Church.
~ Our Lady Queen of the Americas



'Do this in memory of me'

Balliett, Schmolt ordained to the priesthood

On June 6, the feast of St. Norbert, two young men from the Erie Diocese gave their hearts to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Donald Trautman ordained Timothy Balliett and Johnathan Schmolt to the priesthood in front of a crowd of family, friends, diocesan priests and guests at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Family and friend's from Balliett's home parish of Blessed Sacrament in Erie attended the ceremony, as well as a busload of well wishers from his deacon assignment at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway. Schmolt's guests came from his home parish of St. Basil the Great in Coalport and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Cincinnati, where he grew up.

The evening's Gospel was from Luke 22:14-20, 24-30 where Jesus is with his disciples in the upper room at the Last Supper. During the Passover meal, "he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.'"

After the Gospel, Father Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary, presented the candidates, who were then elected by the bishop. The warmth of the evening was matched by the gath-



From left to right, Father Timothy Balliett, Bishop Donald Trautman and Father Johnathan Schmolt.

ered assembly, when the people gave their consent through a round of applause, signifying their approval of having these men serve them as the people of God.

Bishop Trautman then delivered his homily to the two candidates, who were seated directly in front of his chair.

Luke's Gospel gives the origin, context and background of Christ's words, "Do this in memory of me," the bishop said, when on the night before he died, he gave his disciples two parting gifts: the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of priesthood.

"Christ wants to speak to his people today through your voice," he said. "He wants to consecrate Eucharist and forgive sins and anoint through you. He wants to help with your hands and save through your ministry. And so he empowers you to act in his person. 'Do this in memory of me.'"

Bishop Trautman conferred holy orders on the candidates through laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration. Sponsoring priests then vested the new priests with a stole and chasuble; Msgr. John Hagerty and Msgr. Daniel McGraw vested Father Balliett, and Father Mark Hoffman and Father Kesicki vested Father Schmolt.

Father Tim Balliett is assigned as parochial vicar to St. George Parish in Erie, and Father Johnathan Schmolt is assigned as parochial vicar to St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie.

The new priests celebrated their first Masses of thanksgiving the same weekend. Father Balliett offered his first Mass June 7 at Blessed Sacrament in Erie. He also celebrated Mass on June 15 at St. Tobias in Brockway. Father Schmolt celebrated his first Mass June 7 at St. St. Basil the Great in Coalport. He also offered Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Cincinnati on June 15 for family and friends.

'Remain in my love'

Nine men ordained permanent deacons

Nine men were ordained permanent deacons for the Erie Diocese during a festive and joyful Mass and ceremony on May 16 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The cathedral was filled with the newly ordained deacons' families, friends, parishioners, priests and fellow deacons.



From left to right, newly ordained deacons Frank Lombardo, Ray Ehrensberger, Denis Coan, Ken Reisenweber, Tim Wren, Bishop Donald Trautman, Owen Wagner, Larry Caggese, Tom Matusiak and John Mang.

The new deacons include: Denis Coan (St. John the Baptist, Erie), Larry Caggese (St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway), Ray Ehrensberger (St. Mary, St. Marys), Frank Lombardo (Holy Rosary, Erie), John Mang (St. Francis Xavier, McKean), Tom Matusiak (Holy Trinity, Erie), Ken Reisenweber (St. Brigid, Meadville), Owen Wagner (Notre Dame, Hermitage) and Tim Wren (St. Joseph, Oil City).

The deacons will begin serving their respective parishes immediately as they await their ministry assignments from the bishop.

"Tonight the Lord gives new life to the church," Bishop Donald Trautman said in his opening remarks of the ordination Mass. "We choose these men, our brothers, for the order of the diaconate."

During the rite of ordination, the candidates were called by name before the gathered congregation gave its consent through a round of applause. For Bishop Trautman's homily, the nine candidates were seated around his cathedra chair.

The applause was an enthusiastic endorsement and affirmation from God's people, Bishop Trautman said, and a way of thanking the candidates for their courage and perseverance in pursuing their vocation.

Deacons are sent by Christ to serve the

church in a three-fold ministry: the Word, at the altar and in charity. Deacons are called to proclaim the Gospel message by preaching and teaching in and out of church, the bishop said.

They also minister at the Eucharist, witness marriages, perform baptisms, preside at wakes and funerals, conduct prayer services and bring the Eucharist to the dying.

"But the ministry of charity is the principle theme, the essential meaning of the permanent diaconate," Bishop Trautman said. "It entails serving the poor and the marginalized, caring for the sick and imprisoned, bringing Christ to the forgotten and abandoned. Like St. Francis the deacon, you are to bring Christ's love and truth to the alienated and outcast."

After the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, the newly ordained were vested with a stole and dalmatic.

As the new deacons embark on their ministry, Bishop Trautman reminded them of Jesus' words in the evening's Gospel (John 15:9-17) to "Remain in my love."

"His words come from his farewell sermon, his last discourse," the bishop said. "He speaks at the Last Supper. This is our Lord's final opportunity to teach and exhort his disciples. Jesus is on his way home to the Father and he speaks on the night he was betrayed. And what message does he give to his newly ordained? Remain in my love. He comes right to the point. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Congratulations Father Tim Balliett

*As you follow in Christ's footsteps
May His presence ever guide you,
May His love be near to strengthen,
And His blessings be on all you do.*



We're proud of you.
Our love, prayers and support are with you always.
Dad, Mom, Dan, Mike, Jessica, Joshua

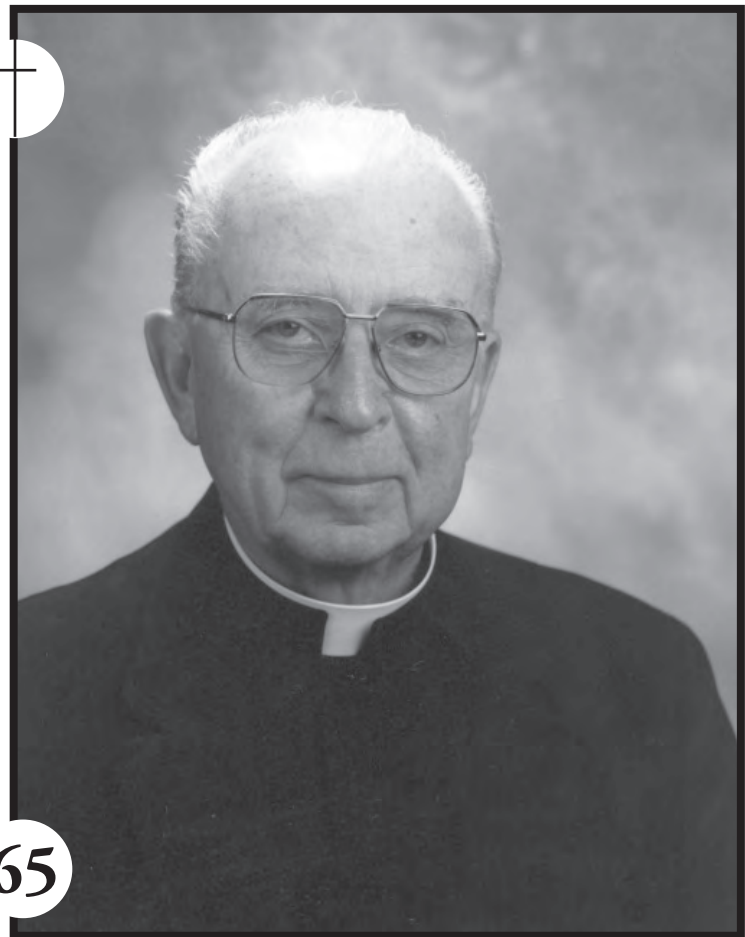
Dziękujemy z całego serca za twoje dziewiętnaście lat miłej służby dusz pasterski dla naszej ukochanej parafii Świętej Trójcy.

My często myślemy o księdza. Z pewnością jesteś w naszej codzienne modlitwy.

Kochamy ciebie,
Twoja Święta Trójca Familia

“Msgr. Dan:
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your nineteen years of faithful and loving ministry to our beloved parish of Holy Trinity. We think of you often. Assuredly you are in our daily prayers.

With love,
Your Holy Trinity Family”



Congratulations

Sr. Kathleen Kirsch SSJ
Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes SSJ
Sr. Christine Quirk SSJ
Sr. Ann Marie Cappello SSJ
Sr. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald SSJ
Sr. Mary Fromknecht SSJ
Sr. Frances Therese Matia SSJ
Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer SSJ
Sr. Elizabeth Ann Niebauer SSJ
Sr. Rosemary O'Brien SSJ
Sr. Margaret Pellerite SSJ
Sr. Naomi Wood SSJ
Sr. Dorinda Young SSJ

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Deacon W. Jack Tupper

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Sr. Kathleen Kirsch, SSJ '49VMC
Sr. Margaret Joseph Mokes, SSJ '57VMC
Sr. Marie Eileen Moyer, SSJ '63VMC
Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ '65VMC
Sr. Ann Marie Cappello, SSJ '66VMC
Sr. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald, SSJ '66VMC
Sr. Mary Fromknecht, SSJ '67VMC, '77M
Sr. Elizabeth Ann Niebauer, SSJ '68VMC
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*...on their
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Msgr. John Daniszewski '35

60 Years
Rev. Robert Levis '40

40 Years
Msgr. Robert Brugger '60
Msgr. Gerald Ritchie '60
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Msgr. Bernard Urbaniak '60
Msgr. Casimir Wozniak '60



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