

Faithful Servants

A Special Edition of *FaithLife* News Bulletin

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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.

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

You have followed with joy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
our esteemed Jubilarians,

In your solemn profession 10, 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years ago, the Lord Jesus spoke to you. He called you by name to enter into a closer relationship with himself. He selected you to be his co-workers, asking for the gift of your heart.

He invited you, "Come, follow me. Share in my ministry and mission. Help to build up my church. Imitate me by being a servant of God." You answered the call of Christ and served the Lord and his people. You are God's gift to the church and to this diocese.

Jesus said to his disciples, and to you, our jubilarians, "You did not choose me, I chose you. Go forth, bear fruit that will remain."

What great words of love! What a wondrous gift to be called to the Lord's side and share his ministry and mission! There is no lasting satisfaction or joy that could rival the fact Christ has chosen you.

We celebrate and give thanks for the mysterious love of Christ in your lives. You are more than sisters, deacons and priests. You are *faithful* sisters, deacons and priests — faithful to your vocation, faithful to the church, faithful to your communities, faithful to Christ's words: "Come, follow me." And you have followed Christ with zeal and dedication for 10, 25, 40, 50, 60 years and more.

During those years, you have known both difficulty and triumph. You've carried crosses and fallen under them, but you have persevered. You have not always experienced the fruit of your ministry. But the Lord, to whom you've offered your person and your life, does not cease to be with you. You have the joy of knowing that you are loved by Christ. You have the honor of working directly for the Lord's kingdom.

Throughout your lives, you have been intimately connected with Christ in fulfilling his mission. As Christ's co-workers, you've brought the good news of salvation to God's people. Through various ministries, you have been Christ's voice, teaching Gospel truths. You have been prophetic voices. 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, poor and wealthy, to those in rural areas and small towns as well as the cities of our diocese.

You are rich in the Lord! Recall Jesus' words: "Store up for yourself a treasure in heaven." Those years given to God represent your eternal insurance policy, your eternal pension.

We celebrate your faithfulness to the Lord, your faithfulness to your vocation, to the Lord Jesus. A quality of true love is perseverance. Love demands constant giving.

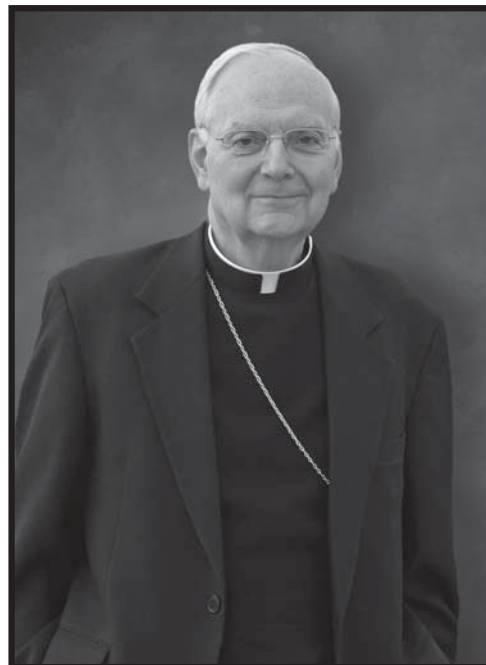
Love calls for giving without regret and with joy. This you have done and this is what we celebrate.

The church and this diocese are proud of you. May you live on in Christ's love.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman
Bishop of Erie



Prayer for a new bishop

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and pastor of the church, you have guided our Erie Diocese in 13 counties for 158 years. In your love and care for this flock, guide your vicar on earth, Pope Benedict XVI, in the selection of our new bishop. We pray that our diocese will be blessed with a holy shepherd and servant. May he be a courageous teacher of the faith and a humble, wise, prudent, collaborative leader.

May he be caring and compassionate and endowed with the gifts your church needs at this time. Lord Jesus, we trust in your providence and love. Help us to welcome with prayer and open hearts our new shepherd. This we ask in your name. Amen. — Composed by Bishop Donald Trautman

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Sr. Bernardine Pais, S.S.J.

A bit like the Energizer bunny, Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ, keeps going ... and going ... and going ... when it comes to serving others through ministry.

At 93, she is the oldest member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania—a fact she seemed surprised to learn. She is still active in ministry and modest about the significance of that. Her quick wit and spirited personality lead you to believe she is much younger, but it's her faithful service through ministry that is uniquely inspiring.

Sister Bernardine lives independently at Saint Mary's East where she has ministered for 45 years, even while teaching full-time in area Catholic elementary schools. Each morning, she sees that the residents on her floor are awake and she assists in getting them where they need to be to get their medications before she joins many of them for Mass.

She has been called a "master decorator" and devotes her time and talent to decorating much of Saint Mary's for the various holidays, including adorning each resident's door.

"It's work I like to do," she says when asked why she continues. "It's a pleasure to do and it makes it a little more like home for the residents. It makes them happy."

A native of Nanty Glo in Cambria County, Sister Bernardine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Bernard Parish in Bradford in 1936. She made her final profession in 1942.

She attended St. Bernard School and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Villa Maria College.

Sister Bernardine ministered in education for 34 years, teaching at Catholic schools throughout the diocese.



Principal:
Sacred Heart, Erie

Teacher:
St. John, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
St. Mary, Reynoldsville
St. Bernard, Bradford
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg

Saint Mary's Home:
Resident floor supervisor

My Inspiration: "Saint Mary's Home has been my home for many happy years. I am grateful to God for the privilege of 'Loving to Care.'" – *Sister Bernardine Pais, SSJ*

St. Agatha Parish in Meadville would like to congratulate the following jubilarians:

Msgr. Henry Schauerman

Rev. Robert Fedor

Rev. Gregory Passauer

Sr. Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ

Sr. Moira Sullivan, SSJ

Sr. Ann Amen, S.S.J.

Sister Ann Amen's 60 years of religious life have been, as she says, "Beyond my dreams." Sister Ann used that phrase for the title of her autobiography, which she published in 2006.

A native of Quincy, Ill., Sister Ann was 33 when she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Erie after having lived in Europe, served as the dean of women at Quincy College and attended summer school at Catholic University for her master's degree and working toward her doctorate degree.

During World War II, she was with the American Red Cross, stationed in England, France and Germany. While in Germany, the Catholic chaplain asked if she would like to see Therese Neumann experiencing the stigmata. That's when she first heard the call to religious life.

"A voice seemed to whisper that I should be a nun," Sister Ann recalls. "That was about 99th on a list of 100 things I thought I might be doing with my life. But I knew it was what God wanted me to do."

While teaching at Villa Maria College, she travelled with her students to Yucatan, Mexico as the Mission of Friendship between the Diocese of Erie and the Archdiocese of Yucatan was getting started.

During a sabbatical, she went to Australia to work with the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau where she co-founded the Parish Care and Concern program. It was a model of service in which members of a parish community volunteer for a year at a time to meet some of the social welfare needs of the parish and local community. Under the direction of volunteer coordinators, parishioners provide a variety of services to any needy person regardless of race, religion or ethnic affiliation.

When Sister Ann left Australia, there were 6,000 Care and Concern volunteers at 76 parishes. Upon returning to the Diocese of Erie, she became the director of Parish Social Ministry for Catholic Charities, where she helped to establish Care and Concern in 55 parishes and seven missions with a network of 6,000 volunteers throughout the diocese. She considers this her most important ministry.

In 1993, Sister Ann published a "Directory of Social Services in Twelve Counties" covering all of the diocese's counties except Erie and, in 1996, wrote "Jumpstart Your Parish Social Ministry with Parish Care and Concern," which has been sold in numerous countries and throughout the United States.

In her book, "Beyond My Dreams," she shares about her life in ministry. She details her encounters with Therese Neumann, Pope Paul VI in Rome, Pope John Paul II and Mother Theresa of Calcutta and chronicles her many travels and faith experiences.



Villa Maria College:

Professor
Guidance director
Sociology Department, head
Division of Human Behavior,
chairperson

Teacher:

Villa Maria Academy, Erie

Diocese of Erie:

Director of Parish Social Ministry for
Catholic Charities

Board member:

Marriage Counseling Service of Erie, Inc.
Catholic Social Services, Erie
United Community Services of Erie
County
White House Conference on the Aging

My Inspiration: "Daily Mass inspires me the most because it helps me to feel closer to God at the beginning and throughout the day." – *Sister Ann Amen, SSJ*

CONGRATULATIONS
REV. B. LAMOUNTE SAYERS
Celebrating 25 years of selfless dedication to
the priesthood.
Your friends at Immaculate Conception
Church and School

Congratulations and best wishes to all jubilarians.
We especially pay tribute to the following:

50th - Sr. Michele Healy, SSJ
50th - Sr. Margoretta Judy, OSB
40th - Rev. Walter E. Packard
25th - Rev. Paul S. Siebert
10th - Deacon William Gibson



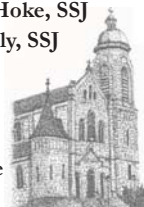
Elk County Catholic School System

Congratulations Jubilarians!

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

Sr. Bernardine Pais, SSJ	Sr. Barbara Zakutney, SSJ
Sr. Ann Amen, SSJ	Sr. Maria O'Connor, RSM
Sr. Leonella Gingenbach, SSJ	Msgr. Henry Schauerman – native son!
Sr. Mary Carol Hoke, SSJ	Msgr. Thomas McSweeney – both!
Sr. Michele Healy, SSJ	Fr. Jeff Noble

St. John
the Baptist, Erie



Holy Rosary,
Erie



Sr. Marlene Bertke, O.S.B.

Working for peace has been one of the hallmarks of Sister Marlene Bertke's ministry during her 60 years of monastic life.

In 1980, Sister Marlene was one of the many Benedictine sisters from across the United States who spent a week at the Pentagon praying for peace and asking that all nuclear weapons be dismantled and no longer manufactured.

"That was very life-giving for me—to be united with my Benedictine sisters in a common action for peace," she says. "There were about 60 of us there, but we were supported in so many ways by the sisters unable to make the trip. We felt their solidarity."

Sister Marlene has been active in Benedictines for Peace (BFP), which addresses social justice and peace issues that are of local, state, national and international concern. She also writes the Erie Benedictines for Peace blog (www.eriebfp.org).

As the peace and justice outreach of the Erie Benedictine community, BFP members advocate for nonviolence, social change and justice by direct action, prayer and bearing witness.

Among the activities that Sister Marlene has been involved with are the Take Back the Site vigils which are held at the site of any death in the city of Erie that resulted from an act of violence.

"We hold the vigils with the purpose of reclaiming the site for nonviolence with our prayerful presence," Sister Marlene says.

She never misses an opportunity to promote truth at any cost. Her zeal for peace and justice, right order and fairness is unmatched.

Sister Marlene currently serves as associate director of the Alliance for International Monasticism, an international mission organization that assists Benedictine and Cistercian communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.



60 years

Teacher:

St. Benedict Academy, Erie
St. Therese, Southgate, Ky.
St. Henry High School, Erlanger, Ky.
Holy Cross High School, Latonia, Ky.
Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills, Ky.

Pax Christi, USA:

Central American contact
Publications coordinator

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Pax Center, staff
Benet Press, manager and staff
Development Office staff
Alliance for International Monasticism,
associate director

A native of Covington, Ky., Sister Marlene earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Thomas More College in Crestview, Ky., and her master's in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery in Covington, Ky., in 1949. She professed her first vows in June 1951. Her final incorporation into the Benedictine Sisters of Erie was in August 1980.

My Inspiration: "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can." – *John Wesley*

Sr. Leonella Gingenbach, S.S.J.

Sister Leonella Gingenbach, SSJ, credits her loving family and the example of the Sisters of St. Joseph during her 16 years of education with enabling her to make the decision to freely and joyfully respond to God's call to religious life.

It was early on in grade school, Sister Leonella says, that she first thought about her vocation to religious life. The thought remained and even after working a year after graduation from college, she still desired to become a religious.

A native of Erie, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1951 from St. Patrick Parish and professed her final vows in 1957.

She attended Villa Maria Elementary School

and Villa Maria Academy in Erie and received her bachelor's degree in business education from Villa Maria College. She completed additional studies at Georgetown University.

Following graduation from Villa Maria



60 years

Teacher:

Holy Rosary, Erie
St. Bernard, Bradford
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie
Saint Vincent Health Center:

Office manager
Director of patient accounts

Spencer Hospital:
Administrative assistant
Personnel director

Sisters of St. Joseph:
General superior
Director of finance
Prayer ministry

College, Sister Leonella worked in the treasurer's office at Gannon University.

Sister Leonella served two terms as general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She also served two terms as secretary-treasurer of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, which represents more than 5,900 Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States and Canada.

Sister Leonella taught at several schools in the Diocese of Erie before spending 20 years at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie. She also served for seven years at Spencer Hospital in Meadville. Prior to her retirement, she also served as director of finance and in prayer ministry for her congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Sr. Rita Marie Hettish, RSM
Sr. Joan McCabe, RSM
Rev. V. David Foradori
Rev. Gregory P. Passauer
Rev. Walter E. Packard
FROM THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
OF TITUSVILLE