Faithful Servants

SPECIAL EDITION FaithLife newspaper

August 6, 2017

Fresh faces of vocations

Celebrating the newly ordained and all the 2017 anniversaries of clergy and religious

SNEAK PEEK
A look at what’s in this issue

WOMEN RELIGIOUS CELEBRATE JUBILEES

CARMELITES WATER ‘GOD’S VINEYARD’

PERMANENT DIACONATE GROWS
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WOMEN RELIGIOUS, CLERGY AND DEACONS CELEBRATING JUBILEE YEARS IN 2017!

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

70 YEARS
Sister Mary Timothy Kelley, RSM
Sister Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM
Sister Phyllis Marie McDonald, RSM

60 YEARS
Sister Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM

50 YEARS
Sister Margaret Ann Pilewski, OSB

Inspired by our Mercy heritage, at Mercyhurst University we strive to build a welcoming community that champions diverse perspectives, thought-provoking discussions and leadership in service toward a just world.

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

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Congratulations!

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Sr. Rose Anne Fedorko, SSJ
Sr. Mary Bernard Lander, OSB
Sr. Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM
Sr. James Francis Mulligan, SSJ
Sr. Andrea Weidle, OSB
Msgr. Casimir A. Bogniak
Sr. Marie Timmons, SSJ
Rev. Meinrad J. Lawson, OSB
Msgr. Joseph V. Wardanski
Rev. Paul R. Taylor, OSB
Rev. Sean P. Kerins
Rev. Kyle A. Seyler
Rev. David A. Whiteford

Prayerful best wishes,
St. Peter Cathedral (Erie)

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40

Sr. Karen Willenbring, MD
Anawim Community
WE GIVE THANKS
The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the clergy and religious featured in this publication. Their dedication and ongoing service have been an inspiration to us all. May God continue to bless them.

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ON THE COVER
Joy is complete in the faces of newly ordained priests Father Sean Kerins, Father David Whiteford and Father Kyle Seyler as they pose in front of St. Mark Seminary in Erie. See their stories beginning on page 9. Photo by Mary Solberg

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

The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico, JCL

Jubilarians say ‘yes’ to God
All of us—at one time or another on our Christian journey—have been asked to answer the same question posed by Jesus to Peter: “Do you love me?”

We know, according to the Gospel of John, that Peter responds: “Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.” And Jesus then says, “Feed my lambs.”

This, you could say, is where the proverbial rubber meets the road. This is when Jesus asks us to not only profess our love for him, but to actually do something about it. In other words, act—don’t just talk.

Each of the sisters, priests and deacons featured in this year’s edition of Faithful Servants has personally experienced a version of the scene between Jesus and Peter in John 21:15. I can attest to this because I, too, am a 2017 jubilarian, marking my 40th anniversary as a priest.

One thing that remains at the heart of our ministries is service to the people of God. We took vows to “feed” Jesus’ lambs. It is a humbling, yet exciting, moment when we say “yes” to Jesus.

In this edition of Faithful Servants, we celebrate that pronouncement made by nine priests, ranging from the newly ordained to those celebrating 60 or more years of service. This year, Msgr. Charles Murcko celebrates his 65th jubilee.

Then there are four men who, with the support of their wives, were ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Erie.

Twenty-nine women religious in the diocese also celebrate anniversaries this year. They represent the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the Sisters of Mercy, the School Sisters of St. Francis, the Community of Anawim, The Spiritual Family The Work, and the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. Congratulations especially to Sister Marie Celeste Bindseil, SSJ, who is marking her diamond jubilee.

Imagine that! Seventy-five years of working in the vineyard, serving others.

But that’s the expectation, isn’t it? To serve. In more than one place in the Gospels, we hear Jesus say, “I have come to serve and not be served.” It is no wonder, then, that the willingness of some to enter the priesthood or religious life is considered by the church to be a unique and singular moment.

That willingness to serve the people of God as priests, sisters or deacons is not merely a noble effort. It is a sign of hope for the church as each of us attempts to live our baptismal promises and journey to the Lord.

Scripture speaks to the struggles and burdens borne by those who seek to do the will of God. Just consider the martyrs who have gone before us, and those today who continue to give their lives for the faith. Yet Scripture reveals the great hope and consolation that is given to those whom God has called to share Jesus’ mission on earth.

In the Old Testament, the Lord assures Moses that God is with him and the people of Israel as they wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

And in the letter to the Hebrews, we earthly ministers are reminded that it’s Jesus alone who consoles and supports us. He is fully acquainted with our human condition.

All of us—including me—sometimes feel ill-equipped to do the will of God. But we can draw inspiration from the examples of the humble servants in this issue. They continually say “yes” to God’s call in their outreach to school children, parishioners, the elderly, the sick and even the missions.

Congratulations to all of our jubilarians and the newly ordained. Their journey continues.†
Sisters celebrate important jubilees

Nearly 30 women religious serving the Diocese of Erie are celebrating their anniversaries this year.

One of this year’s jubilarians is Sister Marie Celeste Bindseil, SSJ, who is marking her diamond anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph.

About 20 of the sister jubilarians attended a Mass June 12 in the chapel of St. Mark Catholic Center in Erie.

In keeping with a decades-long tradition, Bishop Lawrence Persico offered a special jubilee Mass and gave the homily. He also joined the sisters for a dinner and conversation that followed in the library of St. Mark Catholic Center. 

To learn more about women religious in the Diocese of Erie, go to:

www.ErieRCD.org/women.htm

Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.

--- Pope Francis

God bless the Jubilarians!

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

Congratulations and many blessings!

MERCYHURST Preparatory School

A Sponsored Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy
Diocese welcomes four new permanent deacons

Quoting Pope Francis, Bishop Lawrence Persico on May 26 told four men ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Erie: “Whoever serves, saves.”

Kevin Harmon, Gerald Peterson, Daniel Satterlee and Joseph Yochim Jr. each embraced their new ministerial role in the Catholic Church during an evening ordination Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. They bring the number of permanent deacons ordained in the diocese to 80.

“By your faithful service to the Gospel in its integrity—without compromise, without accommodation, hesitation or fear—you must help the world to discern the truth that has a human face, the truth that is the person of Jesus Christ,” Bishop Persico said.

The diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons. Those not planning to be ordained priests are called permanent deacons. Married men may be ordained permanent deacons, and single men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate with a commitment to celibacy.

For information about the permanent diaconate, go to:

www.ErieRCD.org/diaconate.htm

Deacon Kevin Harmon
Age 49

FAMILY
Wife, Jeanne; two children

ASSIGNMENT
St. Titus, Titusville

HIS INSPIRATION
“More than ever, I find myself in the hands of God. The initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God’s hands.”

PEDRO ARUPPE, SJ

Deacon Gerald Peterson
Age 52

FAMILY
Wife, Kathleen; two children

ASSIGNMENT
Saint Mary’s at Asbury Ridge, Erie

HIS INSPIRATION
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9

Deacon Daniel Satterlee
Age 56

FAMILY
Wife, Janet; five children and 13 grandchildren

ASSIGNMENTS
St. Mary, Reynoldsdale, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville

HIS INSPIRATION
“Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

MATTHEW 6:21

Deacon Joseph Yochim Jr.
Age 40

FAMILY
Wife, Carlee; seven children

ASSIGNMENT
Our Lady of Peace, Erie

HIS INSPIRATION
“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet, so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as he is.”

1 JOHN 3:1-2