



April 2, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Erie is blessed with sixty-two priests who have reached retirement age. By their own choice thirteen still have Diocesan assignments. Since their ordination, these priests have served in a majority of the 97 parishes in our Diocese. Although they may be “retired”, many remain active, providing sacramental ministry in parishes and often substituting for priests to allow them to get time off.

Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Good Shepherd Sunday. Since 2007, the Diocese of Erie has taken up the Good Shepherd Collection on Good Shepherd Sunday so that parishioners can show their appreciation and love for our priests – those already retired and those still in active ministry.

The response to the annual Good Shepherd Collection has been one of overwhelming generosity by you, the people of the Diocese! It tells me that you love these priests who have devoted their entire priesthood to God and to you. The Good Shepherd Collection helps provide needed funding toward retirement and health care for these faithful priests. As the number of priests reaching retirement age continues to grow each year, so does the need for continued support for them.

Contributions to the “Good Shepherd Collection” can be made at your parish or online at: [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org). Every contribution is greatly appreciated and will help make a difference in the lives of our priests. This collection should not be confused with the Retirement Fund for Religious, taken in December for consecrated women and men belonging to religious orders. That collection does not benefit our diocesan priests.

Please pray for all our priests and that our Diocese will be blessed with more seminarians willing to respond to the call of the Lord to the priesthood. I know our priests join me in thanking you for your kindness and generosity to retired priests through the annual Good Shepherd Collection.

May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes this Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

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