



March 13, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On July 29<sup>th</sup> of this year, we mark the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Erie in 1853. One of the blessings over these years has been those faithful and generous priests who have and continue today to serve in our Diocese. These priests have ministered in our parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and in Diocesan administration. Our Diocese has been truly blessed by their dedicated ministry. I wish to acknowledge and thank our retired priests who have served our Diocese faithfully and those who still help in many ways after retirement.

The Diocese has a pension fund, but like many such funds, it is not funded enough to meet all the needs of our present and future retired priests. And so we turn to all of you who are members of our Diocese to help with the care of those who are retired now and who will retire in the future.

On the weekend of April 29-30, which is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we will have our annual collection for retired priests. We ask the faithful of the Diocese to prayerfully consider a financial gift to the Good Shepherd Collection, to assist us in caring for our current and future retired priests. This collection offers you a way to show your gratitude for their many years of dedication and faithful service to the people of God in the Diocese of Erie.

I know how generous you are in responding to all the needs of our Church. Thank you in advance for your gratitude for our retired priests and their many years of dedication and service to our Diocese.

Please join me in prayer for vocations to the priesthood, that others may follow in the footsteps of our retired priests and give their lives to be Good Shepherds leading the flock of Christ.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

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

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