



December 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

This Christmas we reflect on a remarkable year of hope in the Diocese of Erie. Throughout this Jubilee of Hope, declared by the late Pope Francis, we were encouraged to rely more deeply on God's mercy and presence. Here at home, we have seen many signs of that hope alive among us.

We gave thanks for two newly ordained priests who have begun their ministry. Three priests stepped into their first assignments as pastors and are now leading the faithful entrusted to them. Nearly eighty pilgrims from our diocese traveled to Italy and crossed the Holy Doors, carrying the prayers of many with them. The church celebrated nine new saints whose lives encourage us to follow Christ with courage. We also recognized more than one hundred years of service in several parishes, schools and ministries across our region. These are reminders that the Lord continues to provide for his people and strengthen our mission.

This year has also called us to look beyond our local church. With a new Holy Father, the universal church has entered a time of renewal. His focus on unity and discipleship encourages us to remain faithful stewards of the Gospel here in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

As I reflect on thirteen years serving as your bishop, I am grateful for the privilege of walking with you. We have seen moments of great joy and faced challenges that tested us. Through it all God has remained faithful. You, the people of this diocese, are the heart of our church. Your faith, your service and your love for Christ inspire me daily.

As the Holy Year concludes, Christmas reminds us that Christ continues to come into our lives with hope that never fades. May his peace fill your homes. May his strength support those who are struggling. May his joy take root in every heart.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

