



Frequently Asked Questions Episcopal Transition & Sponsorship Opportunities

What is an Episcopal Transition?

The Episcopal Transition marks the installation of a new bishop. For the Diocese of Erie, this is a sacred moment to honor the episcopacy of The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, while welcoming the next shepherd appointed to teach, sanctify and govern the People of God across our 13 counties in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Why is the Diocese of Erie experiencing an Episcopal Transition?

In accordance with canon law, Bishop Persico submitted his resignation to the Holy Father as he marked his 75th birthday in November of 2025. At an undetermined time, Pope Leo XIV will appoint his successor.

Why is this transition significant for the Diocese of Erie?

The installation of a new bishop is a profound moment of renewal and hope in the life of the Church. It brings the diocesan family together in prayer and celebration as a new chapter of pastoral leadership begins. It is also a moment of gratitude for Bishop Persico and his steady leadership since 2012.

Why is financial support needed?

Funds to support an episcopal transition are not included in the typical operating budget. Sponsorships and donations ensure that this historic moment is celebrated with reverence, hospitality and full participation, upholding the dignity of the liturgy and welcoming clergy, family and guests.

How will my sponsorship or donation be used?

Support helps provide for the Installation and Ordination Mass, liturgical planning, sacred music and art, hospitality, travel and logistics, volunteer coordination, communications, livestreaming, prayer resources for parishioners across the diocese and other necessities.

Where will the Mass take place?

The Ordination (if the appointee is not yet a bishop) or the Installation (if he is already a bishop) Mass will be celebrated at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, Pennsylvania.

When will the Mass take place?

The Mass will occur approximately 60 days after the successor is named.

What sponsorship levels are available?

Platinum (\$25,000), Diamond (\$15,000), Gold (\$10,000), Silver (\$5,000) and Bronze (\$2,500).



What benefits are included at all sponsorship levels?

All sponsors receive reserved seating for two at a post-installation Mass and blessing, a commemorative worship aid, a personal note from Bishop Persico and recognition in *Faith* magazine, social media and on the diocesan website. More benefits are available based on sponsorship level. You can view them here: <https://www.eriecd.org/images/pdf/ET-Sponsorship-brochure.pdf>

Can I remain anonymous?

Yes.

How does this sponsorship impact parishioners across the diocese?

Sponsorship supports livestreaming, communications and prayer resources that allow parishioners throughout the diocese to participate in this historic moment.

Who can I contact to make a donation or for more information?

Contact Kristine Rilling at krilling@erieRCD.org or 814-824-1167

What are the payment terms?

Checks made payable to the Diocese of Erie. Memo line: Episcopal Transition. To pay online www.eriecd.org/et-support.html click on the “Give” button. Payment is expected within 30 days of the signed gift agreement.

Do you have brand guidelines sponsors must adhere to?

Yes. All gifts and offers of support are subject to the Diocese’s Gift Acceptance Policy and must align with the mission, teachings, governance, stewardship standards and legal requirements of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Erie.

How can I find out more about the episcopal transition:

There is a dedicated landing page at: <https://www.eriecd.org/transition.html>. There you can find information about the episcopal transition process, prayer resources, read the official press release or Bishop Persico’s reflections as he turned 75, find events and stay updated on all things relevant.

Who should sponsors contact for operational or contractual questions?

Contact Kristine Rilling at krilling@erieRCD.org or 814-824-1167