



March 8, 2026

Dear Friend,

Coming up in the month of March, Catholic Sisters are being celebrated throughout the world, from the 8th through the 14th. This annual event was inaugurated to honor our consecrated women religious, with the intention of shining a light on the lives of these inspiring women, and to thank them for answering the call of God to the gift of their vocation while encouraging other women to discern God's call in their own lives. The theme of this year's celebration is "**Stories of Hope and Heart.**"

The Church of Erie would not be what it is today without the life and apostolic work of Sisters who first came to this diocese in 1852. I doubt that there is a parish in our diocese that somewhere in its history was not touched by their lives and ministry. As teachers, religious educators, social workers and nurses they commit themselves to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and reach out to help meet the needs of this diocese.

Let us take time to remember them and give thanks for the gift they have been to all of us. Many of you and your parishioners have stories of how a Sister has influenced your life. This year we are inviting anyone who has such a story to share it online at www.eriecatholicsisters.org. If you have further questions do not hesitate to contact myself or Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ. Thank you for your support of our Sisters and the Church of Erie.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

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

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