



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome, and thank you for visiting this site dedicated to the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Erie. I am grateful that you are taking time to learn more about this vital ministry and the ways it strengthens the Catholic Church.

From the earliest days of the church, deacons have been servants of the Word, the altar and charity. Here in our diocese, I have begun a renewed vision for forming a new generation of deacons through our updated formation program. This is not only about preparing men for service today, but ensuring that the church is blessed with faithful, well-prepared deacons for years to come. My hope is that this program gives men the tools to serve with joy, humility and strength, while drawing their families and parish communities deeper into Christ's mission.

I extend a personal invitation to all men between the ages of 30-62 in our diocese: listen closely to the stirrings of your heart. If you sense the Holy Spirit may be calling you to the diaconate, I encourage you to explore further. The church needs your witness of service and fidelity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

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

