

News Release

DIOCESE OF ERIE

www.ErieRCD.org

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Clarification from the Diocese of Erie regarding the Triangle of Hope project

The Diocese of Erie wishes to clarify recent media reports related to the Triangle of Hope initiative.

A diocesan press release issued on October 16, 2025, announced: "Sacred Heart and its mission church, St. Paul, commit over \$1.2M to the Triangle of Hope project to serve Erie's most vulnerable."

Some local coverage has inaccurately reported that the Diocese of Erie made this \$1.2 million commitment. To be clear, this significant pledge originates from Sacred Heart Parish and its mission church, St. Paul, whose finance council and leadership approved the gift in support of those most in need in our community.

In accordance with diocesan policy, the parish sought review and support from the Diocese of Erie and Bishop Lawrence Persico. After consultation with the diocesan finance council, Bishop Persico offered his full approval and blessing for the parish to proceed with the donation.

"This act of generosity reflects what it truly means to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us," Bishop Persico said. "The faith-filled commitment of Sacred Heart and St. Paul demonstrates a living response to the Gospel by transforming what once served to educate generations of students into spaces that now offer dignity and hope to those in need."

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Both properties, the former Sacred Heart and St. Paul school buildings, will now serve new purposes through the Triangle of Hope, a collaboration among the Mazzini Charitable Foundation, Mercy Center for Women and the BUILD Community Development Corporation.

Moving forward, the Diocese of Erie asks that all references to this \$1.2 million commitment reflect accurately that the generosity belongs to the people and leadership of Sacred Heart Parish and its mission church, St. Paul. Their example stands as a witness of faith and stewardship within the Diocese of Erie.

The original press release can be found on the diocesan website at www.eriercd.org/images/sections/news/pdf/Sacred-Heart-\$1.2M-D.pdf.

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