



7.21.25

Diocese of Erie releases clergy appointment list

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, appointed several clergy throughout the Diocese of Erie to new assignments.

The announcements come at the end of a months-long process overseen by Bishop Persico and Father Nicholas Rouch, vicar general and acting vicar for clergy. Consultation with members of the Clergy Personnel Board – an advisory body made up of experienced priests who are representative of the diocese and its many ministries and counties – is also an integral step in this process.

New assignments are made in response to the evolving needs of the diocese and to support pastoral care at college campuses, hospitals, diocesan schools, prisons and nursing homes. Pastor assignments typically span six years, fostering stability and continuity for both pastors and parish communities.

Bishop Persico emphasized that clergy and administrators must remain attentive to the true demands of the priestly vocation, which calls them to serve wherever they are most needed.

“When a priest responds to this call with courage and humility, it has the power to stir something deep within the hearts of others,” said Bishop Persico. “I am grateful – but not surprised – that these assignments were met with such generosity. It is profound to witness the strength and deep commitment to the Holy Spirit that is present in our clergy.”

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Appointments are traditionally made at the start of the parish fiscal year, July 1. This year, however, the diocese encountered unexpected challenges, including requests for retirement and leaves of absence due to health concerns. At the same time, the ordination of two new priests – Father Michael Scanga and Father Brandon Feikles – was a cause for celebration. These circumstances required attentive consideration to ensure that pastoral care across the diocese remained thoughtful and well-coordinated.

The changes released today are effective August 12, 2025. The appointments were shared with affected parishioners at Masses during the weekend of July 19/20.

Father Rouch, who is the pastor of St. Julia Parish, Erie, along with his role as vicar general, reflected that while a new assignment can unsettle familiar routines, it often reignites a priest's sense of mission.

"It's in the letting go that something new is given," Father Rouch said. "Every move is a reminder that our vocation isn't tied to a place, but to the people we're sent to serve. That's the heart of diocesan priesthood."

The full list of clergy announcements released this week can be found here:

<https://www.eriecd.org/news/News-releases.html>.

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