



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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Diocese of Erie Appoints Interim Executive Director for Faith Formation

The Diocese of Erie is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Aaron Kerr as interim executive director of Faith Formation, effective August 3.

Dr. Kerr currently serves as director of Faith Formation for Catechesis and Sacraments, supporting pastors, parish faith formation leaders and catechists throughout the 13 counties of the diocese. In his interim role, he will provide leadership and oversight for diocesan efforts in catechesis and sacramental preparation, marriage and family life, and youth and young adult ministry.

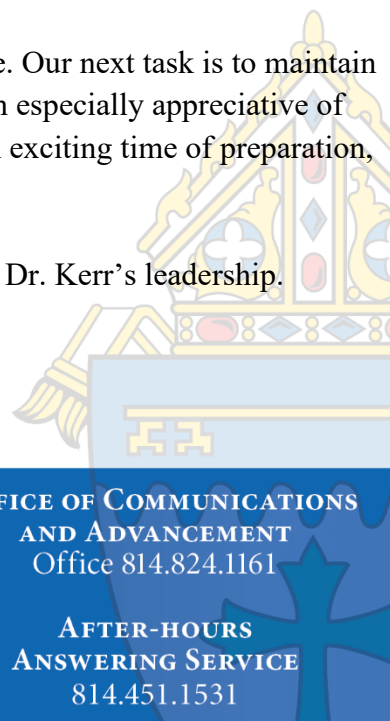
Dr. Kerr succeeds Deacon Stephen Washek, who came out of retirement to serve part time as executive director of the Office of Faith Formation following Jillian Zaczek's departure. Deacon Washek will continue his ministry as deacon assistant at St. George Parish, Erie.

As executive directors of the office, both Washek and Zaczek played instrumental roles in its development and growth, guiding the ministry since its establishment through the Diocese of Erie's pastoral planning efforts to strengthen lifelong faith formation.

"Deacon Steve and Jillian built a strong house for faith formation in our diocese. Our next task is to maintain and enhance internal structures that bring people to Christ," said Dr. Kerr. "I am especially appreciative of Bishop Persico's wisdom in making this an interim position. We are entering an exciting time of preparation, assessment and discernment as our diocese enters an Episcopal Transition."

Deacon Washek expressed gratitude for his years of ministry and confidence in Dr. Kerr's leadership.

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ALLISON MOSIER
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND ADVANCEMENT
Office 814.824.1171
Cell 814.897.3264
amosier@ErieRCD.org

KRISTINE RILLING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND ADVANCEMENT
Office 814.824.1167
Cell 814.397.8366
krilling@ErieRCD.org

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND ADVANCEMENT**
Office 814.824.1161

**AFTER-HOURS
ANSWERING SERVICE**
814.451.1531

“It has been a privilege to serve the Diocese of Erie and to work with so many faithful and dedicated clergy, parish leaders, catechists, volunteers and families,” Deacon Washek said. “Aaron brings a deep commitment to the Church, a strong understanding of Catholic formation and a genuine desire to serve our parishes. I am confident he will provide thoughtful and faithful leadership.”

Before joining the Diocese of Erie, Dr. Kerr served as a professor of philosophy at Gannon University, Erie. His background in education, theology and community engagement has informed his pastoral approach to catechesis, evangelization and leadership. He holds a Doctorate in Theology from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

“I am pleased that Dr. Kerr has agreed to guide the Office of Faith Formation at this time,” said The Very Rev. Nicholas Rouch, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Erie. “With his experience and faithfulness, I am confident he will continue to support our parishes, schools and ministries with dedication and a steadfast commitment to forming disciples of Jesus Christ.”

The Office of Faith Formation supports parishes and individuals throughout the Diocese of Erie by providing leadership, training and resources for lifelong discipleship. Its work includes catechesis and sacramental preparation, marriage and family life, youth and young adult ministry, OCIA, parish support and other initiatives designed to help people encounter Christ and live their Catholic faith.

The Diocese of Erie is grateful to Deacon Washek for his service and invites the faithful to pray for him, for Dr. Kerr and for the continued work of faith formation throughout northwest Pennsylvania.

For information on the Episcopal Transition, please visit: <https://www.eriercd.org/transition.html>.

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DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND ADVANCEMENT
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Cell 814.897.3264
amosier@ErieRCD.org

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