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**Sacred Heart and its mission church, St. Paul, commit over \$1.2M
to the Triangle of Hope project to serve Erie's Most Vulnerable**

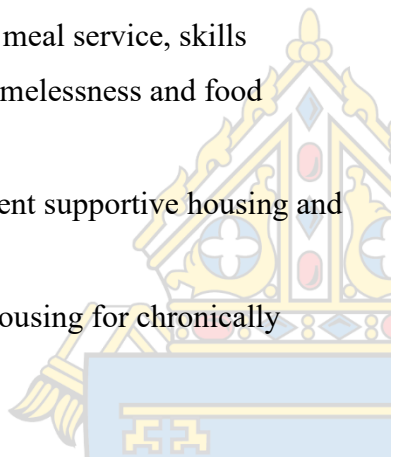
The Diocese of Erie today announced a major investment in *The Triangle of Hope* – a collaborative initiative that will transform the former St. Paul and Sacred Heart school properties into vibrant centers of outreach and renewal, dedicated to serving those most in need throughout the community.

Sacred Heart Parish, with its mission church of St. Paul, is donating two properties to two local nonprofits to carry out this important work: The former St. Paul School, along with the adjacent parking lot east of the school and surrounding green space, have been transferred to the Mazzini Charitable Foundation; and the former Sacred Heart School has been transferred to the Mercy Center for Women. Together with the BUILD Community Development Corporation, the organizations will reimagine these once-closed parish buildings as places of housing, service and hope.

The three points of The Triangle of Hope:

- St. Paul Community Center (Mazzini Charitable Foundation): A hub for meal service, skills development and shared nonprofit operations supporting those facing homelessness and food insecurity.
- Mercy Center West at Sacred Heart (Mercy Center for Women): Permanent supportive housing and programming for men, women and children.
- Washington Square Apartments (BUILD CDC): Permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless men, in partnership with Hamot Health Foundation.

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This extraordinary commitment to Erie’s neighborhoods has been guided by Father Steve Schreiber, pastor of the partnered parishes, in close collaboration with the Parish Finance Council and with the support and approval of The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie.

Along with the transfer of parish properties, Sacred Heart Parish (including the former St. Paul Parish) has made a \$1 million commitment to bring *The Triangle of Hope* to life – an extraordinary act of generosity that will strengthen its mission and sustain its outreach for generations to come.

The timing of this initiative during the Jubilee Year of Hope underscores the Diocese of Erie’s resolve to build stronger partnerships, serve more effectively and honor the enduring faith that continues to shape its communities.

“This is what renewal looks like in the life of the Catholic Church,” said Bishop Persico. “We are honoring the faith of those who came before us by ensuring their legacy continues through new works of mercy that meet today’s needs. Rooted in hope, this moment invites renewed trust in God’s providence and a shared vision for a more faithful and connected future.”

The Mazzini Charitable Foundation. The Foundation – led by longtime St. Paul’s parishioner and Board President Tim NeCastro, has begun asbestos remediation and renovation to repurpose the St. Paul campus as a community engagement hub offering food service, job training, counseling and partnership space for local nonprofits.

At the same time, the transfer of the Sacred Heart School property to the Mercy Center for Women – led by executive director Jennie Hagerty – is nearly complete, allowing that facility to be redeveloped into permanent supportive housing for men, women and children.

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“We are not closing a chapter of our story – we’re extending its mission in a new way,” said Father Steve Schreiber, pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph/Bread of Life parishes. “These spaces will once again bring people together in faith and service, offering dignity and hope to those who need it most.”

These milestones mark the physical start of The Triangle of Hope, a long-term collaborative model of compassion and sustainability. The vision reflects a broader community movement to repurpose closed schools for housing and services.

“St. Paul has been a source of support, hope and community in the Little Italy neighborhood for generations,” said NeCastro. “I’m grateful to the Diocese for helping us give this special community resource a new life while preserving its treasured traditions and history.” NeCastro points out that the St. Paul’s Feast of the Assumption Italian Festival, held each August, will continue.

Parishioners, alumni and community members are invited to a public presentation and Q&A on Wednesday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Parish, 147 W 24th St, Erie. Guests will have an opportunity to learn more about renovation plans, the project timeline and upcoming programming initiatives.

Volunteers and donors are also encouraged to take part in this ministry of transformation. Opportunities to assist with meal service, renovation efforts, and community outreach will be announced in the coming months.

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