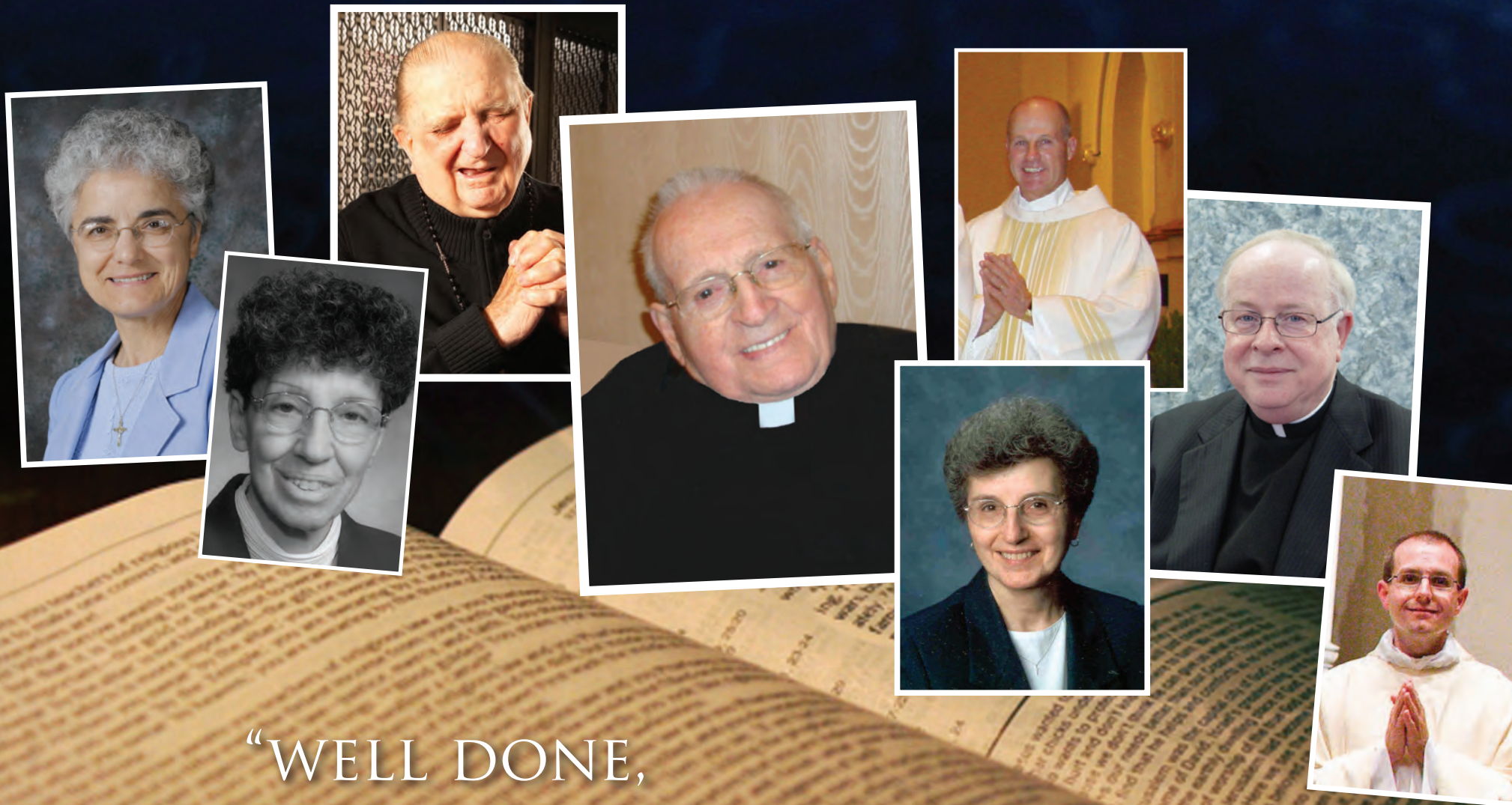


Faithful Servants

A Special Edition of *FaithLife* News Bulletin



“WELL DONE,
GOOD AND
FAITHFUL
SERVANT.”

MATTHEW 25:23

OUR PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE ARE WITH YOU
MSGR. ROBERT SMITH
ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT AND SERVICE ON THE
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Faithful Servants:
The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the men and women featured in this publication for their inspiration, dedication and ongoing service. May God continue to bless you.

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The staff of the
Lake Shore Visitor on whose
hard work we relied to report
on some of our jubilarians.

How blessed is this diocese because of you!

Dear Esteemed Jubilarians, co-workers in the ministry of Christ,

Our Lord spoke to you, our jubilarians, at the time of your profession or your ordination.

He said, "Come, follow me." For 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years, you have followed Christ and represented Christ's church.

You have believed in your vocation and translated it into reality. You are faithful people: faithful to your vocation, faithful to the church, faithful to your communities, faithful to the Lord.

The measuring stick for our life should be faithfulness, not success. Too often we try to measure our years based on what we think should have been accomplished. How many people have we brought to Christ? How many tasks have we done? How many tangible results have we achieved? But Christ is interested in only one thing: "Have we been faithful to the end? Have we loved? Have we persevered along that rugged road to Calvary?"

It is not so much what we do that counts, but, rather, how much love we put into our ministries.

In this publication we celebrate and honor not just the length of your years but also the heights and the depths of those years. We celebrate the faith that has grown through those years. Jesus chose you for a special mission and sent you to bring the Good News to his people. He asked that you would take love to people and that you would be the continuation of Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Today, we, the Lord's community, rejoice! Your religious vocation is a sign of Christ's love. You have been called to special friendship with Christ, to a special intimacy. You have been asked to do the Lord's work.

You have represented the Lord in the key ministries of the church. You have been principals and teachers in our schools and high schools. You have been pastors and administrators, leaders and workers. How blessed is this diocese because of you!

We give thanks to the parents and brothers and sisters who gave you a faith environment. We give thanks to the schools and priests and women religious where your vocation was nourished, supported and guided.

As you enjoy this special jubilee year, remember Jesus' words: "Live on in my love, remain in my love." That's the secret for happiness and sanctification. Stay connected. Stay bonded to that love by prayer and through the Eucharist.

Years ago, the risen Jesus spoke to you at the time of your ordination or your profession. You could not see the future, but you trusted in the Lord and went forward to serve the Lord and his people. There is no lasting satisfaction or solemn joy like that which comes from the knowledge that we have been chosen by the Lord Jesus and we have been commissioned by him.

You have known difficulty and trials and sacrifice. You have carried crosses and fallen under them. But the Lord to whom you offered your life does not cease to be with you. You have the joy of knowing that you are loved by Christ and the honor of working directly for the Lord's kingdom.

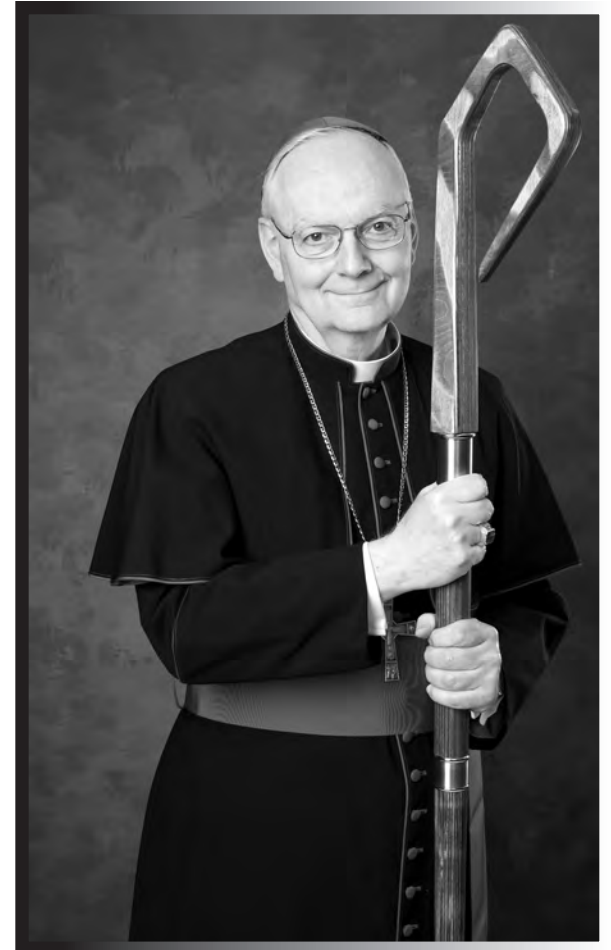
Today it is my privilege to say in the Lord's name, "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

May you live on in Christ's love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman,
Bishop of Erie



FaithLife

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Rev. Joseph Maryland

Other than a Roman collar, another article of clothing that might symbolize Father Joseph Maryland's priesthood would be a construction hard-hat.

Along with pastoring parishes throughout the diocese, church building and renovation have also been a hallmark of his 70 years of ministry.

"I originally had a vocation to be an architect," Father Maryland says. "Even to this day, I find myself thinking of churches and sanctuaries and day-dreaming a little bit."

At 99 and celebrating 70 years as a priest, he is both the oldest and longest-serving priest in the diocese. He retired in 1981 and currently resides at St. Mary's Home at Asbury Ridge in Erie.

Father Maryland was a member of the first graduating class of Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh in 1931. Later he graduated from St. Vincent College in Latrobe and studied philosophy at St. Vincent Seminary, but not as a seminarian.

"We were told that there were too many vocations at the time," he recalls. "The Diocese of Pittsburgh was sending priests as far away as California. We were applying (to other dioceses) all over the country."

He says he was accepted right away by Archbishop John Mark Gannon and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Erie in 1930.

Pastor:

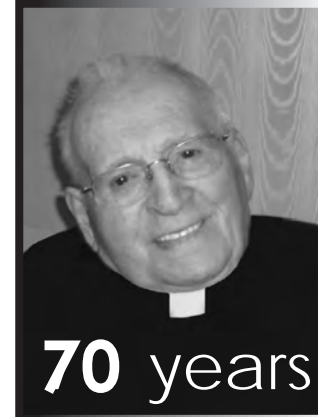
- St. Timothy, Curwensville
- Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City
- St. Hippolyte, Frenchtown
- St. Basil the Great, Coalport
- St. Joseph, Anita
- St. Anthony of Padua, Walston

Parochial vicar:

- St. Brigid, Meadville
- St. Paul, Erie
- Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Punxsutawney
- St. John the Evangelist, Girard
- St. Mark, Emporium

My Inspiration: "I have a particular devotion to the Blessed Mother. She will never steer you wrong."

"My parents were supportive of my vocation," Father Maryland says. "My mother was with me from the very beginning. My father had me married already, but he came around."



As pastor of St. Basil the Great Parish in Coalport, he undertook major building projects including renovation of the rectory, church sanctuary and sacristy. Renovations and repairs also fell to him during his pastorates at St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown from 1962-64 and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Oil City from 1964-68.

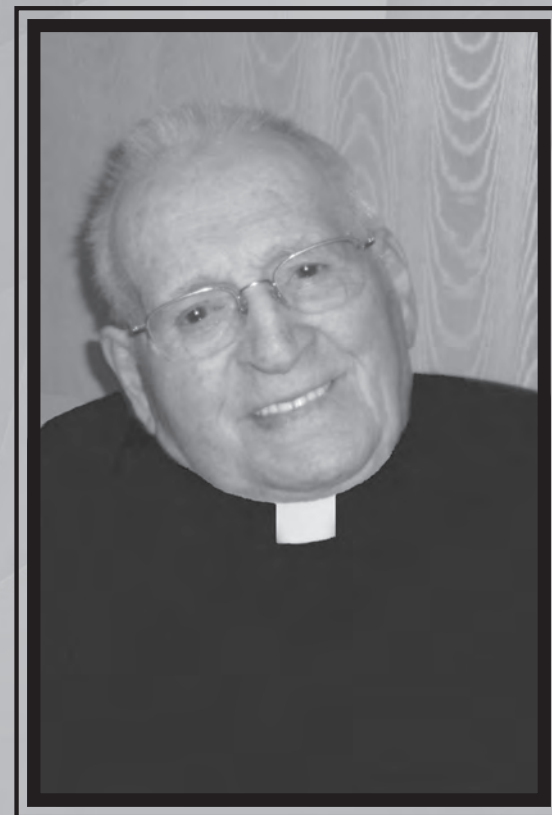
During his longest assignment, as pastor of St. Timothy Parish in Curwensville from 1968-81, he oversaw a number of improvements and upgrades.

At St. Joseph in Anita, the rectory was little more than lumber when Father Maryland arrived at the Jefferson County parish in 1947. Renovation was completed eventually, but just as he assumed regular pastoral duties there, fire destroyed the church.

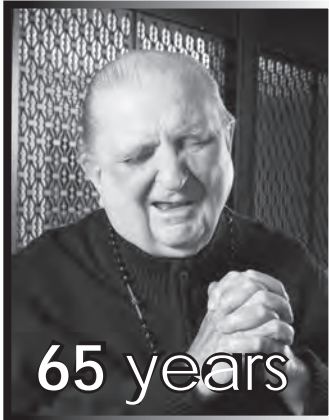
"We rebuilt it with the hands of mostly volunteers," Father Maryland says. "There was a lot of faith there and all the more since we rebuilt the church. It was a beautiful church."

Congratulations to our good and faithful servant, Rev. Joseph Maryland, who served St. Timothy's, Curwensville from 1968-1981!

From the grateful parishioners of St. Timothy, Curwensville



Rev. Msgr. Robert Reilly


Pastor:

St. Lawrence, Albion
St. Boniface, Kersey
St. Peter, Conneautville
St. Bernard, Falls Creek

Administrator:

St. Mary, Erie

Parochial vicar:

St. Francis Xavier, McKean
Sacred Heart, Sharon

Secondary education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie
DuBois Central Catholic High School

Weekend assistant:

St. Andrew, Erie

My Inspiration: "My father used to say, 'Involve God in everything you do. He's always there.' When my mother was pregnant with me, three different doctors advised her to have an abortion or, they said, she wouldn't survive if she carried me to term. Without her courage, I wouldn't be here."



Congratulations
to our honorary
jubilarian,
Msgr.
Robert
Reilly!

From the grateful people of
St. Lawrence the Martyr
Church, Albion



Msgr. Robert Reilly says his call to vocation happened over a long period of time.

A native of Immaculate Conception Parish in Brookville, he notes that the prayers and example of many people—women religious, priests and lay people—influenced him toward becoming a priest.

Quite the baseball player in his day, he attended St. Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe on an athletic scholarship. Msgr. Reilly was also known for playing on the town baseball team where he was assigned as a priest.

His parish assignments include a 20-year tenure as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Albion. During that time, he guided the faith community and town through the after-effects of a devastating tornado. He aided them physically and spiritually—bringing them the sacraments immediately.

"I was amazed at the strength of the people," he recalls. "Many times they strengthened me."

For 20 years, his Sunday morning Mass was broadcast by W-WOW Radio in Conneaut, Ohio. The station's airwaves reached northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania, including the Sharon and Mercer areas. The weekly broadcast typically drew 2,500 listeners.

He taught and coached athletics at Cathedral Prep and was the founding headmaster of DuBois Central Catholic High School where his sister, the late Sister Miriam Reilly, RSM, also taught. There was another vocation in the family. His brother, the late Father Fred Reilly, was the founding pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Fairview.

In retirement, he took over inner-city St. Mary Parish in Erie.

"In the priesthood, you are able to not only assist people here on earth, but your influence reaches into eternity," Msgr. Reilly says. "As a matter of fact, your main goal should be to fulfill everyone's purpose on earth: our only reason for being on earth is to fulfill the requirement to get to heaven."

At 90, he is still working toward that goal every day. The pastor emeritus of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Erie, he resides in the infirmary at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

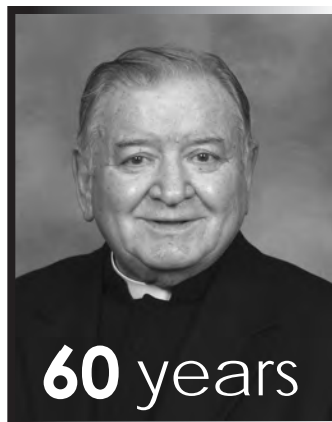
Glaucoma has robbed him of his sight, but not a day goes by when he doesn't hear confessions of the college students who visit his room, Mercy sisters, priests, former parishioners and motherhouse workers. He also travels to retirement homes and priest retreats to hear them.

"I can't see, therefore what I can do is limited, but in no way does it impair the ability to hear confessions," he says. "I feel what I've been denied with my eyes I can still give to a greater degree hearing confessions. I'm pleased to be able to do that."

Congratulations
Msgr. George Adams
on your 60th Anniversary!
Well done, faithful servant.

St. Mark, Emporium, and St. James, Driftwood

Rev. Msgr. George Adams



Administrator:
St. Gabriel, Port Allegany
Residence:
St. Tobias, Brockway

Msgr. George Adams has spent most of his priesthood serving the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, but he has always called Brockway home.

A native of Toronto, Ohio, Msgr. Adams moved with his family to Brockway during his high school years before attending seminary.

He recalls “playing Mass” as a child, and attending daily Mass or Lenten services with his father also helped plant the seed for his vocation. He also remembers accompanying his grandfather who would help do chores at a local Byzantine church which he attended frequently as a child with family members.

“I liked and appreciated the Liturgy in both rites,” Msgr. Adams says.

His parish priest encouraged the boys of the parish to become priests, and in 11th grade, the idea appealed to him. He entered high school seminary in 12th grade.

Msgr. Adams was ordained a priest on May 1, 1950 by Bishop John King Mussio for the Diocese of Steubenville. During his tenure in the diocese, he held a number of assignments including administrator, assistant pastor, pastor, chaplain and teacher. He was also the assistant procurator at St. John Vianney Seminary in

My Inspiration: “I am inspired by the Gospels; Psalm 18:1-3, 25-31, 46; verse one in Genesis which begins our history; the first chapter of John; Philippians 2:5-11; the Letter to the Hebrews; the lives of the saints and the Psalms.”

Steubenville.

He retired from pastoral duties with the Diocese of Steubenville in 1995 and moved to Brockway. During his retirement years, he has remained dedicated to his priestly duties by assisting at various parishes in both the Diocese of Erie and the Diocese of Steubenville. He also assists on a regular basis at St. Tobias Parish in Brockway where he resides.

Over the years, Msgr. Adams has been guided by the faith of a number of people.

“My grade school pastor, Father Andrew Beros of St. Joseph Parish in Toronto, Ohio, seemed to be on fire for God, the church and the priesthood,” Msgr. Adams says. “I still think of him and some of the things he said and did.”

His faith has also been touched by his seminary professors and a number of women religious who have entered his life in various ways and places. He’s been inspired by family members including his parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts—particularly his aunt, Sister Lucia, OSBM,

who died at 98 after serving the Byzantine community and Eparchy of Pittsburgh for more than 75 years.

Msgr. Adams was appointed a Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II with the title of monsignor in 1990.

In January 2010, he was named Man of the Year in Brockway where he has been active in the community by visiting the sick in area hospitals and nursing homes, as well as their residences.

Sr. Marjorie Adams, SSJ

Sister Marjorie Adams, SSJ, (formerly Sister Agatha) first became acquainted with the religious life and discerned God’s call while living and studying at Villa Maria College.

“The spirit and spirituality of the sisters exemplified by their joy, dedication and concern for others drew me into their community,” says Sister Marjorie, a native of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard.

She says Sister Amadeus from Villa Maria College has been someone whose faith has deeply touched her over the years.

“She was mainly instrumental in making this happen, for she not only inspired me but also did everything to help me as a student without resources,” Sister Marjorie says.

After ministering as a teacher, Sister Marjorie earned a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from Duquesne University. Her training enabled her to serve at St. Vincent Hospital in Erie and Spencer Hospital in Meadville. She earned her master’s in nursing from Pace University.

“As a nurse practitioner, I worked mostly with children and they mean the world to me,” Sister Marjorie says. “They are life-giving, honest and true.”



She still works with children as she presently serves as a school nurse with the Erie School District.

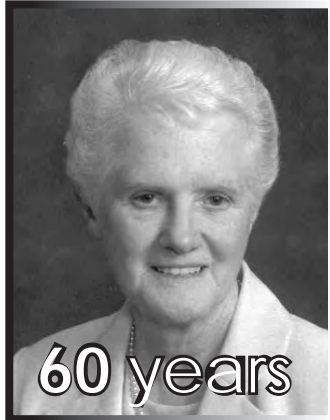
Sister Marjorie says she is grateful for having had the privilege of living, serving and praying with the women of her religious community for 60 years.

“Although we have had innumerable courageous and wise women over the past 150 years who have been instrumental in moving our community forward, Mother Agnes Spencer perhaps is the one with the greatest influence,” she says of the Sisters of St. Joseph foundress. “It was through her strength and courage that she faced the church leaders 150 years ago and established the first house of SSJs in the Erie Diocese.”

Teacher:
Holy Rosary, Erie
Saint Vincent Hospital:
Chief pharmacist
Spencer Hospital:
Pharmacy director
Purchasing agent
Materials manager
St. Mary’s Home:
Pharmacist
Nurse aide
Girard Medical Center:
Office nurse
Nurse practitioner-coordinator:
Booker T. Washington Center
Martin Luther King Center
Community Health Net
Erie School District:
School nurse

My Inspiration: “I believe my sustaining inspiration has been reflection on the simple life of Jesus as written in the Gospels and his teachings that can be summed up in St. Matthew’s Gospel of the last judgment: ‘For I was hungry and you gave me to eat ...’ These have been my guides for living, working, praying and developing relationships.”

Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ



Sister Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ, was at the end of her junior year at Villa Maria Academy when she remembers feeling called to a religious vocation. She attended a sodality program and considered entering.

Her early contacts with the Sisters of St. Joseph, along with the dedication of her parents, had a major impact on her decision to enter the community.

“My greatest influence was my family and the sisters who taught me,” says Sister Marie Paul, a native of St. Andrew Parish in Erie.

Sister Borgia was the first person to suggest that she consider entering.

“At the time, I did not take her seriously,” Sister Marie Paul says. “She exemplified the ‘simple life’ that I admired in the Little Flower (St. Therese of Lisieux).”

After teaching at a number of schools throughout the Diocese of Erie, she studied at the Saint Vincent Hospital School of Nursing.

My Inspiration: “The story of the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux, and what she teaches, that your everyday activities praise God, inspires me. Her simple lifestyle is one anyone can follow.”

Teacher:

Villa Maria Elementary, Erie
Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Bernard, Bradford

Saint Vincent Health Center:

Staff nurse
Head nurse
Supervisor of trauma
Coordinator of out-patient care
Director of Emergency Department
Equipment coordinator

“Both are rewarding work because they involve the direct service to people and the opportunity to make a real difference in their lives,” Sister Marie Paul says.

She has particularly gratifying memories of her time in the emergency trauma center and as a patient advocate keeping patients and their families informed and comforted.

She is currently the equipment coordinator at Saint Vincent Health Center.

Sr. Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ

Sister Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ, (formerly Sister John Daniel) knew she wanted to become a woman religious as a youngster. From first grade on, when anyone would ask her what she wanted to be when she grew up, she had only one answer: “A sister.”

She was born into a traditional Catholic family and attended St. Agatha Parish in Meadville. When it came time for her to begin her education, she was enrolled in the parish school.

“I had the privilege of having the Sisters of St. Joseph for twelve years of my education,” says Sister Mary Margaret, also known as Sister Peggy. “At the time of my schooling, there was a sister in each classroom.”

It was because of their example that she first considered a call to religious life.

“There were occasions when they rejoiced with me, times when they confronted me and times they advised me,” she remembers. “By the time I graduated, the call to religious life was very clear to me.”

After teaching at diocesan schools during the early part of her life as a religious, Sister Mary Margaret attended the Saint Vincent School of Nursing. Her training would serve her well throughout her ministry at local hospitals and in caring for the aged and infirm.

She is currently a personal assistant at St. Mary’s Home East in Erie.

After 60 years of religious life, Sister Mary Margaret remains grateful to all the sisters, living and deceased, who have touched her life. She has also been inspired by the late Father David Findlay. They met when Father Findlay became pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie.

“It was his quiet, simple and generous manner that made an impact on me,” she says. “He had a great love for his priesthood, his family and the family of Sacred Heart Parish. He became my confessor, my spiritual director and my friend. During his illness, he never complained. He continued to live life and serve others as long as he could.”



Teacher:

Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
Mercer County Catechetical Center

Sisters of St. Joseph:

Director of novices
St. Mary’s Home East:
Personal assistant
Adult day care director

Case manager:

St. Benedict Education Center, Erie

Staff nurse:

Spencer Hospital, Meadville
Saint Vincent Health Center, Erie

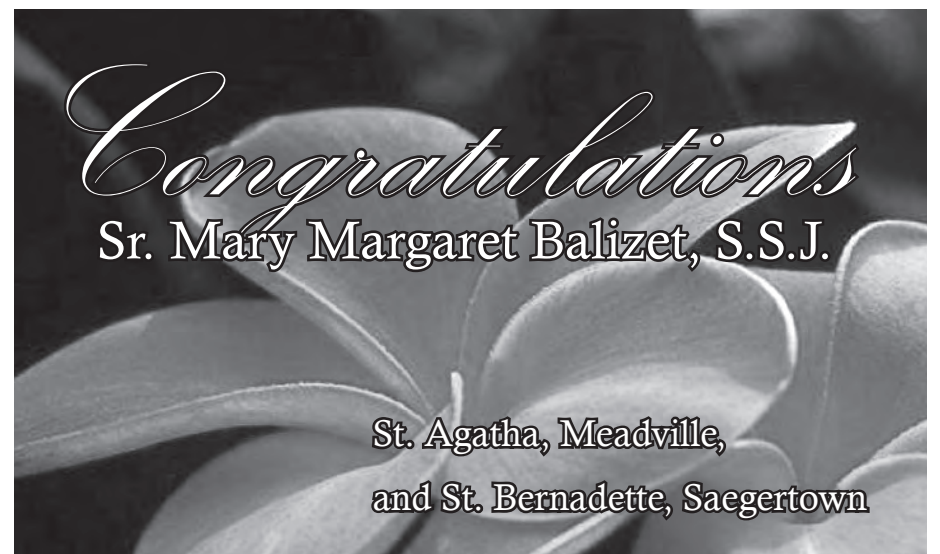
Pastoral care:

Saint Vincent Health Center, Erie

House mother:

St. Joseph’s Home for Children, Erie

My Inspiration: “My call from God to the religious life came through the examples of the sisters who taught me.”



Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ

Sister Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ, became the teacher she is by watching others.

“My parents were my first teachers, who raised me to believe in and to love God,” Sister Hildegarde says.

Being educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph in grade school, high school and college made a great impression on her.

“In grade school I thought that someday I would give my life to God as a Sister of St. Joseph,” she recalls.

She believes that everyone is called to God’s service in a different way. Her religious vocation was planted and nurtured in various ways by a number of sisters, priests and lay people.

Sister Hildegarde, a native of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie, received her bachelor’s degree in education from Villa Maria College. She is a longtime teacher at diocesan schools and in religious education programs and has served the Sisters of St. Joseph in numerous ways. She is currently involved in the religious community’s prayer call ministry.

After 60 years of life and ministry as a religious, Sister Hildegarde says she is thankful for all the sisters whose faith has deeply touched and guided her during the years.

“I can truly say if I had to choose all over again, I would say, ‘yes’ to God’s call,” she says. “I know my vocation has truly been a great gift from God.”



Teacher:

- St. Patrick, Erie
- St. Ann, Erie
- Holy Rosary, Erie
- St. Joseph, Erie
- Blessed Sacrament, Erie
- St. Paul, Erie

Religious education:

- Houtzdale Catechetical Center
- St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford
- St. Matthew in the Woods, Erie

Sisters of St. Joseph:

- Caregiver
- Marycrest ministry
- Prayer call ministry

House mother:

- St. Joseph’s Home for Children, Erie

Adult day care:

- St. Mary’s Home, Erie

My Inspiration: “The Liturgy is the highest form of worship. It is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. The Liturgy gives God more praise and thanksgiving and atonement for sins. Also, the worship of all souls in heaven, on earth and in purgatory. Mother Aurelia once told us to attend the Liturgy each day because the time will come when we will be unable to do so.”

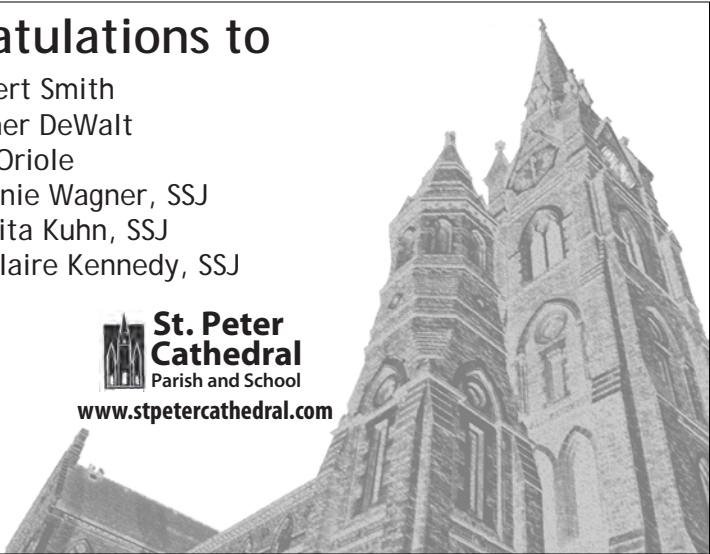
Congratulations to

- Msgr. Robert Smith
- Msgr. Homer DeWalt
- Fr. Philip Oriole
- Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
- Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
- Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ



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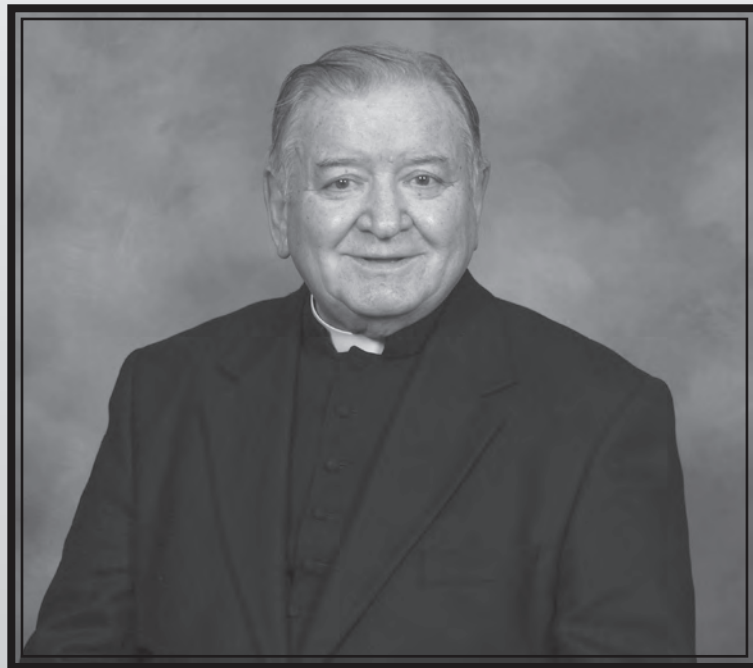


CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

to

Our Newly Ordained,
Our Jubilarians
and

especially to our own
Msgr. George J. Adams
60th Jubilee



“May God grant you many more years!”

St. Tobias Parish, Brockway

Rev. Msgr. Homer DeWalt

His family home is where Msgr. Homer DeWalt first considered becoming a priest.

He says his mother exercised an intrepid defense of the Catholic faith. And his father, though not a Catholic in his early life, was a hard-working family man who provided his children with excellent examples to follow in many ways.

"I tried by my prayers to cooperate with this vocation," Msgr. DeWalt says.

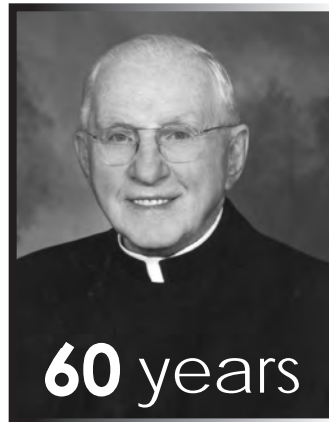
In the days when Latin was used in the seminary studies as well as in the Liturgy, Msgr. DeWalt chose to study four years of Latin in high school and four years in college. He attended John Carroll University in Cleveland, a Jesuit college where he says he benefited by an association with several Jesuit priests.

"I was active in college in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, directed by an inspiring chaplain, who provided us with spiritual direction and practical avenues to practice true Catholic charity," Msgr. DeWalt says.

A number of other people also inspired him. They included his grandmother's brother, Francis Joseph Clement, who was a strong faith model in his mother's family. He assisted Msgr. DeWalt financially through college in the post-Depression days. In college, Father Thomas F. Brady, SJ, was his greatest help. Early in his priesthood, Father Cyril H. Cooper was a spiritual director, and later Father Henry F. Birkenhauer, SJ, served as his spiritual and professional advisor.

Circumstances during his high school and college years were such that Msgr. DeWalt says he felt a responsibility to assist his younger brother, who aspired to enter college.

"The priesthood was not a 'sure thing' then, so I felt my Latin major would enable me to teach high school Latin, should entrance to the seminary not open for



My Inspiration: The Jesuit motto, "Ad majorem Dei gloriam" — "To the greater glory of God."

me," he says.

He then worked in Detroit while his brother attended school. During World War II, he and his brother entered the military, serving four years. After discharge, when both of them had the benefits of the G.I. Bill, he applied to enter seminary.

"I always felt that the work and military experience served me well in the priesthood," Msgr. DeWalt says.

One aspect of his priesthood that he has always treasured is the emphasis he was able to put on his education through his master's and doctoral majors. He served as the diocesan superintendent of schools and secretary of education for two decades.

"A lack of faith in one's life can very often be attributed to ignorance of the truths of the faith," Msgr. DeWalt says. "Of course one cannot deny the utter importance of God's grace to begin with."

Among the most vital issues facing Catholics today, Msgr. DeWalt cites the weakening of family life and the failure to live out the practical aspects of the faith, such as Mass attendance, marriage doctrine, commitment to Catholic education and the support of aspirations for religious life.

"The Catholic Church is facing the same problems," he says. "The future of the church rests primarily on strong family life."

Secondary education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie

Weekend assistant:

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Blessed Sacrament, Erie

Higher education:

Gannon University, Erie (faculty, assistant to the president)

Villa Maria College, Erie (associate dean of education)

Chaplain:

Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery, Erie

John XXIII Home, Hermitage

Diocesan office:

Director of religious education

Superintendent of schools

Administrator:

St. Cyprian, Waterford

Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ

One of the fondest memories that Sister Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ, recalls is her mother, a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, telling her about the wonderful sisters who instructed her in nursing.

She also passed along the same advice the Mercy superior gave her: "Treat every patient as though they were a part of your own family."

"From the time I was about 5 years old, I always wanted to be a nun," Sister Agnes Marie says.



Besides devotion to the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph and the daily recitation of the rosary in her family, she says helping care for her younger brothers and sisters also contributed to her vocation choice.

"We were taught early how important it was to serve others," Sister Agnes Marie says. "The work of the Sisters of St. Joseph has always been care and concern for others."

A native of Philipsburg and Immaculate Conception Parish in Osceola Mills, Sister Agnes Marie earned a bachelor's degree in education from Villa Maria College.

She taught at Catholic schools throughout

the Diocese of Erie for 20 years.

Presently, Sister Agnes Marie lives in Osceola Mills and provides home care for her brother. She has also ministered to elderly Catholics at the Presbyterian Home in Philipsburg since 1981.

A number of people have helped guide Sister Agnes Marie's faith over the years—particularly Father Louis Kelly; her mother, Margaret; and Sister Ann Jane Dugan.

"She was my first Communion teacher," Sister Agnes Marie says. "She taught me how important it was to receive Jesus."

My Inspiration: "I am inspired by praying the Office and the rosary."

Teacher:

St. Patrick, Erie

St. Joseph, Erie

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway

Our Lady of Peace, Erie

Sacred Heart, Erie

Holy Rosary, Erie

St. Andrew, Erie

Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg

Blessed Sacrament, Erie

St. Ann, Erie

Erie Day Nursery

Religious education coordinator:

Houtzdale Catechetical Center

Infirmity assistant:

Villa Maria Motherhouse

Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ



As a student at Villa Maria College, Sister Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, was introduced for the first time to the rich social teachings of the church. The social encyclicals, particularly of Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius XI, spoke of the many social injustices of the era and of the duty of the church to address these issues.

“At the time, I had no idea where this would lead me,” Sister Mary Claire says. “However, the inspiration of these writings and other events in my life led me to join the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was also during my years at Villa Maria College that I experienced individuals, lay and religious, who

took living their faith daily seriously. Their goodness had a profound effect on me.”

Those teachings have led the native of St. Joseph Parish in Erie to her current ministry as social justice coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In addition to her ministry in the Diocese of Erie, Sister Mary Claire has spent time as an instructor both nationally and internationally. She served as a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin in the Institute for Enzyme Research and was research professor of biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She was a visiting scholar and professor at the University of Konstanz, Germany, on the faculty of biology and was the recipient of a fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service.

Sister Mary Claire earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Villa Maria College and both her master’s in chemistry and doctorate in biochemistry from Duquesne University.

She cites her mother, Bernice Kennedy, as someone whose faith has deeply touched and guided her over the years.

“I will always be grateful for the wonderful example given to me by my mother, who was a just and faithful woman,” Sister Mary Claire says.

She notes that there are many examples of faith from other Sisters of St. Joseph she has witnessed that have inspired her.

“Sister Marilyn Zimmerman made a bold and courageous move to provide housing for women that led to the establishment of Community House,” she says.

Teacher:

Villa Maria Academy, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Villa Maria College:

Instructor
Chair of Chemistry Department
Associate professor

Saint Vincent Hospital:

Clinical chemist
Instructor in School of Medical
Technology and School of Nursing

Research consultant:

Gannon University
Sisters of St. Joseph:
Congregation’s council
Social justice coordinator

My Inspiration: “ ‘And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?’ Micah 6:8 (NRSV) and *The Beatitudes*, Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV).”

Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ

During a 10th grade religion class at Villa Maria Academy, Sister Mary Rita Kuhn’s teacher, who was a Sister of St. Joseph, encouraged the students to do something special during the season of Lent.

“I decided to go to daily Mass as often as I could,” Sister Mary Rita says. “I think that prayer time plus the examples of the sisters in school and their dedication to prayer and service to others was the beginning of my vocation to religious life.”

A longtime teacher and principal at a number of diocesan schools, Sister Mary Rita was appointed vicar for religious by Bishop Michael Murphy in 1984. She continues in that ministry today.

A native of St. Andrew Parish in Erie, Sister Mary Rita received her bachelor’s degree in education from Villa Maria College, earned her master’s in education from Gannon University and received her certification in school administration from Duquesne University.

She says her life has been touched by the faith of many people.

“I have known so many people over the years—especially my dear family, the members of the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph, friends, people in my parish, the schools I attended and



the ministries I’ve been part of—whose faith deeply touched me or guided me at different stages of my life,” Sister Mary Rita says. “They make a beautiful mosaic of memories that I recall when examples of their faith, lived experiences or advice now come to mind at just the right moment. Then again, it is appreciated and remembered with great thanks.”

She has also been inspired by the members of her religious community, who this year are celebrating 150 years of service in the Diocese of Erie with the theme of “Women of Spirit, Courage and Vision.”

“I feel that so many sisters exemplify these qualities,” Sister Mary Rita says. “I’m most aware of this when we come together at a community meeting—or at a community gathering to celebrate. I can look around the room and see the many women who, in a variety of ways, display these characteristics.”

My Inspiration: “ ‘As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Live on in my Love.’ (John 15:9) This simple Gospel instruction from Jesus holds up to us the love of God the Father passing to Jesus and then to each of us as the way to live life on this earth. This Gospel and a ‘way to do it’ is expressed in the Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Joseph which states ... ‘the Sister of St. Joseph moves always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction from whom she does not separate herself and for whom, in the following of Christ she works in order to achieve unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God ...’”

Teacher:

Villa Maria Elementary, Erie
Sacred Heart, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield
Our Lady of Peace, Erie

Principal:

Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Our Lady’s Christian School, Erie

Administrator:

Villa Maria Academy, Erie

Diocese of Erie:

Vicar for religious

Sr. Edith Langiotti, RSM

Throughout grade school and high school at St. Michael School in Greenville, Sister Edith Langiotti, RSM, knew that she would become a sister.

"I remember hearing Father James Kearns speaking one morning at one of our high school assemblies about religious vocations," Sister Edith, celebrating 60 years as a Sister of Mercy, recalls. "He said, 'This call comes to everyone sometime; but if it's there long enough, keep it there.' And mine was there."

For more than 20 years, she taught elementary school and noted that each grade level had its own personality.

"The younger groups were excited to learn something new every day and eager to tell of their experiences, sometimes all of them," she says. "The older

Teacher:

St. Titus, Titusville
St. George, Erie
St. Walburga, Titusville
St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
St. Justin, Pittsburgh
St. Edward, Corry
Immaculate Conception, Brookville

Principal:

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney

Librarian:

Mercyhurst Prep, Erie
Mercyhurst College, Erie

Manager:

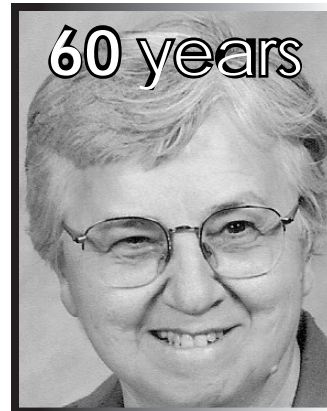
Mercy Terrace Apartments, Erie

Motherhouse coordinator:

Sisters of Mercy motherhouse, Erie

Archivist:

Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania,
Pacific West Community, Erie area



groups were somewhat hesitant to perform in front of their peers."

Reflecting on her religious life, Sister Edith says, "I made the choice to enter the Sisters of Mercy, not knowing exactly what life in a religious community fully meant, but very much convinced that this was where I was to be. With the support of my family and that of the Sisters of Mercy who taught and knew me for 12 years in school, I can say that I chose the right path."

She adds, "The years have been very satisfying for me, knowing that I was part of a larger effort in helping others to achieve some measure of success in learning their faith and academic skills that would hopefully sustain them throughout their lives."

To anyone who is contemplating a vocation to religious life, she passes along this advice from her former assistant pastor at St. Michael Parish in Greenville, who said, "This is a good life, but remember—you will be rubbing elbows with human nature!"

My Inspiration: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!"
- Romans 11:33

Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ

Raised by devout Catholic parents, Sister Geraldine Olon, SSJ, spent 12 years in Catholic schools. In high school, she attended Mass and was a daily communicant. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, made her vows and began teaching.

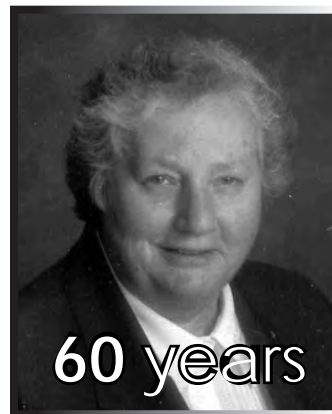
"I thought I had it all," Sister Gerry recalls. "I had all the sacraments that I could receive."

After being in the convent for 20 years, she attended a Life in the Spirit seminar in St. Marys. At the seminar, she says she prayed for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to be released in her life.

"It changed my whole life," she says. "The Scriptures became alive for me. The prayers at Mass were so beautiful. As many times as I had been at Mass, I never realized how powerful they were. I was awakened to all of this with new eyes. It was a whole new experience."

After teaching at a number of Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Erie, Sister Gerry became one of the founders of the Charismatic Center in Erie. She is currently the director of the Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the diocese.

A native of St. Joseph Parish in Oil City, she earned her bachelor's degree in education from Villa Maria College and



her master's in reading education from Syracuse University.

Sister Gerry says there is a transformation that takes place when people receive the Holy Spirit. And for those who have questions about Catholic charismatic renewal, she is quick to share her own experience with them.

My Inspiration: "Charismatic renewal is a grace for the whole church. It's not for a particular group; it's the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and the church needs that empowerment."

Teacher:

Sacred Heart, Erie
Holy Rosary, Erie
St. Andrew, Erie
Villa Maria Academy, Erie
St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
St. Mary, Reynoldsville
Elk County Catholic, St. Marys

Director:

Word of Life Catholic
Charismatic Renewal



2401 W. 38th St.
Erie, PA 16506
814-833-7701
www.olp.org

Our Lady of Peace Church & School

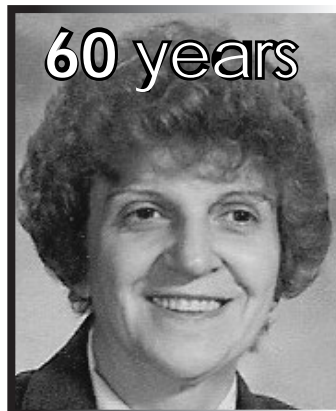
**Congratulates all those celebrating Jubilees in 2010
Especially those who have served OLP:**

Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ

Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ

Msgr. Richard McGuire

Sr. Mary Louis Oslick, RSM



Ask Sister Mary Louis Oslick, RSM, about her favorite ministry, and without hesitation, she will say, "Teaching." That is what she has done for most of her 60 years as a Sister of Mercy.

"Teaching enabled me to make a difference, to touch so many lives," Sister Mary Louis says. "I had students whose parents and grandparents were my students. Being a teacher and having a positive influence is so important in the life of a child."

She taught for 38 years at St. George School in Erie.

It was the Sisters of Mercy who influenced her as she was a student at Holy Redeemer School in Ambridge, Pa. Those Sisters of Mercy who provided her with a good example of religious included her aunt, Sister M. Leonarda, and Sisters M. Rosalia, Francine and Mary Jane.

"In the fourth grade, I thought it would be fun to be a nun," she says. "I began to think seriously about a religious vocation after my senior year in high school."

She notes that being a Sister of Mercy helped her to find a "great confidence in God and trust in God's providence." She is excited to see the expansion of Mercy spirituality throughout the world and in the lives of individual sisters.

Her advice to anyone seeking religious life is simple: "Pray and follow your heart."

My Inspiration: "Draw others to God by your words and your example." - Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy

Teacher:

- St. Titus, Titusville
- St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
- St. Walburga, Titusville
- St. Michael, Greenville
- St. Luke, Erie
- St. Justin, Pittsburgh
- St. George, Erie

Residence hall monitor:

- Mercyhurst College, Erie

Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM

Growing up in Hornell, N.Y., Sister Ann Prisco, RSM, was influenced by the Sisters of Mercy who worked in her parish and the local hospital.

"Religious life always impressed me," Sister Ann says.

Today, after a career devoted mostly to teaching grade-school children, she is celebrating her 60th year as a Sister of Mercy.

"I had the desire to be a religious and to be a teacher," she recalls. "My mother and family were always very encouraging to me. I really enjoyed teaching, especially teaching religious education to children."

In later years, Sister Ann put one of her passions to good use: knitting. A knitter since 1972, she coordinated the Sisters of Mercy ministry in which prayer shawls are knitted or crocheted, prayed over and given to people who have a physical, emotional or psychological illness or are grieving.

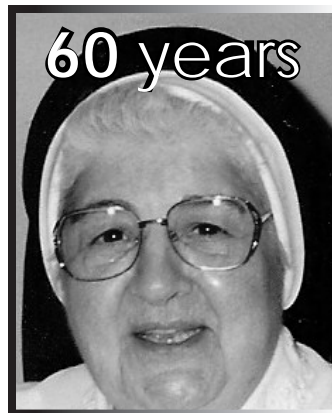
"I feel that the Sisters of Mercy have that compassion and concern for those who are hurting," she says. "It not only blesses them, but us, too."

Like teaching, the prayer shawl ministry and her other activities, Sister Ann says prayer was woven into all of it. In fact, it is what she likes best about being a Sister of Mercy.

"Prayer is extending ourselves to others and being an example to the old and young," she says.


My Inspiration: "You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

- Micah 6:8



Throughout her religious life, she has also relied on the writings of Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy foundress, who once wrote, "Remember me affectionately to all."


According to Sister Ann, it seemed that Catherine wanted to leave her legacy as a gift to the church. And for Sister Ann, that is her wish as well.



Congratulations to
**Father Philip Oriole, Sister Domenica DeLeo,
 Father Thomas Dugan, the newly ordained and other jubilarians**
 from Holy Redeemer Parish
 Warren, Pa.

**Congratulations on the occasion
 of your Jubilee Celebration**

65 years / Rev. Msgr. Robert Reilly
60 years as a Sister of Mercy / Sr. Edith Langiotti
60 years as a Sister of Mercy / Sr. Mary Louis Oslick
60 years as a Sister of Mercy / Sr. Ann Prisco
60 years as a Sister of Mercy / Sr. Mary Elaine Sandy
50 years as a Sister of Mercy / Sr. Domenica DeLeo



**MERCYHURST
 PREPARATORY SCHOOL**



Teacher:

- St. Justin, Pittsburgh
- St. Titus, Titusville
- St. Catherine, DuBois
- St. Michael, Greenville
- Immaculate Conception, Brookville
- St. Luke, Erie
- St. Walburga, Titusville
- Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
- St. Patrick, Franklin
- St. Boniface, Erie

Substitute teacher:

- Erie Catholic schools
- Religious education coordinator:**
- St. Thomas Parish, Corry
- Mercy Motherhouse:**
- Mercy tutoring program
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Service to the community

Sr. Mary Elaine Sandy, RSM

Sister Mary Elaine Sandy, RSM, spent her religious life in education and drew strength from the writings of Sisters of Mercy foundress Catherine McAuley who once wrote, "God never refuses His grace to those who seek it."

She is celebrating her 60th year of religious life this year.

For much of her career, Sister Elaine has served as a teacher at Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie. That changed in 1976, when she was assigned to teach English at Mercyhurst Prep, Erie.

"Each day presented new experiences as well as challenges for a first-year high school teacher," she recalls. "Consequently, it didn't take me long to find out that I had to be creative with all sorts of games and extra bonus points when grammar lessons had to be taught. I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed teaching the ninth graders."

Health problems made it necessary to curtail the number of classes she was able to teach, and she credits Sister Maura Smith, then principal at Mercyhurst Prep, with moving her career in a new direction to audio-visual director.



"I was absolutely sure that I was not qualified for such a position," she says. "I guess I had imagined all sorts of problems with equipment and light bulbs and the list when on and on."

She did, however, accept the challenge at the high school and spent 20 years in that position before moving on to prayer ministry in 2005.

Teacher:

St. Patrick, Franklin
St. Walburga, Titusville
Immaculate Conception,
Brookville
St. Patrick, Franklin
St. Luke, Erie
St. Michael, Greenville
St. Thomas, Corry
Mercyhurst Prep, Erie

Principal:

Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell

Audio-visual director:

Mercyhurst Prep, Erie

My Inspiration: "Let us never desire more than enough; God will give us that and His blessing."
- Catherine McAuley,
foundress of the Sisters of
Mercy

Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ

Vocation month was always in March at Central Catholic High School in Johnstown where Sister Stephanie Wagner, SSJ, went to school. During her junior year, she heard a talk on vocations from a Sister of Charity.

"She said, 'Some of you are being selfish with God and He may be calling you,'" Sister Stephanie recalls. "I mulled and discerned the thought for about a year-and-a-half. I then realized that I was being called."

A native of Buffalo, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Immaculate Conception Parish in Johnstown.

Throughout the years, Sister Stephanie says many sisters have influenced her, especially when she began her ministry at the Villa Maria Motherhouse infirmary.

"Sister Catherine Ann Earley played a major role at that time," she says. "She had much foresight and wisdom. There are so many more nuns and priests who have impacted my life, especially my pastor who was a great inspiration to me."

She says several nuns who served as her teachers in grade school and high school also helped influence her decision to enter religious life.

Sister Stephanie spent much of her early ministry as a Catholic school teacher throughout the Diocese of Erie before serving as coordinator at the congregation's infirmaries. She served at Holy Rosary Parish in Erie as diocesan consultant offering religion programs for the hearing impaired and special education students. Currently she is a volunteer and Eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Home at Asbury Ridge in Erie.

Teacher:

St. Andrew, Erie
Holy Rosary, Erie
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie
Sacred Heart, Erie
St. John the Baptist, Erie
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Bernard, Bradford
Mercer County Catechetical Center

Infirmity coordinator:

Rosary Hall, Villa Maria Motherhouse
Marycrest, Villa Maria Community
Living Center

House mother:

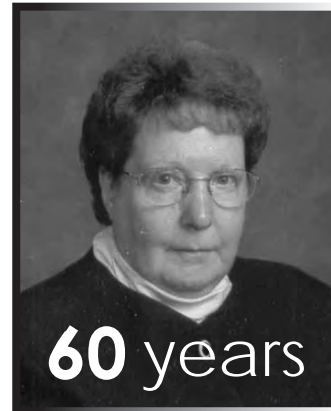
St. Joseph's Home for Children, Erie
St. Mary's Home at Asbury Ridge:
Volunteer

Eucharistic minister

Nursing home visitor:

St. Andrew, Erie

She earned her bachelor's degree in education from Villa Maria College, her master's in education from Edinboro University and her certification in gerontology from Gannon University.



My Inspiration: "The Scriptures are my favorite readings, especially the Gospel of Luke. He brings out the humanity of Jesus, which gives me much hope. Other readings that have been inspiring for me are writings of Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr and Robert Wicks."

Congratulations to the newly ordained priests and deacons, particularly **Deacon Richard Rueberger**, his pastor, **Father Daniel Kresinski**, **Sister Audrey Berdis, O.S.B.**, and all of the jubilarians.

from

**Our Lady of Fatima - St. Ann/
Msgr. Geno Monti School**
601 Roemer Blvd., Farrell, Pa.
724-346-3359



Sr. Audrey Berdis, OSB



A change in ministry for Sister Audrey Berdis, OSB, led to a focus on serving others through social services.

In serving as director of Hope House for Women, a counselor at the Mercy Center for Women and currently as the service coordinator at Benetwood Apartments, all in Erie, she helps people realize what they need and how to get it.

“In my ministry with the poor of Erie, I found myself utterly delighted at God’s goodness each time a desperate need of one of our participants was met,” Sister Audrey recalls. “This came in the form of a door bell ringing and someone would arrive with exactly what was needed by the resident at

Hope House.”

Assistance is only possible when those who need it are led to the sources of help by the advice of good counselors, she says.

Sister Audrey is a native of Holy Family Parish in Erie where she was baptized. She attended the parish school and St. Benedict Academy.

Sister Audrey became a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Pittsburgh and became a “collector of tools,” she says. Her education has been ongoing. When the need for another tool arose, Sister Audrey earned another degree. The list includes a bachelor’s degree in education from Carlow College, Pittsburgh; a master’s in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; a master’s in administration from the University of Dayton, Ohio; and a master’s in

Principal:

Holy Family School, Erie

Director:

Hope House for Women

Counselor:

Mercy Center for Women

Service coordinator:

Benetwood Apartments

My Inspiration: “Psalm 139 tells of God’s knowledge of me. He’s ever present. He’s laid his hand on me. It’s a great sense of security of God with me. I’m not alone. If I tried to hide, I couldn’t. It makes me grateful for who I am, and it speaks to me of God’s greatness. And finally, at the very end, God knows my thoughts and I turn to God for guidance. So there’s my path.”

counseling psychology from Gannon University, Erie.

For many years Sister Audrey served as elementary principal and teacher in the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses, eventually returning to Erie to become principal of Holy Family School.

For Sister Audrey, the changes of direction which finally led back to Erie also led her to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. After some years of discernment, Sister Audrey transferred her vows from the School Sisters of St. Francis to the Benedictine Sisters on Nov. 18, 1995.

Sister Audrey has attended the meetings and conferences of several Benedictine organizations including the American Benedictine Academy, a scholarly organization. In 2005, she attended the Benedictine Renewal Program in Rome—a month of study and retreat focused on the Rule and life of St. Benedict—sponsored by the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses. Benedictine sisters from around the world studied and toured landmarks of the early church and of the modern city.

She has returned to the Mount and Benetwood Apartments, moving forward in life with steady faith.

“As the days turn into months and years, I marvel that God’s love and care for me has always been present in my life,” she says. “I am elated when I experience a greater awareness of this reality or have an ‘a-ha’ moment that directs me to the source of that gift.”

Sr. Judith Bohn, OSB

In the ‘80s, Sister Judith Bohn, OSB, became a foster mother to newborns and young babies who would be adopted when they were old enough and when a family was found for them.

At first it seemed like an odd combination—a convent and babies. But before long, Sister Judith made it obvious that these were fortunate babies in her foster care ministry.

Sister Judith learned to take care of them from books and teachers at first and then through experience. The experience included howling in the night, crying when startled, shouting when hungry, and, when they became better acquainted—gurgles and greetings—requests for attention from their good friend. These children experienced, at a crucial time in their early development, love and care freely given.

Sister Judith (Barbara Ann) is a native of St. Mary Parish in Erie and attended St. Mary’s School and St. Benedict Academy. After graduation, she took the first step into a new life as a Benedictine Sister of Erie. That process was completed when she made her perpetual monastic profession on Aug. 18, 1964.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Mercyhurst College, Sister Judith served as an elementary teacher at Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Erie.

This jack-of-all-trades sister has also assisted in the health care of the members of her religious community. Sister Judith is currently a part of the busi-



ness office staff at Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

In a conversation with her novice mistress many years ago, she was asked if there was a psalm that held a significant message for her.

“I responded that yes, there is,” she says. “And it was Psalm 42 that begins ‘As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.’ This psalm has continued to give meaning to my religious life; from what I believed as a young sister, that God was the only one I could long for and get to know more deeply through prayer and reading.”

But this idea really never satisfied her longing. As she matured, it was finding God in the people she served—the little ones whom she taught, the older people she cared for as a nurse aide, the people she ministered to as a school secretary, the infants she nurtured through the years of foster care ministry and the many people she reaches now in the business office.

My Inspiration: “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.” - Psalm 42

Teacher:

St. Joseph, Sharon
St. Michael, Fryburg
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. Mary, Erie

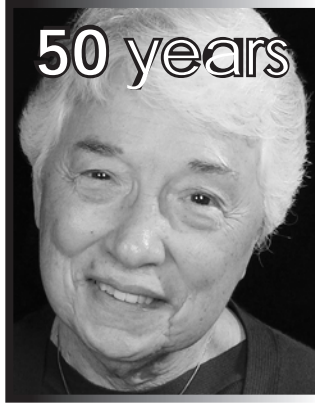
Administrator:

Venango County Catholic High School, Oil City
St. Benedict Academy, Erie
St. Gregory, North East
East Coast Migrant Headstart Program

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Benet Press typist
Mount St. Benedict Monastery business office

Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM



Sister Domenica DeLeo, RSM, grew up in Sheffield, a small town she describes as having one stoplight, one Catholic church, two public grade schools and a public high school.

“Since there were no sisters in our parish, religious education was taught by lay people in their beautiful, humble way,” Sister Domenica recalls.

She celebrated her golden jubilee with a Mass and reception June 19.

Her exposure to the Sisters of Mercy came when she enrolled at Mercyhurst College in Erie. Sister Eustace Taylor, then superior of the Sisters of Mercy community and Mercyhurst College president, started the Cadet Program in 1959, a program

designed to help the Sisters of Mercy staff elementary schools in the Diocese of Erie. Sister Domenica was among the first nine young women in the program.

“During the four years and five summers it took to receive my degree, the Sisters of Mercy played a major role in my life,” she says.

Sister Domenica likes to cite a portion of the Sisters of Mercy “Constitutions” to sum up her religious life. It reads, “Through direct service and through our influence we serve God’s people through education, healthcare and other ministries.” She said that sentence became God’s prophetic plan for her and helped her understand her ring motto, “Love serves.”

“In my 50 years of religious life, it has been my privilege to touch the lives

My Inspiration: “You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8

of innumerable students who were entrusted to my care,” she says. “I am grateful to my Mercy community for all of their love and support which has affected my life deeply and wonderfully.”

Sister

Domenica adds, “At the rising of each new day, I whisper a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s gifts in my life.”

Teacher:

St. Walburga, Titusville
St. Michael, Greenville
Immaculate Conception, Brookville
St. Justin, Pittsburgh

Principal:

St. Thomas, Corry
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie

Diocese of Erie:

Director of teacher personnel

Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Erie:

Leadership team member

Director of development:

Mercyhurst Prep, Erie

Sisters of Mercy, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community:

Local leader, Erie

Sr. Mary Herrmann, SSJ

From her earliest memories, Sister Mary Herrmann, SSJ, (formerly Sister Rosemary) says she felt that she wanted to “be a sister.” And when she started attending St. Ann Elementary School and Villa Maria Academy in Erie with the Sisters of St. Joseph, she says she knew that it was not just “a sister,” but a Sister of St. Joseph.

“As I grew a little older, this feeling changed into what I now recognize as a call,” Sister Mary says.

She recalls the faith of her parents serving as an inspiration to her even as a child.

“No matter what difficulties were being faced, they always had a deep faith in God,” Sister Mary says. “Being prayerful was a part of their life and it was passed on to me at an early age.”

After many years of ministry at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie, Sister Mary began serving her religious congregation. For 10 years she was vice president of the Sisters of St. Joseph. She presently serves as director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

A native of St. Ann Parish in Erie, Sister Mary studied at Villa Maria College and Boston University.

In thinking about the many sisters who have impacted her during her 50 years of ministry, Sister Mary says that she started to make a list of those she knows personally from the congregation’s history.

“The list is too long,” she reports. “Some of the leaders of the past certainly have inspired me, but I also found myself reflecting on some of the less known, the



quieter ones, the behind-the-scenes individuals. I conclude that all Sisters of St. Joseph are women of courage in various ways. The spirit of being one with God and one with the neighbor is evidenced in all.”

My Inspiration: “I am often drawn to the phrase from Psalm 46:10, ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ In our present society and being involved in active ministry, it can be difficult to find the space for quiet and for peaceful reflection that enables me to hear that still, small voice within. This phrase reminds me to pause and ‘be still’ to recognize God as creator – to ‘let go’ and be aware of God’s all encompassing love.”

Saint Vincent Health Center:

Executive vice president
Nursing/patient services

Nurse clinician:

Booker T. Washington Center, Erie

Sisters of St. Joseph:

Vice president
Director, Sisters of St. Joseph
Neighborhood Network



Congratulations to our honorary jubilarians:

Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM - 50 years

Sr. Edith Langiotti, RSM - 60 years

Sr. Mary Louis Oslick, RSM - 60 years

Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM - 60 years

Sr. Mary Elaine Sandy, RSM - 60 years

- St. Michael, Greenville

Sr. Karen Kosin, OSB

Since 1988, Sister Karen Kosin, OSB, has been a member of the staff of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania, during which time the food bank has seen a tremendous amount of growth.

She started working inventory then coordinated the volunteer program. Today she is the food bank's product resource manager who is in charge of purchasing food and working with donors, companies, grocers and farm.

"I know that we're definitely helping a lot of people," Sister Karen says. "That's my main motivation—making a difference and having a positive impact on people who are in need."

Sister Karen (Patricia Ann) is a native of St. Hedwig Parish in Erie. She attended the parish elementary school and is a graduate of St. Benedict Academy.

"I had a good rapport with the nuns who taught be at St. Ben's," she says. "They were wonderful people. They were my primary contact and influence."

Her aunt, Sister Lois Marie, SSJ, was a high school teacher and also played a role in her vocation.

Sister Karen entered the Benedictine Sister of Erie soon after high school graduation and made her perpetual monastic profession on August 18, 1964.

She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education and history from Mercyhurst College and later a master's in education with specialization in reading from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. She studied human biology at Clarion University with a National Science Foundation grant. Over the years, Sister Karen taught in several diocesan schools.

She also served as director of the oblate program of the Benedictine Sisters and as a member of the Benetwood Apartments board of directors.

"They're wonderful people," she says of the oblates, who are lay people who want to participate in the life of the Benedictine community. "They're very sincere. We have oblates from all over the country."

Each year, all the liturgical services of Holy Week are profound spiritual experiences for Sister Karen.

"Especially memorable was the first time I participated in the Good Friday seven-mile walk from the (St. Peter) cathedral in Erie to Mount St. Benedict," she

recalls. "The meditations on the contemporary Stations of the Cross along with the silence and prayers during the walk helped me enter into the Passion of Christ that was especially meaningful."

My Inspiration: "Listen carefully, my child, to my instructions and attend to them with the ear of your heart." – Prologue of the Rule of Benedict



Teacher:
St. Mary, Erie
St. Stephen, Oil City
Sacred Heart, Sharon
St. Gregory, North East
Immaculate Conception,
Clarion

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:
Oblate program director
Benetwood Apartments board
of directors

Second Harvest Food Bank:
Product resource manager

Rev. Ross Miceli, Newly Ordained

Rev. Matias Quimno, Newly Ordained

Rev. James Kennelley, 40 years

"I am the vine, you are the branches."
(John 15:5)

Rev. Msgr. Robert Reilly, 65 years

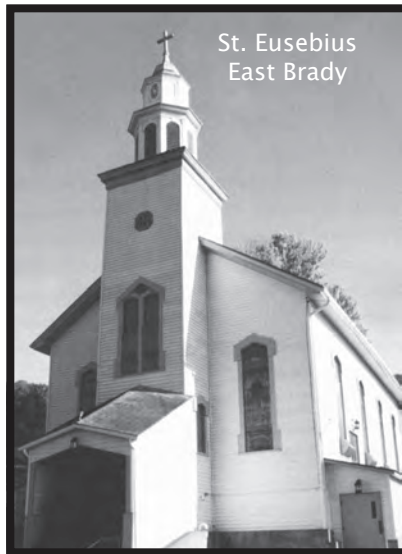
Rev. Msgr. George Adams, 60 years

Sr. Mary Louise Oslick, RSM, 60 years

Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM, 60 years

Rev. Msgr. Henry Krebs, 50 years

To our most seasoned servants and the newest growth, St. Catherine of Siena Parish of DuBois thanks you for all you do today and have done throughout the years. Congratulations!



Congratulations
Msgr. Richard McGuire
on 50 years
of service to our Lord!

Parishioners of
St. Eusebius and St. Richard

Sr. Miriam-McMullen Pastrick, OSB

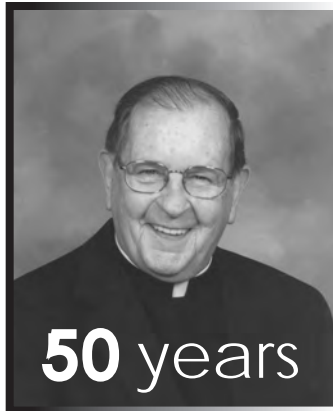
Rev. Msgr. Henry Kriegel

Rev. Philip Oriole

Rev. Msgr. Robert Smith

Congratulations on your jubilees! Thank you for your service to Mount Calvary Parish and School.

Rev. Msgr. Henry Krebs



My Inspiration: "I have tried, but not necessarily always successfully, to live my priesthood by the Prayer of St. Francis—to sow love; to sow pardon; to sow faith; to give hope; to give light and to give joy; to comfort and to understand. Maybe, just maybe, I will be worthy of eternal life."

Msgr. Henry Krebs began giving serious consideration to the priesthood during his association with the priests and students at John Carroll University in Cleveland.

"I saw men rising early to attend morning Mass, and I went with them," the Clearfield native says. "Then it was visits to the Blessed Sacrament before and after classes."

He was impressed with the example of the Jesuit priests who were always available in the chapel for counseling or confession.

During his priesthood, Msgr. Krebs says he has been fortunate to have a number of wonderful mentors. Msgr. Les Enright taught him that "less is more" when it comes to earthly possessions. Msgr. Dan Martin taught him that "being a boss is a lonely job." Msgr. Louis Heberlein taught him to "get it done," and Msgr. John Mignot taught him "how to get it done right."

"All of them have passed on, but they will never be forgotten," he says.

Catholic education has been entwined in Msgr. Krebs' priesthood since his ordination.

He has served as the headmaster at Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage and DuBois Central Catholic High School and assistant headmaster at Elk County Catholic High

School in St. Marys. In DuBois, he oversaw the merger of the current Catholic school system and the dedication of the \$15 million Pre K-12 campus.

The pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois for more than 20 years, he oversaw the remodeling of the church in 2002. Since his retirement in 2003, Msgr. Krebs has served as a senior associate at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Clearfield.

He was named a Chaplain of His Holiness by Pope John Paul II in 1991 with the title of monsignor.

According to Msgr. Krebs, the most important issue facing Catholics today is "me-ism."

"We live in a society that answers important social and moral questions by saying, 'I think,' 'I feel' or 'I believe,'" he says. "We must return to, 'What would Jesus say?' or 'What would he tell me to do?' We must get rid of the 'me-ism' to bring about a social and moral revolution in our homes. We pray, 'Thy will be done,' not mine."

Secondary education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie
Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys
DuBois Central Catholic High School,
DuBois

Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage

Weekend assistant:

St. George, Erie
St. Boniface, Kersey
St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois
Sacred Heart, Sharon

Chaplain:

Christ the King Manor, DuBois

Pastor:

St. Michael the Archangel, DuBois

Administrator:

St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois

Senior associate:

St. Francis of Assisi, Clearfield



The parishes of
St. Bonaventure, Grampian,
and St. Timothy,
Curwensville, thank you for
50 years of service,
Rev. Msgr. Henry Krebs!

Congratulations!

Rev. Msgr. Richard McGuire

“Every parish I’ve been in, the people have just been wonderful,” says Msgr. Richard McGuire. “They boost you when you’re down.”

He still has a fondness for the parish he served the longest.

“I love St. Julia,” he says of the west-side parish in Erie he guided from 1983 to 2008. “They’re beautiful people.”

Retiring from active ministry in 2008, Msgr. McGuire currently resides at St. Mary’s Home East in Erie.

A native of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville, Msgr. McGuire says his call to the priesthood was gradual.

“I’ve enjoyed being with the people and doing the things you’re called upon to do,” he says.

Throughout his parish assignments, Msgr. McGuire has delved into the construction business, so to speak. As pastor of St. Julia Parish in Erie, he directed the handicap access project at the church. At St. Richard Parish in Rimersburg, he ad-



vised the construction of a ramp entrance and converted former confessionals into penance rooms.

He constructed a cemetery chapel at St. Eusebius Parish in East Brady and directed repairs to the cemetery. He also oversaw a renovation and restoration project at the church, which included painting and decorating the church interior and restoring the church kitchen and meeting areas.

While at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie, he helped with plans for the new church. As parochial vicar at St. Stephen in Oil City, Msgr. McGuire took part in the planning process of Venango Catholic High School.

He has been involved in ministeriums in Oil City, East Brady, Rimersburg and Erie.

He has been active in the Rotary Club, the Boy and Girl Scouts and the United Way. He also was a major in the Civil Air Patrol.

Msgr. McGuire also has a sister in a religious community: Sister Mary Rachel McGuire, SSJ, who is celebrating her 70th jubilee this year.

Pastor:

St. Julia, Erie
St. Eusebius, East Brady
St. Richard, Rimersburg

Parochial vicar:

Our Lady of Peace, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Stephen, Oil City

Diocesan board member:

Pastoral advisory board
Priest’s Senate
Clergy Continuing Education
Erie Diocesan Cemeteries
Bishop’s Advisory Board on Planning
Priests’ Personnel Board

My Inspiration: “Just being a priest is inspirational. There are so many wonderful things.”

Sr. Miriam McMullen-Pastrick, OSB

Sister Miriam McMullen-Pastrick, OSB, sees the future every day in her classroom, and she says it is bright.

“There is a tremendous goodness and spirituality in young people today,” says Sister Miriam, an instructor in the Communications Department at Penn State-Behrend. “They just don’t want to put it in boxes the way we did when growing up. They are profoundly kind and great searchers, and I am deeply impressed with the sacredness of each one of them.”



Sister Miriam attended St. Stephen School and St. Joseph High School, Oil City.

She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie after high school graduation and made her perpetual monastic profession on August 18, 1964.

She received a bachelor’s degree in education and English from Mercyhurst College and taught at several diocesan schools. She earned her master’s in education from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and later studied at the University of Denver where she earned a doctorate in speech communication.

Sister Miriam began teaching at Penn State-Behrend in 1981. She also taught at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn., in the mid ‘80s, after which she returned to Behrend in 1990 where she continues her ministry.

“This is my favorite place because it has such a wonderful diversity of humanity,” she says.

A natural teacher, Sister Miriam is always concerned for the good of her students. They, in turn, find in her a person who is genuine and nurturing.

Sister Miriam contributes to the life of the college in ways other than teaching. She has assisted the head librarian with acquisitions in her field, developed a communications course for engineering majors and serves as a mentor and student adviser.

She has a student teaching assistant in each of her classes who has taken her class the previous semester.

“We talk about how to treat each one of the students in the class with dignity and about calling forth the best in them,” she says.

Over the years, Sister Miriam has mentored 50 teaching assistants and taught 400 public speaking classes.

In the monastery, Sister Miriam is an occasional piano accompanist at the Liturgy of the Hours and an inventive liturgy planner.

Her hope for the church and her religious community is to face challenges with faith and openness.

“If monastic life is going to survive today, it can’t be afraid to be challenged and questioned, and the boundaries have to be pushed,” she says. “It can’t be a comfortable, safe place. The contemplative boundaries have to drive us to the ends of the boundaries of the earth; to not just tolerate but embrace the strongest differences we can find among people.”

My Inspiration: “The sharing of joy, whether physical, emotional, psychic, intellectual (or spiritual) forms a bridge between the sharers which can be the basis for understanding, much of what is not shared between them and lessens the threat of their difference.” – poet Audre Lorde

Teacher:

Sacred Heart, Sharon
Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage
Mount Calvary, Erie
St. Michael, Fryburg

Penn State Behrend:

Instructor, Communications Department
Academic adviser
Chair of the Student Life Committee

Mount St. Benedict Monastery:

Eucharistic minister
Schola member
Prayer leader
Prayer accompanist

National Communication Association:

Member
Representative of Peace and Conflict Division on legislative assembly

Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ

Sister Carol Wilcox, SSJ, (formerly Sister Mary Gilbert) remembers making the decision to become a sister when she was in 6th grade at St. Bernard School in Bradford.

“From 6th grade to my senior year, the thought lay gently on my mind,” Sister Carol says. “During my junior year, I decided to become a teacher and applied to Villa Maria College in Erie.”

In August after graduating from St. Bernard High School, instead of going to college, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Carol has served as a teacher at Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Erie, as well as a director of religious education and pastoral minis-



My Inspiration: “One of my favorite Scripture verses is: ‘The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.’ (Lamentations) This verse came to mind once when I was enjoying the wonder of Niagara Falls. Surrounded by people of many different cultures, languages and races, the thought came to me that the constant flow of the falls was like God’s constant love pouring out over all of God’s people.”

ter at different parishes. She presently ministers at the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Erie.

A native of St. Bernard Parish in Bradford, Sister Carol attended Villa Maria College, Edinboro University and Gannon University.

Growing up in Bradford, Sister Carol says her grandmother’s faith was deeply evident to her and left quite an imprint on her.

“On her bedstand she had statues of St. Theresa, St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother,” she says. “Each night she would light a votive candle and say her prayers. Over the years, I observed her sitting in her chair, eyes closed, quietly saying the rosary for her many intentions. It is a memory of great faith and trust in the power of prayer that has stayed with me.”

A number of Sisters of St. Joseph have also served as a source of inspiration to her over the years.

“I remember Sister Virginia Ann Gardner’s insistence on excellence in grammar and her devotion to good literature,” Sister Carol recalls. “Her vision for her students was that they excel and go far in life. She showed a tremendous courage as she endured the painful decline of her health in later years. As a member of a pastoral team, she brought great wisdom and insight to the parish. Sister believed firmly that all religions have a piece of the truth and she respected their beliefs also.”

Teacher:

St. Andrew, Erie
St. John the Baptist, Erie
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
St. Michael-St. Paul, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
St. Bernard, Bradford
Perceptual Development Center, Erie
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, Erie

Director of religious education:

St. Bernard, Bradford
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie

Pastoral minister:

St. Anthony of Padua, Sheffield

Administrative assistant:

Villa Maria College

Sr. Jean Wolbert, OSB

Like her father, Sister Jean Wolbert, OSB, has loved music all her life. She plays a number of instruments—her primary instrument is the flute—and enjoys teaching others.

The daily singing of the psalms, a part of monastic life, still touches the depths of her heart.

“Every Friday I look forward to praying this verse in Psalm 119 at Midday Praise,” Sister Jean says (see My Inspiration). “It reminds me of my profession when we sing it.”

In 2008, she was in Rome for the Benedictine Renewal Program—“Deepening Our Monastic Roots”—and visited Norcia (the home of Benedict and Scholastica). At St. Scholastica Church, she took part in a short prayer service at which she sang these words of profession.

“I was so uplifted that I was moved to tears, hardly able to sing,” she recalls. “This verse has rooted me in my monastic life.”

Sister Jean is a native of St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, attended the parish school and is a graduate of St. Joseph High School, Oil City. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie after high school graduation and made her perpetual monastic profession on Aug. 18, 1964.

Her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst College in Erie prepared her for her years of teaching on the elementary and intermediate lev-



els. At first she was a classroom teacher, and later music was added to her schedule.

She also earned a bachelor’s in music at Clarion University. She subsequently earned a master’s in liturgy/theology from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

Journals and the meetings of organizations such as the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) and the Monastic Worship Forum widen and deepen her expertise consistently.

Sister Jean has been a music teacher in several schools including 17 years at Sacred Heart School in Erie.

She currently serves as the community liturgist. In this role, she is responsible for all liturgical functions at the monastery, including planning and providing an appropriate worship environment.

Teacher:

St. Mary, Erie
St. Joseph, Sharon
Immaculate Conception, Clarion
St. Gregory, North East
St. Michael, Fryburg
Sacred Heart, Erie
Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie
Benedictine Sisters of Erie:
Community liturgist

My Inspiration: “Uphold me, O God, according to your word and I shall live. And do not fail me in my hope.” – Psalm 119

Rev. Thomas Dugan

Father Thomas Dugan's first recognition of the faith came from his profoundly Catholic Irish parents.

"It was an awareness that here was something that was deeply important to them," Father Dugan recalls. "It was this gift and practice of the faith that was of utmost importance to them."

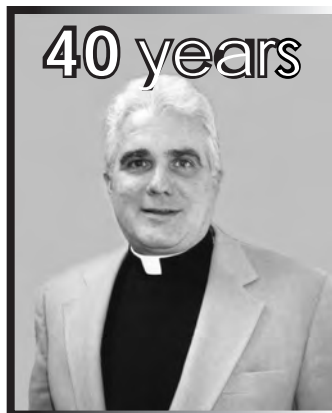
He noticed his call toward the priesthood at an early age.

"My sense of the presence of God in Eucharist and family was very real," he says. "It was that sense that began to make me think of the priesthood as early as second grade."

He needn't look any further than his own extended family—aunts, uncles, cousins—to find examples of religious vocations. Sister Ann Jane, Sister Marcella and Sister Rita Claire were all Sisters of St. Joseph. Msgr. G. Gerald Dugan served as pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Erie for nearly 30 years. Father Thomas Dugan, TOR, was a professor at St. Francis College in Loretto. And, finally, Father Raymond Dugan was pastor of St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville.

A native of Philipsburg in Clearfield County, Father Dugan attended Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Philipsburg and the neighboring parish of Immaculate Conception in Osceola Mills.

While serving as campus minister at Allegheny College, he was instrumental in securing a new residence for the Newman Center. As parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon, he co-founded the Shenango Valley Food Warehouse. During his tenure at Catholic Charities, he worked as its director of development and proposal writing.



Among his numerous parish assignments throughout the Diocese of Erie, Father Dugan most recently served as pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Fairview for 13 years. He is currently a senior associate at St. Joseph Parish in Sharon.

"My priesthood has been supported, strengthened, challenged and upheld by the people of God," he says. "I view it as a covenant relationship with God's people because the people have been so good I feel I've been taught by them about God."

According to Father Dugan, one of the most vital issues facing Catholics and the universal church is the need for reinvigoration of true interior spirituality.

"There's a tremendous need for interiority," he says. "It seems that we've lost it to some degree. It's as simple and as complicated as developing a true, interior prayer life—a genuine response to the presence of God in our lives, in our world and in each other."

My Inspiration: "Psalm 139 is all about the presence of God in us and us in the presence of God. It's overwhelming."

Pastor:

Holy Cross, Fairview
St. Charles, New Bethlehem

Parochial vicar:

St. Joseph, Sharon
St. Bernard, Bradford
St. Brigid, Meadville
Holy Redeemer, Warren

Resident:

St. Andrew, Erie

Weekend assistant:

St. James, Erie

Administrator:

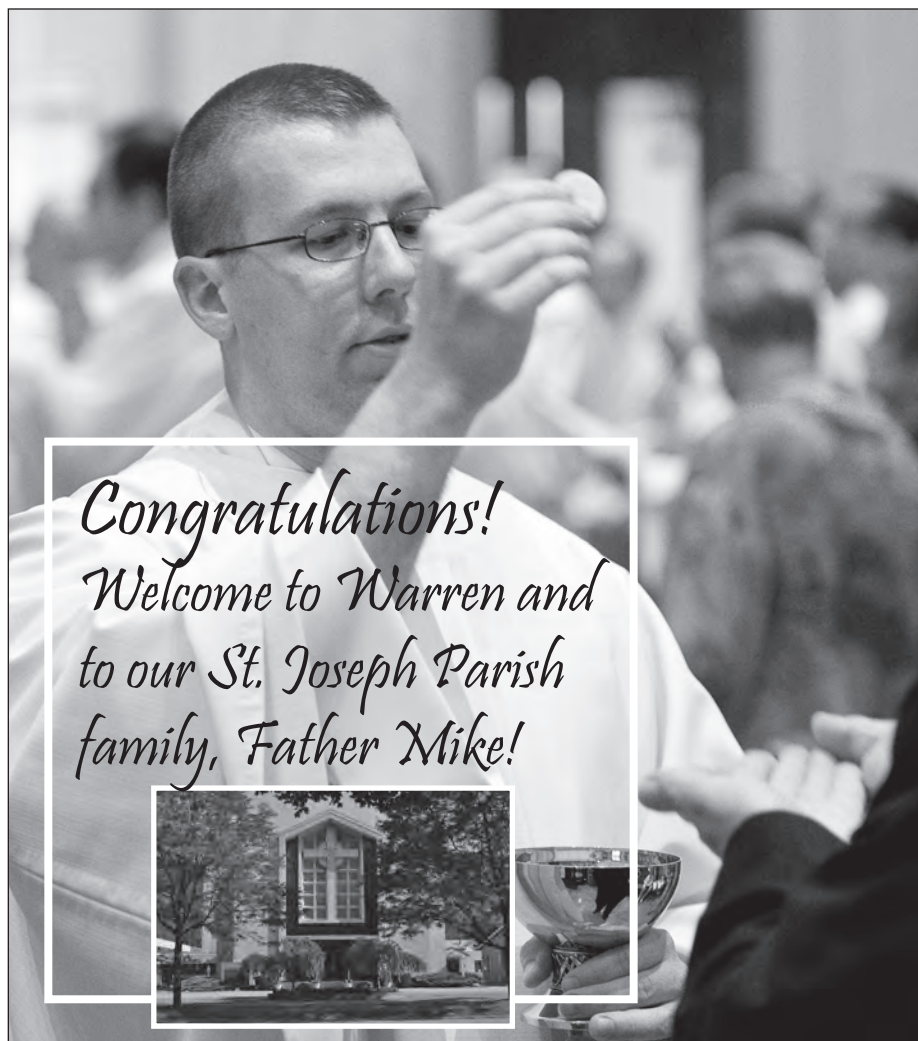
St. Joseph, Sharon

Senior associate:

St. Joseph, Sharon

Diocesan office:

Catholic Charities, director of development and proposal writing



*Congratulations!
Welcome to Warren and
to our St. Joseph Parish
family, Father Mike!*



Congratulations
Rev. J. Thomas Dugan
Pastor 1994-2007

The community of Holy Cross Parish in Fairview rejoices with you on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood.

Thank you for all you do in the service of God.

"May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you."

May there always be a purple mountain for you to climb and an angel to walk beside you!



Rev. Raymond Gramata

For 30 years, Father Raymond Gramata served as chaplain at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie. In that capacity, the Cleveland native was known for his loyalty and dedication to the sick and dying.

“Basically, you’re a messenger for Christ there,” Father Gramata says. “You’re not there to judge them; you’re there to walk with them in their pain—allow them to grieve, allow them to be angry. Much like the footprints in the sand story, you bring Christ to carry them through it.”

One particular encounter has stayed with him throughout the years.

“When I first went there in the ’70s, I had an urge to go to the pediatric floor at that time,” he recalls. “There was a kid there who said he tried to commit suicide. We talked about his pain, and he felt much better.”

What Father Gramata has learned as a chaplain he has carried with him into parish ministry.

“You have to be caring and you have to be available to people,” says Father Gramata, who is currently the pastor of St. Agatha Parish in Meadville. “You may have your schedule, but when that call comes, you drop everything to do the greater work of God. We can’t let our schedule rule our lives. We have to let God rule our lives.”

When he was a senior in high school, a classmate told him of his plans to go into the seminary.

“That got me thinking again about the priesthood,” Father Gramata says. “He dropped out and I stayed.”

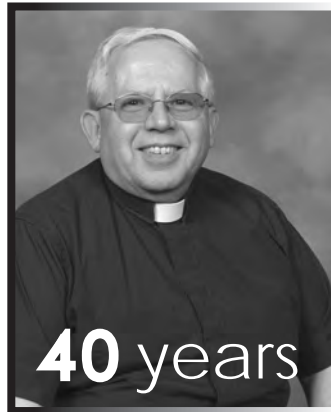
Throughout the years, he says he has been deeply touched by the faith of many people, but two priests played an important part in his life: Msgr. John Keating and Father Ralph Ciaiola, who were both pastors at St. Michael Parish in Greenville.

“They were two different personalities but both showed a deep love for Jesus and the gift of priesthood,” he says.

Father Gramata says one of the most vital issues facing the church today is self gratification.

“There is a need in America, it seems, that if I have a lot of possessions, I will be very happy,” he says. “But sometimes, like King Midas, we have to learn the hard way what is really important. Jesus keeps reminding us to build our treasures for heaven.”

My Inspiration: “The consecration of the Mass. At that moment, I am holding Jesus. I am reminded both that I am not worthy but more especially I am only the message bearer, not the message. The message is Christ.”



Chaplain:
Saint Vincent Health Center,
Erie
Warren State Hospital, Warren
Pastor:
St. Anthony, Sheffield
St. Agatha, Meadville
St. Bernadette, Saegertown
Parochial vicar:
St. Joseph, Warren
Diocesan board:
Presbyteral Council

Very Reverend John J. Detisch, V.F., and the people of Erie’s Sacred Heart Church give praise and thanks to our God for the 60 years of ministry, given by our native daughter, Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, S.S.J. And, we honor the 40 years of priestly service of our former co-pastors, Msgr. Robert Smith, V.G., and Fr. Phil Oriole.

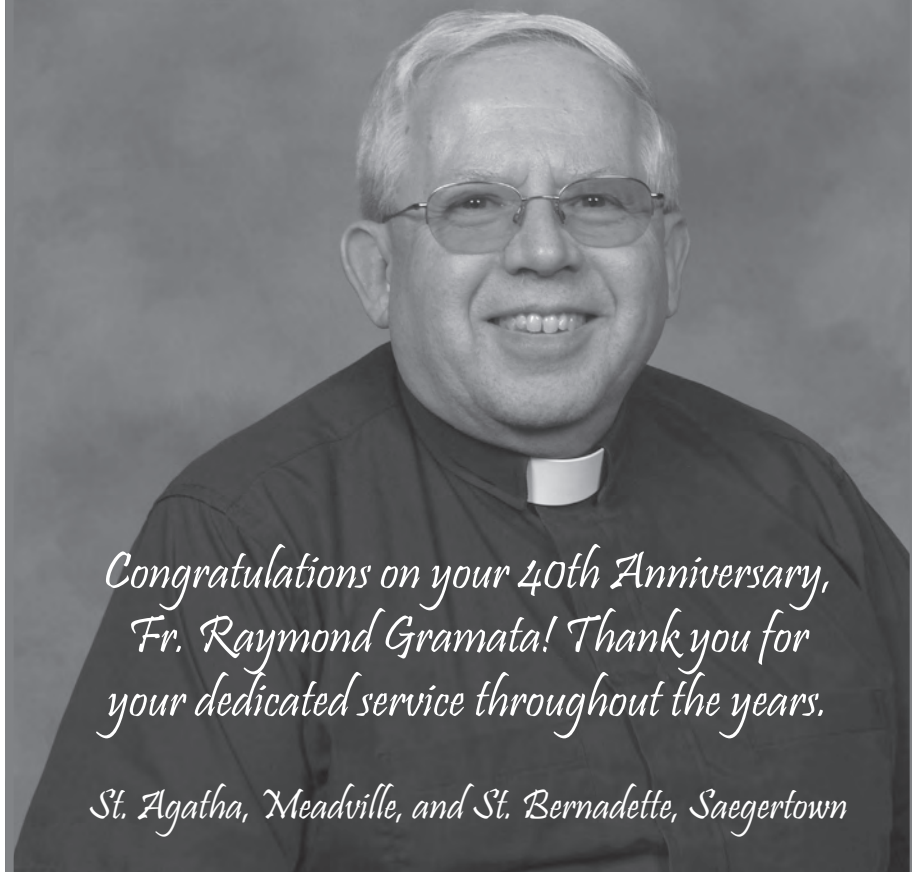


Congratulations Jubilarians!

John Ehrman's
Allburn Florists

1620 West 8th Street
Erie PA 16505
814-456-6211

God bless you



*Congratulations on your 40th Anniversary,
Fr. Raymond Gramata! Thank you for
your dedicated service throughout the years.*

St. Agatha, Meadville, and St. Bernadette, Saegertown

St. Raphael (Eldred), St. Mary (Sartwell) and St. Theresa (Shinglehouse) parishes congratulate and offer their prayerful support to Fr. Daniel Kresinski on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

God bless you for your faithful service.



*Saint Raphael
The Archangel*

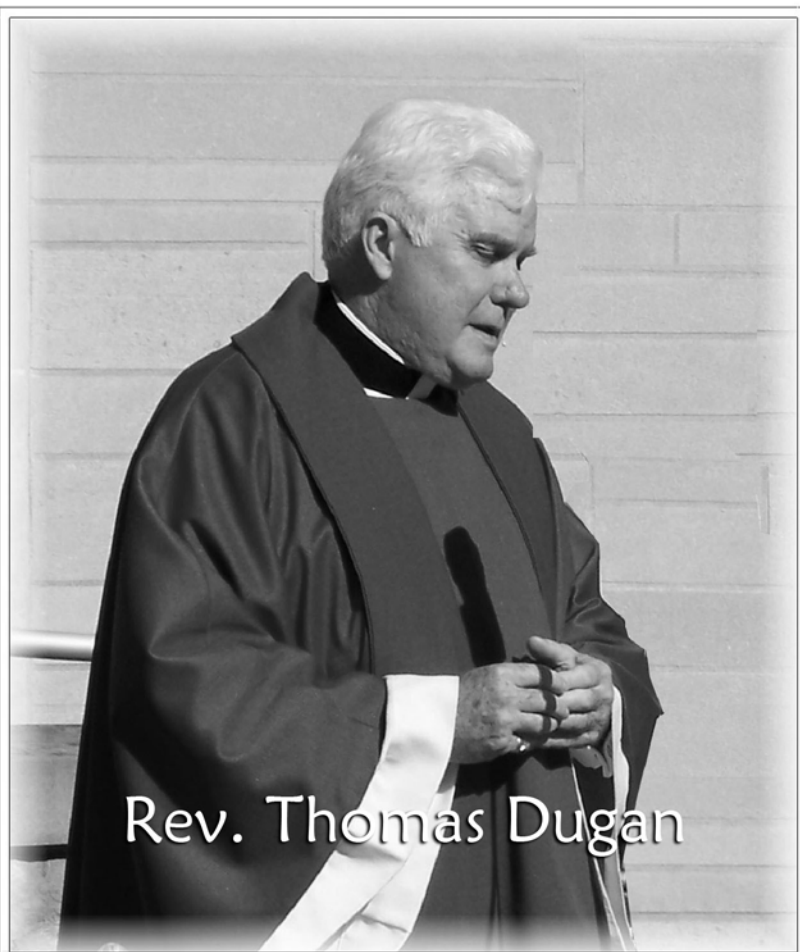


*Saint Mary,
Mother of God*



*Saint Thérèse of Lisieux,
The Little Flower*

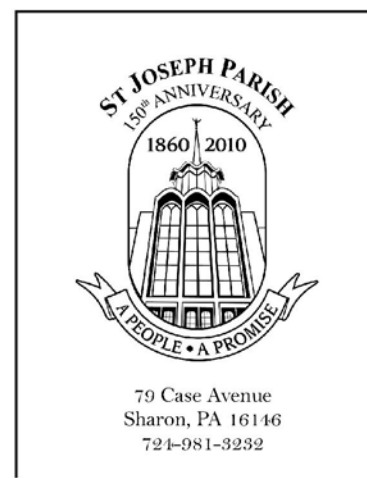
Ad multos annos!



Rev. Thomas Dugan

“Let what you teach be nourishment for the People of God. Let the holiness of your life be a delightful fragrance to Christ’s faithful, so that by word and example you may build up the house which is God’s Church.”

Rite of Ordination



With gratitude to God for your two “tours of duty” here.
The parish family of Saint Joseph, Sharon



MSGR.
ROBERT
REILLY,

*Congratulations and
God's blessings
on this huge milestone.
You have been a true
witness and faithful
servant. Our prayers
and best wishes from
your parish family.*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BROOKVILLE

Congratulations

to those who have been a part of our history:

Rev. Joseph Maryland - 70th Anniversary

Sr. Edith Langiotti, RSM - 60th Anniversary

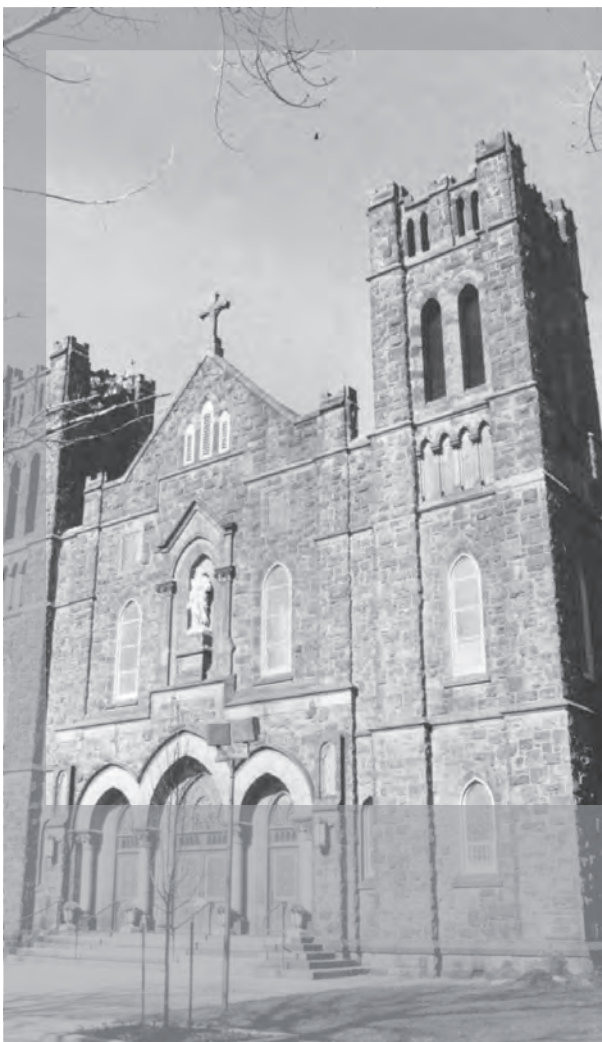
Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM - 60th Anniversary

Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM - 50th Anniversary

...and all the newly ordained



Ss. Cosmas and Damian Church
125th Anniversary 1885 - 2010
Punxsutawney, PA



*St. Andrew Parish congratulates
our Jubilarians, New Priests and Deacons.
We pray for your ministry and
thank you for the ministry
you have given to us and the church.*

Msgr. Robert Reilly
Rev. Thomas Dugan
Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ

Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ
Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ

Congratulations!

Rev. James Kennelley

Father James Kennelley first thought of entering the seminary in ninth grade.

It was 1959 and he was impressed with what he calls the special atmosphere of St. Bernard Parish in Bradford. The celebration of Mass, the Stations of the Cross and Benediction drew him to want to belong more personally to the center of the service.

“The mysterious harmony of Latin, incense and ritual were enticements to come closer,” Father Kennelley says.

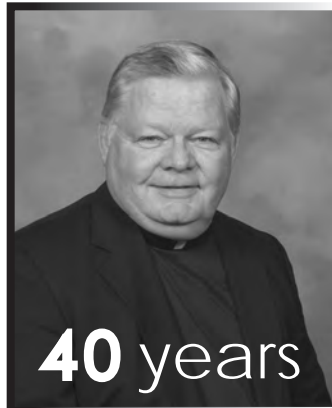
Since then, the church has shifted its paradigm through the Second Vatican Council.

“I remember going to the airport with the other seminarians from St. Mark’s to cheer and send off Archbishop (John Mark) Gannon as he flew the first leg of his journey to Rome for the opening of the council,” he recalls. “Several years later, I recall Cardinal (Joseph) Wright addressing us at St. Mary’s Theologate in Baltimore, trying to reassure us that regardless of the rumors to the contrary, the church was not going to change. Fortunately, he was in error.”

The church indeed changed greatly. For the past 45-plus years, the laity has become more integrally involved in administration and ministry, Father Kennelley says, while clergy have had to learn how to work more equally with religious and lay women and men.

In addition to his numerous parish assignments in the Diocese of Erie, Father Kennelley also served as headmaster at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys. After serving as headmaster for six years, he attended Penn State where he earned his doctorate in counselor education.

He has worked as a marriage counselor, individual therapist and drug and alcohol therapist and has conducted therapy programs at FCI McKean County.



Pastor:

St. Joseph, DuBois
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Mercer

Parochial vicar:

St. John the Baptist, Erie

Resident:

Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell

Secondary education:

Kennedy Catholic High School,
Hermitage

Elk County Catholic High
School, St. Marys

Administrator:

St. Joseph, DuBois

St. Benedict, Daguscahonda

Spiritual director:

Cursillo movement

Instructor:

Gannon University Outreach

Program, DuBois

Penn State

Mercyhurst College

He also chaired a successful \$2.25 million HUD grant for the building of Tushim Manor, an affordable housing residence for seniors in Mercer.

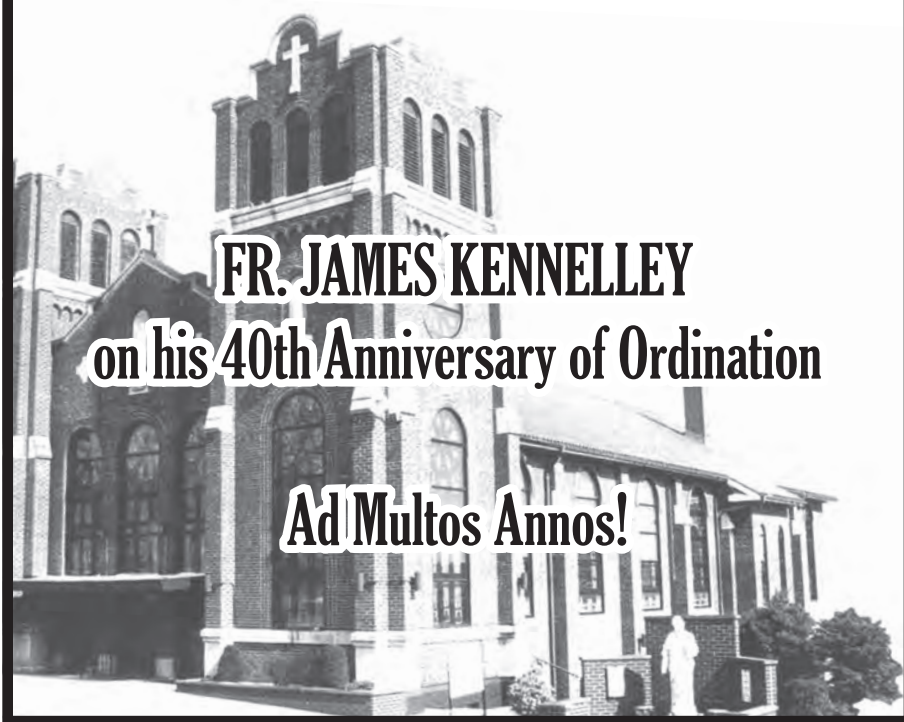
Father Kennelley currently serves as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mercer as well as a psychotherapist and drug and alcohol specialist at the Community Counseling Center in Hermitage.

He hopes that the Catholic Church in America digs in to live out the values and spirit of Vatican II more clearly.

“Among the vital issues facing Catholics today is the need to take more personally our spiritual development,” Father Kennelley says. “Expanding our experience of daily prayer, discovering the presence of Christ through meditation and contemplation, quietly but clearly witnessing the justice of the Gospel by our daily actions in overcoming prejudices, false pride and being of personal service to others in the name of Christ—all are challenges.”

My Inspiration: “When spirituality is encouraged from the pulpit and guided by small group reflection, there is a greater sense of community among the whole people of God.”

The Saint Joseph Parish
family of DuBois
congratulates our former pastor

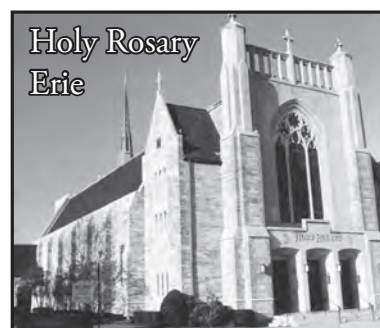


Congratulations Jubilarians!

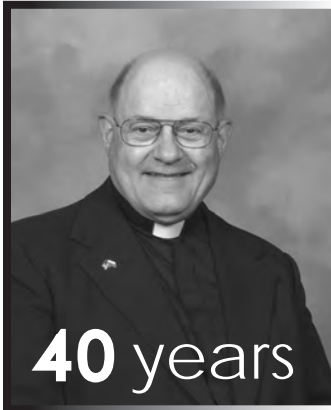
We are grateful you have served
our parishes and our school!

- Sr. Marjorie Adams, SSJ
- Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ
- Sr. Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ
- Sr. Hildegard Boxer, SSJ
- Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ
- Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
- Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ

- Fr. James Kennelley
- Fr. Philip Oriole - pastor, St. John's



Rev. Daniel Kresinski



Father Daniel Kresinski delights in his Polish heritage.

He was born on Oct. 16, a Polish feast day (St. Hedwig) and also the election date of Pope John Paul II, a Polish pope. He was ordained a priest on May 7, 1970. In that year, it was also Ascension Thursday but also—back then—the feast of St. Stanislaus.

Father Kresinski says he began to feel the call to the priesthood when he was in the fifth grade at his parish school, Assumption of the Blessed Mary (Wniebowzicie Najswietszej Maryi

Panny) in Oil City. He greatly admired the dedication and religious spirit of his teachers, the Felician Sisters from Coraopolis, Pa.

The summer after fifth grade, he began to go to daily Mass and continued the practice during the school years in grades 6-8.

“By the way, I was never an altar boy,” Father Dan notes. “I was asked in the third grade and replied, ‘Sister, I want to start at the top!’”

He mentioned his possible vocation to his parents in eighth grade, and they encouraged him to enter the seminary.

“They were very supportive, but I never felt pushed or pressured by them to remain in the seminary,” he says. “Every year they asked if I wanted to go back, and I kept saying, ‘Yes.’ Although some of my classmates agonized over the decision to become a priest, once I began in the seminary, I never had any serious doubts.”

He says his faith has been deeply touched and guided most by his mother, Bernice, who taught him his prayers in Polish before he went to school.

“Her attendance at daily Mass supplied much grace to support me,” he says.

At 93, his mother still attends many religious activities at her nursing home in Oil City.

Another influence has been his great-uncle, Father Maximilian Polaski, founding pastor of his home parish of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary in Oil City.

“He died in 1936, so I never met him,” Father Kresinski says. “He married my four grandparents and baptized my parents and most of my uncles and aunts. Besides hearing of him from my fellow parishioners, I have had parishioners in various assignments who remember him from their youth in other parishes where he served.”

Sister Narcissus (later Sister Louis) of the Felician order was his teacher in grades 7-8 and gave him prayerful support during his seminary years, and Msgr. James Peterson was vocation director and spiritual director at St. Mark Seminary at the time of his discernment.

“I have always admired his service to those on the edges of society,” Father Kresinski says.

In addition to his assignments in the Diocese of Erie, Father Kresinski also served the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle in Lima, Peru, from 1979-84. In Lima he was a member of the pastoral team at Parroquia San Ricardo (St. Richard Parish) and taught at Colegio Reina de las Americas (Queen of the Americas High School).

He is currently the pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Sharon and St. Adalbert Parish in Farrell.

If he had only one more homily to give, Father Kresinski says he would preach on his name, Daniel, which in Hebrew means “God is my judge.”

“I would remind people to say weekly, not weakly, ‘He will come to judge the living and the dead,’” he says.

Pastor:

St. Casimir, Erie
St. Stephen, Erie
Sacred Heart, Sharon
St. Raphael, Eldred
St. Mary, Sartwell
St. Theresa, Shinglehouse
St. Anthony, Sharon
St. Adalbert, Farrell
Holy Trinity, Farrell

Pastoral team:

St. Patrick, Erie

Weekend assistant:

Holy Trinity, Erie
St. Stanislaus, Erie
St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford
St. Agnes, Morrisdale
St. Mary, Frenchville

Secondary education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie
Bradford Central Christian
High School, Bradford

Administrator:

Immaculate Conception, Erie
St. Anthony, Sharon

Diocesan office:

Director, Mission Office
Director, Spanish Catholic
Apostolate

My Inspiration: “Jesus said, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’” – Matthew 28:19.
“It explained to me the catholic nature of the Catholic Church. This verse moved me to become a missionary in Peru for five years with the St. James Society. I have also very much enjoyed my assignments in parishes with very strong ethnic and racial identities: Polish, Peruvian, Irish, African-American, Hungarian, Croatian, German and Hispanic.”

The parishioners of St. Adalbert Church, Farrell, PA
and St. Anthony Church, Sharon, PA
congratulate Father Daniel J. Kresinski on his
40th anniversary, also to newly ordained
Deacon Richard Rueberger as he begins his ministry.

Thank you and God bless you both for your
commitment, dedication and faithful service
to God’s people.

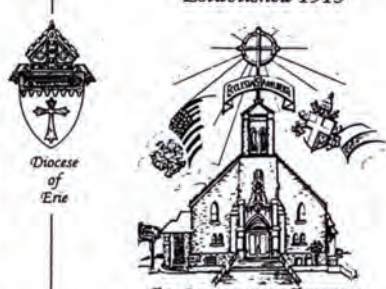
St. Anthony Parish
Established 1924



804 Idaho Street
Sharon, Pennsylvania 16146

Rectory: 724-342-7391
Hall: 724-346-9783
adanthy3@hotmail.com

St. Adalbert Parish
Established 1913



ST. ADALBERT CHURCH
1035 Fruit Avenue
Farrell, Pennsylvania 16121

Office & Rectory: 724-342-7391
Church Hall: 724-342-3321
adanthy3@hotmail.com

Rev. Msgr. Henry Kriegel

When Msgr. Henry Kriegel left Johnsonburg to attend what was then Gannon College, he had no thoughts of becoming a priest. In fact he began his academic career as an accounting major—a background that would end up serving him well throughout various assignments, but certainly not the traditional route to the priesthood.

Then again, there's not much that's traditional about Msgr. Kriegel. Those who've had the privilege of listening to his compelling homilies would agree.

"I like to be a bit on the edge with what I say," Msgr. Kriegel admits.

For instance, given the opportunity to reflect on what he considers to be a top priority for the church today, he says he'd like to see the church join the 21st century.

"We need to move beyond the structures and strictures that are binding us to meaningless reiterations and embrace and evangelize the modern world," he insists. He calls for leadership to respond with creativity, open-mindedness and the ability to embrace the modern world.

Msgr. Kriegel is deeply concerned about the future, especially for young people.

"They find no meaning in our rich tradition of faith," he says. Recognizing all that the Catholic faith has to offer, Msgr. Kriegel believes the church needs to be more progressive in the way formulas and doctrines are presented.

It's certainly not all gloom and doom from his perspective, however. On a personal level, he describes his latest assignment as pastor of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig parishes in Erie's inner city, as most fulfilling.

Pastor:
St. Francis Xavier, McKean
St. Jude the Apostle, Erie
St. Hedwig, Erie
St. Patrick, Erie

Administrator:
Mount Calvary, Erie

Parochial vicar:
Sacred Heart, Sharon
St. Joseph, Oil City

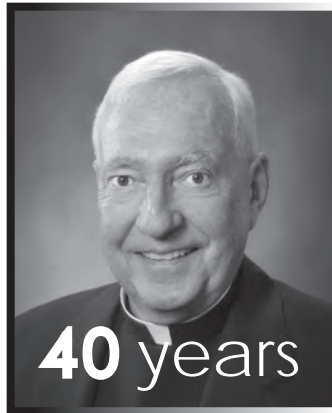
Weekend assistant:
St. Jude the Apostle, Erie
St. George, Erie

Diocesan office:
Director, Communications Office
Editor, *Lake Shore Visitor*

coffee and a daytime haven for the homeless.

As for those renowned homilies, "I love to preach," he says, simply. Msgr. Kriegel is also committed to fostering fraternity among his brother priests in the diocese, and frequently hosts dinners or arranges gatherings so they can relax and enjoy each other's company and find the strength they need for their ever-changing, ever demanding roles.

It was the very fellowship, joy and example of the priests who taught him at Gannon that first drew him to the priesthood; he especially remembers Fathers Jim McCullough and Tex Hilbert and Msgrs. Homer DeWalt and Bud Yehl among those who inspired him. He also still draws strength from the life of Msgr. Larry Antoun, whom he met in the early '70s and refers to as the finest priest he ever knew.



"Years later, I watched him in his illness and suffering, and I never saw a human being so patiently accept suffering as he did," Msgr. Kriegel says.

Many will remember Msgr. Kriegel as the editor of the *Lake Shore Visitor*, a position he held from 1976 to 1986, an era during which he covered the deaths of Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul I, the election of Pope John Paul II as well as the episcopacy of Bishop Michael Murphy.

"Bishop Watson asked me to evaluate the newspaper from a number of standpoints," he says. "So I made my recommendations and next thing I knew he was congratulating me as the new editor. I didn't even know how to type!"

But he threw himself into the position wholeheartedly and helped bring communications in the Diocese of Erie into the modern era, not only with new equipment but also with a new approach, focused more closely on the local church. He has been a champion of the transition to *Faith* magazine and *Faith-Life*, an approach he believes has clearly met the challenges of evangelization.

This evening, Msgr. Kriegel will be back at the keyboard, this time in his capacity as pastor and this time connected to a computer. After all, it will be Sunday night, time to start working on next week's homily.

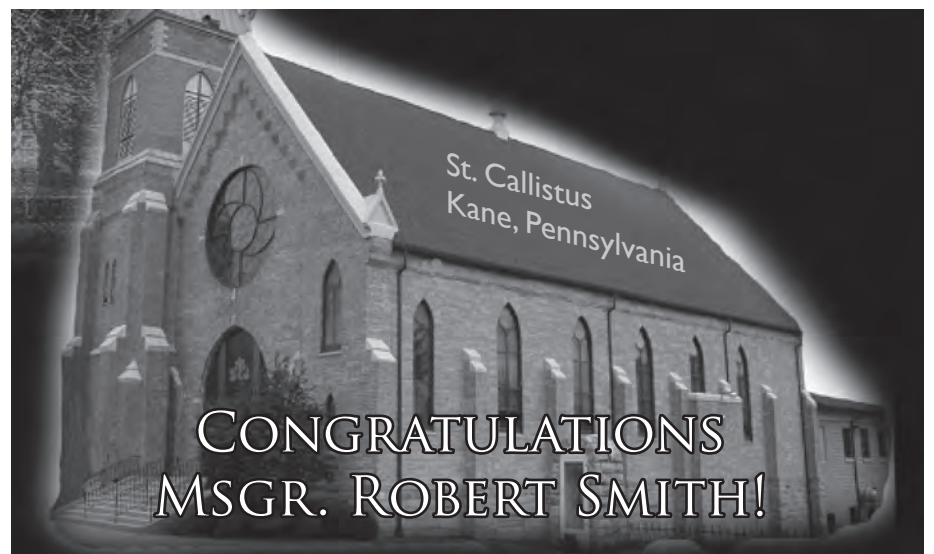
My Inspiration: "I am inspired by anything from Luke's Gospel—that all-forgiving Jesus who waits to heal us and forgive us."

ERIE CURSILLO OFFICE CONGRATULATES

Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ
Sr. Mary Lou Oslick, RSM
Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM
Sr. Mary Elaine Sandy, RSM
Sr. Judith Bohn, OSB
Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM
Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ



Msgr. Henry Krebs
Msgr. Richard McGuire
Msgr. Robert Smith
Fr. Thomas Dugan
Fr. Ray Gramata
Fr. James Kennelley
Fr. Philip Oriole



Rev. Philip Oriole

A native of Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren, Father Philip Oriole started to recognize his call to the priesthood during religious education classes for public school students.

"I always felt encouraged to seek information about priesthood," Father Oriole recalls.

The sermons of Father John Burke, a weekend sacramental assistant from Gannon University, and Father William Maloney sparked his interest. Upon completing the entrance exam, he transferred to St. Mark Seminary's high school program at the beginning of the 10th grade.

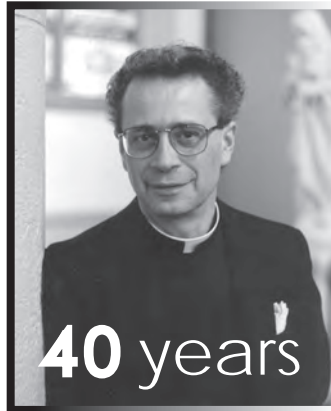
"The constant support and encouragement from active members of the laity, my family and friends always strengthened my response to God's call with hope and with possibility," Father Oriole says.

Throughout his life and priesthood, Father Oriole says a number of people have inspired him.

"The Cursillo movement has helped me understand the many colors of God's grace as observed in the joys and blessings, heartaches and sorrows of the people I have served since Cursillo No. 33," he says.

His spirituality is influenced by St. Francis of Assisi, as taught by the Franciscan priests at Christ the King Seminary and St. Bonaventure University, and inspired by singer-songwriter John Michael Talbot who lives out the spirituality of St. Francis through his music, writings and community living at Little Portion Hermitage in Arkansas.

He is also motivated by Catherine de Hueck Doherty, co-founder of Madonna House, a training center for the lay apostolate in Combermere, Ontario,



Pastor:

St. Eusebius, East Brady
St. Richard, Rimersburg
St. John the Baptist, Erie
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Erie
Mount Calvary, Erie
St. Lawrence, Albion

Parochial vicar:

St. Bernard, Bradford
St. Michael, Greenville
Notre Dame, Hermitage
St. Thomas the Apostle, Corry
Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro

Resident:

St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Administrator:

St. Venantius, Rouseville
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City
St. John, Tidioute
St. Anthony, Tionesta

Campus minister:

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Thiel College, Greenville
Edinboro University

Chaplain:

Erie County Prison
State Correctional Institution-Albion

Canada, and author of "Poustinia."

Among the most vital issues facing the church today, Father Oriole says we will continue into this century as a "humbler church" but still the bride of Christ.

"We may not know precisely the future image, but we cannot be afraid and resign ourselves to despair," he says.

If he had just one more homily to give, he would focus on Psalm 62: "Only in God is my soul at rest."

"Many years ago, while working on our family Irish-Italian genealogy—rendering me 'Gaelic and garlic'—I stumbled upon the Irish crest and motto of the Dillon family, which

said, 'Dum spiro, spero—While I breathe, I hope,'" he says. "In light of the heartaches our family knew in the past, in light of the joy and heartaches I have witnessed in ministry to God's people, the motto expresses a confidence we find only in God's grace and mercy."

My Inspiration: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot; I will gather you together from all the nations and all the places to which I have banished you, says the Lord, and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you."

– Jeremiah 29:11-15

*The Corry Catholic Community,
St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
St. Elizabeth Church and St. Thomas School
extend congratulations to the following jubilarians:*

Rev. Philip Oriole

Sr. Ann Prisco, RSM

Sr. Mary Elaine Sandy, RSM

Sr. Domenica DeLeo, RSM

KNOW WHAT YOU
ARE DOING,
AND IMITATE THE
MYSTERY YOU CELEBRATE:
MODEL YOUR LIFE
ON THE MYSTERY
OF THE
LORD'S CROSS."
(ORDINATION RITE)



**CONGRATULATIONS
REV. PHILIP M. ORIOLE!**

ST. LAWRENCE, ALBION

Congratulations Jubilarians!

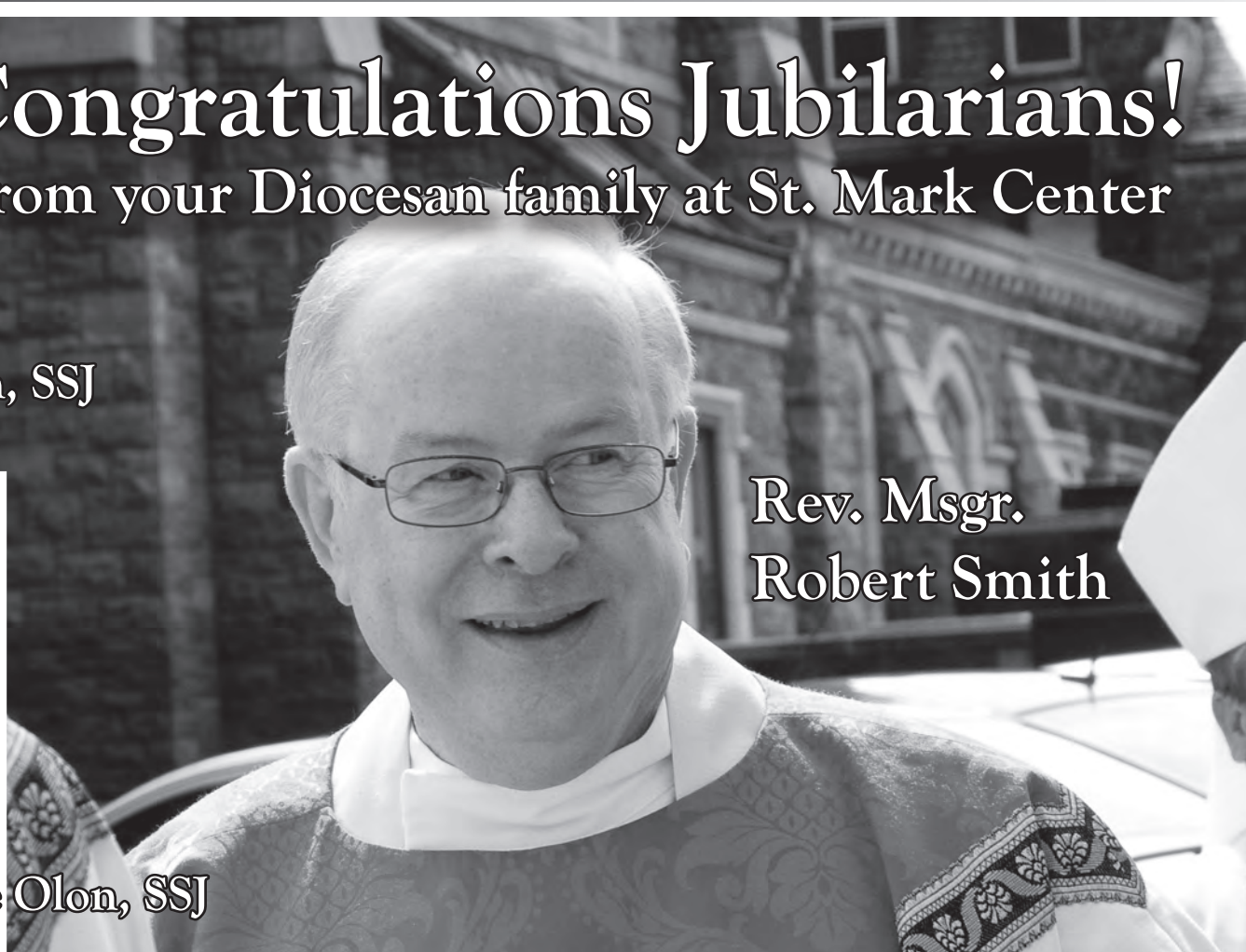
From your Diocesan family at St. Mark Center



Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ



Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ



Rev. Msgr.
Robert Smith

Msgr. Richard McGuire

Congratulations on 50 years of priestly service. We have been blessed to have had you as pastor for 25 of those years. God bless you.

St. Julia Church, Erie



Rev. Msgr. Robert Smith

Msgr. Robert Smith has worn a number of different hats over the years during his ministry in parish life and diocesan administration.

As an administrator in the Chancery, he has worked directly under three bishops and currently serves as the diocese's vicar general. He has been the director of the diocese's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program since its inception in 1994, guiding candidates on their way to becoming deacons of the church.

Also, Msgr. Smith has headed the diocese's Office for the Protection of Children and Youth since its beginning in 2001. Under his guidance, the office is charged with inservicing and training and implementing diocesan policies and procedures. Annual audits have found the diocese to be in complete compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI named him Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary, which is the highest rank of monsignor.

There are a number of figures who helped Msgr. Smith call forth his vocation. "My parents were models of faith—devout Catholics who loved the church and whose lives of faith profoundly influenced me and my brothers and sister," he says. "Next to the grace of God, they deserve the credit."

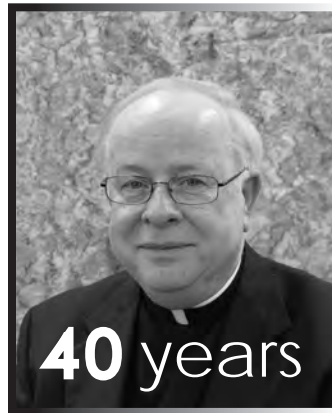
The Benedictine Sisters who staffed St. Joseph grade and high school, particularly Sister Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB, were also helpful in discerning the call. Among the priests he lists are Msgr. Henry Schauerman, Father Bill Maloney, Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell, Father Ted Carter and particularly, Father Frank Kaltenbach.

"It was Father Kaltenbach who pulled me aside my senior year and said, 'You should go into the seminary,'" Msgr. Smith recalls. "He sort of gave me the kick I needed."

His sister Mary, better known as "Mar," has been a key figure in his vocation. "She has lived her faith with great integrity," Msgr. Smith says. "She was very supportive personally, prayerfully and financially of me during my years in seminary formation and my brothers while in college. She has been a steady companion to all of us and for her we thank God."

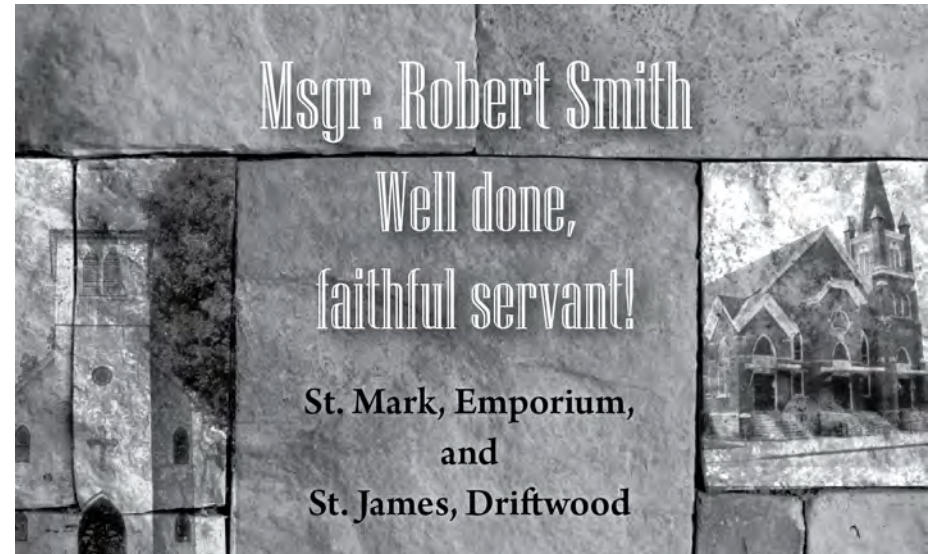
His advice to young women and men today is to give God a fair hearing in their lives.

"Maybe he's calling them to a vocation to the priesthood, vowed religious life or the diaconate," Msgr. Smith says. "I would suggest that they read and become familiar with the lives of the saints. The saints have much to tell all of us about how to live. They were 'flesh and blood people' like us who over time and some, with a measure of struggle, gave over their lives to Christ. Their journey of faith in many ways mirrors our own. Each has been, to quote Pope John XXIII, 'holy in different ways.' So are we called to holiness in different ways."



Among the most vital issues facing the Catholic Church today, Msgr. Smith says, are the labels people attach to one another.

"Besides the matter of sexual abuse by clergy which has done irreparable harm to the faith of our people, harmful too have been the tensions and divisions among the Catholic faithful—the passion of recent time of people labeling others as liberal or conservative, orthodox or unorthodox, pre-Trent or post-Trent, pre-Vatican or post-Vatican," he says. "The resultant polarization has created a division in the church that flies in the face of Christ's priestly prayer in the Gospel of John, chapter 17. We would all do well to read and prayerfully meditate on Jesus' words."



Pastor:

Sacred Heart, Erie

Parochial vicar:

St. Callistus, Kane
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Weekend assistant:

Sacred Heart, Erie

Director:

Priest retirement residence
Permanent diaconate program
Clergy personnel office

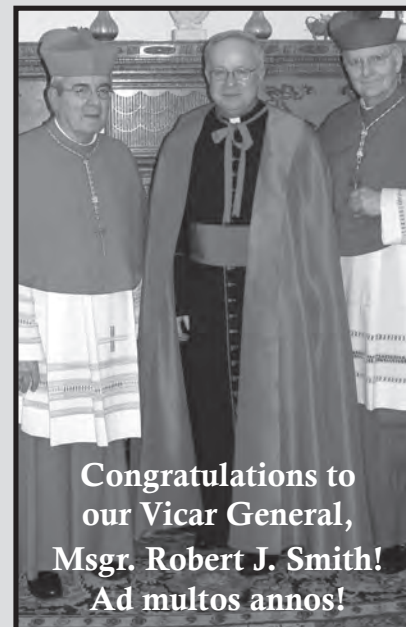
Diocesan offices:

Secretary to the bishop
Vice chancellor
Chancellor
Dean of Erie Central Deanery
Vicar of Northern Vicariate
Vicar general

Diocesan boards:

Priests' Personnel Board
Presbyteral Council
Bishop's College of Consultors

My Inspiration: "I have lots of favorite Scripture passages. The one that tops the list can be found in Matthew 9:12: 'Go and learn the meaning of the words—it is mercy I desire and not sacrifice.' Christ addressed these words to those who complained that he ate with tax collectors and sinners—those they and others deemed unworthy to talk to let alone eat with. Blind to their imperfections, these folks obviously had no sense of, need for or experience of God's mercy in their own lives, therefore, showed little mercy for others."



Congratulations to our Vicar General, Msgr. Robert J. Smith! Ad multos annos!



St. Joseph est. 1864



Assumption est. 1899

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Smith

Native Son of St. Joseph

Rev. Daniel Kresinski

Native Son of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rev. Michael Polinek

Transitional Deacon at St. Joseph (2009-2010)

Rev. Philip Oriole

Administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1991-1992)

Rev. Msgr. Henry Kriegel

Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph (1971-1976)

Sr. Miriam McMullen-Pastrick, OSB

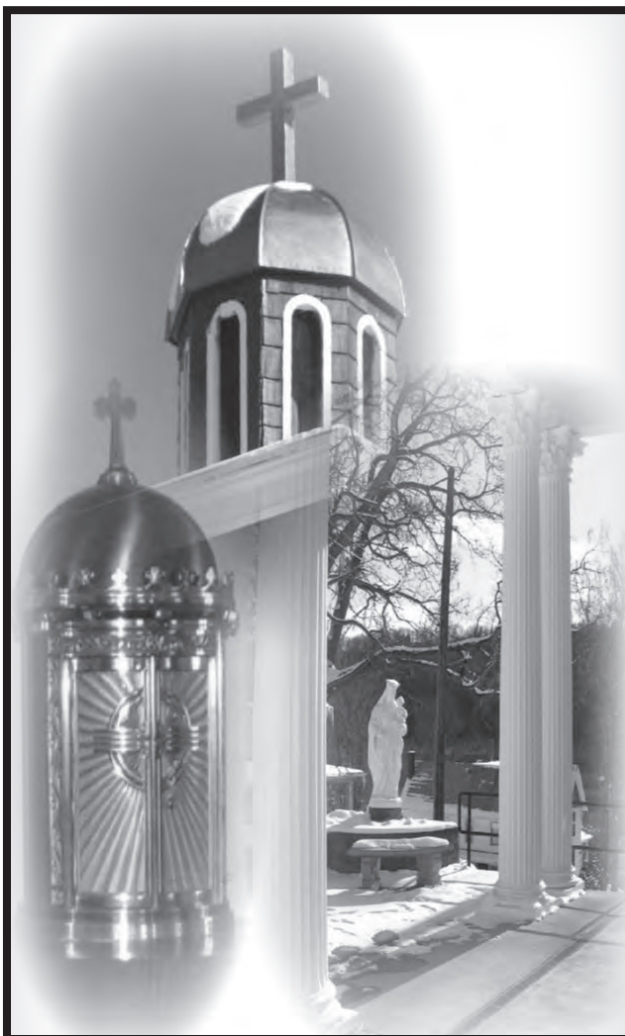
St. Joseph High School (class of 1958)

Sr. Jean Wolbert, OSB

St. Joseph High School (class of 1957)

God's abundant blessings to our Jubilarians!

Fr. Justin P. Pino and the Oil City parish families of St. Joseph and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

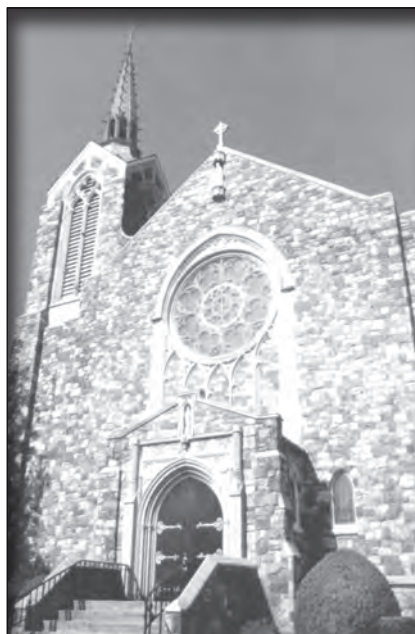


The parish family of
Saint Michael the Archangel, DuBois
congratulates

MONSIGNOR HENRY KREBS
on his 50th Anniversary
of Ordination

Your Angels Love You!

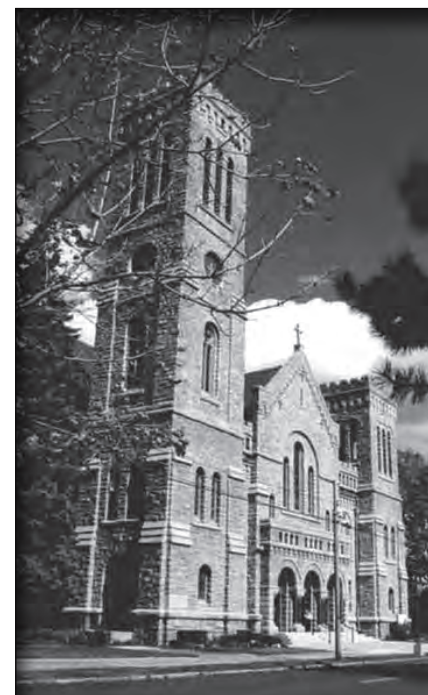
St. Patrick and St. Hedwig Parishes of Erie congratulate **Sr. Karen Kosin, OSB**, native daughter of St. Hedwig's, on 50 years as a Sister of St. Benedict; also to **Srs. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ, and Hildegard Boxer, SSJ**, on their anniversaries of 60 years in religious life and in appreciation for their years of service at St. Patrick's School.



Both parishes offer prayerful wishes and congratulations to **Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel** on the 40th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. With gratitude for your inspiration and dedication to the parishioners of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig parishes.

Also, **Rev. Daniel Kresinski**, who was the director of the Spanish Apostolate at St. Patrick's, on his 40th Anniversary.

May God continue to bless their lives.



Sr. Mary Ann Luke, OSB



One of the hallmarks of Sister Mary Ann Luke's ministry has been doing whatever comes to her.

She was part of the staff of the Pax Christi USA national office when it moved to Erie.

"That was a start-up," she recalls. "Their headquarters were in Chicago. They wanted (Sister) Mary Lou (Kownacki) to be the director, but she didn't want to go to Chicago. So they moved here."

Sister Mary Ann was also part of the staff of the Erie Community Food Bank in its earliest days. Today it is known as the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. She worked under executive director Sister Augusta Hamel, OSB,

when the Benedictine Sisters of Erie agreed to become the food bank's sponsor.

"Sister Augusta was the one who developed the whole thing," Sister Mary Ann says. "I just did whatever came to hand."

Sister Mary Ann is a native of St. Gregory Parish in North East. She attended the local public schools and received a bachelor's in chemistry and biology from Villa Maria College, Erie.

Sister Mary Ann taught at St. Benedict Academy and then entered the

My Inspiration: "Prefer nothing whatever to Christ. And may He bring us all together to life everlasting!"
– Rule of Benedict, Chapter 72

Benedictine Sisters of Erie for a short time. She is remembered as a serious teacher dedicated to instilling a lifelong love of science and nature in her students.

Teacher:

St. Benedict Academy, Erie

Staff member:

Pax Christi USA

Erie Community Food Bank

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Writer, *The Mount*

"I knew this community for a long time, and the way they lived seemed to me to be a good way to live," she says. "I was familiar with the community and the prayer life and the kindness and generosity of the sisters since I was a youngster."

Several members of the Benedictine community proudly remember her as a teacher who cared about her students and challenged them to use their full potential

in their educational endeavors as well as in life.

She then worked in several commercial areas for some time and enjoyed travel in these years, especially in western North America, in the mountains and along the coast.

Sister Mary Ann returned to the community in 1984 and made her perpetual monastic profession on Aug. 26, 1989.

More recently, she has been part of the administrative staff at Mount St. Benedict Monastery. She serves as a writer for *The Mount* magazine and uses her skill in composing the sisters' obituaries. Sister Mary Ann's ability to capture the essence of a person's life in a few sentences is truly a gift from God.

Sister Mary Ann is also known as the "bird keeper" for her care of the community's three pineapple conures (small parrots) which reside in the Sunset Room of the monastery.

Sr. Margaret Zeller, OSB

There are certain aspects of being part of a religious community that Sister Margaret Zeller, OSB, just loves.

"There will always be someone who will encourage you and challenge you," she says. "You can't get away with just coasting."

She says she feels personally responsible to contribute to the community atmosphere.

"There's no place, I don't think, where I can develop my skills better or where I'll be more challenged and accepted than in this community," she says.

Sister Margaret is a native daughter of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Rapid City, S.D.

She attended the parish schools and earned a bachelor's degree in French at Mundelein College, Chicago; a master's in elementary education, with emphasis in social studies; and a second master's in learning disabilities at Clark College, Dubuque, Iowa.



Teacher:

St. Benedict Academy, Erie

Mercyhurst Prep, Erie

Villa Maria Academy, Erie

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Community librarian

Staff member:

Glinodo Center, Erie County

Erie Community Food Bank

For a time, Sister Margaret was a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Dubuque.

She taught in Oregon, Illinois and Iowa. In Iowa she was an itinerant teacher, educational strategist and a special education consultant.

The seeds for Sister Margaret's vocation were planted early on in her life. "I came from a family of eleven," she says. "All my life, I was thinking of it. My family was faith-filled and encouraged vocations. It was kind of part of me growing up."

She also has a brother who is a priest.

Sister Margaret came to Erie and entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie in 1984, making her perpetual monastic profession on Aug. 26, 1989.

"I really wanted the experience of living in a community," she says. "I have found that very specifically in the Benedictine community. That's our main charism."

She was an early staff member and board member at the Erie Community Food Bank (now Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania) and taught at St. Benedict Academy and Villa Maria Academy. For several years she was a member of the Glinodo Center staff and coordinated its hospitality.

Sister Margaret is now the community librarian and often assists with various retreat programs.

"People say I'm very patient," she says. "I enjoy being able to find things for people."

My Inspiration: "The thing that got me moving—I was living by myself, had a house—was the book, 'No More Plastic Jesus' by Adam Daniel Finnerty. It talked about how Jesus is not a plastic statue that you put on your dashboard. He's someone you have to follow, someone you have to be. When I put that book down, I thought, 'I have to do something.'"

***Congratulations
Fr. Matthew Strickenberger!***

*From all the parishioners
of St. Stephen, Oil City*



New life for the church

Five new priests ordained for the Diocese of Erie

After ordaining five new priests for the Diocese of Erie, Bishop Donald Trautman, referred to the enthusiasm in Rome during the election of a new pope.

When the college of cardinals elects a new pope, a cardinal appears on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square and joyfully announces to the crowds below and to the world, "Habemus papam," a Latin phrase meaning, "We have a pope." The waiting is over. People applaud and a thunderous ovation goes heavenward.

"Tonight, with the same joy and excitement, I announce to you, we have five new priests," Bishop Trautman said from the pulpit, resulting in a nearly minute-long ovation for the newly ordained fathers.

On June 11, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bishop Trautman ordained the five men to the priesthood for the diocese in front of an overflow crowd of priests, deacons, women religious, family, friends and well wishers at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The new priests, followed by their home parish, include:

- Father Christopher Barnes (St. Venantius, Rouseville)
- Father Michael Polinek (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie)
- Father Ross Miceli (St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois)
- Father Matias Quimno (All Saints, Waterford)
- Father Matthew Strickenberger (St. Stephen, Oil City)

Prior to the ordination rite, Father Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary in Erie, presented the candidates to the bishop and the assembly.

Bishop Trautman directed his homily toward the transitional deacons who were seated in front of his cathedra chair. He noted that in Rome on the very same day, Pope Benedict XVI and thousands of priests from all over the world were celebrating the close of the Year for Priests. This special year also marked the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

Recalling St. John Vianney's humble surroundings in the village of Ars in France—including the



Bishop Donald Trautman ordained five priests on June 11 making it the Diocese of Erie's largest ordination class since 1991. Pictured, left to right, are: Father Matthew Strickenberger, Father Ross Miceli, Bishop Trautman, Father Michael Polinek, Father Matias Quimno and Father Christopher Barnes.

(Photo by Tim Rohrbach)

small church confessional where he heard confessions for 11 to 12 hours a day—Bishop Trautman said it was the saint's simplicity, sincerity and holiness of life that reconciled many hardened hearts to God.

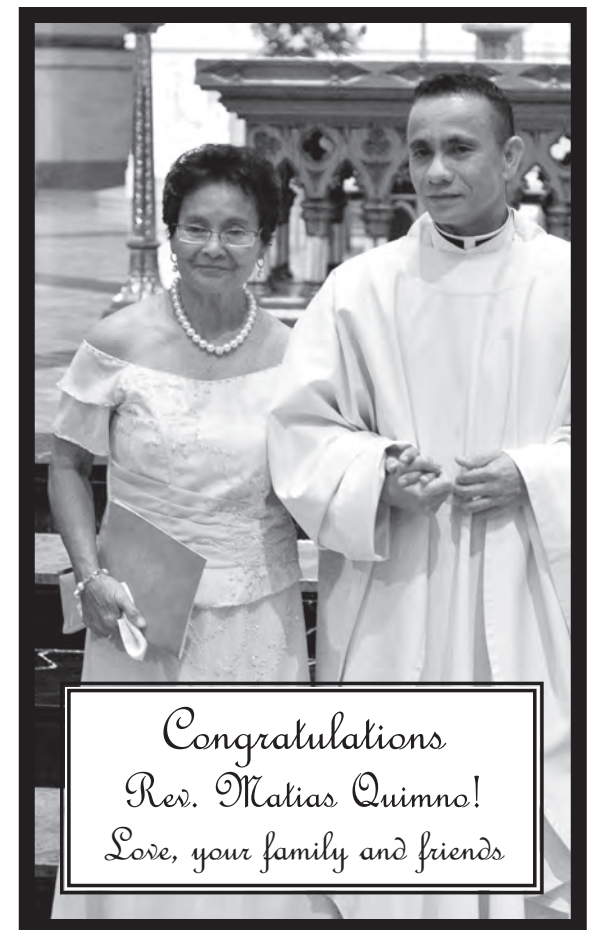
"That was 150 years ago," he said. "The times and the cultures are now vastly different. But the challenges are the same for the priests of Ars and the priests of Erie. How do we bring the Scriptures and the sacraments to our contemporary brothers and sisters? How do we touch their hearts? We learn from John Vianney. Stay bonded. Stay connected to Christ. Prefer nothing to Christ. Preach Christ, not yourself. Learn from John Vianney to fast and pray for your people. This night, the Lord Jesus sends you on the same mission that John Vianney had—to sanctify and teach and shepherd God's people."

He told the newly ordained not to become discouraged, adding that the gift of the Holy Spirit is more than sufficient for the task ahead.



God Bless You Father Michael

Love Mom, Christine and Mike



*Congratulations
Rev. Matias Quimno!
Love, your family and friends*



The bishop recalled the first Scripture reading for the evening from Ezekiel 34:11-16 which spoke of God as a shepherd.

“Jesus is the shepherd caring for his flock, laying down his life for his people,” he said. “This is your job description. This is your mission, your ministry as priests and co-workers of Christ the Good Shepherd.”

On the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bishop Trautman said that the Sacred Heart is a graphic reminder that in spite of our sinfulness, the heart of Jesus throbs with love and forgiveness.

“Knowing how much Christ loves you is the motivation and support for a joyful priesthood and a joyful celibate life,” he advised the candidates. “Knowing how much Christ loves you is the source of all faithfulness. Where can we find better inspiration, better help and better guidance to be good priests than in the heart of Jesus? The greatest love you shall ever experience comes from the heart of Jesus.”

After the homily, the candidates expressed their intentions to be faithful to the bishop, the worship life of the church, the Gospel and Christ followed by a promise of obedience.

During the Litany of Saints, the candidates laid prostrate on the cathedral’s marble floor in front of the altar, symbolizing their total surrender and dependence on Christ.

Through the imposition of the bishop’s hands, they each received the gift of priesthood. During the laying on of hands, the gift of the Holy Spirit is invited to come upon the new candidates in abundance. This was followed by the prayer of ordination, which along with the laying on of hands, constitutes the most solemn moment of the ordination ceremony. Together they signify the conferral and reception of the sacrament of holy orders from Christ, through the bishop, to the priest.

Sponsoring priests then vested the newly ordained with a stole and chasuble.

The hands of the new priests were also anointed with sacred chrism oil to enable them to engage in the sacramental ministry in a totally committed fashion.

Following Communion, Bishop Trautman gave some remarks from the

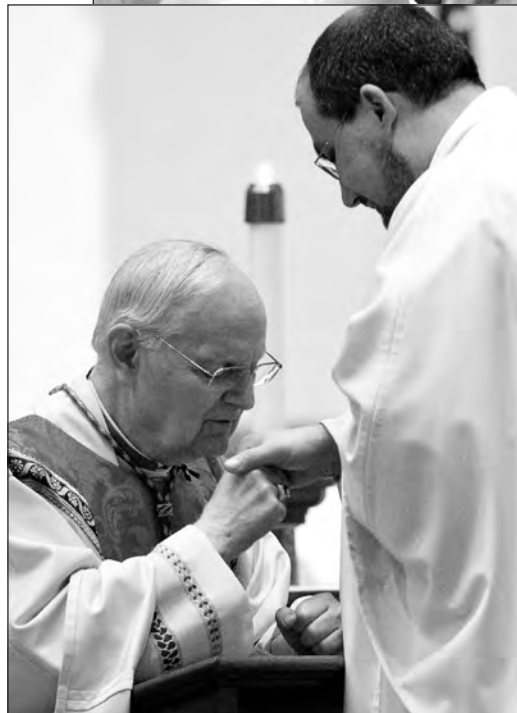
pulpit.

“The Lord has given new life to his church,” he said. “All praise and gratitude be to our God. In the name of these new priests and in my own name, I thank all of you for your presence and prayers with us tonight.”

He recognized the classmates of the newly ordained priests and others who traveled, some a great distance, to share in the ordination Mass and ceremony.

“One person has traveled, however, the greatest distance,” he said. He then recognized Paulita Quimno, mother of Father Quimno, who came from the Philippines and had not seen her son in five-and-a-half years.

He also acknowledged the priests and women



religious in attendance, as well as the parents of the newly ordained.

“With God, they gave not just life but the gift of faith to their priest sons,” he said.

At left, the new priests join in during the Eucharistic Prayer at their ordination Mass. Below, clockwise from top left: Father Ross Miceli receives his vestments from Msgr. Richard Siefer, his sponsoring priest; during the Litany of Saints, the priest candidates lay prostrate on the cathedral’s marble floor in front of the altar, symbolizing their total surrender and dependence on Christ; Bishop Donald Trautman receives a blessing from Father Matthew Strickenberger.

(Photos by Tim Rohrbach)



Congratulations to Father Michael Polinek

from St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community
Erie

During the June 11 ordination Mass and ceremony, Bishop Donald Trautman announced the parish and ministry assignments for the five newly ordained priests:

Father Christopher Barnes - Parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish in Greenville.

Father Ross Miceli - Campus minister and faculty member at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys with residence at St. Leo Magnus Parish in Ridgway.

Father Michael Polinek - Parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Warren.

Father Matias Quimno - Chaplain at DuBois Regional Medical Center and as sacramental assistant for the parishes of the DuBois Catholic community.

Father Matthew Strickenberger - Parochial vicar at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Erie.



Congratulations to
Msgr. George Adams
Msgr. Robert Smith
Msgr. Henry Krebs
and
Rev. Ross Miceli
on your
joyful celebration!

from
Christ the King Manor
1100 West Long Ave.
DuBois, PA
(814) 371-3180



CONGRATULATIONS!

Fr. Matias Quimno,
May God continue to bless you
now and always!

St. Agatha, Meadville &
St. Bernadette, Saegertown



CHRISTO SERVIRE

*Our love and prayers are with you as you
continue this incredible journey.*
Congratulations, Fr. Matt - Mom and Dad

Congratulations, **Rev. Chris Barnes!**



We are proud of you!
From all the parishioners at St. Venantius, Rouseville

A ministry of charity

Six permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese of Erie

New life has come to the church in the Diocese of Erie in form of six new permanent deacons.

Bishop Donald Trautman ordained six men to the permanent diaconate during a Mass and ceremony May 21 at St. Peter Cathedral in front of a crowd of relatives, friends, priests and deacons.

The new deacons include: Richard Brogdon (St. Jude the Apostle, Erie); Fred Keck (Holy Rosary, Erie); Doug Konzel (St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie); Dick O'Polka (St. Patrick, Franklin); Rick Rueberger (St. Anthony of Padua, Sharon); and Dennis Socash (Ss. Peter and Paul, Hawk Run).

For the past four years, these men have participated in the diocese's Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, an instruction of academic, spiritual and pastoral formation. They will begin serving their respective parishes immediately as they await their ministry assignments from the bishop.

Bishop Trautman gave his homily directly to the deacon candidates who were seated in front of him at the cathedra. By sharing in the sacrament of holy orders, "You become accountable in a new way in the building up of God's kingdom on earth," Bishop Trautman said. "The Lord sends you tonight on a mission of service to his people."

He then explained that the tri-fold ministry of the permanent diaconate is the service of the Word, the altar and charity. Deacons proclaim the Gospel message, which includes preaching and teaching. Their service at the altar includes ministering at the Eucharist but also witnessing marriages, baptizing, presiding at wakes and funerals, conducting prayer services and bringing the Eucharist to the sick and dying.

"The service of charity is the principal theme, the essential meaning of your discipleship as deacon," Bishop Trautman said. "The service of charity entails serving the poor and marginalized, caring for the sick and the imprisoned, bringing Christ to the forgotten and the abandoned. Like St. Francis the deacon, you are to bring Christ's love and truth to the alienated and outcast."

After this class was admitted to the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, there was a break in the program for a period of three years.

"This was done in an effort to look at what we had done since our beginning and where we needed to go in terms of altering the program," said Msgr. Robert Smith, vicar general, who oversees the diocesan permanent diaconate program.

The break was also an opportunity to make sure the program was in line with the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, a docu-

ment promulgated by the U.S. bishops in Nov. 2004 which addresses the model standards regarding formation.

"Quite honestly, much if not all that we were doing fit in well with the bishops' current directive for formation," Msgr. Smith said. "There were some consultative bodies that we needed to put in place, which we were in the process of doing anyway. Our current program reflects what it is that the bishops are asking in terms of diaconal formation."

Additions to the diocesan program include a Deacon Council and a Deacon Personnel Board, both of which function comparatively to the diocesan Presbyteral Council and Priests Personnel Board. A mentoring program has also been put in place which assists newly ordained deacons in their first three years of ministry. An admissions committee, which includes several deacon couples, is part of the effort to admit new candidates to the program.

The program has accepted 15 aspirants who will begin studying in September.

Approximately 15,000 deacons minister in the U.S. The six newly ordained deacons bring the

total in the Erie Diocese to 65, an impressive number for a program that began in 1994.

"One of the advantages of the deacon program has been putting in a Catholic presence where we did not have that kind of ministerial presence before," Msgr. Smith said.

He noted that all prisons in the diocese have a diaconate presence. Other places include convalescent homes and outreach centers to the poor and marginalized. They also spearhead a number of ministries that involve married couples including Engagement Encounter, Retrouvaille and fellowship of the divorced and separated.

Deacons are meant to be a complement to the ministry of the priest, Msgr. Smith said; they are not meant to take the place of lay ministry of the church but rather to encourage it.

"All charity begins at the altar," he said. "It is the Eucharist that feeds us with the body of Christ and in turn we are to feed our brothers and sisters physically and spiritually, as well. And deacons do that in their ministry."



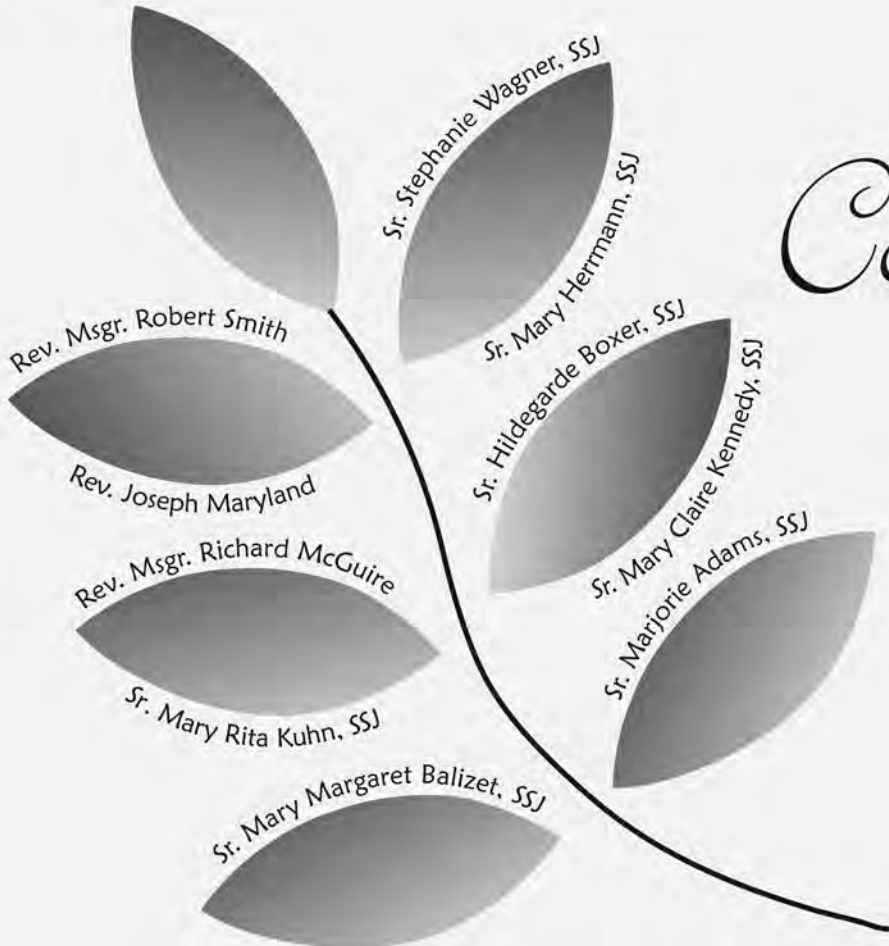
Six men were ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Erie on May 21 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Pictured (left to right) are Deacons Doug Konzel, Fred Keck and Dennis Socash, Bishop Donald Trautman and Deacons Dick O'Polka, Rick Rueberger and Richard Brogdon.



*Congratulations
to our
Fubilarians*

*Rev. Msgr. George Adams
Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, S.S.J.
Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, S.S.J.
Rev. Msgr. Henry Krebs
Rev. Ross Miceli*

St. Francis of Assisi
Clearfield




Rev. Msgr. Robert Smith
Rev. Joseph Maryland
Rev. Msgr. Richard McGuire
Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ
Sr. Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ

Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
Sr. Mary Herrmann, SSJ
Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ
Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ
Sr. Marjorie Adams, SSJ

*Congratulations
 Jubilarians...*

and thank you for your part
 and dedication in our
 Mission of "Loving to Care."



Saint Mary's Home of Erie

Gannon University's Board of Trustees, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students Congratulate

Priests

Rev. J. Thomas Dugan '66
 Rev. Raymond Gramata '64
 Rev. James Kennelley '68
 Rev. Msgr. Henry Kriegel '66
 Rev. Ross Miceli '06
 Rev. Michael Polinek '06
 Rev. Matthew Strickenberger '00

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Richard O'Polka '72

Sisters of St. Joseph

Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ '64VMC
 Sr. Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ '66VMC
 Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ '66VMC
 Sr. Mary Herrmann, SSJ '65VMC
 Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ '62VMC
 Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ '50VMC
 Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ '60VMC, '68M
 Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ '62VMC
 Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ '62VMC
 Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ '68VMC

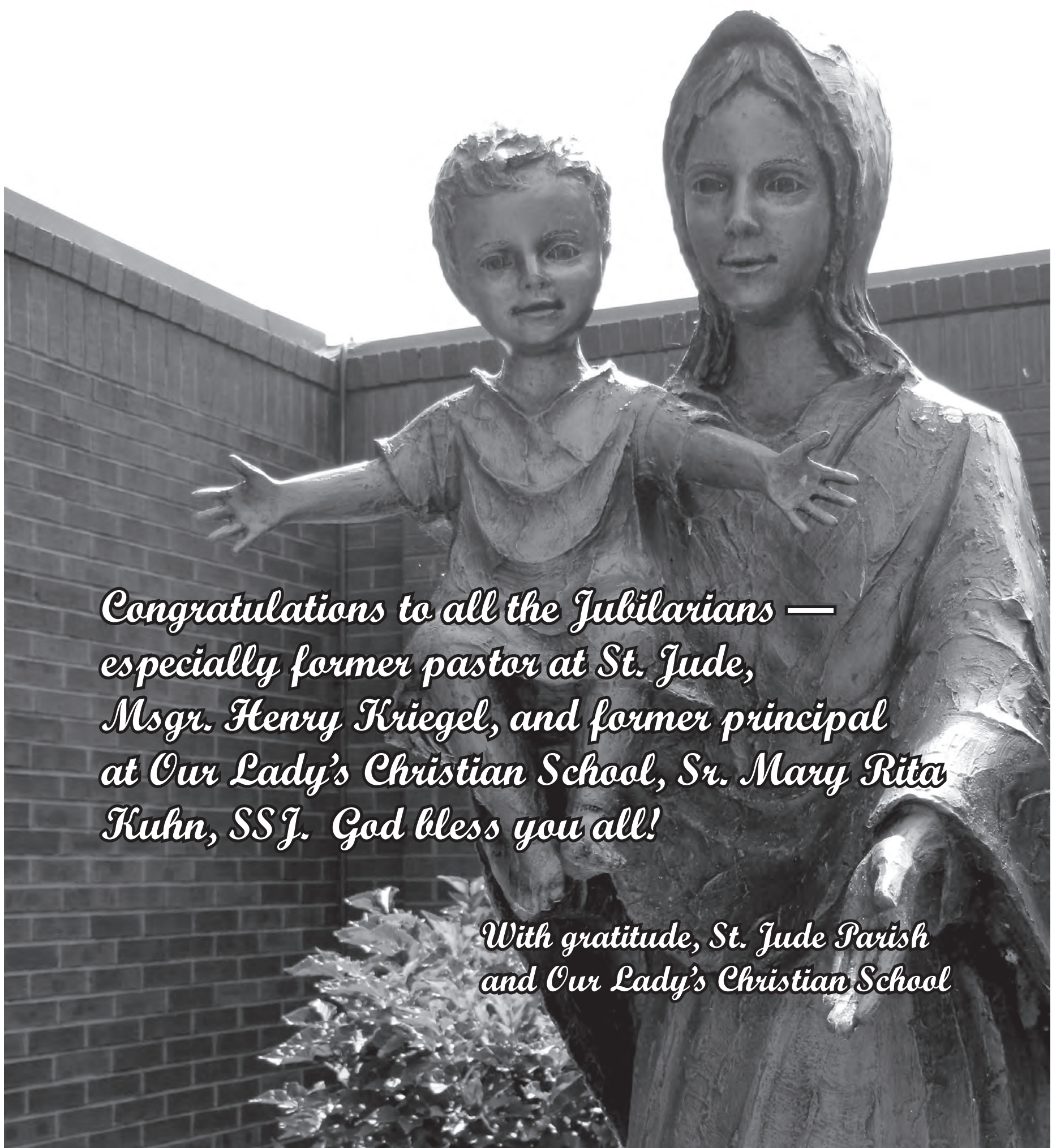
Benedictine Sisters

Sr. Audrey Berdis, OSB '94M
 Sr. Mary Ann Luke, OSB '54VMC

...on their respective Jubilees.

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Congratulations to all the Jubilarians — especially former pastor at St. Jude, Msgr. Henry Kriegel, and former principal at Our Lady's Christian School, Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ. God bless you all!

*With gratitude, St. Jude Parish
and Our Lady's Christian School*

Women of spirit, courage and vision

Sisters of St. Joseph mark 150 years of service in the Diocese of Erie

Uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God has been at the heart of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania for 150 years.

And while the times might change, the mission will always remain the same.

The Sisters of St. Joseph are marking a historic jubilee of 150 years of service in the Erie Diocese and the 13 counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

“The hope is that this is really a year of thanksgiving for all the gifts we have been given and the people who have journeyed with us and have supported us in our ministries,” said Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ, a member of the congregation’s leadership team. “It’s a year of gratitude and jubilee.”

The community traces its beginning to the mid-17th century and Le-Puy-en-Velay, a village in France. Mother Agnes Spencer, who founded the local congregation, was one of the first sisters to arrive in the United States. She traveled from Philadelphia to Wheeling, W. Va., to Canandaigua, N.Y., to Buffalo and anywhere she was needed.

“She had strong character to answer the call of bishops up and down the East Coast,” said Sister Leonie Shanley, SSJ.

Sister Leonie, along with Sister Mary Francis Becker, SSJ, are authoring and designing “Come to the Waters,” a book on the history of the congregation which will be released in October.



Saint Vincent Hospital, 1950s

Bishop Joshua Young invited Mother Agnes to the Diocese of Erie in 1860 when she began direction of the St. Ann’s Academy for Girls in Corsica.

Within 20 years after the sisters’ arrival in the diocese, more than 2,000 students were under their instruction. The care of orphans and the sick shortly followed, first in Meadville, then in Erie. They founded Spencer Hospital, Meadville; Saint Vincent Hospital, Erie; Saint Vincent School of Nursing; St. Mary’s Home of Erie; Villa Maria Academy, Elementary School and Villa Maria College among numerous other ministries. They staffed schools throughout the diocese as well as St. Joseph Orphanage and Harborcreek Home for Boys.

“The ministries were very broad right from the beginning with very few sisters,” Sister Leone said.

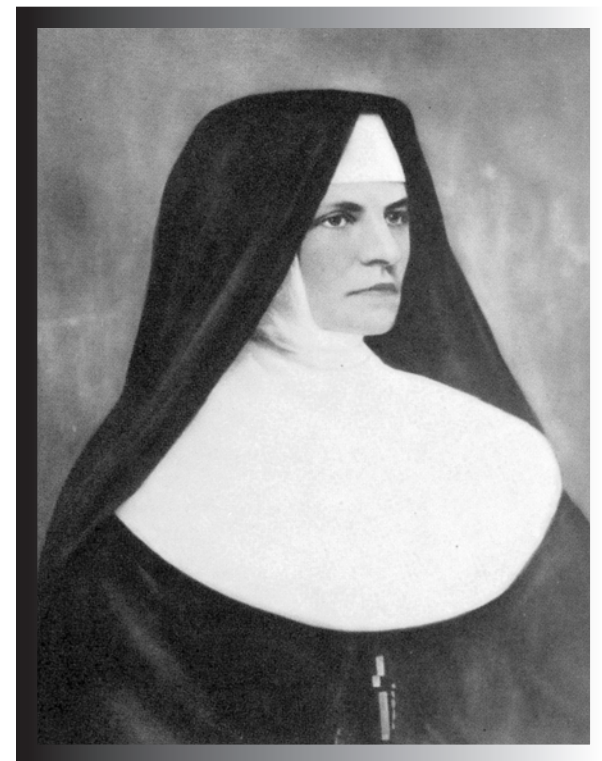
In the late 1800s, she noted that the administration of Saint Vincent, St. Joseph’s Home, Villa Maria Academy, St. Mary’s Home and a number of diocesan schools were under the care of just 35 sisters.

The Sisters of St. Joseph continue to be involved in health care and caring for the elderly, and education is still an important ministry, said Sister Mary Ellen.

“I don’t see the mission changing,” she said. “We’re always open to new ministries and meeting the needs of people. We’ll continue to be involved in the care of our neighbors wherever that leads.

During this anniversary celebration, Sister Mary Ellen said the sisters look forward to connecting and re-connecting with those they have ministered with and to throughout the years. They plan on holding events at places where they have had key ministries, including Bradford, Sharon, Meadville and Ridgway.

“Reconnection is a key to all of this,” Sister Mary Ellen said. “We’re a very relational group. It is neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God.”



Mother Agnes Spencer, SSJ, was the first superior of the congregation in Northwestern Pennsylvania.



Congratulations Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ!

Well done, faithful servant!

*From the parishioners at St. Mark, Emporium,
and St. James, Driftwood*

SSJs highlight anniversary year with special events

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are marking their 150th anniversary with a number of special events. The anniversary is also being acknowledged during the congregation's annual endeavors. For details, visit www.ssjerie.org.

Anniversary Mass and reception – May 23

More than 800 sisters, associates and friends attended an anniversary Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie followed by a reception at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Wreath laying ceremony – May 29

Community members visited Trinity and Calvary cemeteries in Erie and St. Ann Cemetery in Corsica where 455 deceased Sisters of St. Joseph are buried.



Dedication and open house – June 26

The sisters unveiled the congregation's new administration building, which is located adjacent to the sisters' Community Living Center in Erie.

Summer concerts – July 30-31

The Erie Chamber Orchestra hosted summer concerts on the lawn at Villa Maria Academy.

Circle of Friends – Aug. 15

An annual summer highlight, the day includes an outdoor liturgy, picnic supper, children's games and activities and duck races.

Book release and signing – Oct. 15

"Come to the Waters," a book on the history of the community, will be released with a book signing at the sisters' Community Living Center.

SSJ Spirit of Courage – Oct. 5

This annual event honors individuals who have shown remarkable courage in recovery from an accident, injury, illness, addiction, economic adversity or who have shown courage in another way.

The sisters will also host appreciation events over the next several months at locations throughout the Diocese of Erie including Crawford, Elk, Erie, McKean and Mercer counties.



Our Mother of Perpetual Help (Lewis Run),
St. Bernard (Bradford) and St. Francis,
(Bradford) extend congratulations to

Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
Fr. James Kennelley
Fr. Daniel Kresinski
Sr. Carol Wilcox, SSJ
Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ
Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ



Blessed Sacrament of Erie congratulates

Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ
Sr. Mary Margaret Balizet, SSJ
Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ
Rev. Msgr. Homer C. DeWalt
Sr. Agnes Marie Hughes, SSJ
Sr. Stephanie Wagner, SSJ
and all the newly ordained!

FOR EVERY BABY BORN,
EVERY HEART HEALED,
EVERY CAPABILITY RESTORED,
EVERY AILMENT CURED,
EVERY PASSING MADE LESS PAINFUL,
EVERY SPIRIT UPLIFTED,
EVERY LIFE SAVED,
WE RECOGNIZE, WITH RESPECT AND REVERENCE
THOSE WHO MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE...
OUR FOUNDERS,
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH.

ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY,
SAINT VINCENT HONORS AND THANKS THE
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF NORTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA FOR INSPIRING US TO BRING
GOD'S HEALING LOVE TO ALL.

SAINT
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Congratulations Jubilarians!

40 Years

Rev. Daniel Kresinski

50 Years

Msgr. Henry Krebs '56

60 Years

Sr. Marie Paul Ashworth, SSJ '50
Sr. Hildegarde Boxer, SSJ '50
Sr. Mary Rita Kuhn, SSJ '50
Sr. Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ
Sr. Geraldine Olon, SSJ
Rev. Msgr. Homer C. DeWalt

65 Years

Rev. Msgr. Robert Reilly

