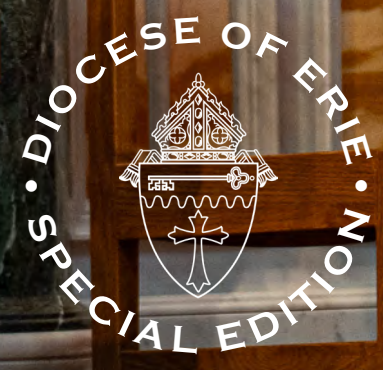


*The Most Reverend
Edward M. Lohse*

**THE FIFTH BISHOP OF THE
DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO**



AUGUST 20 • 2023



In speaking of the ministry of bishops,
Pope Francis has said
a bishop needs to take up different places
among the pilgrim people of God:
sometimes he will need to be in front, to lead,
sometimes he will need to be in the middle, to encourage,
sometimes he will need to be at the back,
to make sure that no one is left behind.

*But always, the bishop is making the journey
with the whole pilgrim people.
We are all on the way to the kingdom together,
and we are all called to be instruments
of the tender love of God.*

— BISHOP EDWARD M. LOHSE
HOMILY DURING THE FAREWELL MASS
ST. PETER CATHEDRAL, ERIE
JULY 12, 2023

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, in union with
the clergy, religious and faithful of the diocese, will continue to accompany

Bishop Edward M. Lohse, JCD

in prayer as he becomes

Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo



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Bishop Persico looks on as Bishop-elect Lohse speaks at the farewell Mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie. Read more on page 18.

THE MOST REV. EDWARD M. LOHSE SPECIAL EDITION

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Bishop Lohse reflects as he sits on a tractor at his family's farm in McKean. Read more in his personal interview starting on page 13.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone



Gannon University extends best wishes to Bishop Edward Lohse '84, as he begins his ministry as Bishop of Kalamazoo, Michigan. We offer gratitude for his 34 years of priestly service in the Diocese of Erie, as well as for his service on Gannon's Board of Trustees.

"May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment."





God Bless Bishop Lohse

*May you feel God's gentle hand shepherding you in your new role.
You will always have a home at St. Peter Cathedral.*



The Biography: BISHOP EDWARD M. LOHSE

PHOTO / Vince Dragone



The Most Rev. Edward Mark Lohse, JCD, was born in Erie, Pa., on November 23, 1961. He is the son of the late Edward L. and the late Ida E. (Dedrick) Lohse, and the sixth of seven children in the family.

He grew up in McKean, just outside of Erie, where his family belonged to St. Francis Xavier Parish.

He attended Our Lady of Peace Elementary School in Erie and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School, also in Erie, in 1980. He studied for the priesthood first at St. Mark Seminary while attending Gannon University in Erie, where he earned his BA in history, *summa cum laude*, in 1984. He then received a Masters of Divinity at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., graduating with highest honors in 1987, before completing his studies for the priesthood there a year later.

Bishop Lohse was ordained a deacon at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Corry, Pa., on October 22, 1988. He served in the same parish while he was a seminarian, a deacon and then a parochial vicar between 1987 and 1990. He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Michael J. Murphy on April 21, 1989, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Early in his priesthood, he was assigned to the faculty and Campus Ministry Office of DuBois Central Catholic Middle and High School in DuBois, Pa., serving there from 1990 to 1995. During that time, he also was an adjunct faculty member for Gannon University. In 1995 he was appointed as vocation director for the Diocese of Erie, a position he held for five years, and which he held again from 2002 to 2010. During the time between those two assignments, Bishop Lohse studied canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, earning his licentiate in canon law, *summa cum laude*, in 2002.

Throughout that same period, the bishop became involved with broader administrative duties for the Diocese of Erie through his appointment as assistant chancellor from 2001-2002, vice-chancellor from 2002-2007 and chancellor from 2007 to 2010.

At this point, his path took a significant turn when the Holy See appointed him as an official of the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, Italy, an assignment that lasted from 2010 through 2015. While in Rome, he also became an adjunct faculty member at the Pontifical North American College and studied for his doctoral degree in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He received the degree, *summa cum laude*, in 2016.

He returned to Erie at the end of 2015, having just been named a Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title of Monsignor. Bishop Lawrence Persico appointed him episcopal vicar for canonical services for the Diocese of Erie in 2016, a position he held for one year before being named director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, moderator of the *Curia* and vicar general, all in 2017. He held those three positions until his appointment as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mi. His latest additional assignment was pastor of St. Julia Parish in Erie in 2022.

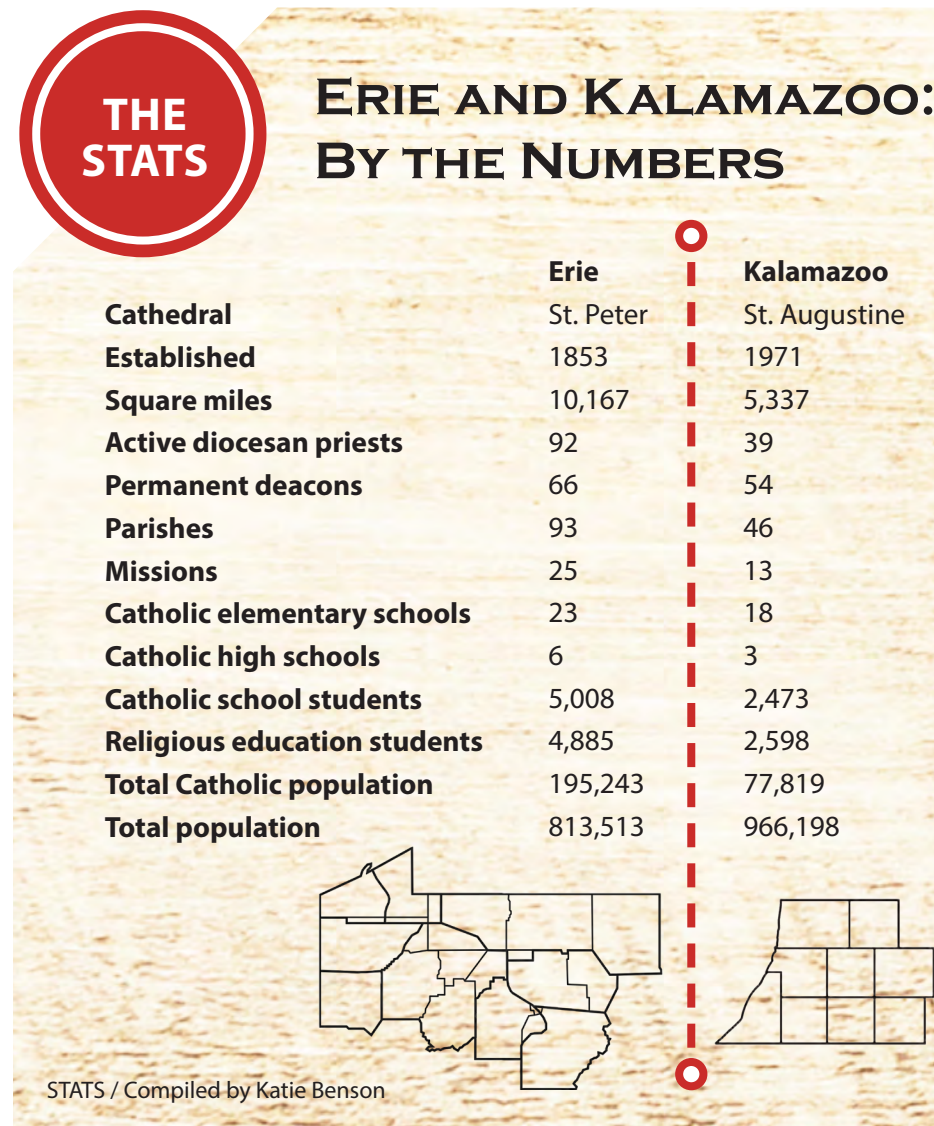
Bishop Lohse was a member of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors for 13 years between 1995 and 2010. He continues to hold membership in the Canon Law Society of America and the Eastern

Regional Conference of Canonists. He also served on the St. Vincent Seminary Board of Regents in Latrobe from 2003 to 2010 and on the Gannon University Board of Trustees from 2016 until his appointment as bishop.

He is the author of numerous articles for professional journals and periodicals on topics ranging from canon law to the priesthood. His doctoral dissertation, *Restricting the Right of the Faithful to Enter a Church for Divine Worship: Law and Jurisprudence*, was published by the Gregorian University in Rome. He received the Msgr. James F. Murphy Award for Excellence in Philosophy from Gannon University in 1984 and the *Diakonia* Award for service from St. Vincent Seminary in 1987. In 2010, St. Vincent Seminary awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, and six years later, named him an Alumnus of Distinction.

In his spare time, the Bishop Lohse counts gardening, traveling and enjoying the outdoors among his interests.

Bishop Lohse was named the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mi., by Pope Francis on May 23, 2023. He was ordained and installed as bishop at a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Augustine in Kalamazoo on July 25, 2023.



Appointment Day: THE NUNCIO'S CALL

First Mass after the news: Bishop-elect Lohse tells his parish how he learned he was to become bishop

It is hard to comprehend what unfolds once a priest receives the call from the *nuncio* — the pope's representative — telling him the Holy Father has appointed him to become a bishop and asking him if he accepts. Perhaps the word "tsunami" captures it. Suddenly, life for a bishop-elect becomes a jumble of everything from logistics and scheduling to a range of emotions and the rearrangement of priorities. All while he's trying to wrap his head around the news.

“

**I HAVE LOVED BEING HERE.
AT THE SAME TIME, I LOOK FORWARD
TO THE NEW MINISTRY.”**

Bishop Edward M. Lohse, ordained a priest for the Diocese of Erie in 1988 and appointed vicar general, moderator of the *curia* and director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in 2017, received the call on May 6. Looking at his phone and not recognizing the number, he decided it must be spam. Later that evening, he ignored another call from the same number.

"I thought, 'Who keeps calling me from Washington, D.C., and not leaving a voice message?'" he said in retelling the story upon his return from the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mi., where the announcement that he would become their fifth bishop had been made.

The morning after he received the two calls, he offered Mass at St. Julia Parish, Erie, where he serves as pastor. Sure enough, he received a third call during the Mass. Deciding someone must actually be trying to contact him, he headed to the rectory to return the call. Before getting there, however, his phone buzzed with a text message from the same number.

"Monsignor Lohse, this is Archbishop Christophe Pierre, *nuncio*," it read. "Please call."

So when people ask about the call, the bishop said, "Technically, I called the *nuncio*!"

During the first weekend Mass the bishop-elect offered at his parish once the news had become public, he acknowledged he was leaving with mixed emotions.

"You know how much I have loved being here," he said, pausing to collect himself. "At the same time, I am excited for the new ministry."

He then told parishioners about the advice he often gave during his time as vocations director for the diocese as well as in his work as a spiritual director for seminarians at the North American College in Rome, which he took on during his five-year assignment with the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy.

"I always told them, whenever the Lord calls, and whatever he asks, it doesn't matter what it is, there is only one acceptable answer. It is always, 'Yes,'" he said. "You might have to wrestle with it for a while. But God is patient. When he calls, it doesn't matter how much it costs. The answer must always be, 'Yes.'"

So there was never any question how Bishop Lohse would respond to the assignment from the Holy Father, relayed to him through the apostolic *nuncio*.

"As a diocese, we rejoice at this honor for one of our fine priests," Bishop Lawrence Persico said in a statement announcing the appointment. "It is a testament to the clergy of the Diocese of Erie. Although it is difficult to lose one of our priests, who has served with great faith, wisdom and hope, we rejoice with the church of Kalamazoo on their new shepherd."

At the news conference in Kalamazoo, Bishop Paul Bradley said the diocese would welcome him "with open arms and hearts filled with joy. May he walk with us, teaching us and leading us in the ways of hope-filled disciples of our Risen Lord."



(Above): Bishop Lohse celebrates Mass at St. Julia Parish, where he served as pastor for the last nine months he was in Erie.

(Right): After Mass, a parishioner requests a special blessing from the bishop-elect.



STORY AND PHOTOS / Anne-Marie Welsh



Bishop Lohse celebrates with the 2020 confirmation class of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus Parish.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU
for your generous and faithful ministry to all the people of the Diocese of Erie!

With many prayers from the St. Gregory Parish and School Families



*St. John the Baptist and Holy Rosary Partnered Parishes
are grateful to Bishop Edward Lohse for his
leadership and exceptional service to the Diocese of Erie
over the last 34 years. With Gods' blessings and prayers,
we celebrate your appointment as bishop of the
Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan.*

The Public Announcement

PHOTO / Andrew Lapiska



Bishop Edward M. Lohse's remarks at the news conference introducing him as the future fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo

STATEMENT: BISHOP LOHSE

To all of the people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, hello! And greetings to you in the Lord Jesus.

Today, as fellow disciples and as brothers and sisters, we begin to share an adventure in following the Lord's call.

At the start, I would like to say that I am both humbled and honored to be asked by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to become the fifth Bishop of Kalamazoo. I am grateful for his confidence in me and assure him of my prayers.

And I would like to offer a special word of gratitude to Bishop Bradley, not just for his present support and encouragement which have been wonderful, but also for his tireless shepherding of this local Church over the past fourteen years. Thank you, Bishop Bradley.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Diocese of Erie, and to the priests, deacons, religious and laity of my home diocese. Bishop Persico has been a wonderful role model for me. I have learned much from him. I have been deeply formed and touched not only by his witness, but also by that of so many others in the Diocese of Erie who quietly, or at times not so quietly, live out their faith in Jesus. And thank you to my family for all of your love and support throughout the years.

To all of you here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, to the clergy and religious, to the diocesan and parish staffs, to those involved in education and formation and the works of charity and evangelization, and to the faithful who Sunday after Sunday gather to celebrate the Eucharist in each parish, I promise to give my all. No doubt, in the months and years ahead there will be moments of grace and moments of challenge. I don't have all of the answers, by any means, but let's discover them together as we discern the path forward.

Before, concluding, I'd like to offer a special word to those who speak Spanish: *¡A ustedes que hablan español, ¡pueden notar que mi español necesita mejorar! Pero me gustaría aprender de ustedes, no solo cómo hablar mejor español, sino cómo conocer mejor al Señor. (To you who speak Spanish, you may notice that my Spanish needs to improve! But I would like to learn from you, not only how to speak Spanish better, but how to know the Lord better.)*

I know that the task ahead is a daunting one, but none of us walks the path of faith alone. I look forward to this journey together, and I am counting on your prayers. You will certainly be in mine. We cannot know exactly what the future will hold, but we can trust in the providence of God. Whatever future awaits, He will be with us. Thank you, and God bless.



Lohse and Bishop Persico had a moment to catch up after local media interviews. Bishop Persico's conference room features photos of all the previous bishops of the Diocese of Erie.

PHOTO / Vince Dragone

STATEMENT: BISHOP PERSICO

As a diocese, we rejoice at this honor for one of our fine priests. It is a testament to the clergy of the Diocese of Erie. Although it is difficult to lose one of our priests, who has served with great faith, wisdom and hope, we rejoice with the church of Kalamazoo on their new shepherd.

STATEMENT: BISHOP BRADLEY

With thanksgiving to our Loving God and with deep gratitude to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Diocese's wait for our new Shepherd has yielded a wonderful gift in the selection of Bishop-elect Edward M. Lohse as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. We welcome him with open arms and hearts filled with joy. May he walk with us, teaching us and leading us in the ways of hope-filled disciples of our Risen Lord.



On the day the news of his appointment was made public, the bishop-elect met with media in Kalamazoo, left, and celebrated Mass with Bishop Emeritus Paul Bradley, second from right, in the private chapel at what is now his residence.

PHOTOS / Courtesy of Diocese of Kalamazoo

BISHOP EDWARD M. LOHSE'S *Coat of Arms*

By heraldic tradition, the arms of the bishop of a diocese are joined to the arms of his jurisdiction, in this case, the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

The coat of arms of Bishop Edward M. Lohse combines the coat of arms of the Diocese of Kalamazoo with his personal coat of arms, using traditional elements. The cleric's hat, called a *galero*, in bright green designates one who is ordained to the episcopate, and three tassels indicate the rank of bishop.

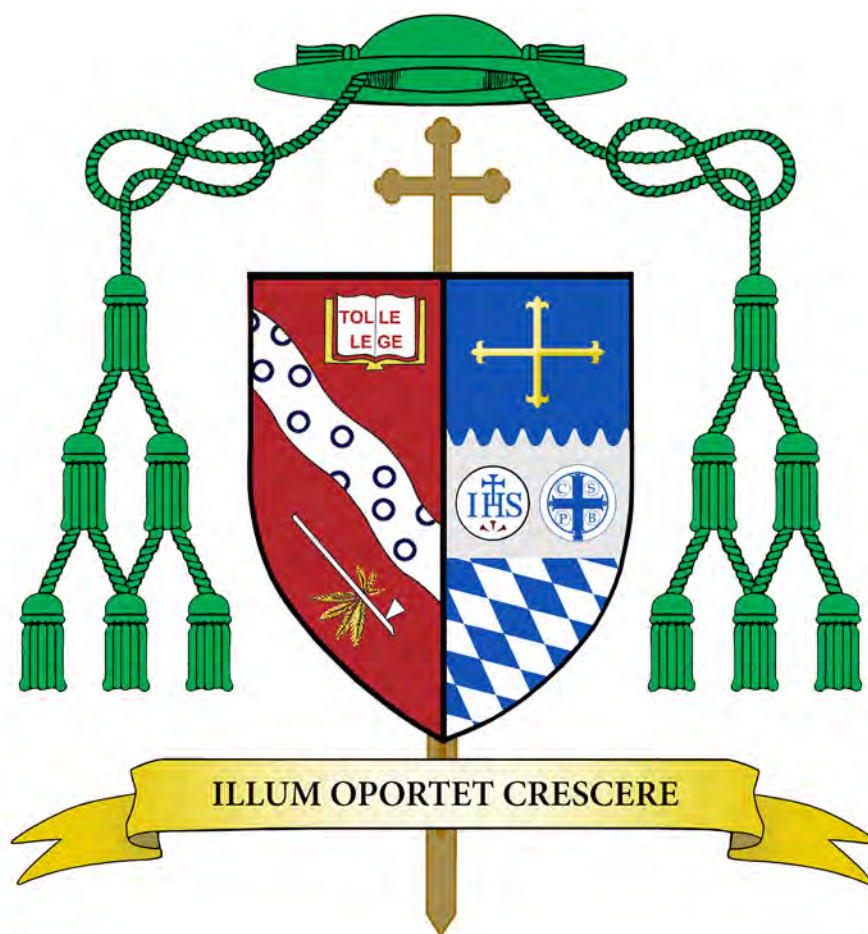
THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO (left-hand side):

The red of the background field is the color associated with the Holy Spirit and with theology, in recognition of Saint Augustine's immense contribution as one of the four great Latin doctors of the Church.

The silver (white) wavy bend which divides the red field represents water with blue annulets representing bubbles. This symbolism is used to represent the English equivalent of the Native American name of *Kalamazoo* which means "boiling pot" describing the bubbles in the Kalamazoo River.

In the lower field is a silver peace pipe, decorated with gold feathers, which was called a *calumet* by the French explorers who came to the region. This symbol of lasting and enduring peace is an object of profound veneration in the Native American culture, and here it also represents Christ who is the fullness of peace for those who believe in him as the Redeemer of the World.

The open book in the upper field displays the words "Tolle Lege" in honor of Saint Augustine of Hippo, patron saint of the Diocese of Kalamazoo and of its cathedral. In his Confessions, Saint Augustine writes that the key moment in his conversion occurred when, as he was meditating on the scriptures under a tree, longing for a spiritual peace which eluded him and unable to free himself from sin, he heard a little child say, "Take, read" (*Tolle, lege*). Then opening the scriptures to Saint Paul's letter to the Romans, Saint Augustine was moved by the words he read there: "Let us live honorably as in daylight ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for desires of the flesh" (Rom. 13:13-14). Considering that he had heard the voice of God, Saint Augustine was filled with peace and was baptized shortly thereafter, to the immense joy of his mother Saint Monica. He eventually became the Bishop of Hippo in North Africa.



BISHOP EDWARD M. LOHSE (right-hand side):

Bishop Edward M. Lohse's personal arms feature three distinct bands. The top band is adapted from the heraldic shield of Saint Edward the Confessor which features a gold cross on a blue field. It is present here in honor of Bishop Lohse's patron saint.

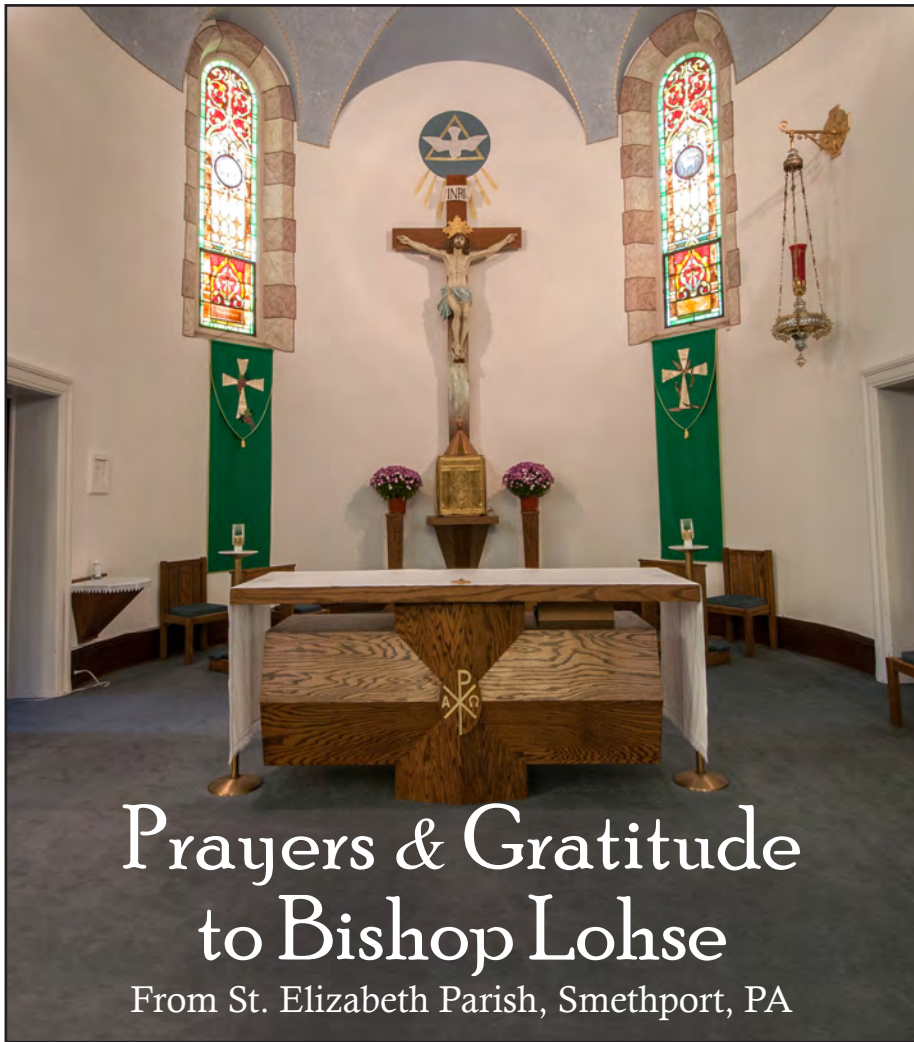
The middle section in silver topped with a wavy blue line (representing the shoreline of Lake Erie) is derived from the coat of arms of the Diocese of Erie, where Bishop Lohse was born and raised, was ordained, and where

he served for the majority of his priesthood. The two round emblems on the silver field honor the two great spiritual and academic traditions in which Bishop Lohse was formed and which have left a lasting impression upon him: The encircled IHS (the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek) with three nails is taken from the symbol for the Jesuit Order, and the encircled cross with the letters C, S, P, and B (Latin abbreviation for "The Cross of Our Holy Father Benedict") is adapted from the medal of Saint Benedict symbolizing the Benedictine Order.

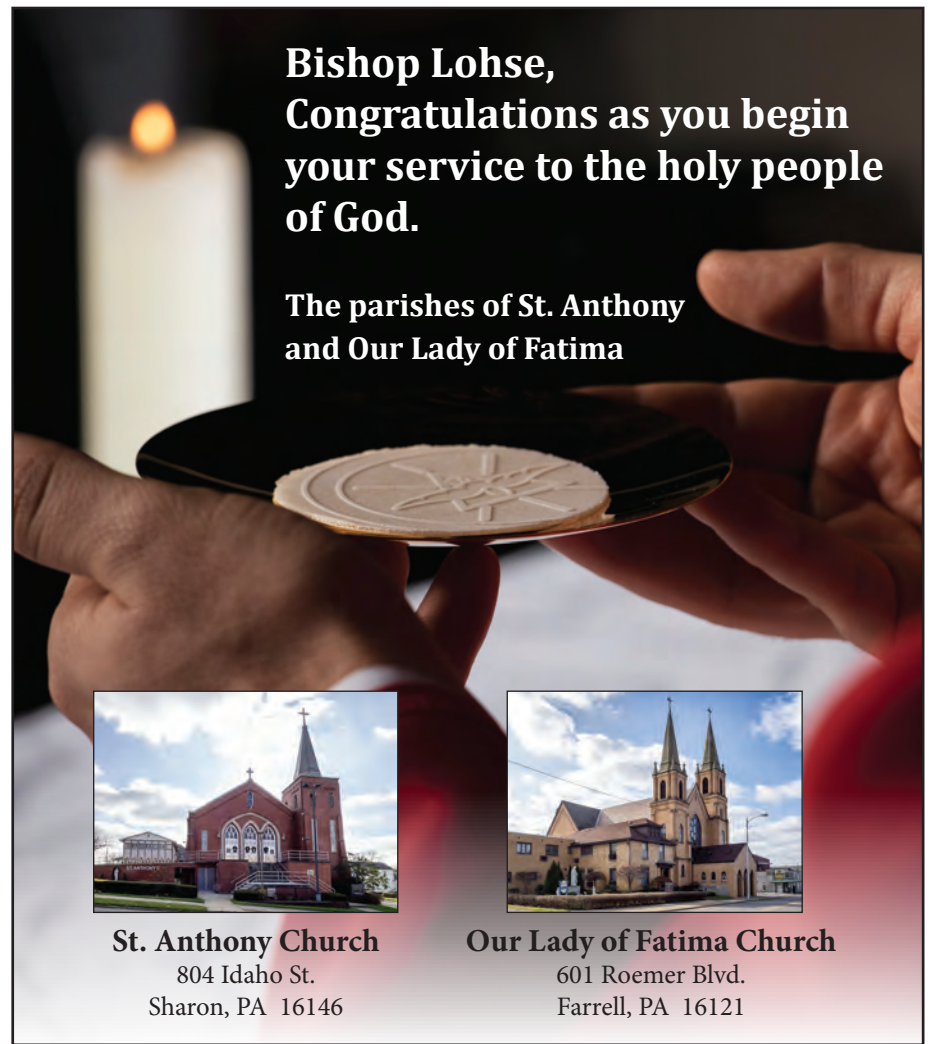
The bottom third of the arms features the blue and white diamond shapes which come from the flag of Bavaria. They are intended here to represent family and faith, in that the Lohse family's Catholic foundations all come through Bavaria.

Bishop Lohse has chosen as his episcopal motto, *illum oportet crescere* from John 3:30. Translated as "He must increase," they are the words of Saint John the Baptist who, in speaking to his own disciples about the Lord, instructed them to follow Christ.

BY SR. KATHLEEN DIETZ, FSO



**Prayers & Gratitude
to Bishop Lohse**
From St. Elizabeth Parish, Smethport, PA



**Bishop Lohse,
Congratulations as you begin
your service to the holy people
of God.**

**The parishes of St. Anthony
and Our Lady of Fatima**



St. Anthony Church
804 Idaho St.
Sharon, PA 16146



Our Lady of Fatima Church
601 Roemer Blvd.
Farrell, PA 16121

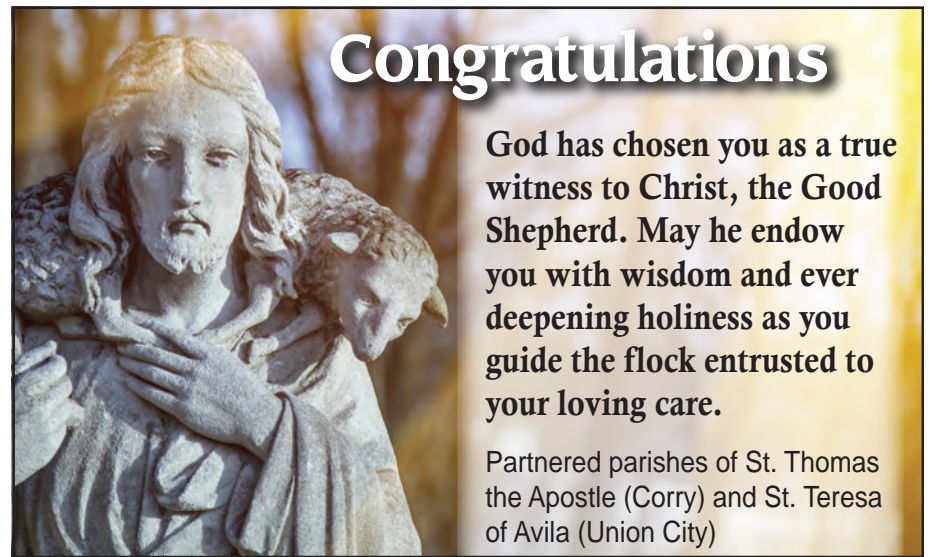


Photo credit: Francie Long

Best Wishes

The Bradford Catholic Community congratulates Bishop Edward Lohse as he becomes the new bishop of Kalamazoo. Grateful for your inspiring ministry . . .

St. Bernard, St. Francis and
Our Mother of Perpetual Help



Congratulations

God has chosen you as a true witness to Christ, the Good Shepherd. May he endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care.

Partnered parishes of St. Thomas the Apostle (Corry) and St. Teresa of Avila (Union City)



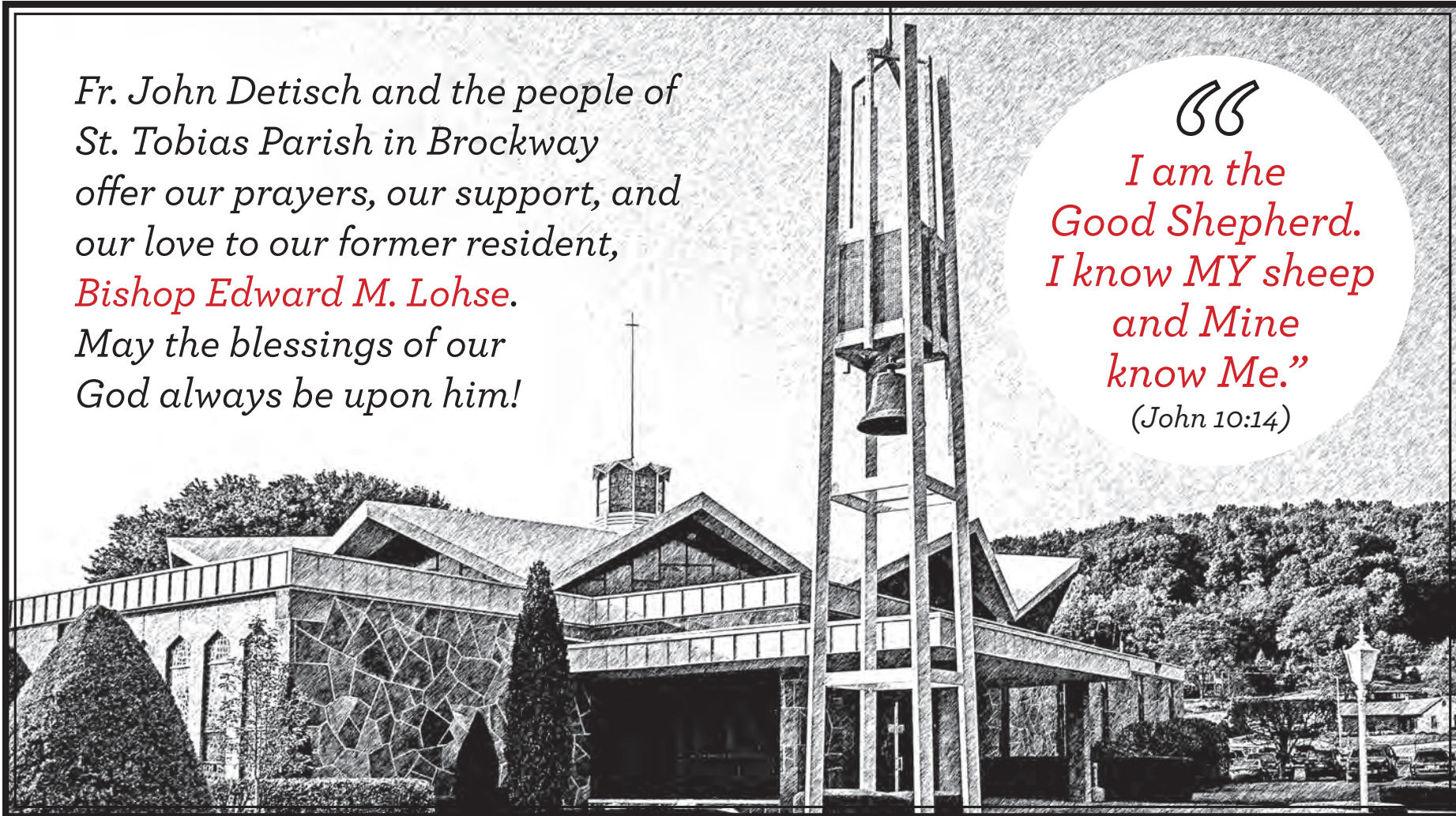
Congratulations

to Bishop Edward
M. Lohse, JCD

from
Our Mother
of Sorrows Parish
Erie

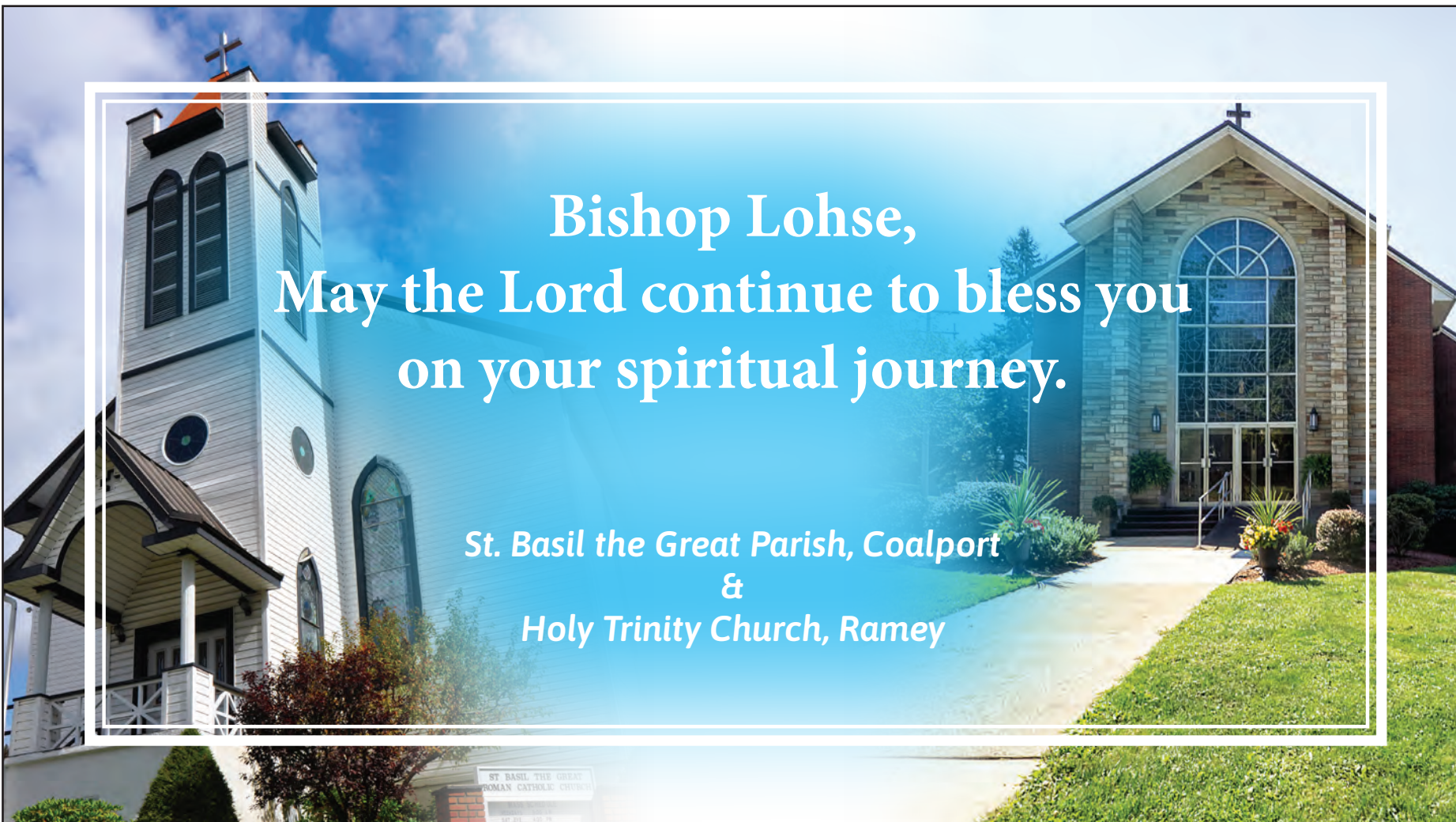
*Fr. John Detisch and the people of
St. Tobias Parish in Brockway
offer our prayers, our support, and
our love to our former resident,
Bishop Edward M. Lohse.
May the blessings of our
God always be upon him!*

“
*I am the
Good Shepherd.
I know MY sheep
and Mine
know Me.”*
(John 10:14)



**Bishop Lohse,
May the Lord continue to bless you
on your spiritual journey.**

**St. Basil the Great Parish, Coalport
&
Holy Trinity Church, Ramey**



The Interview

From the farm to the vineyard: Insights and inspiration from Bishop Edward M. Lohse

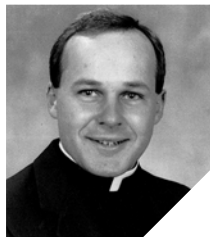
Bishop Edward M. Lohse spoke at length with Anne-Marie Welsh, director of the Office of Communications, and a long-time colleague between the time he was appointed bishop and his ordination.

Anne-Marie Welsh: This is such a moment of grace and gratitude. To put it in some context, let's start with a brief look at your vocation story. How did that unfold for you?

Bishop Edward Lohse: The principal agent of my vocation story is the Lord. He is the one who has moved hearts and put people and circumstances in place in my life to lead me to where I am today. Going all the way back to the very earliest memories I have, they include faith in the family and of course, Sunday Mass. Certainly the witness of the Sisters of St. Joseph during elementary school, and then going to high school at Cathedral Prep. The idea of being a priest has been there as long as I can remember. It was mixed in with other things, but it was always there.

Welsh: You grew up on a farm, but that was what we would call a side hustle today, right?

Bishop Lohse: My father was a welder at Bucyrus in Erie. But we lived in McKean and had an orchard and grew grapes and vegetables. Growing up at St. Francis Parish, I knew people who were full-time farmers. But many people had other jobs and farmed in their free time.



Bishop Edward Lohse served as director of vocations for the diocese beginning in 1995.

PHOTO / Contributed

Welsh: And your mom was at home full time?

Bishop Lohse: Except for two years, in 1938 and 1939, when she worked at the Talon Slide Fastener Company in Erie, which was the original name for zippers.

Welsh: You come from a family of seven children, and have said you were sixth in line.

Bishop Lohse: Yes, there are 18 years between the oldest and the youngest, so I'm near the tail end of that. Growing up, we had sisters who were old enough to babysit us. But we have a close family. We are together a lot.

Welsh: One of your assignments was as vocation director for the Diocese of Erie, and you served as a spiritual director to seminarians at the North American College in Rome. There's a fundamental piece of advice you are known for giving.

Bishop Lohse: When the Lord calls, whatever he asks, the only acceptable answer is yes. You may have to wrestle with it for a while. You might have to come to terms with it. And you might not like it. But it is the only acceptable answer.

Welsh: How has that played out in your own life?

Bishop Lohse: One of the most significant times was when I was assigned to teach at DuBois Central. I had no familiarity with DuBois, I wasn't even quite sure where it was. I was interested in teaching, but more at my alma mater or someplace closer to Erie. So, the appointment came as quite a surprise. But I went, and five years later, leaving there was one of the hardest things I ever did.

Welsh: Because of the hearts you encountered?

Bishop Lohse: Yes. I've remained in touch with many of the people I met there to this day. In fact, one of them who lives in Erie now was at Mass at St. Julia this morning.

Welsh: Being assigned to work at the Congregation for Clergy in Rome was also challenging.

Bishop Lohse: By that point in my life, I had come to know experientially the wisdom of saying, "If you just say yes, it'll work out." Whereas, when I first went to DuBois, the theory hadn't been put to the test.

The first time I was asked to go to Rome, I went as a student. That had a very clear beginning and end, and I knew I'd be back for the summers.



When then-Monsignor Lohse worked at the Congregation for Clergy, he enjoyed an unusual perk: He was able to look out of the conference room window to see the Holy Father's general audience and receive the papal blessing each Wednesday.

PHOTO / Art Becker



Bishop Lohse spoke with Chelsea Swift of WJET-TV when the announcement of his appointment was made public.

PHOTO / Anne-Marie Welsh

The second time was different because it was for an undetermined length of time. At that point, my father had already passed away, but my mother was 90. And so, I didn't know how much I'd be able to be home, except for a vacation.

Welsh: And it turned out that after five years, you still had time to be with your mother.

Bishop Lohse: Yes, I had several more years. My mother lived to be 98.

Welsh: A number of people have commented how ready you seem for this new adventure. They are seeing a peace and a readiness.

Bishop Lohse: I think I would go along with that.

Welsh: Not that it's completely devoid of chaos, uprooting everything in your life. It's not as though there's an instruction manual for this time of transition.

Bishop Lohse: The interesting piece now, and probably the source of any chaos, is just trying to wrap up some significant projects that I want to finish before I go to Kalamazoo. And then to try to put things in the office in as much order as possible. I know Father Nick (Rouch, who has been named to succeed Bishop Lohse as vicar general for the Diocese of Erie) and Father Chris (Singer, chancellor for the Diocese of Erie) can pick up without much of a learning curve.

Welsh: One of the things you had to do between the phone call from the nuncio asking you to accept the appointment to Kalamazoo and your ordination and installation, was to make a retreat. You chose to make yours in Assisi. We will respect your privacy. Can you give us a little insight into your experience?

Bishop Lohse: It probably wasn't as private as I might have envisioned. It's a delightful retreat house run by the Sisters of Santa Brigida. At one point, there was a group of about 20 pilgrims from Germany, so it got rather boisterous at times! But at other times, I was there by myself. It's in the middle of an olive grove, so you feel like you're in the country. But it's a five-minute walk from the gate to the old city, too. And you know, the tomb of Blessed Carlo was right nearby, which was wonderful. I stopped in every day.

One time, there had to have been at least a hundred high school students there on a pilgrimage with their teachers. Other times there were smaller groups: Americans, college students, an Italian group. I had my collar on, so the Italian pilgrimage leader asked if I could explain something about Blessed Carlo to them. So, we went outside and I ended up giving a talk to these Italian pilgrims. I had to laugh. I thought, "How do I get myself into these things?"



The town of Assisi, Italy, where Bishop Lohse made his retreat prior to his episcopal ordination.



Just before the episcopal ordination of Bishop Edward Lohse, Fathers Tim and Michael Kesicki, (far left and far right) are all smiles along with the bishop's priesthood ordination classmates, Father Larry Richards, to his right, and Father Nicholas Rouch, to his left.

PHOTO / Contributed

But it was fun, I enjoyed doing that.

I certainly kept the people of Erie and of Kalamazoo in my prayers, and really, the whole country as we are in our Eucharistic revival. And I must say, I kept the people of St. Julia (the parish where Bishop Lohse has served as pastor for the last nine months) in my prayers as well.

Welsh: You've mentioned "happening" upon the relic of Blessed Carlo when you were visiting the offices of the USCCB in Washington, D.C., and then of course the diocese hosted his relic here earlier this year. Do you feel he's with you in a special way?

Bishop Lohse: I do, actually. I feel a good connection to him. And also, in Assisi, I was near the Church of Santa Chira with the cross of San Damiano, from which the Lord spoke to St. Francis, telling him, "Rebuild my church." So that was a very meaningful place to pray. I am not tasked with rebuilding the church, but certainly to become part of a people who are up-building the church.

Welsh: It must be challenging to settle into retreat mode when there is so much on the horizon.

Bishop Lohse: I took a couple approaches on my retreat. One was to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament often, just to present myself before

the Lord. It was a time of, "Lord, you are the one who is going to work any transformation here. My job is to present myself before you and give you permission to do whatever it is you want to do, and then get out of the way."

And then I read the work of St. Gregory the Great on pastoral care. (Written in the sixth century, the book details the duties and obligations of clergy regarding the spiritual formation of the people.) He does not mince words. He is very blunt.

Welsh: You bring an array of skills to this new assignment. You have not only scholarly knowledge, and depth of understanding concerning canon law, but also the heart of a pastor. Can you speak to the importance of that pastoral side?

Bishop Lohse: That comes from my family, my upbringing and the witness of a lot of very kind people over the years. Again, I think of the sisters who taught us in grade school. We were raised to be kind.

Welsh: We hear of ordination to the episcopacy as being elevated to the fullness of the priesthood.

Bishop Lohse: That is the theological expression. There's a very deep theological significance to the ministry of a bishop. The diocese is in commu-

nion with the rest of the church through its bishop. That comes with a lot of responsibility. St. Gregory talks about this. You have to have the courage to speak what needs to be said, whether it is comfortable or not. But always remaining faithful to compassion and to mercy. I heard a speaker once who said that mercy is not a particular quality of the Gospel. It is the Gospel.

Welsh: Obviously, this is a major and unexpected upheaval in your life. How are you managing this simultaneous disruption and excitement?

Bishop Lohse: It is significant. I'm excited about the ministry, taking up the apostolic work in an unbroken line back to millennia. It can be both daunting and energizing. I'm actually very much looking forward to preaching. I love to preach. This is a way to really teach the faith and to reach a lot more people, hopefully in very productive and fruitful ways.

Starting all over again can be personally challenging, but I also see it as a tremendous opportunity for spiritual growth. Yes, there are things that need to be surrendered. But as many of the saints have said: "Nothing except you Lord." We are to cling to nothing but Christ.

Welsh: Kalamazoo is a mission diocese. What does that mean in practical terms?

Bishop Lohse: It is a diocese that receives outside help, for instance from

THIS OR THAT?

The following is a list of rapid-fire questions requiring an instant answer. It's an ice-breaker game which allows people to get to know each other. The questions on this list are "this or that" questions, meaning there are only two ways to respond. We asked Bishop Lohse...

Q1. Morning or evening?

Morning.

Q2. Salty or sweet?

Salty. Unquestionably.

Q3. Music or podcasts?

Podcast. I'm trying to keep up with Father Mike Schmitz.

Q4. Driving or flying?

Driving, when practical.

Q5. Introvert or extrovert?

Actually, introvert.

Q6. Salt or pepper?

If I had to have only one, it'd be salt. But I love pepper.

Q7. Movies or tv shows?

Movies.

Q8. Coffee or tea?

Coffee.

Q9. Indoors or outdoors?

Outdoors.

Q10. Chess or checkers?

Chess.

Q11. Vanilla or chocolate?

Vanilla.

Q12. Salad or soup?

Generally salad.

Q13. Fiction or nonfiction?

Fiction.

Q14. Space or sea?

Space.

Q15. Christmas or Easter?

Christmas.

Erie or Kalamazoo?

Q16.

All of the above.



Bishop Lohse reflects for a moment in the barn on his family's farm.

PHOTO / Vince Dragone

Catholic Extension. I am of course very grateful! But frankly, every diocese should be missionary in its mindset. I am not yet familiar with the details concerning the Diocese of Kalamazoo in this regard, but I view it as positive that the people understand themselves as a missionary diocese. We need to understand ourselves as a missionary church in the world, and here in the United States. We all are in mission country.

Welsh: As much as this is a very public move, it can also be a very solitary journey.

Bishop Lohse: But we are never alone. We are accompanied by the Virgin Mary and the saints. And of course, always walking side by side with the Lord. There are always graces and there are always crosses in life. And that is the way it is supposed to be, that is the life of a disciple, the nature of Christian discipleship. So, in this move, there are things that need to be surrendered. But there are also blessings to be received.

Welsh: One of the things you will be surrendering is consistent involvement with your family's homestead and farm.

Bishop Lohse: My family has been there for 76 years now. There's something about being rooted in a place, having had generations of a family in the same place. It's almost like the land itself is a part of you. It will stay in the family, and when I visit Erie, that is where I will go. I've always referred to taking care of it as my therapy. I may need to transplant some rhubarb or something to the backyard of my residence in Kalamazoo.

BY ANNE-MARIE WELSH



Bishop Lohse has always been rooted in the land, working the farm that has been in his family for nearly eight decades. In addition to the vineyard, it features an apple orchard, peach trees, pears, cherries, red currants, blueberries, gooseberries, and of course, an elderberry patch for pies.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone

Regalia



Welsh: Word has it you had some of your regalia on backwards when you did your first portraits.

Bishop Lohse: Yes! We took the photographs two different ways to be sure! The only instruction I got really from the nuncio (Papal Ambassador to the United States Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who called then-Monsignor Lohse on behalf of Pope Francis to ask him if he would accept the assignment as bishop of Kalamazoo) was to not say anything until the announcement! But Bishop (Paul) Bradley in Kalamazoo has been very helpful, and Bishop Persico has as well.

Welsh: Can you tell us about the ring you selected?

Bishop Lohse: I looked at several when I was in Italy for my retreat, there is quite a variety available. But the ceremonial ring I selected has an amethyst. It's elegant but simple. I haven't worn a ring since my high school ring.

Welsh: And your crozier?

Bishop Lohse: It's modeled after the one Bishop (Donald) Trautman used. I looked at all kinds of them, but nothing spoke to me like the one he used. It has a beautiful image of the Lamb of God on it. It is a cherished gift from the Diocese of Erie.

Welsh: Tell us about selecting your motto.

Bishop Lohse: In Latin, it's *Illum oportet crescere*, which means, "He must increase." It's the words of St. John the Baptist from John 3:30. I always have been inspired by those words. In many ways, they sum up for me the whole disposition of a disciple. It's not about me, it's not about us, it's about the Lord. If it's not about him, why are we doing it?

Behind-the-Scenes



Lights, camera, action!
Vince Dragone brings the
shot to life as Bishop Lohse
poses with the cherished
tractor that has served his
family's farm for generations.

PHOTO / Anne-Marie Welsh



Edinboro, Pennsylvania

Warmly congratulates

Bishop Edward M. Lohse, JCD

On his Ordination to the Episcopacy

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
give you counsel and watch over you." Psalm 32:8*

**Congratulations to our adopted nephew
Bishop Edward Lohse.
We remember fondly your uncle,
our pastor (1975-1984),
Msgr. Walter Lohse.
— St. John the Evangelist Parish, Girard**



As you embark on this new role as a bishop, we are confident that you will continue to be a source of spiritual inspiration to all whom you encounter. Your wisdom and steadfast devotion to the Gospel will undoubtedly guide you in shepherding the faithful entrusted in your care. We are certain you will promote unity and spiritual growth within the wider Church. We extend our heartfelt thanks for the impact you have had on our diocese and will continue our prayers that the Holy Spirit will empower you to lead with wisdom and compassion.
~ St. Joseph Bread of Life Community, Erie



**Congratulations
& Best Wishes,
Bishop Lohse!**

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The Farewell Mass: “IT IS CHRIST WHO UNITES US...”

“It’s not a liturgical expression but, wow!” Bishop Lohse said after processing into St. Peter Cathedral in Erie for a public farewell Mass on July 12. “Thank you for being here. I think on the way in I saw people from every parish and school I was assigned to, and even my grade school teachers are here.” He then noted all were gathered “in the most fitting way of all, to celebrate the Eucharist, to be drawn up by Christ in his own gift of himself to the Father, that we might become a part of that gift.”

In a nearly standing room only crowd, clergy and laypeople who knew or admired the future bishop came to say goodbye and to pray for Bishop Lohse as he prepared for his life-changing transition and move to Kalamazoo.

Before giving the homily at the Mass, Bishop Lohse addressed the congregation once again.

“To all of you, I am deeply honored by your presence here today at this farewell Mass,” said Bishop Lohse. “I’m very grateful for your prayers. I am grateful also, I must say, for the Holy Father’s confidence in me to become the fifth bishop of Kalamazoo.”

Bishop Lohse also reminded those in attendance that we are all united in faith despite physical distance.

“When we leave here today, we will go in separate directions. I will go to Kalamazoo. You will go home and to your places of work and places of rest. But we all will continue to be part of that same one, holy, Catholic and apostolic church,” said Bishop Lohse. “We will continue to profess the same faith. We will continue to celebrate the same Eucharist. No matter how many miles might separate us, it is Christ who unites us, and we must always remember that.”

To view an archived version of the Mass, scan this code.



Bishop Edward Lohse was the principal celebrant and homilist at the public farewell Mass in Erie prior to his departure. Pictured with him on the altar are, left to right, Father Chris Singer, chancellor; Deacon Luke Dagher and Msgr. Richard Siefer, vicar for the Eastern Vicariate and pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone
Mary Solberg (bottom right)

The Farewell Reception: ST. MARK CATHOLIC CENTER

On July 11, a reception for Bishop Lohse was held in the St. Mark Catholic Center library. The event was held to congratulate Bishop Lohse and thank him for his 34 years of service to the Diocese of Erie. The event was attended by the staff and residents of St. Mark Catholic Center, as well as several clergy members, including Bishop Lawrence Persico.

“We wanted to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for all you’ve done,” said Bishop Persico.

Each table at the reception had a basket of Cheetos, one of Bishop Lohse’s favorite snacks. A catered lunch was served, and guests enjoyed a delicious cake for dessert.

Staff and residents presented Bishop Lohse with a miniature wooden replica of St. Peter Cathedral, a chrism oil stock with a handmade case and a card featuring the names of all who contributed to the gifts.

“It’s something you can use in your Episcopal ministry,” said Bishop Persico.

Bishop Lohse addressed the group, overcome with emotion.

“Shakespeare said, ‘Parting is such sweet sorrow.’ He was right,” said Bishop Lohse.

Bishop Lohse compared his co-workers to family, saying, “Family can be defined by blood relationship, but by many other things as well. A family goes through common experiences. They experience joy together. They experience loss together. They laugh together. They cry together. We have been through a lot together. We have shared some great joys. We have weathered through some very deep sorrows, but that’s what family does — and that’s what you are. I am grateful that we were able to experience both those joys and those sorrows together.”

(Left): Father Nicholas Rouch, left, has been appointed to succeed Bishop Lohse as vicar general for the Diocese of Erie while also serving as acting vicar for clergy. He also has been appointed pastor of St. Julia Parish. (Right): Father Christopher Singer, chancellor, will now also take Bishop Lohse’s role as director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

(Right center): Bishop Lohse receives the handcrafted wooden box that will hold the stock he will use for confirmation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The stock and its case were gifts from the staff at St. Mark Catholic Center.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone

“

**A FAMILY GOES THROUGH
COMMON EXPERIENCES...
AND THAT’S WHAT YOU ARE.”**



St. Julia Parish FAREWELL

Over the weekend of July 15-16, parishioners at St. Julia Parish, Erie, gathered at the 4 p.m. anticipatory Mass and the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass to worship and celebrate with their pastor, then-Bishop-elect Edward M. Lohse. These Masses were the last time he would minister as pastor of St. Julia Parish before his ordination to become the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo on July 26.

At both Masses, Bishop Lohse addressed the congregation during the homily to express gratitude to those who helped him throughout his residency at St. Julia.

“Lest I forget at the end — or get all choked up as I do — I want to thank everybody for everything you have done for the last nine months,” said Bishop Lohse. “Thank you to my faithful collaborator in ministry, Deacon Jerry (Peterson), Cheryl (Schodt), Mary (Till) and all the people who have put so much time into volunteering at this parish to make St. Julia’s a wonderful family.”

Parishioners of St. Julia described the significant effect that Bishop Lohse has had on their parish. When asked how they will remember Bishop Lohse, parishioners all mentioned the same project.

In one of his first acts as pastor, Bishop Lohse embarked on an endeavor to have the bells of St. Julia Church restored. Before his involvement, the bells had been in disrepair for 14 years.

“Bishop-elect Lohse wanted our immediate neighbors and community surrounding the church to know that we were there, alive and well, and open for all to join us

and pray with us,” said Dan Mollo, president of the pastoral council at St. Julia. “The bells go off before every Mass and can be rung for other celebrations, funerals and special Masses that the parish holds. They’re also set to ring at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. to represent the daily *Angelus* prayer. He was very passionate about this project, and many parishioners graciously got behind and were excited about bringing back this new life to St. Julia’s.”

At the reception dinner for Bishop Lohse after the 4 p.m. Mass, members of the pastoral council handed out miniature bells for everyone to ring when Bishop Lohse walked down the steps to join the gathering, a gesture meant to signify appreciation and respect for Bishop Lohse’s lasting impact on St. Julia Parish.

“Every time the bells ring, we’ll remember Monsignor,” said Judy Miller, a parishioner at St. Julia. “He has truly been a rebirth for our parish. We had beautiful priests before this, they helped us continue, but he just put a spark in the parish.”

“Although his stay at St. Julia’s may have been brief, I think we can all agree how big an impact he has made on this parish and all of us,” said Mollo. “He has brought so much joy and has helped breathe new life into this church. The parish council has enjoyed working alongside Monsignor as he has helped point us in a new direction and painted a path for us and our vision for the future of St. Julia’s.”

Bishop Lohse was presented with an Erie-themed gift basket filled with reminders of his time in Erie, including Cheetos, one of his favorite snacks.

Bishop Lohse addressed the group with tears in his eyes.

“It really has been a joy to be at St. Julia’s — to call it home, to call you family,” said Bishop Lohse. “Even though we may be separated by miles of distance, in Christ we are united, and we will continue to profess the same faith, receive the same Eucharist, and there we will be with each other across the miles.”

“

EVEN THOUGH WE MAY BE SEPARATED BY MILES OF DISTANCE, IN CHRIST WE ARE UNITED.”



(Above): Former St. Julia Parish Pastor Msgr. Bruce Allison receives the Eucharist from Bishop Edward M. Lohse at the anticipatory Mass on July 15.

(Right): Bishop Lohse addresses the group at his farewell reception at St. Julia Parish, Erie.



STORY AND PHOTOS / Melanie Sisinni

Saint Julia Parish

Our parish rejoices with you, Bishop Lohse, as you follow the path that God has laid before you. Through you, we have found a sense of spirituality, commitment to our faith community and a love of our Catholic tradition. Because of you, our church bells once more ring, calling us to our faith. And when we hear our church bells ring, we will always think of you. Our prayers will be with you always.



Congratulations, Bishop Lohse

Best wishes on your new appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

PEACE and PRAYERS
as you begin this new journey.



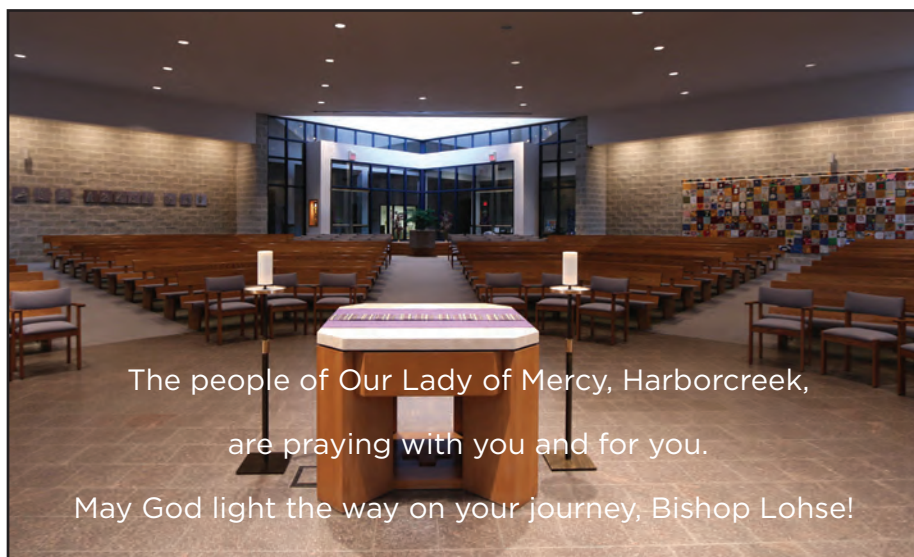
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YOU ARE ONE OF US.



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May God light the way on your journey, Bishop Lohse!



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"That in all things God may be glorified"—1 Peter 4:11

Bishop Lohse,
Congratulations and best wishes on your new appointment.

Vespers: “....WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE.”

After weeks of preparation including a news conference in Michigan introducing Bishop Lohse as the next bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, farewell Masses and gatherings in Erie, a flurry of planning for the ordination and installation as well as all the events surrounding them — not to mention the actual 350-mile move to Kalamazoo — at last, a sacred awareness descended on St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo on Monday, June 24.

It was the evening before the ordination and installation and the public was invited to join then Bishop-elect Lohse for solemn vespers.

Vespers, also called evening prayer, is offered by clergy, religious and many lay Catholics each day, with different daily psalms, readings and prayers.

For this particular evening, vespers included Psalm 136. Alternating with the choir, those present chanted ancient words giving thanks, proclaiming God's enduring love and celebrating his wondrous deeds.

“I have to admit that I have been very much looking forward to this moment for a very, very long time,” Kalamazoo Bishop Emeritus Paul J. Bradley said to laughter as he opened his homily that evening. “I have literally been waiting in joyful hope.” He said his daily prayer had been that God's Holy Spirit would inspire Pope Francis to select a bishop who

possessed the gifts, talents and pastoral zeal that the local church would need from its new bishop.

“It's very clear that he is the answer to our prayer,” the bishop emeritus said, turning to the man who would succeed him. “You have been worth the wait.”

The evening also featured a public opportunity for the bishop-elect to greet ecumenical, Catholic, interfaith and civic leaders from the area.

As vespers concluded, Bishop-elect Lohse expressed his gratitude to those present as well as those watching by livestream.

“I realize that because of the size of the cathedral, some of you won't be able to come back tomorrow for the ordination Mass,” he said. “I know your intention to enter with us into prayer, and I will carry that intention in my heart. The same is true for all of those who will be joining us by livestream. So, we will be present to each other in the Spirit, even if we cannot do so in person.”

He concluded with inviting all to pray “for the grace to open our hearts to the blessings that God will bestow on this great Diocese of Kalamazoo, not just tomorrow but every day moving forward.”



Several choirs provided music prior to Solemn vespers on the eve of Bishop Lohse's ordination and installation. The new bishop's coat of arms was installed in St. Augustine Cathedral just prior to his ordination.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone

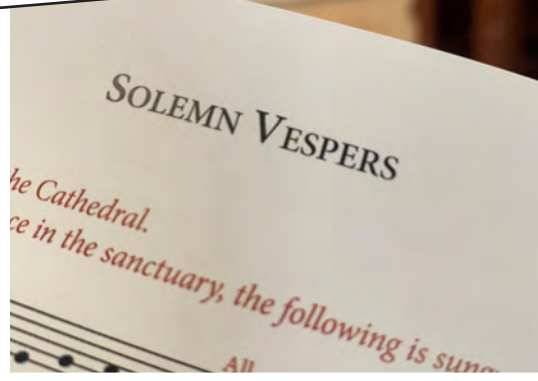
Priest forever

Because you are the reason for my life
My strength, comfort, and joy
Because you are the love I dreamed of
And without you, I am lost and nothing
Here I am, Lord, take my life
I want to be a priest forever
Here I am, Lord, take my life
I want to be a priest forever

(Above): The opening lines of a poem from the worship aid at the solemn vespers Mass. *Priest forever* by Jesed group

(Below): Bishop-elect Lohse publicly greeted several ecumenical and civic leaders as solemn vespers came to a close.

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone
John Grap



The Ordination Mass

'Today we begin our common path in this great adventure of discipleship...'

For the people of St. Francis Xavier Parish — Bishop Edward Lohse's home parish in McKean — as well as members from St. Julia Parish in Erie, where he was pastor for the last nine months, the day began with boarding a bus at 6:30 a.m.

"Bishop Lohse is very dear to all our hearts," said Kathy Orlando, administrative assistant at St. Francis, as she waited for the Ordination Mass to begin. "We were very happy we were able to make this trip."

Each person in the pews or in the procession at St. Augustine Cathedral had his or her own reasons for being present at the Mass during which a new bishop would be ordained and installed for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. But all could likely echo Orlando's sentiment. As soon as the procession began, whether they were smiling or wiping tears, those in the assembly were deeply engaged.

"Right from the penitential rite, the power of everyone's voice, and the feeling of the Holy Spirit is something like I've never experienced before," said Mark Louis, who graduated a year after Bishop Lohse at Cathedral Preparatory School. "Everyone was present."

"The singing was the same way," his wife, Lisa, executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pa., said. "People were participating joyfully. That was beautiful."

The Rite of Ordination began after readings from Isaiah 61: 1-3, Psalm 126, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 and Matthew 20: 20-18. The tone was set as the assembly sang *Veni Creator Spiritus*, a Latin hymn asking that the Holy Spirit "fill the hearts which thou has made."

The first step in the rite was the presentation of Bishop-elect Lohse to the Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron, archbishop of Detroit and the principal ordaining bishop.

"Have you a mandate from the Apostolic See?" he asked.

"We do," was the reply.

"Let it be read."

“

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME.” ISAIAH 61:1

At that point, Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, the apostolic *nuncio* — essentially the papal ambassador to the United States — read a translation of the letter signed by Pope Francis appointing Bishop-elect Lohse as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The bishop-elect then displayed the document for the archbishop, the bishops and clergy present as well as the entire assembly to see, walking up and down the aisles of the cathedral. Each section of the assembly erupted into applause as he passed by with the scroll and smiled, acknowledging their approval.

In the homily that followed, Archbishop Vigneron emphasized that those present were not there to be spectators.

"We are not even simply witnesses," he said. "We are participants. We share in this deed that Jesus is about to do because we are members of the Body of Christ."

Reflecting on the Gospel reading, the archbishop said it "takes us to the heart of the matter of what it means to be consecrated to the apostolic ministry. It is to agree to share the cup that Jesus prepared," with the goal of immersing others in the paschal mystery.

"The only way that any good or anything we love can be saved," he said, "is for it to be entrusted into the chalice of Christ's passion. And that is the bishop's ministry. To gather every good thing in this diocese, and to help all of us make it an offering along with the body and blood of Christ."

Addressing the bishop-elect directly, Archbishop Vigneron said he knew he was "a man of many talents and gifts...and I am grateful that you will put them at the service of this local church."

He then exhorted the assembly to pray with all their hearts and minds "so that today, especially, the thanksgiving to God will overflow. Thanksgiving that you and I have been given a shepherd after Christ's own heart. Let each of us, in her or his own way, be renewed in our mission of bringing others to know Christ Jesus, so that thanksgiving will flow in abundance."



As the Ordination Rite began, Bishop-elect Lohse walked up and down the aisles of St. Augustine Cathedral, showing the official mandate from Pope Francis nominating him to the episcopacy to all who were present.

PHOTO / Vince Dragone

The rite continued with the Promise of the Elect, during which the archbishop asked the bishop-elect a series of questions. Among them:

“Do you resolve to proclaim the Gospel of Christ faithfully and unfailingly?”

“Do you resolve as a devoted father, to encourage the holy People of God and to guide them in the way of salvation, together with the priests and deacons, your fellow ministers?”

“Do you resolve, for the sake of the Lord’s name, to reach out in kindness and mercy to the poor, to strangers and to all those in need?”

“I do, I do, I do,” came the responses.

The Litany of Supplication followed, one of the most dramatic moments in any ordination. Bishop-elect Lohse laid prostrate before the altar as the assembly asked that the Lord and a host of named saints and angels would “pray for us.”

Then, in utter silence, Archbishop Vigneron, followed by the co-consecrators Bishop Emeritus Paul Bradley of Kalamazoo and Bishop Lawrence Persico of Erie, laid their hands on Bishop-elect Lohse’s head. The other 22 bishops in attendance followed suit.



The Most Rev. Allen Vigneron, archbishop of Detroit, which is the Metropolitan See of the dioceses of Michigan, was the principal consecrating bishop for Bishop Lohse. Bishop Persico, co-consecrator, looks on as the archbishop pours chrism on Bishop Lohse’s head.

Archbishop Vigneron then offered the Prayer of Ordination as two deacons held the Book of Gospels over the bishop-elect’s head, signifying the hope that the new bishop’s life would be enveloped in the Word of God. With the Amen at the conclusion of this prayer, Bishop Lohse became the Bishop of Kalamazoo.

The new bishop then knelt before the archbishop, who poured the oil of chrism on his head, praying, “May God, who has made you a sharer in the high priesthood of Christ, himself pour out upon you the oil of mystical anointing and make you fruitful with an abundance of spiritual blessing.”

Bishop Lohse next received the Book of the Gospels, his ring, his miter and his crozier, signifying his duties to preach the Word of God, to be adorned with undefiled faith and preserve the holy Church, to let holiness shine and

to keep watch over the whole flock. Archbishop Vigneron then invited Bishop Lohse to sit in the cathedra and officially take possession of the diocese. Again, the assembly broke into applause and a spontaneous, joyous standing ovation.

As the rite came to an end, each bishop present greeted Bishop Lohse with a fraternal kiss of peace, welcoming him to the college of bishops.

The Mass then continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Archbishop Vigneron having invited Bishop Lohse to continue as the principal celebrant. Members of the Lohse family were seated in the front rows, including the bishop’s sister, Barbara Keller. She was wearing the mother’s ring that her own mother had worn, including a birthstone jewel for each of the seven Lohse children.

“I wore it so she’d be here,” Keller would share, later in the day.

After Communion, in another happy moment, Bishop Persico and Bishop Emeritus Bradley led Bishop Lohse through his new cathedral so he could offer his first episcopal blessings with those present. He then gave brief remarks.

“What a great day for Kalamazoo, and even more so, a great day for the Lord Jesus,” he said, in what appeared to be an off-the-cuff opening statement.

“Before all else,” he said, “I want to first extend my thanks to Almighty God, who in his goodness has called me to this apostolic ministry. St. Thomas Aquinas would be quick to remind me that this call to be a successor to the apostles is through no merit of my own, but purely by divine grace.”

He thanked several people in the assembly, including Bishop Emeritus Bradley, whom he said had been exceptionally kind to him and left him a good foundation. He then turned to Bishop Persico, and with what has become a trademark pause to manage the overwhelming emotions of this moment in his life, he said, “I owe more to you than I can count. For your support and mentoring throughout these past 11 years, thank you.”

Turning back to the assembly, Bishop Lohse said, “To my brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, today we begin our common path in this great adventure of discipleship. We do so, not by accident, on the feast of an apostle and a martyr, the first of the Apostles to be martyred,



Barbara Keller, Bishop Lohse’s sister, was as emotional as her brother when talking about wearing the mother’s ring her own late mother wore — as a way of honoring her parents at the ordination.

St. James. We do so mindful of the fact that it is the martyrs themselves who are the measure of the commitment to which we are called in Christ.”

After a greeting to his brothers and sisters who speak Spanish, he acknowledged the road ahead would not always be easy, asking for prayers “as together we seek to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us, in an increasingly complex world.

But no matter how complicated life may seem,” he said, “one thing will always remain constant, and that one thing is Christ. It is Christ whom we follow, it is Christ whom we serve in our neighbor, it is Christ whom we adore.”

He concluded by quoting his episcopal motto: *Illum oportet crescere*, (He must increase.) “Let this be our guiding principle.”

After a brief stop into the reception to greet the new bishop, parishioners from St. Francis and St. Julia boarded their bus to return to the Diocese of Erie, expecting to get home around 1 a.m. Many had prayed a novena for Bishop Lohse and for vocations, an initiative coordinated by Irene Schneider, director of evangelization at St. Francis. Her experience at the ordination was no doubt similar to the feelings she had about praying the novena:

“How wonderful God is in giving us our shepherds,” she said. “How he gives us such care.”

STORY / ANNE-MARIE WELSH



The livestream of the ordination Mass (archived in two parts) can be viewed at www.diokzoo.com. To view the worship aid, scan this code.



(Left to right): Each of the 25 bishops present greeted Bishop Lohse with a fraternal kiss of peace during the Mass. Bishop Lohse offered his first episcopal blessings to those present, led through the cathedral by the two co-consecrating bishops, Kalamazoo Bishop Emeritus Paul Bradley and Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico. Once the ordination was complete, Bishop Lohse became the principal celebrant of the Mass. Bishop Lohse’s family greeted him immediately after the Mass, posing for a quick photo before they were swept up into the reception that followed.



PHOTOS (pages 25-27) / Vince Dragone

“

ILLUM OPORTET CRESCERE”
(HE MUST INCREASE.)
JOHN 3:30



Congratulations

*Bishop Lohse,
thank you for your service
to the
Diocese of Erie*

from the parishes and families of
St. Stanislaus Parish
Holy Trinity Parish
St. Hedwig Church



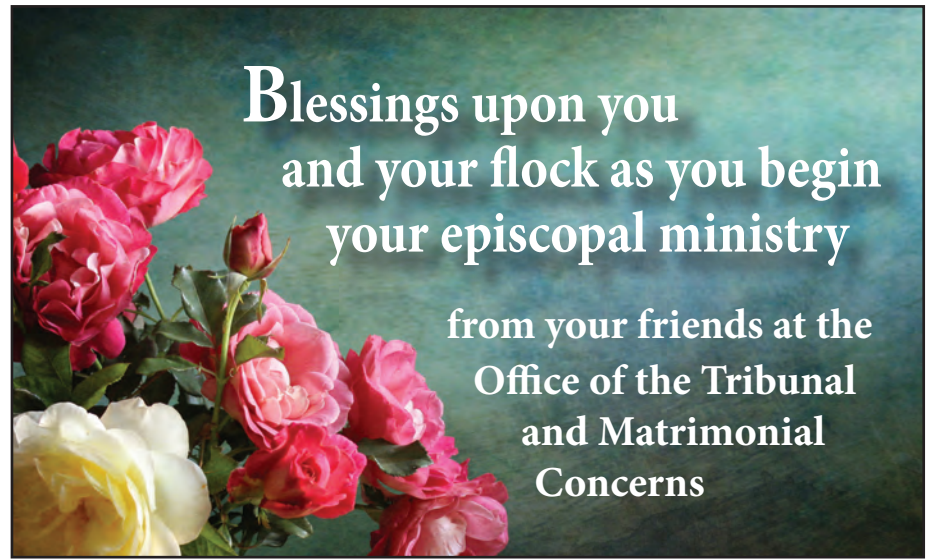
CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP Edward M. Lohse '80



*What a well-deserved appointment! The people of the
Diocese of Kalamazoo are blessed to have you, Bishop Lohse.*

Congratulations!

- St. Boniface, Kersey



Blessings upon you
and your flock as you begin
your episcopal ministry

from your friends at the
Office of the Tribunal
and Matrimonial
Concerns



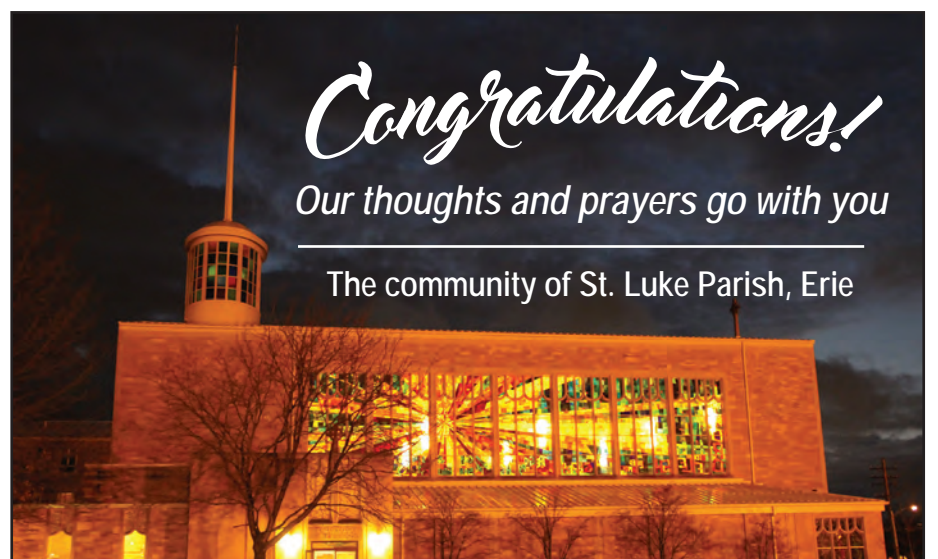
Congratulations

from your

Corry Brother Knights Council #425



**Knights of
Columbus**



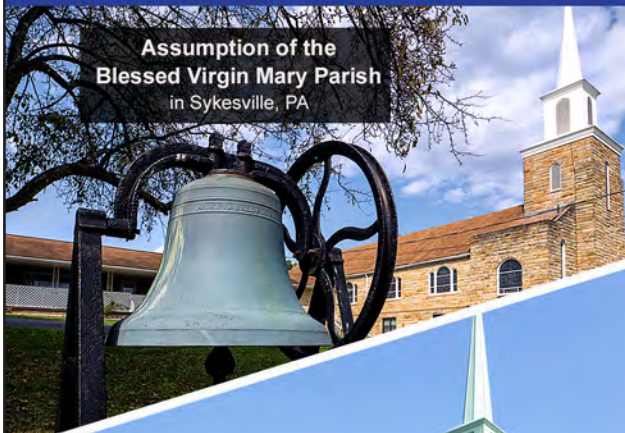
Congratulations!

Our thoughts and prayers go with you

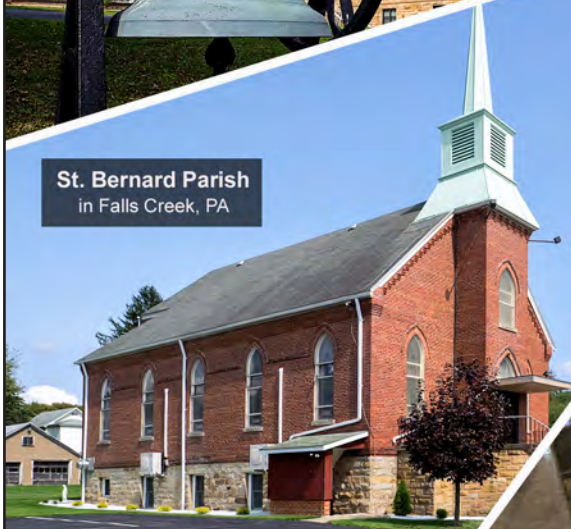
The community of St. Luke Parish, Erie

Congratulations, Bishop Edward Lohse

God's blessings on your new ministry as bishop!



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Sykesville, PA



St. Bernard Parish in Falls Creek, PA



St. Catherine of Siena Parish in DuBois, PA



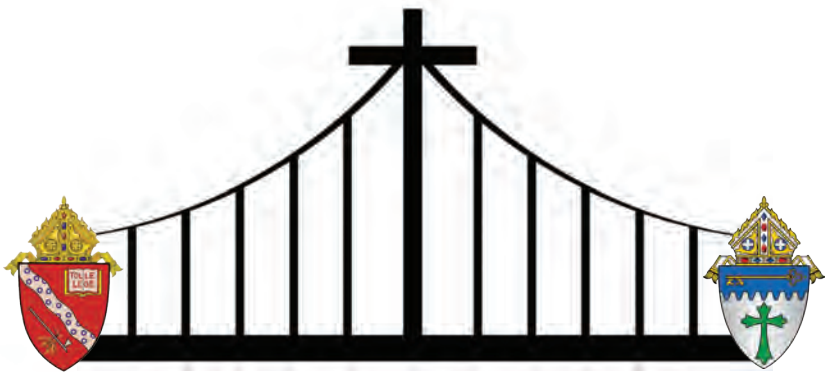
St. Michael the Archangel Parish in DuBois, PA



St. Mary Parish in Reynoldsville, PA

"...a heart committed to Christ."

Congratulations, Bishop Lohse!



With prayers from Fr. Bob Manning and the parishioners of St. Columbkille in Stoneboro.

Thank You!

We are grateful for the many years of continued presence that you have given to our parish. God bless your new journey.
ST. MARK, EMPORIUM



The communities of St. Raphael (Eldred), St. Mary (Sartwell) and St. Theresa (Shinglehouse) congratulate Bishop Lohse on a well-deserved appointment. God bless you!



Past Bishops FROM THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

The Diocese of Erie has a remarkable legacy of producing a significant number of bishops. The paths these men have traveled, from their ordination as priests within the diocese to their elevation to the office of bishop, speak volumes about the quality of religious life and leadership nurtured within these 13 counties. The biographies that follow highlight these individuals who began their clerical journeys in the Diocese of Erie and went on to become influential figures in the church, serving both within the diocese and in other locations across the country.

BISHOP THOMAS FRANCIS BRENNAN

Bishop Thomas Francis Brennan was a figure of great interest in the history of the Diocese of Erie. Born in Ireland on Oct. 10, 1855, his family moved to Sartwell in Potter County. Bishop Brennan was ordained as a priest in Tyrol, France, on July 4, 1880. Upon returning to the Diocese of Erie, he served as assistant pastor at parishes in Greenville, DuBois and Frenchville. He was made pastor and constructed St. James Church in Driftwood, a modest mission church that subtly honors him with a hidden window adorned with a bishop's miter and crosier.



In 1890, Bishop Brennan was chosen to become the first bishop of Dallas, Tx. His ordination took place in Erie at the nearly brand-new St. Peter Cathedral. While the move from Erie to Dallas was quite a transition, it was not uncommon during the 19th and 20th centuries for priests to be ordained in their home dioceses, particularly when relocating significant distances.

Bishop Brennan was noted for his intelligence and ambition, with aspirations of establishing a Catholic university in Texas and elevating his diocese to archdiocese status. However, his dreams proved to be premature, and his eagerness likely created tensions with the local clergy in Dallas. After just a year in his position, Bishop Brennan was summoned to Rome and never returned to Texas.

Following his departure from Dallas, Bishop Brennan served briefly as the auxiliary bishop of St. John's in Newfoundland until 1904, when he was recalled to Rome. Ultimately, he chose to spend the rest of his life in a Benedictine monastery outside of Rome, where he died on March 21, 1916. His grave became a rite of passage for seminarians studying in Rome, who would pay respects to their fellow American.

BISHOP RICHARD THOMAS GUILFOYLE

Bishop Richard Thomas Guilfoyle, a native of Adrian, Pa., was born on Dec. 20, 1892. He hailed from an Irish family deeply embedded in the local coal mining industry, a community he worked alongside during summer breaks from seminary. Bishop Guilfoyle was ordained a priest in 1917 and was first assigned as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Parish, Oil City.

His passion for baseball was as fervent as his faith. From his childhood through seminary, Bishop Guilfoyle played the sport, eventually initiating a baseball team at the cathedral school when he became the Bishop of



Altoona, Pa., even serving as their coach. He was known for his playful yet competitive spirit.

Bishop Guilfoyle held important roles within the Diocese of Erie, such as Archbishop Gannon's secretary and chancellor, and initiated the preservation of diocesan history, an effort without which many historical documents might have been lost. Consecrated as Bishop of Altoona on Nov. 30, 1936, he faced the daunting task of leading the diocese during the Great Depression, all while a half-finished cathedral loomed as a stark reminder of the tough economic times. Despite these challenges, he managed to keep the diocese debt-free throughout his tenure.

His frugality extended to his personal life, evident in his decision to only visit Rome once during his nearly 20 years as bishop, viewing the trips as an unnecessary expense during times of hardship. Bishop Guilfoyle passed away suddenly on June 10, 1957, leaving behind a legacy of resilience, dedication and faithfulness to his diocese.

ARCHBISHOP JOHN MARK GANNON

Born on June 12, 1877, in Erie, Archbishop John Mark Gannon was a pivotal figure in the history of the Diocese of Erie, holding the distinction of being its first native son to rise to the office of diocesan bishop. He wore various hats, such as pastor, teacher, superintendent of schools, and auxiliary bishop, a position he was promoted to due to the illness of then-Bishop Fitzmaurice.

In 1918, Archbishop Gannon became the youngest bishop in the United States when he was consecrated an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Erie. Known for his compassion and personable nature, he was deeply engaged with the community, even providing aid to those in need during the Great Depression.



Archbishop Gannon's service of 46 years, from his appointment as Bishop of Erie on Aug. 26, 1920, to his retirement in 1966, stands as the longest tenure in the history of the diocese. It is rumored that Archbishop Gannon was presented with opportunities to assume archbishop positions in Philadelphia and New York, but, whether or not that is the case, his ties to his beloved Erie kept him firmly rooted in his hometown.

Commitment to education is among his most notable achievements. The establishment of Gannon University undeniably reflects Archbishop Gannon's vision of providing quality education to children of working-class families. This vision led to the foundation of several regional high schools during his tenure, including Cathedral Prep, Villa, Kennedy Catholic, Venango Catholic, DuBois Central and Bradford Central.

Archbishop Gannon's forward-thinking nature, despite his deep appreciation for tradition, left a lasting imprint on the Diocese of Erie, shaping much of what it is today. His legacy, rooted in a profound love for his diocese, a passion for education and the welfare of the young, continues to influence generations. Even after his death on Sept. 5, 1968, at the age of 91, his impact is still profoundly felt throughout the Diocese of Erie.

BISHOP EDWARD PETER MCMANAMAN

Bishop Edward Peter McManaman remains a remarkable figure in the history of the Diocese of Erie, characterized by his humble service, sacrifice and disciplined dedication. His vocation led him to serve in various roles including educator, assistant superintendent of schools, assistant pastor and pastor, before he became the second auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

In 1948, Archbishop Gannon, recognizing the need for support in administering the expansive 13-county diocese, appointed Bishop McManaman as auxiliary bishop. In this role, he often acted as the voice and presence of Archbishop Gannon, capably managing numerous projects. Notably, Bishop McManaman was instrumental in overseeing the construction of regional high schools in the 1960s.



Bishop McManaman was a disciplined servant of the church, yet he also displayed an enduring affection for young people. While serving as the pastor of St. Joseph's in Oil City, he was known to engage in games of baseball with high school kids, even while dressed in his cassock.

Bishop McManaman's dedication was further highlighted in his private battle with bone cancer. Diagnosed towards the end of his life, he endured the illness with grace and dignity, not wanting his personal suffering to hinder his service.

Though he passed away suddenly in 1964 while visiting family in Philadelphia, his spirit of reform had already begun to show, demonstrated by his willingness to celebrate Mass facing the congregation, a radical change for that time.

BISHOP ALFRED MICHAEL WATSON

Bishop Alfred Michael Watson, born on July 11, 1907, in Erie, was the second native son to serve as bishop of the Diocese of Erie. He was baptized at St. Peter Cathedral, educated as part of the first graduating class of Cathedral Preparatory School, and served as an assistant and eventually rector at the cathedral in 1948.



In 1965 he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Erie and, by 1969, the seventh Bishop of Erie. His tenure was marked by significant societal and ecclesiastical upheaval. The tumultuous changes of the 1960s had impacted both the world and the church. While many blamed Vatican II for the turbulence, he recognized the broader societal shifts contributing to the chaos. This period, with friends leaving the priesthood, took a personal toll on Bishop Watson. It is evident that he faced considerable challenges that left a deep personal impact.

Bishop Watson died on January 4, 1990.

BISHOP LAWRENCE EUGENE BRANDT

Bishop Lawrence Eugene Brandt, a native of Charlestown, West Virginia, later moved to Lake City and became a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Girard. His path to priesthood culminated in his ordination in Rome on December 19, 1969, marking the beginning of a journey characterized by diverse roles and committed service.

Bishop Brandt's experiences and expertise extended beyond his roles in the diocese. He served as a Vatican diplomat in various capacities in Germany, Algeria and Ecuador, thanks to his time in the Vatican Diplomatic Corps. Notably, his work in Germany earned him a Presidential Medal of Service from the president of West Germany.

Upon returning to the Erie Diocese in the early '80s, Bishop Brandt continued his diligent service in various roles. From working in the chancery to acting as the chaplain at Gannondale and serving as the pastor at St. Hedwig Parish, his wide-ranging roles reflect his flexibility and commitment.

Bishop Brandt is known for his warm smile, charismatic personality, and his ability to make anyone feel at ease.



On January 2, 2004, Bishop Brandt was named the Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg. He was ordained and installed as its fourth bishop on March 4, 2004. Witnesses at his ordination noted the tangible sense of joy he brought with him, a joy that has only seemed to grow since his retirement. Now at the age of 84, Bishop Brandt continues to exhibit a zest for life, always eager to learn more about the world and the people in it.

BISHOP MARK LEONARD BARTCHAK

Born on January 1, 1955, in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Bradford, Bishop Mark Leonard Bartchak was ordained a priest on May 15, 1981, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, just two days after the shooting of Pope John Paul II. This dramatic event marked a significant moment in Catholic history and the beginning of his priesthood.

Bishop Bartchak has made substantial contributions within the field of canon law, and his expertise is highly respected within this specialized area of church law, including at the Vatican itself.

What stands out about Bishop Bartchak's pastoral care is his exceptional listening skills and thoughtful approach to dialogue. He values understanding others' perspectives and shares his insights with gentleness and respect. This empathetic approach enriches his legal work, offering a balanced vision of canon law and pastoral ministry.



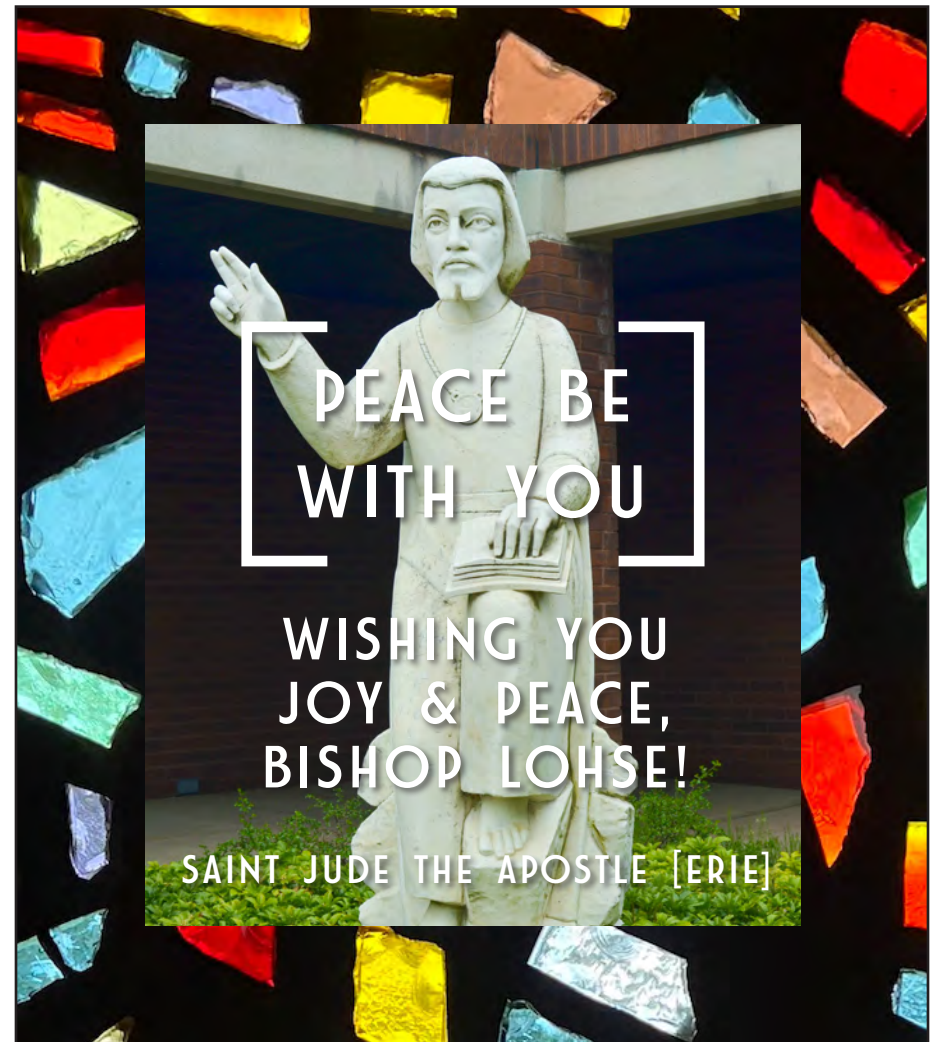
When Bishop Bartchak was ordained as bishop on April 19, 2011, for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, he brought with him a calm, inviting demeanor. His quiet presence carries an undercurrent of joy and warmth that resonates with all who interact with him.

BY FATHER JUSTIN PINO AS TOLD TO VINCE DRAGONE

The parish family of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
offers prayerful best wishes
and congratulations to
Bishop Edward Lohse on your
ordination and installation as
the fifth bishop of Kalamazoo



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie



Congratulations!

Dear Bishop Lohse,
You have been a wonderful advocate
lighting the way for our Catholic schools.

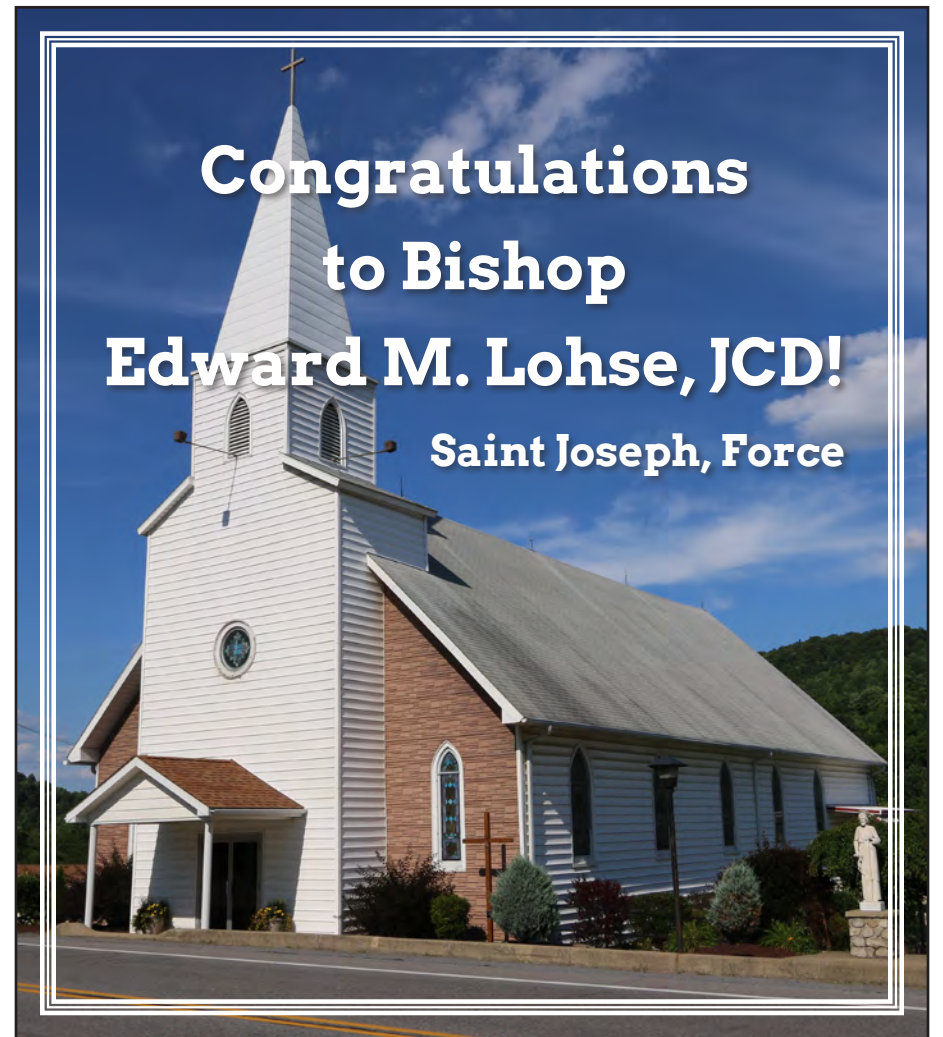
We are grateful for your service
to our mission and our diocese.

God bless you!

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Erie



**Congratulations
to Bishop
Edward M. Lohse, JCD!
Saint Joseph, Force**



FUN THINGS FOR BISHOP LOHSE TO ENJOY IN *Kalamazoo*

First things first: now that Bishop Lohse has moved to Kalamazoo, what do we call him? It seems the official title is *Kalamazooan*, although many add an “i” and use *Kalamazooian*. Our favorite? When radio station 1077 WRKR put the question to its audience, many suggested *Kalamazooligan*!

Whatever he chooses, Bishop Lohse will have no trouble finding ways to relax, refresh and renew himself as he ministers to the people of his diocese.

THE CALL OF THE WILD

When he needs to get back to basics, Bishop Lohse can visit the **Kalamazoo Nature Center**. A perfect stop for nature lovers, with 15 miles of trails and a visitor’s center with interactive exhibits. The center has loads of camps and outdoor events to keep him engaged all summer long.

No doubt the new bishop will be visiting the **Kalamazoo Farmer’s Market**, boasting over 100 vendors selling fresh produce, freshly prepared food and art. Friendly vendors and diverse foods will feed both body and soul.

Offering everything from asparagus and blueberries to sweet corn and homemade pies, we are sure Bishop Lohse will feel right at home if he stops in at **VerHage’s Farm Market and Bakery at the Mill**. And yes, just like Bishop Lohse’s family, they make their own cider!

An avowed birder, Bishop Lohse will surely be stopping by the **Kalamazoo Public Library** where he’ll find several books on the birds of Michigan. He might also want to visit their website at 150.kpl.gov, where he’ll find beautifully curated historic photographs of the area in categories ranging from churches to people at work.

ART AND SCIENCE TO INSPIRE

The **Kalamazoo Valley Museum** is both free and fun with interactive exhibits on technology, science, and local history. Bishop Lohse should put this on the list when friends and family members with little ones come for a visit. The museum features a planetarium and rotating exhibits, constantly providing new and exciting new information.



When he’s in a more reflective mood, Bishop Lohse can visit the **Kalamazoo Institute of Arts**, which features 5,000 beautiful art pieces in its permanent collection, as well as various temporary exhibits. The institute offers tours that will surely pique his interest.

Public sculptures dot the landscape throughout Kalamazoo, so even driving to events and parishes will become a source of inspiration

for Bishop Lohse. The outdoor artwork includes pieces from local and international artists created in the 20th and 21st centuries. Whether he prefers abstract or realistic art, he will surely enjoy debating the meaning of some of the more avant-garde sculptures.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Although he prefers savory to sweet treats, Bishop Lohse will no doubt enjoy stopping by **Boonzaaijer Bakery**. Pronounced Bone-z-i-er, it’s a family-owned bakery which has been producing delicious cakes, Dutch cookies and other treats since 1961. With an array of phenomenal desserts from which to choose, it’ll be a great resource when he’s entertaining colleagues and visitors.

While we’re exploring the sweeter side of Kalamazoo, we hear **Sweetwater’s Donut Mill** is not to be missed. Their specialty? You guessed it — donuts. It’s been around for 40 years, and with three locations, all open 24/7, these nationally recognized donuts — they’re that good — will surely make their way to the bishop’s table.

Bell’s Eccentric Café provides great refreshment, offering both food and entertainment including live events and musical entertainment. It’s connected to a general store and is also known for its craft beer, brewed at **Bell’s Brewery** in Kalamazoo.

When he wants to refresh his memories of Rome, Bishop Lohse can stop by **Erbelli’s Gourmet Pizza**, which has been serving award-winning Italian food and pizza since it opened in 1995. With dine-in, take-out and delivery options, the bishop can make it work on even his busiest days!

BY KATIE BENSON AND ANNE-MARIE WELSH



(Left to right):
Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kalamazoo Mall

PHOTOS / Discover Kalamazoo

Heartfelt Messages: FAMILY, FRIENDS AND MORE



In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." That we will do every day when we think about you in your new role: Bishop of Kalamazoo. "Congratulations," "Good luck," and "Farewell" do not adequately say what is in our hearts. As you start this journey, we send our pride, respect, confidence, overwhelming love and an abundance of prayers to you.

COVID-19 pushed everyone inside their homes, and we all stayed sheltered. But during COVID-19, we had the start of our fabulous nightly dinners, explored new wines, played card games and board games that we hadn't touched since our childhood and watched many, many Hallmark movies. We made new, old and sometimes not-so-great dishes, but in all, unforgettable family dinners. Those nights along with our gatherings on the pool deck, dinners at the club and our short mini vacations, will constantly remind us of the meaning of family.

We look forward to and embrace the new norm for us in the coming weeks, months and years.

For now, we just "smile because it happened."

STEVE, CHRIS AND ANNA LOHSE

I was blessed to have been able to spend 4.5 years with Father Ed starting in 2011, when I began working for the Holy See. We lived together in the same house in Rome (with 20 other priests) and would regularly celebrate or concelebrate morning Mass with the religious sisters who staffed the house, share meals together and visit "station churches of Rome" during Lent. We were both adjunct spiritual directors at the North American College, with offices next to each other, and we worked on and completed doctoral degrees concurrently at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. More recently, we've collaborated as members of the Canon Law Society of America. Besides being a well-respected and most competent canon lawyer, he was and is a very caring priest, with a great love for the people of God. He is trustworthy and authentic, with the highest integrity, along with high regard for the "Commonwealth," as he would regularly call his home state. The faithful in Kalamazoo will continue to be well-served with Bishop Lohse as their shepherd.

Funny story: every Friday is meatless for Catholics in Rome. On Friday evenings, when fish would often be available in the refrigerator to be reheated, Father Ed was known to say: "any fish is fine, so long as there is plenty of tartar sauce available."

MONSIGNOR STEPHEN DOKTORCZYK, J.C.D., M.B.A.

Even from my earliest childhood, I remember Ed was always interested in becoming a priest. Who would have thought that almost 60 years later, we would be at his ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The journey for Ed has been a long one. Once he was ordained a priest in 1989, he spent long periods of time away from family and friends. But we have a very close family and we have always been able to keep in contact with one another. Since Ed returned from Rome, the family has grown even closer together. But one thing always remained a constant, that is Ed's humility to his vow of obedience he took when he was first ordained. So, we all knew he might be leaving us at some point. That time has come. Although bittersweet, we are all so proud of his accomplishments in the name of our faith!

At Ed's ordination in Kalamazoo, it was amazing to see the different communities of our faith that were represented. Besides our amazing hosts at the Diocese of Kalamazoo, there were members of our home parish of St. Francis Xavier; of the parish he quickly grew so fond of, St. Julia's; friends and colleagues of his from the diocesan office and around the diocese, as well as his friends he made while serving in Rome. All came to his ordination to express the joy they had for him and to wish him well as he shepherds his new flock in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. And it makes us very happy that many of these friends have become very close to our family. It's amazing to me, his brother, to see all the impact he has made by building these relationships around the world. But I think the best is yet to come!

JOHN "JACK" LOHSE, BROTHER

One of my best memories of Ed is when we were at St. Vincent Seminary together, we led a rosary every night after dinner in the Grotto under the Church Basilica. A few of the college students would join us and after each rosary we would all sing the Salve Regina in Latin. Things have not changed much throughout these years—prayer is not just part of his life, it is his life! First and foremost, a bishop is to lead people to Jesus, and I know that is exactly what Bishop Lohse will do. He is a great classmate, and he will be a great bishop! Congratulations!

FATHER LARRY RICHARDS, CLASSMATE

He was a great addition to the church. He just seemed to revitalize the parish. He'll really be missed. Kalamazoo is getting a great bishop. We wish him well.

CHRISTINE GAMMON, ST. JULIA PARISHIONER



Bishop Lohse once told me he loves working in the diocesan curia. I think it is because such work is never just office work to him. He sees all his work as pastoral work, as priestly service, whether it's writing canonical decrees or working on pastoral planning or drafting the policy for the protection of children or dealing with personnel at St. Mark Catholic Center. I vividly remember that during the difficult years of the clergy sex-abuse crisis, he used to come to my office and say, "Sister, we just helped another victim. That is the important thing." His attitude was one of hope and of care, for the victims and for those of us who were involved with them. He was a source of great encouragement to me and to all of us during that so difficult time. Thank you, Bishop! We will miss you in our hallway at St. Mark Catholic Center and strive to carry on your pastoral zeal in our work.

SR. KATHLEEN DIETZ, FSO

It is a proud moment when a former student is ordained a priest, then a monsignor and now a bishop! All of the faculty at Our Lady of Peace School in Erie in the 1970s have witnessed Ed Lohse blossom into a fine young man.

Over the years I have personally had the pleasure of his company at many CCD Conventions in the Erie Diocese...always the same cordial greeting!

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, Leo and I had the privilege of attending the farewell Mass for Rev. Monsignor Edward M. Lohse, JCD, bishop-elect of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and congratulating him before Mass, an everlasting memory! Go in peace, Bishop!

MARY (GUTTING) DEFABIO



The people of St. Francis and St. Julia parishes in McKean and Erie, respectively, were delighted to have a quick greeting and visit with Bishop Lohse at the reception immediately following his ordination.

PHOTO / Vince Dragone

I first met Bishop Lohse when he was a seminarian at St. Vincent in Latrobe. He always struck me as someone who was a very sincere and up-front individual. He was not out to impress, he was simply himself, striving to live the Gospel in his life and ministry. That is what I saw in him. He was not overcome with one ideology, just following Christ, however he was asked and whatever he was called to do. He seemed happy teaching at DuBois Central, being the vocation director, going off to Rome and returning to diocesan administration. Wherever God called him, he was ready and willing to bring the Gospel to each situation.

When he celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination, he commented to the Faith magazine staff that "he hoped for a church deeply imbued with mercy, one that is an instrument of forgiveness, gentle with the weak and firm with the strong, and always unyielding in its fidelity to Christ." In working more closely with him the last few years, I have seen this lived out. He is approachable, a good listener who has a good heart and always is willing to help in any way possible. He will truly be missed in the Diocese of Erie, but these attributes will make him a wonderful shepherd to the faithful in the diocese of Kalamazoo.

SISTER NANCY FISCHER, SSJ

Msgr. Lohse is a very passionate man and it was noticed very early on. He brought a breath of fresh air into Saint Julia's. He was very motivated to get us pointed in a new direction and give us many examples and ideas of what we could do as parish council members to really thrive as a parish. He reminded us of our purpose, that council should be the "hub" of the church. He helped us restore other committees that had gone away in years past.

I think I can speak on behalf of all the council when I say that it has been an absolute honor to have worked alongside Bishop Lohse on the pastoral council for his brief stay at St. Julia Parish. There is a way about him that simply resonates with people. He is destined for great things and I consider myself so lucky that I got the privilege to meet him and become friends with him before his call to be bishop of Kalamazoo. I hope he knows that he is always welcome to join his family at St. Julia when he's back home. We will easily remember him every time we hear the bells ring!

DAN MOLLO, ST. JULIA PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Best Wishes

BISHOP
EDWARD M. LOHSE, JCD

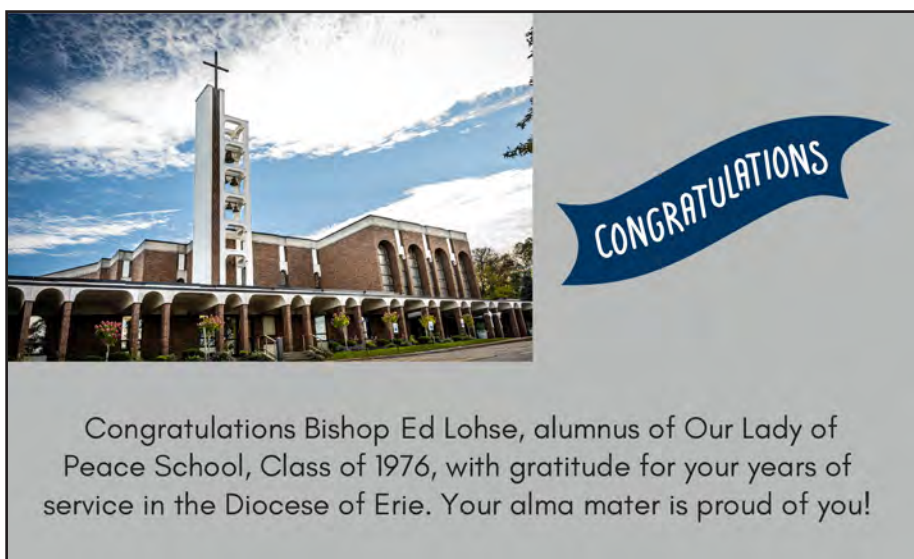


From all of us at St. George Parish, we want to wish you Edward, the very best in your call to shepherd the people in the Kalamazoo Diocese. We appreciate your years of service and dedication to the people of Saint George Parish during your years of residency here.



**St. Mary's Parish in Crown
and St. Ann Mission in Marienville
congratulate
Bishop Edward Lohse**

*May God bless you
and your new diocese!*



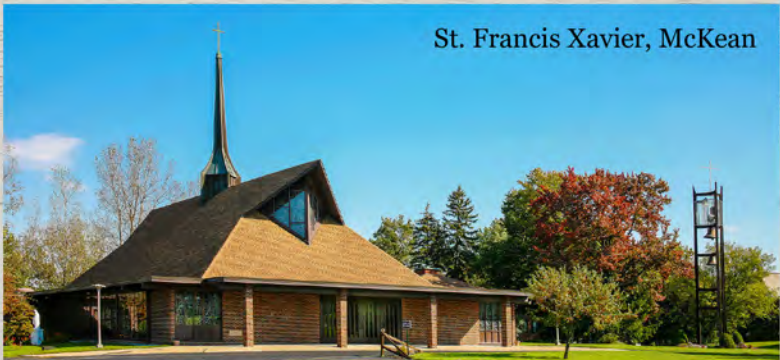


"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jer. 29:11

From home to Rome to Kalamazoo, you're always in our hearts so we'll never be too far apart. Congrats, Bishop Lohse!

God, eternal shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love. You have chosen your servant, Edward Lohse, to be a shepherd of your flock. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world. Amen.



St. Francis Xavier, McKean

DE COLORES



Congratulations

Bishop Edward Lohse

The Erie Diocesan Cursillo Movement extends prayerful support and good wishes!

Congratulations

Bishop Edward Lohse

from
Queen of the
World Church
St. Marys



St. Patrick and the Parishioners

Congratulate

Bishop Edward M. Lohse, JCD

as fifth bishop of the Diocese of

Kalamazoo, Michigan.

St. Patrick Parish

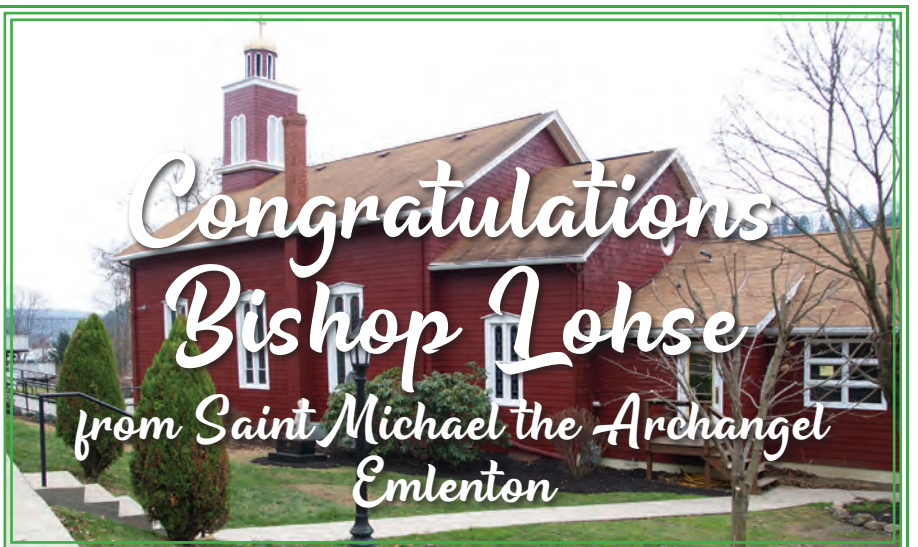
130 East 4th St., Erie, PA 16507 814-454-8085

www.saintpatrickparisherie.org

Congratulations

Bishop Lohse

*from Saint Michael the Archangel
Emlenton*



Comments: BISHOP PERSICO AND BISHOP BRADLEY

As Bishop Lohse begins his new ministry, a few thoughts from Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico and Bishop Emeritus Paul Bradley of Kalamazoo



I think the best advice I can give to a new bishop is to listen. Hear what's being said, ask questions and don't be concerned if you don't have all the answers.

That's advice I've tried to take to heart myself.

I have had the privilege of seeing that Bishop Lohse is, in fact, a very good listener. He doesn't make hasty decisions. I try not to micromanage people, so he has had a lot of independence in his role as vicar general. He has handled his responsibilities extremely well.

He also has a sharp mind, and is good at analyzing situations, which will serve him well. I believe he has all the prerequisites needed as a diocesan bishop. This appointment is a significant blessing for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, and I have no doubt Kalamazoo will be a significant blessing to Bishop Lohse as well.

— **BISHOP LAWRENCE PERSICO**

A fitting moment as Bishop Lawrence Persico, left, and Bishop Emeritus Paul Bradley, right, stand before the tabernacle with Bishop Edward Lohse after escorting him through St. Augustine Cathedral to offer his first episcopal blessings.



The appointment by our Holy Father of Msgr. Edward M. Lohse as the fifth bishop of Kalamazoo is a gift that is well worth the nearly two-and-a-half year wait since I submitted my mandatory letter requesting retirement. Knowing that he is a fellow Pennsylvanian, coming from the northwest part of the state, and that he is leaving one of the Great Lakes for another, I have no doubt that he will easily

adapt to his new role as bishop of this wonderful Diocese of Kalamazoo in southwest Michigan. His very impressive background, along with his obvious priestly zeal and pastoral heart, will serve the church well here in the this part of the vineyard of the Lord.

While we are all very aware of the many challenges facing both society as well as the church, I am confident that Bishop Lohse's many gifts and talents, along with the grace of the Holy Spirit, will guide him in addressing those challenges, while also finding ways to lead the church here to a deeper faith and a greater witness of our faith.

May our dear Blessed Mother, whose sole purpose is to lead us closer to her Son, help Bishop Lohse to draw our relatively young Diocese of Kalamazoo to a greater maturity as a local church, and lead our clergy and lay faithful to a deeper love for Jesus, and a growing desire to be his courageous and joyful witnesses to all the world.

— **BISHOP PAUL BRADLEY**

PHOTOS / Vince Dragone





DIOCESE
OF
KALAMAZOO

“We pray together in gratitude to God for the gift of our new Shepherd,
Bishop Edward M. Lohse.

We also pray in gratitude to the Church of Erie,
and to the Lohse Family, for preparing him to assume this new and
important role as the Chief Pastor and Teacher of the
Church in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.”

~Bishop Emeritus Paul J. Bradley and the Clergy and Faithful people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo

Congratulations as you begin your episcopal service to the holy people of God.



**THE MOST REVEREND
EDWARD M. LOHSE**

**BLESSINGS ON YOUR
ORDINATIONS
AS THE NEW
BISHOP OF KALAMAZOO**



Congratulations, Bishop Lohse!

The Catholic Foundation staff and board of directors have been blessed to know and work with you and we offer our prayers as you become Bishop of Kalamazoo.

We pray that God will bless you with every grace
as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care.



Bishop Edward Lohse and Lisa Louis,
Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation



The farewell Mass at
St. Peter Cathedral Parish, Erie



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