

A SPECIAL EDITION OF *FaithLife*  
NEWS BULLETIN, OCTOBER 14, 2007

# FAITHFUL SERVANTS

*Journey of Faith* 2007

Cover Design by Elizabeth Polakowski

A CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE  
ANNIVERSARIES OF OUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS SERVING IN THE  
DIOCESE OF ERIE



Congratulations

• Jubilarians

• Congratulations

• Jubilarians

Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ

Msgr. Casimir A. Bogniak

Msgr. John M. Dollinger

Msgr. William C. Karg



1600 Peninsula Dr.

Erie, PA 16505

835-2222

fax: 838-5099

www.goecca.com

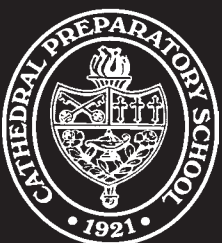
# Building the City of God One Person at a Time

## Congratulations Men of Prep and Sr. Jim!

Newly Ordained  
Rev. Bill Barron '99  
Deacon of 10 Years  
Marty Eisert '58

65 Years  
Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell '34  
60 Years  
Rev. Norbert Wolf '41  
Msgr. Robert Barcio '40  
Msgr. James Peterson '41  
Sisters Celebrating 60 Years  
Sr. James Francis Mulligan

50 Years  
Msgr. William Karg '49  
Msgr. John Dollinger  
(Headmaster)  
40 Years  
Msgr. Conrad Kraus '51  
25 Years  
Rev. Chris Hamlett  
(Faculty)  
Rev. James McCormick '74



*Developing men of vision in spirit, mind and body.*

# Dear Esteemed Jubilarians,

Congratulations on your jubilee anniversaries!

Each year, as our editors and writers work with you to put together essays that honor your many years of dedication and service on behalf of God's people, we realize what an impossible task we face. How can we communicate the love, the sacrifice and the commitment of each of your lives in just a few paragraphs?

But we remain committed to publishing "Faithful Servants" so that we can at least try to let you know how much you are treasured.

We do recognize and thank you for your various ministries and all you have done for God's people. But more importantly, we recognize and thank you for who you are. You are women and men of prayer who have given your hearts in love to the Lord. We commend you for who you are, even more than for what you have done.

You who serve the Lord and his people are the gift of God the Father through Jesus. You are God's gift to the church. I know you embrace the honor that is yours of working directly for God's kingdom.

We thank God for calling you to the side of prayer. We thank God for calling you to be ecclesial ministers. We thank God for being your strength through good times and bad.

Celebrating a jubilee is much more than simply marking the passage of 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of dedicated service to God's people. It is much more than a time for nostalgia.

During a jubilee, we celebrate the anniversary of Christ's words: "It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit." These words clearly demonstrate that Christ took the initiative and chose you because he loved you in a very special way. These are words of love. Christ called you to this life because he loves you and wanted to entrust to you his mission and message. Our Lord spoke to you, our jubilarians, at the time of your profession or ordination. He called you, "Come, follow me. Give me your heart." And you took a leap in faith and followed Jesus of Nazareth.

You could not see what the leap in faith would entail, but that did not stop you from following Christ. You believed in your vocation and you translated that vocation daily into reality. You reach countless people through your various ministries and through your prayer. You, our jubilarians, are faithful co-workers of the Lord.

Always remember that God responds to your love and service of his people. God responds to your surrender of self. God responds by giving you the promise of an eternity with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You have given years, but God gives eternity.

We, the Lord's church in the Erie Diocese, give thanks to God for you. We give thanks to your parents and brothers and sisters who gave you a faith environment. We give thanks to the parishes and the religious communities that have nourished and supported you. We give thanks to God for all those who have guided your vocations.

Young children give thanks to God for your work. The sick and the elderly give thanks to God for your work. The poor and the downtrodden give thanks to God for your work. You have built up the Lord's church. How blessed is this diocese because of you.



## Faithful Servants

The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the men and women featured in this publication for their inspiration, dedication and ongoing service. God bless you as you continue in your journeys.

EDITOR: JASON KOSHINSKIE  
FAITHLIFE@ERIERCD.ORG

WRITERS: TRICIA DEMARCO  
MATT HUBERT  
JASON KOSHINSKIE  
GARY LONCKI  
SISTER MARY ANN LUKE, OSB  
PAM PARKER  
ANNE-MARIE WELSH

DESIGNER & ADVERTISING SALES DESIGN:  
ELIZABETH POLAKOWSKI

PROOF READING: CINDY DECOURSEY  
JASON KOSHINSKIE  
ANNE-MARIE WELSH  
BRENDA WILLIAMS

PRINTER: EVERGREEN PRINTING AND  
PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

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

Special thanks to Kathy Linse, Gary Loncki and Stephanie Pompeani.

# Monsignor Salvatore P. Mitchell



65 years

Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell has seen people struggle and triumph in many ways through his years as a parish priest and an armed forces chaplain — and through it all his faith has served both as a comfort and a healing balm.

As a young man, “my faith was strengthened by the silent suffering of my sick aunt and my mother’s daily recitation of the rosary,” he recalls.

Msgr. Mitchell served as an altar boy at Sacred Heart Parish in Sharon. He attributes his experiences at his home parish, Sacred Heart Grade School, and later as a student at Cathedral Prep, to his call toward the priesthood.

Msgr. Mitchell was ordained on May 14, 1942. Shortly after, he was called to serve as a Navy chaplain during World War II.

“I got to travel and meet all sorts of people, and it was a constant change of venue,” he says of that time.

From 1944 to 1946 he was a chaplain on the island of Okinawa, off the coast of Japan. Later, he also served as chaplain of the Veterans’ Administrative Hospital in Erie.

Msgr. Mitchell was instrumental in establishing the Church of the Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesex in October 1955, where he served as pastor until his retirement in 1991. Before founding Good Shepherd, he also served in Erie at St. Joseph and St. Boniface parishes, as well as Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren and St. Joseph Parish in Oil City.

Msgr. Mitchell lives at John XXIII Home in Hermitage. Coincidentally, he directed the construction of John XXIII Home when it was built in 1970.

*Parochial Vicar:*  
St. Boniface, Erie  
St. Joseph, Erie  
St. Joseph, Oil City  
Holy Redeemer, Warren

*Pastor:*  
Good Shepherd,  
West Middlesex  
*Retired:*  
Resident, John XXIII  
Home

## My Inspiration

“I find spiritual refreshment in the recitation of the Psalms.”

## Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell

**Thank you for your love,  
support, guidance and  
direction over the past  
65 years.**

**From your friends and family  
at John XXIII Home**



# Monsignor Robert G. Barcio

Msgr. Robert Barcio's road to becoming a priest had more than a few bumps in it. When he graduated from Cathedral Prep in 1940, he wanted to accompany his friends to St. Vincent College in Latrobe to become a Benedictine, but a burst appendix stopped him.

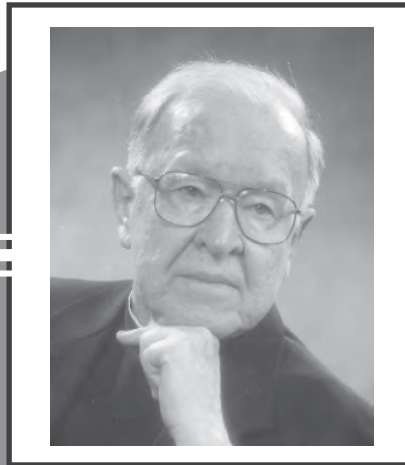
While he recovered, he lost a brother who was struck by lightning. In the following year, problems with his appendix recurred and more surgeries followed.

In spite of his medical problems and family sorrows, Msgr. Barcio eventually attended Gannon University and St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore.

He later joined the faculties at Cathedral Prep and Gannon University and fondly

remembers developing parochial school athletics along with the late Msgr. Jim Gannon. Today, many of Erie's finest athletes remember Msgr. Barcio as a coach and athletic director at Erie parishes. In fact, his basketball team at Blessed Sacrament won a state title in 1974, and he has many wonderful memories of teams from Holy Rosary and St. John.

In addition to sharing a love of sports and faith with students, Msgr. Barcio shared his gift for research and history with the



60 years

*Parochial Vicar:*  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
*Pastor:*  
**St. Peter Cathedral, Erie**  
**St. Francis, Clearfield**  
**St. Mark, Lawrence Park**  
*Faculty:*  
**Cathedral Prep, Erie**  
**Gannon University, Dean of Students**  
**Diocesan Historian and Archivist**  
*Weekend Assistant:*  
**St. John the Baptist, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**St. Jude, Erie**  
**St. Luke, Erie**  
*Retired:*  
**Resident, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie**

*Msgr. Robert Barcio*



Congratulations to Msgr. Robert G. Barcio on your 60th anniversary to the priesthood, with gratitude for your service to St. Francis Church.

- Parishioners of St. Francis Church, Clearfield -

entire diocese. In 1985, he co-authored "Education on the Square," a history of Gannon University. Six years later in 1991, he published "Cathedral in the Wilderness," a comprehensive and interesting account of the diocese's formative years from 1853 to 1920. In it, he traced the roots of each parish to the early priests and settlers in diocesan communities.

He followed that book in 1996 with "That You Love One Another—The Life and Times of Archbishop John Mark Gannon," further documenting the diocese's history from 1920 to

1966. Throughout his 60 years of priesthood, Msgr. Barcio also served as a pastor and assistant at numerous area churches. Although he retired in 1993, he has been the full-time diocesan archivist since 1986, often helping families trace their own genealogy through marriage certificates and religious documents.

Today, Msgr. Barcio continues to celebrate his faith on a daily basis at 8 a.m. Mass at St. Peter Cathedral and as a weekend assistant at St. Julia Parish in Erie.

## My Inspiration

"The Psalm of the Good Shepherd. It is a terrific image of the priesthood and its goals."

# Sister Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ

For many years, Sister Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ, had an interest in religious life. But it wasn't until after graduation and talking with her parish priest that she fully realized this was how she wished to spend her life.

"The deep faith and the teachings of my parents guided me over the years," she says. "Also the sisters I met during my school

years displayed a faith that resonated with me."

Sister Rose Marie grew up in Watertown, Maine. After she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, she taught at Sacred Heart Grade School in Erie. Later she worked as an x-ray technician at Spencer Hospital in Meadville and at Titusville Hospital. In the mid-1970s, she served as superior of the St. Joseph

Convent in Meadville.

Sister Rose Marie ministered as the receptionist at the Villa Maria Conference Center in Erie from 1994 to 1998. She then worked as coordinator at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center and now serves as receptionist at St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge in Erie.



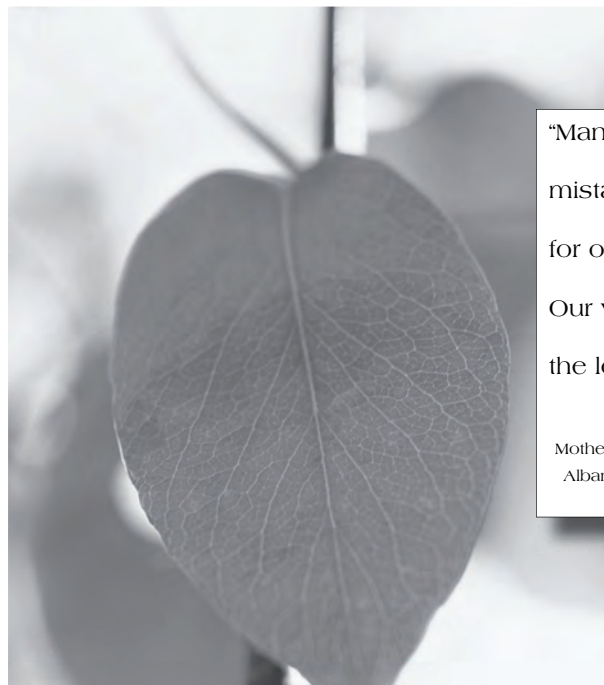
60 years

## My Inspiration

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." -Matthew 10:40-42

*Teacher:*  
**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
*X-ray Technician & Supervisor:*  
**Spencer Hospital, Meadville**  
**Titusville Hospital, Titusville**  
**Orthopedic Associates of Meadville**  
*Superior:*  
**St. Joseph Convent**

*Receptionist:*  
**Villa Maria Conference Center, Erie**  
**St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge, Erie**  
*Coordinator:*  
**Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center, Erie**



"Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus."

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)  
 Albanian-born missionary

## God Bless the Jubilarians

Sisters of Mercy of Erie  
 Benedictine Sisters of Erie  
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania

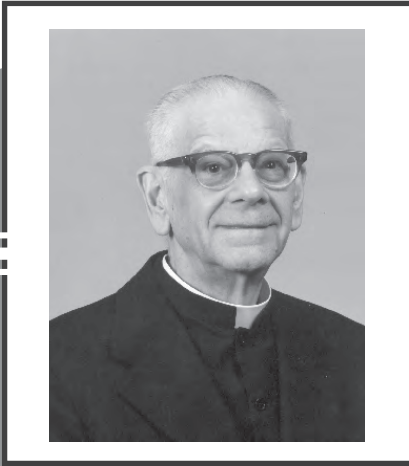


May God continue to bless **Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell**, our beloved founding pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Thank you for your years of dedicated service. Our best wishes to you on your **65th** anniversary.



Your Good Shepherd Parishioners

# Father Joseph A. Ciaiola



60 years

For decades, the Ciaiola name has been associated with building and restoring churches in the Erie Diocese. Father Joseph Ciaiola, over the past 60 years, made his mark in Brookville and Farrell, and his brother, the late Father Ralph Ciaiola, was well-known for his work in Greenville at St. Michael Parish.

About 10 years ago, Father Ciaiola had open heart surgery, but it never slowed him down. Today, however, he is recovering from heart ailments in a convalescent home, and his good friend, Our Lady of Fatima pastor Father Donald Berdis, hopes he can return to the parish soon. In the meantime, he remembers his friend's career well.

"He was instrumental in construction here and in Brookville," Father Berdis said.

Celebrating his 86th birthday in May, Father Ciaiola grew up in Titusville and began his career in 1947 in Farrell's former St. Anthony Parish. He later worked to combine both St. Anthony and St. Elizabeth into Our Lady of Fatima Parish, raising funds for Msgr. Geno Monti School with a convent, cafeteria and gym.

By 1963, Father Ciaiola moved on to Brookville adding his unique touch at Immaculate Conception Parish where he served as pastor, renovating the church and school and developing mission churches in Sigel and Corsica. During his 34 years in Brookville, he pulled the church

## My Inspiration

"The Gospels because they are the life of Christ."

and school out of debt, sometimes making his own personal financial contributions to keep the school in operation. But as population trends and enrollment declined in the 1980s, the school closed.

"It was the saddest day of Father's life when he had to close Immaculate Conception school," Father Berdis said.

During his career, he was at one time a vicar for priests and worked tirelessly for former Bishop John Whealon, traveling throughout the diocese to help resolve problems and make appointments in parishes—continuing with his spirit of building churches and communities.

*Parochial Vicar:*

**St. Anthony, Sharon**

**Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell**

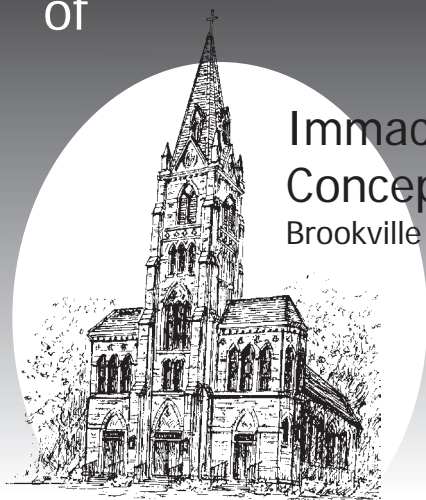
*Pastor & Administrator:*

**Immaculate Conception, Erie**

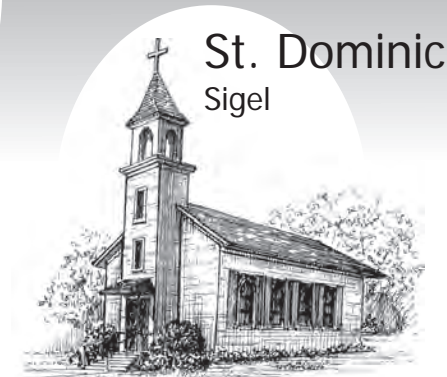
*Retired:*

**Resident, Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell**

**Congratulations Fr. Ciaiola and thank you for your many years of service to the Catholic Community of**



**Immaculate Conception**  
Brookville



**St. Dominic**  
Sigel



**Congratulations to Reverend Joseph A. Ciaiola (60 Years)**

Priest, Builder of Msgr. Geno Monti School, Pastor, Educator and Friend

**Congratulations to Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell (65 Years), to all the newly ordained, and to all Jubilarians**

Priests, Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Faculty and Students of Msgr. Geno Monti School



# Sister Audrey Clauss, RSM



60 years

*Education:*

**Sacred Heart High School, Buffalo**  
**Mercyhurst College, Erie (BA, English/History)**  
**Fordham University, New York (MA, French)**  
**Case Western, Cleveland (PhD., French)**

*Teacher:*

**Mercyhurst Prep, Erie**  
**Cathedral Prep, Erie**

*Religious Education:*

**Polk Center, Polk, Pa.**  
**St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie**

*Swimming Teacher:*

**Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center**  
**Beacon Lodge, Mount Union, Pa.**

*Day Care Attendant:*

**Brevillier Village, Erie**

Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

She taught French, English and Forensics in Pittsburgh and at Mercyhurst Prep and Cathedral Prep in Erie.

Her teaching also included religious education classes at Polk Center, Polk, and at St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie. She taught conversational French to employees of General Electric who were going to work in a factory near Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

At the Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Sister Audrey taught clients how to swim and conducted an aqua-therapy class for men and women in the Erie area. She described the 10 summers as a swimming instructor at a camp for the blind at Beacon Lodge, Mount

Sister Audrey Clauss loves the water.

In high school, she worked as a lifeguard at a summer camp sponsored by the

St. Vincent DePaul Society for Buffalo's poor, inner-city children. Later, among many other things, she would teach the blind and senior citizens how

to swim.

What does that have to do with religious life?

"Working on beaches and at pools, drinking in the changes of water and sky each day, why religious life would enhance it I never tried to define," she says.

What is for certain, though, was her decision to enter the Sisters of Mercy at Titusville on Sept. 7, 1947, shortly after her graduation from Sacred Heart High School, Buffalo. She made first vows on June 21, 1950, and final vows June 21, 1953.

Sister Audrey went on to earn bachelor's degrees in English and history from Mercyhurst College; a diploma in French literature from La Sorbonne, Paris, France, which she was able to attend on a Fulbright Scholarship; a master's degree in French from Fordham University, New York; and a doctorate in French from Case

## My Inspiration

"My mind and my body may grow weak, but God is my strength. He is all I need."

-Psalm 73:26

Union, Pa., as the "peak of ministry joy."

She is a day care attendant at Brevillier Village, Erie, for those with Alzheimer's disease or physical disabilities.

Asked what she finds most satisfying in her years as a woman religious, she says "Definitely, ministry wherever and whatever."

## Mercyhurst College *honors*

**Sr. Audrey Clauss, RSM**

*and*  
**Sr. Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM**

ALUMNI CELEBRATING JUBILEE: YEARS AS SISTERS OF MERCY

### Sr. Audrey Clauss, RSM ~ 60th Anniversary

A graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Buffalo and Mercyhurst College, Fordham University, NYC and Case Western, Cleveland. Sr. Audrey faithfully served at: Mercyhurst Prep, Cathedral Prep, Polk Center (Polk, Pa.), St. John the Baptist (Erie), Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Beacon Lodge (Mount Union, Pa.) and Brevillier Village (Erie).

### Sr. Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM ~ 50th Anniversary

Attended St. Catherine of Siena Parish School and is a graduate of Mercyhurst College and Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. Sr. Catherine Edward faithfully served at: St. Titus (Titusville, Pa.), Mercyhurst Prep, St. Patrick School (Franklin, Pa.), Immaculate Conception School (Brookville, Pa.), Christ the King Manor (DuBois, Pa.), Pleasant Ridge Manor East (Erie) and Mercy Center of the Arts where she is co-founder, administrator.

 **Mercyhurst**  
COLLEGE



# Sister Rose Anne Fedorko, SSJ



60 years

When Sister Rose Anne Fedorko's father died, the example of her mother's "profound faith" created a firm foundation on which she was able to rely for the rest of her life.

"She kept the family together with love and prayers and smiles and

homemade bread," Sister Rose Anne recalls. "God and church always came first with mom."

It seems that throughout Sister Rose Anne's life, she not only saw the good in the people around her, but she also saw and was influenced by their faith examples repeatedly. Experiences that might have eaten away at someone else's faith seemed only to strengthen hers.

Sister Rose Anne grew up in Johnsonburg and earned successive degrees at Villa Maria College, Temple University in Philadelphia and Catholic University

of America in Washington. She also studied at Oxford and Harvard.

In Erie, she taught at St. Patrick, Sacred Heart, St. John, St. Peter Cathedral and Maryvale Pre-School. But perhaps her most

unusual ministry was the 20 years she spent as the "FBI nun," ministering to men and women who worked at the agency and who were parishioners at St. Patrick Parish in Washington, D.C.

"One very fine layman whose faith deeply touched me stands out in my working years. Louis Freeh, while director of the FBI, frequently walked up the street, without security guards, to participate in the early Mass at St. Patrick's," she says. "He is a man of honesty, fairness, justice and integrity. I was humbled by his deep respect for me and I regarded him as a true man of faith."

Today, Sister Rose Anne ministers as wellness coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center.

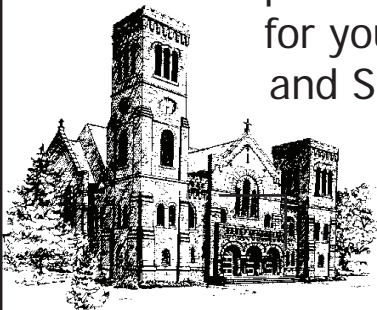
*Teacher:*

- St. Patrick, Erie**
- Sacred Heart, Erie**
- St. John, Erie**
- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie**
- Maryvale Pre-School, Erie**

*Ministered at:*

- Villa Maria College, Erie**
  - Catholic University, Washington, DC**
  - East Coast Migrant Headstart Program**
  - Holy Childhood Association**
  - Marymount University**
  - Campus Minister, Edinboro University, Newman Center**
  - Our Lady of The Lake, Edinboro**
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC**
  - Fort Myer, Arlington, Va.**
  - St. Patrick, Washington, DC**
- Additional Duties:*
- Life Coach: Koch Health and Wellness Center, Sisters of St. Joseph, Erie**

Congratulations to **Msgr. John M. Dollinger** on your 50th anniversary of the priesthood and to **Msgr. Joseph V. Wardanski** on your 40th anniversary of priesthood, and with gratitude for your services to St. Patrick's and St. Hedwig's parishes.



Congratulations to **Sr. Rose Anne Fedorko SSJ (60 years), Sr.**

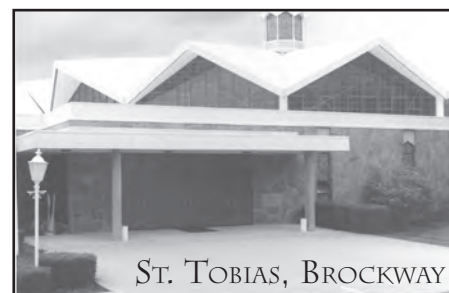
**Ann Donohue SSJ, Sr. Marie Timmons SSJ, and Sr. Andrene Mittal SSJ (50 years)** on your anniversaries in religious life and in appreciation for your years of service to St. Patrick's School.



## My Inspiration

"Growing up during World War II years, seeing four brothers off to war, and the sacrifices, prayers and tears, as well as the joys of returning heroes, I was deeply impressed with their faith and dependence on God through it all. I wanted to give my life to serving this wonderful generation of faith-filled people of God."

A WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE JUBILARIANS THIS YEAR!



ST. TOBIAS, BROCKWAY

# Sister Mary Grace Hanes, OSB



60 years

Sister Mary Grace Hanes, who first professed Benedictine vows 60 years ago, looks forward to a future in which her community retains the Gospel values that are the foundation of Benedictine spirituality and remains deeply rooted in Christ even as it adapts to a changing world.

She notes that the world changes in many ways and that, in order to better serve the people of God, we must adapt to change. But the central focus is always to remain rooted in Christ.

Sister Mary Grace was born in Kane, a daughter of the late Albert E. and Susan Griebel Hanes. Her family moved to St. Ann Parish, Erie, where she attended the parish elementary school. She is a graduate of St. Benedict Academy, Erie.

She received her bachelor's degree in business education from Villa Maria College, Erie, and master's in secondary school administration from St. Louis University with additional studies at the University of Dayton and Gannon University to earn her counseling certification.

Sister Mary Grace taught at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in Clarion, at St. Gregory High School, North East and St. Joseph High School, Oil City. For nearly 25 years she ministered at

St. Benedict Academy. There she served variously as teacher, assistant principal, principal and guidance counselor.

But her real gift to the students, the faculty and the administration was her ability to make everything run smoothly. She always knew what was needed by whom and how to provide it. And provide she did, without delay and without fanfare.

In the meantime, she served her community as treasurer and later as Mount St. Benedict's coordinator. The latter is an indefinable and largely undoable task: To provide for the material needs of all the sisters at the Mount, a very large family. Again, she made everything run smoothly.

Sister Mary Grace became the very efficient community secretary and then secretary to the prioress, at that time Sister Joan Chittister, OSB.

Since 1990, Sister Mary Grace

## My Inspiration

“Monastics are not to pursue what they judge better for themselves, but instead, what they judge better for someone else.”

-Rule of Benedict, Chapter 72

has served as secretary to Benetvision and Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM).

Sister Mary Grace finds the religious community's best gift to her to be its rich liturgical life by which her own prayer life has been deepened and enriched.

### Education:

**Villa Maria College**  
(BS, Business Education)

**St. Louis University**  
(Master of Education,  
Secondary School  
Administration)

**University of Dayton and Gannon  
University (Counseling  
Certification)**

### Teacher:

**Immaculate Conception, Clarion**  
**St. Gregory, North East**  
**St. Benedict Academy, Erie**  
**St. Joseph, Oil City**

### Secretary:

**Benetvision and Alliance for  
International Monasticism  
(AIM)**

The Catholic Community of Titusville would like to honor the following jubilarians...



Rev. Joseph Ciaiola  
Msgr. James W. Peterson  
Rev. John M. Schultz  
Sr. Mary Edith Hirsch, RSM  
Sr. Timothy Kelley, RSM  
Sr. Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM  
Sr. Phyllis Marie McDonald, RSM

Congratulations to you all!

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Sr. Mary Grace Hanes, OSB**  
**60 Years as a Faithful Sister**



Hagan Business Machines  
1112 Peach St, Erie, 16501  
814-456-7521

# Sister Mary Edith Hirsch, RSM

Sister Edith Hirsch was a self-described tomboy who climbed trees on her family's farm and wore her brother's overalls. She worked at the U.S. Post Office in McKean, Pa., and then for several years in the shipping department of Erie Resistor. She dated several young men and at one time considered marriage to one of them.

But there was something stirring in her heart. She read spiritual books and at a retreat at Mercyhurst College, Sister Mary Ligouri, the college librarian, watched as the young woman perused vocations

materials. "Did you ever consider becoming a sister?" she asked. She had, but she did not want to leave her widowed mother who was beset by health problems. After hearing of her struggle, the retreat master told her that God loved her mother and would take care of her if Edith cooperated with God's will.

"I could trust God or stay at home and care for my mother," she says.

She opted to become a Sister of Mercy, entering on Nov. 21, 1947 and expecting to cook and do housework to free up another sister to teach. She had been at the convent in Titusville only a week when a sister who taught at St. Catherine of Siena School, DuBois, died. Sister Edith was her replacement. With little experience but a strong faith, she stood nervously in front of 46 second-graders.

"I managed to survive the year and so did the children," she says.

She made her first vows on June 21, 1950 and final vows on June 21, 1953.

Teaching was her calling.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst College in elementary education and a master's degree in religious education from Gannon University.

Besides DuBois, her teaching assignments took her to Brookville, Corry, Erie, Franklin, Punxsutawney and Titusville, where she served as principal and in pastoral ministry at the parish.

Also, she ministered in summer programs in Charleston, S.C., and at the Neighborhood Art House and St. Martin Center, both in Erie.

"I'm very grateful that God brought me to where I am," she says. "I'm very content. This is where God wanted me."



60 years

*Education:*

**Mercyhurst College (BA, Education)**  
**Gannon University (MA, Religious Education)**

*Teacher:*

**St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois**  
**Immaculate Conception, Brookville**  
**St. Thomas, Corry**  
**St. George, Erie**  
**St. Walburga, Titusville**  
**St. Patrick, Franklin**  
**Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney**

*Principal:*

**St. Titus, Titusville**

*Parish Ministry:*

**St. Titus, Titusville**

*Home Parish:*

**St. George, Erie**

## My Inspiration

"Fiat Voluntas Tuae."  
(Thy will be done.)

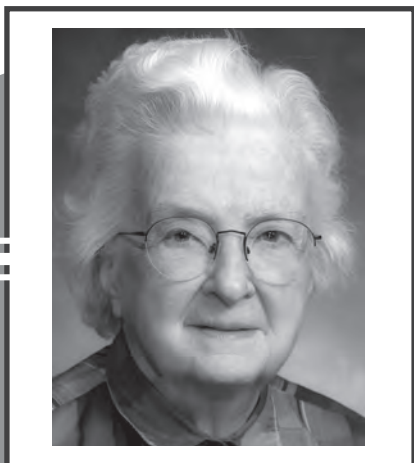


Congratulations to our most Blessed Jubilarians

**Msgr. Casimir Bogniak**  
**Sr. Helen Jean Sullivan, RSM**  
**Sr. Mary Edith Hirsch, RSM**

Corry Catholic Community of St. Thomas the Apostle/ St. Elizabeth and St. Thomas School

# Sister Mary Timothy Kelley, RSM



60 years

*Education:*

**Marygrove College, Detroit (BA)**

**Michigan State, East Lansing, Mich. (MA)**

*Teacher:*

**Mercyhurst College**

**DuBois Central Catholic**

*Principal:*

**St. Luke, Erie (Founding Principal)**

**St. Titus, Titusville**

*Religious Education:*

**St. Luke, Erie**

*Additional Duties:*

**Mercy Terrace Apartments Board**

**Mercy Center for Women Board**

*Home Parish:*

**St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio**

Immaculate Heart she had in school wore blue. She taught at Mercyhurst with the Sisters of Mercy who wore black habits.

"When the time came to make a choice on which community to enter, it didn't matter to me if I wore blue, brown or black. I wanted to be a nun and it has been a journey of growing in love with God more and more as a Sister of Mercy," she says.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Titusville on Nov. 21, 1947, made first vows on June 21, 1950, and final vows on June 23, 1953.

She was principal at the former St. Titus School, Titusville, and founding principal at St. Luke School, Erie. She chaired the Home Economics Department at DuBois Central Catholic High School, was food services director at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse and a personal care provider. She also taught religious education at St. Luke Parish, Erie.

Reflecting on her years as a woman religious, she is grateful to have served others in a variety of ways.

"I found God's will in doing what I was asked to do and there I found Christ," she says.

Sister Mary Timothy Kelley was in the second grade at St. Peter School in Mansfield, Ohio, when the vocation bug bit her.

She wanted to be just like the Franciscan Sisters who taught her. So, she borrowed her grandmother's long woolen skirt, towels from the bathroom, and the cord from her father's bathrobe to tie around her waist. Attaching a long rosary her mother's friend had brought her from Jerusalem completed her habit.

"I looked like a Franciscan and ran a good play

school in our attic called the Little Flower School," she says.

She explains the name for the school came from her pastor, who had gone to Rome for the canonization of St. Therese, the Little Flower. On his return, he handed parish children a blessed medal.

"I gathered as many youngsters as I could to hear what I had learned," she says.

"Mass" was also a part of her play school. Dave, a young boy who lived next door, played the part of the priest and Sister Timothy's mother provided Necco candy wafers as hosts

for Communion.

"It was a great place to be and I loved it," she says. Laughing, she adds, "My sister, Judy, never forgave me for the discipline."

She says the play school was the seed for what was to come in her life. Sister Timothy earned degrees from Marygrove College, Detroit, Mich., and Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. In the 1940s, she taught home economics in public schools in Ohio and at Mercyhurst College.

She says the Franciscans who taught her wore brown habits and the Sisters of the

## My Inspiration

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

-Luke 12:32-34



**Saint Luke School**

the core of catholic education

Saint Luke School & Church are honored to be celebrating the following two Jubilarians:

- Sr. Timothy Kelley, RSM
- Sr. Phyllis Marie McDonald, RSM

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR MANY YEARS SERVING IN OUR CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS!

- GOD BLESS YOU AND CONGRATS!



# Sister Roberta Lavin, OSB

The words that St. Benedict found in the Psalms reflect Sister Roberta Lavin's love of music and dance. Sister Roberta contributes often to the beauty of the community's prayer as organist and dancer, deepening the community's prayer as well as her own.

Sister Roberta, a daughter of John Patrick and Agnes Lavin, is a native of Sharon and attended the Sacred Heart Parish School and Sharon High School. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin at Villa Maria College, Erie, and

her master's in secondary education at Notre Dame University. She is also a guidance counselor, having received her certification from Youngstown University, Ohio.

Teaching languages allows her to present an insight into the unity of humanity by showing that language need not be a barrier. As a community instructor, she has prepared several community members for service in Spanish-speaking areas and others for graduate studies requiring knowledge of Latin.

Sister Roberta first taught in elementary schools: St. Mary, Erie; St. Michael, Fryburg; and Immaculate Conception, Clarion. She also served as piano teacher in Clarion and Fryburg. Sister Roberta taught on the secondary level at St. Joseph High School, Oil City; Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie; Kennedy Catholic High School,

Hermitage; and at St. Benedict Academy, Erie, where she also served as guidance counselor. She was a guidance counselor at All Saints School, Wickliffe, Ohio, too.

Sister Roberta has just completed several years service as program director at St. Benedict Education Center where she will continue to minister as teacher and counselor.

Her hope for her religious community's future is that, "as Benedictine women, we would remain faithful to our call to be a community of prayer amid the chaos and confusion in society and the world."



60 years

## My Inspiration

"We must always remember, therefore, what the prophet says: 'Serve the Holy One with reverence (Ps.2:11)' and again, 'Sing praise wisely (Ps. 46:8).'" -Rule of Benedict, Chapter 19

### St. Benedict Convent, Erie

Teacher:

St. Mary, Erie

St. Michael, Fryburg

Immaculate Conception, Clarion

St. Joseph, Oil City

Cathedral Prep, Erie

### St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville

Kennedy Catholic, Sharon

Bishop Guertin High School, Nashua, N.H.

Guidance Counselor:

All Saints School/St. John Vianney,

Cleveland

St. Benedict Academy, Erie

# Sister Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM

Sister Mary Mark McCarthy always wanted to be a sister.

"The question in grade school was what kind of sister," says the Pittsburgh native. She was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pa.

That changed when she was taught by the Erie Sisters of Mercy at St. Justin's High School, Pittsburgh. Their example led her to become one of them.

She entered the community at Titusville on Sept. 7, 1947, made first vows on June 21, 1950, and final vows on June 23, 1953.

Her education included a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst College and a master's degree in guidance/counseling from Gannon University. She studied biology at the University of Maine and at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

She taught at elementary schools in Corry, Erie, Greenville,

Franklin and Punxsutawney. For many years, she was director of religious education at St. Peter Cathedral Parish.

"My greatest joy over the years was my teaching of children and my work in administration in elementary schools as well as my work as a religious education coordinator," she says. "God has blessed me with many gifts."

Asked what in religious life has brought her the most satisfaction, she says, "To serve the church as a Sister of Mercy."

## My Inspiration

"Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect."

-Wisdom 3:9



60 years

### Education:

Mercyhurst College (BA, Education)

Gannon University (MA, Guidance/Counseling)

Teacher:

Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney

St. George, Erie

St. Thomas, Corry

St. Patrick, Franklin

St. Michael, Greenville

Coordinator, Religious Education:

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie

Home Parish:

St. Catherine, Pittsburgh

# Sister Phyllis Marie McDonald, RSM

Sister Phyllis Marie McDonald knew early in life that she wanted to give her whole life to God.

She recalls a statement near the end of the Baltimore Catechism that had an impact on her. It read, "What does it profit a person if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his own soul?"

"Right then, I knew that even though we need material things to live, that would never be a priority for me," she says.

In high school she worked in an ice cream shop at the G.C. Murphy store in Greenville. After working in a bank for a year after gradua-

tion, she gave in to her heart's yearning and entered the Sisters of Mercy at Titusville on Sept. 24, 1947. She made first vows on June 21, 1950, and final vows on June 21, 1953.

With a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mercyhurst College and a master's degree in education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, she taught at schools in Erie, Farrell, Pittsburgh, Punxsutawney, Titusville and Fort Defiance, Ariz.

She recalls with a laugh when a first-grader told her, "Sister, I'll bet your mother was surprised when she went to the hospital to get you and found

she had a baby nun!"

Teaching small children has helped her to live simply in total faith and trust in God, Sister Phyllis says.

"I need to continually work at these goals," she says.

Her travels took her to spend 15 years as a missionary at the Navajo Indian Reservation, Fort Defiance. She also was assistant director of GROW. Today, she is curriculum librarian at Mercyhurst College and co-director for the Sisters of Mercy Associate Program.

"God's constant goodness to us never ceases to amaze me," she says. "It is true that the more one gives the more one receives in return. All I can say is 'thank you' to God and to his many friends who have come into and have been part of my life."



60 years

#### *Education:*

**Mercyhurst College (BA, Education)  
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh**

#### *Teacher:*

**St. Luke, Erie  
St. Titus, Titusville  
St. George, Erie  
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney  
Fort Defiance, Ariz.**

#### *Additional Duties:*

**Director of Curriculum, Library,  
Mercyhurst College**

#### *Home Parish:*

**St. Michael, Greenville**

*Ss. Cosmas and Damian  
extends Congratulations to:*

**Very Reverend David Findlay, V.F.**

**Fr. Justin Pino**



**Sr. Phyllis McDonald, RSM**

**Sr. Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM**

### *My Inspiration*

*"Lord Jesus, implant  
your love in my heart.  
It is all I desire in this  
world or in the next."*

*"When we are truly  
holy, our days are  
consumed gently, noise-  
lessly in God's service."  
-Catherine McAuley  
sayings*

# Sister Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ



60 years

Sister Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph after her freshman year at Villa Maria College.

"I enjoyed pretty clothes, dancing, eating out and my boyfriend of the moment. But the night of spring prom, as I removed my orchid corsage and my yellow marquisette gown, I was aware of a deeper longing for something that I knew I had to seek," she recalls.

"I fought my vocation for many months. I wanted the good things of life. To give myself completely to Christ and to the service of the people of God was a long and painful discernment, but God 'seized' me."

Through most of her religious life, Sister Mary Kay worked in the traditional ministries of education and parish ministry, both in the Erie area and in other dioceses where Sisters of St. Joseph serve.

But in the early '80s, she read the book "Word into Silence" by English Benedictine Dom John Main, and the practice of Christian meditation began to transform her life-long faith journey and her ministry to others.

"I was taught discursive meditation in my early years," Sister Mary Kay recalls. "But I did not know the practice of silent, still prayer of the heart, the long-time mystical tradition of our church which was almost underground during the past few centuries," she says. "Since my 'retirement' in 2000 after 30 years in religious education and parish ministry, and 20 years in our schools, I have committed my life to the practice and teaching of this prayer to adults, young people and

children at our Community Living Center, the Poustinia on West Eighth Street and in many parishes and schools.

"I believe contemplation belongs to the heart of the church, not on its fringes, and is a dimension of Christian tradition that must be recovered if the church is to be renewed," she adds.

## My Inspiration

"In contemplative prayer we seek to become the person we are called to be not by thinking about God, but by being with God."

-Dom John Main

*Teacher:*

St. Joseph's Home, Erie  
 St. John, Erie  
 St. Peter Cathedral Center, Erie  
 Villa Maria Academy, Erie  
 Villa Maria College, Erie  
 St. Brigid, Meadville  
 St. Agatha High School, Meadville  
 St. Bernard High School, Bradford  
*Director of Religious Education:*  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer  
 St. Mark the Evangelist, Erie

Fort Dix, N.J.

Fort Riley, Kan.

*Consultant:*

Office of Christian Formation,  
 Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio

*Pastoral Minister:*

Our Lady of Peace, Erie

St. Michael, Penn Yan, NY

*Additional Duties:*

Christian Meditation: Community  
 Living Center and  
 SSJ Poustinia, Erie

## Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ

Our prayerful thank you for your many years of loving service as DRE at St. Mark's Parish and congratulations on your 60-year Jubilee.

St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
 Erie

To our Jubilarians,

Congratulations to you and all that you do as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Chris Hamlett  
 Rev. Justin Pino  
 Rev. Casimir Bogniak  
 Sr. Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM



St. George Church & School, Erie

St. Peter Cathedral  
 Parish and Cathedral Center



Msgr. Robert Barcio  
 Msgr. Conrad Kraus  
 Msgr. Joseph Wardanski  
 Faculty and Staff of St. Peter's School  
 (Now Cathedral Center)  
 Sr. Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM  
 Sr. Rose Ann Fedorko, SSJ  
 Sr. James Francis Mulligan, SSJ  
 Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ

We warmly congratulate God's faithful servants celebrating jubilees. With special fondness we wish to honor:

## Sister Mary Arlene Menz, SSJ



60 years

Sister Mary Arlene Menz, SSJ, who grew up in Erie, felt a call to religious life since she was a sixth grader at St. Joseph School.

"My teacher, Sister Rose Cecilia, was a young, beautiful person, but it was her kindness and her smiling face that I was drawn to," she says.

At the end of her sophomore retreat at Villa Maria Academy, she knew for sure that she wanted "no other life than that of a religious."

Sister Mary Arlene taught at nine diocesan schools for more than 20

years, including Holy Rosary, Blessed Sacrament, St. Andrew, Our Lady of Peace and Villa Maria Academy in Erie. She also taught at St. Mary in Reynoldsville, St. Brigid and St. Agatha in Meadville and St. Francis High School in Clearfield.

From 1982 to 1993 she ministered at St. Vincent Health Center.

One of her passions is history, and she took history class at St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, N.Y., as well as at Westminster College in New Wilmington.

Sister has also volunteered at the Erie County Historical Society.

In addition, she worked as a volunteer at Villa Maria Academy and the Erie City Mission.

*Teacher:*

**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**St. Andrew, Erie**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Academy, Erie**  
**St. Mary, Reynoldsville**  
**St. Brigid, Meadville**  
**St. Agatha, Meadville**  
**St. Francis High School, Clearfield**

*Ministered at:*

**Saint Vincent Health Center, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Center, Erie**

*Additional Duties:*

**Volunteer: Erie Historical Society, Erie;**  
**Villa Maria Academy, Erie;**  
**Erie City Mission, Erie**

### My Inspiration

"I see my religious life as a continuing manifestation of the generosity and love that our God has shown to me."

## Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ

"In my early teens I heard the call to religious life," Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ, recalls, "but how is a bit nebulous. I did receive inspiration at home through my mother and father for whom religious and priests were God's chosen people."

Not only did her parents give her inspiration by their words, but also by their example of serving others through their service to the church and school, she said.

Sister James Francis grew up in Meadville and attended St. Brigid Grade School and St. Agatha High School, where she was inspired by the priests and sisters who taught there.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Villa Maria College and her master's degree in education from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis.

Sister James Francis helped to educate hundreds of students in the Catholic tradition throughout the Erie Diocese, including at St. Peter Cathed-

ral, Holy Rosary, St. Andrew, Villa Maria Academy, and St. Mark Seminary in Erie as well as St. Leo High School in Ridgway.

Since the 1980s, Sister James Francis has continued to teach at Cathedral Preparatory High School, Villa Maria Elementary School and Gannon University. She is currently a faculty member at Cathedral Prep.

The Serra Club of Erie recognized Sister James Francis as the winner of its Outstanding Woman Religious Award in the Spring of 2006 and in April, Sister James Francis was honored for her 60 years of service in Catholic education at the Erie Deanery's annual Teacher Hallmark Awards.

She has also served her congregation as assistant superior, councilor for spiritual life and finances and treasurer.

### My Inspiration

"No matter the trial or suffering, including a son killed in World War II, my parents manifested a strong faith in God."



60 years

*Teacher:*

**Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**St. Andrew Elementary, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Academy, Erie**  
**Villa Maria College, Erie**

**St. Mark Seminary, Erie**  
**St. Leo High School, Ridgway**  
**Cathedral Preparatory, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Elementary, Erie**  
**Gannon University, Erie**



# Monsignor James W. Peterson

A spiritual counselor to those marginalized by society, a popular columnist and book author, a professor of theology and Scripture. In his 60 years as a priest, Msgr. James W. Peterson, known to many as "Father Pete," has been all of these and continues today as a chaplain at the Erie County Prison.

But like so many called to the priesthood, Msgr. Peterson first

felt the desire to serve the church as a child in Catholic grade school. At his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Erie, he was inspired by the example of his parish priests and "decided to be a priest in the first grade."

## My Inspiration

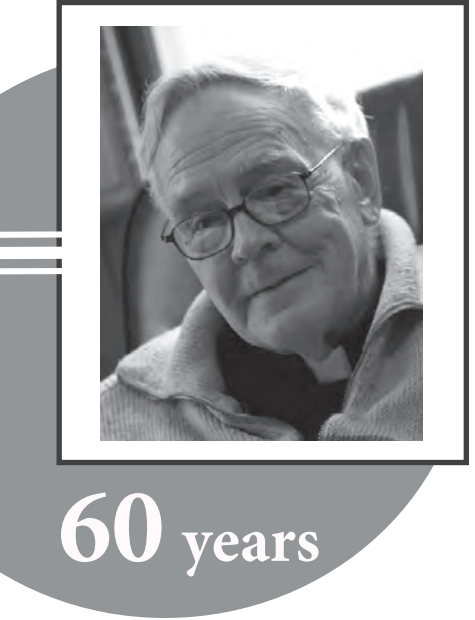
"I am continually inspired and renewed by the Mass as a unit, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the rosary."

Many in the Erie Diocese recognize Msgr. Peterson from his popular weekly column in the "Lake Shore Visitor." It ran for more than a dozen years. Msgr. Peterson also authored "God, Man and the World," "Leisure of the Holy Spirit" and "More I Could Not Ask," among other publications.

He established the Theology Department at Gannon University, served as campus minister and taught there for more than 25 years.

Msgr. Peterson has led Maria House Projects for troubled men since the early 1970s. He has worked as a counselor for people who are homeless and those struggling with addictions to drugs and alcohol. He has also worked with Catholic Social Services and Catholic Charities for many years.

A popular speaker, retreat master and spiritual director, Msgr. Peterson has been a member of the Erie



- Parochial Vicar:*  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**
- Pastor:*  
**St. Teresa, Union City**
- Chaplain:*  
**Holy Family Monastery, Erie**
- Faculty:*  
**Gannon University, Erie**
- Administrator:*  
**St. Stephen, Erie**
- Additional Duties:*  
**Vocation Office, Erie**  
**Delegate for Religious Women**  
**Ministry to Marginalized**  
**Sacramental Assistant/ SCI Albion**  
**Maria House Projects, Founder**

Committee on Alcoholism and the Erie Marriage Counseling Center.

Pope John Paul II honored Msgr. Peterson in 1994 as a monsignor with the title Chaplain of His Holiness.

## Msgr. Peterson



*Thanks for your loving, priestly service to the people of St. Teresa, Union City and Our Lady of Fatima, Canadohta Lake.*

## Sister M. Helen Jean Sullivan, RSM



60 years

### My Inspiration

“It is a joy to know that whatever I was asked to do, it was God’s will for me and that was all that I wanted.”

Sister Helen Jean Sullivan grew up in a family in which the church was at the center of life. She says she felt God’s presence each day as a student of the Sisters of Mercy at St. Edward (now St. Thomas) Grade School.

She loved both God and music, singing with the choir and taking music lessons from the sisters. She attended public high school to further her music development and found her studies, friends and activities enjoyable. “But at the conclusion of these events I felt it was not enough,” she says.

Stopping by the church for a visit on the way home from school made a difference.

“I knew then and now that God was calling me to a closer union with him,” she says.

For her, that meant entering the convent, but not yet. After high school, she decided to go with four other girls to work for the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. She hoped the time away would help her mother adjust to the separation that

would come when she would enter the convent. Her mother became ill and died during that year.

“I felt God was helping both of us to follow his will,” she says.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Titusville on Sept. 8, 1947, made first vows on June 21, 1950, and final vows on June 21, 1953.

She studied music at Mercyhurst College and earned a bachelor’s degree in voice from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass. She earned a master’s degree in liturgical music from the University of Notre Dame and a certificate in voice from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

She taught music at Erie and Pittsburgh elementary schools and at Mercyhurst College, where she taught and headed the Music Department. Later, she taught and was director of

#### Education:

**Mercyhurst College**  
**New England Conservatory (BA, Music)**  
**University of Notre Dame (MA, Music)**

#### Teacher:

**Mercyhurst College, Director of Conservatory**

**St. George, Erie**

**St. Justin, Pittsburgh**

#### Home Parish:

**St. Thomas Parish, Corry**

the Conservatory at the D’Angelo School of Music, renamed in 2005 the Sullivan Conservatory of Music to recognize her 51 years of service to Mercyhurst. The college presented her with the President’s Medallion in 2006.

## Sister Andrea Weidle, OSB

Sister Andrea Weidle, who first professed her vows as a Benedictine Sister on August 18, 1947, finds deep significance in St. Benedict’s injunction to “prefer nothing to the work of God,” by which he means the daily prayer of the community. The work of God has been the mainstay of life in community from the beginning of Benedictine monasticism.

### My Inspiration

“Prefer nothing whatever to Christ and may He bring us all together to everlasting life.” -Chapter 72 of the Rule of Benedict

It has been the work of God and the support of community which has empowered her ministry for these 60 years. Sister Andrea, who received her bachelor’s degree in education from Villa Maria College, was an elementary teacher who served in several parish schools: St. Gregory, North East; St. Joseph and St. Stephen, Oil City; and St. Mary, Erie.

Since Sister Andrea is a native of Oil City and attended the parish elementary and high schools,

teaching at St. Joseph and St. Stephen gave her the pleasure of homecoming as well as the satisfaction of service.

She also taught religion and physical education at St. Benedict Academy for several years. Later, she was an administrative assistant at SBA and was an EKG technician at St. Vincent Hospital.

Sister Andrea taught religious education classes and was a part of the staff at the Benedictine Sisters of Erie’s former summer camp at Glinodo for many years. Her times at camp were also times to take pleasure in the surrounding beauty of the lake and the grounds, the birds at the feeders, each new family of rabbits and the summer sunsets.

In recent years, her focus has been ministry to frail elderly persons whom she assists in many ways.



60 years

#### Education:

**Villa Maria College**  
**(BA, Education)**

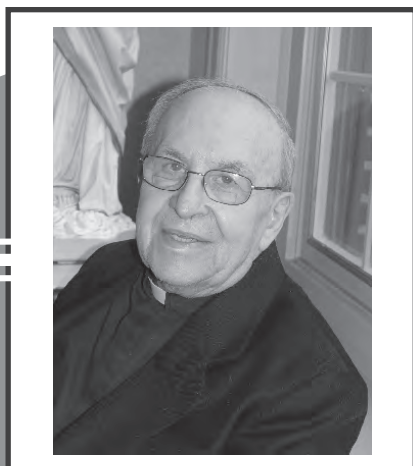
#### Teacher:

**St. Joseph, Oil City**  
**St. Stephen, Oil City**  
**St. Benedict Academy, Erie**

#### EKG Technician:

**Saint Vincent Hospital, Erie**

# Father Norbert G. Wolf



60 years

Father Norbert G. Wolf, who dedicated a great deal of his priestly ministry to education, is celebrating his 60th anniversary as a priest. Ordained on May 15, 1947, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, he is the son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth (Trapp) Wolf.

Father Wolf taught classical languages and

history at Gannon University from 1949-1975. He also served the university as treasurer, dean of men and vice president for business affairs.

While an administrator at Gannon, Father Wolf helped oversee the construction of Wehrle and Beyer halls and the Zurn Science Center as well as various other renovation projects. He says he enjoyed teaching, especially the sense that he was accomplishing something when the students began to grasp the material. He also enjoyed being a student, and continues to be an avid reader, keeping up with current events.

Father Wolf cites John 15:9-11 as a Scripture passage that has been meaningful during his life. It reads: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's command-

ments and remain in his love. I have told you this that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete."

A frequent altar server at his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Erie, Father Wolf says he had a hope from the early days of his youth in grade school, that he would one day become a priest. His first assignment was at his home parish.

Father Wolf served on the Diocesan Finance Council, Priests' Senate, Presbyteral Council, Marriage Tribunal, the Priests' Continuing Education Committee and the Task Force on Secondary Education. He has also been diocesan historiographer.

A resident of St. Mary's Home in Erie, Father Wolf's final assignments prior to retirement included serving as confessor at Holy Family Monastery and as senior associate at Holy Rosary Parish in Johnsonburg, St. Anne Parish in Wilcox and its mission, Holy Cross in Rasselas.

## My Inspiration

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete." -John 15: 9-11

### Parochial Vicar:

St. John the Baptist, Erie  
St. John the Evangelist, Girard

### Pastor:

St. Michael, Emlenton  
St. Boniface, Kersey

### Faculty:

Gannon University, Erie  
Administrator:

St. John, Tidioute  
St. Bernard, Falls Creek  
Holy Cross, Brandy Camp

### Additional Duties:

Diocesan Finance Council  
Senior Associate: St. Anne, Wilcox  
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg  
Holy Cross, Rasselas

Confessor: Holy Family Monastery

### Retired:

Resident, St. Mary's Home, Erie

REVEREND NORBERT G. WOLF

MSGR. JOHN M. DOLLINGER

REVEREND CHRIS M. HAMLETT



St. Boniface Parishioners  
Kersey

Congratulations!

With appreciation for  
sharing the life of  
Christ with us



# Sister Laura Beichner, OSB

Sister Laura Beichner is a native of St. Joseph Parish, Oil City.

She attended the parish schools where Benedictine sisters had taught for many years and, after high school, joined the many St. Joseph alumnae in the Benedictine Erie community. When she became a novice she took her mother's name, Laura.

She has found in community the gift of the examples of the older sisters – prayerful, patient and loving women.

Sister Laura studied at Mercyhurst College where she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and at Clarion University where she received her master's in

mathematics for elementary schools.

She taught first at St. Mary, Erie, then in several other parish schools: St. Gregory, North East; St. Joseph and Sacred Heart, Sharon; St. Michael, Fryburg; and St. Stephen, Oil City, where she taught for several years and was principal for another dozen years.

Sister Laura is now ministering in administration at Mount St. Benedict where she assists in the business office.

Her facility in mathematics and her administrative experience make her present work a good fit.

She takes pleasure in the splendor of creation; she enjoys gardening, camping and boating in mild weather. In chilly weather, she sews, does craft work and especially enjoys the company of

*Teacher:*

**St. Mary, Erie**  
**St. Gregory, North East**  
**St. Joseph, Sharon**  
**St. Stephen, Oil City**  
**Sacred Heart, Sharon**  
**St. Michael, Fryburg**

*Principal:*

**St. Stephen, Oil City**

*Business Office Administrator:*  
**Mount St. Benedict**

her cat, for she appreciates the personality and beauty of these independent creatures.

Sister Laura hopes for the future of her religious community that "each member grows in her love of Christ and for each other and that this love will be expressed

in compassion and hope as well as love for the people we serve."

50 years

## My Inspiration

"Let us serve one another in love." -Rule of Benedict, Chapter 35, v. 6

*SAINT MICHAEL THE  
ARCHANGEL CHURCH,  
EMLENTON*

**PASTORS:**

**REV. NORBERT WOLF**  
1975-1977

**REV. CONRAD KRAUS**  
2001 TO PRESENT



## Celebration Jubilation



In prayerful thanksgiving for their years of service and caring for the people of the Erie Diocese...

**60 years**

Sister Audrey Clauss  
Sister M. Edith Hirsch  
Sister M. Timothy Kelley  
Sister Phyllis Marie McDonald  
Sister M. Mark McCarthy  
Sister Helen Jean Sullivan

**50 years**

Sister Catherine Edward Delaney  
Sister M. Jude McCluskey

**Erie Sisters of Mercy**  
**Mercy Terrace Apartments**  
**Mercyhurst Prep School**  
**Mercy Center for Women**

# Monsignor Casimir A. Bogniak



50 years

Msgr. Casimir Bogniak has the kind of wisdom and love you expect from a doting grandfather, that caring way about him. As he shares memories of his past 50 years, he can make you laugh one minute and cry the next with heartwarming stories.

His most personally rewarding times, he says, came in the late 1980s when he ministered to homeless and abused young people aged

14-21 at Covenant House in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It was there that he received a most unique and beloved nickname.

"I was already short, fat and bald, and when I put on the white vestments, this one youngster called out 'Pillsbury Padre,'" Msgr. Cas remembers with a laugh. "It was delightful."

His personality and grandfatherly charm brought troubled teens to chapel every morning "where they sang their hearts out," he says.

"We really made a difference there," he recalls. "Some of these youngsters were so broken they sold themselves on the street to make money

and some were so abused when they came to us. As they healed, they often said Covenant House was the first sense of family they ever had."

Annually, 5,000 physically, emotionally and sexually abused kids came in off the street and learned to love, heal and forgive both themselves and their abusers. As he remembers the troubled youths he counseled, he said they really needed someone to love them and let them know they could recover. With encouragement, many of them did recover, get jobs and GEDs.

His ministry continued when he returned to the Erie Diocese to serve at numerous parishes, and he was instrumental in creating a caring attitude among lay people and the clergy. As examples, he initiated Retrouvaille, a program for hurting marriages, and formed the Bishop's Committee for Alcoholic Priests.

Msgr. Cas credits Bishops Alfred Watson and Michael Murphy for much of his success. "I had the privilege of working with both of them, and they deeply influenced me," he says. "They were excellent models of priesthood."

## My Inspiration

"The entire liturgy. Catholic people's faith and devotion are always an inspiration to me. Their love and support of their priests is outstanding!"

*Parochial Vicar:*

**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**  
**St. Peter Cathedral, Erie**  
**St. Catherine, DuBois**

*Pastor:*

**St. George, Erie**  
**St. Charles, New Bethlehem**  
**St. Anthony, Sheffield**

*Chaplain:*

**Harborcreek Youth Services**

*Administrator:*

**Sacred Heart, Erie**

**St. Jude, Erie**

**St. Mary, Meadville**  
**St. Ann, Farrell**

*Resident:*

**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**St. Casimir, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**

*Additional Duties:*

**Temporary Sacramental**  
**Assistant, St. Leo,**  
**Ridgway**  
**Covenant House, Fort**  
**Lauderdale, Fla.**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL JUBILARIANS FROM ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, DUBOIS**

We extend special wishes to:

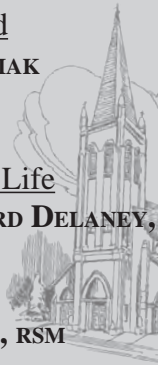
50 Years of Priesthood

**MSGR. CASIMIR BOGNIAK**  
Assistant 1956-1961

50 Years of Religious Life

**SR. CATHERINE EDWARD DELANEY,**  
RSM, Native Daughter

**ST. JUDE McCLUSKEY, RSM**



60 Years of Religious Life

**SR. TIMOTHY KELLEY, RSM**  
Teacher at Central Catholic High School

**SR. MARY MARK MCCARTHY,**  
RSM, DuBois Hospital

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR**  
**MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLE**  
**OF GOD.**

## Congrats Msgr. Bogniak!



St. Mary of Grace, Meadville

# Sister Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM

Sister Catherine Edward Delaney says music has always woven itself into her life.

From the eighth grade to her senior year in high school, parishioners at St. Catherine of Siena School, DuBois, were blessed by her musical talents at the organ. She played for two Masses each morning and

## My Inspiration

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; with loving kindness I have drawn you to me.” -Jeremiah 31:3

for funerals, graduations, weddings and other services.

“This was very important to me and taught me a sense of responsibility as well as gave me an awareness of the great privilege it was to play in our beautiful church on the large pipe organ and to be of service to others,” she says.

She taught music at Mercyhurst Prep and at Catholic elementary schools in Titus-

ville, Franklin and Brookville. She co-founded Mercy Center of the Arts in 1970, a preschool emphasizing art, science and music, and was its first administrator. Leaving in 1982, she went on to become a nurse's aide at Christ the King Manor, DuBois, and to direct Well-springs, a program of activities for sisters in the infirmary. She returned to direct Mercy Center of the Arts in 1992.

As she tells it, the faith and example of her parents and ministry of the church nurtured her vocation. She grew up in the shadow of St. Catherine's and was active in both the church and the school, including the Future Sister Club.

“God's love and presence continued to grow more and more in my life until I came to believe that he was calling me to a deeper relationship with him,” she says.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Titusville on Sept. 8, 1957, made first vows on Aug. 3, 1960, and final vows on Aug. 13, 1965.

She holds a bachelor's degree in applied music from Mercyhurst College and a master's degree in music from

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

Looking back, she says, she realizes we are called through baptism to live in the Spirit and believes we will receive those graces and blessings needed to one day bring about full intimacy with God. She says she is grateful to have served others via her ministry and in doing so, served Christ.

“I believe I have found the one place in which I can most perfectly receive the benefits of God's mercy and know and experience in my heart his love for me, no matter what, and then return that love from the depths of my heart,” she says.



50 years

### Education:

**St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois**

**Mercyhurst College, Erie (BA, Applied Music)**

**Duquesne University, Pittsburgh (MA, Music)**

### Teacher:

**St. Titus, Titusville**

**Mercyhurst Prep, Erie**

**St. Patrick, Franklin**

**Immaculate Conception, Brookville**

### Additional Duties:

**Nurse's Aide: Christ the King Manor, DuBois**

**Volunteer: Pleasant Ridge Manor East, Erie**

**Co-founder and Administrator: Mercy Center of the Arts**

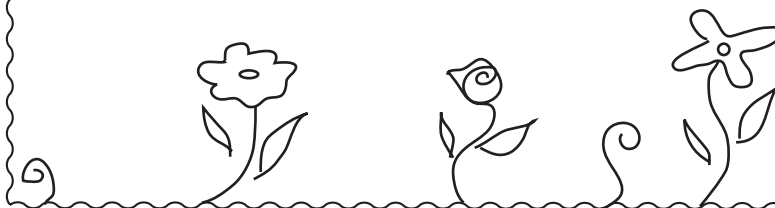


With gratitude and loving support to ALL of our faithful servants...and lots of hugs!

From the couples of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Erie Diocese



*Deo Gratia* - In honor of **Sr. Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM**, and her many years of dedication to Mercy Center of the Arts



Mercy Center of the Arts

444 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16504  
(814) 824-2519

# Monsignor John M. Dollinger

Msgr. John M. Dollinger, 77, is widely recognized in the Diocese of Erie for his dedication as headmaster of Ca-

thedral Prep for more than a decade from 1972 to 1984. He also helped to form and mentor men of faith for many years at St. Mark Seminary where he served from 1958 to 1968 as a teacher, dean of discipline and director of student dramas and musical productions.

In addition to his work with students, Msgr. Dollinger served as pastor and parochial administrator in Erie at Our Lady of Peace, St. Hedwig, St. James, St. Patrick and Sacred Heart parishes, as well as in Oil

City at St. Joseph and Our Lady, Help of Christians parishes.

Msgr. Dollinger was ordained a priest on May 30, 1957. He was raised by "devout, Catholic parents. I was the sixth of eight children," he says. One of his family's greatest blows came when one of his older brothers was killed in World War II.

Young John Dollinger was raised in St. Boniface Parish in Kersey. An altar boy there, Msgr. Dollinger was particularly inspired by the work and priestly example of Father A. J. Kleber.

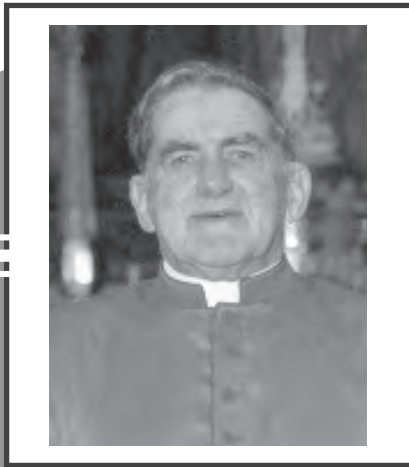
"Father Kleber was an ideal priest and pastor," Msgr. Dollinger says.

"All my priestly assignments were positive and had many fine laymen and women," he adds.

Pope John Paul II named Father Dollinger a monsignor in 1996 with the title Prelate of Honor.

## My Inspiration

"The Mass always inspires me. I still marvel at the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus."



50 years

*Congratulations Jubilarians and thank you for your dedication of "Loving to Care."*

**Sr. Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ**  
**Sr. James Francis Mulligan, SSJ**  
**Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ**  
**Rev. Norbert G. Wolf**  
**Msgr. Joseph V. Wardanski**

  
**Saint Mary's Home of Erie**  
 Where "Loving to Care" is a Way of Life

A Continuing Care Retirement Community  
[www.stmaryshome.org](http://www.stmaryshome.org)  
 Nondiscriminatory in admissions, services and employment.  
 A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

*Pastor:*

**St. Hedwig, Erie**  
**Sacred Heart, Sharon**  
**St. Anthony, Walston**  
*Chaplain:*

**Erie County Prison**

*Faculty:*

**St. Mark Seminary, Erie**  
**Cathedral Prep, Erie, Headmaster**  
**Venango Christian High School, Oil City**

*Administrator:*

**Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**

*Weekend Assistant:*

**St. James, Erie**

*Resident:*

**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**St. Joseph, Oil City**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**

*Additional Duties:*

**Dean of Brookville Deanery**

*Retired:*

**Resident, Priests' Retirement Home, Erie**

To our Celebrating Jubilarians,  
**Msgr. John M. Dollinger**

**50 Years**

**Reverend John M. Schultz**

**25 Years**



Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City

## Sister Ann Donohue, SSJ



50 years

"Any time I need nourishment I can go to Thomas Merton's writings and find something of value," Sister Ann Donohue, SSJ, says of the spiritual teachings that most inspire her. Currently, Sister Ann serves as coordinator of lifelong mission for the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Also, she takes comfort in the "Psalms for Praying: An Adaptation of the Hebrew Scripture Psalms" by Nan C. Merrill. "She has brought the Psalms to life for me. These song prayers of the Bible, used for thousands of years, draw me closer to the God the Psalms present," Sister Ann says.

Sister has been inspired by the faith examples of many women she has known in her life.

"I didn't know it at the time, but while I was in high school I was profoundly touched by a woman, Anne Carlin, who encouraged the development of my spiritual life," she recalls. "Anne ran a small religious goods store in Bradford (where Sister Ann grew up). There she had a lending library of spiritual books, which she gra-

ciously recommended to me. When I returned a book she asked me to share with her what I had learned from my reading. Although she was not a religious sister herself, she encouraged me to consider the religious life as a good way to be free enough to develop my spiritual side."

Sister Ann's initial call to religious life also persisted through her Catholic grade school and high school education.

"During high school at St. Bernard, I was particularly impressed with the seeming happiness of most of the sisters, especially Sisters Catherine Ann, Virginia Ann and Mary Margaret. Still, the call was not without doubts. After graduation from St. Bernard, I went to Villa Maria College. It was during my freshmen year that I could no longer deny God's call to the Sisters of St. Joseph. When I entered, I felt right at home. "This was what God wanted me to be."

### Teacher:

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**  
**St. Patrick, Erie**  
**St. John the Baptist, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Academy, Erie**  
**St. Bernard, Bradford**  
**Notre Dame, Hermitage**  
*Ministered at:*  
**St. Mary's Home, Erie**  
*Coordinator:* **Lifelong Mission for the Sisters of St. Joseph**

### My Inspiration

"Be good, keep your feet dry, your eyes open, your heart at peace and your soul in the joy of Christ." -Thomas Merton

## Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ

Teaching continues to be a lifelong vocation for Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ.

She has taught in the Erie Diocese for 50 years, and has a long list of awards to show for it. The diocese is fortunate that she continues to share her gifts, this year as a teacher at St. John/Holy Rosary School in Erie.

Sister Ann Louis was named the favorite teacher at Mercyhurst Preparatory School by a student vote in 1998. She was also recognized with

diocesan teacher honors every five years for the length of her teaching career. She has been nominated for the "Who's Who Among American Teachers" four years running and the "Disney Teacher Award" in 2006.

Unlike many women religious, Sister Ann Louis went to public school in her early years in her hometown of Bradford. But still, the Sisters of St. Joseph impressed her deeply when they attended her young sister's wake. "From then on, I had the desire to go to St. Bernard School," she recalls. "As a high school student, Sisters Virginia Ann, Mary Carmel and Mary Margaret made a deep impression on my life."

At St. Bernard High School in Bradford, she found "the sisters were always visible and supportive to the students at functions such as basketball games. They were open and available to all—before and after school."



50 years

"My call deciding to be a sister was accepted and nurtured by my parents," she says. "It lived on in my thoughts and prayers growing up."

### Teacher:

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**St. Joseph, Erie**  
**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**St. Paul, Erie**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**  
**Our Lady's Christian, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary/St. John, Erie**  
**St. Agatha, Meadville**  
**St. Francis, Clearfield**  
*Coordinator and Instructor:*  
**(First Reconciliation/First Communion)**  
**Religious Education at St. Jude/OLC, Erie**  
*Director and Instructor:*  
**OLC Summer Learning Program**  
*Counselor:*  
**Camp Notre Dame**  
*Additional Duties:*  
**Girls' Basketball Coach**  
**Director of Intramurals (K-3)**  
**Athletic Director**  
**Student Activities Director**

### My Inspiration

"I have called you by your name, you are mine ... I am Yahweh, your God, your Savior. You are precious in my eyes, You are honored and I love you... ."

-Isaiah 43:1-4



# Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ

"Seized by love is a beautiful way of describing the strong call to religious life and the peace that came to me after I made the decision to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph," Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ, says, referring to the Sisters of St. Joseph Constitutions.

"God initiates this experience," she adds. "We say 'yes.'"

This jubilee has offered an opportunity for great reflection for Sister Phyllis.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph as a group of women epitomized God's call to me," she says. "Their dedication to God and the works they did together for others influenced me. I consciously remember thinking how much more I could do for God

if I joined with other women and together we could make a difference. My parents raised us to care about others and love God and the church. They lived that belief and so it was very natural for us to follow their lead."

Sister Phyllis presently serves as a housing and family advocate for the SSJ Neighborhood Network, which provides a wide variety of services to meet the needs of the marginalized and poor in Erie and surrounding areas. She was one of the founding members and the executive director for Erie DAWN—Dwellings and Advocacy for Women in Need—from 1995 to 2006, a program that makes a huge difference in the lives of dozens of

women and children in the region every year. Erie DAWN was the first collaborative inter-congregational ministry among women religious in the Erie Diocese.

In addition to teaching grade school throughout the diocese, as well as religious education for more than 30 years, Sister Phyllis spent much of the 1980s serving as a missionary in East Africa and also worked as a treatment specialist for women in the early 1990s.



*Teacher:*

**Our Lady of Peace, Erie  
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie  
Blessed Sacrament, Erie  
St. Leo, Ridgway  
St. Bernard, Bradford**

*Religious Education:*

**Meadville Center (St. Agatha, St. Brigid and  
St. Mary, Meadville; St. Bernadette,  
Saegertown)**

*Ministered at:*

**Parish Religious Education Coordinator, Holy  
Rosary, Erie**

*Assistant Religious Education Director:*

**Erie Diocese**

*Director of Religious Education:*

**Arusha, Tanzania (East Africa)**

*Co-Director:*

**MWEDI, Teacher Training Program**

**Treatment Specialist: Community House  
for Women, Erie**

*Additional Duties:*

**Executive Director: Leadership for the  
Congregation**

**Erie DAWN**

**Housing and Family Advocate: Sisters of  
St. Joseph Neighborhood Network**

## My Inspiration

"Seized by love—to accept God's love and to love God in return. We realize that our heart is completely spoken for—by God—and that we freely respond with an offering of our whole life." —Sisters of St. Joseph Constitutions

The Holy Rosary Catholic Community would like to express appreciation and congratulations to



**Msgr. Casimir Bogniak  
Sr. Phyllis Hilbert &  
Sr. Ann Louis Grandinetti**

Thank you for your ministry to the people of Holy Rosary in Erie over the years!

faith

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ERIE

2,000 years in the making.

To receive your copy,  
please call 1.800.374.3723 ext. 161

# Sister Mary Benedict Irish, OSB

Sister Mary Benedict Irish, as is typical of her, finds much in her religious community life with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie to be grateful for: prayer life together, the hospitality of the sisters to one another and the good

care that enables her to participate in community life.

Sister Benedict came to Erie in 1989 from Holy Family Priory, Benet Lake, Wis., when the two communities were in the process of merging. She entered Holy Family Priory in 1950 and first professed her vows in 1957.

In her years at Benet Lake, Sister Benedict earned her bachelor's degree at Dominican College in Racine, Wis. She continued to learn through the workshops and meetings she frequently attended to increase her expertise in her various areas of ministry, especially liturgy and teaching religion.

She worked in day-care and taught religion in several parishes. Nearby Benet Lake Abbey operated a print shop and publications sales facility

where Sister Benedict ministered for many years in several positions. She was also librarian at the abbey and at Holy Family Priory.

She served her Benet Lake community on the formation team as a member of the community council, community secretary and as delegate to the General Chapter of the Federation of St. Scholastica. She was the priory's liturgist and choir director.

After she moved to Erie, Sister Benedict became librarian at Mount St. Benedict. A voracious reader who often has three, four or five books in process at a time, she sorted out the library, added to the collections and saw to the general good order of the records and the good looks of the room.

Sister Benedict has now retired from the library. She continues, however, to be a model of courtesy and of constancy at prayer. It is her hope that the community continues to search for God through Scripture, lectio divina (spiritual reading) silence and prayer together, to bring about peace and justice.

## My Inspiration

"Let us prefer nothing whatever to Christ and may he bring us all together to everlasting life." -Prologue of the Rule of Benedict and its ending in Chapter 72



50 years

Holy Family Priory, Benet Lake, Wis.  
Benet Lake Abbey, Benet Lake Wis.

Librarian:  
Mount St. Benedict, Erie

Congratulations, Jubilarians!

- Sr. Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ
- Sr. Rose Ann Fedorko, SSJ
- Sr. Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ
- Sr. Andrene Mittal, SSJ
- Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ
- Sr. Jude Talerico, SSJ
- Msgr. Casimir Bogniak
- Msgr. John Dollinger
- Very Rev. David Findlay, V.F.
- Rev. Chris Hamlett
- Msgr. Conrad Kraus

*Your many years of service are greatly appreciated.*

*Sacred Heart Parish*



# Monsignor William C. Karg

Msgr. William C. Karg was ordained on May 30, 1957. Fifty years later, Msgr. Karg, now a senior associate at St. Stephen Parish in Oil City, joyfully reflects on five decades in the priesthood.

"The making of a priest takes many years and many people," he says. "Active friendship with the living Lord is and has been my stability."

Msgr. Karg first considered his call to the priesthood at the suggestion of Father Bob Griffin, who recommended he give it a try when St. Mark Seminary first opened in 1945. Msgr. Karg also recognizes the strong influence that others, especially Msgr. Louis Kelly, Sister Margaret Harrison, OSB, and his father, Charles "Bus" Karg, had on his development as both a person and a priest.

Those relationships helped Msgr. Karg nurture the most important relationship in his life, his relationship with

God, which, in turn, helped him to establish rapport, earn respect and form friendships with others.

"It is and was important for me to share my life, thoughts and values with my chosen friends, both lay and clerical," he said.

One glance at the list of his past assignments indicates that many people have been blessed to befriend and learn from Msgr. Karg. He resided at Blessed Sacrament from 1957-1967 while serving as a teacher at Cathedral Prep. He then went on to become a faculty member at Elk County Catholic School from 1967-71 while serving as a sacramental assistant at St. Leo Parish in Ridgway. Additionally, he served at St. Mary Parish, Frenchville; St. Brigid Parish, Meadville; and St. Joseph Parish, Sharon, before arriving at St. Stephen in 2001.

Throughout the years,

Msgr. Karg has faced many changes of scenery and various assignments, but one thing has remained constant: the liturgy continues to be an inspirational force in his life as he continues to preach the Gospel to the faithful.



50 years

## My Inspiration

"The Mass has always been my inspiration."

*The Saint Joseph Parish Family  
Congratulates Former Pastor,  
Msgr. William C. Karg, on  
Fifty Years of Priestly Ministry.*

*You have  
been a  
good and  
gentle  
shepherd!*



*St. Joseph, Sharon*

*Pastor:*

**St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville  
St. Brigid, Meadville  
St. Joseph, Sharon**

*Faculty:*

**Cathedral Prep, Erie**

*Administrator:*

**St. Mark, Emporium**

*Weekend Assistant:*

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**

**St. Leo, Ridgway**

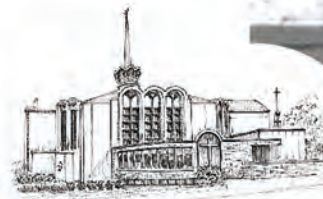
*Additional Duties:*

**Senior Associate: St. Stephen, Oil City**

**Diocesan Board: Clergy Continuing  
Education, Clergy Personnel,  
Presbyteral Council, College of  
Consultors**

**Diocesan Office: Director of**

**Ecumenical Affairs, Regional Director**



# Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF



50 years

Sister Rose Kuzma, a native of Holy Family Parish in Erie, has spent 26 of her 50 years as a woman religious serving in the Erie Diocese. She celebrated her 50th jubilee in Erie on July 14 and at Mount Assisi Convent in Pittsburgh on July 22.

In addition to her

*Teacher and Director of Religious Education:*  
**Diocese of Erie**  
**Archdiocese of San Antonio**  
**Archdiocese of Newark**  
**Diocese of Pittsburgh**

work in the Erie Diocese, she served in the Archdioceses of San Antonio and Newark as well as the Diocese of Pittsburgh as both teacher and director of religious education.

In order to summarize her thoughts about her life in ministry, she paraphrases a famous saying: "If you feed someone a fish, he will eat for a day; teach him how to fish and he will eat forever." Sister

Rose says that in her ministries, she taught many teachers and parents how to teach and that they, in turn, taught thousands of children to know and love God. "I know our church is better for it,"

she says.

Sister Rose is the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna Grega Kuzma, one of eleven siblings. She has 29 nieces and nephews and 43 great nieces and nephews. Both her parents attended Mass daily and encouraged their children to do so as well.

"Their example was so powerful," Sister Rose says, "that today you will find many of my siblings at daily Mass."

She came by her attraction to St. Francis quite naturally: her parents and grandparents were secular

Franciscans, and her oldest sister is also a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis. She also had an aunt and three cousins who became Franciscans, a brother who was recently ordained to the permanent diaconate and a nephew who is studying for the priesthood.

Sister Rose credits her family life and the sisters in her community as the influences on her desire to become a religious. She had the privilege of visiting Rome, Assisi, Prague and the villages of Nizny Mysla and Nizna Hrusov in Eastern Slovakia, and says that praying in the same places where both Francis and her ancestors lived and prayed was a real blessing.

She counts genealogy as her favorite hobby, and has traced her ancestors back ten generations. She also relates to Francis' love of nature and enjoys spending time outdoors, especially in a garden or by the lake.

Sister Rose had an extra reason to celebrate during her 50th jubilee year. "During my first year as a professed sister, our American province was separated because of distance," she says. "This January we became one US province again, so our Jubilee is truly a great time to celebrate our oneness."

## Holy Family, St. Ann & St. Casimir Parishes congratulate



### Father Chris Hamlett

former St. Ann resident, 25th Anniversary

### Father James McCormick

supply priest at St. Ann, 25th Anniversary

### Msgr. Joseph Wardanski

native son of St. Casimir, 40th Anniversary

### Msgr. Casimir Bogniak

former St. Casimir resident  
50th Anniversary

### Sister Rose Kuzma, OSF

native daughter of Holy Family  
50th Anniversary

### Sister Marie Timmons, SSJ

former St. Ann School teacher  
50th Anniversary

### Sister Mary Grace Hanes, OSB

native daughter of St. Ann  
60th Anniversary

*We also greet and congratulate all of the Jubilarians and newly ordained priests. Best wishes to all!*

## My Inspiration

"Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." -Luke 10:42

# Sister Mary Jude McCluskey, RSM

Sister Mary Jude McCluskey gave a quick retort to her pastor when he suggested that she consider joining a particular group of women religious.

"The Sisters of Mercy? Heavens no!" she says, years away, with a laugh.

So how did this Sister of Mercy now marking five decades in

## My Inspiration

"I am fulfilled in doing God's work, and I know that he will continue to take care of me no matter what."

religious life go from "Heavens no!" to "Heavens yes?"

In the sixth grade, she recalls, she was impressed by the example of Mercy Sister Estelle Gilotti and the priests of her parish, St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois. The missions were emphasized, she says.

She wanted to be a missionary sister and as a high school senior was turned down by the Medical Missionary Sisters in Philadelphia, who said she was too young.

Msgr. Paul Gooder gave the young woman this advice: wait and visit the Blessed Mother each day asking her what to do. Then, he suggested she consider the Sisters of Mercy, at which point she made the comment.

"I had nothing against the Mercy Sisters," she explains. "They provided me with a good education and I had a good relationship with them." She just wanted to be a missionary. Eventually, she changed her

mind.

"I guess it was the way God wanted it, because I'm still here," she says.

Sister Mary Jude entered the community at Titusville on Sept. 8, 1957. She made her first vows on Aug. 3, 1960, and final vows on Aug. 13, 1965.

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Mercyhurst College and taught seventh- and eighth-graders at St. George School, Erie, and the former St. Justin School, Pittsburgh.

Sister Mary Jude stayed in Pittsburgh to work with shut-ins and the elderly at St. Justin and St. Coleman parishes.

She earned pastoral counseling certificates from the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh and Marydale Center, Erlanger, Ky. She added certificates in clinical pastoral education from Shadyside and West Penn hospitals, both in Pittsburgh. The National Association of Catholic Chaplains certified her for hospital chaplaincy work.

Sister Mary Jude managed the pastoral care department at DuBois Hospital, but says she wanted to work more closely with the patients. That is when she became involved with Hospice ministry, both inside and outside the hospital. It is a ministry to dying patients in which she is still active.

"The ministry to Hospice patients has been most satisfying. They teach me how to live and how to die," she says.

Culling wisdom from her experiences, she says there is a



50 years

### Education:

**St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois**  
**Mercyhurst College (BA, Education)**  
**Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (Certificate in Pastoral Counseling)**  
**St. Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh**  
**(Certificate in Pastoral Counseling)**  
**Marydale Center, Erlanger, Ky.**  
**(Certificate in Pastoral Counseling)**  
**Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh**  
**(Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education)**  
**West Penn Hospital, Pittsburgh**  
**(Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education)**

### Teacher:

**St. George, Erie**

### Additional Duties:

**Hospice Program: DuBois Regional Medical Center**  
**Parish Ministry: St. Justin and St. Coleman, Pittsburgh**

Congratulations  
 Sr. Mary Jude  
 McCluskey, RSM

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
 OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

BEST WISHES TO ALL THE  
 JUBILEE CELEBRANTS.

DuBois Regional  
 Medical Center  
 Making the difference for life.

peace and comfort you can't appreciate until you go through the dying process.

"Letting go and letting God—giving up control to God—is difficult," she says.

It has been a long journey for Sister Mary Jude in religious life, but she is glad she made the decision to be a Sister of Mercy.

"I am fulfilled in doing God's work, and I know that he will continue to take care of me no matter what," she says.

## Sister Carol Ann McLaughlin, OSB



50 years

Sister Carol Ann McLaughlin, a native of Bradford, was an educator for the first years of her religious life.

A graduate of the St. Bernard Parish schools, she received her bachelor's degree from Villa Maria College and studied further at Gannon University and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She continues professional development in the seminars provided by the National and the Northwest Kidney Foundations.

Sister Carol Ann served as an elementary teacher and principal in Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, St. Paul and St. John schools, Erie, as well as St. Leo, Ridgway and St. Brigid, Meadville. She then turned to health care.

The most significant of the gifts Sister Carol Ann finds in community is "that we uphold each other in love and support as we continue our journey in seeking God."

This is the mind-set and the gift that she brings to her present ministry. For nearly 20 years, Sister

Carol Ann has ministered as a dialysis technician. Her work is based on training, but her care of her patients begins in the kindness and competence that she brings to it and that they readily perceive in her.

In the tedium and the fear that accompanies chronic illness, she offers them both reassurance and real compassion. The process of treatment becomes less frightening and less burdensome with her support.

Sister Carol Ann finds pleasure and renewal in music, reading, cross-stitch, swimming and biking.

Her hope for the community's future is that "we never lose sight of the importance of liturgy, lectio and the Liturgy of the Hours in our daily lives."

### My Inspiration

"Every time you begin a good work, you must pray to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection."

-Rule of Benedict

#### Teacher and/or Principal:

**St. John, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**St. Leo, Ridgway**  
**St. Brigid, Meadville**  
**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**  
**St. Paul, Erie**

#### Additional Duties:

**Hamot Hospital, Erie**  
**Community Dialysis Service, Erie**  
**DaVita Dialysis, Erie**

## Sister Andrene Mittal, SSJ

Sister Andrene Mittal, SSJ, grew up in Sharon, where her home parish was Sacred Heart. Attending Sacred Heart Elementary School, she was taught by Benedictine sisters, with whom she experienced kindness and caring. She attended public high school

in Brookfield, Ohio. She also attended CCD classes taught by Sisters of St. Joseph, "who were always so kind to each other and good to us," she says. But she had not yet heard the call to religious life.

"A good friend of mine, when we were juniors in high school, asked me to go with her to see the Sisters of St. Joseph receive the habit at Easter; she did not want to go alone," Sister Andrene recalls. "I don't know how she knew the sisters. I did go with her but had no intention of entering the convent. But my senior year, I went at Easter by myself—God has ways! I entered shortly after that."

Sister Andrene taught at Erie Diocesan schools as well as in Columbus, Ohio, for almost 40 years. She now serves as manager of the

Sisters of St. Joseph Heritage Apartments in Erie.

"Many of our sisters have had a great influence on my life," she says. "Their helpful ways, their kindness, generosity and cheerfulness have influenced me very much along the way."

### My Inspiration

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now ... for I shall not pass this way again."

-*"The Road of Life"*



50 years

#### Teacher:

**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**St. Andrew, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**St. Patrick, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**St. Brigid, Meadville**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Columbus, Ohio**

#### Additional Duties:

**Ministered at: Villa Maria Center and SSJ Community Living Center**  
**Manager: The Heritage Apartments**

Their willingness to help me in all my new undertakings and sticking with me and giving me their wisdom has helped me a lot.

"The sisters have taught me to trust in God's ways and all will be right. God has placed many people in my life for whom I am very grateful."

## Sister Rita Musante, OLVM



50 years

Sister Rita Musante, OLVM, celebrated her 50th jubilee with the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters on Aug. 4, 2007.

She is a native of St. Joseph Parish in Warren and attended the parish grade school. In 1964 and

1965 she served in Union City, Waterford, Wattsburg and Corry prior to her assignments in California, Utah, Michigan and Indiana. She also worked at Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren while caring for her parents from 1983 to 1988.

Sister Rita currently assists in liturgy and other motherhouse services at the Victory Noll Ministry Center in Huntingdon, Ind., providing retreats, spiritual direction and other spiritual ministries.

## Sister Margaret Mary Nielsen, OSB



50 years

**Mount St. Benedict, Erie**  
**Holy Family Priory, Benet Lake, Wis.**  
*Director of Religious Education:*  
**St. Benedict Parish, Bristol, Wis.**  
*Parochial Assistant, Coordinator of Volunteers:*  
**Christ the King, Bristol, Wis.**

In her first years as a member of the Benet Lake community, Sister Margaret Mary assisted with clerical tasks at the print shop of the nearby St. Benedict Abbey. The sisters were the mainstay of the staff that produced publications on prayer, faith and a wide range of other religious topics.

Later, she was a teacher of religion in several parishes in the Benet Lake area, director of religious education in St. Benedict Parish, Bristol, Wis., and then parochial assistant and coordinator of volunteers at Christ the King Parish, Bristol, Wisconsin.

In addition to her service as prioress, Sister Margaret Mary served her religious community as formation director, council

member and community secretary.

Sister Margaret Mary moved to Erie when the Benet Lake and Erie communities merged. She has been an assistant in the community's fine arts shop, Chapter 57, contributing time and care to the many tasks required in such a project.

In recent years, she has visited other sisters residing in the infirmary, encouraging and attending to their needs and comfort as much as possible. She sees the community's prayer life as its greatest gift to her

and hopes that in the future the same prayer life will be a source and sign of hope for all.

### My Inspiration

She finds the sum of the Rule of Benedict and goal of all monastic life in the words of Chapter 72, "Let us prefer nothing to Christ and may he lead us all together to everlasting life."

### Congratulations to our Jubilarians!

**Msgr. Robert G. Barcio**  
**Sr. Ann Louis Grandinetti SSJ**  
**Sr. Phyllis Hilbert SSJ**  
**Msgr. Conrad L. Kraus**  
**Msgr. James W. Peterson**  
**Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld SSJ**  
**Msgr. Joseph V. Wardanski**  
**Rev. Norbert G. Wolf**

*St. John the Baptist Church,  
 Erie*

Sister Margaret Mary Nielsen was the first prioress of the newly independent Holy Family Priory at Benet Lake, Wis.

A Chicago native, she attended the parish schools and is an honors graduate of St. Benedict College, St. Joseph, Minn., with a concentration in sociology. She was elected to the national Catholic honor society, Delta Epsilon Sigma. She also attended Dominican College in Racine, Wis., and has attended many workshops, seminars and internships in her field.

## Sister Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ

"Flowers," Sister Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ, says, "are just like people—the strong, the weak, those that need much care, those that survive no matter what, the varying colors, the tall, the short and on and on."

Sister Nancy has what may seem to some as competing interests and inspirations—both nature and technology. But she finds a way to put them both together in her passion for photography.

### My Inspiration

"When I'm out taking pictures I'm ever surprised with the new and different ways God comes to me."

"The area from which I receive most of my inspiration is nature," she explains. "I also have been blessed with the gift of photography. When one takes the time to study flowers, much like people, one will notice how many different kinds there are and how they are all beautiful and have something unique to offer."

Sister Nancy taught at eight grade schools in the Erie Diocese from 1957 to 1975. She also ministered at St. Vincent Health Center and St. Andrew Parish in Erie. Her technological side includes television and cable production work as a data and media specialist and commercial photography.

Presently, Sister Nancy ministers as a reflexology technician and a data entry coordinator.



50 years

#### Teacher:

**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**Holy Rosary, Erie**  
**St. Paul, Erie**  
**St. John, Erie**  
**St. Agatha, Meadville**  
**St. Bernard, Bradford**  
**Notre Dame, Sharon**

#### Ministered at:

**Saint Vincent Health Center, Erie**  
**St. Andrew, Erie**  
**Diocese of Erie**  
**Villa Maria College/Conference Center**  
**Center**  
**WETG/Channel 66**  
**Reflexology Technician and Data Entry Coordinator**

## Sister Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ

### My Inspiration

"I am still energized by the Sisters of St. Joseph consensus statement. The words are enabling, 'Stimulated by the Holy Spirit,' then they are directive, 'the Sister of St. Joseph moves always toward profound love of God ... love of neighbor without distinction,' they are focused, 'she works to achieve unity both of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God.' I begin each day with this reading."

"My years at Villa Maria Academy were my favorite and most memorable times in my personal growth," Sister Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ, recalls. "To me, the Sisters of St. Joseph were my teachers, my friends and my role models. What I observed was a group of women who lived their ordinary, daily lives in an extraordinary kind of way. They reflected joy and faithfulness and passed on a 'special something' to young women in their formative years."

During her junior and senior years in high school, Sister Ann Stephanie says the call to religious life was definitely there.

"However, I chose to ignore

the call because I was much more interested in everything else and had planned to pursue an undergraduate degree in chemistry at Villa Maria College," she says. "But soon after graduation, I experienced a powerful call that I could no longer ignore. Instead of the college life I had planned, I entered the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph and learned a great lesson in life: 'You can't put God on hold forever.'"

When she entered the community, she discovered this 'special something' was the Sisters of St. Joseph charism, she adds.

Today, Sister Ann Stephanie practices her charism in a medical setting, ministering as an educational ad-



50 years

#### Teacher:

**St. Andrew, Erie**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**  
**Our Lady's Christian, Erie**  
**Villa Maria Academy, Erie**  
**St. Agatha High School, Meadville**  
*Professor and Director:*  
**Education Department of Villa Maria College, Erie**

#### Director of Curriculum and Instruction:

**Diocese of Erie**  
*Dean of the School of Education:*  
**Gannon University, Erie**  
*Educational Administrator:*  
**Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), Erie**

ministrator at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Over the years, she has served as a teacher in grade schools, high schools and colleges throughout the Erie Diocese. She also served as director of curriculum and instruction for almost a decade in the diocese's Office of Education and as dean of the School of Education at Gannon University.



# Sister Jude Marie Talerico, SSJ

Sister Jude Marie Talerico, SSJ, points to her Italian-American upbringing as an early foundation for her Catholic sense of self.

"The faith and guidance of my parents and my Italian grandmother deeply touched

and guided me over the years," she remembers. "My grandma was always a part of my family. I can still recall her attending early daily Mass. I don't think I ever saw her when she didn't have a rosary in her hands.

"The faith and love of my parents was also a great influence in my life," Sister Jude Marie adds. "They sent me to Catholic grade school and high school, which I know required many sacrifices. I remember one time my mom and dad were scrimping and saving to buy a new car, but

put it off until later and used some of the money for me."

Sister Jude Marie grew up in Bradford and went to St. Bernard Grade School and High School. Her impressions of the Sisters of St. Joseph were formed there.

"I would have to say I heard the final call to religious life during my high school years," she says. "But I think the seed was first planted in fifth grade when I had Sister Mary Pascal, my favorite teacher. She made learning so much fun!

"I always had close contact with the Sisters of St.



50 years

Joseph from first grade to 12th grade. In high school, Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Mary Carmel were a great influence in my life. They were always cheerful, fun loving and willing to help me in any situation," she adds.

Sister Jude Marie taught throughout the Erie Diocese. In 2004, she earned an award for 45 years of teaching. She continues to substitute teach in the diocese and volunteers at Marycrest at the Sisters of St. Joseph Community Living Center.

*Teacher:*

**St. John, Erie**

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**

**St. Joseph, Erie**

**St. Paul, Erie**

**Sacred Heart, Erie**

**St. Brigid, Meadville**

**Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg**

*Additional Duties:*

**Cared for baby boys at St. Joseph's Home**

**Substitute teacher: Erie Diocese**

**Volunteer: Marycrest at the SSJ Community**

**Living Center**

## Congratulations to the following Jubilarians

*Sr. Ann Donohue, SSJ*

*Sr. Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ*

*Sr. Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ*

*Sr. Rose Kuzma, OSF*

*Sr. Carol Ann McLaughlin, OSB*

*Sr. Mary Arlene Menz, SSJ*

*Andrene Mittal, SSJ*

*Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ*

*Sr. Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ*

*Sr. Jude Marie Talerico, SSJ*

*Sr. Marie Timmons, SSJ*

*Msgr. Robert Barcio*

*Msgr. William Karg*

*Rev. Justin Pino (newly ordained)*

*Msgr. James Peterson*

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**



## My Inspiration

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5, which begins: "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens."

## St. Agatha, Meadville would like to congratulate its 2007 Jubilarians:

**Msgr. Robert G. Barcio**

**Very Reverend David Findlay, VF**

**Reverend Chris Hamlett**

**Sr. Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ**

**Sr. Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ**

**Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ**

**Sr. Mary Arlene Menz, SSJ**

**Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ**

**Sr. Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ**



# Sister Marie Timmons, SSJ

Sister Marie Timmons, SSJ, is continually inspired by Chapter 22 of Matthew where Jesus gave the greatest commandment to love God and love others.

"I believe as a Sister of St.

## My Inspiration

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." -Matt. 22:37-39

Joseph I am trying to fulfill this teaching of Jesus as it is implied in our mission statement," she says. "In order to do this we have received the special gift from God—the gift of charity, loving God above all things, and loving others as our brothers and sisters."

Sister Marie has taught at no less than 11 diocesan schools. She has been recognized with six teaching awards from the diocese and was nominated twice for "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

Sister Marie grew up in Erie and attended St. Andrew Grade School, where she later taught and served as a school home visitor. Presently, she serves as assistant archivist

for her congregation.

"I believe that in second grade I felt the call to religious life," she remembers. "I was inspired by my teacher, Sister Marie Rene, who was ill during the year, but her patience and kindness I'll always remember. There were many sisters I had during grade school and high school at Villa Maria who demonstrated many virtues of the Sisters of St. Joseph charism. That is when the seed was planted, and it was nurtured at home.

"My parents had shown a great love of God throughout their lives in their simple daily prayers and attendance at Mass. Family prayers were very impor-

tant to us. I knew many religious throughout my years growing up, and my dear uncle, Msgr. Louis Kelly, was a remarkable inspiration to me."



50 years

### Teacher:

St. Patrick, Erie  
Blessed Sacrament, Erie  
St. Ann, Erie  
St. Andrew, Erie  
St. John, Erie  
Cathedral Center, Erie  
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie  
St. Leo, Ridgway  
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg  
St. Ann, Wilcox  
St. Mark, Lawrence Park  
Counselor:  
Camp Notre Dame, Erie

### Religious Education:

Our Lady's Christian, Erie  
Our Lady's Christian Summer Learning Program  
Assistant Archivist:  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Additional Duties:  
First Reconciliation Instructor  
Rainbows Coordinator  
Mission Coordinator  
Fundraiser Organizer  
Home Visitor: St. Andrew School, Erie

*St. Andrew gratefully acknowledges these priests and religious women for their service to our families and children over many years:*

**Msgr. Conrad Kraus**, associate pastor  
**Rev. Chris Hamlett**, resident priest

**Sr. Mary Arlen Menz, SSJ**  
**Sr. Jane Francis Mulligan, SSJ**  
**Sr. Andrene Mittal, SSJ**  
**Sr. Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ**  
**Sr. Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ**  
**Sr. Marie Timmons, SSJ**

We recognize with great pride our newly ordained native son, **Reverend William Barron**, and ask God to bless his priesthood.

*St. Andrew Church, Erie*

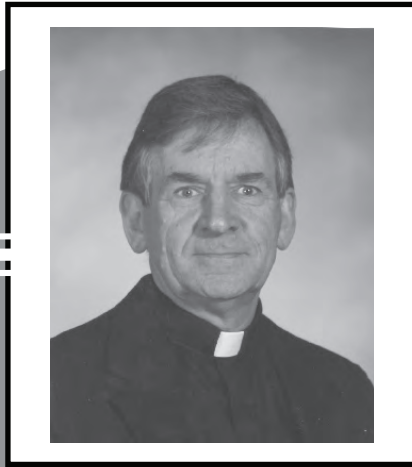
**Saint Brigid Parish, Meadville**  
**Congratulates all of you who have served us in the priesthood & religious life over the years!**

**Very Rev. David Findlay, V.F.**  
(our beloved Pastor),  
**Msgr. Conrad Kraus, Msgr. Max Karg**



**Sr. Mary Arlene Menz, Sr. James Francis Mulligan,**  
**Sr. Mary Kay McNelis, Sr. Andrene Mittal,**  
**Sr. Jude Marie Talerico**

# Father David Findlay, VF



40 years

*Parochial Vicar:*  
**St. Stephen, Oil City**  
**Ss. Cosmas and Damian,**  
**Punxsutawney**  
**St. Paul, Erie**  
**Christ the King, Houtzdale**  
*Pastor:*  
**Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg**  
**Sacred Heart, Erie**  
**St. Brigid, Meadville**  
*Additional Duties:*  
**Dean of Meadville Deanery**

Father David Findlay says his call to priesthood came very clearly through Father James Peterson, who is also a jubilarian, after nearly four years of involvement with the St. Thomas More Club. The club was designed to encourage young Catholic men to be active in their parishes after graduation from Gannon University.

"Involvement with Maryknoll while at Gannon led me to inquire there first, but the diocesan priesthood quickly came into focus," says Father Findlay.

The eighth of 11 children, Father Findlay is

a native of St. Brigid Parish in Meadville. In 1949, the Findlay family was honored by the late Archbishop John Mark Gannon as diocesan Catholic Family of the Year.

He is well known for his participation and leadership in the Erie Diocese's Cursillo Movement. In addition to his parish assignments, Father Findlay has been affiliated with the Ministerial Association in Houtzdale, Johnsonburg, Oil City and Punxsutawney and Goodwill Industries and the Easter Seal Society in Oil City.

As many of his good friends and parishioners know, everything changed for Father Findlay on May 26 this year, the evening before he was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priest-

hood. A sepsis attack involving pneumonia and a slight heart attack put him into an induced coma for nine days. His recovery has been slow, mostly at St. Mary's Home in Erie, and now has him beginning cancer treatments.

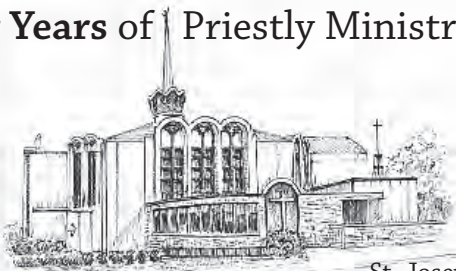
"This is a new phase of priesthood," Father Findlay says.

As he continues to recover, all are invited to keep him in their prayers.

## My Inspiration

"I am inspired by Matthew 13:52: 'The good and faithful steward brings forth from his storeroom things both new and old.' It works for me in the most practical and physical way, as well as spiritually."

The St. Joseph Parish Family  
 Congratulates Former Assistant  
**Msgr. Conrad L. Kraus** on  
**Forty Years of Priestly Ministry.**



St. Joseph, Sharon

pick UP your copy of



at your local parish.



Diocesan, national and international **news** and **information** of interest to the people in the 13 counties of the **Catholic Diocese of Erie**.

Distributed every other Sunday.

# Monsignor Conrad L. Kraus

"When I began studying theology in 1963, I had never been in a seminary before," says Msgr. Conrad Kraus. "I was the only one with a maroon jacket; everyone else had a black one."

Anyone who knows Msgr. Kraus knows he enjoys walking to the beat of his own drummer.

For someone who likes being on the cutting edge, it turns out Msgr. Kraus entered the seminary at just the right moment. He started classes in September and by December, he says, everything changed. The bishops of the world approved the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy at the Second Vatican Council that month, calling for an extensive revision and rethinking of worship in an effort to give people a new sense of involvement in the Mass and other rites.

"So we were the first class to go through the seminary using the English Mass," Msgr.

Kraus observes. He became chair of the liturgy committee at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, and had a front row seat as students and teachers together began interpreting and living out the precepts of the new documents. His memory of the process? "I loved every minute of it," he says.

Many people are surprised to learn Msgr. Kraus had what he called "another vocation" prior to entering the priesthood. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Detroit and greatly enjoyed the work. (Evidence of his first vocation can still be seen in Erie, where he did the original design for City Hall. He was also the one who put the red panels on Gannon's Wehrle Hall, a design he admits was not embraced by all in the beginning.) But even as he found satisfaction in his job, Msgr. Kraus says he kept feeling the pull of another call.

"So I quit my job and took a long trip to Seattle," he says. "After about six weeks I decided I was going to give the priesthood a try." He traveled to Boston to study Latin for a year before entering the seminary, the place he said he first became enthralled with all the liturgy had to offer.

"Boston was the center of the contemporary Catholic movement," he says. "I had the chance to meet a lot of the movers and shakers like Sister Corita and Daniel Berrigan. That's where I really be-

gan to learn about the liturgical life of the church."

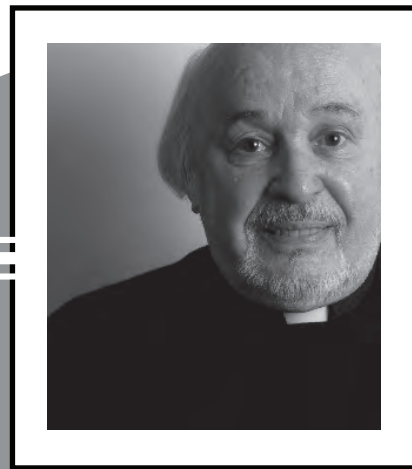
A native son of Sacred Heart Parish in Erie and a graduate of its grade school, Msgr. Kraus is a son of the late Adele Shelton Kraus of North Carolina and Leonard J. Kraus of Erie.

He has served in numerous parishes throughout the Erie Diocese, but is deeply connected to his identity as the founding director of the Diocesan Office of Worship, a position he maintains today, while simultaneously serving as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Emlenton. In addition to his work with the Office of Worship, Msgr. Kraus worked as campus minister at Allegheny College in Meadville, chaplain at Spencer Hospital in Meadville and campus minister at Villa Maria College in Erie.

Msgr. Kraus has served as a member of the Priests' Senate and on the national board of directors of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, chairing the Liturgical Arts Committee from 1987-91. He also served on the RCIA, Confirmation and the Ministries Formation committees.

Msgr. Kraus has given workshops at almost every parish in the diocese over the last 40 years, and published articles in "Faith and Form," "Living Light," and "CHURCH," among others.

Msgr. Kraus was named monsignor, with the title, Prelate of Honor in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. "I've never worn the outfit," he claims with a smile, "but I did have the best reception." Its location speaks volumes about Msgr. Kraus' approach to his priesthood and his life: he chose to have the reception at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen in Erie.



40 years

## My Inspiration

"One day in the house of the Lord is better than a thousand elsewhere." -Psalm 84:11

*Msgr. CK1,*

*Because of you...  
we are much better.  
Thank you.*

*Love, The Breakfast Club*

*Your family and extended family  
join in with our love and  
appreciation. Alleluia!*



### *Graduate Education:*

**MA, Religious Education, Fordham University; MA, Liturgical Studies, Catholic University of America**

### *Parochial Vicar:*

**St. Andrew, Erie  
St. Patrick, Erie  
St. John the Baptist, Erie  
St. Joseph, Sharon  
St. Brigid, Meadville**

### *Pastor:*

**St. Michael, Emlenton**

### *Chaplain:*

**Spencer Hospital**

### *Administrator:*

**St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs**

### *Resident:*

**Sacred Heart, Erie  
St. John the Baptist, Erie  
St. Peter Cathedral, Erie  
St. John the Evangelist, Girard**

### *Additional Duties:*

**Founding Director, Office of Worship  
Campus Ministry: Villa Maria College, Erie and Allegheny College, Meadville**

# Monsignor Joseph V. Wardanski

An Erie east-sider from birth, Msgr. Joseph Wardanski celebrates his 40th anniversary as a priest not far from his roots. Growing up at St. Casimir Parish in Erie, he graduated from nearby East High School and continues to call Erie's east side his home with residence at St. Patrick and St. Hedwig parishes in Erie.

His service to the diocese has come in many forms. More than 20 years ago, he forged lifelong friendships while a pastor at St. Hedwig, but his greatest gift to his faith has been a 31-year ministry dedicated to serving senior citizens at St. Mary's Home East. At the same time, Msgr. Wardanski served at the Mercy Center on Aging for 10 years. How does he minister to those in the twilight of their years?

"Mostly, I listen," he says quietly. "Residents at St. Mary's tell me about their lives, their

worries, their illnesses and their families."

His generous work with the elderly, sick and dying has grown dramatically in scope over three decades.

"When I first came to St. Mary's, there were only two buildings," he says. "Now, we have more than six at our east-side location including the

Alzheimer's unit, plus the buildings at St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge."

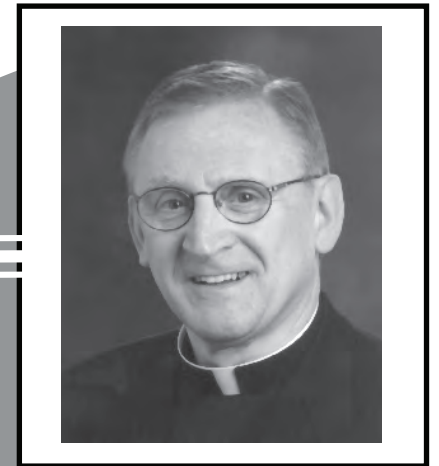
His quiet demeanor and friendly listening have helped generations of families cope with the emotional issues of aging, and he can draw upon his own experience. His mother

passed away in 1975, a year before he began his tenure as chaplain at St. Mary's where his father spent his final days.

Msgr. Wardanski has touched many Erie area families who were most pleased to see him receive recognition for his work with the elderly when he was honored as Priest of the Year by the Serra Club of Erie in 1999.

"I was so surprised," he said. "I never expected something like that."

Msgr. Wardanski credits many people for his vocation. Priests and nuns after high school encouraged him, and he said he was further inspired by the work of Msgr. James Peterson, who taught at Gannon University for 28 years and served for 18 years as chaplain at the Erie County Prison.



50 years

## My Inspiration

"The Gospels because they contain the words and works of Jesus himself."

### Parochial Vicar:

**St. John the Baptist, Erie**  
**St. Peter Cathedral, Erie**  
**St. Callistus, Kane**

### Pastor:

**St. Patrick, Erie**  
**St. Hedwig, Erie**

### Chaplain:

**Mercy Center on Aging, Erie**  
**St. Mary's Home, Erie**

### Resident:

**St. Mark Seminary, Erie**  
**St. Patrick, Erie**  
**St. Hedwig, Erie**

*In appreciation for the many years of faithful service we celebrate our Jubilarians, Thank you!*



VILLA MARIA  
ACADEMY

2403 West Eighth Street, Erie, PA 16505  
www.villamaria.com 814-838-2061

115 years of  
FAITH FAMILY EXCELLENCE & TRADITION



## Fr. Hamlett,

Thank you for serving us. We congratulate you on your Silver Anniversary of ordination.

### Sto lat (Polish)

St. Adalbert Church, Farrell

### Sók szerencsét kivanok (Hungarian)

Holy Trinity Church, Farrell

### Živio (Croatian)

St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sharon

## Father Chris M. Hamlett

Although Father Chris Hamlett sensed a priestly call very early in life—around 6 years old—he says he didn't really give it serious thought until his junior year of high school. While the thought of a priestly vocation was



25 years

always present, his interests in other activities such as sports and Boy Scouts often preoccupied his time.

"But when I began to reflect on what God wanted me to do with my life—where to go to college, what path to follow in life—I listened to the Lord with an open heart and he led me to where I am today," Father Hamlett says. "I'm grateful for God's patience and his great sense of humor in calling me to such a wonderful, fulfilling and life enriching vocation."

His parents and family, whom he calls very supportive, helped foster his vocation to the priesthood.

"I grew up in a strong Catholic home where faith was very important to my family," Father Hamlett says. "It wasn't simply a Sunday obligation, but prayer and Christian living were always an essential aspect of our daily lives. My mom and dad were wonderful role models and witnesses to the faith. I owe so much to them for their heroic example of Catholic Christian living."

Likewise, Father Hamlett says there were many priests and women religious who were very influential in his life. Particularly, he thinks of the parish priests and sisters at St. George

in Erie whose example and witness, he says, sparked within him the thought that perhaps the priesthood was the direction in which God was calling him to serve.

"I am grateful for their wonderful example of living their vocations with such joy and fidelity," Father Hamlett says.

One of his favorite Scripture passages is from 1 Cor. 9:27, in which, Father Hamlett says, St. Paul's plea becomes his own: Pray for me brothers and sisters, "for fear that after having preached to others I myself should be rejected."

"This passage reminds me on a daily basis of the awesome responsibility to preach the Gospel faithfully and to strive to live the preached message authentically," he says.

Father Hamlett is the pastor of St. Lawrence in Albion.

*Parochial Vicar:*

**St. Andrew, Erie**

**St. George, Erie**

*Faculty:*

**Cathedral Prep, Erie**

**Gannon University, Erie**

**Elk County Catholic,**

**St. Marys**

*Resident:*

**Sacred Heart, St. Marys**

*Weekend Assistant:*

**St. Leo, Ridgway**

**St. Mark, Emporium**

**St. Boniface, Kersey**

**Sacred Heart, Erie**

**St. Paul, Erie**

**Holy Family, Erie**

**St. James, Erie**

### My Inspiration

"I find inspiration in the psalms, particularly Psalm 121: 'I will lift mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.' It serves as a constant reminder that my priestly life in service to others depends solely on the grace of God."

## Father James P. McCormick

Father James McCormick says his mother planted the seeds for him to become a priest when he was very young.

"My mother set up a May altar in our home and gathered my brothers and sisters around it each night to pray the rosary," he says. "It was during the recitation of the rosary that I first began to think that I might be called to be a priest."

Those seeds were watered throughout his life, particularly by the Sisters of the Divine Spirit in grade school and by Msgr. John Dollinger, Msgr. William Biebel and Father Dan Kresinski during his high school years at Cathedral Prep.

Father McCormick was ordained a priest on May 14, 1982. In 2007, he was named pastor at St. James Parish in Erie, where he has had residency since 1989.

Previously, he also served at St. Leo Parish in Ridgway, St. Stanislaus Parish in Erie and as the chaplain at Hamot Medical Center.

He began teaching at Cathedral Prep in 1982 and was a full-time faculty member from 1989-2007. He remains happily employed at Prep part-time.

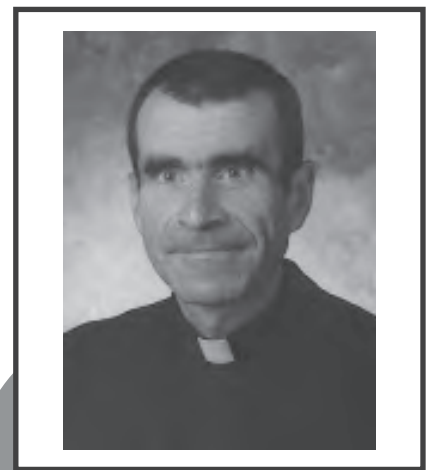
"Teaching at Cathedral Prep has given me the opportunity to impart Catholic principles and values to the students on a daily basis," he says. "I strive to create a classroom milieu in which the students are motivated and

challenged so that when they leave they are prepared for college, life and the challenges that they will face in living out their faith."

Since the day of his ordination, Father McCormick has been energized by the daily celebration of the Eucharist.

### My Inspiration

"Along with the 23rd Psalm, I find John 10:9-11 to be a daily comfort and inspiration. It assures me of God's care for me and of my responsibility to be a source of life, hope and encouragement for the people I serve at St. James and Cathedral Prep."



25 years

"Preaching a weekly message that challenges and inspires the congregation to more deeply embrace the tenets of our faith and to daily live out Jesus' commandment of love is an awesome responsibility that I take very seriously," he says.

*Parochial Vicar:*

**St. Leo, Ridgway**

**St. Mark, Emporium**

**St. Stanislaus, Erie**

*Faculty:*

**Cathedral Prep, Erie**

*Pastor and Resident:*

**St. James, Erie**

*Chaplain:*

**Hamot Medical Center**

# Father John M. Schultz

Father John "Jay" Schultz, pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Erie, celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest in May with Masses at his

home parish—St. Titus in Titusville—as well as St. Boniface.

A significant portion of his priesthood has been dedicated to education: Father Schultz has taught at Bradford Central Christian in Bradford, served as headmaster at Venango Christian in Oil City and as vicar for the Office of Education for the diocese. Although he left the last post to accept the pastorate of St. Boniface, he remains connected to education through the parish school.

"I visit the school several times a week and have Mass with the students every week," says Father Schultz, who is enjoying the change of pace in his ministry.

"The people at St. Boniface are absolutely

great," he says. "This first year as pastor has gone really fast, so I guess that's a good sign."

Father Schultz says many people are surprised to learn that St. Boniface is a fairly large parish, with close to 1,000 families. "It's a very active parish with many families and young children," he observes. In addition, many people have belonged to the parish for generations. "We have a number of families whose relatives are buried in the 1840 pioneer cemetery," Father Schultz says.

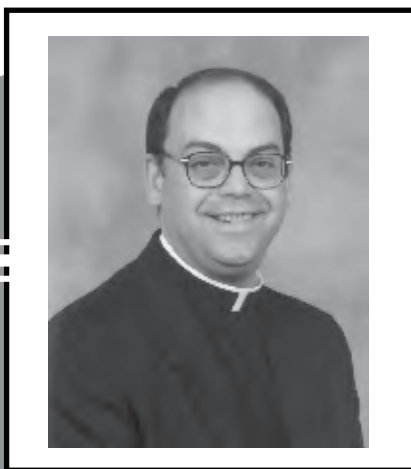
Father Schultz was deeply influenced by the example of Father Bill Smith, who was his pastor as he grew up in Titusville. He does not pinpoint a particular moment when he first remembers considering the priesthood, but has strong memories of what he refers to as "many

good priests" while growing up. To this day, he finds distributing Communion an inspiration.

Father Schultz is known for telling a brief story or joke after each Mass, except during Lent. "People send them to me all the time now, so I have quite a bank—I can always find a joke to tell. It sends us all out with a smile," he says. "I think that's important."

## My Inspiration

"Giving Communion is an exciting encounter with God's people—as with all the sacraments."



25 years

## Jubilarian

celebrating 25 years



Rev. Chris Hamlett



St. Lawrence, Albion

*Pastor:*

**St. Boniface, Erie**

*Faculty: Assistant Principal  
Bradford Central Catholic High School*

**Venango Catholic High School  
Principal**

**Venango Catholic High School**

*Administrator:*

**Our Lady, Help of Christians, Oil City**

*Resident:*

**Our Lady of Peace, Erie**

*Weekend Assistant:*

**St. Francis of Assisi, Bradford**

**St. Callistus, Kane**

**St. Joseph, Oil City**

*Additional Duties:*

**Presbyteral Council, Erie**

*Vicar:*

**Office of Education, Erie**

A warm congratulations to all of the jubilarians celebrating anniversaries this year.

Our gratitude, love, and support  
Serra Club of Erie



# Diocese's first deacons celebrate years of service

What is a deacon? A standard definition of a deacon is a man who receives the sacrament of Holy Orders like priests and bishops and is also "one among us," an ordained man living the life of a layperson. Before ordination, deacons enter the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, a five-year program of



**Deacon Marty  
Eisert**

*Permanent Deacon:*  
**St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie  
Holy Trinity, Erie**  
*Additional Duties:*  
**Temporal Administrator:**  
**Holy Trinity, Erie**

academic, spiritual and pastoral formation.

So, what is a deacon? The best answer to the question may come in the form of two individuals, Deacon Marty Eisert and Deacon Miguel Alvarez.

Deacon Marty Eisert is a member of the first class in the diocese to go through the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program in 1997. His experience since then has been rewarding and full of surprises. After a three-year stay at St. Joseph Parish in Erie, Deacon Marty went to Holy Trinity Parish, where he served for three years doing the pastoral work of the church before sending a retirement letter to the bishop.

That is when Deacon Marty believes the Holy Spirit intervened. Unable to provide Holy Trinity with a pastor, Bishop Trautman asked him to be the parish administrator. "And thus began the most rewarding period of my entire life," Deacon Marty says.

In that unique role within a parish, Deacon Marty has worked with parishioners to pay off the parish debt; remodel the church, social center and rectory; pave the parking lots and grow the parish.

"I have never experienced a parish where the faith runs so deeply," he says.

Deacon Marty also credits his wife, Kathy, for her integral role in his ministry.

"If a deacon has a good marriage and pays attention to it, then he stands a good chance of being a good deacon," he says. "My wife is my bedrock. I couldn't fathom life without her."

An equally inspiring man is Deacon Miguel Alvarez, who fondly remembers being ordained as the first permanent deacon in the Erie Diocese in 1994. He currently is a deacon at St. Stephen Parish in Erie.

"Being able to help the Spanish-speaking community is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me," he says.

When asked about his call to the permanent diaconate, Deacon Miguel says it was not always easy.

"When I first started thinking about it, I said, 'no, no, no,'" he says. "But I prayed to the Holy Spirit and received the grace to go forward."

Deacon Miguel now encourages others that are discerning their vocation to pray, believing that they, too, will hear if God is calling them, as evidenced by the lyrics of his favorite song: "Here I am Lord / Is it I Lord? / I have heard you calling in the night / I will go Lord / If you lead



**Deacon Miguel  
Alvarez**

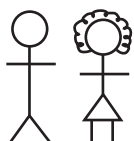
*Permanent Deacon:*  
**Spanish Catholic Apostolate,  
Erie  
St. Stephen, Erie**

me / I will hold your people in my heart."

"It is the greatest feeling to be able to help others and preach the word of the Lord," he says.

+

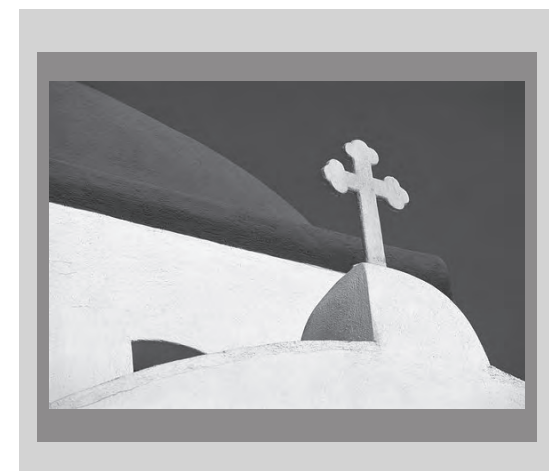
Grandpa and Grandma Eisert,  
Happy 10th Anniversary as a Deacon



Love,  
Emily, Kate, Eddie,  
Daniel and Allison  
(and their parents)

Congratulations  
Deacon **Miguel  
Alvarez** for your  
commitment as a  
deacon for 13  
faithful years.

~ Spanish Apostolate  
and St. Stephens Church





## Father Bill Barron



Newly  
Ordained

Father Bill Barron says he did not have designs on the priesthood.

"I grew up in a family that practiced the faith with devotion," Father Barron says. "There was always, for me, a great love and respect for what happened at church, for the Eucharist. In every stage of my life so far, I've always respected the priest. I always saw the priest as somebody who was a special person and someone who brought God to us."

His ministry now involves bringing God to the people of the Erie Diocese.

Father Barron was ordained to the priesthood on June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral and is a parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

His family and parish life at St. Andrew in Erie helped lay the groundwork for him to be open to God's call later on, he says. He cites his formation at St. Andrew School and Cathed-

ral Prep for helping him to be open to God's voice. Father Larry Richards, who served as Prep's campus minister, was another good influence.

"He helped me realize that the faith is alive and we have a mission that we need to be attentive to," Father Barron says. "I saw his promotion of vocations as promoting Christ and spreading the Gospel."

It was toward the end of his high school career that the priesthood first became a thought. In 1998, during his senior year, Father Stephen Schreiber was serving as a transitional deacon at St. Andrew prior to his ordination. Father Schreiber's love for his soon-to-be-vocation caught Father Barron's eye.

"I really saw Christ in him," he says. "He's been a good friend and a great mentor for me. I remember literally looking at him during Mass and thinking, maybe that's something that I could do and should think about."

*Hometown:*

**Erie**

*Home parish:*

**St. Andrew, Erie**

*Schools attended:*

**St. Andrew Elementary, Erie  
Cathedral Prep High School, Erie**

**St. Mark Seminary formation  
program, Erie**

**Gannon University, Erie**

**St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe**

*Deacon assignments:*

**St. Joseph, Oil City**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin**

**Mary, Oil City**

**St. Sebastian, Pittsburgh**

*First assignment:*

**Parochial Vicar: Our Lady of  
Peace, Erie**

## Father Justin Pino

For Father Justin Pino, the call to the priesthood was always there.

"It was a call probably since I was 6 years old. It was there," he says. "There was this little voice in the back of my head saying, 'You'd be a good priest.'"

That call became a reality on June 8 when Father Pino was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter Cathedral. He is assigned as a parochial vicar of Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney; St. Adrian, Delancey; St. Joseph, Anita; and St. Anthony, Walston.

He says his vocation was strengthened by family and friends, pointing to the closeness of his home parish of St. Basil the Great in Coalport. He says he was always encouraged by his pastor, Father Alex Amico, who is now the pastor of St. Paul in Erie.

"Father Amico was our pastor in Coalport for 22 years. He was the only pastor that I ever knew," Father Pino says. "I was an altar server for him, and he was always encouraging, saying, 'You'd make a good priest.'"

He must have seen something."

When he was 18 years old and a senior in high school, he says it just seemed like the natural progression to go right into seminary.

"I didn't even have to think about it," he says.

During seminary formation, Father Pino says there are times of doubt. That's when seminarians struggle with the discernment of the vocation.

"But if this is what God wants for you, he'll work you through it," he says. "He did for me. In the eight years of seminary, I have to say that I never considered leaving because I felt that God kept pulling me toward the altar."

*Hometown:*

**Coalport**

*Home parish:*

**St. Basil the Great, Coalport**

*Schools attended:*

**Glendale Elementary, Flinton**

**Glendale Junior-Senior High School, Flinton**

**St. Mark Seminary formation program, Erie**

**Gannon University, Erie**

**St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore**

*Seminarian summer assignment:*

**Blessed Sacrament, Erie**

*Deacon assignments:*

**St. George, Erie**

**St. Margaret and St. Mary Magdalene**

**Mission, Bel Air, Md.**

*First assignment:*

**Parochial Vicar: Ss. Cosmas and Damian,**

**Punxsutawney; St. Adrian, Delancey;**

**St. Joseph, Anita; St. Anthony,**

**Walston**



Newly  
Ordained

# 'Feed my sheep'

*Barron, Pino ordained to the priesthood*

Two young men have dedicated their lives to tend to the Lord's flock of the Erie Diocese.

Bishop Donald Trautman ordained William Barron and Justin Pino to the priesthood in front of a gathering of family, friends, diocesan clergy and guests on June 8 at St. Peter Cathedral.

The evening's Gospel was from John 21:15-17, the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after being raised from the dead. Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" and commissions him to "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

After the Gospel, Father Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary, presented the candidates, who were then elected by the bishop. The gathered assembly gave its consent through a round of applause, signifying approval of having these men serve them as the people of God.

Bishop Trautman then deliv-

ered his homily to both candidates, who were seated directly in front of the cathedra. He asked what Jesus' question to Peter—Do you love me?—could mean.

"Loving Jesus means taking care of his lambs and sheep," he said. "Loving Jesus means tending to the Lord's flock. Loving Jesus means being a good shepherd. Tonight, you will lay down your lives for God's people."

Through their ordination, Bishop Trautman said the new priests will receive the power to make Christ present in bread and wine, the power to forgive sins and the power to anoint the sick.

"But remember," he said, "service, not power, must be the first characteristic of a priest of Christ. Your priestly life will be a demanding life, a life of service, surrender and self-sacrifice. Be not afraid. Christ is with you. Have confidence in the risen Lord. Trust in Christ."



The Parish Family of  
St. Basil the Great, Coalport  
proudly acknowledges  
Fr. Justin Pino,  
one of our native sons,  
as a newly ordained priest  
of the Diocese of Erie.



Father Justin Pino, Bishop Donald Trautman and Father Bill Barron

During their examination, the candidates expressed their intentions to be faithful to the bishop, the worship life of the church, the gospel and to Jesus Christ. After a promise of obedience, the candidates reclined face down in front of the altar while the congregation sang the litany of saints. Bishop Trautman conferred holy orders on the candidates through the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration.

The new priests were then vested with a stole and chasuble by their ordination sponsors; Father Alex Amico and Father Joseph Dougherty vested Father Pino and Msgr. Richard Sullivan and Father Stephen Schreiber vested Father Barron.

Bishop Trautman then anointed the hands of the new priests with sacred chrism to enable them to engage in sacramental ministry.

After the liturgy, Bishop Trautman returned to the pulpit to thank the priests, religious and teachers who helped foster the new priests' vocations.

"But most of all, the church thanks their parents, Patrick and Michelle Barron and Patrick and Kathleen Pino, who have given life, love and support," he said. "You have shared your faith."

The new priests also celebrated their first Masses of thanksgiving. Father Barron celebrated Mass June 10 at his home parish of St. Andrew in Erie, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Oil City on June 16 and St. Joseph in Oil City on June 17. Father Pino celebrated Mass at Holy Trinity Parish in Ramey on June 10, his home parish of St. Basil the Great in Coalport on June 16 and at St. George in Erie on June 17.

*God's blessings to:*

**Rev. William R. Barron  
Msgr. Salvatore P. Mitchell  
Msgr. John M. Dollinger  
Rev. John M. Schultz**

*From "Oil City's Mother Church" (St. Joseph)*





Baptism: April 1981,  
Holy Trinity Church,  
Ramey, PA



Confirmation: April 1999, Christ the  
King Church, Houtzdale



1984 photo



Holy Communion: September 10, 1989  
Fr. Alex Amico, St. Basil, Coalport



2005: Justin  
presenting his  
rector, Fr. Robert F.  
Leavitt, S.S. with a  
commemorative book  
he wrote celebrating  
his 25th anniversary as  
President-Rector of St. Mary's  
Seminary and University



Justin vesting his fellow classmate,  
Bill Barron, before their ordination



Ordination: June 8, 2007



## Newly Ordained Fr. Justin Pino

*Fr. Justin,*

*God allowed us to remain on this earth to witness and share with you the celebration of priesthood in your life.*

*We often find it difficult to express how very proud we are of our grandson...though we share that pride with anyone who will listen!*

*Our love and prayers are with you always.*

*Your Grandparents*

*Dear Justin,*

*Your family offers praise and thanks for your ordination to the priesthood on June 8, 2007.*

*When you began your very fragile life, we weren't sure what God's plan would be. But how wonderfully blessed we are to see the greatness of God's gift to us all. We are so proud of you.*

*God's choicest blessings on you and the people with whom you share your many gifts.*

*Love you,  
Mom, Dad and Nathan*



## Carmelite nuns celebrate 50 years of prayer, sacrifice in Erie Diocese

At the invitation of Archbishop John Mark Gannon, the Carmelite nuns came to Erie from Wheeling, W. Va., in 1957. Fifty years after their arrival, Holy Family Monastery, home to the Carmelites, serves as a house of prayer for the diocese.

The Carmelites, a cloistered community dedicated to contemplative prayer, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery on East Gore Road in Erie. Friends of the community gathered May 5 for an anniversary Mass at the monastery celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman.

"When a priest or a sister celebrates 50 years of religious life, that is a significant milestone," the bishop said during his homily. "When a married couple celebrates 50 years of marriage, that is a significant milestone. But when a cloistered convent

celebrates 50 years, that is a short time. Fifty years is but a fleeting moment in the life of the more than 2,000-year-old Catholic Church. And so I say to our Carmelite sisters, you are young in the Lord, you are young in spirit, you are young in potential."

Arriving in 1957 was Mother Mary of Jesus Crucified, who had been the prioress in Wheeling, accompanied by four nuns, a novice and a candidate for admission. One of those nuns was Mother Emmanuel Smith, who serves as prioress of the sisters today.

Archbishop Gannon gave the nuns the land for the monastery, four acres on the corner of the tract that was purchased for St. Mark Seminary. During an open house prior to its dedication, more than 12,000 lay people passed through the monastery. Since the ceremony of enclosure on May 5, 1957, the public has not been

permitted in the cloistered area.

In his homily, the bishop said the diocese gives thanks and praise to God for this house of prayer and the women who enter this community.

"We are thankful for their faith and faithfulness, for their sacrifices and service, for 50 years of contemplative prayer," he said. "For 50 years, a candle has burned in this sanctuary reminding us that the risen Jesus is present in the tabernacle. He is the source and summit of our lives and the focus and center of our prayer. He is the reason for this monastery."

The Carmelite lifestyle revolves around contemplative prayer and the rule of St. Theresa of Avila. Part of the charism of a cloistered community is a life lived in withdrawal from the outside



Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery

world. However, the sisters receive visitors at certain times and speak through a small grille.

The Carmelites may be best known to the public through St. Therese of the Child Jesus, a Carmelite nun at Lisieux in France whose "little way" became a popular form of spirituality.

## Sisters of St. Joseph Associates celebrate 25 years

The Sisters of St. Joseph (SSJ) Associates are celebrating their 25th anniversary with special events held throughout the year.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Associates are people without evangelical vows who join in the

mission and the spirituality of the SSJs. Currently, there are more than 230 SSJ Associates.

Any Christian man or woman is able to become an associate. Current SSJ Associates include single men and women, married couples, priests, ministers and deacons. They are diverse in age, occupation and background, but they share a wish to live the charism of the sisters. In order to become an associate, one must go through a year of formation which consists of a monthly meeting learning about the history and mission of the SSJs. Throughout that year, the potential associates have an SSJ as a mentor to guide them through the process.

Sister Ann Marie Capello, director of associates, praises the service of the SSJ Associates. "Whatever service they do to help their neighbor furthers our ministry,"

Sister Ann Marie says. "They are our companions on the spiritual journey, living our charism."

One of the associates is Pat Marshall, who was a member of the first group of associates. "It's exciting to see the growth of the program and the direction it has taken since we began 25 years ago," Marshall says. "The growth is much more than simply an increase in numbers. Associates are a big part of the community and have taken on much more responsibility in developing new ways to spread the charism."

Linda Kuhn, chairperson of the associates' public relations committee, said the SSJ Associates had a tree dedication in May, a family picnic in June and a "Circle of Friends" day in August that featured games for kids. September features a "Dear Neighbor" day of service. And on December 8, the year-long celebration will culminate with a Mass at the living center.

The SSJ Associates have always been committed to service. They regularly volunteer at the Sisters

of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, St. Mary's Home, St. Vincent Health Center and elsewhere. "They've enriched our community by their presence and participation," says Sister Ann Marie, who notes the SSJ Associates also started and continue to operate St. James Haven in Meadville.

As the SSJ Associates celebrate 25 years, they also look to the future. Kuhn says the associates just completed a year of their "futuring process."

"We talked about who we are at this point and what we want to look like in the years to come." Marshall echoed that excitement. "With the number of associates growing each year," Marshall said, "the future holds endless possibilities."



On May 20 the Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph dedicated a tree at the Community Living Center to mark the beginning of their 25th anniversary celebration. Standing left to right are associates Jane Zawacki, Cindy Polesnak, Sr. Ann Marie Capello, associates Ann and Don Swift.

For more information about SSJ Associates, contact Sister Ann Marie Capello, SSJ at **814.836.4199**, e-mail [s.amcapello@ssjerie.org](mailto:s.amcapello@ssjerie.org) or visit [www.ssjerie.org/associates.htm](http://www.ssjerie.org/associates.htm) on the Web.

## Sister Maureen of the Precious Blood, OCD



Wearing a traditional crown of fresh flowers, Sister Maureen poses with Mother Emmanuel Smith, OCD, superior of the Carmelites, following her profession of solemn vows.

On Dec. 12 the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sister Maureen of the Precious Blood, OCD, made her solemn profession and veiling at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery in Erie.

Sister Maureen is the newest member of the Carmelite nuns, a cloistered contemplative community of sisters who reside at the monastery located at 510 E. Gore Road in Erie. The charism, or spiritual focus, of the Carmelite Order is contemplative prayer. The order also has a strong

Marian devotion.

The monastery chapel was filled with family, friends and guests for the event.

"Lord, you have called me. Here I am," Sister Maureen said during her religious profession.

During the bestowal of the veil, Bishop Donald Trautman blessed it with holy water before Mother Emmanuel Smith, OCD, superior of the community, placed it on the head of Sister Maureen.

Bishop Trautman presided at the Eucharistic liturgy for the solemn profession and veiling. Concelebrants included Msgr. John Snyder, chaplain of the Sisters of Mercy; Father Michael Kesicki, rector of St. Mark Seminary; Father Nicholas Rouch, vice rector of St. Mark Seminary; Father Edward Lohse, chancellor of the Diocese of Erie; and Father Kevin Joseph Fimian, parochial vicar at St. Agnes Parish in Arlington, Va.

## Sister Katherine Horan, OSB

Sister Katherine Horan, OSB, professed her perpetual vows on July 7 in the chapel at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie during Evening Prayer.

Sister Kathy had a long relationship with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie before she became a postulant. As an oblate of the community, she worked actively with the community's environmental programs at Glinodo



Sister Katherine Horan, OSB, left, signs her vows before Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, prioress, the Benedictine community, family and friends.

Center and was a member of the sanctuary committee.

In October 2001, she made a year's commitment in the Benedicta Riepp Program. In the midst of that year, she asked to become a postulant with the desire to become a permanent member. During her scholasticate years, Sister Kathy studied and discerned the possibility of perpetual monastic profession.

Sister Kathy is devoted to her students in her ministry as a middle school teacher in Erie. She is also actively involved in a number of activities at the monastery including Benedictines for Peace, and liturgy planning and preparation.

Following the ceremony, Sister Kathy welcomed friends and family at a reception in the dining/community room at the monastery.

## Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB

On August 11, Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB, made her perpetual monastic profession before a full chapel at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys, officially joining the community of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County.

Sister John Paul's ceremony included the rite of sprinkling as a reminder of baptismal vows, the lighting of the Paschal candle; proclaiming the monastic profession with Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County. and signing a copy of the profession.

The ceremony concluded with the sisters giving Sister John Paul the kiss of peace, a sign of acceptance into the Benedictine community.

The Mass was celebrated by priests of the St. Marys area including Father Stephen Schreiber, Father Frank Ziemkiewicz, OSB, Father Meinrad Lawson, OSB, Father Daniel Wolfel, OSB, Father Michael Ferrick and Father James Faluszczak.

In 1842, the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County were the first Benedictine monastic community



Sister John Paul Bauer, OSB

established in the United States. Today there are 21 sisters who serve in a variety of ministries including care giving, education, music, art and ceramics, gardening and recycling. The sisters also run Trifles and Treasures gift shop at St. Joseph Monastery.

# Karen Hund

Wearing a white dress, Karen Hund processed down the aisle of St. Peter Cathedral ready to become a bride of Christ.

On March 26, the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, Hund pledged her virginity to the Lord and was consecrated a virgin of the church by Bishop Donald Trautman.

Hund is director of religious education and a youth minister at St. Peter Cathedral. She says her journey of faith has been an ongoing one. At one point, she did explore community

life, spending time with the Sisters of St. Joseph. In her twenties, she dated someone seriously enough to discuss marriage but grew into a sense that marriage wasn't her calling.

"I know I have a call to prayer and that I needed to give my life to God," Hund says.

By pledging her virginity, she says she hopes to provide "a real witness," especially among the youth.

"I can find happiness and peace and joy," she says. "I totally respect people called to family life so

beautifully. But especially in this job, I think it's an important sign of contradiction to the culture in our society to say you can find joy and love in God."

Consecrated women living in the world have different obligations than that of a religious or priest. They have no vow of poverty or obedience, have no superior or religious community and continue to live independently, own their own homes and have their own jobs but choose to consecrate their perpetual virginity to Christ in service to the church.



Karen Hund



Several priest jubilarians pose after Mass during the 25th annual Emmaus convocation, held June 25-28 at St. Vincent College and Seminary in Latrobe. The annual jubliarian Mass, held this year at St. Vincent Archabbey, and banquet honors priests celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of priesthood. From left to right are: (front row) Msgr. William Karg, Msgr. Conrad Kraus, Msgr. James Peterson, (back row) Father James McCormick, Father Jay Schultz and Msgr. Robert Barcio.

Women religious pose for photos after Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Trautman on June 6 at St. Mark Seminary chapel. The Mass honored all women religious celebrating jubilee anniversaries this year.



## 50 years

From left to right: (front row) Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti, SSJ; Sister Andrene Mittal, SSJ; Sister Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ; Sister Jude Marie Timmons, SSJ; Sister Catherine Edward Delaney, RSM; Sister Mary Jude McCluskey, RSM; (back row) Sister Nancy Sonnenfeld, SSJ; Sister Geraldine Rosinski, RSM (Pittsburgh); Sister Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ; Bishop Donald Trautman; Sister Laura Beichner, OSB; Sister Carol Ann McLaughlin, OSB; and Sister Ann Donohue, SSJ.



## 60 years

From left to right: (front row) Sister Mary Timothy Kelley, RSM; Sister Rose Marie Chisholm, SSJ; Sister James Francis Mulligan, SSJ; Sister Mary Kay McNelis, SSJ; Sister Mary Grace Hanes, OSB; Sister Helen Jean Sullivan, RSM; (back row) Sister Mary Edith Hirsch, RSM; Sister Audrey Clauss, RSM; Sister Rose Ann Fedorko, SSJ; Bishop Donald Trautman; Sister Roberta Lavin, OSB; Sister Andrea Weidle, OSB; and Sister Mary Mark McCarthy, RSM.

# God calls, we respond: 5 steps to prayerful decision making

By Father Edward Lohse, JCL

As deacons Timothy Balliett and Johnathan Schmolt prepare for their priestly ordination next year, one of the most popular questions which people will undoubtedly ask them is "How did you know that you wanted to become a priest?" The Scriptures teach us that it is God who calls; we simply respond. But how does one hear God's call? And how does one recognize the voice of God when so many other voices are calling for attention? While there are as many different answers as there are priests, there are some basic elements common to any attempt to make a prayerful decision.

Whether one has the benefit of the seminary system with its spiritual directors, daily Mass and the support of an entire community all asking the same questions and seeking the same answers, or whether one travels through these steps alone, the basic elements of the process remain the same. Likewise, the process remains the same whether one is considering a vocation to the priesthood, considering whether or not to marry, to take a new job or to decide which college to attend.



Father Edward Lohse

I like to identify five basic steps in prayerful decision making. None of these steps is complete in itself, but when all five are taken together, people can usually arrive at a reasonable degree of certitude about what God is calling them to do.

The first step is to listen to your heart. Your heart has a tremendous capacity to tell you if you are in the right place at the right time; you will either be at peace inside or restless. Did that recent college visit leave you unsettled? Was there something about that visit that troubles you but which you just can't put your finger on? Trust your intuition, and check to see if other people confirm your thoughts. But remember: your heart can tell you if you are not where you are supposed to be, but it cannot tell you where to go. For that, you need the other four steps.

Secondly, consider what other people are saying. If lots of different people are saying things to you like, "You should think about being a priest," or "You two would make such a wonderful couple," it just may be that God is trying to tell you something. You can't be absolutely sure that such is the case, but by considering all five steps together, you can help to verify if God is speaking to you through other people.

Thirdly, consider the facts. What is possible, and what

is not possible? If you are wondering about taking that vacation to the Bahamas but simply do not have the money to afford it, you can be reasonably sure that God does not intend for you to go on vacation in the Bahamas, at least for now. God does not instruct us to do the impossible.

Fourthly, just as a radio must be tuned to the proper frequency to pick up a station, so we too must be in a state of grace if we wish to hear what God is trying to tell us. Otherwise, all we will hear is static. Make frequent use of confession and receive the Eucharist often.

The fifth step may be the most obvious: pray. Experience shows us that if we put our trust in God and say, "Lord, put me where you want me," then God will take us at our word and we will end up where we are supposed to be. But again, there is a caution: we won't get there along a straight line, and we probably won't end up where we thought we would.

Father Edward Lohse, JCL, is vocation director and chancellor of the Diocese of Erie. Contact him at 814.824.1200 or [ELohse@ErieRCD.org](mailto:ELohse@ErieRCD.org). For more information about vocations in the Erie Diocese, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/vocations.asp](http://www.ErieRCD.org/vocations.asp) on the Web.

## CLOCK REPAIR

### Burdie's Clock Shop

238 South Main St.  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
(814) 398-8263

"We Make House Calls"



On October 21, 2007  
every Catholic in the world will unite and celebrate

*World Mission Sunday*  
...all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus

Each of us, as a baptized Catholic, has a role to play. World Mission Sunday is a day for all Catholics to recommit to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

*Please contribute through your parish collection.*



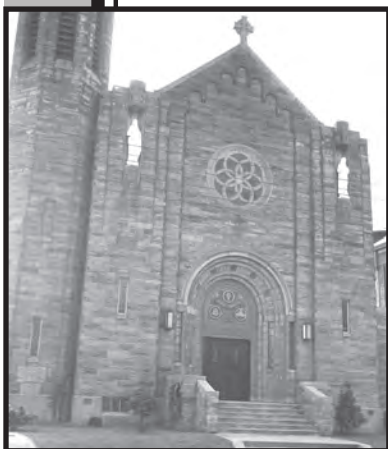
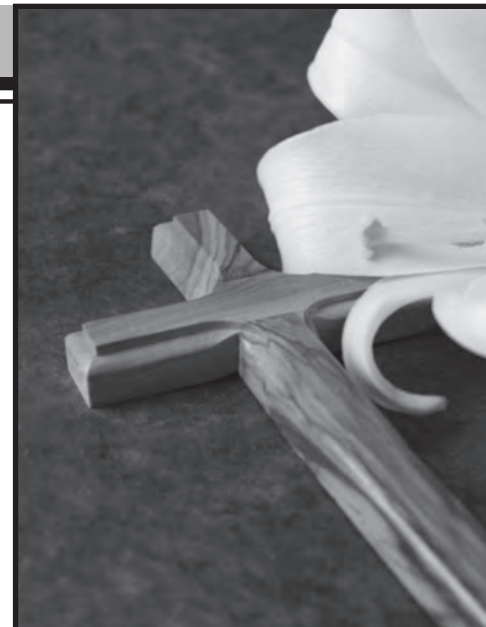
**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

Mrs. Pat Marshall, Director • PO Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514  
telephone: 814.824.1231 • e-mail: [pmarshall@erieRCD.org](mailto:pmarshall@erieRCD.org)

Deacon Marty and Kathy Eisert,  
Many thanks for your service and leadership.

*HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY, DEACON MARTY*

~YOUR HOLY TRINITY FAMILY~



## *Gannon University's Board of Trustees, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Student Body Congratulate*

### **Priests**

Msgr. William C. Karg '51  
Msgr. John M. Dollinger '51  
Rev. John M. Schultz '78  
Rev. Chris Hamlett '78  
(Former Faculty Member)  
Rev. James McCormick '78, '89M  
Rev. William Barron '03  
Rev. Justin Pino '03

### **Sisters of St. Joseph**

Sister Rose Anne Fedorko '58VMC  
Sister Mary Arlene Menz '58VMC  
Sister James Francis Mulligan '47VMC  
Sister Mary Kay McNelis '58VMC  
Sister Ann Donohue '65VMC  
Sister Phyllis Hilbert '66VMC, '72M  
Sister Ann Louis Grandinetti '68VMC  
Sister Andrene Mittal '68VMC  
Sister Ann Stephanie Stano '67VMC  
(Former Faculty Member)  
Sister Jude Marie Talerico '68VMC  
Sister Marie Timmons '68VMC

### **Benedictine Sisters**

Sister Mary Grace Hanes '54VMC  
Sister Andrea Weidle '61VMC  
Sister Roberta Lavin '55VMC  
Sister Carolann McLaughlin '65VMC

### **Sisters of Mercy**

Sister Mary Edith Hirsch '77M  
Sister Mary Mark McCarthy '71M

*...on their respective Jubilees.*

**GANNON**  
UNIVERSITY

*Believe in the possibilities.*