

faithful servants

a special edition of
FaithLife news bulletin



August 9

2009



celebrating Jubilee
anniversaries

in the Erie
Diocese



JUBILARIANS...THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR DIOCESE! – YOUR CATHOLIC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Mark Horstman, President • Mrs. Mary McCarthy, Secretary • Mr. Steve Hessmann, Treasurer • Deacon Joseph Cicero
Atty. R. Edward Ferraro • Mrs. Karen Burton Horstman • Mr. John Hudson • Mr. Mark Kulyk • Mrs. Audrey Lane • Mr. Clifford Lane
Mrs. Joyce Ravnkar-Kulyk • Mrs. Cheryl Vicary • Msgr. Robert Smith, V.G., Ex-Officio • Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, Ex-Officio



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION

Your Catholic Foundation. *Faith empowered.*



Evangelization / Clergy Health and Welfare

Catholic Education / Catholic Charities

St. Martin Center / Your Endowment

814.824.1236

*Do you feel strongly
about your church or Catholic school?
Would you like to help
ensure its future? Call me
at 814.824.1236 to begin
an Endowment Fund to benefit
your church or school both
now and in the future.
I look forward to
speaking with you.*

*With prayers,
Emma Lee McCloskey, Ed.D.
President, The Catholic Foundation*



www.TCFRCD.org

thecatholicfoundation@eriercd.org

Faithful Servants:
The Diocese of Erie is grateful to the men and women featured in this publication for their inspiration, dedication and ongoing service. May God continue to bless you.

Editor:
JASON KOSHINSKIE
faithlife@ErieRCD.org

Writers:
ABBY BADACH
AMY CASS
JASON KOSHINSKIE
GARY LONCKI
SISTER MARY ANN LUKE, OSB
ANNE-MARIE WELSH

Advertising Manager:
BRENDA WILLIAMS
bwilliams@ErieRCD.org

Proofreading:
CINDY DECOURSEY
JASON KOSHINSKIE
ANNE-MARIE WELSH
BRENDA WILLIAMS

Designer & Advertising Sales Design:
ELIZABETH BUTTERFIELD

Printer:
EVERGREEN PRINTING AND
PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

Special thanks to:
PAT DEVINE
EILEEN GAITHER
FATHER EDWARD LOHSE
MSGR. THOMAS MCSWEENEY
MSGR. ROBERT SMITH

STEPHANIE HALL
KATHY LINSE
GARY LONCKI

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

Love God, love neighbor

Dear Esteemed Jubilarians,

When I taught at the seminary, students would ask me for a class summarizing the main themes of the semester. This request would always come when the time for exams drew near. We are all bombarded with so many facts and figures, we prefer summaries which are manageable and memorable.

It was no different in our Lord's day. Our Lord was once asked to summarize all of the commandments. Jewish people believed in the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments. But they also had 613 precepts to follow!

So when Jesus responded to the Jewish scribe who asked for the summary, Jesus said, "We must love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind. And we must love our neighbor as ourselves."

Love God and love neighbor.

Jesus' answer gives us two great commandments which summarize all religion. The scribe praised Jesus. No one had ever before linked the love of God and the love of neighbor. It is the concise formula for sanctity, the essence of salvation. It is the summary of you, our jubilarians.

You have been living signs of love God, love neighbor.

In your ministries and in your lives you have demonstrated what it means to love God and love neighbor. For 10, 25, 40, 50 and 60 years you have invested yourselves. The purpose of your lives has been to put God and neighbor first.

How blessed is this diocese because of you! You have shown us the way to love God and love neighbor. We, the Lord's church, give thanks to God for your vocation. We thank God for your faithfulness. We also give thanks to God for all those who have inspired and guided your vocation.

In our self-centered culture it is hard to put God and neighbor first. But in humble and concrete ways you have brought Christ to young and old, poor and wealthy, sick and healthy, white, black, brown and yellow. To those in rural areas and cities, you have championed the Gospel.

In the Lord's name I commend you and congratulate you and thank you. You have generously lived Christ's words. You have generously served.

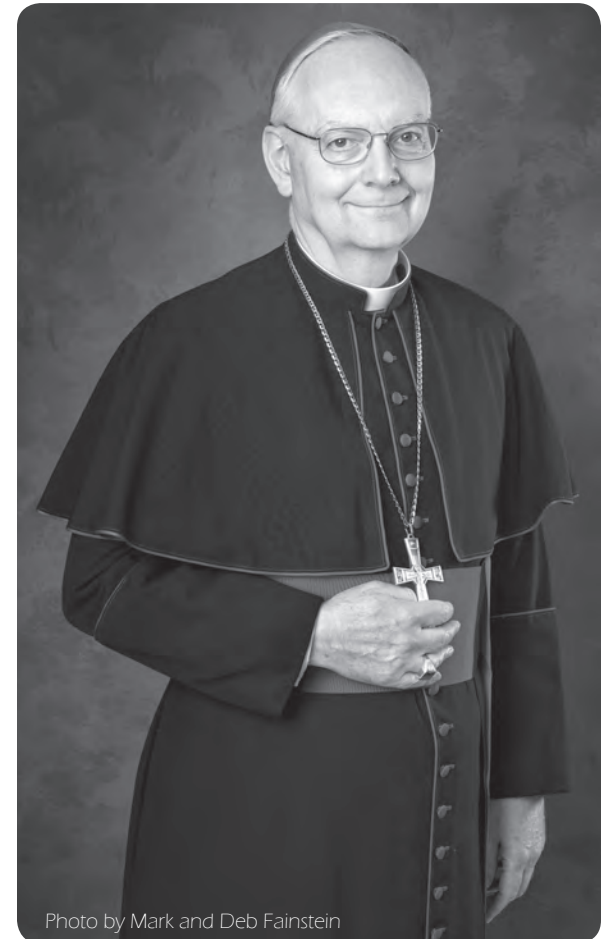
But remember: God will never be outdone in generosity. God loves you and God will reward you.

The story is told of a meeting between Queen Anne of Austria and St. Vincent de Paul toward the end of his life. He listened to a series of the charitable works he had initiated, but muttered he had done so little.

"If you have done so little, what must we do, then, to save our souls?" the queen asked.

His answer was simple: "More," he said. "Do more."

On this occasion I ask, what would happen to our communities, to this diocese, to our world if over the next



few days each of us came out of ourselves just one degree more to love God and love neighbor?

Yes, we still have work to do.

But today we recognize all you have done for God's people. And we thank you for who you are: heroic men and women consecrated to the Lord who have given your hearts in love. We need your prayer and example and witness.

Our church and diocese are better and stronger and holier because of you. One day you'll discover the gratitude of God in fulfillment surpassing all expectations.

Meanwhile, a grateful church says thank you.

Happy anniversary.

Rejoice in God's love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Donald W. Trautman

Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman,
Bishop of Erie



Sr. Teresa Marie Bohren, SSJ



60 years

Teacher: Sacred Heart, Erie
Cathedral Grade School, Erie
St. Francis, Clearfield
St. Bernard, Bradford

Catholic Social Services:

Caseworker
Director

Bereavement counselor:

Hospice of Metropolitan Erie

My Inspiration:

"I frequently read the Psalms. You can 'carry' them with you. They are easy to remember. We hear the Gospels daily at liturgy. So often they take on new or different meaning. The Gospels help us in many situations and problems."

"They did what was right, no matter how hard that was."

A native of Reynoldsville, Sister Teresa Marie entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Mary, Reynoldsville, on February 2, 1950 and made her final profession August 15, 1955.

She attended St. Mary School, Reynoldsville High School, Villa Maria College and Catholic University.

Other than her parents, Sister Teresa Marie says she has been guided by the faith of Mother Marie Baptiste DeGroat over the years.

"She touched my life in so many ways," she recalls. "She had a quiet, spiritual way. She had a sense of humor; she could have fun, could adapt to situations. She spent time with my mother, and they were a great pair!"

Sister Teresa taught at schools throughout the Erie Diocese and was a caseworker for Catholic Social Services in Erie. She served as director of the agency from 1976-91.

Sister Teresa Marie has served in private practice as a social worker since 1991 and also as a bereavement counselor with Hospice of Metropolitan Erie since 2003.

"The Lord nudged me in high school."

That's the way Sister Teresa Marie Bohren, SSJ, describes her call to religious life.

"The strongest influence was the example of my parents," she says.

The people of Erie's Sacred Heart Church give praise and thanks to our God for giving us such wonderful ministers of His word...



Msgr. Ted Carter

Fr. Robert Humenay

Sr. Therese Bohren, SSJ

Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ

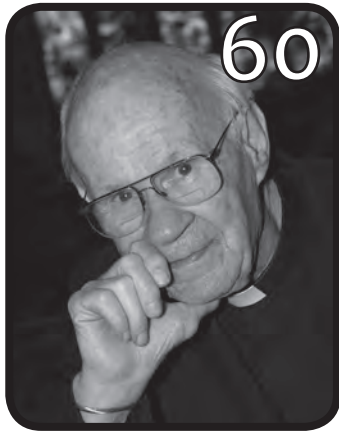
Sr. Martha Howick, SSJ

Sr. Ann Marie Joint, SSJ

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for holiness! They shall be satisfied!" (Matt. 5:6)



Msgr. John Carter



60 years

During his senior year at Cathedral Prep, Msgr. John “Ted” Carter received a scholarship to St. Vincent College. It must have been divine intervention because it was at that point that he decided to go to seminary.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Msgr. Carter also attended St. Andrew School and is an alumnus of St. Joseph’s Home for Children in Erie.

In fact, it was at St. Joseph’s Home where he met Msgr. James Sperry and Father Lawrence Tremblay, who served as chaplains to the orphanage. Msgr. Carter cites these priests whose faith has

Parochial vicar:

Sacred Heart, Erie
Holy Rosary, Kane
St. Joseph, Oil City

Chaplain:

St. Vincent Health Center, Erie
St. Joseph Home, Erie

Diocesan office:

Assistant director of youth activities
Priests’ Personnel Board

Resident:

St. Vincent Health Center, Erie
St. Patrick, Erie

Secondary Education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie

Pastor:

St. Anthony, Sheffield
Holy Redeemer, Warren
St. Titus, Titusville

Administrator:

Holy Redeemer, Warren
St. George, Erie

Senior associate:

St. George, Erie
St. Patrick, Erie
Director of diocesan charismatic movement and activities
Bread of Life Community, Erie

My Inspiration:

“Centering prayer and books by Father Thomas Keating.”

guided him over the years. He later returned to St. Joseph’s Home to serve as chaplain.

He was ordained a priest May 26, 1949. A well-known celebrant of healing Masses, he served as spiritual adviser for the Charismatic Renewal movement in the Erie Diocese.

As pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren, he oversaw the construction of the parish center. As pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Sheffield, he undertook the construction of a new church.

In 2007, Msgr. Carter retired from his last parish post as a senior associate at St. George Parish in Erie where he served since 1987.

If he had only one homily to give, he says the topic would be growth in one’s prayer life through centering prayer.

“This form of prayer is a way to experience the deepest relationship with God,” Msgr. Carter says. “It allows one to experience the divine union now. Twice a day I experience centering prayer as a life-style, not an obligation. Centering prayer has given me direction and God begins to flow into all aspects of your life.”

<p><i>“Greatness is not found in possessions...It is discovered in goodness, humility, service and character.”</i></p> <p>- WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS MSGR. JOHN J. CARTER AND SR. PIERRE DEMBINSKI, RSM!</p>
	<p>ST. GEORGE CHURCH ERIE</p>

Congratulations on the occasion of your Jubilee Celebration.

Sr. M. Pierre Dembinski, RSM

Mercy Center for Women
 Mercy Center of the Arts
 Mercy Center on Aging
 Mercyhurst Preparatory School
 Mercy Terrace Apartments

God Bless Our Good & Faithful Servants
Who Have Served the Mission of Catholic Education

Sr. Pierre Dembinski, RSM
Sr. Therese Dush, CA
Rev. Charles R. Schmitt

DuBois Central Catholic
 DuBois Area Catholic School, Inc.(Pre-K-12)
www.duboisatholic.com

Sr. Pierre Dembinski, RSM



60 years

Sister Pierre Dembinski, RSM, recalls the stories told by her father and uncles who were taught by the Sisters of Mercy at St. Adrian Parish in Delancey.

“During our growing up years at home, we heard over and over again of the wonderful sisters who were assigned there and taught them in school, and of the rich heritage of Mercy that they brought to the parish and school,” says Sister Pierre, a native of St. Casimir Parish and School, Erie. Her parents, Rose and Teles

Dembinski also were a positive influence.

That, plus having uncles and cousins in the priesthood and religious life, helped her decide to go to enter the Sisters of Mercy community, then-based in Titusville, on Sept. 1, 1949.

“These wonderful people were and are strong examples of God’s divine influence on each of us,” she said.

Sister Pierre professed temporary vows in 1952 and final vows in 1955.

An alumna of Mercyhurst College, she did graduate work at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; Edinboro University; Pittsburgh Theological Seminary;

St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas; Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich.; Mercy College, Detroit; and beauty academies in Erie and Pittsburgh.

She taught cosmetology at the Erie Technical and Erie County Vo-Tech schools.

“I loved each and all ministries of which I was a part,” she says. “Surrendering to God’s will brings with it an indescribable peace and satisfaction.”

She advised those who may be considering a call to religious life to listen to God’s voice and the promptings of their heart.

Teacher: St. Titus, Titusville
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
St. Thomas, Corry
St. Luke, Erie
St. George, Erie
St. Catherine, DuBois
St. Michael, Greenville
St. Justin, Pittsburgh

Parish social minister:
St. Alphonsus, Springdale

Pastoral minister:
St. Peter, New Kensington

Supervisor:
Mercyhurst College
dietary department

Assistant:
DuBois Hospital dietary and mental health unit

Director and founder:
Lower Valley Food Bank, Springdale

Receptionist and switchboard operator:
St. Mary’s Home East, Erie

“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:18 and “Sweet Mercy! ... opens in each heart a little heaven.” – Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy



60 years

Sr. Therese Dush, CA



Teacher: St. Thomas, Corry
Immaculate Conception, Brookville
St. Walburga, Titusville
St. Catherine, DuBois
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
St. Luke, Erie
St. Justin, Pittsburgh
Teacher and administrator:
St. Catherine, DuBois
St. Michael, Greenville

Principal:
St. Francis School, Clearfield
Administrator:
Christ the King Manor, DuBois
Religious education:
Notre Dame, Hermitage
Founder: Young People Who Care, Frenchville
Community of Anawim—Association of the Christian Faithful

My Inspiration:
“I shall be with you all days, till the end of the world.”
– Matthew 28:20

“We commend, where they exist, and recommend where they do not, centers of popular culture ... places where the poor feel welcome, spaces for people to come and share at all levels, so that if a new society is to

As a child, Sister Therese Dush, CA, learned about the life of her patron saint, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and began to pray for a vocation to religious life. In middle school, she found herself drawn to missionary work as a Maryknoll sister. But when she was in high school, Sister Therese was deeply inspired by Sister Ignatia, a Sister of Mercy, who came to her parish, St. Bonaventure in Grampian. Sister Therese entered the Sisters of Mercy on June 25, 1949.

She devoted a great portion of her religious life to education, teaching in schools across the diocese from Corry and Brookville to Punxsutawney and Erie.

When she was a novice in Titusville, Sister Therese took a Scripture class from Msgr. James Peterson.

“He has been my spiritual guide and inspiration throughout my religious life,” she says. “His example of fidelity to prayer, living by faith and loving people right where he finds them challenges me to live the motto: ‘love can do all things.’”

During the 1970s, when Sister Therese was working in religious education at Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, she was moved by the young people involved in her youth ministry program. Together, they studied the United States bishops’ pastoral letter on Appalachia, “This Land is Home to Me,” published in 1975.

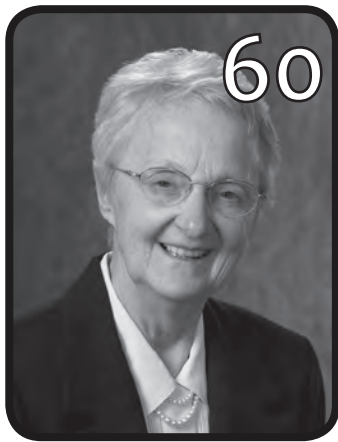
be born, it will emerge from the grass roots,” the bishops wrote.

In response to that call, Sister Therese returned to Clearfield County and founded the Young People Who Care Center (YPWC), a grassroots ministry through which volunteers respond to the needs of people in central Appalachia. YPWC began by offering assistance with home repairs, cleaning, transportation and other services not available through agencies. More than 30 years later, it has expanded to also include adult and youth retreats, spiritual direction and counseling, emergency shelter for women and children and services for pregnant women and those with infants.

In founding the center, Sister Therese began to discern a new call, founding the Community of Anawim, Servants of Christ, in 1982. A private association of the Christian faithful, men and women drawn to the community seek to embrace the spirit and charism of the Beatitudes.

“‘This Land is Home to Me’ fulfilled my life’s dream of being a missionary and brought me back to the county in which I grew up,” Sister Therese observes. Today she continues to find inspiration in the Liturgy, citing these words as especially life-giving: “For it is through him, with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.”

Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ



60 years

Teacher:

Blessed Sacrament, Erie
St. John, Erie
St. Francis, Clearfield
Villa Maria Academy, Erie

St. Vincent Health Center:

CEO

Sisters of St. Joseph:

Fleet manager/insurance coordinator

My Inspiration:
"Nothing special."

The inspiration for Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ, to answer the call to a religious vocation came from a number of directions.

"I was inspired by my parents and all the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught in the schools I attended as well as my two relatives who were Sisters of St. Joseph," she says.

An Erie native, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Patrick Parish on September 2, 1949 and made her final profession August 15, 1955.

She attended St. Patrick School, Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria College in Erie before attending Xavier University and Providence College.

She says she was guided throughout her early years by her parents, whom she describes as "devout and committed Catholics."

"They inspired me and my brothers to remain faithful to the teach-

ings of the church and to live our lives accordingly," says Sister Margaret Ann.

A longtime teacher, Sister Margaret Ann also served at St. Vincent Health Center in Erie for more than 30 years (1962-96), during which time she was CEO from 1974-96.

St. Vincent Health System recently announced the naming of a new building and establishment of an endowment in honor of its longtime leader.

The Sister Margaret Ann Hardner Building is an 80,000-square-foot multipurpose building located at 2315 Myrtle St. in Erie adjacent to Saint Vincent Health Center. It houses several physician offices, diagnostic testing facilities and other health care services.

Sister Margaret Ann says she was initially reluctant to accept the honor, but did so as a tribute to the many Sisters of St. Joseph who have worked at the hospital over the years. St. Vincent was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 1875.

"When you think back to all the Sisters of St. Joseph who worked at the hospital and made it what it is today, it's a dedication to them," she says. "They labored long and hard to take care of the people in the area."

An endowment, also created in her name, will help further care for the underserved in a variety of ways including physician care. It will also provide children with basic health needs such as medications, cribs and car seats.



50 years

Teacher: St. Andrew, Erie
St. John, Erie
Cathedral Center, Erie

Principal:

Villa Maria Elementary, Erie

St. Vincent Health Center:

Supervisor of therapeutic recreation and education

Villa Maria College:

Art instructor

Other: Decorating consultant
Artist

Instructor of watercolor and decorative painting

My Inspiration:

"I am inspired by Psalm 46:10: 'Be still and know that I am God.' My longing for God can only be fulfilled when I take time to listen. Little unexpected everyday moments reveal God's gifts of faith, hope and love. I need to be aware of them and acknowledge my desire for God. By participating in the Eucharist, I have the opportunity to stay centered and connected at the core of my being."

Sr. Mary Francis Becker, SSJ

what we like. But I will never regret the years I've tried to listen to the voice of my maker."

An Erie native, Sister Mary Francis entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Luke on August 27, 1959 and made her final profession August 15, 1967.

She attended St. Peter Cathedral School, Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria College in Erie and the University of Notre Dame.

From the time she was young, Sister Mary Francis says her parents' faith in God made a deep impression on her. But unknown to them, she says they were the first and most impressive examples of faith in action.

"They both held a deep belief in the power of prayer and in living life fully and joyfully," she says.

Her experience as a sister of St. Joseph has been very rewarding, she says.

"You find God in such different ways and in the strangest places," she says. "Everybody needs God. I think you can, in different ways, make God's presence known to people. Never deny your talents."

A longtime teacher and art instructor, Sister Mary Francis has worked since 1992 as a decorating consultant in Erie and as an artist and instructor of watercolor and decorative painting.

"When people can see the beautiful, particularly with art, it eases some of the difficult experiences they have," she says. "Everybody should be able to share in the beauty of God."

Sister Mary Francis Becker, SSJ, says the call to religious life was always present in her life.

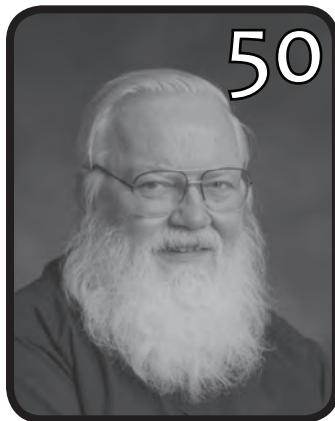
"I did not want it," she says. "I kept denying it was there, but God does not relent. I had planned a life as an artist or dress designer, in a big city, enjoying the excitement that I thought it would bring. I didn't want anything to do with the convent."

But while going to college, she recalls that nothing seemed to be going right.

"During this time I could not understand why I would be called to do something I did not want to do," Sister Mary Francis says. "God would not relent. Finally, at one point, I figured I would give it a try. I could always change my mind. The convent accepted me but it wasn't 'love at first sight.' It took quite a while for me to realize that what God wants is not always



Fr. Jeremy Bolha, OSB



50 years

Pastor:

Queen of the World, St. Marys

Associate pastor:

Queen of the World, St. Marys

Senior priest:

Sacred Heart, St. Marys

Father Jeremy Bolha, OSB, is a monk of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe. A native of Wilpen, Pa., he was born December 14, 1932. He is the son of the late Valentine and Eleanor (Kochis) Bolha.

Father Jeremy attended Holy Trinity Roman Catholic School and Ligonier High School. He is a 1950 graduate of St. Vincent Preparatory School and received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Vincent College in 1955. He graduated from St. Vincent Seminary in 1959.

He made simple profession of vows on July 2, 1953 and solemn profession of vows on July 11, 1956. He was ordained before Bishop Hugh Lamb in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, on May 23, 1959.

Since his ordination, Father Jeremy served as socius of novices at St. Vincent Archabbey for two years and as a prefect in the preparatory school for two years. He was assistant pastor at Ascension Parish, Jeannette (1954-64), director of maintenance at St. Vincent (1964), and assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish, Pittsburgh (1964-70). He was associate pastor of St. Bruno Parish, South Greensburg (1970-72), and served as pastor of that parish (1972-81).

He was pastor of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys (1981-85), pastor at St. Vincent Parish (1985-91), and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Jeannette (1991-95), before becoming associate pastor of Queen of the World Parish, St. Marys (1995-2000).

In 2000 he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Benedict Parish, Carrolltown (2000-01), parochial vicar at St. Cecilia Parish in Whitney and Sacred Heart Parish in Youngstown (2001-03), and senior priest at Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys (2003-08).

He retired to the archabbey in 2008.



Congratulations to:

Sr. Pierre Dembinski, RSM
- Teacher

Sr. Therese Dush, CA
- Teacher

Rev. Charles R. Schmitt
- Weekend assistant

St. Catherine of
Siena, DuBois

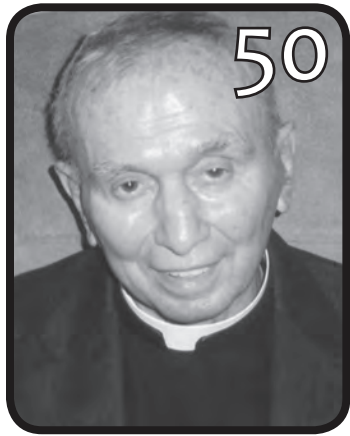


St. Andrew Parish, Erie is grateful to former teachers **Sr. Mary Francis Becker, SSJ** and **Sr. Martha Ann Howick, SSJ** at St. Andrew School

and **Fr. Charles R. Schmitt** for parish ministry as they celebrate fifty years.

We thank our **Deacon Ralph DeCecco** for his 10 years of ministry.

We congratulate newly ordained **Reverend Daniel Hoffman** and **Reverend John Miller.**



50 years



Fr. John Buzga

Pastor:

St. Anthony, Sheffield

Weekend assistant:

St. Leo, Ridgway

St. Boniface, Kersey

St. Michael, Emlenton

St. Mary, Crown

Parochial vicar:

St. Callistus, Kane

St. Lawrence, Houtzdale

Administrator:

St. Venantius, Rouseville

St. Adalbert, Farrell

St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville

St. Hippolyte, Guys Mills

Senior associate:

Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell

St. Patrick, Franklin

In residence:

St. Stephen, Oil City

Secondary education:

Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys

Other:

Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Glenmary Home Missioners, Cincinnati, Ohio

My Inspiration:
"Sacred
Scripture
—it's the Word
of God."

Before being ordained a priest, Father John Buzga taught at public schools in Ohio. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the South Pacific. But the idea of priesthood was always present.

"The thought just kept coming back to mind," says Father Buzga, who was ordained May 7, 1959.

Born in Van Lear, Ky., Father Buzga and his family moved to Sharon and belonged to St. Ann Parish in Farrell. He attended grade school at Prospect Heights School and graduated from Sharon High School. Before he was ordained, he attended Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio; and Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

He attended Gannon University in Erie and transferred to St. Mary's Seminary, St. Mary's, Ky., before completing his priesthood studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore.

After ministering throughout the Erie Diocese, Father Buzga spent the last 10 years before his retirement as what he called "a missionary," filling in for pastors who were ill or in need of assistance. He served in this capacity at Our Lady of Fatima Parish and St. Adalbert Parish, both in Farrell; St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Frenchville; St. Patrick Parish, Franklin; St. Michael Parish,

Emlenton; St. Mary Parish, Crown; and St. Stephen Parish, Oil City. He retired in 1995.

He ministered in the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1995 to 2007, through Glenmary Home Missioners.

Father Buzga currently resides in San Antonio, Texas.

He says if he had one last homily to give he would reflect on the theme of unity "to fulfill Christ's prayer that we be one."

Honore Devoted

Sto Lat! Congratulations and God's blessings upon Fathers John Buzga and Charles Schmitt whose Golden Jubilees add up to 100 years (sto lat). Thank you for serving us in the 1990s. *Dziękujemy.*

St. Adalbert Church, Farrell

Called Dedicated

We would like to honor the following for their devoted service:

50 Years: Rev. John P. Buzga (1959-62)

Rev. Charles R. Schmitt (1968-69)

25 Years: Rev. Theodore B. Marconi

Native son of St. Callistus

ST. CALLISTUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Kane, Pennsylvania



Congratulations to all those celebrating jubilees. God bless you!

The Elk County Catholic High School Community

600 Maurus Street, St. Marys, PA
814.834.7800
www.ecchs.com

Sr. Mary James Dippold, OSB



50 years

Teacher:

Queen of the World, St. Marys
Sacred Heart, St. Marys
St. Boniface, Kersey

Principal:

St. Boniface, Kersey
St. Mary, St. Marys

Community:

Assistant treasurer
Supervisor of lay employees
Community secretary
Sub-prioress
Council member
House coordinator

My Inspiration:
"I especially endeavor every day to live out St. Benedict's motto – 'Ora et Labora' and maintain a healthy balance between the two."

Since she was a young child, Sister Mary James Dippold, OSB, says she felt a calling to the religious life.

"I can't think of a time ever in my life when I didn't want to become a sister," she recalls.

Many of her teachers in grade school and high school were sisters, which she says strengthened her calling to religious life. She developed friendships with the sisters and they became a strong inspiration to her.

After graduating from high school, her father was in poor health and

she was needed at home to care for and support her younger brother and sister. On September 8, 1957,

Sister Mary James entered the convent. She made first vows in 1959 and made her final profession in 1962.

Sister Mary James attended Villa Maria College, the College of Steubenville, St. Bonaventure University and graduated from Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She later went on to take business courses at St. Bonaventure.

For many years, Sister Mary James was a teacher at Queen of the World and Sacred Heart schools in St. Marys and St. Boniface School in Kersey. She was also the principal for several years at St. Boniface and St. Mary's Parochial School, in St. Marys. Years later, she became a part-time art teacher.

Sister Mary James has had a very active life in the Benedictine community. She has held positions as assistant treasurer, supervisor of lay employees, community secretary, sub-prioress, council member and house coordinator.

Currently, Sister Mary James is sub-prioress, house coordinator, council member, a private art teacher. She also works in the business office at St. Joseph Monastery.

As she celebrates her golden jubilee this year, Sister Mary James reflects on what her vocation has meant to her.

"I have enjoyed all my years of religious life and thank God every day for choosing me to be one of his followers," she says.

Sr. Kathryn Disbrow, OSB



50 years

Teacher:

St. Mary, Erie
Immaculate Conception, Clarion
St. Joseph, Sharon
Sacred Heart, Sharon
Mount Calvary, Erie
St. Joseph, Oil City
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. Benedict Child Development Center

Principal:

St. Joseph, Oil City
St. Stephen, Oil City

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Business office
Community treasurer

Administration:

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project

My Inspiration: "This, then is the good zeal which monks must foster with love: 'They should each try to be the first to show respect to the other.'" – (Romans 12:10) Rule of Benedict, 72

Sister Kathryn Disbrow, OSB, daughter of the late Henry and Mary Disbrow and stepdaughter of John Cifolelli, came to the Benedictine Sisters of Erie soon after her graduation from St. Benedict Academy in 1957.

She made her final profession of vows on August 16, 1962. Sister Kathryn received her bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst College and a master's degree in elementary mathematics from Clarion University. She also holds a master's degree in administration from the

University of Dayton and is certified in early childhood development.

Sister Kathryn began her ministry as a teacher at St. Mary's School, Erie, now the site of the Kids' Café on East Tenth Street. She served as an elementary teacher and principal at several diocesan schools. In the summers, she taught in the religious education programs in Sharon, Sharpsville, Clarion and West Middlesex.

Sister Kathryn returned to Erie in 1981 to administer the newly established East Coast Migrant Head Start Project, which provides early childhood services to children of migrant farm workers who qualify based on poverty guidelines.

Now, Sister Kathryn is the lead teacher in the infants' room at St. Benedict Child Development Center. She is their first teacher. Her experience and education, together with an unfailing good nature, a peaceful demeanor and immense patience, are the gifts she brings to the center. She has great concern and real tenderness for children and she gives them the first tools — kindness and courtesy, neatness and promptness, listening as Benedict taught — to cope with a world still strange to them. They can also walk quietly in straight lines, an important prerequisite for further education. It is a wonderfully good fit for both students and teacher.

Sister Kathryn identifies, as her religious community's best gift to her, the members of the community who have influenced, mentored and modeled for her what it means to be a community member. She remembers with gratitude those sisters who have gone before her for lives congruent with the spirit of the Rule of Benedict.

She hopes that by reflecting on the Word in Scripture, people recognize they have a responsibility to contribute to the spirituality of the whole — the same life lesson that she teaches at the center.

Sr. Martha Howick, SSJ



50 years

Sister Martha Howick, SSJ, says that apparently her call to religious life was dormant until adulthood.

“Having learned for the first time that God had a unique plan for my life was very freeing,” she recalls. “From then on, with fervent open-ended prayer, God had his opportunity to reveal his call through the Holy Spirit. I felt inwardly moved to take the necessary steps to enter religious life.”

A Meadville native, Sister Martha entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Agatha in Meadville on August 27,

Teacher:

Our Lady of Peace, Erie
St. Ann, Erie
St. Andrew, Erie
St. Leo, Ridgway
St. Francis, Clearfield
St. Bernard, Bradford
Cathedral Center, Erie
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie

Librarian:

Villa Maria Elementary, Erie

Villa Maria College:

Assistant director of financial aid
Director of institutional research

Pastoral minister and visitation minister to the sick and elderly:

St. Stephen, Sacred Heart, St. Paul,
St. Jude, Holy Rosary and St. Peter
Cathedral, Erie

Chaplain:

St. Vincent Health Center

My Inspiration: “The Word of God is the foundation piece of my life that gives me inspiration. In the Word, God’s promises are true, for he has the power to bring them to pass. I can call upon God’s promise to empower me to love according to Romans 5:5: ‘and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.’”

1959 and made her final profession August 15, 1967.

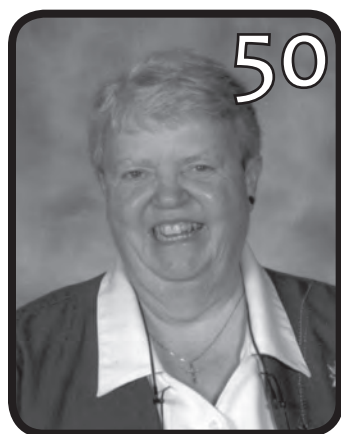
She attended Meadville High School, Indiana State Teachers’ College, Villa Maria College and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She also studied at Gannon University.

Sister Martha says the faith of many people, both religious and lay persons, has deeply touched her over the years.

“In my early life, I was edified by the presence and words of the priests in my home parish, St. Agatha,” she says. “The Catholic school catechism classes were conducted by faithful, garbed sisters, teaching each Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass. Release time from the public high school enabled the students to receive religious instructions from the young priest-assistant—as he was called in those days.

“I thank the Lord for the many blessings received from the priests, sisters and lay persons; but the one who encouraged me and the one who made so many Christian sacrifices for me, was my dear mother, Madeline.”

A longtime teacher throughout the Erie Diocese, Sister Martha began ministering at St. Vincent Health Center in 2004 where she presently serves in pastoral care as a chaplain.



50 years

Sr. Ann Marie Joint, SSJ

Teacher:

Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Our Lady’s Christian, Erie
Sacred Heart, Erie
Villa Maria Elementary, Erie

Principal:

St. Patrick, Erie
Sacred Heart, Erie
Villa Maria Academy, Erie

My Inspiration: “God is a circumference without a diameter. God is an unconditional lover of all persons.”

The thought of a religious vocation came to Sister Ann Marie Joint, SSJ, at an early age.

“I thought about a vocation in 7th and 8th grade,” she says, “but I tried to ignore it. I thought about it again my junior and senior year.”

She says she was impressed with the joy she saw in her teachers at St. Ann School and Villa Maria Academy in Erie.

A native of St. Ann Parish in Erie, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on Aug. 27, 1959 and made her final profession Aug. 15, 1967. She attended Villa Maria College and Edinboro University.

Sister Ann Marie says she has been guided by the faith of a number of people over the years.

“My mother was a person who loved life and was always involved in service to her neighbor,” she says. “I met Msgr. Wilfrid Nash when I was a student at VMA and I was impressed with the twinkle in his eye and his spirituality. I continued to keep contact with him as I lived religious life and to this day I still miss him.”

A longtime teacher at a number of Catholic schools in Erie, Sister Ann Marie currently teaches at Villa Maria Elementary School where she has served since 2004.



Sr. Colette Korn, OSB



50 years

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:

Seamstress
Food service

Hamot Medical Center:

Nurse aide

My Inspiration:

"First of all, every time you begin a good work, you must pray to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection."

– Rule of Benedict, Prologue 4

Sister Colette Korn, OSB, a graduate of St. Benedict Academy and a daughter of the late Albert and Coletta DeHarde Korn, made her final profession of vows on August 16, 1962.

At that time, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie wore the traditional habit, yards of black wool serge and more yards of white linen. These were, necessarily, custom-made, not a simple or easy task. Several sisters worked full time in the sewing room, a large bright room in the old motherhouse on East Ninth Street. The seamstresses needed sharp eyes and agile fingers and had to be patient and meticulous. Sister Colette brought these qualities to her ministry and learned from the experienced seamstresses who expected excellence and were happy to teach it to an apt student.

When habits were no longer worn, Sister Colette worked for a time in food service, again caring for the needs of the sisters. Then she found a new interest: nursing. She is a nurse aide and is certified in care of the elderly.

Sister Colette ministered at Hamot Medical Center for several

years. She was named a Hamot Ambassador, the highest honor that Hamot gives its staff. As she gained experience, Sister Colette became more and more interested in geriatric care. She now ministers in home health care for the elderly and for others who require long-term care for chronic, serious illness. Her care and concern for her patients, matched by her expertise, have made the end-of-life situations easier for dozens of patients and their families.

She is readily available to them, a problem solver who can improvise solutions to provide better care and is interested and determined to improve their circumstances in any way she can. Families of patients are given the same thoughtful consideration that the patients receive.

Sister Colette finds the religious community's greatest gift to her to be the support the sisters give one another, sharing in their joys and supporting them in the inevitable sorrows. She appreciates this support whether the occasion is personal or related to the difficult situations her patients experience.

Prayer is basic to Benedictine life, to Christian life, to all life, as St. Benedict demonstrates in the Rule with his injunction to pray always and with the careful attention he gives to every detail of celebration of the Divine Office. With these things in mind, Sister Colette hopes that prayer will continue to be the first priority in the life of her religious community.

We salute these three women who continue to make a *difference* in the lives of Erie's children. Congratulations and thank you for 50 years of service to our Community!

Sister Ann Marie Joint, SSJ
Current VME Middle School
Math Teacher

Sister Mary Francis Becker, SSJ
Former VME Principal

Sister Martha Howick, SSJ
Former VME Teacher and Librarian

Villa Maria Elementary School
2551 West 8th Street, Erie, PA 16505
(814) 838-5451
vmelementary.com

The Villa Difference

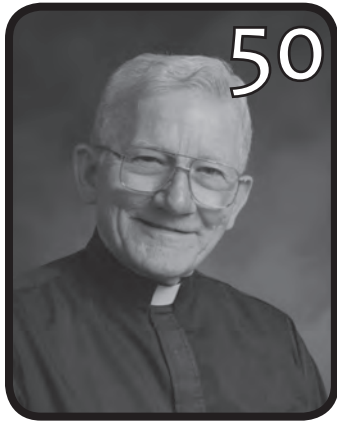
Sr. Kathryn Disbrow, OSB
(Sr. Gerard)

Congratulations on your 50 years of religious service. Thank you for your great contribution to our religious education program.

Fr. Matt and Parishioners of St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville



Fr. Jonathan Murrman, OSB



Assistant pastor:
Sacred Heart,
St. Marys

Father Jonathan Murrman, OSB, son of the late Edward and Pauline Mo-nahan Murrman, was born in Jeannette on May 12, 1926. He is one of four children. His brothers and sisters are Mrs. Marguerite Altman of New Castle; William Murrman of Greensburg; and Father Warren Murrman, OSB, who is also a monk of St. Vincent Archabbey.

He attended Sacred

Heart Grade School in Jeannette and is a 1944 graduate of Jeannette High School. He attended St. Vincent College and received a bachelor of arts degree from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He received his theological training at St. Vincent Seminary.

Father Jonathan entered the Benedictine Monastic Community of St. Vincent Archabbey in 1958. He made simple profession of vows on September 2, 1959, and solemn profession of vows on September 2, 1962. He was ordained a priest in St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica by the late Bishop William Connare of Greensburg on May 22, 1965.

Before entering the monastic community, Father Jonathan served in the United States Army, with duties in Germany. His pastoral ministry has included being assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish, Patton (1965-76); and at Sacred Heart Parish, St. Marys (1976-77). He has been a carpenter in the Maintenance Department at St. Vincent Archabbey, College and Seminary since 1977.

The Cathedral Parish congratulates our 50 year jubilarians:
Msgr. James E. Sanner and Fr. Charles R. Schmitt

Our faithful sisters of St. Joseph of 60 years:

- Sr. Teresa Bohren
- Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner

50 years:

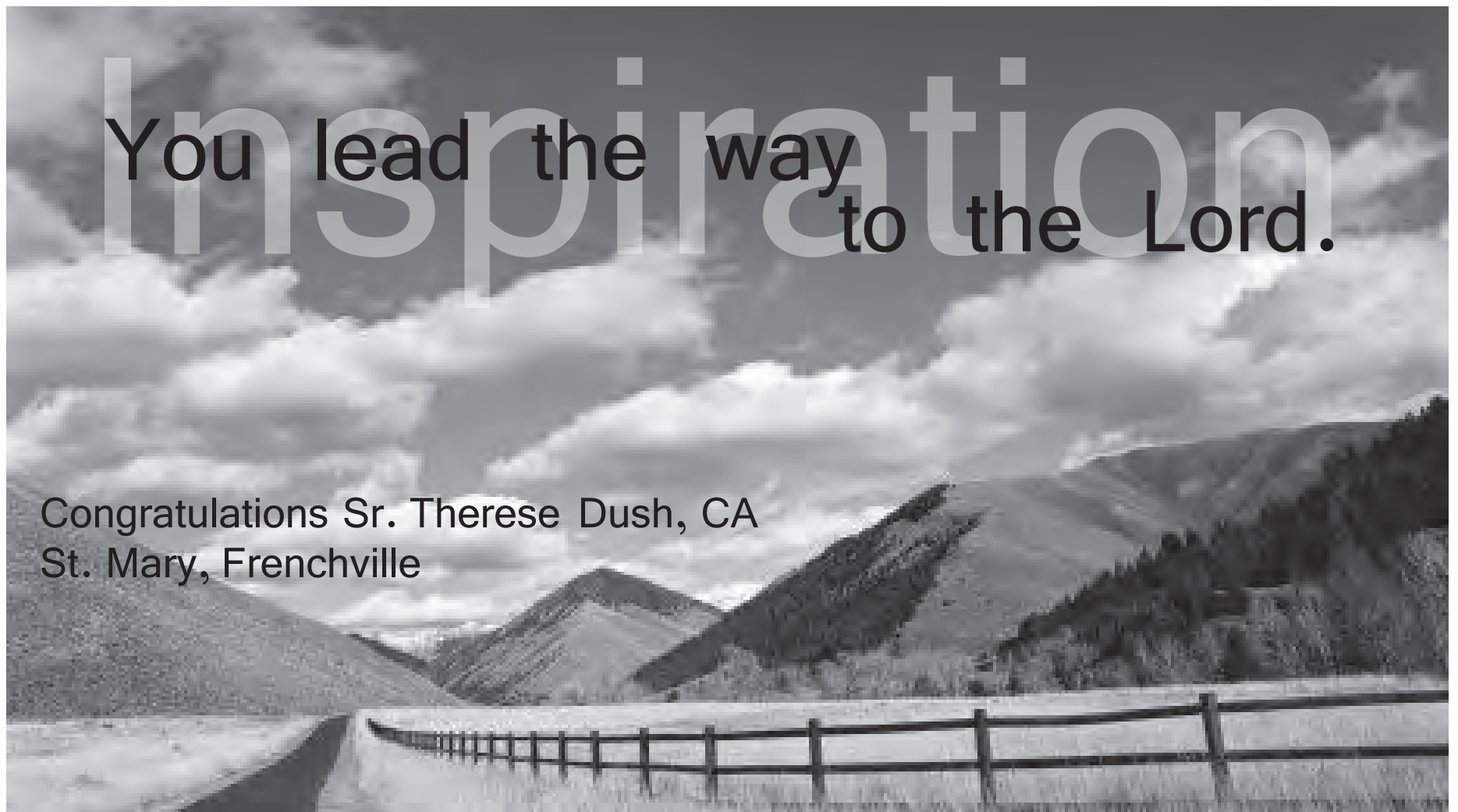
- Sr. Mary Francis Becker
- Sr. Martha Howick
- Sr. Colette Palmer

and our newly ordained:

- Fr. John L. Miller
- and Fr. Daniel R. Hoffman



St. Peter
Cathedral
Parish and Cathedral Center



You lead the way to the Lord.

Congratulations Sr. Therese Dush, CA
St. Mary, Frenchville



Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ



50 years

Sister Colette Palmer, SSJ, recalls hearing the call to religious life—particularly to the Sisters of St. Joseph—in the 4th grade.

“Sister Michelle Pillar was a postulant at the beginning of the year, and then received her habit in April,” she says. “As a young girl, I was very impressed with her love and joy and dedication to God in her life, and knew at that time that I, too, was being called to be a Sister of St. Joseph.”

A native of Sharon, Sister Colette entered the Sisters of St.

Teacher:

St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
St. Ann, Erie
St. Bernard, Bradford

Registered nurse:

St. Vincent Health Center, Erie
St. Mary’s Home, Erie
Villa Maria College, Erie

Director:

Marycrest director for the Sisters of St. Joseph
St. Vincent Health Center:
Pastoral care
Chaplain

My Inspiration:

“The Gospel of John is rich with expressions of Jesus’ great love, hope and assurance for each of us. These Scriptures are meaningful to me as I speak them to the sick or dying or as comfort to families in my ministry in pastoral care at St. Vincent Health Center.”

Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish in Erie on August 27, 1959 and made her final profession August 15, 1967.

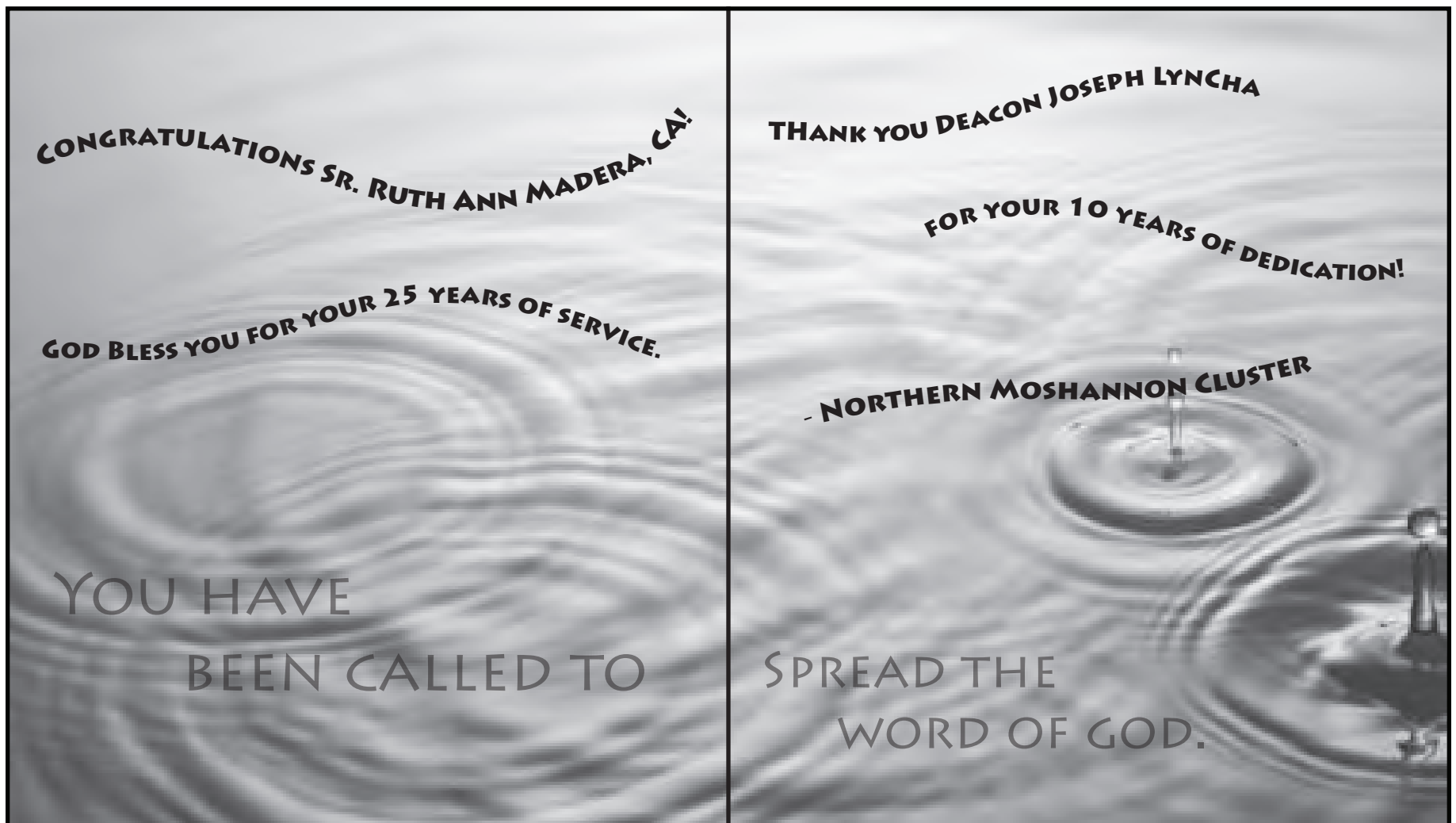
She attended Sacred Heart School, Villa Maria Academy and Villa Maria College in Erie before studying at Boston State Hospital.

Sister Colette cites her mother as the person whose faith has most deeply touched her life.

“Mom and I had a special relationship in which we shared love in our lives. This love permeated her life and was evident as she shared this love with many. She loved her family and friends and later, as she resided at Sarah Reed Retirement Center, she loved the caregivers and residents.

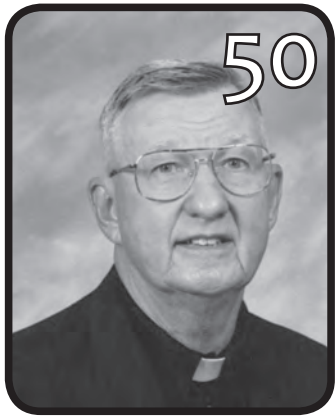
“Mom shared her faith in Jesus through God’s Word, giving comfort and encouragement to someone who was hurting. In her later years, she lived her faith depending on the Lord’s strength as she herself struggled to carry out her daily activities until her death at age 93. I pray that the Spirit’s love in me touches people as Mom did.”

A longtime teacher and registered nurse, Sister Colette presently ministers in pastoral care and serves as chaplain at St. Vincent Health Center in Erie where she has worked since 2003.





Msgr. James Sanner



50 years

Assignments:

Parochial vicar:
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. James, Erie
St. Joseph, Oil City
St. John, Tidioute

U.S Army chaplain:

Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Camp Zama, Japan
Fort Dix, N.Y.
Ansbach, Germany
Stuttgart, Germany
Landstuhl, Germany
Ahn Khe, Vietnam
Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam
Main Post Chapel

My Inspiration:

“O Lord God, grant that I may know the vocation to which thou has destined me from all eternity, give me the courage to embrace it generously and be faithful to it. From this moment I abandon myself to your holy will. Amen.”

Msgr. James Sanner says he first recognized a call to the priesthood as a young altar boy. He still remembers learning the prayers with the help of Sister Winifred Kelleher, OSB, and Sister Theresa Carey, SSJ.

He has fond memories of serving Mass for Archbishop John Mark Gannon while at St. Peter’s Grade School, where he won the annual altar boy contest in eighth grade. He still has the prize – an altar boy button – attached to a copy of his favorite prayer he always says right after communion.

While many of his classmates at Cathedral Prep went into the military directly upon graduation, with the good advice of Msgr. Homer DeWalt, Msgr. Sanner decided to pursue the call he was feeling to the priesthood. He enrolled at St. Mark Seminary, studying at Gannon University and completing his major seminary work at Christ the King Seminary.

Upon ordination, Msgr. Sanner was assigned to parishes throughout the diocese including two different assignments in Oil City.

While he was at St. Stephen, Msgr. Lawrence Anton took an interest in helping him adjust to serving as a priest.

“He took me under his wing and taught me more that one year we were together than all the pastoral theology courses that I had in the seminary,” Msgr. Sanner says.

While he was at St. John Parish in Tidioute, Msgr. Sanner says he began to feel drawn to the military again.

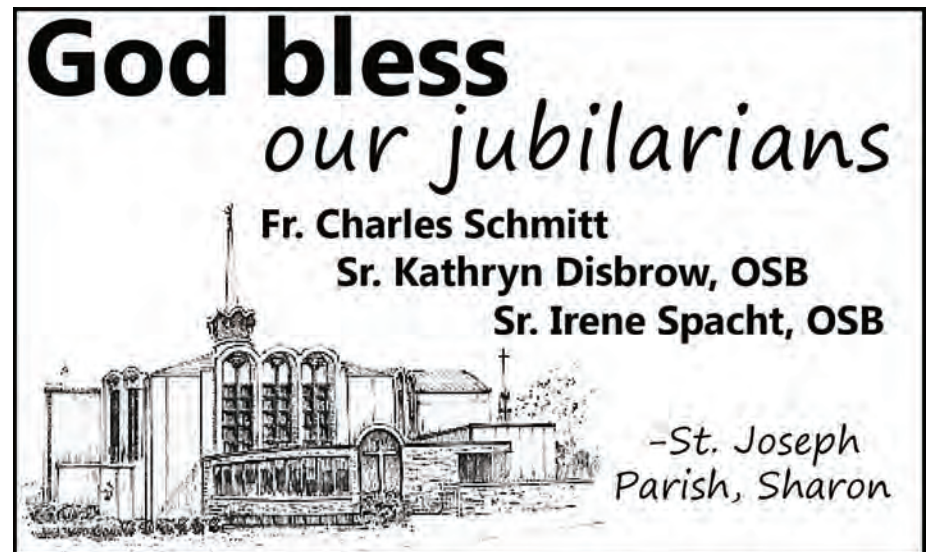
He became aware of the priest shortage in the military during the Vietnam War. He was given the go ahead to join the Archdiocese for the Military Services at the end of the first year of his assignment at St. John.

After taking the Chaplain’s Officer Basic Course at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y., during the fall of 1967, Msgr. Sanner was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., with the 82nd Airborne. Soon after graduating from Parachute School, he was deployed to Vietnam on Feb. 11, 1968, where he served in Hue Phubi and Saigon/Ho Chi Min City. He returned for a second one-year tour of duty in Vietnam in 1970.

When he returned to the United States, Msgr. Sanner studied clinical pastoral education at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. As a chaplain he continued through numerous assignments around the world including stints in the U.S. (Kentucky, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, New Jersey and Texas) and abroad (Japan, Germany and Vietnam).

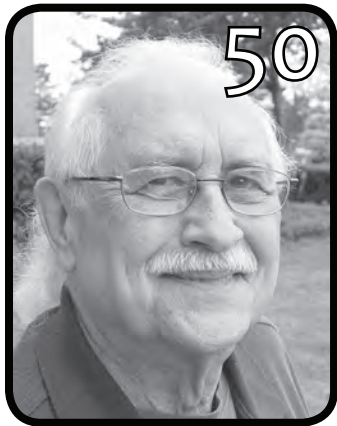
Among the highlights of his time in Europe were the opportunities to meet Mother Teresa of Calcutta on two different occasions and to attend the canonization ceremony of St. John Neumann.

Msgr. Sanner retired from the U.S. Army as colonel in August 2002, having served as a chaplain on active duty for almost 35 years. During his distinguished career in the military, he earned two Bronze Stars and the Meritorious Service Medal, as well as numerous service medals and ribbons. He is now in his seventh year of providing Catholic services at Fort Sam Houston, lending a hand to the lone priest assigned there on active duty.





Fr. Charles Schmitt



50 years

After serving in the priesthood for 50 years, Father Charles Schmitt says he still finds the church's liturgical life just as fulfilling as he did when he first entered the seminary.

"For me, the liturgy of the church is the prayer, commitment and action that affects our total unity with the creator and all his creation," Father Schmitt says.

Father Schmitt was born Sept. 10, 1931, in Erie, and is the son of the late Frank and Beatrice Schmitt. A native of St. Peter Cathedral Parish, he attended Lincoln Grade School and Academy High School, both in Erie.

Upon his graduation from high school, Father Schmitt sought employment in the billing office of Erie Concrete and Steel Supply Co. Inc., but he soon found it wasn't the right fit for him.

"Sometime during my second year there, I knew there had to be another way to spend my life," he recalls. "Thinking about it led me to thoughts of priesthood."

He sought spiritual guidance from then-Msgr. Alfred Watson (later bishop) and Msgr. James Peterson and spent many of his lunch breaks in prayer at St. Andrew Church.

He went on to study at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1955 and a bachelor's degree in sacramental theology in 1957. To his amazement, St. Andrew in Erie was his first assignment after being ordained May 7, 1959.

Throughout his years as a priest, Father Schmitt has drawn inspiration from Jean Pierre Caussade's book "Abandonment to Divine Providence." He

notes the great strength this and Brother Charles de Foucauld's "Prayer of Abandonment" gives him.

"Even Christ's prayer was 'Thy will be done,'" he says.

Father Schmitt has a wide-ranging history of service in the Erie Diocese. He co-founded the Ecclesia Center, a psycho-spiritual residency center for education and therapy for lay and religious ministers, in 1982. He has also served on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, the Priests' Senate and the board of directors for numerous educational and charitable nonprofit organizations in Erie.

As he celebrates his 50th jubilee, Father Schmitt hopes that all people will come to know God's compassion as the place to put their trust and to love one another as God loves them.

"Since God is love, loving one another is our best way to reflect the image of God within us," he says. "And thus, to bring ourselves to fullness of a human person – a fullness God intended at creation and is now even better because the Son of God became fully human."

Pastor:

St. Gabriel, Port Allegany
St. Joseph, Sharon

Parochial vicar:

St. Andrew, Erie
St. Callistus, Kane
Immaculate Conception, Erie

Weekend assistant:

St. Andrew, Erie
St. Catherine, Erie
Notre Dame, Hermitage

Administrator:

Immaculate Conception, Erie
St. Adalbert, Farrell

St. Gabriel, Port Allegany

Senior associate:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie

Chaplain:

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Faculty:

Cathedral Prep, Erie
Kennedy Catholic High School, Hermitage
DuBois Central Catholic High School, DuBois

Campus minister:


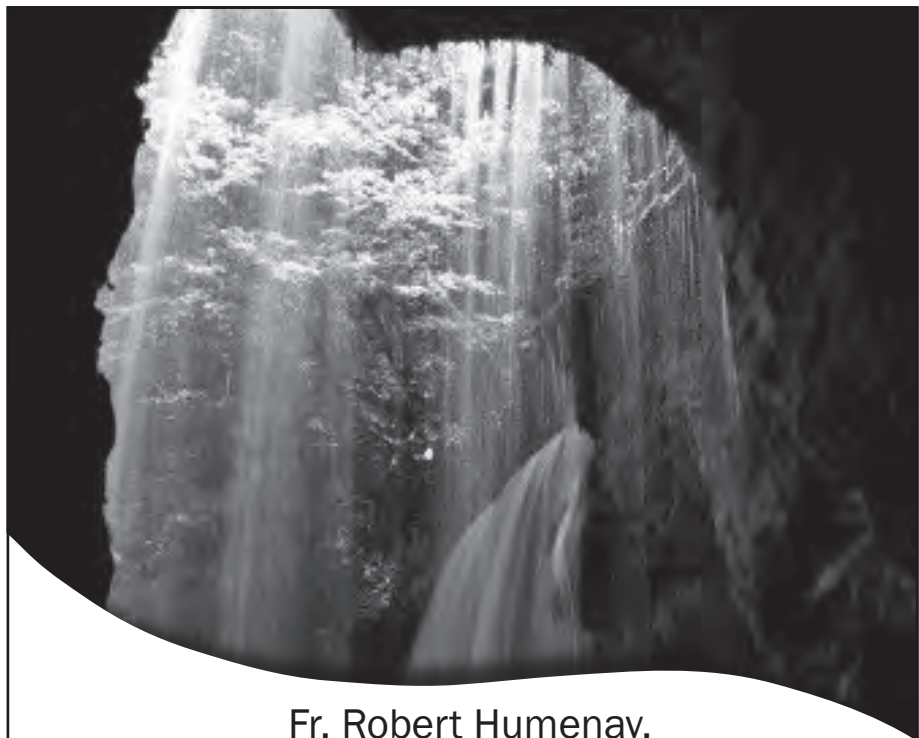
Mercyhurst College, Erie

My Inspiration:
"Thy will be done."

Congratulations
Rev. Charles R. Schmitt

Happy 50th Anniversary.
We are proud of you.

The community of St. Mark, Emporium
and St. James, Driftwood

Fr. Robert Humenay,

We are grateful to you for your service and
commitment for *40 years!*

Ss. Peter and Paul Mission, Grassflat



Sr. Irene Spacht, OSB



50 years

Sister Irene Spacht, OSB, is a daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Porter Spacht. She grew up on the family farm in North East, where she learned how to work, how to work well, to solve problems, to cooperate with her co-workers—her brothers and sister—and to enjoy the results of their work: cherries, grapes, sweet corn, fresh eggs. She saw first hand how care of the earth produces its gifts.

Sister Irene's family members have been strong supporters of their parish, St. Gregory, North East, for years. Any native of the parish will remember Charlie at the church door with worship aids and Betty organizing a bake sale. That's how Sister Irene learned about parish community and support.

In the parish school where Benedictine sisters taught, she found, as well, Benedictine community. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Erie on September 8, 1957, and made her final profession of vows on August 16, 1962.

Sister Irene earned her first degree at Mercyhurst College and her master's at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She is certified in education and as a school counselor.

In 1995, after teaching throughout the Erie Diocese, she returned to her home parish and school as teacher and principal until 2004.

Since 1986, she has been a member of the North East Juvenile Diversion Board which meets monthly to assist North East young people who have been arrested. Sister Irene has been listed three times in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" and received the Golden Apple award from WJET-TV in 2004.

She presently ministers as administrative assistant in the community's Communications and Development Office. Sister Irene also is a longtime member of the community's liturgy committee, responsible for the planning of prayer and eucharistic liturgies.

Sister Irene finds in the Liturgy of the Hours and the eucharistic liturgies the religious community's greatest gift to her. She hopes the community remains a leaven for society and a voice for the oppressed, and that it continues to meet the needs of those who search for solitude and prayer.

Teacher: St. Joseph, Sharon
Sacred Heart, Sharon
Mount Calvary, Erie
St. Stephen, Oil City
St. Joseph, Oil City
Venango Catholic High School, Oil City
St. Gregory, North East

Principal:
St. Gregory, North East

Benedictine Sisters of Erie:
Communications and Development Office
Liturgy committee

My Inspiration: "... faithfully observing his teaching in the monastery until death, we shall through patience, share in the sufferings of Christ that we may deserve also to share in His kingdom. Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ and may He bring us all together to everlasting life."
— Rule of Benedict, Prologue 50; 72:11-12

Joy to the Jubilarians!

We are grateful
for the many years of
your faithful and loving service
to God's people.

Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Benedictine Sisters of Elk County
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania
Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community

Mercyhurst College *honors*

ITS GRADUATES CELEBRATING
RELIGIOUS JUBILEES THIS YEAR:

~ 60th Anniversary ~

Sister Pierre Dembinski, RSM '64
(former director of food service)

~ 50th Anniversary ~

Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB '65
(former faculty member, Department of World Languages and Cultures)

Sister Kathryn Disbrow, OSB '70

Sister Irene Spacht, OSB '71

AND CONGRATULATES

Father Charles R. Schmitt
(former college chaplain)

on the 50th anniversary of his ordination





Sr. Christine Vladimiroff, OSB



50 years

Teacher: St. Benedict Academy, Erie
Mercyhurst College, Erie
Administration:
St. Benedict Academy, Erie
Second Harvest, president and CEO
Diocese of Cleveland, secretary for education
Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie,
1998-present
Leadership Conference of Women
Religious, president

My Inspiration: "As we progress in this monastic way of life and in faith, our hearts will warm to its vision, and with a love full of delight that cannot be put into words, we shall go forward on the way of God's commandments." – Rule of Benedict, Prologue 20

Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB, is a daughter of the late John and Agnes Olszewski Vladimiroff.

She entered the Benedictine Sisters in 1957 after her graduation from Saint Benedict Academy and made her final profession of vows on August 16, 1962.

She is a teacher who earned her first degree at Mercyhurst College, Erie, and later received a master's degree in Spanish literature and a doctorate in Latin American studies, both from the National University in Saltillo, Mexico. She has done graduate work in Scripture and theology at several universities.

After teaching in Erie, Sister Christine continued her ministry in education by teaching teachers in the Diocese of Cleveland, first as multicultural coordinator and then as secretary for education. In that office, she was responsible for all aspects of the Catholic school system of the diocese, which includes the city of Cleveland and eight densely populated counties of northeastern Ohio.

In 1991, Sister Christine was appointed president and CEO of Second Harvest (now called Feeding America), the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity. This, too, was a job for a teacher who could demonstrate to the public and to the food industry the need for food assistance to a large segment of the national population. She served for eight years, developing the administrative structure and coordination with individual food banks, together with expanding communication and cooperation with food producers and transporters.

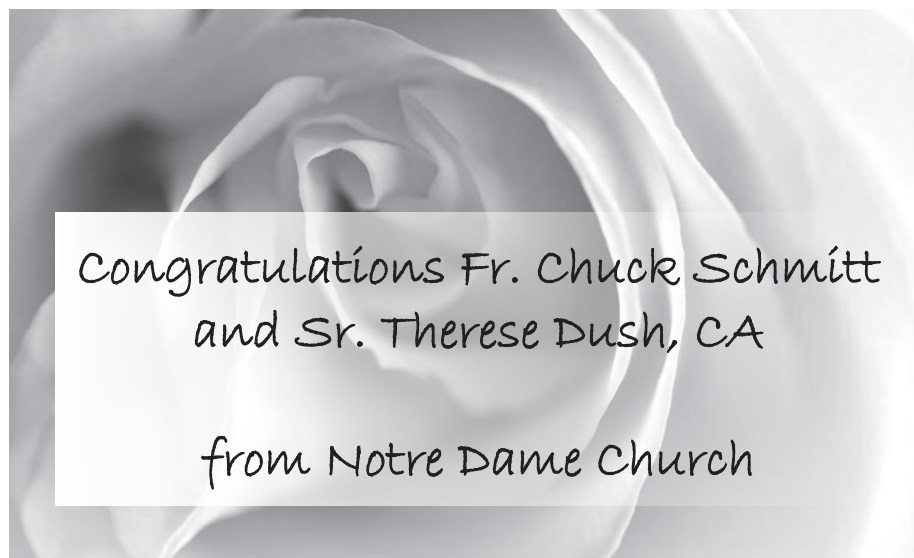
She has also served as member and chair of the board of Bread for the World, helping to educate the public and legislators about the need for food distribution to the hungry.

At the same time, Sister Christine was an elected member of the council of the Federation of St. Scholastica, an organization of more than 20 American Benedictine women's monasteries.

In 1998, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie elected Sister Christine — who had served her community as formation director and member of the community council — prioress of the community. She will complete her third term in 2010.

Although the prioress is administrator of the community as an organization, her most important function is teacher and mentor of the community, collectively and individually, as followers of the Rule of Benedict and as Christians.

During this period, she has also been president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a national organization representing some 76,000 U.S. women religious, as well as a member and, currently, president of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses which includes the leaders of two dozen monasteries in Mexico, Canada and the United States.



Congratulations Fr. Chuck Schmitt
and Sr. Therese Dush, CA
from Notre Dame Church



Our Lady
of Peace
Church
and School

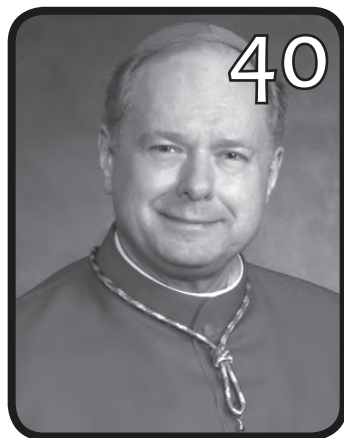


Congratulate Father Ted Marconi
on 25 years of service to the church.

We welcome you as our new pastor.



Bishop Lawrence Brandt



40 years

Bishop, Diocese of Greensburg
Diocese of Erie assignments:
Chancery Office: Chancellor
 Vice-chancellor
Priest in residence: St. Hedwig, Erie
Resident: St. Peter Cathedral, Erie
 Gannondale, Erie
Other: Diocesan Retirement Board
 committee member
 Board of Members of Catholic Charities
 Chaplain and spiritual adviser

My Inspiration: "My inspiration has been the priests in my life who encouraged me to become a priest and fostered my vocation. None of them was perfect, but which of us is? They all had two things in common: a deep love for the church and a great commitment to their priestly ministry."

Bishop Lawrence Brandt, bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg and a former priest of the Diocese of Erie, marks his 40th anniversary as priest in 2009.

A native of Charleston, W. Va., he was raised in St. John the Evangelist Parish, Girard.

Bishop Brandt graduated from St. John's grade school in Girard and then from high school and college at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. He earned a doctorate in philosophy in 1966 from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and did graduate work at the Sorbonne, Paris, and the University of Florence, Italy.

He studied theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. From December 1969, when he was ordained in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, until his return to the Erie Diocese in 1983, Bishop Brandt served as a diplomat.

He graduated from the Holy See's school for diplomats in Rome, the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, and was subsequently posted in 1973 in the Vatican diplomatic service to the Papal Nunciature in Tananarive, Madagascar. Later, he served the nunciatures in Bonn, Germany; Quito, Ecuador; and Algiers, Algeria.

In 1974, Pope Paul VI named him Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of monsignor. Three years later, the president of the Federal Republic of Germany decorated him with the Federal Cross of Merit for his role in negotiating an accord between the Holy See and the government of the Saarland.

While serving as a Vatican diplomat, Bishop Brandt was appointed pastor of the Anglo-American Parish in Tananarive, Madagascar, by Cardinal Rakotomalala, archbishop of Tananarive, in 1973. He was also named pastor of the Italian Parish in Algiers by Cardinal Duval, archbishop of Algiers, in 1979.

After earning his doctorate in canon law at Lateran University, Rome, in 1983, Bishop Brandt returned to the Erie Diocese. He was appointed assistant chancellor and chaplain at Gannondale Residential Center for Girls, a rehabilitation facility.

Named vice chancellor of the diocese in 1984, he was appointed that same year as personal representative of the bishop to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. He served on the PCC's executive committee and its administrative board. He was elected by the bishops of Pennsylvania to serve as vice president of the PCC for three successive terms from 1987-93. He was acting president of the PCC from May 1989 to January 1990.

In 1986, he was named a member of the board of corporators of the St. Vincent Foundation for Health and Human Services. He was named a member of the board of regents of St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, in 1991.

Pope John Paul II named him a prelate of honor in 1991. The same year, he was also named chancellor of the diocese.

He was appointed the fourth bishop of Greensburg by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 2, 2004 and was ordained and installed March 4, 2004 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.

Congratulations to all the "Faithful Servants."

DuBois Regional Medical Center shares a proud connection to Sr. Pierre Dembinski, RSM, former therapist at DuBois Hospital, and Deacon Robert P. DeNoon, current chaplain and manager of Pastoral Care.



We are blessed to have Deacon Robert DeNoon as our chaplain and manager of Pastoral Care at DuBois Regional Medical Center. We are proud to celebrate his 10 years of service as a deacon. Whether he's supporting our patients or our staff, Deacon DeNoon is always "Making the difference for life."



DuBois Regional
 Medical Center

Making the difference for life.



Fr. Robert Humenay



40 years

Secondary education:

Cathedral Prep, Erie

Weekend assistant and resident:

St. George, Erie
 St. Joseph/Bread of Life, Erie
 St. Francis Xavier, McKean
 Sacred Heart, Erie
 St. Julia, Erie

Parochial vicar:

St. Titus, Titusville

Pastor:

St. Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville

Studies:

Penn State University, University Park

Other:

Diocesan Clergy/Continuing Education Board
 Active military duty, U.S. Air Force
 Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Va.
 Pa. Air National Guard, special ministry
 Weekend assistant, Eastern Vicariate
 Monk, Grassflat and Winburne

My Inspiration:
 "The truth shall
 make you free!"

For as long as he can remember, Father Robert Humenay says he wanted to be a priest or a monk. Ordained on May 24, 1969, Father Humenay is celebrating forty dedicated years of service to the Catholic Church.

One of five children, Father Humenay grew up in Grassflat. He attended

Cathedral Preparatory School in Erie and graduated from St. Mark Seminary High School in 1963. For the next two years, Father Humenay studied at Gannon University. From 1965-69, he studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore where he earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and theology.

Following his ordination in 1969, Father Humenay spent seven years as a faculty member at Cathedral Prep. He was the parochial vicar at St. Titus Parish, in Titusville, from 1978-84. In 1981, he attended Penn State University and earned his master's in American religious studies. He also served as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Frenchville from 1984-89.

Father Humenay is the son of the late Andrew Humenay and Mary Nadham Dempsey and the stepson of Eugene Dempsey. His grandmother had a significant religious influence on him, he recalls.

"My faith today is the same faith passed onto me by my parents and grandparents," says Father Humenay.

In 1990, Father Humenay joined the United States Air Force as a chaplain, serving active duty. His father and uncles, who also served in the military, influenced his decision. Since 2001, he has been in the Air National Guard.

In 2000, Father Humenay went to live at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Va., a monastery of the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance (Trappists). He returned to his hometown of Grassflat in 2001.

Since 2002, Father Humenay has been a weekend assistant for the Eastern Vicariate. Having always aspired to being a Franciscan, he is now living as a monk in Winburne.



Sr. Ruth Ann Madera, CA



25 years

Ministry to the poor:

Young People Who Care, Frenchville
 Life Line Pro-Life Ministry, Clearfield

Founder:

Marian House Emergency Shelter for Women and Children, Clearfield

Pastoral ministry:

St. Eulalia, Coudersport

Director:

Marian House, Clearfield

My Inspiration: "Whoever
 remains in me and I in him
 will bear much fruit."
 - John 15:5

In the summer of 1977, Sister Ruth Ann Madera, CA, went to the newly established Young People Who Care Mission in Frenchville to spend a week as a volunteer. She says the way of life she found there was an answer to prayer.

"Living with a community of people who were attempting to live out the Gospel in their daily lives and desiring to grow in their personal relationship with God attracted me," she says. It wasn't long before she moved to the center on a full-time basis.

In 1982, when the center's founder, Sister Therese Dush, CA, founded the Community of Anawim, a private association of the Christian faithful, Sister Ruth Ann knew she had found her own calling.

"As I have continued on this spiritual path, it has proven to be the best way for me to live out my call as a religious woman, becoming who God has called me to be," she says.

Sister Ruth Ann was deeply touched by the lives of her parents, Joseph and Virgie Madera. But she points to Sister Therese as the person who changed her life.

"For over 32 years, her profound faith, love and trust in God and her deep desire to do whatever God asks continues to be a witness, a challenge and a beacon for me," she says. "Her own love and support and her belief in me continues to give me the strength and courage to grow in my personhood and in my relationship with God."

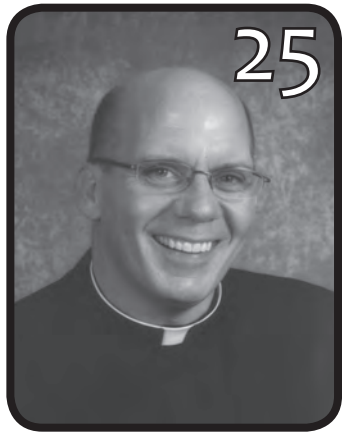
Sister Ruth Ann is moved by John 15: 1-17, the Scriptural account about the vine and the branches.

"In this passage, I experience Jesus personally sharing with me what it is I am to do to be united with him and how I am to live out my life," she says. "Jesus speaks of his love for me just as his father loves him. I am to live this out by loving others."

Sister Ruth Ann also says that Jesus' reminder, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you," keeps her grounded and reassured that he has called her to follow him in her religious vocation.



Fr. Ted Marconi



25 years

Pastor:

St. Elizabeth, Smethport
St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
Our Lady of Peace, Erie

Parochial vicar:

St. Bernard, Bradford

Weekend assistant:

St. Leo Magnus, Ridgway
St. Boniface, Kersey
Holy Cross, Fairview

Administrator:

St. Callistus, Kane
St. Raphael, Eldred
St. Joseph, Mount Jewett
St. Gabriel, Port Allegany

Secondary education:

Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys
Bradford Central Christian High School, Bradford

Chaplain:

Mercyhurst Prep School, Erie
Elk County Catholic High School, St. Marys
Pennsylvania State Police
Ridgway Borough Police
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Cursillo in Elk and Cameron counties

Campus minister:

Mercyhurst College, Erie

*My Inspiration:
"Definitely the Liturgy—the entire Liturgy with the nuances of each season."*

After studying for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., Father Marconi was ordained a priest on October 5, 1984, the only priest in the Erie Diocese to be ordained in October.

Over the years, he says he has been inspired by faithful parishioners, scouting friends, Father Peter Drilling at Christ the King and Bishop Michael Murphy, whom he described as "awe inspiring with a sense of humor."

He says his family—he grew up one of nine children, seven girls and two boys—is uplifting and supportive of his vocation.

Father Ted Marconi says he was in the 6th grade when he first recognized a call to the priesthood.

"The more I thought about it and the more involved I was with things, the stronger the call became," he says.

Father Marconi credits his involvement with scouting, first as a youth then later as a priest, with strengthening his leadership skills.

"I worked at a summer camp for seven years—singing songs, building fires, leading adults and kids through difficult situations like hiking through thunderstorms, crossing a high river and determining what to do when the food truck doesn't show up," he says. "I was able to mentor people behind me through leadership, then with service. But something more was drawing me deeper."

"Even though we're scattered, they've just been wonderful throughout these 25 years," Father Marconi says. "They have seen me through it all."

As the emcee at diocesan youth rallies for many years, Father Marconi is famous for a pair of red shoes he wore at rallies and youth events.

"What's amazing is that people remember them and say, 'Hey, you're the guy with the red shoes,'" he says. "I still have them."

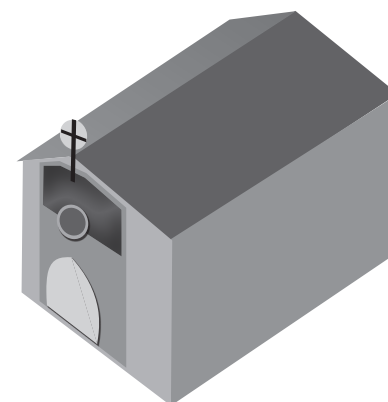
As for his ministry as a priest, he says he enjoys "just being with people, being me in the ordinary stuff of life, being able to bring Christ to people in the sacraments. It's the ordinary and extraordinary all tied up together."

While working in numerous capacities throughout the diocese, Father Marconi has worked as pastor of St. Leo Magnus Parish for the past six years. He was recently appointed pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie.

If he had just one more homily to give, he says it would be on the topic of the church parking lot.

"If we really get the message 'inside,' we could live it on the 'outside,'" he says. "And the parking lot would be the first indicator if people got it!"

CONGRATS FR. TED MARCONI ON YOUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY!
WITH GRATITUDE,
ST. LEO MAGNUS, RIDGWAY



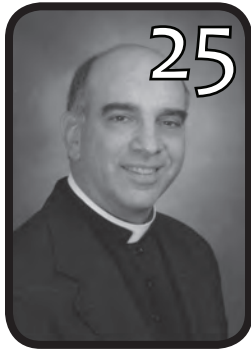
Rev. Charles Schmitt &
Very Rev. Theodore Marconi, V.F.,

God bless you on your committed service throughout the years!

With gratitude,
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Smethport
& St. Joseph, Mount Jewett



Fr. Frank Ziemkiewicz, OSB



25 years

Pastor:
St. Mary, St. Marys

My Inspiration:
"Medieval history teaches us that tremendous achievements are within the grasp of a small elite group guided by high ideals ... men who dared and achieved great things because they took God seriously." – Medieval History, the Life and Death of a Civilization by Norman F. Cantor, pp. 546-7

Father Frank Ziemkiewicz, OSB, was born July 17, 1949 in Schenectady, N.Y. He is a son of the late Frank and Lucille Stabile Ziemkiewicz.

He attended St. Scholastica Parochial School, Aspinwall, and is a 1967 graduate of Fox Chapel Area High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971 and a master of divinity degree from St. Vincent Seminary in 1983.

Father Frank made simple profession of vows on July 10, 1979 and solemn profession of vows on July 10, 1982 at St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1984 at the Archabbey Basilica before the late Bishop William Connare of Greensburg.

Father Frank has served as a dormitory prefect (1981-91, 1992-94); director of the physical plant at St. Vincent (1984-94) and was dean of students from 1994-99. Father Frank served as a member of the Opportunity Program advisory board, and was honored by St. Vincent College students in 1991, 1995 and 1998 with the presentation of a Student Government Award.

In 1999 he was named pastor of St. Mary Parish, St. Marys, where he served as the Archabbot's Regional Coordinator for Benedictine parishes in St. Marys.

He was commissioned in the Army (engineering branch) in 1971 and was on active duty in Germany from 1972-74 and at Fort Stewart,

Ga., from 1975-78.

From July 2005 to January 2006 he was deployed to Afghanistan serving principally in the Kandahar region. From January through June 2006, he was assigned to the Multi-National Corps - Iraq, Chaplain's Office, Baghdad, where he served as the senior priest in the country. He retired from the Army in February 2007 with the rank of colonel.

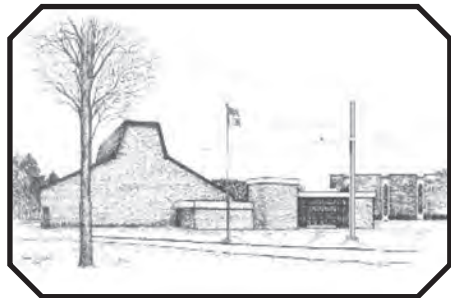
In July 2007, he was named headmaster of the Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Ga., and Prior of Benedictine Priory.

Jubilarians, thank you for your service!

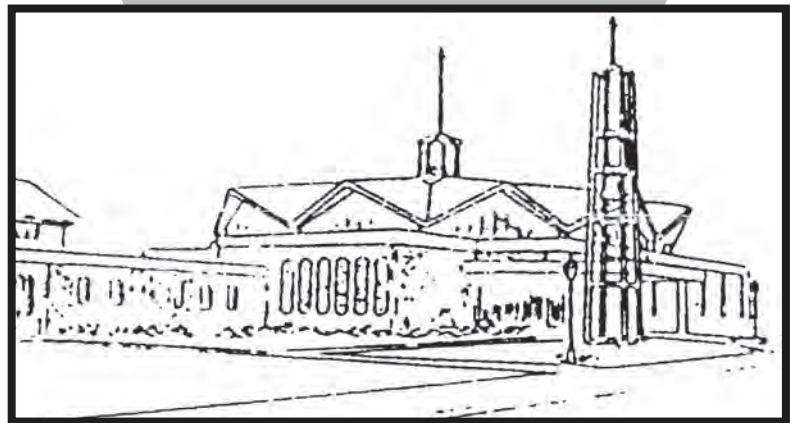
St. Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ
Sr. Teresa Bohren, SSJ
Sr. Martha Howick, SSJ
Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ
Fr. Ted Marconi

St. Bernard, Bradford / St. Francis
 Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Congratulations to
 Deacon Robert DeNoon
 and to all of
 the jubilarians
 celebrating this year!



Fr. Ted Marconi ~
The people of Holy Cross, Fairview
fondly remember your energy, your zeal ...
and your RED sneakers!



Msgr. Charles A. Kaza & Parishioners
 St. Tobias Parish, Brockway



*Congratulations to
our Jubilarians*

Sr. Teresa Bohren, SSJ
Sr. Therese Dush, CA
Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ
Rev. Robert L. Humenay
Sr. Ruth Ann Madera, CA

St. Francis of Assisi
Clearfield

*'Love one another as I love you'
Four men ordained permanent deacons*

Four men were ordained permanent deacons for the Erie Diocese by Bishop Donald Trautman during a Mass and ceremony on May 29 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The cathedral was filled with the newly ordained deacons' families, friends, parishioners and fellow deacons as well as priests.

The new deacons include: Joseph Cicero (St. John the Evangelist, Girard), Ronald Fronzaglia (St. Francis Xavier, McKean), James Kaschalk (St. Mark the Evangelist, Lawrence Park) and Kevin Kunik (Blessed Sacrament, Erie).

The deacons began serving in their respective parishes immediately as they await their ministry assignments from the bishop.

"We thank your wives and children who have accompanied you on your journey of faith and formation," Bishop Trautman said to the deacon candidates during his homily. "We thank them for their prayers, understanding and support. You have given Christian

witness in marriage and parenthood, and now you will give new witness as an ordained servant—a deacon of the church."

In the evening's Gospel, Jesus commands his disciples to "love one another as I love you." (John 15:12)

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." (John 15:16)

"None of us merits ordination," Bishop Trautman said. "None of us ever completely qualifies. None of us deserves being a co-worker of Christ. It was Christ who took the initiative and called us into the intimacy of his ordained discipleship.

"This diaconate ordination is a celebration of God's mysterious love. Tonight, Christ chooses you to be his ordained partner in the work of the Gospel."

In the Catholic Church, deacons proclaim the Gospel message, preach in and out of church, minister at the Eucharist, witness marriages, perform baptisms, preside at wakes and funerals, conduct prayer services and bring the Eucharist to the homebound, sick and dying.

"Tonight, Christ sends you on a mission of service and charity to his people," Bishop Trautman said.

After the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, the newly ordained were invested with a stole and dalmatic.

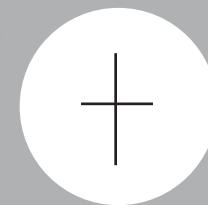


Bishop Donald Trautman with newly ordained deacons (from left to right) Ron Fronzaglia, Joe Cicero, Kevin Kunik and Jim Kaschalk, May 2009.



Congratulations Rev. John Miller!
St. Michael, Greenville

**Congratulations
Fr. John L. Miller**



From
Notre Dame Church
and
Notre Dame School

Deacon Ralph DeCecco



10 years

Prison Chaplain:

SCI Albion

Deacon assistant:

Our Lady of Peace, Erie
St. Andrew, Erie

*My Inspiration:
"Preach the
Gospel always, and
if you must, use
words." – St. Francis
of Assisi*

For Deacon Ralph DeCecco, the call to the permanent diaconate came after attending a Marriage Encounter weekend with his wife, Janet, in February 1983. He says this experience made him realize how prominent Jesus was in his life, his marriage and his family.

After many years of neglect, Deacon DeCecco says he returned to the faith he grew up with at St. Paul Parish and the former St. Michael Parish in Erie. With the help of his wife, as well as the priests, religious and parishioners of the former St. Matthew in the Woods Parish, Deacon DeCecco's faith grew stronger and he began to desire a deeper relationship with Christ.

A few years later, Deacon DeCecco says he came to a point in his faith journey where he knew there was something more for him to accomplish. "I felt as though I had reached a plateau but knew there was more mountain to climb," he acknowledges.

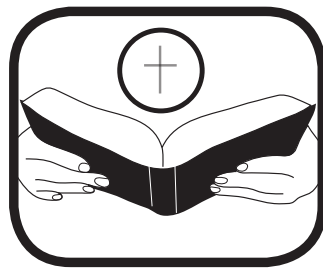
Recognizing this as the Lord's call, he prayed for the strength to be able to follow what God was calling him to do.

On a trip to Binghamton, N.Y., with his wife and children to visit his daughter's godparents, Deacon DeCecco encountered a deacon while attending Mass. He says he was intrigued by the encounter and wanted to learn more about the ministry of the diaconate in the church.

When Bishop Donald Trautman announced plans to begin a permanent diaconate program in the Diocese of Erie, Deacon DeCecco was ready to accept the challenge. One year later he embarked on the five-year journey to become a deacon.

Since his ordination in 1999, Deacon DeCecco has been a prison chaplain. "It's basically a ministry of presence," he says. "It's not a ministry where you need a lot of training. You just need to be compassionate and listen." More than half of his time is spent in one-on-one counseling with staff and inmates. "You have to bring the church to them because they can't go to church," he says. "You help bring the Word of God to them in seemingly hopeless situations. They need encouragement."

He has also been involved with the permanent diaconate formation program in the Diocese of Erie, as well as a deacon assistant at Our Lady of Peace and St. Andrew in Erie.



Over the years, Deacon DeCecco says many people have shown him what it means to truly serve others including his family, members of his parish communities, priests and religious. But the one person, he adds, who has most touched and guided his life for more than 35 years, is his wife Janet. "Her deep-rooted faith is an inspiration and a challenge to live up to," he says.

Celebrating 10 devoted years as a deacon, Deacon DeCecco says, "It is my hope to be an effective part of the Body of Christ this side of heaven, and with his church,

follow Jesus' model to serve, not to be served."

Deacon Robert DeNoon



10 years

Deacon assistant:

DuBois Regional
Medical Center

My Inspiration: "I am particularly drawn to 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. It is in this verse where St. Paul describes the human body and how no one part is any more important than the other, how each supports and depends on the other parts. I see this as a very important directive to the church. As the body of Christ, we are one. Like our own body, we need all the parts of Christ's working together as one. We are all servants of the Lord."

It was when Deacon Robert DeNoon worked as a scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America in upstate New York that he was first exposed to the idea of the permanent diaconate. His parish of St. Stephen in Middleport, N.Y., had a deacon. A member of his staff was also studying to become a deacon.

"I believe it was then that I first felt the call," Deacon DeNoon says.

It was at his staff member's ordination that he says he knew in his heart it wouldn't be long until he would be joining him as a brother deacon.

Since his ordination June 4, 1999, Deacon DeNoon has served as chaplain at DuBois Regional Medical Center.

"It has been a most rewarding and fulfilling ministry," he says. "There are so many lives that I have touched and which have touched mine over the

past decade. It's really astounding and humbling."

When the hospital gave him the opportunity to become manager of the pastoral care department, Deacon DeNoon says it opened up even greater opportunities to expand his outreach and service to God's people.

After completing more than 1,600 hours of study in the field of clinical pastoral education, he became a board-certified chaplain. He has since served on the hospital's ethics committee and represented the center on the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Ethics Consortium for the past five years. For the past two years, he has served as president of the Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains.

"It is an awesome responsibility serving on the occasions where others fear to tread," he says, "ministering to families and patients confronted with the worst moments of their lives through sudden tragedy, suffering and unexpected

loss of life."

He's also seen the joy by being present at births and baptizing the children of the hospital staff.

Deacon DeNoon considers maintaining contact with people to be among the most vital issues facing the Catholic Church today.

"Showing care and concern toward one another is one of the most important things we can do for God's church," he says. "We need to get out from behind the pulpit and go beyond the pews and get out, see the people and be with them. We need to find out where the other 70 percent of Catholics who aren't at Mass anymore are and make them feel welcome again."

Deacon Joseph Lyncha



10 years

Deacon assistant:
St. Mary of the
Assumption,
Frenchville

*My Inspiration:
"At Mass during
the consecration.
It is when Jesus
comes among us
body, soul and
divinity."*

As a young boy growing up in Grassflat, Deacon Joseph Lyncha Jr. began assisting his church community as an altar server. He was also an active volunteer and assisted with projects such as grass mowing at the church and cemetery.

"When I was growing up, the faith of the Slovak immigrants touched me," he says. "They had a great dedication to God."

Later in life, Deacon Lyncha joined the military. He continued to serve God and the teachings of the Catholic Church by assisting at Mass as a lector, usher and Eucharistic minister.

Deacon Lyncha's first introduction to the idea of becoming a deacon was when he was attending Mass with his son in Dover, Delaware. Curious as

to who was serving the Mass, he asked his son about the man. After learning that he was a deacon, Deacon Lyncha recalls thinking he could do that. "It was only a matter of months when our diocese opened the way for deacons, and I answered that call," he says.

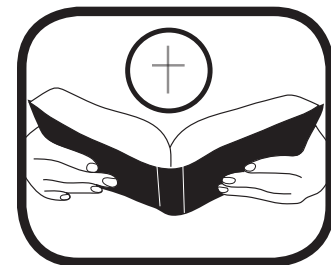
He was ordained a permanent deacon on June 4, 1999.

Deacon Lyncha grew up in a family that regularly attended Mass. He was deeply influenced by his grandmother, Anna Kendrick, and Msgr. Michael Tutokie, who guided him in his faith. "My grandmother made sure I went to Mass during the week," he says. "And like a lot of other women, she could always be found saying her rosary. Msgr. Tutokie was a dedicated and diligent priest."

Over the years, Deacon Lyncha has observed a change in the way people view their faith. He says there is a "loss of the sense of sin" and people have developed "casual attitudes toward the Eucharist and the teachings of the church. Even the clothes we wear for Sunday tell us it's just another day."

In the future, Deacon Lyncha hopes for a "more comprehensive Catechism program" to help people everywhere understand the teachings of the church.

As he commemorates his 10 years since ordination, Deacon Lyncha encourages everyone to devote the time to learn about God and his love for us. He says, "Life is a journey, our destination is heaven. And there is nothing more important than getting there."



Deacon Richard Shewman



25 years

Deacon assistant:
St. Luke, Erie
**Office of Matrimonial
Concerns:** Judge

*My Inspiration:
Blessed Charles de Foucauld's
"Prayer of Abandonment:"
Father, I abandon myself into
your hands; do with me what
you will. Whatever you may do,
I thank you: I am ready for all,
I accept all. Let only your will
be done in me, and in all your
creatures – I wish no more than
this, O Lord. Into your hands
I commend my soul; I offer it
to you with all the love of my
heart, for I love you Lord, and
so need to give myself, to sur-
render myself into your hands,
without reserve, and with
boundless confidence,
for you are my father.*

A Rochester, N.Y., native, Deacon Richard Douglas Shewman grew up in the presence of his father's inspiring example of Christian service.

"He was not one to wear his faith on his shirt sleeve, but he lived it," says Deacon Shewman, who celebrates his 25th anniversary as a deacon this year.

As a child, he would at times accompany his father to St. Joseph's Villa, an orphanage, to show movies and give ice cream to the children.

Deacon Shewman considered the priesthood during 8th grade and religious life as a high school senior, but at his father's recommendation, he decided to delay any vocational decision until after college. After what Deacon Shewman described as a "spiritual crisis" during his time in college, he was not involved in church life for about 10 years. He credits his wife's prayers and influence as the forces that brought him back to God.

Deacon Shewman became active in the lay ministries at Mount Carmel

Parish in Saipan, Mariana Islands, and became close with his pastor, Msgr. Tomas Camacho.

"He was an inspiration to me in his ability to reconcile people who were hurting and angry, as well as to speak up for what was right on any important moral issue," Deacon Shewman says. "He embodied the Beatitudes."

The old stirrings to pursue a life of ordained ministry came back when Deacon Shewman encountered an article about the diaconate in Guam. He approached his pastor about it, who, in turn, spoke with the bishop. Unfortunately, Deacon Shewman found out there was no formation program in place at the time.

But he refused to ignore the call, throwing himself into studying theology and the diaconate. One year later, he entered the formation program with the bishop's approval. He was ordained Sept. 24, 1984, at Mount Carmel, Saipan.

A few months later, the Diocese of Guam split into the Archdiocese of Agana (Guam) and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa (Northern Mariana Islands). Deacon Shewman's mentor, Msgr. Camacho, was appointed the first bishop of the new diocese of Chalan Kanoa. Four years after the new deacon's ordination, Msgr. Camacho invited him to enter a full-time job as director of Catholic Social Services and diocesan chancellor.

Deacon Shewman has spent the past 11 years living and ministering in Erie, where he currently works as a judge in the Office of Matrimonial Concerns at St. Mark Catholic Center. He also serves as a deacon assistant at St. Luke Parish in Erie.

'Feed my sheep'

Hoffman, Miller ordained to the priesthood

On June 12, two young men from the Erie Diocese professed their love for Christ and his church and answered the call in the evening's Gospel to "Feed my sheep."

Bishop Donald Trautman ordained Daniel Hoffman and John Miller to the priesthood in front of a crowd of family, friends, diocesan priests and guests at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Family and friends from Hoffman's home parish of Our Lady of Peace in Erie attended the ceremony, as well as relatives from Kentucky and California. Two busloads of well wishers came from St. Marys, where Hoffman served his diaconate assignment. Miller's guests came from his home parish of St. Michael in Greenville along with family and friends from the Pittsburgh area.

The evening's Gospel was from John 21:15-17, which was the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead. Peter was distressed after Jesus asked him three times, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

"... and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' (Jesus) said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'"

During their examination, the candidates expressed their intentions to be faithful to the bishop, the worship life of the church, the Gospel and to Christ. After a promise of obedience, the candidates reclined face down on the sanctuary floor while the congregation sang the litany of saints. This posture symbolizes their unworthiness for the gift of priesthood and their total abandonment and trust in God.

Bishop Trautman then conferred holy orders on the candidates through laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration. Sponsoring priests then vested the new priests with a stole and chasuble; Father Tom Brooks vested Father Hoffman, and Msgr. Andrew Karg vested Father Miller.

The hands of the newly ordained were anointed with sacred chrism, fulfilling the practice of the Old Testament in setting a person apart for sacred duties and enabling them to carry out their sacramental ministry in a totally committed fashion.

Father Daniel Hoffman is assigned to St. Michael Parish in Greenville, and Father John Miller is assigned to St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

The new priests celebrated their first Masses June 13 at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery in Erie, with Hoffman celebrating a 10 a.m. Mass and Miller at 11:30 a.m. They also offered a Mass of Thanksgiving June 14. Father Hoffman offered the noon Mass at his home parish of Our Lady of Peace, Erie, and Father Miller offered the 11:30 a.m. Mass at his home parish of St. Michael, Greenville.

Father Hoffman also celebrated the 10 a.m. Mass on June 21 at Queen of the World in St. Marys, where he served as a deacon. Father Miller offered the 5:30 p.m. Mass June 20 at Notre Dame in Hermitage, where he served his diaconate assignment.



Bishop Donald Trautman with newly ordained priests Father John Miller (left) and Father Daniel Hoffman following ordination June 12 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Congratulations, Father John Miller

May our Lord give you strength as you celebrate the Sacraments and as you proclaim the Gospel.

May He bless you and guide you with His grace as you begin your service to God's people.

Our love and prayers always,

Mom, Dad, Jill, Matt, Katie, Anna, Brian and John Michael



Your parish family of Queen of the World, Saint Marys, sends heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes on your ordination to the priesthood.

Father Daniel Hoffman

'Seeing with the eyes of faith'
Born blind, Sister Dolores Dean, OSB, makes final profession

Blind since birth, Sister Dolores Dean, OSB, sees with the eyes of faith. Sister Dolores professed her final vows as a Benedictine Sister of Elk County during a Mass on Aug. 16, 2008 at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys. "This was the most glorious day of my life," said Sister Dolores. "I feel like I've come full circle."

Born in Brooklyn, Sister Dolores spent the greater part of her life in the New York area. For many years she was employed as a vocational rehabilitation instructor and a library assistant at the Helen Keller Services for the Blind located in Hempstead, N.Y.

She was educated at a school for the blind and then went off to a small Catholic college. She says that her vocation to the religious life came during her college years. Most of her professors were Sisters of the Divine Compassion. Their kindness, generosity and academic challenges greatly influenced her.

However, after attempting to enter various communities dedicated to teaching and meeting with discouragement, she wrote to the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County. She's found that the Benedictine motto, "ora et labora," a Latin phrase meaning pray and work, is not limiting, and Sister Dolores says she's discovered her niche here.

She was warmly welcomed into the monastery, helped to braille her breviary and made any necessary adaptations to make her life easily conformable to that of her sisters.

All Benedictines have their special ministries, and Sister Dolores has hers, which is unique to the community. She transcribes textbooks and novels into braille with the use of a scanner or volunteer reader. She proof-

reads textbooks and books for children for two agencies for the blind, and she scans religious books to be uploaded to another program for the visually impaired.

In addition to this apostolate, Sister Dolores has become part of a knitting group working to make sweaters for children all over the world. Each knitter endeavors to make at least one sweater a month.

"I am humbled at the gifts she is bringing to our community," said

Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County.

Sister Dolores said she strives to live out another Benedictine motto in her daily life, just like all her sisters, "That in all things God may be glorified."

"I've found my place here," she said.



Sister Dolores Dean, OSB, during her vows at the altar with Sister Jacinta Conklin, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County. Sister Dolores professed her vows Aug. 16 at St. Joseph Monastery in St. Marys.

'Lord, you have called me, here I am'
Sister Pia Therese, OCD, makes solemn profession as Carmelite

Sister Pia Therese of Mary the Mother of God, OCD, made her solemn profession and veiling March 21 at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery in Erie.

Sister Pia Therese is the newest member of the Carmelite Sisters, 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 well wishers. Approximately 20 family members and friends from Sister Pia's former parish, St. Peter Chanel in Hawaiian Gardens, Calif., attended the Mass and ceremony. Members of the parish

choir, Mary's Voice, provided music for the liturgy. Sister Pia is also a former choir member.

"Lord, you have called me, here I am," Sister Pia Therese said during her religious profession.

Bishop Donald Trautman presided at the Eucharistic liturgy for the solemn profession and veiling.

"What a great honor and privilege to be chosen and called by Christ," Bishop Trautman said in his homily. "What a glorious blessing to be singled out and selected for a religious vocation.

"Sister Pia, you are greatly loved by Christ. Our secular world does not understand why a woman in the prime of her life would leave the allurements of the world and enter a cloistered monastery. The world does not understand why a woman would want to live the rest of her life behind walls. Our world cannot comprehend why a woman would rise in the night to pray for those who do not pray. Our world cannot fathom why a woman would joyfully do penance for those who sin and wish to do no penance. Our world cannot grasp why a woman would opt for humble work in prayer and solitude and silence.

"What would prompt a person to embrace poverty, chastity and obedience? There is only one answer: The love of God. When you are in love, you can do anything. Love is the essence of cloistered religious life."

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

Sister Pia Therese of Mary the Mother of God, OCD, greets visitors through the grille at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery in Erie after her solemn profession and veiling March 21. The grille is designed to separate the outside world from the contemplative prayer life of the cloistered community.



Congratulations

60 Years

Sr. Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ

50 Years

Sr. Mary Francis Becker, SSJ

Sr. Martha Howick, SSJ

Sr. Colette Palmer, SSJ

for your steadfast commitment to
education, compassion and caring.

Thank you on behalf of the Saint
Vincent Health System family.

SAINT
VINCENT

We know how to treat people.™



**Congratulations Jubilarians.
Catholic Charities thanks you for
your dedication and service.**



empower all

**Making a difference...
our faith gives us the grace
to rise to the challenge.**

**Call today for your
free brochure of
Catholic Charities
programs and
services that serve
more than 63,000
individuals in
our diocese!**


CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF ERIE

www.ErieRCD.org/charities.asp
charities@ErieRCD.org

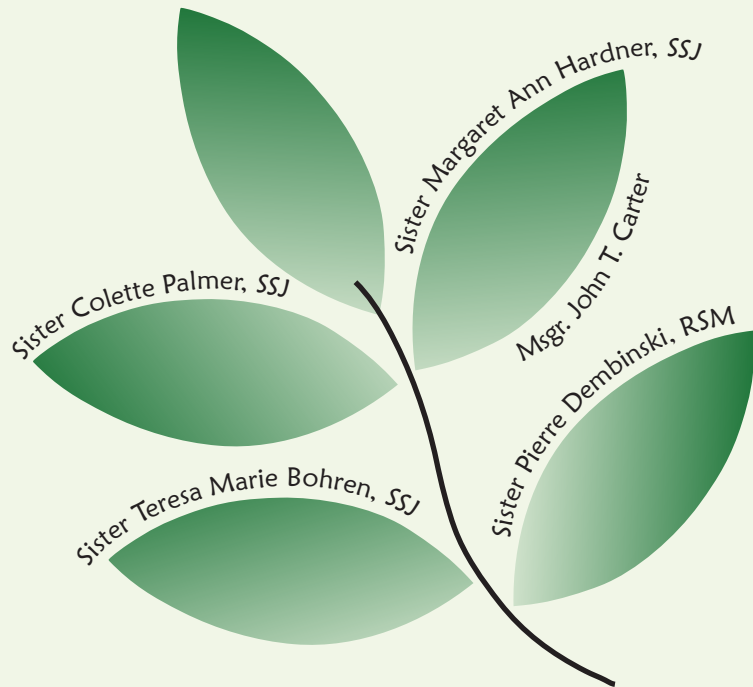
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

429 East Grandview Blvd. • Erie, PA 16504 • Ph: 814.824.1250 • Toll Free: 800.374.3723

Congratulations

Jubilarians...

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



Saint Mary's Home of Erie

Caring across the Centuries  125 years

Building the City of God One Man at a Time

Congratulations Men of Prep!

Newly Ordained

Rev. Daniel Hoffman '01

50 Years

Rev. Charles R. Schmitt

60 Years

Msgr. John T. Carter '42

40 Years

Rev. Robert L. Humenay



Developing men of vision in spirit, mind and body.

