February 19, 2026

Dear Monsignor or Father,

Coming up in the month of March, Catholic Sisters are being celebrated throughout the world, from the 8th through the 14th. This annual event was inaugurated to honor our consecrated women religious, with the intention of shining a light on the lives of these inspiring women, and to thank them for the gift of their vocation while inspiring other young women to discern God's call in their own lives. The theme of this year's celebration is "***Stories of Hope and Heart.***"

On the following page, you will find suggestions that will enable your parish to participate in celebrating the ministry of Religious who first came to this area in 1852.

The Church of Erie would not be what it is today without the life and apostolic work of Sisters. I doubt that there is a parish in our diocese that somewhere in its history was not touched by their lives and ministry.

Let us take time to remember them and give thanks for the gift they have been to all of us. Many of you and your parishioners have stories of how a Sister has influenced your life. This year we are inviting anyone who has such a story to share it online at www.eriecatholicsisters.org. If you have further questions do not hesitate to contact myself or Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ. Thank you for your support of our Sisters and of the Church of Erie.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

LTP/ma

Enclosure: Suggestions for Catholic Sister's Week

Diocese of Erie ❖ 429 E. Grandview Blvd. ❖ Erie, Pennsylvania 16504-2603 ❖ 814.824.1120

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

March 8-14, 2026

NCSW
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Parish Suggestions for honoring Catholic Sisters

Invite parishioners to share a memory of religious women on the diocesan website at **www.eriecatholicsisters.org**

In your bulletin include the names of all women who have entered Religious Life from your parish and their community. (If you want help with this, contact the Office for Religious)

List the Catholic Sisters names who serve or who have served in your parish; if their names slip your memory, recognize their religious community in your bulletin.

Acknowledge the presence of Catholic Sisters who celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy with you on Sunday.

Ask parishioners to send a note or make a phone call to a Sister who influenced their lives. Most religious communities of Sisters may be found on the Internet.

Invite a Sister to talk for 5 minutes at the end of Mass about her vocation story.

If you have a parish newsletter, invite a Catholic Sister to write about her story.
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Have a meet and greet at your parish after Sunday mass and invite some Sisters to be present and or speak about their vocations.

If you have a school, ask the students to write letters to a Sister thanking her for her service to God and the church.

Prayers of the Faithful suggestions for Sunday, March 8

For the Catholic Sisters who have served this parish since its beginning, may they be blessed with peace and happiness. We pray…

-or-

For all Religious who have given their lives in service to the Church, especially those who ministered in the Diocese of Erie, may they know the reward of their labors. We pray…

Any questions please feel free to contact, Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ (814) 824-1217.