



April 1, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am pleased to inform you that a new committee has formed in the Diocese of Erie to help foster and promote devotion to the great gift of Christ in the Eucharist. The Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Committee (DEAC) is headed by Father Rich Toohey and has members from each deanery in the diocese. The DEAC seeks to encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament through its website (<https://www.eriecd.org/bishop/deac.html>), by providing speakers on the topic to parishes and interested groups and through other creative means.

Numerous Vatican documents speak to the importance of Eucharistic devotion. They encourage us to take time to kneel before Jesus present in the Eucharist, to make visits to a church whenever possible and to participate in both Eucharistic adoration and Benediction. It is inspiring to note that in recent times, the Church has seen a growing appreciation for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is especially heartening to see this occurring among our young people.

There is no substitute for our active worship of Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. This devotion is important to one of my top priorities, fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. I encourage priests, deacons, parish administrators and the leadership and faculties in our Catholic schools and religious education programs to foster Eucharistic devotion as a source of renewed strength and life in parishes, schools and faith formation programs. Visit the DEAC website for resources.

I invite all of us to continue to deepen our personal devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist. Our Lord has extended the invitation: "Come to me all you who find life burdensome, and I will refresh your souls!" (Matthew 11:28). As a diocesan family, let us respond to Christ's invitation and open our hearts to him, present in the gift eternal, the gift of life, the Most Holy Eucharist.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie



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