



7.13.26

Diocese of Erie issues correction regarding false clergy appointment information

A newspaper article published under the headline “Bishop Persico announces clergy appointments” contains false information regarding several priests of the Diocese of Erie.

The article incorrectly states that Bishop Lawrence Persico granted senior priest status to the Rev. Philip P. Oriole, the Rev. James R. Gutting, the Rev. Daniel T. Arnold (deceased), the Rev. Michael W. DeMartinis and the Rev. Paul A. Siebert.

Bishop Persico has made no such appointments. This information is entirely false and was never issued, authorized or released by the Diocese of Erie.

The only appointments announced by Bishop Persico are those included in the official diocesan notice dated July 10, 2026, which is available on our website at

<https://www.eriercd.org/images/sections/news/pdf/Clergy%20Announcement%207-10-26.pdf>.

The Diocese of Erie has requested an immediate retraction and correction from the newspaper.

We regret the confusion and concern this false report has caused the priests named, their families, parish communities and the faithful of the diocese.

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