



Spirit Echoings

Pope Leo's Prayer For Discernment

Holy Spirit, you, light of our understanding,
gentle breath that guides our decisions,
grant me the grace to listen attentively to your voice
and to discern the hidden paths of my heart,
so that I may grasp what truly matters to you,
and free my heart from its troubles.
I ask you for the grace to learn how to pause,
to become aware of the way I act,
of the feelings that dwell within me,
and of the thoughts that overwhelm me
which, so often, I fail to notice.

I long for my choices
to lead me to the joy of the Gospel.
Even if I must go through moments of doubt and fatigue,
even if I must struggle, reflect,
search, and begin again...

Because, at the end of the journey,
your consolation is the fruit of the right decision.
Grant me a deeper understanding of what moves me,
so that I may reject what draws me away from Christ,
and love him and serve him more fully.



Wiktoria
Ulma and
children.



Blessed
Wiktoria Ulma.



Their Lives Proclaimed Christ



The heart of our religious life as Sisters of the Holy Spirit is the Sacrifice of the Mass. One of the many blessings of living at our Motherhouse is the ability to participate in daily Mass which is celebrated in our beautiful chapel by our chaplain, the Most Rev. William J. Waltersheid.

Bishop Waltersheid's love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and his deep understanding of the celebration of the Memorial of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus is very evident, especially as his homilies seek to have us grow more and more into an understanding of just what takes place on the altar during the Sacrifice of the Mass. By this he also attempts to show us how our participation in the Mass affects our everyday lives.

During a recent pilgrimage which Bishop Waltersheid led to Poland, he obtained a reliquary which contains the relics of an entire Polish family which has been beatified. We were blessed to have the bishop relate the following story:

“ Joseph and Victoria Ulma lived in Markova, a town in Poland. The time was World War II. Jews were being rounded up, and Poland had one of the largest populations of Jewish people within its borders.

Realizing the terrible threat to their Jewish neighbors, Joseph and Victoria decided to try to save members of three Jewish families by hiding them

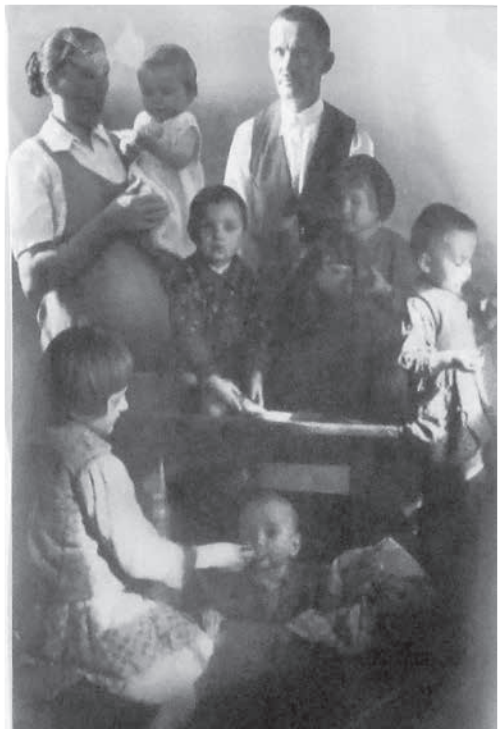
in their home. This was an extremely generous move, since they had six of their own children to feed, and Victoria was pregnant with another baby.

Their attempts were successful for 1 1/2 years until someone notified the Nazis about what Joseph and Victoria were doing.



The Nazis arrived, shot the Jewish people in their beds, and hauled Joseph and Victoria and their children outside where they proceeded to gun down the parents and then also the children who were making such loud cries.

Later, when the remains were being buried, it was discovered that as she was being shot, Victoria had begun to deliver her baby. And now, it was an entire family and one baby in the womb who were sacrificed to the hatred of life by the Nazis that was surrounding them at that time.”



Ulma family
of saints.



Bishop
Waltersheid
with relic.

Bishop Waltersheid is very involved in the Pro Life movement. He was very touched by what had happened to the Ulma family, a family that valued all life including the lives of their Jewish friends that they were trying to save. He said that one of the most important things he wanted to accomplish when he was in Poland was to obtain relics of the family; however, the only way to get them was to “go and get them”. It happened, providentially, that two Polish women would be traveling from Przemyśl to Krakow where the bishop and his entourage would be staying at that particular time. They graciously offered to get and deliver the reliquary to the bishop who presented it to us for our viewing and our understanding of what such great love had been accomplished by Joseph and Victoria and all their children who lived the words of Jesus:



Blessed
Josef Ulma.

Greater love than this no one has, that one lay down his life for his friends. (Jn.15:13)



Sister Mary John and Janet Scullion.

Bloomfield Alliance Recognizes Service

Sister Mary John Cook has ministered in Bloomfield for many years. First serving as teacher and later as principal at Immaculate Conception School and St. Maria Goretti School, Sister continues to meet the needs of many people serving on the Lion's Club of Bloomfield as that group provides assistance to many families.

Even after the schools were closed, she has continued to tutor children, and she makes weekly visits to elderly residents in their homes. Sister Mary John has also recently been invited to join the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania as that group received a sizable grant to document the Italian population and culture of Pittsburgh and its surrounding areas.

In light of their appreciation, the Bloomfield Alliance presented Sister with a Lifetime Community Commitment Award during Little Italy Days in August. The members of the Alliance stated that they were eager to show appreciation "for your years of dedication to the people of Bloomfield and surrounding neighborhoods."

The Bloomfield Alliance also recognized Janet Scullion, a lifetime resident, friend, and generous contributor to the Bloomfield area as they presented Janet with an award.

Little Italy Days was the perfect setting for the presentation of the awards as it continues to recognize the bonds of friendship and dedication of the people of Bloomfield to their Faith and community.



Sister's service has not gone unnoticed; the Bloomfield Alliance has said that "Bloomfield has been blessed to have you in our neighborhood and the Church community for all these years, always working and helping everyone in need, especially our children."

Award Plaque.

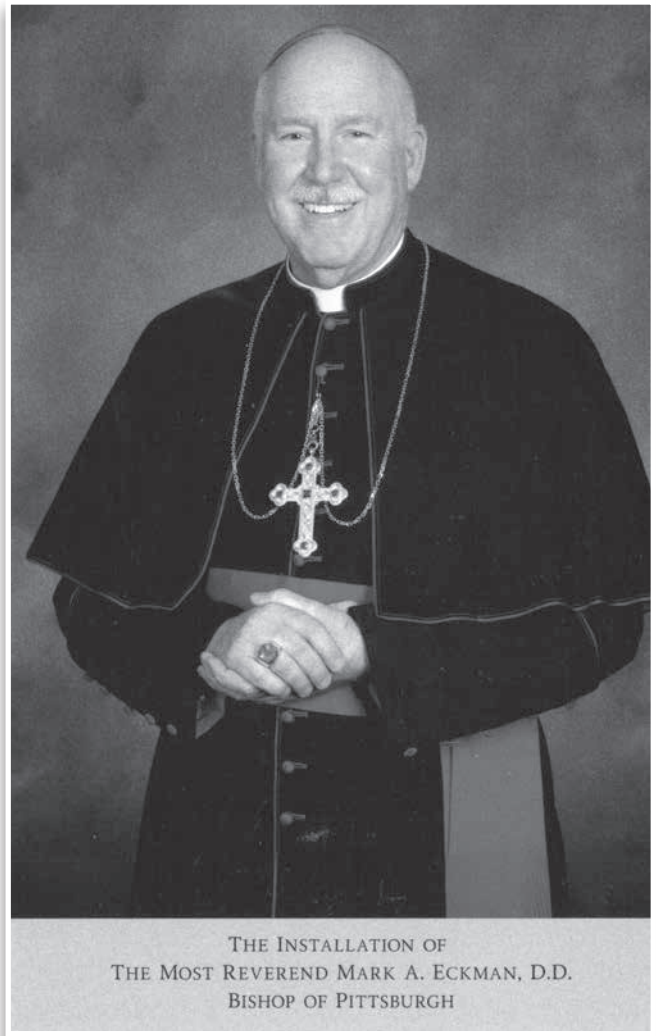
Diocese Welcomes New Bishop

The Diocese of Pittsburgh welcomed the Most Rev. Mark A. Eckman as its 13th bishop on July 14 when Bishop Eckman was officially installed during a Solemn Mass at Saint Paul Cathedral. Bishop Emeritus David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh spoke briefly and introduced Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States. Cardinal Pierre is the ambassador and official representative of Pope Leo to the United States.

In a letter addressed to the people of the diocese, Bishop Eckman expressed his gratitude to Bishop Zubik for his leadership and example. The Most Rev. David A. Zubik was appointed Bishop of Pittsburgh in 2007 and served until his retirement on July 14, 2025. We had been privileged to have Bishop Zubik as our Motherhouse chaplain shortly after his ordination as bishop.

Bishop Eckman chose as his episcopal motto:

*“To serve in faith
and charity”.*



He said that it expresses how he hopes to carry out his ministry. He said,

“I want to serve you with integrity, with faith rooted in Christ, and with a heart open to the needs of others. I will do my best to listen carefully, lead prayerfully, and support the good work already happening across our diocese.”

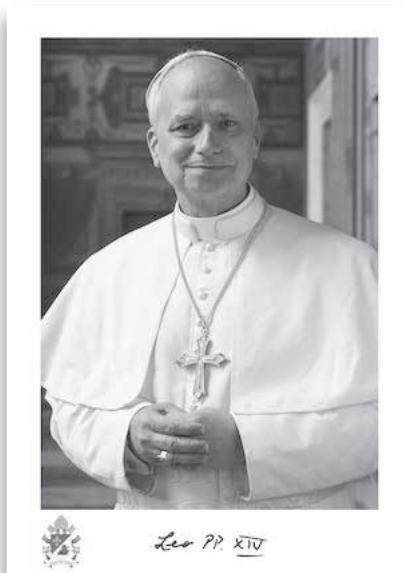
We congratulate Bishop Eckman on his appointment, and we ask God to bless him as he ministers to the people of our diocese.



HGHS Alumnae
with Sisters Marita
and Bridget.

Sisters and Alumnae Celebrate

The death of Pope Francis threw the world into a frenzy as people the world over grieved the death of the Holy Father and wondered and hoped for a pope who would carry on the compassionate papacy of Pope Francis.



The eighth of May erupted with delight and enthusiasm from the crowds as white smoke swirled over the Vatican and Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost accepted his election, taking the name of Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo XIII's papacy, which was known for his commitment to help the lives of many people, had an impact on the papacy of Pope Francis. It is suspected that Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* will also influence Pope Leo XIV.

That day, while a group of Holy Ghost Alumnae was visiting with our Sisters, a Sister entered the room and announced, "We have a Pope! Everyone rushed to the TV room where the Sisters were gathered. It was such a delight to be able to celebrate together the election of Pope Leo XIV.

Family Day Returns

After a long delay caused by construction of our new Motherhouse, Covid and all it entailed, Family Day was at last held on our Motherhouse grounds. Sister Donna Smith opened the doors of the retreat center which provided room for gathering for those families that wished to be indoors for the meals.

Families enjoyed food, fellowship with each other, and a tour of the Motherhouse.



Special efforts by Sister Patricia Eleanor Myers and Sister Mary John Cook, who had worked for months to create and make possible the event, made the day a delightful one, and even though it had been predicted, the rain stayed away

Needless to say, the children had crafts and many activities to keep them occupied and happy. Plans are now being made for next year's Family Day.



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Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit of Pittsburgh, declare our mission is to be joy-filled disciples of Jesus, prophetically witnessing to the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, aware of our call to work for the transformation of society into a Gospel community, reconciled with God and with one another.

**Is God calling you to religious life?
Would you like to join us in our work of Love and Joy?**

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