



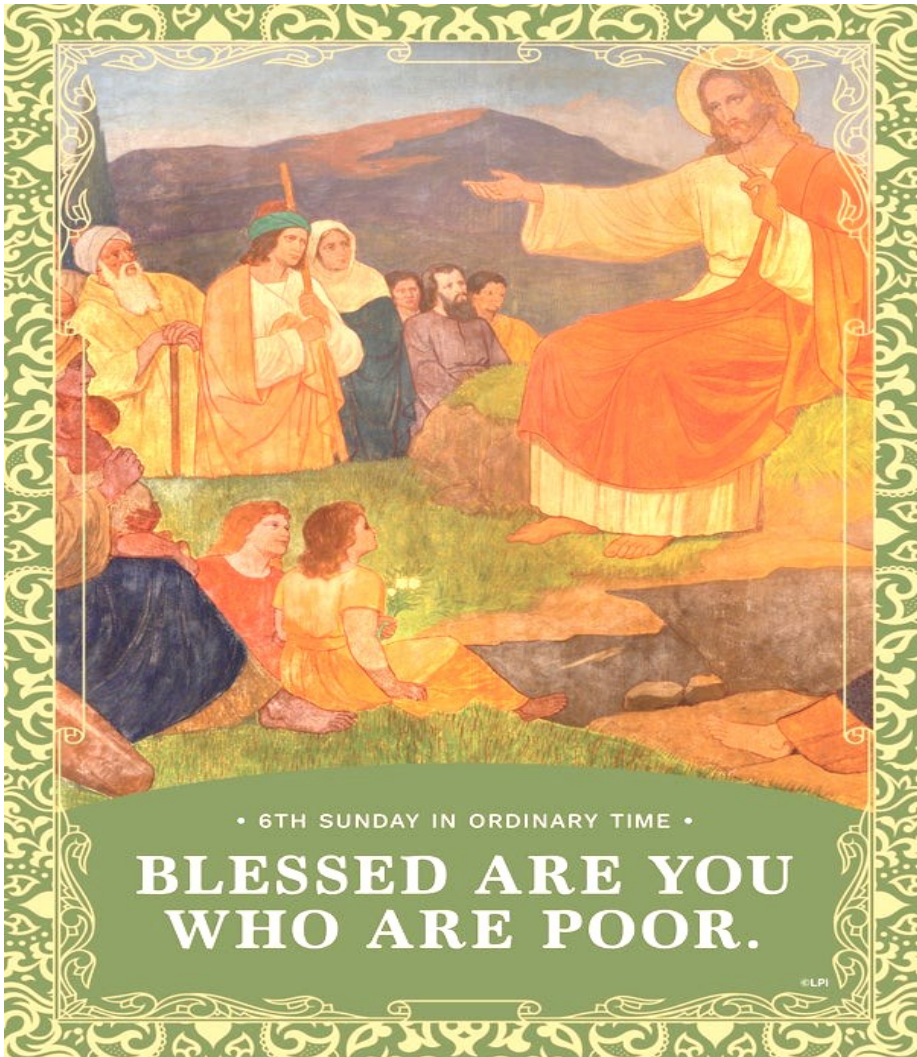
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407

# THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE AND ITS MISSION ST. TERESA OF AVILA



Saint Teresa of Avila Church  
9 Third Avenue  
Union City, PA 16438

## February 16, 2025



• 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

### BLESSED ARE YOU WHO ARE POOR.

© LPI

#### NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

St. Thomas the Apostle     St. Teresa of Avila

Please drop this information into Offertory Basket or mail to Parish Office.

**Rev. Thomas J. Whitman**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. Mr. Randy Kondrlik**  
*Deacon*  
rkondrlik@eriercd.org

**Rev. Mr. William Saborsky**  
*Deacon—Retired*

**Melissa Silka**  
*Business Manager and  
Director of Faith Formation*  
business@stparish.org

**Susan Johnston**  
*Secretary*  
secretary@stparish.org

**Carol Huffman**  
*Bookkeeper*  
finance@stparish.org

**Rhonda Pierce**  
*Coordinator of St. Thomas &  
St. Elizabeth Cemeteries*  
cemetery@stparish.org

**Chris Slocum**  
*Coordinator of St. Teresa Cemetery*  
814-462-6375

**Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish**  
[www.stthomastheapostle.church](http://www.stthomastheapostle.church)

**Saint Teresa of Avila Church**  
[www.st-teresa-unioncity.org](http://www.st-teresa-unioncity.org)

**Parish Office**  
203 W. Washington Street  
Corry, PA 16407  
814-663-3041

**Parish Office Hours**  
Monday: 12:30pm—3:30pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30am—3:30pm  
Thursday: 8:30am—12:00pm (noon)  
Friday: Closed

**Notes from the Pastor**

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL (CSA):** This past week, every registered parishioner, or parish family, should have received a letter in regard to the Catholic Services Appeal. I will address this appeal and our parish goals in my homily next week.

I ask that you read through the brochure and the information provided to see how our diocesan part of this appeal provides services for our parishioners and for people in need throughout the 13 counties of our diocese.

**SOUPFEST THANK YOU:** Thanks to the women of our Altar Rosary societies for helping with our Soupfest last Sunday. Thanks to all those who made soup, bread, rolls, and crackers to share. It was a delightful event.

**THE SOWER OF BLACK FIELD:** is a novel by Katherine Koch. It is based on a true story about a Passionist Priest from our Diocese (from Sharon, PA). It is the story of an American Priest in Nazi Germany. It is the story of a local hero. I have provided a copy of the book at each church for people to borrow. The signup sheet and the book are in the St. Elizabeth room at St. Thomas, and in the back of Church at St. Teresa. It is also available on Amazon for Kindle users (free) and as an audio book. I recommend books from time to time. I have recommended this book before, but it has recently won a number of awards and hope it finds its way into the eyes and hearts of people who enjoy a good story based on a real person.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:** One of the best kept secrets, and often misunderstood teachings of the Catholic Church, is what we call Catholic Social Teaching. Allow me to reflect on this for the next several weeks.

We have all had the experience of hoping for something to bring us happiness and at times it actually does, and at other times we know that we have been disappointed. As human beings we search to find happiness in life. Advertisements of all kinds appeal to this search for happiness in the things of this world. There are times when in fact they bring us happiness, but eventually we begin to search for something more. We come to recognize that our search for happiness cannot be satisfied fully by the things of this world.

We begin to realize that our search for happiness is infinite and the only way to satisfy that longing is with the infinite goodness of God. St. Augustine, who searched for happiness in physical things, ultimately realizes, "God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

How then do we achieve that happiness we so intensely long for? We need to remember our human nature. The nature of a fish is such that it thrives in water. It could jump onto land, but it would not survive for long. Or a tree needs sunlight to grow and bear fruit. Depriving the tree of sunlight can cause it to wither and die. In the same way, we need to remember our nature. We need to remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God. This means that we are not just physical beings, and not just spiritual beings, but we are both body (physical) and soul (spiritual). We also possess free will and can make choices that produce consequences. We do not just act on instinct or impulse. We are also rational beings. We can think in ways that animals cannot. We can engage in self-reflection and abstract thinking. And we are able to enter into communion with other people and with God. We can go outside of ourselves and enter into relationships with other people.

*Continued* ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

**Sunday, February 16**

8:00a.m. †Wascak and Blair Families by Gil & Barbara  
Wascak  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. †Matilda Makohus by Pat Kusiak  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Monday, February 17**

8:00a.m. †Don Tinko by Irene Weaver and family  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Tuesday, February 18**

8:00a.m. †Amoroso and Lutz Families by Family  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

**Wednesday, February 19**

8:00a.m. †Janet Mitchell by Amy McInnis and  
Denise Munn (St. Thomas, Corry)

**Thursday, February 20**

No Mass or Services at either Sts. Thomas or Teresa today.

**Friday, February 21**

8:00a.m. †Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Saturday, February 22**

4:30p.m. †Ronnie Bem by Wally & Kathy Bem  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

**Sunday, February 23**

8:00a.m. †George Baker by Rosemary Baker  
(St. Thomas, Corry)

11:00a.m. For the Peoples of Sts. Thomas  
(St. Teresa, Union City)

## PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Unfortunately, we do not always live up to the image of God we have been made in. At times, in our weakness, we sin and fail. We choose to do the wrong things or hurtful things, rather than the good and helpful things. Jesus comes into our world, taking on our human nature to show us how to live our human life to its fullest potential. By his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus redeems and transforms our sins and failings. He shows us how to be fully human. Thus our deepest identity is to imitate the life of Jesus. Our fullest happiness, the happiness we long for, comes in our following more closely the life of Jesus. God desires for us to live our lives to the fullest, and to find the fullness of life and joy. Jesus reveals to us how we can find that fullness of life and joy by following his example.

We all know people who follow the example of Jesus and live their lives with a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. We admire those people for the qualities they possess, and we attempt to follow their example. The very attributes we find attractive in God are also found in the people around us, and in our own lives.

That is our starting point: We are made in the image and likeness of God, and our ultimate happiness is found in living our lives being true to our original goodness. The example of Jesus provides us with an example we can follow in order to find our true happiness.

- Fr. Tom

# St. Thomas News



**PRAYER LINE... call:** Gerrie (814-665-6944), Pam (814-664-7459), or Diane (814-882-6806).  
*Since prayer is an important ministry of trust, know that all requests are kept confidential.*



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** at St. Thomas Church for the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Gerald Schneider by Tom & Lori Dingfelder and family.

### Choir Rehearsals at St. Thomas

We will be starting Choir Rehearsals for Lent and Easter on **Monday, March 10 from 6:00pm—7:30pm**. Rehearsals will be weekly on Monday evenings from March 10 through April 14. We had a very dedicated small group at Christmas and we welcome more voices to join the choir which helps to enhance our liturgies, especially for the Lent and Easter season. Please consider join us—thank you. Any questions, please ask Joan Allen or Gary Johnston. *We hope to see you at choir practice.*



### “Question of the Week” - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Question for Children:** How do you experience God’s blessing in difficult times, when you are sad, hungry, or when friends reject you?

**Question for Youth:** How does trusting in God make a difference in your life?

**Question for Adults:** In today’s Gospel, we are reminded that we will be either blessed or have woe done unto us. It’s a challenging teaching! Which half of this Gospel reading applies to you?

### Snowman Raffle Tickets Winners

Winners of the Corry Knights of Columbus Council #425 Snowman Raffle were drawn at their meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The winners are: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize/\$100—Mike Gluvna, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize/\$50—Gary Johnston, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize/\$25—Philip Stec. Thanks to all who purchased tickets in support of our organization.

**CORRY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #425**  
**SNOWMAN RAFFLE**  
 1st PRIZE - \$100.00 CASH  
 2nd PRIZE - \$50.00 CASH  
 3rd PRIZE - \$25.00 CASH  
 Drawing at Knights of Columbus "February Meeting"  
 Donation: \$1.00



### You're Invited to Coffee and Donuts TODAY

Coffee & Donuts will be served after Sunday’s 8:00am Mass on February 16 in the multipurpose room at Saint Thomas. Donations accepted to help cover expenses. All are welcome to join us.

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.  
 For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
 Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### Requests for Mass Intentions



Contact the parish office at 814-663-3041 to schedule Mass intentions for loved ones. We will do our best to accommodate date requests. The stipend is **ONLY \$10 per Mass**. Please do not send extra money as it causes our books to be out of balance. Thank you. We suggest that you make a donation to the church with any ‘extra’ funds you wish to give towards Masses. You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle for a loved one at either of our churches for just \$10 for one week.



### COAL Sweepstakes Raffle

The Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly #963 are selling COAL (*Chance Of A Lifetime*) raffle tickets with 16 prizes totaling \$65,000 and a top prize of \$15,000. Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold before and after weekend Masses at St. Thomas Church and also at the St. Thomas Fish Dinners through March. You may also contact Mike Gluvna (814-964-2387) to purchase tickets. Proceeds benefit the State Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program and Assembly #963 charities. Thank you.

COAL SWEEPSTAKES 16 GREAT PRIZES			
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$15,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$10,000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$7,500	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$5,000
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$5,000	6 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$5,000	7 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,500	8 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,500
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,500	10 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,000	11 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,000	12 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$2,000
13 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$1,000	14 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$1,000	15 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$1,000	16 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$1,000

Shenell State Council Scholarship  
 Drawing - PA State Council Cooperation, Distributed by Filibus, Pittsburgh, PA  
 PRIZES MAY BE PAID IN CASH OR IN KIND  
 TICKET RESALES ARE NOT BE PERMITTED  
 DONATIONS FIVE DOLLARS

### Kiwanis Sponsoring AMBA Blood Testing in Corry

The Kiwanis Club of Corry is again sponsoring the AMBA blood analysis screening on Saturday, March 29 and Saturday, May 17, 2025 at St. Elizabeth Parish Center, 33 W. Pleasant St., Corry. Appointments are needed and are available between the hours of 6:00am—10:00am. Call 1-800-234-8888 to make an appointment. Operators are available to take your calls Monday—Friday between 8:30am and 5:00pm. Basic testing costs \$44 plus fees. If you have questions, or are interested in setting up an appointment, please call 1-800-234-8888.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Men’s Conference

Join men from across the Diocese of Erie for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual 22:32 Men’s Conference. The conference is Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am—1:00pm and is a day of inspiration and spiritual growth, open to men of all faiths, featuring national speakers Dan DeMatte and Jeff Joaquin. Multiple ways to attend: (1) Live in-person at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, (2) Live-streamed to hosting parishes (see list on our website, [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com)); or (3) Live-streamed to your home. Don’t miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, Reconciliation and Mass. The event is \$25. Group discounts available. For more information and to register, visit [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com) or call 814-455-7364.



### Saturday Morning Rosary

All are invited to join us on Saturday mornings at Saint Thomas Church at 9:00am as we pray The Rosary together in community.

### St. Thomas Church Organizations / Groups

- Altar—Rosary Society**  
Meets the third Wednesday of the month
- Knights of Columbus—Corry Council #425**  
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas**  
Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM

**St. Teresa News**



No matter what our station in life, we must make the words of the psalmist our own, "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." There is no other way, no other truth, no other life but that which comes from God.

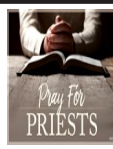
**Family Perspective**

When you hear today's gospel speak of poverty, hunger, sorrow, or exclusion, you don't have to look far. These struggles often occur within families. Children feel 'insulted' when constantly criticized. Spouses 'hunger' for affection. Grandparents feel 'excluded' by divorce and custody decisions. Parents 'weep' because they feel alienated from their children.

 Journey with the Diocese of Erie  
[ErieRCD.org/HolyYear2025.html](http://ErieRCD.org/HolyYear2025.html)




Feast Day—February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**THE CHAIR**  
*of*  
**ST. PETER THE APOSTLE**



Rev. Msgr. Robert Smith, Rev. David Wilson, Rev. William Barron, Rev. John Beal, Very Rev. Marc Stockton, Rev. Stephen Schreiber, and also please *Pray for All Priests and Deacons in our diocese.*

- St. Teresa Church Organizations / Groups**
- Rosary—Altar Society**  
Meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM
  - Knights of Columbus**  
Meet every third Wednesday at 7:00 PM
  - Religious Education Guild**  
Meets during the school term

 **The SANCTUARY CANDLE at St. Teresa Church for the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> burns in honor of our Lord and in memory of Bill Flynn by Judy Flynn.**

**Readings for the week of February 16, 2025**

Sun.: Jeremiah 17:5-8 ♦ Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a) ♦  
 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 ♦ Luke 6:17, 20-26

Mon.: Genesis 4:1-15, 25 ♦ Psalm 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 ♦  
 Mark 8:11-13

Tues.: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 ♦ Psalm 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 ♦  
 Mark 8:14-21

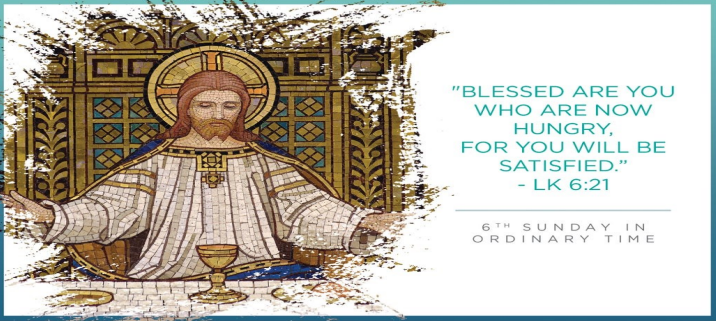
Wed.: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22 ♦ Psalm 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 ♦  
 Mark 8:22-26

Thur.: Genesis 9:1-13 ♦ Psalm 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 ♦ Mark 8:27-33

Fri.: Genesis 11:1-9 ♦ Psalm 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15 ♦ Mark 8:34—9:1

Sat.: 1 Peter 5:1-4 ♦ Psalm 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 ♦ Matthew 16:13-19

Next Sun.: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 ♦ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 ♦  
 Luke 6:27-38



**Cursillo for Men & Women—Upcoming Retreats**  
 Please pray this week for the men who will be making a Cursillo retreat and the team leading the retreat. Men's Cursillo #255 is scheduled for February 21-23 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek. *Still time to sign up, if interested!*

*Are you looking for a community of true Christian friendship and an chance to grow in your faith?*  
 A Cursillo retreat is for you....



Cursillo is a weekend retreat that focuses on the teachings of Jesus and is designed to help you come to a new awareness of the ways you can live out your faith. It runs from a Friday morning through a Sunday afternoon.

The weekend is open to all adults who are ready to learn, grow and experience their Catholic faith through talks, worship, fellowship and self reflection.

Cursillo has made a huge difference in the lives of millions of people throughout the world, and is frequently described as the gift that keeps on giving... Join us! Register online at [eriecursillo.org](http://eriecursillo.org).

Coming up in March is a Women's Cursillo #263 (March 21-23) at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Harborcreek. If you wish to be a part of a Cursillo to deepen your faith, please reach out to Judy Flynn (814-392-0746), Deacon Bill, or visit the Cursillo website.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:** February 8 & 9, 2025

**Total Offertory Income** ..... \$7,126.13


**Average Budgeted Offertory Income** ..... \$7,700.00

**Offertory Shortfall**.....\$(-573.87)

*Thanks to everyone who regularly uses his/her envelopes.*

**Please write checks to St. Thomas Church.**

***If checks are to go to our parish cemeteries—please make them to either St. Thomas Cemetery, St. Elizabeth Cemetery, or St. Teresa Cemetery. Thank you.***



**Please know that you can now give all your donations online by visiting our parish website at [www.StThomastheApostle.Church](http://www.StThomastheApostle.Church) and click 'Donate Online'.**

*If you are not receiving offertory envelopes from our parish and wish to, please contact the parish office. Thank you!*

**Help Spread the Faith Collection** ..... \$1,060.00

Thank you for donating to the Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection which was taken up in our parish the weekend of Jan. 25/26. Your gift helps support the vital communications utilized by our diocese such as *Faith Magazine*, Diocese of Erie-News and social media.

**THANK YOU** to all of our bulletin sponsors! We appreciate their support of our parishes and ask our parishioners to please patronize these business.

**Parish Office Closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

We will not be open on Monday this week—sorry for any inconvenience. Please call or visit the parish office this week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (February 18-20). Thank you.

**Diocese of Erie**

*Pre-Lenten Retreat*

**FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2025**



Step away from busyness and stress to join other single and married adults in a weekend of prayer and community. The Virtue & Integrity Education Office of the Diocese of Erie is sponsoring a pre-Lenten retreat, which will include reflections on each person's call to holiness by Fr. Chris Beran. Opportunities for the sacraments, time for quiet prayer, and community will be available.


Sign-Up: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=KP4rk4>



We hope to see you for this year's Pre-Lenten Retreat at the peaceful *Saint Thomas More House of Prayer* 365 Hill City Rd, Cranberry, PA 16319.

**Religious Education News**

**2024-2025 Religious Education Program**



Our Religious Education Program combined this year. **Now that we are in the second half of the Religious Education year (January—May) — ALL Classes will meet at St. Thomas school building from 9:00am—10:30am on Sundays.**

**Calendar Reminders for Religious Education**

February 16—No Classes today  
 February 23—Classes for all students at St. Thomas  
 March 2—Classes for all students at St. Thomas (Youth Mass)  
 March 9—Classes for all students at St. Thomas (Lenten activity)  
 March 16—No Classes today /Interviews for Confirmation students  
 March 23—Classes for all students at St. Thomas with confessions  
 March 30—Classes for all students at St. Thomas



**DIocese of ERIE**  
*Sharing the Catholic faith in northwest Pennsylvania*

Visit the diocese's website at [www.eriercd.org](http://www.eriercd.org) for information, news and resources about our Catholic faith and much more.



*Diocese of Erie*  
**2025 Catholic Services Appeal**

**One Faith  
 One Family**

*"That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you."  
 -John 17:21*

**Commitment Weekend  
 March 1 & 2**

We invite you to prayerfully consider your gift to the CSA which helps build the Kingdom of God through your support of our parish.

**Diocese of Erie**  
**Prayer for the 2025 Catholic Services Appeal**

God, loving Father,

With the One Faith you have bestowed upon us through your Son, Jesus Christ, and the flame of charity ignited in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, draw us together into One Family.

Through our proclamation of the Gospel and attentive listening to the needs of our sisters and brothers, may we be beacons of hope.

Through our dedication to the mission of your Church let the light of hope keep us mindful that the greatest and the least are members of your One Family.

For you live and reign forever and ever.  
 Amen

