

Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti
Bishop's Medal Recipient

Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti is a well-known and much-loved priest of the Diocese of Buffalo. He has had a long, accomplished career as a priest, but for those whose lives he's touched, Msgr. Lorenzetti has been more than just a priest. He's been a friend, a teammate, a confidante and an inspiration.

During his 56 years of priesthood, one of Msgr. Lorenzetti's foremost concerns has always been Catholic education. From elementary to adult education, he has touched the lives of many across Western New York and around the world. In his own words, "Catholic education is the basis that enables you to spread out and enhance all you do, your philosophy of living. It offers hope to everyone, because if we have faith, we are a success."

Born and raised in Buffalo, Msgr. Lorenzetti attended St. Gerard Elementary School and Hutchinson Central. After serving in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, he attended Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University and was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1953.

Between 1958 and 1976, Msgr. Lorenzetti began to set the tone for his life as a priest and pastor. In addition to his assignments as associate pastor and later pastor for several diocesan parishes, he was the director of the diocesan Office of Family Life for nearly 20 years. Msgr. Lorenzetti also served on the advisory board of the National Family Life Bureau, was a moderator for the Foundation of International Cooperation and for the Diocesan Guild of Catholic Physicians, a member of the New York State Catholic Committee, held the role of spiritual advisor for the National Federation of Catholic Physicians and was active on the Interfaith Committee for the Buffalo Diocese. He also lectured for the Air Force, Army and Navy in the Alaskan Command on education and family life.

Following a seven-year term as pastor at Holy Cross Church, Buffalo, Msgr. Lorenzetti became the pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, in Orchard Park. It was during this assignment that his vision for a thriving parish school led the efforts in acquiring West Seneca Elementary School 5, which had gone up for sale. Rallying his parishioners, Msgr. Lorenzetti told them, "This is good for the future of our parish and it'll help us grow." He purchased the building and got the school up and running and, under his leadership, it truly flourished into one of the largest schools in the diocese.

Msgr. Lorenzetti served as pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart until 1996, at which point he retired. However, retirement didn't slow down his priestly ministry, as he is still extremely active in the Buffalo Diocese. He travels all over the diocese to celebrate Mass wherever he's needed, offers spiritual guidance to people, and continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of Catholic education. He is remembered fondly as a man of tremendous faith and a source of inspiration; a priest who continually showed his parishioners hospitality, always welcoming and always willing to listen to them.

Msgr. Lorenzetti has been honored for his work and commitment to the Catholic faith in many ways during his career. Among other distinctions, Msgr. Lorenzetti has received the Curé of Ars Award from Christ the King Seminary, the St. John Neumann Award from the Federation of Catholic School Parents, the Judge John D. Hillery Scholarship Foundation Award, the St. Christopher Award from the Catholic Youth Organization, the Spirit of Mercy Award from Mount Mercy Academy, Buffalo, and the Mater Christi Award from Immaculata Academy, Hamburg.

It is for his passionate advocacy and lifelong commitment to Catholic education in the Buffalo diocese that Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti was being honored with the Bishop's Medal.