



Diocese of Scranton

www.dioceseofscranton.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

We the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, in union with our Holy Father, the Pope, are called through baptism to share in the mission which Jesus Christ has entrusted to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Priests, deacons, religious and laity, under the leadership of our Bishop, cooperate to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the teaching of the Church, to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, for the salvation of all, and to witness by grace to the Kingdom of God so as to promote a culture of life, justice and peace.

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Lent: Time of the Goodness of the Lord

"The Lenten path we are following is a time of particular grace, in which we may experience the Lord's grace toward us," said Pope Benedict XVI to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square last Sunday.

He explained that the reason for this joy is related in the Gospel, in which Jesus cures a man blind since birth and asks him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The blind man recognizes the sign given by Jesus and passes from receiving the light in his eyes to the light of the faith: "Lord, I believe". This shows how a simple and sincere person may gradually undertake a path to faith: he first encounters Jesus as a "man" among others, then considers Him a "prophet," then finally opens his eyes and proclaims Him "Lord."

"We too, because of Adam's sin, are born 'blind', but at the baptismal font we are illuminated by Christ's grace," continued the Holy Father. "Sin brought harm to humanity, condemning it to obscurity and death, but the newness of life and the true end to which we are called are resplendent in Christ. In Him, reinvigorated by the Holy Spirit, we receive the strength to overcome evil and to do good."

"In fact, Christian life is a continual conformation to Christ, the image of the new man, in order to reach full communion with God. The Lord Jesus is 'the light of the world,' as 'the light of the knowledge of the glory of God' shines in Him, and continues to reveal the meaning of human existence in the complex fabric of history."

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Natural Family Planning Instruction

A public Natural Family Planning (NFP) class will take place on April 13 at 7:30 p.m in the basement of St. Peter's Cathedral rectory (315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton). The class will be led by Megan Murphy, C.N.F.P.I. and will last about two hours. The cost for the training is \$45 and includes materials and a basal body thermometer (the cost is \$35 if you already have the thermometer). Please call 207-2213, ext. 1133 to register.

NFP is a non-contraceptive and morally sound form of family planning. Safe, effective, and completely natural, NFP can be used by all women, whether they have short/long/irregular cycles, are post-partum, or perimenopausal. Major scientific studies on the effectiveness of NFP done by such organizations as the University of Heidelberg, the *British Medical Journal*, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare have shown NFP to be over 99% effective in helping couples to postpone pregnancy. Unlike any other form of birth control, NFP can also help couples achieve pregnancy by giving them the tools necessary to identify the most fertile periods in a woman's cycle.

Monthly classes and one-on-one instruction are available through the Diocese for a minimal fee. For more information or to find a certified NFP instructor near you, please call 207-2213, ext. 1133 or e-mail Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org. You can also explore the Natural Family Planning page at the diocesan website.

Evangelization: Our Call to Holiness and Mission Program in Scranton

The Office for Parish life and Evangelization, through the Pastoral Formation Institute, is sponsoring a three-evening session entitled "Evangelization: Our Call to Holiness and Mission," to be held on May 10, 11 & 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Diocesan Center in Scranton.

Guest presenter for the program will be St. Joseph Oblate Father Paul A. McDonnell, rector of the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary in Laflin.

The basic topics include: What is Evangelization? Why evangelize? How does evangelization happen? Father McDonnell will explain the concept of evangelization and provide practical application and examples for parishes to lead Catholicism renewal and conversion and to provide ways to "welcome home" those who have been away from the faith.

These sessions are highly recommended for parishes, cluster groups and individuals who desire to understand the meaning and importance of what it means to evangelize, especially as parishes are involved in *Called to Holiness and Mission: Pastoral Planning in the Diocese of Scranton*.

Cost to attend is \$20 per person or \$65 for five or more from one parish. To register, call 207-2213, ext. 1107.

Regional Workshops for the Implementation of *The Roman Missal*

General Meeting: May 3, Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.

Location: SS. Peter & Paul Hall, Towanda

Musicians Meeting: May 4, Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.

Location: SS. Peter & Paul Hall, Towanda

To register: Call Jane Guzek at the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization at 570-207-2213, ext 1105.

Holy Redeemer 'Golf Classic' Tees Off May 16

The Holy Redeemer School System will sponsor a "Golf Classic" on Monday, May 16, at Blue Ridge Golf Course in Mountaintop. Proceeds will benefit Diocesan Catholic Schools of Luzerne County.

The format for tournament play will be Captain and Crew. The event will open with a luncheon at 11 a.m., followed by shotgun start at noon. Reception and awards dinner at the course clubhouse will immediately follow.

Golfer fee is \$100. For complete golfer and sponsorship information, call the Diocese Development Office at 207-2250, or visit www.DioceseofScranton.org, Catholic Schools.

Involved In Adult Faith Formation?

Are you responsible for directing adult faith formation (AFF) in your parish or cluster? Do you have a desire to find ways in which you can increase the faith of the adult Catholics in your community? If so, please e-mail Brendan Murphy, diocesan Director of Family Life, Marriage Preparation, and Adult Faith Formation at Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org. This will put you on an electronic mailing list through which you will receive monthly e-mails containing suggestions on how to get AFF up and running in your parish/cluster, or how to improve existing programs. In addition you will receive access to great resources, reviews of AFF materials, tips on how to incorporate technology into your apostolate, and other helpful suggestions geared towards evangelizing adult Catholics.

April Editions of Free Resources Now Available

The April edition of the monthly adult faith formation (AFF) resource, *Disciple*, is now available. This month's issue features commentary on the Sunday Gospel readings, a look at the sacrament of reconciliation, a listing of upcoming adult faith formation opportunities in the Diocese and reviews of the book *Padre Pio Under Investigation* and the film *Padre Pio: Miracle Man*.

Also available is the next installment of *AD: Anno Domini* which looks at the key events occurring in the life of the Church from A.D. 900-1000 (previous installments, beginning with A.D. 30-100 are cataloged online).

The April edition of the monthly family resource, *Familia Fidelis*, is also available. This month's issue features a reflection for parents on the nature of the Christian family, a look at why we go to confession for teens, a review of *The Weight of a Mass* for children, and a look at this month's "Friend for Families," St. Gemma Galgani.

To receive these materials, contact Brendan Murphy at Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org or visit the Adult Faith Formation page on the diocesan website (www.dioceseofscranton.org).

Mark Your Calendar

Palm Sunday Interpreted Mass & Dinner for Catholic Deaf of the Diocese of Scranton, April 17 -- at St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin. Begins with gathering and Confessions at 1 p.m., followed by Solemn Liturgy of Palm Sunday, with blessing of palms, procession and signing of the Lord's Passion, celebrated at 2 p.m. Annual Palm Sunday Dinner follows in the St. Maria Goretti Parish Center. Reservations required; for more information, contact Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SSCM, at 207-2213 ext. 1101 or Timothy Wachs at: TJWTREK@aol.com.

Day of Recollection on the Sacrament of Penance, April 30 -- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Guest presenters: Jesuit Father Louis Bonacci, Diocesan coordinator of spiritual direction, and Secular Carmelite Lori Makos. Day includes sessions exploring the penitential sacrament, meditative prayer, recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, Sacrament of Reconciliation and celebration of Mass of Divine Mercy. Fee: \$30, includes instructional materials, continental breakfast and lunch. All faithful and parish leaders are welcome. For more information & registration, call Fatima Renewal Center at 563-8500.

Day of Reflection: "The Reign of the Sacred Heart through Mary's Immaculate Heart," May 14 -- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Guest presenter: Monsignor John Esseff. Offered by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, this Day of Reflection focuses on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart among families, especially through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The day includes celebration of Mass and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fee: \$30, includes lunch. To register, call Fatima Center at 563-8500.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, June 24-26 -- in Easton. Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the weekend program -- Friday evening through Sunday afternoon -- is an enrichment experience that helps good marriages grow stronger. For information & registration, call 1-800-787-7679, or visit the Web site: www.wwme-nepa.org. **Pre-registration required.**