

# Diocese of Scranton

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.*

*In union with our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.*

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## Diocese Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

The Diocese of Scranton will join with the Church across the United States to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2012 from Jan. 29 to Feb. 5. Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners and the community will take place.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2012 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." The theme focuses on three priorities that make Catholic schools stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught faith - not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

Bishop Bambera has recorded a message for Catholic Schools Week. It can be viewed on the homepage of the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org). The schedule of open houses in our schools can be found by clicking on the "Catholic Schools Week" banner on the homepage or by clicking on the Catholic Schools menu tab.

### **World Day for Consecrated Life**

The annual World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Diocese of Scranton on Sunday, Feb. 12, with a 10 a.m. Pontifical Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Eucharistic liturgy. All women and men Religious and members of various forms of consecrated life have been invited to this special event.

This year, 63 professed religious sisters and priests who are celebrating jubilee anniversaries of ordination or profession of vows will be honored. A reception following the Eucharistic celebration will be held across the street at the former Holy Cross High School (Scranton Campus).

The Diocese views the occasion as an opportunity to educate Catholics about the consecrated life, and to note the many contributions to the Church by women and men Religious and members of secular institutes.

"The many women and men Religious who have served and continue to serve in the Diocese of Scranton witness to and proclaim the Kingdom of God through various works of mercy and ministries of presence to God's People," said SS. Cyril & Methodius Sister Mary Beth Makuch, Delegate for Consecrated Life. "We are pleased to recognize their many years of selfless service, and offer our gratitude and prayerful support to them."

### **Vocation Discernment Weekend**

*February 10 - 12, 2012*

*Fatima Center, Dalton*

*Young men ages: 16-30*

Many young men have imagined the possibility of being a priest one day. Many have been told by others that they possess the qualities that would make a good priest. Often as young men consider their future, the idea of priesthood occurs over and over again, even as they look to other possible careers or to the married life. Frequently young men find peace around their search to know where God is leading them by talking about their interest in priesthood and by listening to the experience of those who have already decided to enter seminary to become priests. The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Scranton is hosting a weekend of discernment for young men in high school and beyond to assist them in recognizing whether God is inviting them to step forward to offer their lives as diocesan priests. The weekend program runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and includes a presentation on the basics of praying into God's will for us, testimony from current seminarians, celebration of Mass, personal prayer, and fraternity.

For further information contact Father Jim Rafferty, vocation director, at 570-207-1452 or [Rev-James-Rafferty@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Rev-James-Rafferty@dioceseofscranton.org)

## **Pastoral Formation Institute Continuing Ed Programs**

### ***Living the Eucharist (Paulist Evangelization Ministries)***

The Diocesan Pastoral Formation Institute is offering two Lenten programs entitled *Living the Eucharist*, a series designed to bring Catholics closer to God through a more profound experience of this central mystery of our faith.

The first program, directed by Father James Price, C.P., rector of St. Ann Shrine Basilica, Scranton, invites adults to participate in this faith formation experience once a week during Lent to learn more about the Eucharist, discuss the weekly Gospel reading, and discover ways to live the Eucharist in daily life. This group will meet on the Tuesdays in Lent on Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Center, Scranton. Fee is \$30 and includes cost of the workbook.

*Living the Eucharist for Teens* is set for Feb. 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, (Mondays) from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Oblate Seminary, Pittston. Kathy Yaklic, theology teacher at Holy Cross High School, will be the presenter. This program is an invitation to high school students to discuss ways in which they can grow closer to God through the Eucharist. Each week during Lent, through interaction, reflection and prayer, students will learn what is most meaningful in their lives by getting to know, understand and love the Sacrament of the Eucharist more deeply. The \$20 fee includes cost of the workbook. Five or more students from one parish or school can attend for a total of \$75.

To register for the above programs, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107.

### ***The Liturgical Year: Celebrating the Mystery of Christ***

Two additional programs will also be offered, one entitled "Easter Triduum" on Feb. 12, (Sunday), and the other, "The Easter Season" on March 18, (Sunday).

The Easter Triduum will focus on the passion and resurrection of the Lord, which shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year.

The next session will celebrate the 50 days from the Sunday of the resurrection to Pentecost Sunday. This presentation is also a catechesis designed to explain the liturgical meaning of the Easter season. Texts of the liturgy will be studied to demonstrate this meaning. Applications will be made to all the liturgies that may be celebrated in the 50 days of Easter.

Both of the above sessions will be held at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton, from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. The fee is \$10 and includes refreshments. To register, call 570-563-8500.

## **Pastoral Formation Institute Ministry Component**

### ***Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training***

Three opportunities for the training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the following sites:

#### **Diocesan Center, Scranton**

Feb. 27, March 12, 26 (Mondays) 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Monsignor Dale R. Rupert

#### **Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston**

March 5, 12, 19 (Mondays) 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Deacon Thomas Cesarini

Fee: \$30. To register, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107.

### **Basic Skills for Catechists**

Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 15, and 22 are the dates set for the Basic Skills classes to be held at Gate of Heaven School, Dallas. The sessions are from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Instructor is Mary Anne Malone.

The course is recommended for those who are beginning their ministry as catechists, and it is highly recommended for those who wish to strengthen their teaching skills. Based on the model of Jesus as the Master Teacher, the course will explain: using a teacher's manual, lesson planning, classroom management, methods of prayer, and other techniques. It will also offer ways in which the family unit can be incorporated into the religious education program.

The course will also explain the importance of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *National Directory for Catechesis*, and *The Directives for Religious Education in Parishes and Schools in the Diocese of Scranton*.

Fee: \$30 per person or \$95 for four or more persons from one parish. To register, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Feb. 10-12**

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend will take place Feb. 10-12 at St. Francis Renewal Center, Bethlehem. WWME is where you can find a way to make your good marriage even better and add greater depth, growth, and enrichment to your relationship. To register or learn more, call 1-800-787-7679 or visit [www.wwme-nepa.org](http://www.wwme-nepa.org).

### **Real Estate Availability**

The Property & Risk Management Division of the Diocese currently maintains a listing of real estate available for sale or use throughout the Diocese. If interested in learning about the available opportunities, please contact Ed Carlin, Property Assets Director, P&RM Division, at 570-558-4310.

### **World Marriage Day To Be Celebrated Nationally Feb. 12**

World Marriage Day, sponsored by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter, will take place this year on Sunday, Feb. 12. World Marriage Day is an opportunity for all of us to give thanks to God for the Sacrament of Matrimony and to offer prayers for those who have undertaken this vocation. We should especially pray for spouses as they work to raise families devoted to Christ and His Church.

Regarding this aspect of married life, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. For this reason the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica* [Domestic Church]. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are 'by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child, fostering with special care any religious vocation.'"

Remembering that Jesus Himself willed to be raised in a human family, let us all take a moment on Feb. 12 to pray for healthy families and marriages in our Church and world.

### **Wedding Anniversary Mass To Be Celebrated June 3**

If you and your spouse, or a couple you know, will be celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2012 please contact your parish office to register for the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass with Bishop Bambera. The celebration will take place on Sunday, June 3 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral. Participants will receive a commemorative certificate and have the opportunity to pose for a photo with the Bishop while enjoying a light reception. The deadline to register with your parish is March 15.

### **Applications Being Taken For Summer Mission Experience**

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life, Pontifical Mission Societies is sponsoring a Summer Mission Experience for high school juniors from July 9 to 21. Mission sites will be in the Archdiocese of Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies.

This is a faith-based mission journey which involves experiential and Christian presence, learning, service and interaction among children, youth and adults at the mission sites. The group will connect with other missionaries - priests, religious, and lay persons - serving disadvantaged children and adults in various ministries and programs.

Some of the activities will include volunteer service with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, programs for children, nursing homes, feeding centers, shelters for the homeless, and other reach-out services for the poor and needy.

The purpose of this experience is to provide high school students with an opportunity to know Christ amongst the poor, to gain a better perspective on their own lives, and a greater understanding of their Catholic/Christian faith and what it means to be missionary in today's world.

Total cost includes transportation, rooms, meals and other miscellaneous expenses and may amount to approximately \$1,600. Anyone who feels called to this mission experience should not let the cost keep them from applying. There are ways to raise the money. Those selected would need a passport and the cost for that is not included in the total cost listed above.

Applications are now being accepted from students in their junior year of high school - from Catholic schools, public high schools and home schools. Also, seminarians, teachers, and mission moderators interested in being a chaperone may apply.

Applications must be made by Feb. 10. The criteria for applicants can be found on the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) (see Diocesan Offices tab - Pontifical Mission Societies).

Information can also be obtained by contacting Miriam Heverline, mission education coordinator, at 570-207-2259 or [miriam-heverline@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:miriam-heverline@dioceseofscranton.org).

### **Pontifical Council Sponsoring Healthcare Conference in Philadelphia**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, under the sponsorship of the Pontifical Council for Healthcare Workers, is hosting a conference for healthcare workers and medical professionals on Saturday, Feb. 11, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook.

Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council, will give the keynote address at 11 a.m., offering reflections on the

message of Pope Benedict XVI for the 2012 World Day for the Sick. The Holy Father's message is entitled, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." (Luke 17: 19). Lunch will be available afterwards in the seminary cafeteria.

Dr. John Haas, director of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, will offer a lecture at 1:15 p.m. entitled "God Heals All Infirmities: The Power of the Sacraments in the Church's Healing Ministry."

Ron Rak, president and CEO of St. Peter Healthcare System, New Brunswick, N.J., will present a lecture at 2 p.m., addressing the topic of "Bearing Witness to God in a Healthcare Setting."

Dr. Nayan Kothari, associate dean of education at Drexel University, will offer a lecture at 2:45 p.m. entitled "Thou Shall Not Kill: Perspective of a Jain Physician."

The conference will conclude with Mass at 3:30 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Archbishop Zimowski will be the principal celebrant, and Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap. will deliver the homily.

Admittance to the conference is free of charge. To register, call Connie Scharff at 215-587-0504 or e-mail at [cscharff@adphila.org](mailto:cscharff@adphila.org). Lunch may be purchased at the seminary cafeteria the day of the conference for \$5.

### **ACTION ALERT**

#### **Say YES to a Woman's Right to Know**

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania, is asking us to voice support for the Women's Right to Know Act (HB 1077). Introduced in the Pennsylvania House, this bill would give women the right to view an ultrasound of their babies. Women in Pennsylvania are not currently given this right, even though abortion clinics do perform ultrasounds to determine the age of the child.

In 2012, ultrasounds are a common sense and even expected part of many medical evaluations and procedures. Without this bill, a double standard will remain whereby women in this time of need are not given complete information. Women should have the right to view their full medical records, and the technology exists and is already present in abortion clinics. The Women's Right to Know Act addresses this disparity.

[CLICK HERE TO SEND A MESSAGE IN SUPPORT OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW.](#)

#### **Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection at Fatima Center**

Passionist Father James Price, rector of St. Ann Shrine Basilica in Scranton, will serve as the presenter for the annual Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection on Feb. 22 at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton.

Theme for the day's program is: "Letting God Act During Lent: The Sunday Scriptures of Lent 2012." Throughout the observance of Lent, Christians are called to fast, pray, and give alms, while focusing attention on the following of Jesus in his journey of dying and rising. During the Reflection Day, Father Price will explain how the work of the living God leads us to transformation through the Sunday readings of Lent. Through this transformation of the "living word of God," we can more effectively participate in the great paschal mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection.

Registration fee for the Day of Reflection is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Fatima Renewal Center at 563-8500 or the Pastoral Formation Institute Office at 207-2213, ext. 1107.

### **Pastoral Formation Institute Courses Offered**

The Pastoral Formation Institute of the Diocese of Scranton announces its offering of Level III courses for the Spring 2012 semester. Level III courses are designed for Catholic school teachers, catechists, parish coordinators, or for those seeking personal enrichment. The course schedule is as follows:

**201 -Fundamental Teachings of the Church:** Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge, Feb. 21-April 24 (Tuesdays); 6 to 9 p.m. Instructor: Father Joseph Elston.

**401 - Introduction to the Spiritual/Moral Life,** Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, Laflin (Pittston), Feb. 21-April 24 (Tuesdays); 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Instructor: Father Martin Boylan.

**501 - The Church Through the Centuries** (three locations): St. John Neumann Regional Academy, Williamsport, Feb. 7-April 10 (Tuesdays); 3 to 6 p.m. Instructor: Father David Bechtel; Holy Cross High School, Dunmore, Feb. 15-April 18 (Wednesdays); 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Instructor: Ben Tolerico; Notre Dame High School, East Stroudsburg, Feb. 28-May 1 (Tuesdays); 3 to 6 p.m. Instructor: Helen Findlay.

Please note: If class falls on a holy day of obligation or a holiday, the instructor will advise on make-up dates. Registration fee for all courses is \$150 (audit: \$65). To register, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107 or e-mail: [sister-leonita-duhoski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:sister-leonita-duhoski@dioceseofscranton.org).

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Retrouvaille Weekend,** Feb. 10-12 -- at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Held from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, Retrouvaille is a weekend experience offered for those who have found themselves in a stressful marriage. The program is led by a trained priest and married couples who have survived marital difficulties. It is not counseling or group therapy. A registration fee is requested; however, finances should not prevent attendance. For more information and registration, call 1-800-470-2230. All information is confidential.

**Interpreted Mass for Catholic Deaf of the Diocese of Scranton,** Feb. 12 -- at St. Joseph's Oblates Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. Mass for the deaf signed & interpreted celebrated at 2 p.m. in the seminary chapel. Refreshments and social follow. For more information, contact Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SSCM, at 207-2213 ext. 1101.

**Day of Reflection: "The Saints -- Partners in Holiness,"** March 10 -- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Guest presenter: Monsignor John Esseff, who will lead participants in understanding more fully the baptismal call to holiness -- a calling to become saints. Through prayer and reflection, insights will be offered into how, by following the example of the saints, the faithful can be authentic witnesses of the Gospel. 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.