

Diocese of Scranton

www.dioceseofscranton.org

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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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ACTION ALERT

Tell Congress To Prohibit Taxpayer Funding for Abortions!

Your U.S. Congress representative is set to vote today (Thursday, Oct. 13) on legislation that would insure that taxpayer funds are never used to fund any abortions or provide abortion coverage under President Obama's new health care law.

The bill titled the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358) would specifically prohibit funding for abortion or abortion coverage in the government related exchanges, community health centers, or *any* other program authorized by the new law.

The proposed law would also protect conscience rights by specifying that federal agencies could not discriminate against healthcare entities that refuse to be involved in abortions.

Please contact your legislator today and urge them to vote YES on the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358) and to oppose any hostile amendments!

Pro-life groups are united behind this legislation. Our Catholic Bishops have also been urging Congress to pass this law.

Call 202-224-3121 and tell your representative you support H.R. 358 and want it approved!

If you do not know your legislator, you can look them up by visiting:
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find>

Thank you for your help with this vital pro-life matter!

Catechists Gathering For Convocation Saturday

Catechists from throughout the Diocese will convene for their annual Convocation this Saturday, Oct. 15. The theme of this year's event, which is sponsored by the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization, is "Vocations: Creating a Culture. Celebrating Our Call."

The day will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the celebrant.

The program will continue at Holy Redeemer High School. At 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium, Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of Harrisburg will deliver the keynote address. Lunch, a panel discussion on vocations and a variety of workshops, including a *VIRTUS* training session, are planned for the afternoon. The convocation will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

This will be a day of adult faith formation. All DREs, catechists, youth ministers and any adults in the Diocese who wish to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith are encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register, call the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization at 207-2213, ext. 1105. Registration can also be completed online at <http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/registration-form-for-convocation-for-catechists-2011/>

ACTION ALERT

Support School Choice!

School is back in session, and the Pennsylvania Legislature is back in Harrisburg. One of the issues our lawmakers are expected to address this fall is school choice legislation that would give more families the ability to determine which school best meets the needs of their children. Your support is crucial to the success of school choice!

Please visit, call, write or e-mail your State Representative and State Senator and tell them:

"I am one of your constituents, and I urge you to support school choice legislation that increases the EITC scholarship program and provides vouchers to families. It's very important to me that you vote in favor of school choice legislation so that families have the opportunity to choose the best school for their children. Please tell me how you intend to vote on this matter. Thank you."

For more details on this issue, contact information, and an easy way to send an email to state legislators in the Diocese of Scranton, please visit www.pacatholic.org/schoolchoice and see the "Contact Your Legislator" button.

Thank you for your help!

Theology of the Body Sessions

A two-part session on "The Theology of the Body" will be presented by Brendan Murphy, director of adult faith formation in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life and Evangelization, on Sundays, Oct. 16 and Oct. 30, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at St. Peter Church in Wellsboro.

Blessed John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* is a meditative reflection on what it means to be created male and female and how that relates to the gift of our sexuality.

These sessions are of particular interest to teachers, catechists, youth ministers, married couples/parents, engaged couples or those interested in learning more about the gift the late pope has given the Church.

Fee: \$30, which includes the book by Christopher West, *The Theology of the Body for Beginners*. To register, call 207-2213, Ext. 1107.

Natural Family Planning Instruction

A public Natural Family Planning (NFP) class will take place on October 19 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Peter's Rectory basement (315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton). The class will be led by Brendan and Heather 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 570-207-2213, ext. 1133 or e-mail Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org. You can also explore the Natural Family Planning page at the diocesan website.

Free Adult Faith Formation Resources Available

The October 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 Catholic belief about chastity; a listing of upcoming adult faith formation opportunities in the Diocese and reviews of the book *Confessions* and the film *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*.

Also available on the Adult Faith Formation page is the next installment of *AD: Anno Domini* which looks at the key events occurring in the life of the Church from A.D. 1500-1600 (previous installments, beginning with A.D. 30-100 are cataloged online).

The October edition of the monthly family resource, *Familia Fidelis*, is also available. This month's issue features a reflection for parents on four elements of conflict resolution; a look at why we go to Mass for teens; a review of *Horton Hears a Who* for children, and a look at this month's "Friend for Families", Saints Basil and Emmelia.

As always, past issues of these newsletters can be found on the

Adult Faith Formation and Family Life pages of the diocesan website (www.dioceseofscranton.org).

Guardian of the Redeemer Fellowship to Host Men's Conference Oct. 29

The Guardian of the Redeemer Catholic Men's Fellowship in the Diocese of Scranton will sponsor a Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, Oct. 29, at St. Joseph's Oblates Seminary in Laflin. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and light refreshments will be served.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the day, which will conclude with the celebration of Eucharistic liturgy. Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty will serve as principal celebrant for the Mass.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be Brian J. Gail, former Fortune 500 senior executive and CEO who is now a best-selling Catholic author and critically acclaimed presenter on matters of faith and the family.

Registration fee for the conference is \$20 (an early registration of \$15 is available until Oct. 22). A percentage of the fee will be donated to Mother Teresa's Haven for homeless operated by the Scranton Diocese. Clergy and seminarians may attend free of charge; however, registration is required.

For more information, call 362-0417 or visit: www.guardianoftheredeemercmf.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.

Embed the Disciple Podcast on Your Parish Website

The *Disciple* Podcast is a monthly podcast created by the Diocese's Office for Parish Life and Evangelization which seeks to educate and inspire. Each episode highlights an area of Catholic belief, something good happening in our parishes, the life of a saint, and a calendar of adult faith formation events. To embed the Disciple player on your parish website is easy. Please contact Brendan Murphy at 570-207-2213, ext. 1133 or Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org to receive the embedding code for your webmaster. Embedding the podcast on your website will allow parishioners to listen to it directly on your site or download it to a CD or mp3 player.

Mark Your Calendar

"Rachel's Vineyard": Post-Abortion Healing Retreat -- Nov. 4-6. Confidential weekend retreat facilitates spiritual and emotional healing for men and women struggling with the pain of abortion. Exercises based on Scripture are designed to help participants experience God's mercy and compassion, and to reconcile with their church, themselves and their child. The retreat concludes with a memorial service and Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential. For more

information, including registration, contact Denise Rowinski at 822-7118 ext. 307 or drowinski@csswb.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, Nov. 4-6 -- at Fatima Renewal Center in Dalton. Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the weekend program -- Friday evening through Sunday afternoon -- is an enrichment experience that helps good marriages grow stronger. Weekend series of presentations given by a team of married couples and a Catholic priest; there is no group-sharing. Donation is requested to attend. For information & registration, call Ed & Diane Zindell at 570-876-1610 or visit the Web site: www.wwme-nepa.org. Early registration is requested.

Ministry of Consolation Training Session, Nov. 5 -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John Parish Hall, East Stroudsburg. Presenter: Nettie Goldate, certified trainer by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. This session will provide training for those who offer support to the bereaved. Topics include: Overview of Grief & Mourning; Order of Christian Funerals; and Concentration on Communication/Listening Skills. Session will also include information on how to begin a Ministry of Consolation on the parish level. Fee: \$30, includes lunch. To register, call 207-2213 ext. 1107.

Day of Recollection for Catechists, Nov. 19 -- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Guest presenter: Monsignor David Tressler, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale, and administrator of Holy Cross High School, Dunmore, who will explain the role of catechist as evangelizer -- one who proclaims the Good News of Jesus, especially to the young. Participants will come to understand the catechetical mission of the Church through its catechetical documents, become aware of the relationship between catechesis and evangelization, and focus on ways to instill within the young a deeper and more vibrant practice of their faith. The day includes celebration of Mass and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fee: \$30 per person, includes lunch \$100 for five or more from one parish. To register, call Fatima Renewal Center 563-8500 or the Pastoral Formation Office 207-2213 ext. 1107.