

# 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 Helping Flood Victims

The Diocese of Scranton continues to assist the many people who have been affected by the recent flooding in our region.

Recently a Special Collection for flood victims was taken up in all parishes. If you were not able to participate at that time, you can still support our relief efforts by making a donation to the Diocesan Relief Fund. Donations can be sent to your parish or to: Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Bishop Bambera has established a Diocesan Relief Commission that has begun to provide assistance to flood victims from throughout seven of the eleven counties of the Diocese.

Many of our parishioners, neighbors and friends need our help. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

### **Respect Life Sunday Mass Oct. 2 at Cathedral**

The Diocese of Scranton will observe Respect Life Sunday with the celebration of the Mass on Sunday, Oct. 2, at 12:15 p.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as the principal celebrant for this special liturgy which highlights the Catholic Church's respect for the sanctity and dignity of life spanning all stages and conditions, from conception to natural death. It celebrates the life of the unborn, persons with disabilities, the deaf, the ill, and those in the last stages of earthly life. The liturgy is also offered for victims of abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty.

Students representing Diocesan Catholic schools and parish Religious Education programs, in addition to representatives of organizations that work to uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life, will serve in various ministerial roles at the Mass.

The faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend this special liturgy. The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television.

### **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](http://www.pacatholic.org) and see the "Vote for School Choice" link.

*Thank you for your help!*

### **Registration Open for Catechists Convocation**

Registrations are being taken for the Convocation for Catechists to be held 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/>

### **"Pray for the DREAM" This Sunday**

Faithful in the Diocese of Scranton are invited to participate in the "Pray for the DREAM" Sunday on Sept. 25 in support of immigrant youths who aspire to become educated citizens.

This initiative is being promoted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Justice for Immigrants (JFI) Campaign to encourage Congress to pass the DREAM Act. The legislation would provide a pathway to citizenship for young people who came to the United States with their parents.

Thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as children want to go to college and live the American Dream, but can instead be detained and deported to countries they've never known. The DREAM Act could stop this injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated from high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through higher education or military service.

While the national debate over immigration reform continues, it is important to ensure that our Catholic values remain an essential component of the dialogue concerning innocent and hard working young people who are eligible for the DREAM Act.

The United States is a country of immigrants seeking a way of life that is supported by our longstanding Catholic traditions and highlighted in our U.S. Constitution. As Catholics, we support the DREAM Act because we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, allowing everyone to reach their God given potential.

Parishes have been asked to participate in the "Pray for the DREAM" Sunday by raising awareness about the DREAM Act and the Justice for Immigrants Campaign. It is the hope of the JFI campaign that parishes across the country will plan events and/or connect their Masses, prayers and homilies to continue the call in support of the DREAM Act.

For more information about the DREAM Act, please visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

### **Theology of the Body Sessions in October**

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.

### **Faith Formation Study Program**

A faith formation study program is being offered this fall through the Pastoral Formation Institute. The program will be presented by Brendan Murphy, director of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese.

"A Biblical Walk through the Mass" is scheduled to be held at Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Hawley on the following Thursdays: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; and Nov. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. The fee for this program is \$30, which includes the \$20 cost of the workbook and study book.

A five-part study, "A Biblical Walk through the Mass" offers a more in-depth study of the liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass that goes into effect this coming Advent, the series explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures experienced during the Mass and explains their profound significance. This faith formation program is a component of "The Great Adventure Bible Series."

To register, call the Pastoral Formation Institute Office at 570-207-2213, ext. 1107.

### **Workshop Will Prepare Faithful to Receive the New English Texts of *The Roman Missal***

The Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Formation Institute is sponsoring a workshop on "The Mystery of Faith: Preparing to Receive the New English Texts of *The Roman Missal*."

Monsignor Dale R. Rupert, director of the Diocesan Office for Divine Worship, will present the workshop on Oct. 8 at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will cover several topics, including the process of translation of liturgical texts from the original Latin into English, how the Church's doctrines are reflected in the new texts of the Mass, and the deeply spiritual and very scriptural characteristics of these liturgical texts. Mass will be celebrated at the beginning of the workshop.

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch provided at the Center. Advance registration is required and can be made by calling the Pastoral Formation Institute at 570-207-2213, 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 lead 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](mailto:Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org). You can also explore the Natural Family Planning page at the diocesan website.

### **Free Adult Faith Formation Resources Available**

The September 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 divine revelation; a listing of upcoming adult faith formation opportunities in the Diocese and reviews of the book *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* and the film "The Counterfeiters."

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. 1400-1500 (previous installments, beginning with A.D. 30-100 are cataloged online).

The September edition of the monthly family resource, *Familia Fidelis*, is also available. This month's issue features a reflection for parents on marriage as a covenant; a look at whether the stories of the Bible are true for teens; a review of *Will You Bless Me?* for children, and a profile of this month's "Friend for Families," Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

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](http://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](http://www.guardianoftheredeemercmf.org).

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

Diocesan Center, Scranton  
Oct. 4, 11, 18 (Tuesdays), 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
Monsignor Dale Rupert

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

### Basic Skills for Catechists

St. Jude Parish Hall, Mountaintop  
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3 (Thursdays), 6 to 9 p.m.  
Carmella Faust

Fee: \$30 (flat group rate of \$85 for three or more from one parish). To register: call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107

### 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](mailto: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

**Liturgical Music Workshop -- Oct. 14 and 15.** Renowned liturgical musician Dan Schutte will perform at Our Lady of Victory Church in Tannersville (32 Cherry Lane Road). Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. In addition, Mr Schutte will offer a workshop open to all parish musicians and singers from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost of the workshop is \$15 if you register by Oct. 1, \$20 if you register later. For more information on the concert and/or workshop, please contact Susan Gallagher or Tony Gasparro at 570-629-4572 or [olvconcerts@yahoo.com](mailto:olvconcerts@yahoo.com).

**"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](mailto: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](http://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.