



Diocese of Scranton

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News Briefing Vol. 7

No. 4 3/17/2011



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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Pope Expresses Prayerful Solidarity With People of Japan

The Holy Father, through Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone S.D.B., has sent a telegram of condolence to Archbishop Leo Jun Ikenaga, S.J. of Osaka, Japan, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, for the earthquake and tsunami which have brought devastation to the country.

"Deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic effects of the major earthquake and consequent tsunamis which have struck Japan's north-eastern coastal regions, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI assures all who have been afflicted of his closeness at this difficult time. He prays for those who have died, and upon their grieving families and friends he invokes divine blessings of strength and consolation. The Holy Father also expresses his prayerful solidarity with all those providing rescue, relief and support to the victims of this disaster."

Diocesan Resource Center Closes; Material Available Via Other Means

The Diocesan Resource Center, operated by the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization, has served parishes and schools for decades, primarily by maintaining a library of audio and video material on Catholic history and faith formation.

Despite many successful years of service, the Resource Center has been experiencing a steady decrease in usage. The internet now provides easy access to this kind of information, and acquiring materials on-line has become increasingly popular.

Therefore, after a thorough evaluation, the decision was made to close the Resource Center at the end of February and explore other uses for its space in The Guild building and other duties for its personnel.

Meanwhile, an inventory of available materials is being compiled and a list will be disseminated to parishes and schools. Brendan Murphy, director of adult faith formation, and Mary Anne Malone, director of religious education, will respond to requests for these items and will also be available to provide guidance on how to find resources on-line.

The Diocese extends its gratitude to all those who have maintained, supported and used the Resource Center over the years. Your understanding and patience is appreciated during this transition period.

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.

Women Religious Gathering for Evening of Reflection

The Diocesan Office for Consecrated Life is hosting an "Evening of Reflection" for Women Religious on Tuesday, March 29, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin.

The program will open with a conference, "Wholeheartedness: Our Gift to God and God's People," to be

presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Katie Clauss, assistant professor of education at Marywood University.

Following the conference, a Reconciliation Service will be conducted, and several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist for the Eucharistic Liturgy. Dinner will be served in the Parish Center. Invitations have been sent for this program.

Sister Clauss received her B.A. in elementary education and her M.A. in counseling from Marywood. She was awarded her Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

After spending some years in elementary education, she became principal at St. Mary of the Assumption School, Upper Marlboro, Md. Her experience also included staff psychologist, Reading, Pa. Hospital and Medical Center, vice president for mission integration and corporate compliance officer, Maxis Health System, Carbondale. From 2002 - 2010 she served her congregation as councilor for mission and community life.

Sister holds memberships in numerous educational and professional organizations. She has been engaged in offering consultation and facilitation services to various religious communities throughout the country and Canada.

Regional Workshops for the Implementation of *The Roman Missal*

General Meeting: March 22, Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. (Snow date: March 29, Tuesday)

Location: St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wilkes-Barre

General Meeting: April 4, Monday, 7-9 p.m.

Location: St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Kingston

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

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Lector Training

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training

St. John the Evangelist Church, Susquehanna

Saturday, March 26, 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (Snow date: April 9)

Deacon Gerard L. Carpenter

Fee: \$30.00

To register, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107 or 570-278-3286

Lector Training

St. John the Evangelist Church, Susquehanna

Saturday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Marie Lendacky

Fee: \$15.00

To register, call 570-207-2213, ext. 1107 or 570-278-3286

Natural Family Planning Instruction

Natural Family Planning (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: www.dioceseofscranton.org.

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.

March Editions of Free Resources Now Available

The March 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 *Praying Scripture for a Change* and the film *The Ninth Day*.

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. 800-900 (previous installments, beginning with A.D. 30-100 are cataloged online).

The March edition of the monthly family resource, *Familia Fidelis*, is also available. This month's issue features a reflection for parents on how they can proclaim the Gospel of Life, a look at why we should go to Mass on a regular basis for teens, a review of *The Bible for Little Ones* for children, and a look at this month's "Friend for Families," St. Nicholas of Flüe.

To receive these materials please 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

Catholic Deaf of the Diocese of Scranton Interpreted Mass, March 27 -- at St. Joseph's Oblates Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. Gathering begins at 1 p.m., followed by Mass signed and 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.

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 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.