

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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The Eucharist, The Beating Heart Of The Church

In his remarks about the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the "Feast of the Eucharist," Pope Benedict XVI said the Eucharist represents "the Church's most valuable treasure."

The pope explained how "the Eucharist is like a beating heart giving life to the mystical Body of the Church, which is a social organization entirely founded on its spiritual yet tangible bond with Christ. ... Without the Eucharist the Church would simply cease to exist. In fact, it is the Eucharist which renders a human community a mystery of communion, capable of bringing God to the world and the world to God. The Holy Spirit, which transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, also transforms those who receive it with faith into limbs of Christ's Body; thus the Church truly is a Sacrament of men's unity, with God and with one another.

"In an increasingly individualistic culture," Benedict XVI added, "such as that in which we live in western societies and which is tending to spread throughout the world, the Eucharist constitutes a kind of 'antidote', working on the hearts and minds of believers and continually infusing them with the logic of communion, service and sharing, the logic of the Gospel.

"The first Christians in Jerusalem were an evident sign of this new lifestyle because they lived in fraternity and shared all their worldly goods, so that no one should be left in want. ... In later generations too, the Church, despite human limitations and errors, has continued to be a force for communion in the world. We think particularly of the times of greatest difficulty, times of trial: for example, what could the

chance of coming together at Sunday Mass have meant in countries ruled by totalitarian regimes? ... Yet the vacuum produced by false freedoms can be equally dangerous; thus communion with the Body of Christ is like a medicine for the mind and the will, helping us rediscover our taste for truth and for the common good."

Mass of Remembrance Set for July 14

The Diocese of Scranton is offering the annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death. The Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, July 14, at 7 p.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton.

The Mass is offered for those who have died in tragedy, especially those who have died through murder, suicide and accident. All who grieve the loss of a loved one are invited to this liturgy to remember and celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

For more information, please contact the Office of Social Concerns/Pro-Life at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130. To register the name of a loved one to be remembered at the Mass, please call the Office of Social Concerns/Pro-Life or download and print registration forms that are available at www.dioceseofscranton.org (see Parish Life tab, then Social Concerns/Pro-Life page).

Please send completed registration forms, no later than June 27, to:

**Office for Parish Life
C/O Mass of Remembrance
400 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503**

Faith Formation Programs on Bible Study and Liturgy

The Pastoral Formation Institute has scheduled two faith formation study groups for the month of July. Both programs will be facilitated by Brendan Murphy, diocesan director of adult faith formation.

A Bible Study entitled "A Quick Journey through the Bible" is slated for July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 4, 11, 18, and 25 (Thursdays) at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Hall, Wilkes-Barre, from 6-7:30 p.m.

This eight-part series provides an introduction and overview of the Bible from a Catholic perspective. The study covers salvation history through talks that are complemented by group discussion, useful maps and charts, and information for home study. It makes the complexity of the Bible simple through an easy-to-follow narrative approach and a handy color-coded Bible timeline.

The study is recommended for those who seek to learn about the story of our faith as it unfolds in the Bible. For those who desire to lead Bible Study groups in their parishes, this program will serve as a useful guide.

Fee is \$30, which includes the cost of the workbook.

"A Biblical Walk through the Mass" is scheduled for July 11, 18, 25, and Aug. 1 and 8 (Mondays) at the Diocesan Center, Scranton, from 2-3:30 p.m.

Based on the revised translation of the Mass that will be in effect in Advent 2011, this five-part study will explore the biblical roots of the words and gestures experienced during Mass. As the biblical roots of the Catholic liturgy are presented, participants will come to know and understand the Mass more deeply. The words and gestures that are said and seen will be experienced in a new light, leading to a richer and more fruitful sense of worship and renewed devotion to the Eucharist.

Fee is \$30, which includes the cost of the workbook and the study

book.

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

Host a Free Adult Faith Formation Event

As in years past, the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization's *Summer Speaker Series* seeks to provide adult faith formation speakers to parishes around the Diocese as a way of providing formation during the summer months. Parishes interested in hosting an event can contact Brendan Murphy at 207-2213, ext. 1133 or BrendanMurphy@dioceseofscranton.org and choose from one of several topics being offered for the summer.

The office schedules the speaker, pays their stipend (if applicable) and provides all the promotional materials. The parish simply provides the space and light refreshments. Some topics parishes can choose from this summer are: "Hope and Desire: A Conversation between Pope Benedict XVI and C.S. Lewis"; "Tolkien's Faith: Catholicism and Its Influence on His Writings"; "Spiritual Classics for Today: St. Augustine's *Confessions*"; and "An Introduction to the Theology of the Body."

***Disciple* Podcast Up and Running**

In May the Office for Parish Life and Evangelization launched a monthly podcast to educate, encourage and enrich the faithful of the Diocese. Each episode will follow a set structure.

The "Faith in a Flash" segment explains a fundamental aspect of Catholic belief, practice, or spirituality in 20 minutes or less, using one of the Sunday readings as a starting point. The "Living Faith" segment highlights positive ways in which people around the Diocese are living out their Catholic faith. "Friends in High Places" profiles a saint whose feast day falls within that episode's month, and a calendar of events rounds out each episode.

A Podcast is an audio file that can be listened to online, downloaded to an mp3 player (e.g. iPod), or burned to a CD. The *Disciple* Podcast is posted each month on the Diocese's website (see "Adult Faith Formation" under the Parish Life menu tab). This format allows people to listen to each episode in whatever format is easiest for them. Listeners can also subscribe to the podcast through iTunes.

The nature of the mp3 format is such that it will be very easy to pass each episode on to family, friends and co-workers who may find it interesting. *Disciple* could be especially useful for reaching out to friends and family members who may be estranged from the Church or are curious about what Catholics believe.

Regional Workshops for the Implementation of *The Roman Missal*

General Meeting: Tuesday, July 12 at St. Patrick Church, Milford, 7-9 p.m.

Musicians Meeting: Wednesday, July 13 at St. Patrick Church, Milford, 7-9.p.m.

To register for these workshops, call Jane Guzek in the Office for Parish

Life at 570-207-2213, Ext. 1105.

Get the Word Out About Faith Formation Opportunities

Do you have an adult faith formation event taking place in your parish? Do you want to get the word out to parishioners around the Diocese? If so, please e-mail your events to Brendan-Murphy@dioceseofscranton.org and we'll include them on the calendar of events listing on the Adult Faith Formation page. This will enable parishioners around the Diocese to find faith formation opportunities near them. Please be sure to include a brief description of the event; dates/times; a contact phone number/e-mail; and cost (if applicable).

Free Adult Faith Formation Resources Available

The July 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 the moral conscience; a listing of upcoming adult faith formation opportunities in the Diocese and reviews of the book *ST. Thomas Aquinas* and the film *The Rite*.

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parishes/adult-faith-formation/>

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. 1200-1300 (previous installments, beginning with A.D. 30-100 are cataloged online).

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parishes/adult-faith-formation/>

The July edition of the monthly family resource, *Familia Fidelis*, is also available. This month's issue features a reflection for parents on how they educate their children on the true nature of man; a look at what the Church teaches about creation and evolution for teens; a review of *Life at the Pond* for children, and a look at this month's "Friend for Families", St. Stephen of Hungary.

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parishes/family-life-office/>

Mark Your Calendar

Day of Reflection: "The Eucharist and the Transfiguration -- Living in the Glory of God," Aug. 6 -- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton. Guest presenter: Passionist Father James Price. Offered by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life/Evangelization on the Feast of the Transfiguration, this Day of Reflection is presented as a reflection on the transforming power of the Eucharist -- transfiguring and keeping us focused on the mission of Jesus as we walk our journey of faith in today's world. 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.