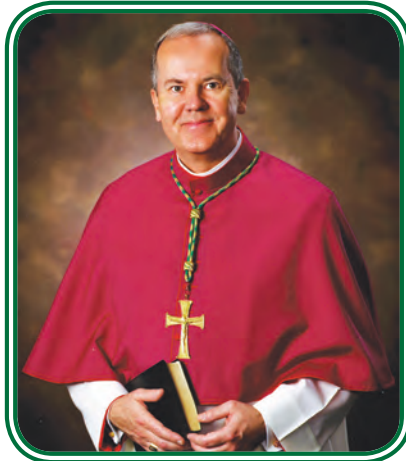


Diocese of Scranton

Diocesan Office for Parish Life



The Most Reverend
Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



"As I have done, so you must do." - John 13:15

**Servant Leadership through WORD, WORSHIP,
COMMUNITY and SERVICE**

"...there is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him."

--Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at the Inaugural Mass for his Pontificate, April 24, 2005

Ever since the time of the early Church, the message of Jesus and the Good News of his life, death, and resurrection spread far and wide. As the Church grew and flourished, it recorded the work of valiant men and women, who through their example, have evangelized people of every nation, even to the extent of sacrificing their very lives.

Evangelization in our time has taken on a more significant position through the efforts of Blessed John Paul II, who called for a "New Evangelization." Through his efforts and now, a priority for Pope Benedict XVI, evangelization continues to lead believers in ways and through opportunities that strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. And, because evangelization leads to conversion, it affords direction and stability to those looking to the Church as a welcoming presence where the fullness of truth and the sacramental life, especially in the Eucharist, are lived and experienced.



"We will only serve to regather the scattered when we experience authentic faith lived out in our communities."

In the Diocese of Scranton, the Diocesan Office for Parish Life seeks to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through the mission of the Diocese, which relates in part, "to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ" and to "proclaim the Gospel faithfully."

Listed in this folder are specific ways in which the Diocesan Office for Parish Life integrates in their ministries the four components of **WORD, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY and SERVICE** interwoven in the Pastoral Letter, *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered* presented by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

"I call us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

The Office Strives to:

- A. Provide assistance to parish religious education programs
 - Visiting directors of religious education (DRE), coordinators and catechists periodically
 - Offering theological instruction and methodology instruction through the Pastoral Formation Institute
 - Inviting DREs/catechists to collaborate with the office staff on projects
 - Offering special programs: Convocation, Eastern Pennsylvania Directors of Religious Education, DRE Retreat and Reflection Days for parish religious education staffs
 - Assisting youth ministers in planning and executing programs for the young and inviting them to participate in activities given at Fatima Renewal Center
 - Providing leadership training for youth and young adults and making available resources for youth and young adult ministries
 - Providing training sessions for catechists who minister to students with special needs
 - Working with parishes to establish the Special Religious Education faith formation process
 - Assisting parishes in strengthening the faith of adult parishioners
 - Assisting parishes to network with one another to support faith formation throughout the Diocese
- B. Provide parishes with ways in which they can incorporate prayer and Scripture into their parish programs
 - Offer Faith Formation programs through Bible Study
 - Offer Reflection Days
 - Provide Continuing Education programs that encourage prayer and a desire for studying Scripture through the Pastoral Formation Institute
 - Keep parishes attuned to Scripture and prayer through newsletters, monthly mailings, and technology, such as a monthly podcast and a comprehensive adult faith formation website
 - Offer Retreats for the Deaf and persons with disabilities
 - Provide a variety of prayer experiences, faith sharing, and Bible Study for persons with disabilities
- B. Keep in contact with campus ministers of colleges/ universities
 - Provide opportunities for campus ministers to gather at professional diocesan meetings
 - Encourage campus ministers' development through membership in professional organizations: Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Pennsylvania Catholic Campus Ministry Association
- C. Inform families, married couples, engaged couples, divorced and separated persons in ways that they may develop their own spiritual lives
 - Through resource materials
 - Through newsletters and technology
 - Through educational courses and presentations, i.e., Theology of the Body, marriage preparation, natural family planning, etc.
- D. Promote an awareness of the missionary activity of the Church through the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese
 - Through education, prayer, sacrifice and financial support
 - Through group mission faith-based experiences in third world countries and the United States
 - Through personal contact and visits to parishes and schools
 - Through the Missionary Co-op Plan of visiting missionaries

"We have to keep in the forefront of our minds where we are going--our goal --our vision--how we best welcome people into our life of faith."

“I call us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church.”

The Office Endeavors to:

- A. Present a clear understanding of / and a meaningful participation in the Liturgy
- Offering catechesis on the *Roman Missal*, including the Deaf Community, using the resources provided by the National Catholic Office for the Deaf and the Archdiocese of Washington
 - Assisting parishes in forming liturgical committees
 - Providing training sessions for liturgical ministers: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, including persons who are Deaf and those with special needs
 - Providing presentations, faith formation programs on the Eucharist: *A Biblical Walk through the Mass, Living the Eucharist*
 - Providing resources by way of pamphlets, technology, and newsletters on worship, particularly on the Eucharist
 - Providing Reflection Days on the Eucharist, specifically for catechists who prepare children for the sacraments, and for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

“My Greatest Hope: That by bringing together strong parish structures and well-formed parishioners, the result will be growing, life-giving and vibrant parishes.”

- Providing retreats for children preparing for the sacraments: First Penance Holy Communion, Confirmation
- Providing opportunities for participation in liturgies through programs held for the young at Fatima Renewal Center and for persons with special needs

“I call us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness.”

The Office Seeks to:

- A. Provide ways in which the parish can reach out and live their faith with others
- Through invitation by a parish, in some cases for a specific need, such as forming a social concerns committee or providing assistance for organizing programs for persons with special needs
 - Building relationships with parishes and schools by inviting catechists, parish ministers, and teachers to assist with programs
 - Encouraging parishioners to be evangelizers in their parishes through presentations such as the *Evangelization: Call to Holiness and Mission* Program, newsletters and online information
 - Offering information to parishes on welcoming back inactive Catholics
 - Providing information and training on forming evangelization teams
 - Offering opportunities for young people to gather with others from the local, national, and global church through retreats, national conferences, and World Youth Days
 - Providing instruction on outreach programs and bereavement programs
 - Offering ways that the Catholic Deaf Community may reach out to inactive Deaf persons
 - Assisting parish pastoral councils in their efforts to continue the viability of their parishes and to encourage them to collaborate with other councils within their deaneries and regions

“I call us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God.”

The Office Attempts to:

- A. Offer ways in which parishes can live the responsibility of servant leadership
- Assisting parishes in developing social concerns programs
 - Inviting parishes and individuals to participate in the Legislative Advocacy Network
 - Encouraging parishes to participate in local and national service outreach programs: Habitat for Humanity, soup kitchen volunteerism, providing meals for those affected by natural disasters
 - Offering Continuing Education programs through the Pastoral Formation Institute on Catholic social justice teachings
 - Providing resources and updates on social concerns through the Social Concerns/ Pro-Life Newsletter
 - Providing presentations, Reflection Days, etc., that emphasize each person’s call to servant leadership as baptized members of the Church in their own respective vocations
 - Reaching out to the elderly and needy Deaf community unable to attend religious services and/or social gatherings
 - Encouraging persons with disabilities to become actively involved in parish ministries, thus giving witness to the larger community

“I believe that we are called to Servant Leadership in the Diocese of Scranton. More precisely, we are called to a Servant Leadership that helps us to transform our hurting world through compassion, solidarity, justice and love.”

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Office Directory

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Adult Faith Formation

Campus Ministry

Divine Worship

Family Life

Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities

Pastoral Formation Institute

Pontifical Mission Societies

Religious Education

Social Concerns/Pro-Life

Youth and Young Adult

Brendan Murphy

Sister Catherine Ann Gilvary, IHM

Monsignor Dale R. Rupert

Brendan Murphy

Sister Mary Beth Makuch, SS.C.M.

Sister Leonita Duhoski, RSM

Deacon Edward Kelly

Mary Anne Malone

David Clarke

Sarah Mountain

Newsletters

Adult Faith Formation

Family Life

Ministry with the Deaf and Persons with Disabilities

Pastoral Formation Institute

Pontifical Mission Societies

Religious Education

Social Concerns/Pro-Life

The Disciple and Anno Domini

Familia Fidelis

The Catholic Deaf Newsletter

The Evangelist

Holy Childhood Association Newsletter

FYI Bulletin

Social Concerns Update

Office Monthly Emailing – Jennifer Andres, Administrative Assistant

Our Commitment

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life, in faithfulness to the mission of our Diocese, promotes the life-long formation of the faithful through diversified programs that encompass parish life in all its apostolic endeavors. We are committed to encourage and support the faithful to live more fully the Gospel of Jesus Christ in *WORD, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY and SERVICE* and in fidelity to the mission of the Church.

As you continue your own successful efforts in parish planning, please contact any one of our offices for assistance in any of the above ministries.