



Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life  
Catechist Awards 2017

**Catechists Recognized on Catechetical Sunday; Commissioned for Ministry**

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in September in parishes across the United States. This year, [Catechetical Sunday](#) falls on September 17, the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The theme for 2017-2018 is: “Living As Missionary Disciples.” Catechists in the parishes of our diocese are commissioned for their ministry as they begin a new year of faith formation with children, youth and adults. In response to Pope Francis’ call to all the baptized to grow closer to the Lord and to take up their proper role as “missionary disciples,” the Bishops are asking all catechists to live up to this challenge. The Diocese of Scranton recognizes this generous contribution of time and talent, and offers several Catechist Awards based on years of service. The following is a list of those who are honored this year.

**Saint John XXIII Award** *for twenty-five or more years of service.*

Teresa Ammendola	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Mary Angela Schell	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Romaine Stracham	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
JoAnn Wilbur	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Dorothy Hilliard	Saint Joseph the Worker	Williamsport
Candy Montis	Saint Joseph the Worker	Williamsport
Angeline B. Chapasko	Saint Leo	Ashley
Kathleen Rusak	Saint Leo	Ashley
Donata Ross	Saint Lucy	Scranton
Elaine Stine	Saint Patrick	Milford



**Saint Katharine Drexel Award** *for twenty or more years of service.*

Judi Howe	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
Amy Gretzula	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Romaine Stracham	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
JoAnn Wilbur	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Karen Attanasio	Saint Therese	Shavertown

**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award**

*for five, ten, fifteen or more years of service as a parish coordinator or DRE.*

Anne B. Richards	Holy Family	Sugar Notch
Judi Howe	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
Michele Casey	Saint Leo	Ashley

**National Saint Pius X Award** *for ten or more years of service.*

James Conrad	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Edward Luecke	Holy Name of Mary	Montrose
Christine Casey	Saint Leo	Ashley
Lynn Cole	Saint Leo	Ashley
Donald F. Kane, Jr.	Saint Leo	Ashley
Mary Gabel	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
Amy Gretzula	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Amy Marcho	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Romaine Stracham	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Ray Totten	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Karen Ansilio	Saint Therese	Shavertown
Maureen Pascal	Saint Therese	Shavertown

**Saint John Neumann Award** *for five or more years of service.*

Angela Pesola	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Michael Vaccaro	Holy Name of Mary	Montrose
Diane Stone	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Tunkhannock
Donna Karosa	Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception	Freeland
Joseph Karosa	Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception	Freeland
Anella Cusatis	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Jennifer Hermany	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Celestine McGasko	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Ron Grevera	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
Richard Huey	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
Renee Good	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Amy Gretzula	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Amy Marcho	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Romaine Stracham	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Ray Totten	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Lisa Valentine	Saint John Vianney	Montdale
Erin Frank	Saint Leo	Ashley
Donna Ranieli	Saint Leo	Ashley
Susan Allen	Saint Therese	Shavertown
Dorothy Gregory	Saint Therese	Shavertown
Jayne Klenner	Saint Therese	Shavertown
Steven Yanovich	Saint Therese	Shavertown

**Saint Therese Award** *for three or more years of service in Special Education.*

Kyle Toporcer	Saint John the Baptist	Larksville
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Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 119)

**Saint Martha Associate Award** *for three or more years of service.*

Rachel DeSau	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Rietta Steffen	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Samantha Surá	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Emily Talbot	Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace	Hawley
Makayla Biebel	Holy Family	Sugar Notch
Thalia Charles	Our Lady of Fatima	Wilkes-Barre
Isabel Panganiban	Our Lady of Fatima	Wilkes-Barre
Mackenzie Jones	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
David Marcus	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Lori McGeehan	Queen of Heaven	Hazleton
Jim Babula	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Joseph Balay	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Gena Mae Berta	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Gina Blase	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Claudia Fisher	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Bethany Gavlick	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Ann Lucarino	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Veronica Martonik	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Aaron Srinivasan	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Judy Zenier	Saint John Bosco	Conyngham
Maddy Lawlor	Saint Patrick	Milford
Dana Stroup	Saint Patrick	Milford
Helen Mazur	Saint Peter	Wellsboro
Elayne Totten	Saint John Vianney	Montdale

